



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Fall 2020

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 54,700 vacancies in fall 2020.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Fall 2020

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Vacancies | 54,679 |
| Average Hourly Wage | \$17.47 |
| Full-time Positions | 81% |
| Permanent Positions | 96% |
| Requiring Education Beyond High School | 29% |
| Requiring Previous Experience | 53% |
| Difficult to Fill | 50% |

Vacancies increased from the level in the summer (+18%) and increased 7% from fall 2019. Employers continued to hire throughout the COVID pandemic.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$17.50 per hour, down from about \$19 per hour in fall 2019 (-9%).

Characteristics of Oregon job vacancies were consistent with prior quarters. A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position.

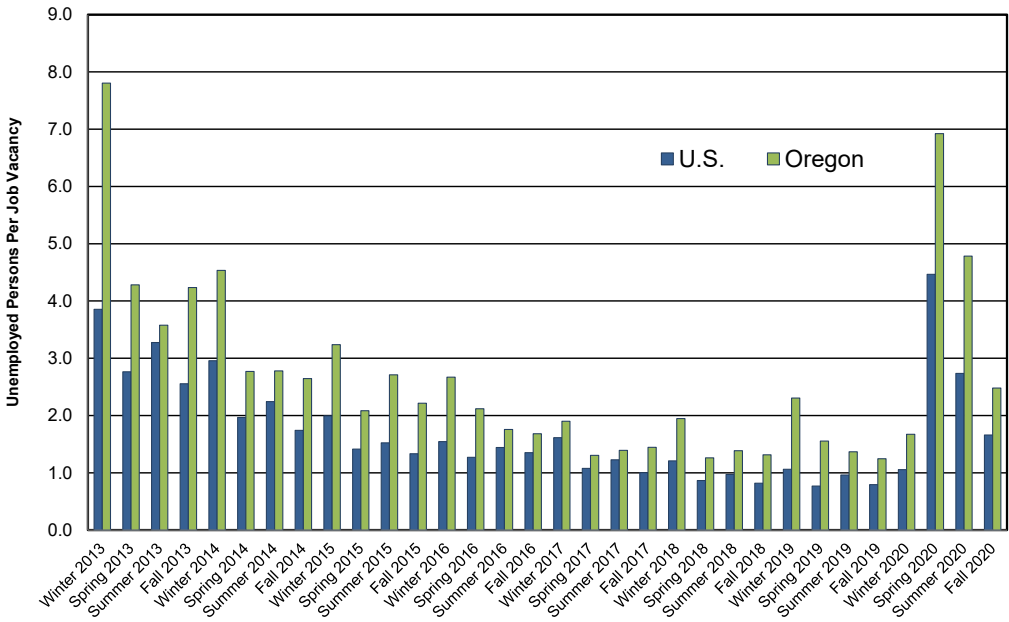


Employers were asked “Is this location closed or operations curtailed due to COVID-19 restrictions?”

- 6% of respondents to the fall 2020 survey reported a closure or curtailment due to COVID-19, compared with 7% in the summer and 18% in the spring.
- In fall, the leisure and hospitality and other services industries most often responded that operations were affected.
- Employers in the Portland-metro area and Northwest Oregon reported the highest shares of affected businesses.

As the number of unemployed has dropped, the unemployed to job vacancy ratio is normalizing.

U.S. and Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratio Dropped in Fall 2020 after Spring Peak
 (Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2020)



The unemployed-to-vacancy ratio dropped in the summer and fall.

The U.S. ratio retreated to 1.7 in October. It had peaked very suddenly amid COVID closures, reaching 4.8 in April after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon dropped to 2.5 unemployed per job vacancy in October after reaching 6.9 in May.



Businesses reported hiring in various industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Fall 2020

| Industry | Vacancies |
|--|---------------|
| All Industries | 54,679 |
| Health care and social assistance | 10,555 |
| Retail trade | 8,632 |
| Construction | 6,010 |
| Other services | 4,909 |
| Manufacturing | 4,847 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 4,653 |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities | 4,065 |
| Management, administrative, and waste services | 3,610 |
| Financial activities | 2,361 |
| Wholesale trade | 2,252 |
| Professional, scientific, and technical services | 1,179 |
| Natural resources and mining | 762 |
| Information | 471 |
| Private educational services | 373 |

Health care and social assistance topped the industry list in the fall, with 10,555 vacancies. This has been the sector with the most vacancies 18 of the past 20 quarters. Retail trade had 8,600 vacancies in the fall.

Source: Oregon Employment Department



The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$17.47 per hour in the fall.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, Fall 2020

| Wage (per hour) | Vacancies | Average Hourly Wage |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| All Wage Ranges | 54,679 | \$17.47 |
| Less than \$15 | 19,731 | \$13.02 |
| \$15 through \$19.99 | 12,188 | \$16.87 |
| \$20 through \$24.99 | 3,725 | \$21.34 |
| \$25 through \$29.99 | 1,855 | \$26.20 |
| \$30 and up | 3,445 | \$36.20 |
| Unknown | 13,735 | |

Source: Oregon Employment Department

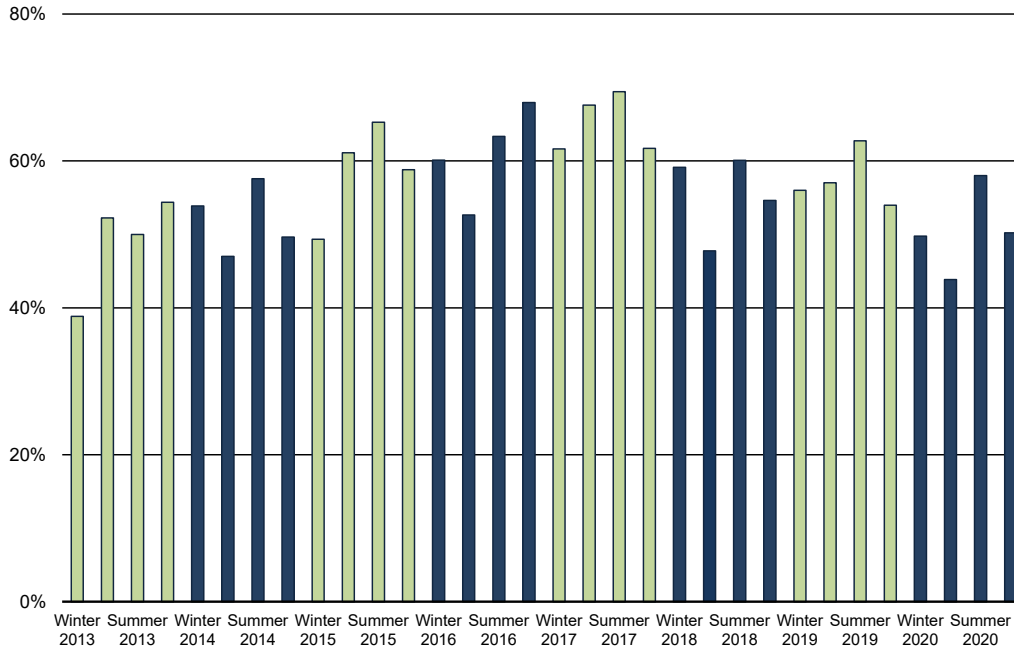
The average starting wage decreased 9% from the average in fall 2019.

Total vacancies were up 7% from last fall. The number of vacancies paying less than \$15 per hour increased 5% compared with fall 2019. Mid-wage vacancies paying between \$15 and \$24.99 increased 1%, and vacancies paying more than \$25 per hour dropped 35%.



Half of fall job vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling Half of Vacancies in Fall 2020



Several occupational groups had more than 2,000 difficult to fill vacancies:

- Installation, maintenance & repair (3,800)
- Construction and extraction (3,100)
- Health care support (3,100)
- Food prep and serving (2,800)
- Sales and related (2,000)

The Oregon Job Vacancy Survey captures information for nine sub-state areas.

| Survey Region | Counties |
|------------------------------|--|
| Central Oregon/East Cascades | Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler |
| Clackamas | Clackamas |
| Eastern Oregon | Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa |
| Lane | Lane |
| Mid-Valley | Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill |
| Northwest Oregon | Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Tillamook |
| Portland-Metro | Multnomah, Washington |
| Rogue Valley | Jackson, Josephine |
| Southwestern Oregon | Coos, Curry, Douglas |

Fall vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county area accounting for 43%.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Fall 2020

| <u>Geography</u> | <u>Vacancies</u> |
|--|------------------|
| Oregon Statewide | 54,679 |
| Portland Metro | 19,279 |
| Mid-Valley | 7,332 |
| East Cascades | 5,159 |
| Lane | 5,030 |
| Rogue Valley | 4,843 |
| Clackamas | 4,242 |
| Southwestern Oregon | 2,976 |
| Eastern Oregon | 2,816 |
| Northwest Oregon | 2,051 |
| <i>Unknown/multiple regions excluded</i> | |

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Overall vacancies increased 7 percent since fall 2019.

Vacancies dropped the most over the year in the Clackamas County and Northwest Oregon.





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For more information about job vacancies in Oregon, visit the Job Vacancy Survey box on the [Publications page](#) at QualityInfo.org

