



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Summer 2019

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 62,800 vacancies in summer 2019.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Summer 2019

Vacancies	62,783
Average Hourly Wage	\$17.95
Full-time Positions	75%
Permanent Positions	90%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	29%
Requiring Previous Experience	53%
Difficult to Fill	63%

Total job openings were essentially unchanged (-1%) from summer 2018.

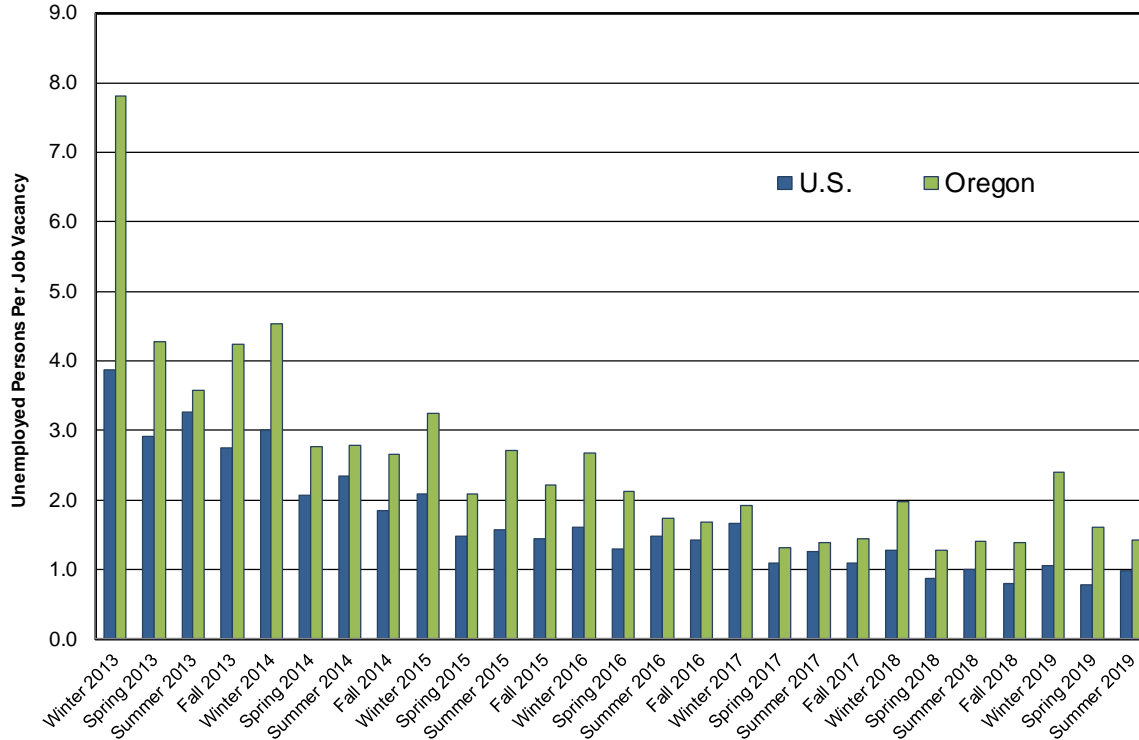
A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position.

Source: Oregon Employment Department



The labor market remains tight in Oregon and across the U.S.

U.S. and Oregon Have Few Unemployed Workers per Vacancy
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2019)



Oregon and the U.S. have both had a 1-to-1 ratio of unemployed persons to job openings for three consecutive summers.

Businesses reported strong hiring in several industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Summer 2019

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Industries	62,783
Health care and social assistance	11,156
Leisure and hospitality	10,256
Retail trade	7,426
Administrative, management, and waste services	6,769
Manufacturing	6,502
Professional and technical services	4,473
Construction	3,525
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,704
Wholesale trade	2,234
Other services	2,234
Natural resources and mining	2,213
Financial activities	2,114
Information	745
Private education services	432

Source: Oregon Employment Department

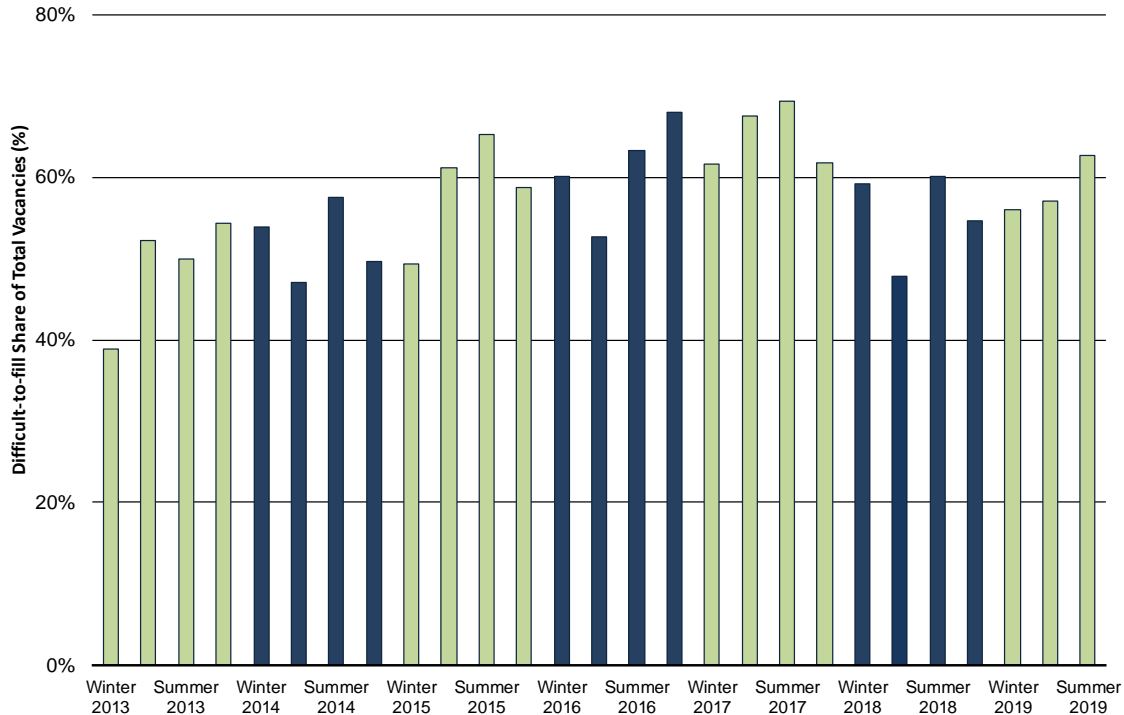
Private health care and social assistance accounted for one out of every five job vacancies in Oregon during spring 2019.

Hiring remained broad-based across the economy, with at least 2,000 vacancies in all but two relatively small private industry sectors.



The majority of job vacancies are reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling Six of 10 Vacancies in 2019



In a long economic expansion with almost three years at or near record low unemployment rates, the most common reason employers cite for difficulty filling vacancies is a lack of applicants.

The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$17.95 per hour in summer.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Required Education Level, Summer 2019

Required Education Level	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Education Levels	62,783	\$17.95
No Requirement	23,749	\$14.14
High School Diploma	17,441	\$15.54
Postsecondary Training	2,827	\$21.11
Associate Degree	1,424	\$22.35
Bachelor Degree	3,195	\$38.66
Graduate Degree	619	\$23.02
Other	8,681	\$23.97
Unknown	4,847	\$23.59

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Inflation-adjusted average starting wages rose by about \$1 per hour between summer 2018 and 2019.

Over the year, the only increase in job vacancies by education requirement was for openings requiring at least a bachelor's degree (+400).



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

Several areas reported relatively strong seasonal hiring in summer.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Summer 2019

<u>Geography</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
Oregon Statewide	62,783
Portland Metro	15,826
Mid-Valley	8,745
East Cascades	7,433
Clackamas	7,322
Rogue Valley	6,440
Lane	5,709
Northwest Oregon	4,828
Eastern Oregon	3,103
Southwestern Oregon	2,274

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Seasonal hiring demand included leisure and hospitality and retail in several areas, while the Mid-Valley saw higher seasonal demand in agriculture.

The Portland tri-county area accounted for 39 percent of all job vacancies statewide.



Gail Krumenauer

Senior Economic Analyst

Gail.K.Krumenauer@oregon.gov

(503) 947-1268

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

