



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Summer 2021

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 107,000 vacancies in summer 2021.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Summer 2021

Vacancies	106,951
Average Hourly Wage	\$19.99
Full-time Positions	77%
Permanent Positions	93%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	27%
Requiring Previous Experience	52%
Difficult to Fill	78%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies increased 9% from the spring and increased 131% from summer 2020. Employers reported difficulty filling 78% of summer 2021 vacancies.

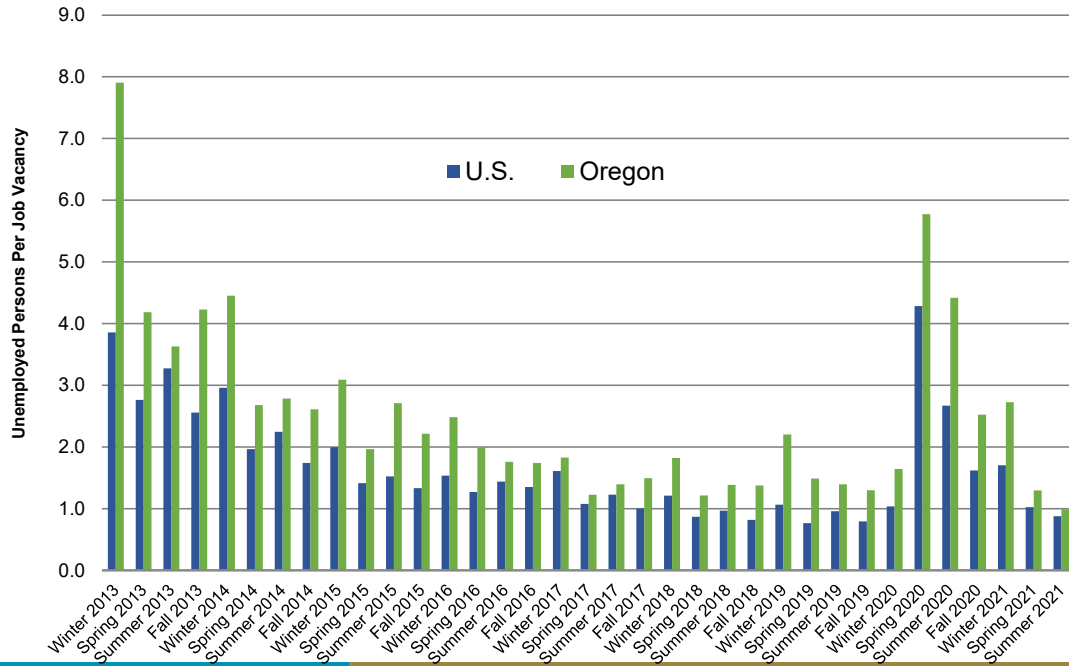
The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$19.99 per hour, up 4% from the \$19.18 average last summer. This is a slight inflation-adjusted decrease, however.

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



As unemployment has dropped and vacancies rose, the unemployed to job vacancy ratio is back to pre-recession levels.

U.S. and Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratios
Recovering after Spring 2020 Peak
 (Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2021)



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

The U.S. ratio was 0.9 in July 2021. It peaked very suddenly amid COVID closures, reaching 4.4 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 1.0 unemployed per job vacancy in July 2021 (a record low) after reaching 5.8 in May 2020.



Businesses reported hiring in various industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Summer 2021

Industry	Vacancies
All Industries	106,951
Health care and social assistance	20,916
Leisure and hospitality	16,740
Retail trade	12,006
Manufacturing	11,966
Construction	8,526
Professional, scientific, and technical services	7,218
Other services	5,882
Management, administrative, and waste services	5,455
Financial activities	5,169
Wholesale trade	4,784
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,194
Natural resources and mining	3,152
Private educational services	1,425
Information	198

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Health care and social assistance continued to be the top hiring industry in the summer, with 20,900 vacancies. This sector had the most vacancies in 21 of the past 23 quarters. Leisure and hospitality, retail trade, and manufacturing also had more than 10,000 vacancies in summer.

Note: While we've all seen evidence of local school districts hiring as in-person classes resume, those openings and other government hiring aren't captured in this survey of private-sector businesses.



The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$19.99 per hour in the summer.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, Summer 2021

Wage (per hour)	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Wage Ranges	106,951	\$19.99
Less than \$15	25,145	\$13.33
\$15 through \$19.99	35,535	\$16.61
\$20 through \$24.99	15,356	\$21.57
\$25 through \$29.99	6,026	\$26.15
\$30 and up	10,322	\$41.93
Unknown	14,567	

Source: Oregon Employment Department

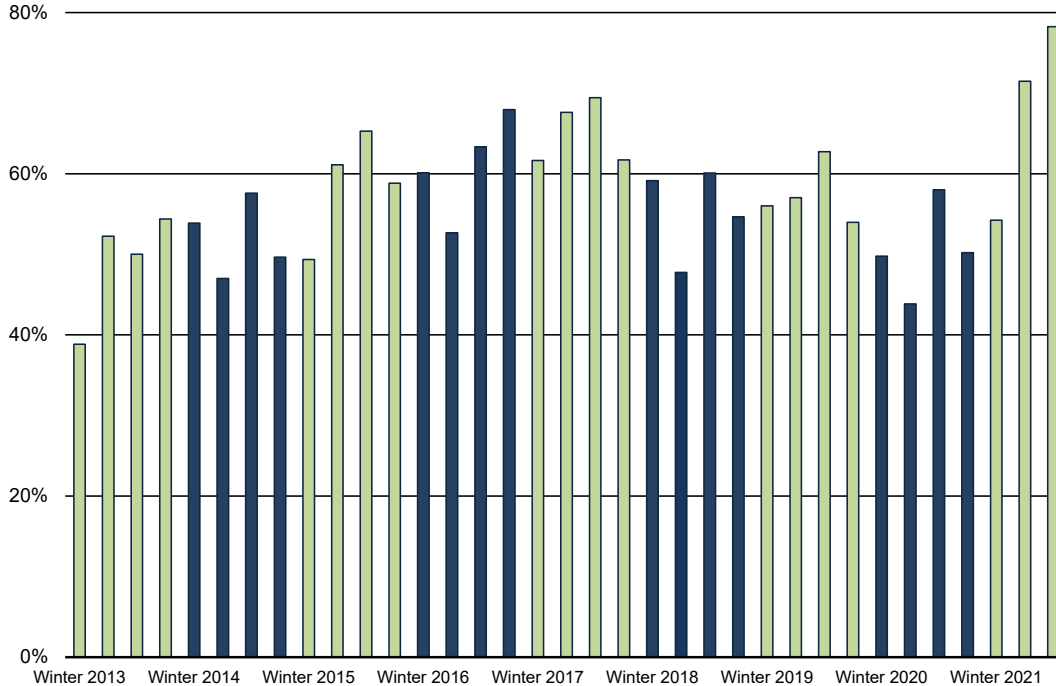
The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$19.99 per hour, a slight inflation-adjusted decrease over the year.

Total vacancies were up 131% from the level last summer during pandemic restrictions. The number of vacancies offering a starting wage below \$15 per hour increased the slowest, at 92%. The number of vacancies offering between \$15 and \$25 per hour more than doubled (+147%), as did vacancies paying above \$25 per hour (+155%).



78% of summer job vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling 78% of Vacancies in Summer 2021



Occupations with the highest number of difficult-to-fill vacancies:

- Cooks, restaurant (3,900)
- Personal care aides (3,500)
- Retail salespersons (2,800)
- Truck drivers (2,600)

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

Summer vacancies were distributed across the state. Every region has seen record levels of job vacancies in spring or summer 2021.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Summer 2021

Geography	Vacancies
Oregon Statewide	106,951
Portland Metro	28,799
Mid-Valley	13,902
East Cascades	12,070
Clackamas	11,825
Lane	11,203
Rogue Valley	9,519
Northwest Oregon	6,353
Southwestern Oregon	5,658
Eastern Oregon	5,361

Unknown/multiple regions excluded

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies increased 9% from the spring and increased 131% from summer 2020.

The Portland tri-county area represented 38% of summer vacancies. Vacancies increased the most over the year in Southwestern Oregon and Lane County.





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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

