



# Help Wanted in Oregon

***Results from the Winter 2018  
Job Vacancy Survey***



# Oregon businesses reported 49,500 vacancies in winter 2018.

## Oregon Job Vacancies, Winter 2018

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Vacancies</b>                       | <b>49,456</b> |
| Average Hourly Wage                    | \$16.44       |
| Full-time Positions                    | 73%           |
| Permanent Positions                    | 93%           |
| Requiring Education Beyond High School | 29%           |
| Requiring Previous Experience          | 55%           |
| Difficult to Fill                      | 59%           |

Employers reported 59 percent of their vacancies as difficult to fill.

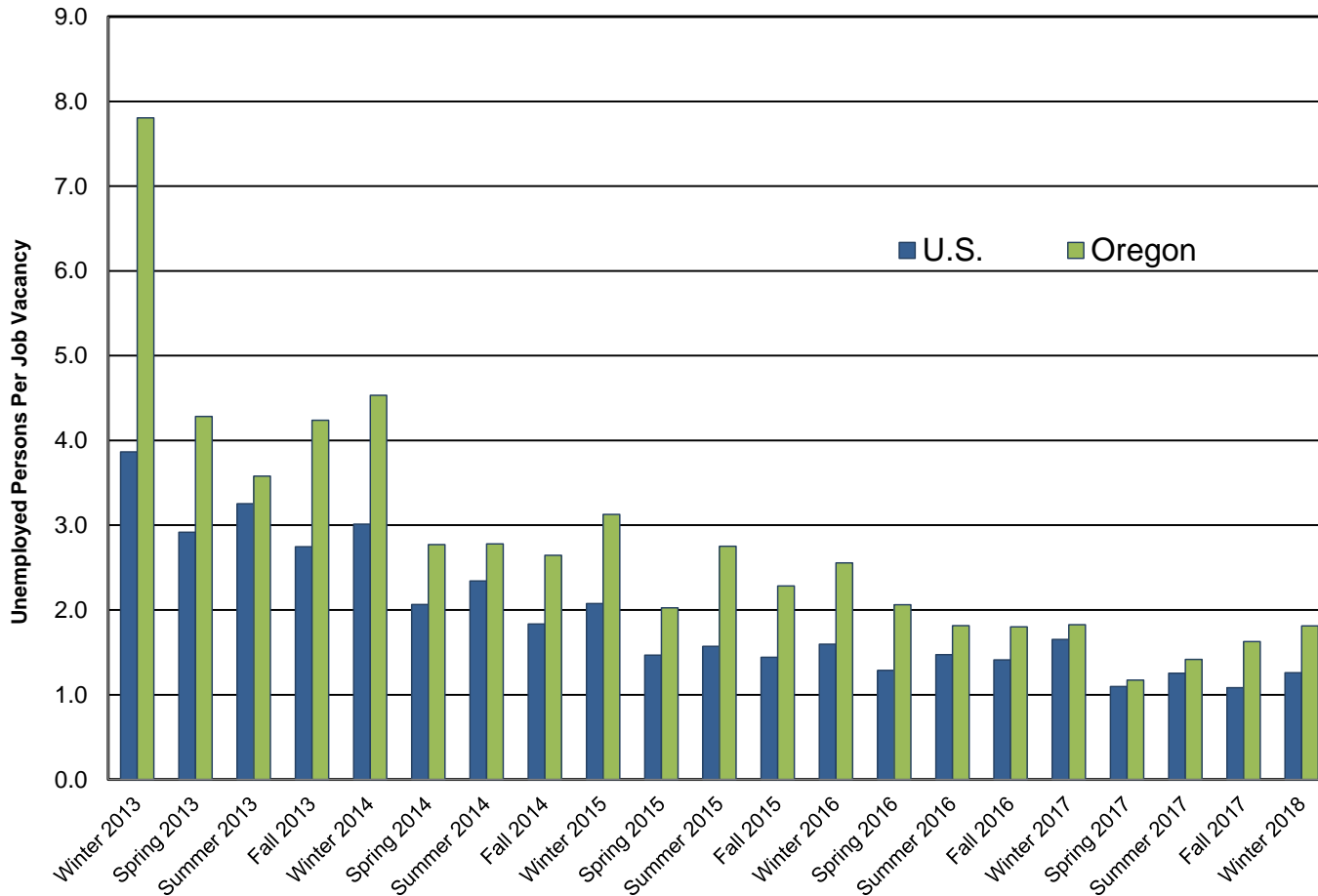
The average starting wage for vacancies in Oregon was \$16.44.

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



# Widespread hiring and low unemployment has kept the unemployed-to-vacancy ratio near a record low.

## U.S. and Oregon Have Few Unemployed Workers per Vacancy



- Oregon had two unemployed people per job vacancy in the fall. The U.S. had just one unemployed person per job opening.
- The labor market has tightened over the past few years. The ratio was 3-to-1 in winter 2015.



# Businesses reported stronger hiring in leisure and hospitality and manufacturing.

## Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Winter 2018

| <u>Industry</u>                                  | <u>Vacancies</u> |
|--|------------------|
| <b>All Industries</b>                            | <b>49,456</b>    |
| Health care and social assistance                | 9,516            |
| Leisure and hospitality                          | 7,736            |
| Manufacturing                                    | 6,017            |
| Retail trade                                     | 4,736            |
| Management, administrative, and waste service    | 4,692            |
| Construction                                     | 4,458            |
| Natural resources and mining                     | 2,619            |
| Wholesale trade                                  | 1,964            |
| Other services                                   | 1,945            |
| Professional, scientific, and technical services | 1,815            |
| Financial activities                             | 1,690            |
| Information                                      | 973              |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities       | 932              |
| Private educational services                     | 363              |

Health care and social assistance regularly tops the list of industries with vacancies.

Construction hiring demand dropped relative to recent quarters.



# Many occupation groups had large numbers of vacancies – employers are hiring for many different jobs.

## Oregon Job Vacancies by Occupation Group, Winter 2018

| <u>Occupation Group</u>                        | <u>Vacancies</u> |
|--|------------------|
| <b>All Occupations</b>                         | <b>49,456</b>    |
| Food Preparation and Serving Related           | 6,064            |
| Sales and Related                              | 4,940            |
| Construction and Extraction                    | 4,565            |
| Office and Administrative Support              | 3,923            |
| Personal Care and Service                      | 3,736            |
| Production                                     | 3,511            |
| Transportation and Material Moving             | 3,268            |
| Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance  | 2,848            |
| Installation, Maintenance, and Repair          | 2,822            |
| Farming, Fishing, and Forestry                 | 2,344            |
| Management                                     | 1,879            |
| Health Care Support                            | 1,720            |
| Health Care Practitioners and Technical        | 1,710            |
| Protective Service                             | 1,361            |
| Business and Financial Operations              | 1,145            |
| Computer and Mathematical                      | 1,011            |
| Education, Training, and Library               | 733              |
| Community and Social Service                   | 703              |
| Architecture and Engineering                   | 685              |
| Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media | 327              |
| Life, Physical, and Social Science             | 123              |
| Legal  | 38               |

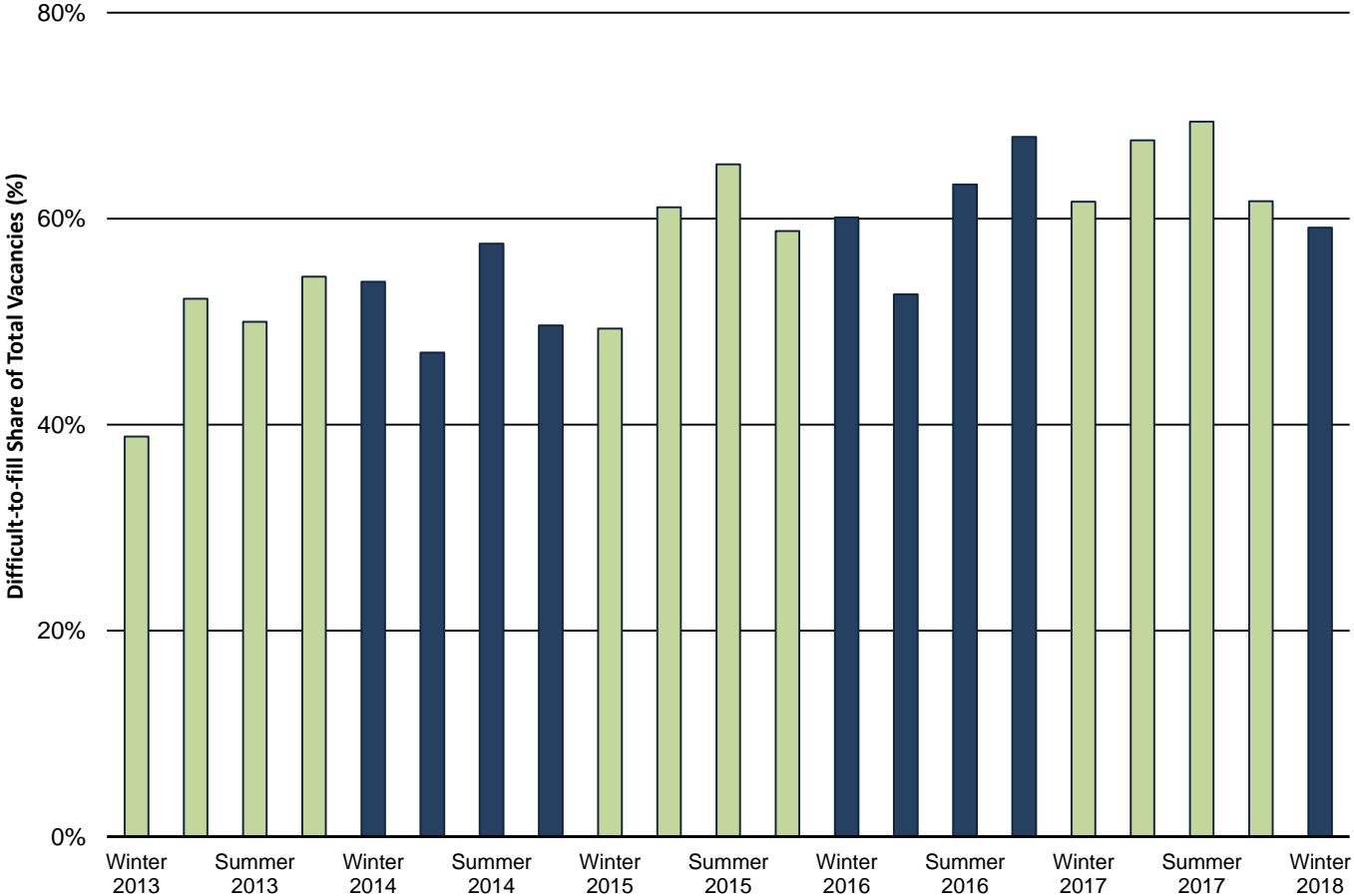
The occupations with the largest number of vacancies included:

- Personal care aides
- Farmworkers and laborers
- Food preparation and serving workers
- Retail salespersons
- Truck drivers
- Cashiers



# Businesses reported difficulty filling six out of 10 job vacancies.

### Six out of 10 Vacancies Were Difficult to Fill in Winter 2018



Employers in construction, professional and technical services, administrative services, and private education faced even greater difficulty.

Businesses cited difficulty filling eight out of 10 vacancies in these sectors.



# Job vacancies remained stable across all wage categories over the year.

## Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range

| <b>Wage (per hour)</b> | <b>Winter<br/>2017</b> | <b>Winter<br/>2018</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>All Wage Ranges</b> | <b>50,633</b>          | <b>49,456</b>          |
| Less than \$15         | 24,204                 | 26,039                 |
| \$15 through \$24.99   | 13,090                 | 12,334                 |
| \$25 and up            | 5,419                  | 5,421                  |

*unknown excluded*

The average starting wage for all job vacancies also remained relatively level over the year. Job openings paid an average of \$16.22 per hour in winter 2017, and \$16.44 in winter 2018.



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

| <b>Survey Region</b>         | <b>Counties</b>  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 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   |





# Northwest Oregon and the Mid-Willamette Valley had relatively high numbers of job vacancies in winter.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography,  
Winter 2018

| <u>Geography</u>        | <u>Vacancies</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Oregon Statewide</b> | <b>49,456</b>    |
| Portland Metro          | 14,433           |
| Mid-Valley              | 8,798            |
| Clackamas               | 5,947            |
| Rogue Valley            | 5,026            |
| Lane                    | 4,324            |
| Northwest Oregon        | 3,673            |
| East Cascades           | 3,083            |
| Eastern Oregon          | 2,090            |
| Southwestern Oregon     | 2,047            |

*multi-area or unknown excluded*

The Portland metro area and Clackamas county routinely account for two out of five job vacancies statewide.

Businesses in the East Cascades – a 10-county area including the Columbia Gorge, Central Oregon, and South Central Oregon – reported fewer vacancies compared with recent quarters.





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

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