



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Winter 2019

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 43,500 vacancies in winter 2019.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Winter 2019

Vacancies	43,467
Average Hourly Wage	\$19.47
Full-time Positions	79%
Permanent Positions	94%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	37%
Requiring Previous Experience	59%
Difficult to Fill	56%

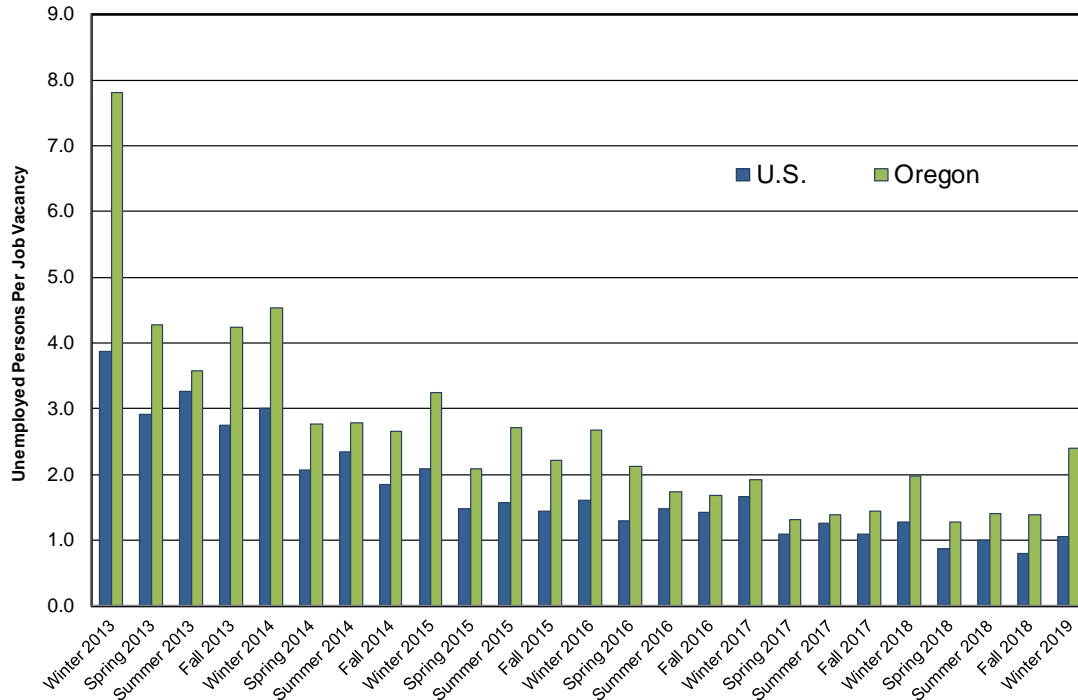
The winter vacancy total declined by 28 percent compared with fall 2018, and dropped by 12 percent compared with winter 2018.

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 low.

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



The labor market remains tight in Oregon and across the U.S. Oregon had two unemployed persons per job vacancy, while the U.S. ration remained at 1-to-1.

Businesses reported strong hiring in several industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Winter 2019

Industry	Vacancies
All Industries	43,467
Health care and social assistance	10,287
Retail trade	6,159
Construction	4,128
Leisure and hospitality	3,820
Professional and technical services	3,301
Natural resources and mining	2,520
Manufacturing	2,413
Other services	2,370
Administrative, management, and waste services	2,296
Wholesale trade	2,092
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	1,944
Financial activities	1,592
Information	409
Private education services	136

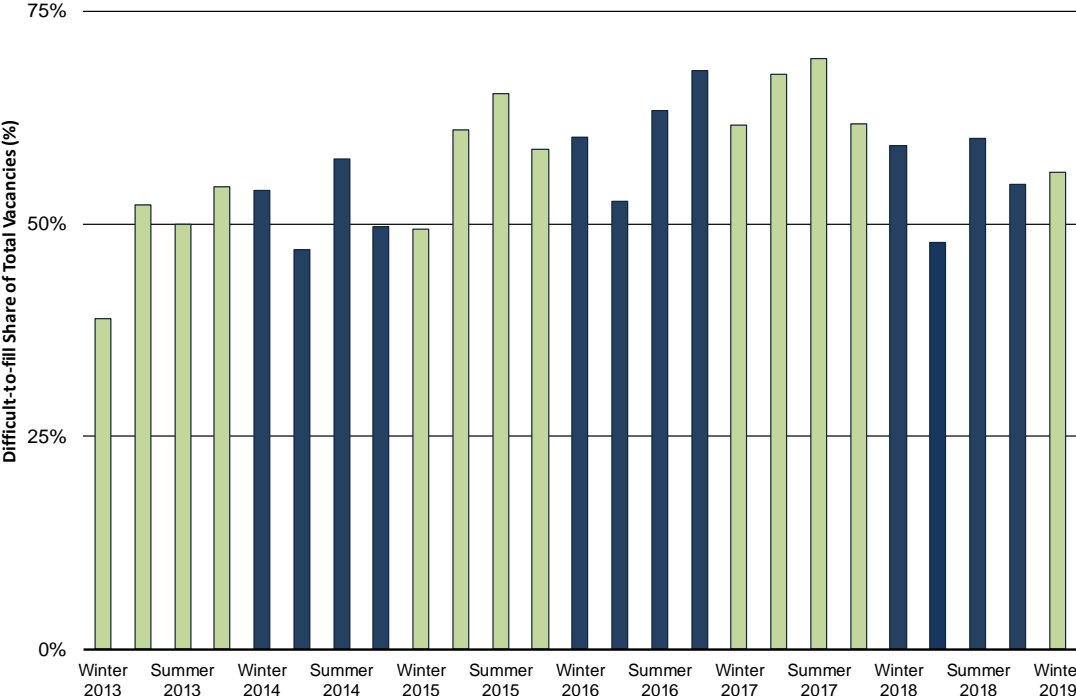
Private health care and social assistance accounted for one out of every four job vacancies in Oregon during winter 2019.

Though one sector accounted for a large share of job vacancies, hiring remained broad-based across the economy.



Difficulty filling job vacancies has eased a bit over the past year.

About Half of All Job Vacancies Were Difficult to Fill in Winter 2019



Still, employers usually report the majority of job vacancies as difficult to fill. The most common reason they cite for difficulty is a lack of applicants.



The average starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$19.47 per hour in winter.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range

Wage (per hour)	Winter 2018	Winter 2019
All Wage Ranges	49,456	43,467
Less than \$15	26,039	14,577
\$15 through \$24.99	12,334	12,639
\$25 and up	5,421	7,660

unknown excluded

Job vacancies with starting wages below \$15 per hour dropped by almost half (44%) over the year. By comparison, job openings paying \$25 or more increased by 41 percent. Vacancies between \$15 and \$25 per hour stayed about the same.



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

The East Cascades region reported a relatively high number of job vacancies.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Region, Winter 2019

	Vacancies
Oregon Statewide	43,467
Portland Metro	12,387
Clackamas	6,268
Mid-Valley	4,997
Lane	4,238
Northwest Oregon	3,974
Rogue Valley	3,804
Central Oregon/East Cascades	3,708
Eastern Oregon	1,845
Southwestern Oregon	1,688

The Portland tri-county area accounted for 43 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

