



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Winter 2021

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 55,100 vacancies in winter 2021.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Winter 2021

Vacancies	55,124
Average Hourly Wage	\$18.99
Full-time Positions	82%
Permanent Positions	96%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	38%
Requiring Previous Experience	55%
Difficult to Fill	54%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies stayed flat from the level in the fall (+1%) and increased 16% from winter 2020. Employers continued to hire throughout the COVID pandemic.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$18.99 per hour, similar to the \$18.89 per hour average in winter 2020.

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



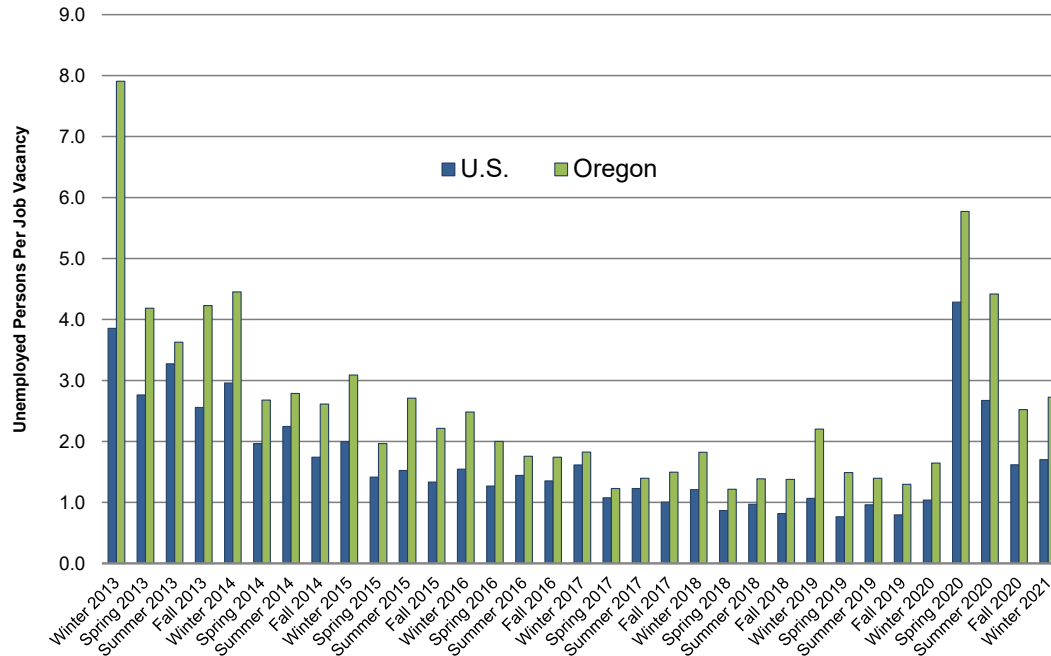
Employers were asked “Is this location closed or operations curtailed due to COVID-19 restrictions?”

- 5% of respondents to the winter 2021 survey reported a closure or curtailment due to COVID-19, compared with 6% in the fall, 7% in the summer, and 18% in the spring.
- In winter, the leisure and hospitality and private educational services industries most often responded that operations were affected.
- Employers in Clackamas County 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 Ratios
Recovering after Spring 2020 Peak
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2021)



The unemployed-to-vacancy ratio ticked up slightly in the winter after dropping in the summer and fall.

The U.S. ratio was 1.7 in January. It spiked very suddenly last spring amid COVID closures, after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 2.7 unemployed per job vacancy in January after reaching 5.8 in spring 2020.



Businesses reported hiring in various industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Winter 2021

Industry	Vacancies
All Industries	55,124
Health care and social assistance	13,668
Leisure and hospitality	6,716
Other services	6,205
Retail trade	4,717
Construction	4,424
Manufacturing	3,889
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,211
Financial activities	2,758
Professional, scientific, and technical services	2,699
Management, administrative, and waste services	2,391
Wholesale trade	2,220
Private educational services	920
Natural resources and mining	734
Information	572

Health care and social assistance continued to be the top hiring industry in the winter, with 13,700 vacancies. This sector had the most vacancies in 19 of the past 21 quarters. Leisure and hospitality, and other services also had more than 6,000 vacancies in winter.

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.

Source: Oregon Employment Department



The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$18.99 per hour in the winter.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, Winter 2021

Wage (per hour)	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Wage Ranges	55,124	\$18.99
Less than \$15	16,616	\$13.14
\$15 through \$19.99	16,632	\$16.55
\$20 through \$24.99	5,607	\$21.53
\$25 through \$29.99	2,254	\$26.56
\$30 and up	5,657	\$37.83
Unknown	8,358	

The average starting wage was about the same as the average of \$18.89 in winter 2020.

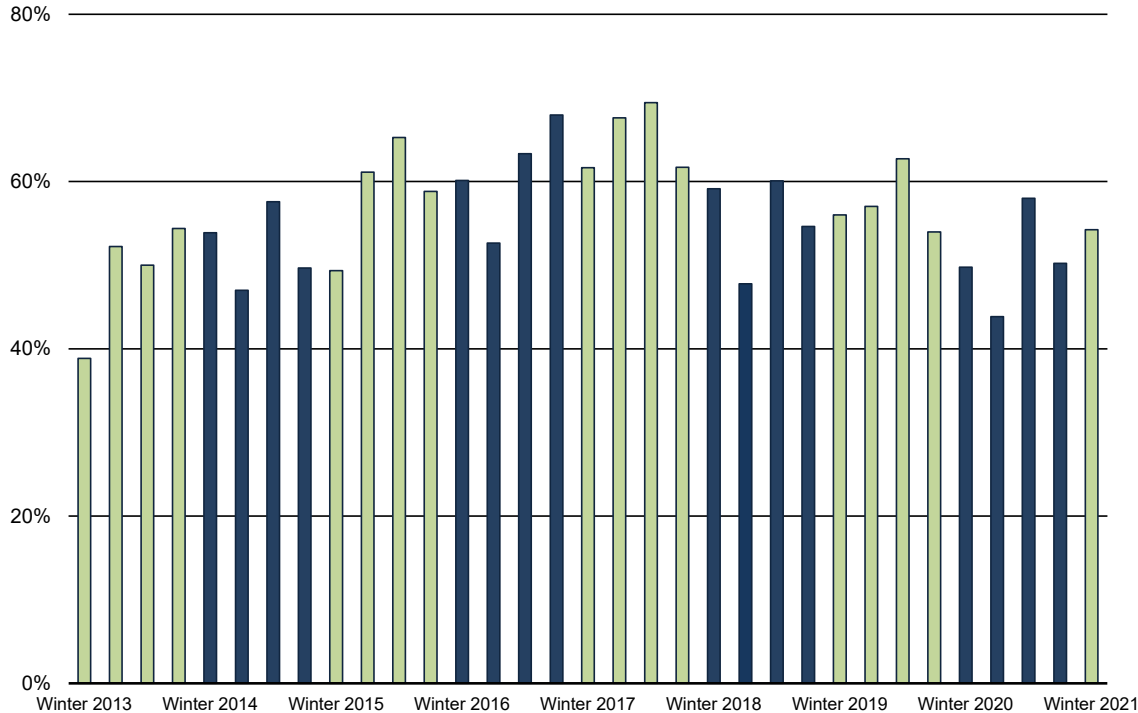
Total vacancies were up 16% from last winter. The number of vacancies paying less than \$15 per hour dropped 1% compared with winter 2020. Mid-wage vacancies paying between \$15 and \$24.99 had the greatest gain, increasing 74%, and vacancies paying more than \$25 per hour increased 34%.

Source: Oregon Employment Department



54% of winter job vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling 54% of Vacancies in Winter 2021



Several occupational groups had more than 3,000 difficult to fill vacancies:

- Transportation and material moving (3,829)
- Health care support (3,751)
- Health care practitioners and technical (3,426)

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

Winter vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county area accounting for 40%.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Winter 2021

<u>Geography</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
Oregon Statewide	55,124
Portland Metro	15,269
Mid-Valley	6,821
Clackamas	6,718
Rogue Valley	6,224
East Cascades	5,556
Northwest Oregon	4,589
Lane	3,590
Southwestern Oregon	3,051
Eastern Oregon	2,648
<i>Unknown/multiple regions excluded</i>	

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Overall vacancies increased 16% since winter 2020.

Vacancies dropped the most over the year in Lane County. Vacancies increased the most over the year in the Mid-Valley region and the Rogue Valley.





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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

