



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Winter 2022

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 100,100 vacancies in winter 2022.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Winter 2022

Vacancies	100,145
Average Hourly Wage	\$19.90
Full-time Positions	81%
Permanent Positions	95%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	23%
Requiring Previous Experience	47%
Difficult to Fill	71%

Vacancies decreased 3% from the fall and increased 82% from winter 2021. Employers reported difficulty filling 71% of winter 2022 vacancies.

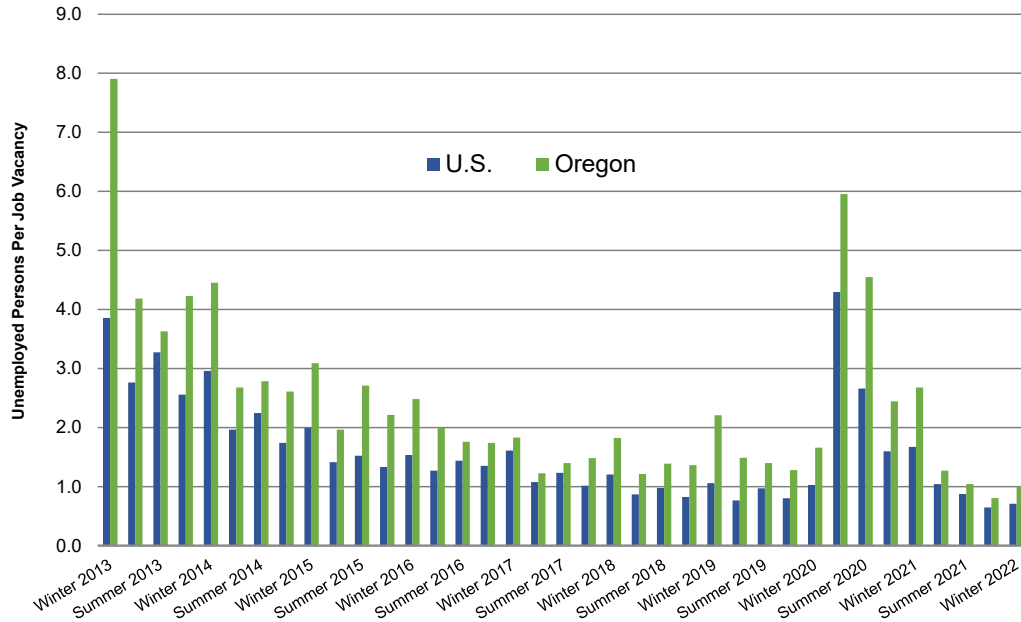
The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$19.90 per hour, an inflation-adjusted decrease of 2.5% from winter 2021 and 7.7% decrease from fall 2021.

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 at a record low.

U.S. and Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratios Reach Record Lows after Spring 2020 Peak
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2022)



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

The U.S. ratio was 0.7 in January 2022. It peaked very suddenly amid COVID closures, reaching 4.3 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 1.0 unemployed per job vacancy in January 2022 after reaching 5.8 in May 2020.



Businesses reported hiring in various industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Winter 2022

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Industries	100,145
Leisure and hospitality	20,240
Health care and social assistance	17,256
Manufacturing	9,966
Retail trade	9,683
Construction	9,206
Management, administrative, and waste services	6,938
Wholesale trade	5,401
Other services	5,145
Professional, scientific, and technical services	5,130
Financial activities	3,779
Natural resources and mining	3,552
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,639
Private educational services	884
Information	72

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Leisure and hospitality had the most job vacancies in the winter, nearly doubling the number of vacancies from the previous quarter. Health care and social assistance had 17,300 vacancies in the 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.



The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$19.90 per hour in the winter.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, Winter 2022

Wage (per hour)	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Wage Ranges	100,145	\$19.90
Less than \$15	16,704	\$13.49
\$15 through \$19.99	40,541	\$16.56
\$20 through \$24.99	14,091	\$21.35
\$25 through \$29.99	5,798	\$26.50
\$30 and up	9,059	\$40.23
Unknown	13,952	

Source: Oregon Employment Department

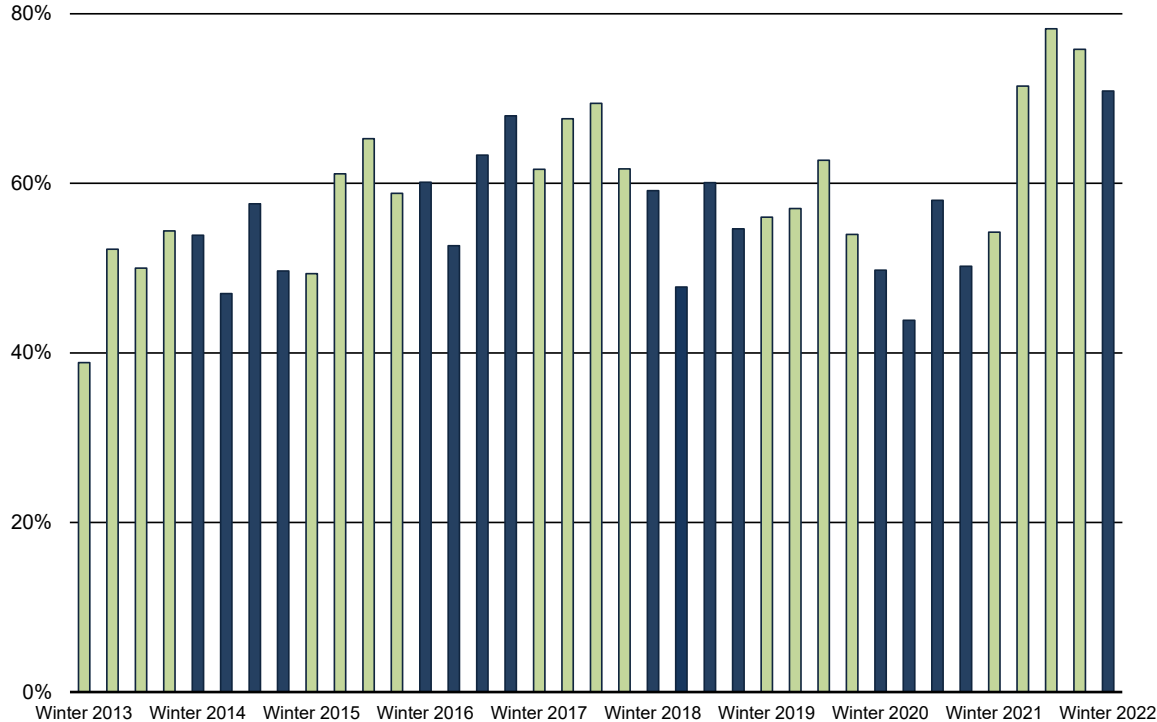
The average starting wage reported in summer was \$19.90, an inflation-adjusted decrease from the winter 2021 nominal wage of \$18.99 (real wage \$20.41).

Total vacancies were up 82% from the level last winter. The number of vacancies offering a starting wage below \$15 per hour stayed flat over the year. The number of vacancies offering between \$15 and \$25 per hour increased 146% and vacancies paying above \$25 per hour increased 88%.



71% of fall job vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling 71% of Vacancies in Winter 2022



The occupations with the highest number of difficult-to-fill vacancies:

- Cooks, restaurants (3,500)
- Nursing assistants (2,700)
- Retail salespersons (2,600)
- Construction laborers (2,000)

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

Fall vacancies were distributed across the state.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Winter 2022

Geography	Vacancies
Oregon Statewide	100,145
Portland Metro	27,942
Mid-Valley	13,779
East Cascades	11,853
Lane	10,975
Clackamas	10,379
Rogue Valley	10,290
Northwest Oregon	5,712
Eastern Oregon	4,492
Southwestern Oregon	3,803

Unknown/multiple regions excluded

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies decreased 3% from the fall and increased 82% from winter 2021.

The Portland tri-county area represented 38% of winter vacancies. Vacancies increased the most over the year in the East Cascades and Lane County.





Anna Johnson

Senior Economic Analyst

Anna.L.Johnson@employ.oregon.gov

(503) 991-2110

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

