

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK FOR GEOLOGISTS

OREGON STATE BOARD OF GEOLOGIST EXAMINERS

06.13.2025

UNCOVERING THE LABOR MARKET

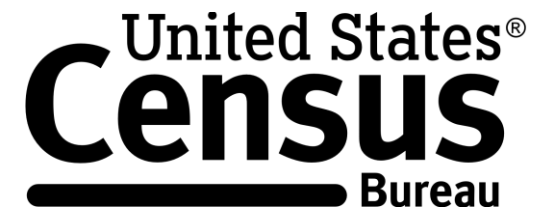
Tools of the Trade

THE MANY LAYERS OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The Oregon Employment Department's Workforce and Economic Research Division has the mission of providing Oregon quality labor market information, so businesses, workers, students, and policymakers can make informed decisions.

The Research Division conducts original research and partners with national research agencies like the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau to aggregate and analyze labor market information.

- Oregon and Local Unemployment Rates
- Industry Employment Trends
- Current Employment Statistics
- Oregon Job Vacancies
- Oregon Wage Information
- Industry and Employment Projections
- Occupation Profiles
- Business Employment Dynamics
- Employment Wage Record Analysis
- Postsecondary Employment Trends

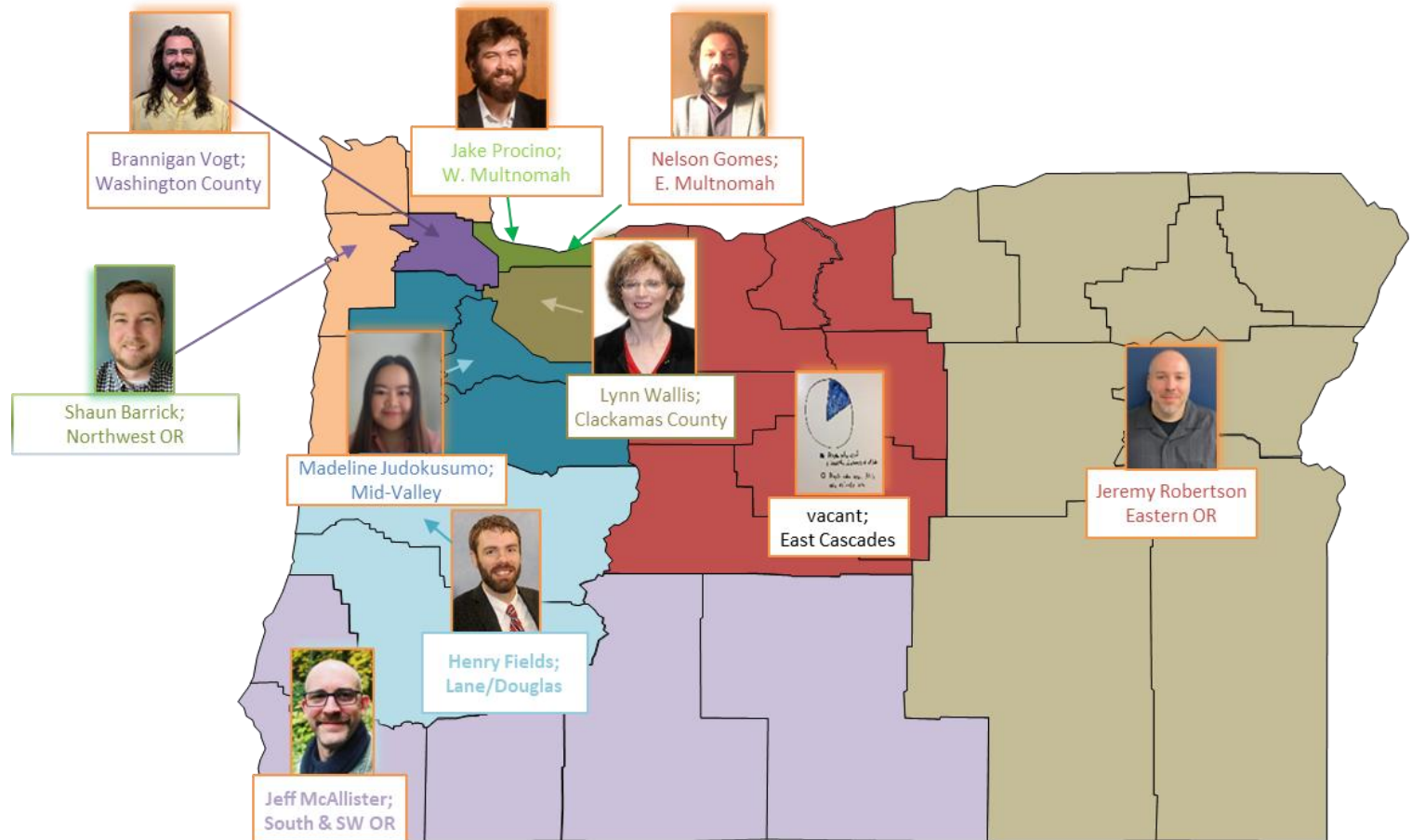


LOCAL EXPERTISE JUST A CLICK AWAY

The Research Division also has subject matter experts working around the state to help deliver and contextualize all the information we have available.

If you need insights into a local area of the state, please contact one of our workforce analysts.

Use the QR Code to get in [contact](#).



THE MANY LAYERS OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The best way to access resources our information related to careers in the geosciences is by going to our website, www.QualityInfo.org.



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Search...

One tool we want to highlight today is our [occupation profile tool](#).

OUR LATEST RESEARCH



Oregon Economic Update: Uncertainty

Amy Vander Vliet Jun 9
It's a challenging time for economic forecasters. Recent developments have heightened the risks facing the economy, but the extent to which they will...

Jun 5
Oregon's Natural Population Continued to Decrease in 2024

Jun 3
Understanding Oregon's Labor Force: Estimates from the Current Population Survey

May 23
2023 National Park Visitor Spending Effects in Oregon

May 23
K-12 Teachers: Brightening Oregon's Future by Igniting Young Minds

May 20
Oregon's Part-Time Workers: More than One-Fifth of Employment in 2024

May 15
Regionality in Oregon's Green Labor Market

More Articles

OREGON ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Unemployment Rate - April 2025	4.7%	↑ 0.1%
Seasonally Adjusted		
Total Unemployed - April 2025	103,325	↑ 1,155
Seasonally Adjusted		
Nonfarm Employment - April 2025	2,007,800	↑ 1,200
Seasonally Adjusted		
Job Vacancies - 1st Quarter 2025	51,295	↑ 3.0%

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LMI Tools

Careers

Find a Job

Occupation & Wage Information

Career Explorer

Find Employers

Wage Conversion Calculator

Search Biz News

Economy

Unemployment Rates (LAUS)

Current Employment Estimates (CES)

Employment & Wages by Industry (QCEW)

Unemployment Insurance Characteristics

Inflation Calculator

Fast Facts Dashboard

Projections

Find labor market information tools from the Oregon Employment Department Research Division.

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State of Oregon
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OCCUPATIONAL PROFILES FOR GEOSCIENTISTS

The occupation profile tool is a one-stop resource for occupational labor market information. The profile tool allows you to search for over 800 different occupations. The tool pulls together foundational information relevant to careers including job postings, wage estimates, industry and regional employment trends, related training programs found in Oregon, and much more.

Occupation Profiles

Geoscientists, Except Hydrologists and Geographers (192042)
Oregon (All Counties)

Median Hourly Wage

\$46.94

2023 Employment

384

Job Openings per Year

40

SEARCH OCCUPATIONS

geoscience

Search

MATCHING OCCUPATIONS (3):

Geoscientists, Except Hydrologists

Get Report

Description

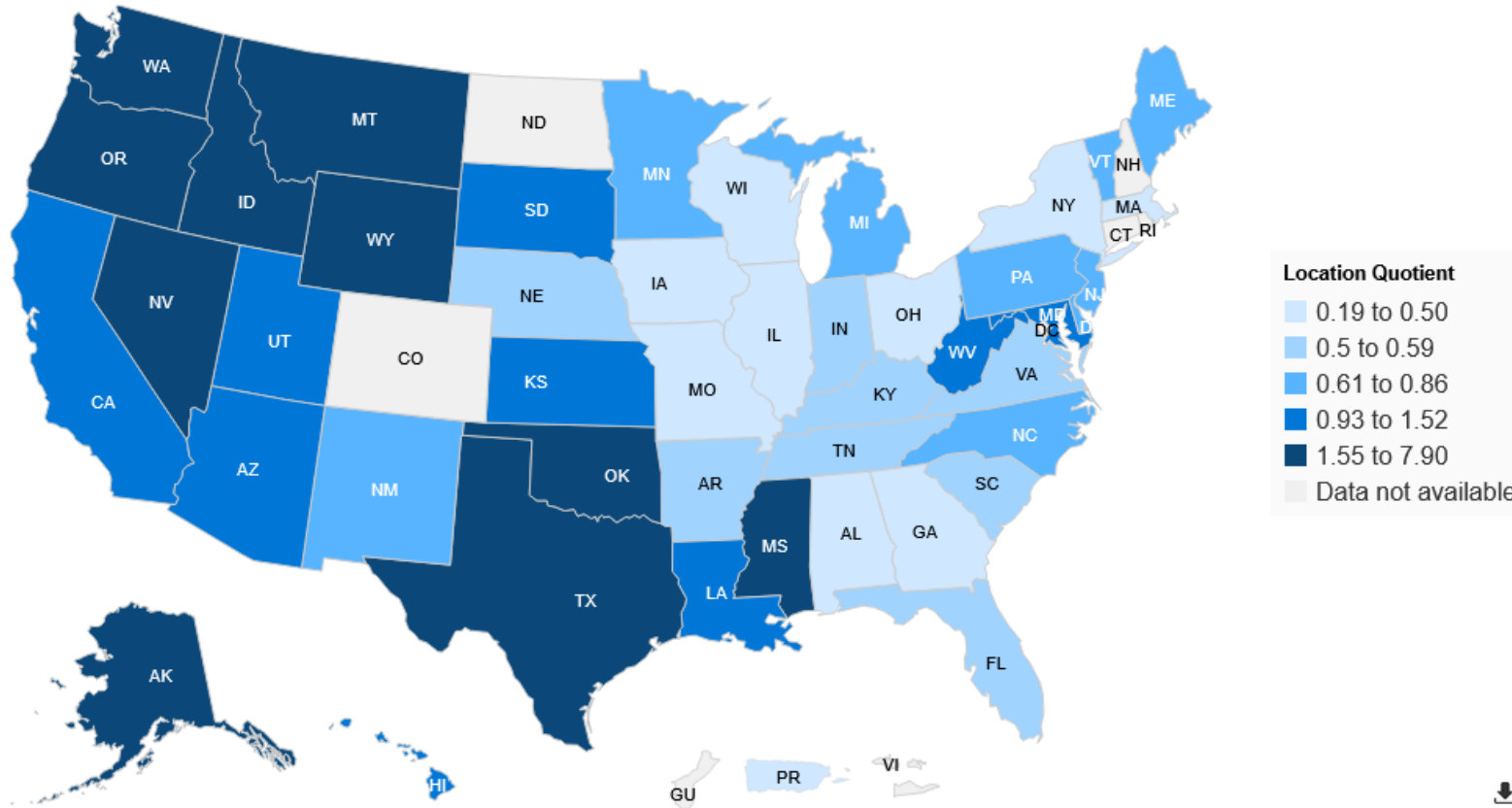
Study the composition, structure, and other physical aspects of the Earth. May use geological, physics, and mathematics knowledge in exploration for oil, gas, minerals, or underground water; or in waste disposal, land reclamation, or other environmental problems. May study the Earth's internal composition, atmospheres, and oceans, and its magnetic, electrical, and gravitational forces. Includes mineralogists, paleontologists, stratigraphers, geodesists, and seismologists.

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THE MANY LAYERS OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Location quotient of geoscientists, except hydrologists and geographers, by state, May 2024



Nationally, geoscientist occupations are concentrated in mining and oil extraction, professional and scientific services, and government.

Oregon has a higher concentration of geoscientists working than the national average.

However, it's a much smaller share than the states with the highest concentration: Alaska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, and Montana.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics.

OCCUPATIONAL PROFILES FOR GEOSCIENTISTS

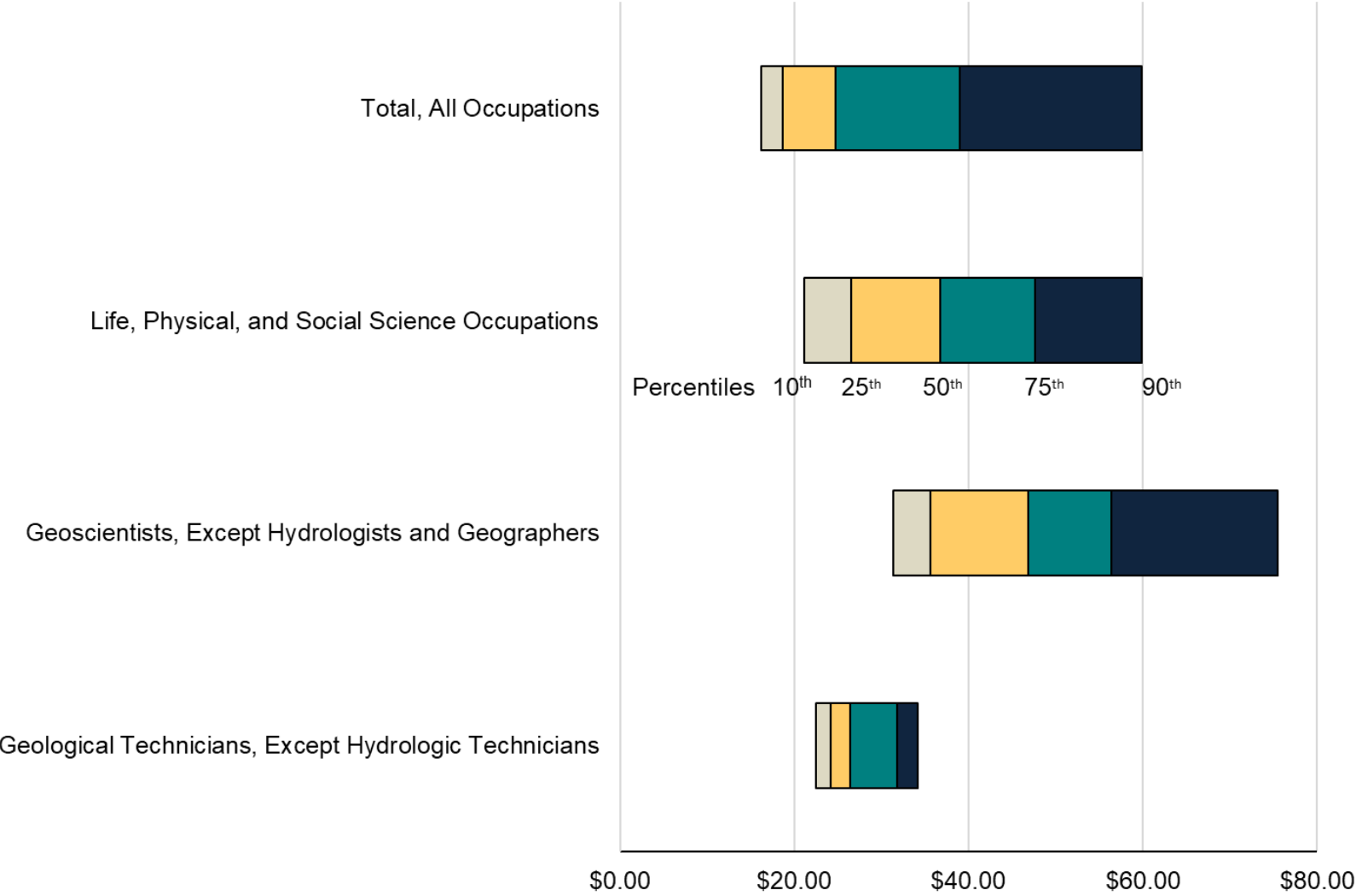
The profile tool provides wage estimates based on an employer survey we conduct on behalf of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Not only do these estimates provide average wage estimates for geoscientists (\$49.25), it also provides wage ranges to provide wage ranges that provide a sense of what entry-level and experienced geoscientists earn. We also break out wage estimates based on local workforce areas to better describe the regional pay dynamics that are present in this career.

Area	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile (median)	75th Percentile	90th Percentile	Average Hourly	Average Annual
Oregon	\$31.42	\$35.68	\$46.94	\$56.41	\$75.53	\$49.25	\$102,449
Linn-Benton	\$32.08	\$32.08	\$49.84	\$56.41	\$62.80	\$46.98	\$97,718
Mid-Valley	\$32.08	\$32.62	\$46.41	\$56.41	\$62.80	\$47.13	\$98,034
Northwest Oregon	\$37.07	\$49.84	\$55.19	\$69.38	\$79.59	\$59.76	\$124,310
Portland Tri-County	\$31.42	\$32.40	\$41.94	\$54.02	\$73.72	\$47.26	\$98,292
Portland-Metro	\$31.42	\$32.40	\$41.94	\$54.02	\$73.72	\$46.98	\$97,706
Southwestern Oregon	\$46.41	\$47.85	\$56.38	\$79.59	\$79.59	\$61.96	\$128,870

You can compare wages of different occupations by checking out the [Career Explorer Tool](#), or going to the Data section of [QualityInfo.org](#).

WAGES CAN BE COMPARED ACROSS REGION, STATE, AND INDUSTRY

Most Geoscientists Earned More Than the Oregon Median Wage in 2024



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Oregon Wage Information 2024

Since we use the same methods as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to calculate occupational wages, we can compare the pay of geoscientists with other occupations, or across different parts of the country.

Most Oregon geoscientists earned more than the state median wage for all occupations (\$24.79).

Oregon geoscientists ranked 15th in annual median wages, and had a lower median wage than Washington or California, according to the BLS in 2024.

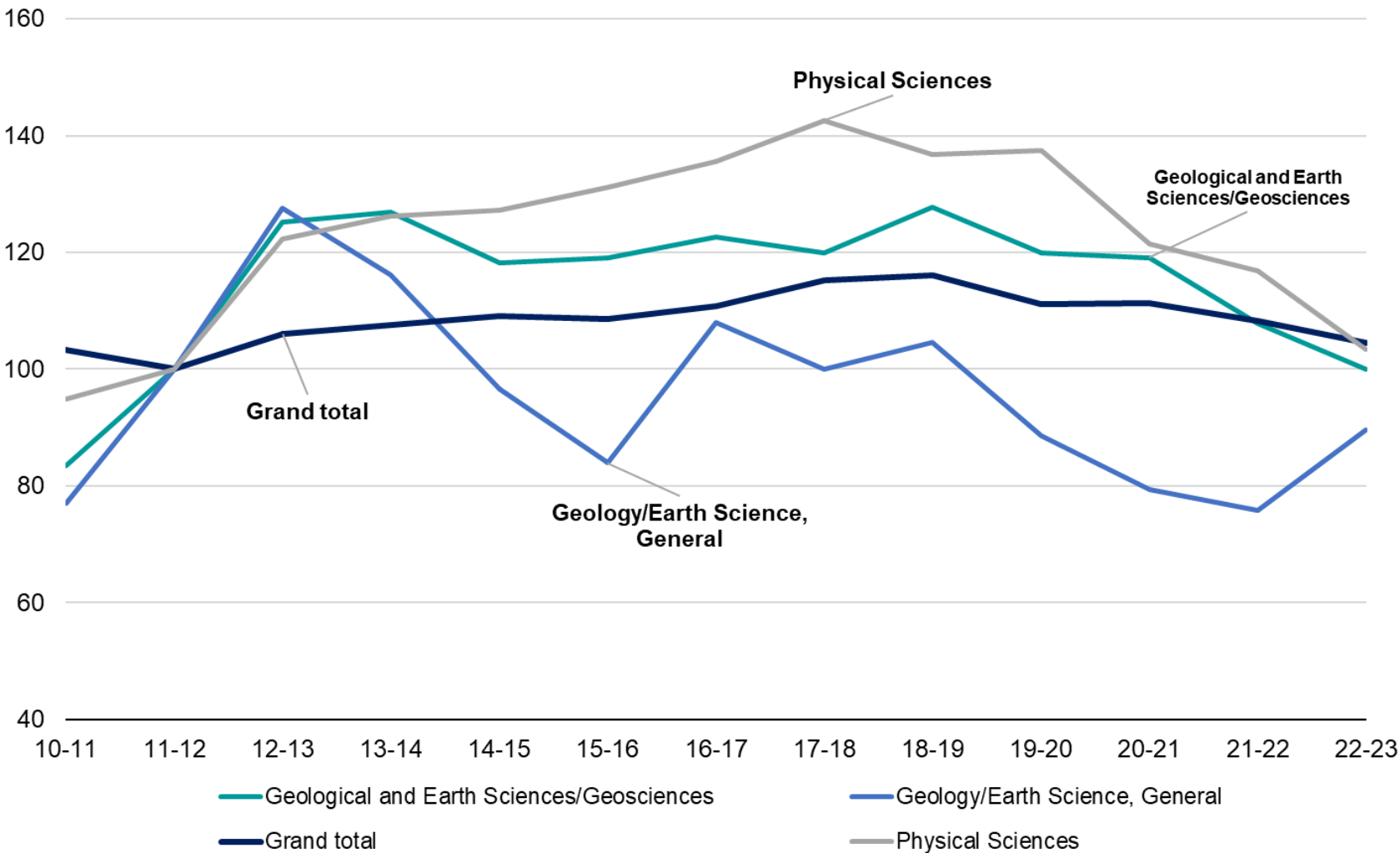
OCCUPATIONAL PROFILES FOR GEOSCIENTISTS

While many of our profile resources describe what it is like for current geoscientists working today, we also provide general information about people completing training, and education programs related to the career. The schools and training section provide summary information from national education sources, state apprenticeship records, and other sources to understand the training pipeline.

School	City	Programs of Training and Graduates			
Clackamas Community College	Oregon City	Geology/Earth Science, General	Associate's Degree		1
Linn-Benton Community College	Albany	Geology/Earth Science, General	Associate's Degree		1
Mt Hood Community College	Gresham	Geology/Earth Science, General	Associate's Degree		0
Treasure Valley Community College	Ontario	Geology/Earth Science, General	Associate's Degree		0
Oregon State University	Corvallis	Geological And Earth Sciences/Geosciences, Other	Bachelor's Degree		42
		Geology/Earth Science, General	Master's Degree		5
		Geology/Earth Science, General	Doctor's Degrees		2
		Oceanography, Chemical And Physical	Master's Degree		4
		Oceanography, Chemical And Physical	Doctor's Degrees		4

COMPLETERS HELP US UNDERSTAND THE GENERAL SUPPLY OF TRAINED WORKERS

Degrees Awarded in Oregon
Have Been in General Decline Since 2018



Looking at postsecondary completers help us understand the worker pipeline for many careers that require extension education and training.

Large shifts in Oregon population demographics have impacted completers counts.

Degrees and certificates awarded in physical sciences peaked between 2016 and 2019. We have seen a general decline in completers since then.

GEOSCIENTISTS

Employment Outlook, Openings, and Growth
Drivers

PROJECTING OCCUPATIONAL GROWTH

In which industries is there employment in this occupation?

How is employment in these industries projected to change?

How is the utilization of this occupation within its industries expected to change?

How much self-employment is there in this occupation?



Occupational
Employment Projections

Ultimately trying to determine the number of newly trained workers needed in Oregon over the next decade.

How likely are people in this occupation to transfer to a different occupation?

How likely are people in this occupation to exit the labor force due to retirement or other factors?



Projected Occupational Openings

Ultimately trying to determine the number of newly trained workers needed in Oregon over the next decade.

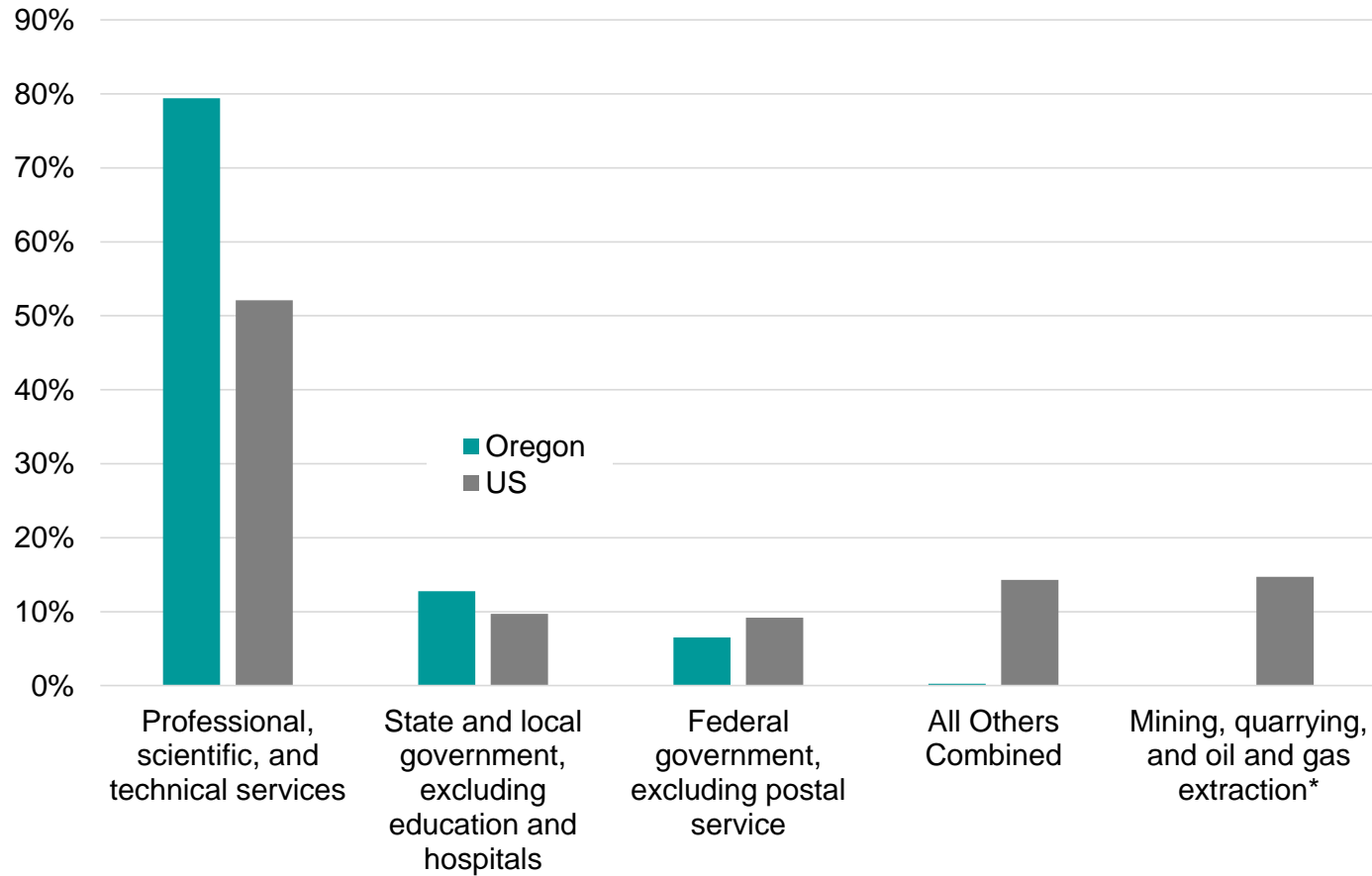
Methods are designed to measure and reflect structural changes that occur gradually and are not designed for extremely rapid structural change.

The following assumptions underlie Oregon employment projections:

- Broad social and demographic trends will continue
- New major armed conflicts will not develop
- There will be no major natural disasters, including pandemics
- The projected U.S. economy will be at approximately full employment/potential output
- Existing laws and policies with significant impacts on economic trends are assumed to hold throughout the projection period
- The overall pace of technological change will be consistent with past experience

INDUSTRY MIX IS A DRIVER OF PROJECTED GROWTH IN OREGON AND THE US

Employment of Geoscientists in Oregon is More Concentrated in Professional and Technical Services Industries than Nationally, 2023



Source: Oregon Employment Department and US Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Note: Share of geoscientists employed in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extract sector is suppressed due to confidentiality or data quality

- In Oregon, nearly 80% of employment is concentrated in the fast-growing architectural, engineering and related services and management, scientific, and technical consulting service industries.
- National employment relatively more spread among fast and slower-growing industries.

Geoscientists, Except Hydrologists and Geographers (SOC 19-2042)

	2023	2033	Employment Change	% Change
Oregon	384	462	78	20.3%
US	26,000	27,400	1,400	5.5%

Source: Oregon Employment Department and US Bureau of Labor Statistics



- Projected to grow faster than all occupations in Oregon (7.8%)
- In addition to jobs gained through growth, an average of 32 additional job openings are expected annually through 2033 to replace workers who retire or otherwise leave the occupation.
- Most annual job openings (25) are expected in the Portland Tri-County region.

FIND MORE PROJECTIONS DATA ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit QualityInfo.org/projections for data tables and more!



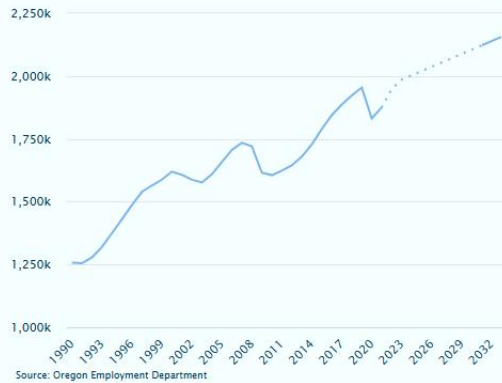
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Employment Projections

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Oregon to Add 170,000 New Jobs by 2033



Oregon to Add 170,000 New Jobs by 2033

Oregon's job growth will total 8% between 2023 and 2033. Private payrolls are expected to grow by 150,500 (9%), while government employment will increase by 10,700 (6%), and self-employment will grow by 8,800 (6%).

For every new job added by growing and expanding businesses, Oregon employers will have another nine job openings requiring newly trained workers to replace those who leave the labor force or make a major occupational change.

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS



Apr 14, 2025

Oregon Employment Projections 2023-2033

Are you wondering what the future holds for Oregon's economy? Each year, OED economists project industry and occupational employment trends for the state and its local areas.

Sarah Cunningham

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Other Languages Spoken:

Spanish
Hablo español

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PODCAST

- 2023-2033 Employment Projections Podcast

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS DATA

- Oregon Industry Employment Projections 2023-2033
- Oregon Occupational Employment Projections 2023-2033
- East Cascades Industry Employment Projections 2023-2033
- East Cascades Occupational Employment Projections 2023-2033
- Eastern Oregon Industry Employment Projections, 2023-2033
- Eastern Oregon Occupational Employment Projections 2023-2033

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