

HELP WANTED IN OREGON RESULTS FROM THE WINTER 2026 JOB VACANCY SURVEY

APRIL 23, 2026

OREGON BUSINESSES REPORTED 45,300 VACANCIES IN WINTER 2026.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Winter 2026

Vacancies	45,349
Average Hourly Wage	\$25.42
Full-time Positions	71%
Permanent Positions	93%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	40%
Requiring Previous Experience	60%
Difficult to Fill	46%

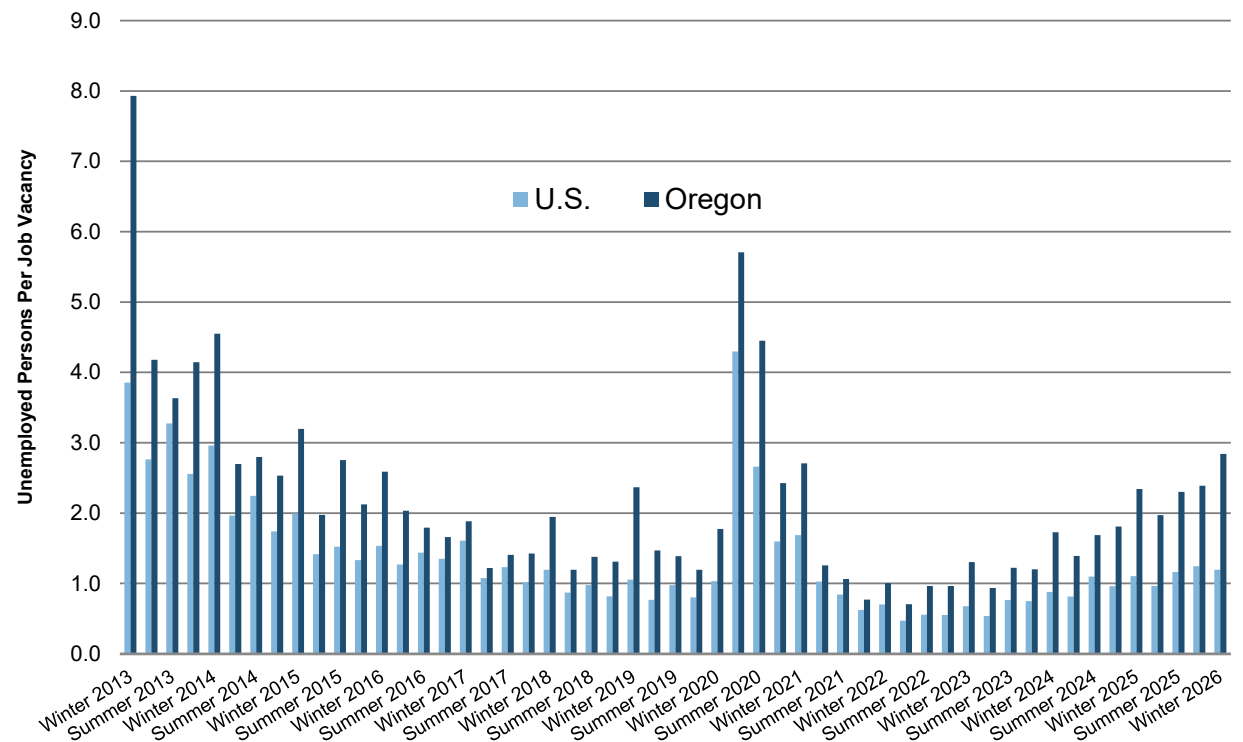
Source: Oregon Employment Department

Oregon businesses reported 45,300 vacancies in winter 2026. Vacancies decreased 2% from the fall and decreased 12% from winter 2025. Employers reported difficulty filling 46% of winter 2026 vacancies.

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 INCREASED AND VACANCIES DECLINED, THE UNEMPLOYED TO JOB VACANCY RATIO IN OREGON INCREASED TO 2.8 IN THE WINTER.

Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratio Rising Faster than U.S. Ratio Since 2023
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2026)



Source: Oregon Employment Department

The U.S. ratio was 1.2 in January 2026. It reached 4.3 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 2.8 unemployed per job vacancy in winter 2026, part of a steady rise since the post-pandemic recession expansion period in 2021 and 2022.

BUSINESSES REPORTED HIRING IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Winter 2026

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Industries	45,349
Health care and social assistance	15,111
Management, administrative, and waste services	5,151
Leisure and hospitality	4,441
Other services	3,431
Professional, scientific, and technical services	3,241
Construction	2,637
Manufacturing	2,589
Retail trade	2,069
Private educational services	2,018
Natural resources and mining	1,987
Wholesale trade	1,076
Financial activities	982
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	616
Information	-

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Health care and social assistance represented 33% of all vacancies, with 15,100. Management, administrative, and waste services had 5,200 and leisure and hospitality had 4,400.

Note: The Oregon Job Vacancy Survey includes only private-sector businesses with two or more employees.

THE STARTING WAGE FOR JOB VACANCIES AVERAGED \$25.42 PER HOUR IN THE WINTER.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range

Wage (per hour)	Winter 2025	Winter 2026
All Wage Ranges	51,295	45,349
Less than \$20	17,863	13,242
\$20 through \$29.99	18,672	16,060
\$30 and up	9,733	8,811

Unknown excluded

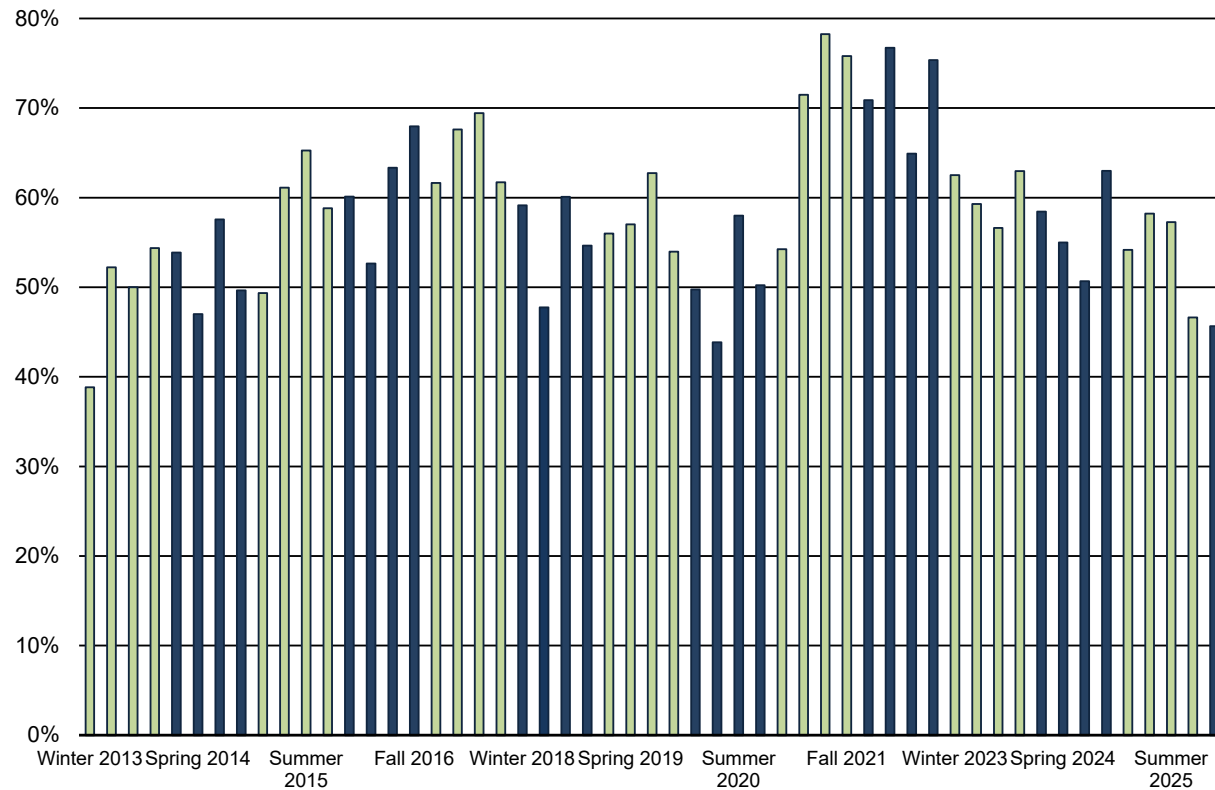
Source: Oregon Employment Department

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was \$25.42 per hour, an inflation-adjusted decrease of 2% from winter 2025, and 5% decrease from fall 2025.

The number of vacancies offering a starting wage below \$20 per hour decreased 26% over the year. The number of vacancies offering between \$20 and \$30 per hour decreased 14% over the year and vacancies paying above \$30 per hour decreased 9%.

46% OF WINTER JOB VACANCIES WERE REPORTED AS DIFFICULT TO FILL.

**Businesses Report Difficulty Filling
46% of Vacancies in Winter 2026**



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Quarterly Job Vacancy Survey

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

- Retail salespersons
- Receptionists and information clerks
- Personal care aides
- Customer service representatives

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 PORTLAND TRI-COUNTY AREA REPRESENTED 51% OF WINTER 2026 VACANCIES.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Winter 2026

<u>Geography</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
Oregon Statewide	45,349
Portland Metro	16,363
Clackamas	6,595
Mid-Valley	4,591
East Cascades	3,950
Lane	3,851
Rogue Valley	3,080
Northwest Oregon	2,776
Eastern Oregon	1,785
Southwestern Oregon	1,633

Winter vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county area (Portland Metro and Clackamas County) accounting for 51%.

*Multi-area or unknown regions excluded
Source: Oregon Employment Department*

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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

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