

# Help Wanted In Oregon

## Results from the Fall 2023 Job Vacancy Survey

January 24, 2024

# OREGON BUSINESSES REPORTED 65,200 VACANCIES IN FALL 2023.

## Oregon Job Vacancies, Fall 2023

**Vacancies** **65,188**

Average Hourly Wage \$25.62

Full-time Positions 83%

Permanent Positions 96%

Requiring Education Beyond High School 38%

Requiring Previous Experience 57%

Difficult to Fill 63%

*Source: Oregon Employment Department*

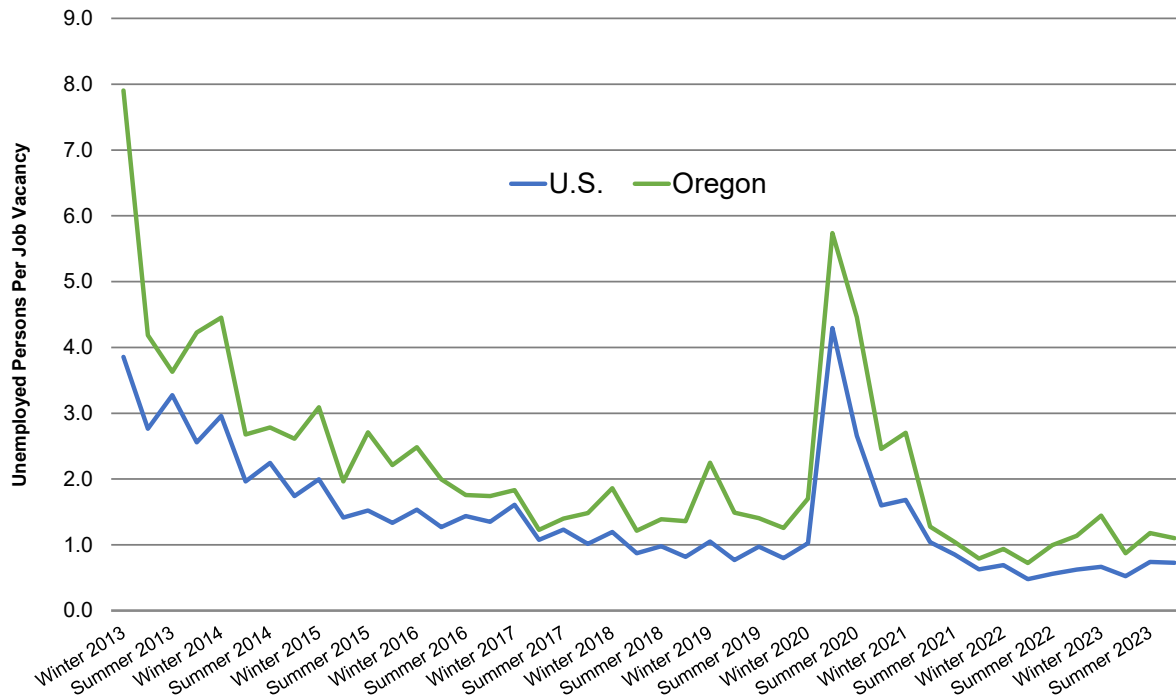
Oregon businesses reported 65,200 vacancies in fall 2023. Vacancies decreased 8% from the summer and decreased 24% from fall 2022. Employers reported difficulty filling 63% of fall 2023 vacancies.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$25.62 per hour, an inflation-adjusted increase of 3% from fall 2022 and a 7% increase from summer 2023.

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 AND VACANCIES DROPPED IN THE FALL, THE UNEMPLOYED TO JOB VACANCY RATIO IN OREGON REMAINED FLAT.

**U.S. and Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratios Still Low after Spring 2020 Peak**  
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2023)



Source: Oregon Employment Department

Oregon's unemployed-to-vacancy ratio has been below pre-pandemic levels for the past two years.

The U.S. ratio was 0.7 in October 2023, its tenth straight quarter below 1. It reached 4.3 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 1.1 unemployed per job vacancy in fall 2023, still much lower than the peak of 5.7 in May 2020.

# BUSINESSES REPORTED HIRING IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

## Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Fall 2023

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>65,188</b>
Health care and social assistance	20,453
Construction	6,421
Leisure and hospitality	6,172
Manufacturing	5,141
Management, administrative, and waste services	5,039
Professional, scientific, and technical services	4,140
Retail trade	3,914
Wholesale trade	3,353
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,839
Information	2,798
Other services	2,331
Financial activities	1,747
Natural resources and mining	576
Private educational services	185

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Health care and social assistance had the most vacancies of any industry, with 20,500. Construction had 6,400 vacancies. Leisure and hospitality had 6,200 vacancies in fall.

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

# THE STARTING WAGE FOR JOB VACANCIES AVERAGED \$25.62 PER HOUR IN THE FALL.

## Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range

Wage (per hour)	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
<b>All Wage Ranges</b>	<b>86,007</b>	<b>65,188</b>
Less than \$20	41,883	20,028
\$20 through \$29.99	19,574	20,373
\$30 and up	16,145	13,575

*unknown excluded*

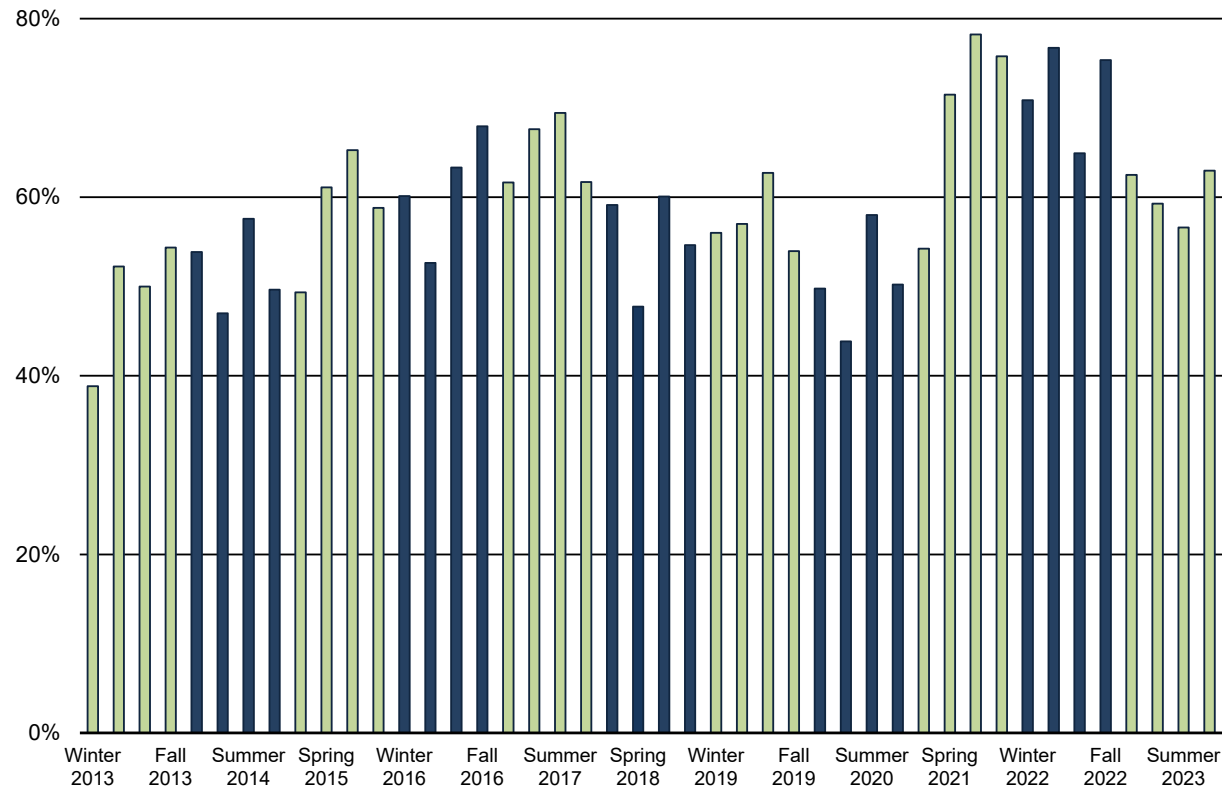
Source: Oregon Employment Department

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$25.62 per hour, an inflation-adjusted increase of 3% from fall 2022, and a 7% increase from summer 2023.

The number of vacancies offering a starting wage below \$20 per hour decreased 52% over the year. The number of vacancies offering between \$20 and \$30 per hour increased 4%, and vacancies paying above \$30 per hour decreased 16%.

# 63% OF FALL JOB VACANCIES WERE REPORTED AS DIFFICULT TO FILL.

**Businesses Report Difficulty Filling  
63% of Vacancies in Fall 2023**



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Quarterly Job Vacancy

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

- Truck drivers
- Personal care aides
- Carpenters
- Registered nurses

# 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

# VACANCIES DECLINED OVER THE YEAR IN EVERY REGION, EXCEPT IN THE EAST CASCADES.

## Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Fall 2023

<u>Geography</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
<b>Oregon Statewide</b>	<b>65,188</b>
Portland Metro	18,026
East Cascades	9,712
Lane	8,612
Mid-Valley	7,880
Clackamas	6,454
Rogue Valley	3,946
Northwest Oregon	3,846
Southwestern Oregon	3,251
Eastern Oregon	2,755

*Unknown/multiple regions excluded*

*Source: Oregon Employment Department*

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

Vacancies decreased over the year in every region of the state, except the East Cascades which increased 34%.



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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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