



Help Wanted in Eastern Oregon

Results from the 2022 Job Vacancy Survey



Eastern Oregon had roughly 4,400 job vacancies at any given time in 2022.

We surveyed 1,500 private employers with two or more employees.

If they were hiring, employers gave details about each vacancy, including:

- Job title
- Full- or part-time status
- Permanent or temporary status
- Starting wage or salary
- Educational and experience requirements

Businesses also identified if their vacancies were difficult to fill, and if so, they wrote in the primary reason they faced hiring challenges.



Across Oregon, businesses reported roughly 104,000 vacancies at any given time in 2022.

Oregon Job Vacancies

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Vacancies	57,241	44,408	96,887	103,977
Average Hourly Wage	\$18.81	\$18.05	\$19.69	\$21.66
Full-time Positions	77%	79%	78%	81%
Permanent Positions	93%	92%	93%	94%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	34%	33%	30%	29%
Requiring Previous Experience	57%	53%	53%	52%
Difficult to Fill	57%	51%	72%	72%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

The number of Oregon job vacancies reached record levels in 2022, as the economy recovered from the pandemic recession in 2020. In another record, employers reported about seven out of 10 openings were difficult to fill in 2022.

Other characteristics Oregon employers are looking for didn't change much during the pandemic recession and recovery. A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position. About one-third require education beyond high school and half require previous experience.



The number of Eastern Oregon vacancies was higher in 2022 than at any time in the survey's history since 2015.



Source: Oregon Employment Department



Two out of five (38%) vacancies in 2022 had been open for 60 days or longer – about the same as in 2021 (39%). Most of these vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

**Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Length of Time Job
has been Open, 2022**

Length of Time Job has been Open	Vacancies	Average Wage	Difficult to Fill
All Vacancies	4,399	\$19.03	76%
< 30 Days	767	\$20.54	59%
30-59 Days	552	\$19.96	87%
60+ Days	1,541	\$18.93	86%
Always Open	1,165	\$17.99	88%
Unknown	374	\$14.54	9%

Source: Oregon Employment Department



Private health care and social assistance reported the most vacancies of any industry.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, 2022

Industry	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Industries	4,399	\$19.03
Health care and social assistance	1,012	\$21.78
Leisure and hospitality	917	\$13.97
Retail trade	506	\$14.62
Manufacturing	430	\$18.28
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	346	\$21.69
Other services	264	\$24.28
Construction	242	\$22.30
Natural resources and mining	169	\$29.24
Wholesale trade	168	\$18.17
Financial activities	99	\$20.92
Management, administrative, and waste services	90	\$20.83
Professional, scientific, and technical services	77	\$14.67
Information	75	\$17.68
Private educational services	4	n/a

Source: Oregon Employment Department



Transportation and material moving occupations represented the group with the most vacancies.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Occupation Group, 2022

Occupation Group	Vacancies
All Occupations	4,399
Transportation and Material Moving	830
Food Preparation and Serving Related	772
Health Care Practitioners and Technical	362
Production	361
Office and Administrative Support	326
Health Care Support	290
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	248
Sales and Related	246
Community and Social Service	191
Construction and Extraction	160
Business and Financial Operations	132
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	130
Management	103
Education, Training, and Library	67
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	58
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	45
Protective Service	27
Personal Care and Service	16
Life, Physical, and Social Science	12
Legal	11
Computer and Mathematical	8
Architecture and Engineering	4

Source: Oregon Employment Department



Area businesses were hiring for a variety of jobs across the economy in 2022. They reported vacancies for 145 different occupations.

Top Eastern Oregon Occupations With the Highest Number of Job Vacancies, 2022

Occupation	Vacancies
All Occupations	4,399
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	318
Cooks, Restaurant	245
Registered Nurses	152
Waiters and Waitresses	150
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	139
Nursing Assistants	130
Food Preparation Workers	120
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	101
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	100
Personal Care Aides	100
Social and Human Service Assistants	86
Retail Salespersons	86
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	82
Bartenders	81
Cashiers	81
Dishwashers	81
Customer Service Representatives	73
Shuttle Drivers and Chauffeurs	55
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	55

Source: Oregon Employment Department



Employers had more difficulty filling vacancies in some occupations.

Top Eastern Oregon Occupations With the Highest Number of Difficult-to-Fill Job Vacancies, 2022

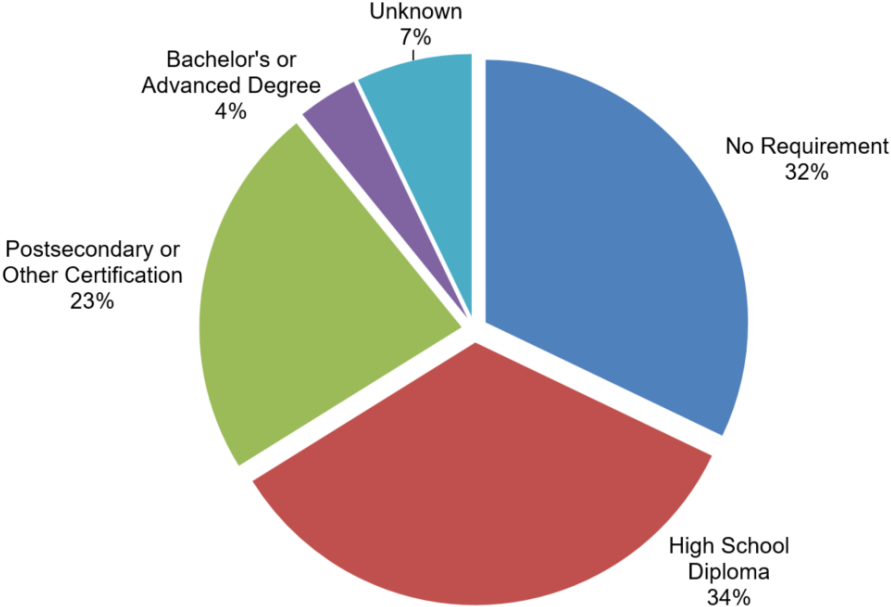
Occupation	Vacancies
Difficult-to-Fill Vacancies in All Occupations	3,326
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	307
Cooks, Restaurant	241
Waiters and Waitresses	134
Food Preparation Workers	120
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	101
Personal Care Aides	100
Registered Nurses	99
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	89
Bartenders	81
Nursing Assistants	74
Social and Human Service Assistants	70
Customer Service Representatives	65
Cashiers	61
Dishwashers	59
Shuttle Drivers and Chauffeurs	55
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	48
Team Assemblers	47
Driver/Sales Workers	44

Source: Oregon Employment Department



More than half (66%) of Eastern Oregon job vacancies required no education beyond high school.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Education Requirement, 2022

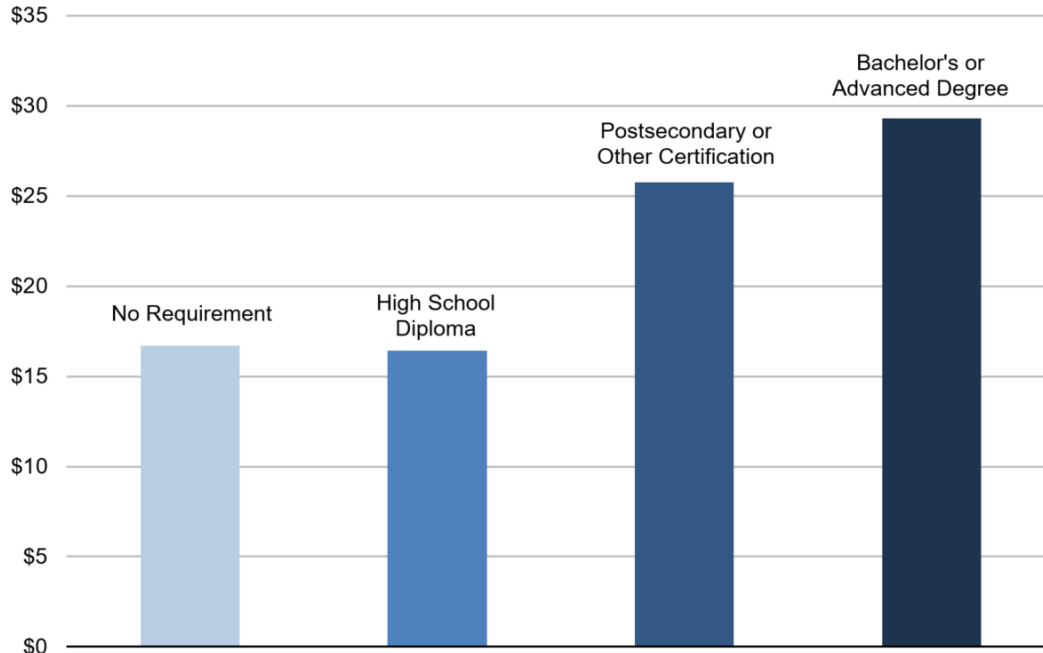


Source: Oregon Employment Department



Average hourly wages generally increase along with education requirements for job vacancies...

Average Hourly Wage for Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies
by Education Requirement, 2022

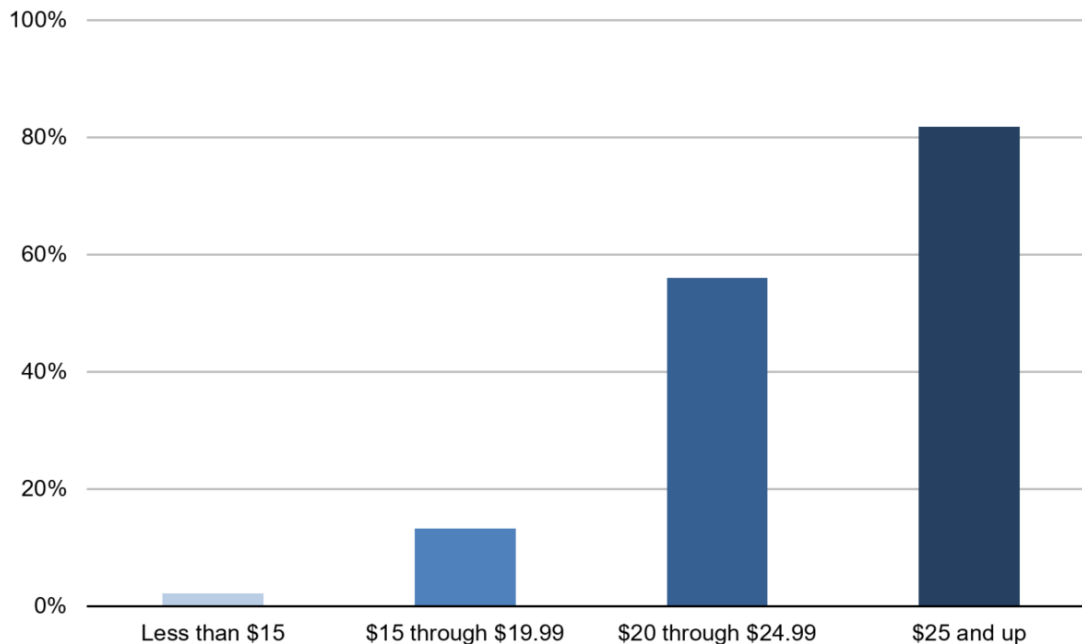


Source: Oregon Employment Department



...and high-paying vacancies are more likely to require education beyond high school.

Share of Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies Requiring Education Beyond High School by Hourly Wage Range, 2022

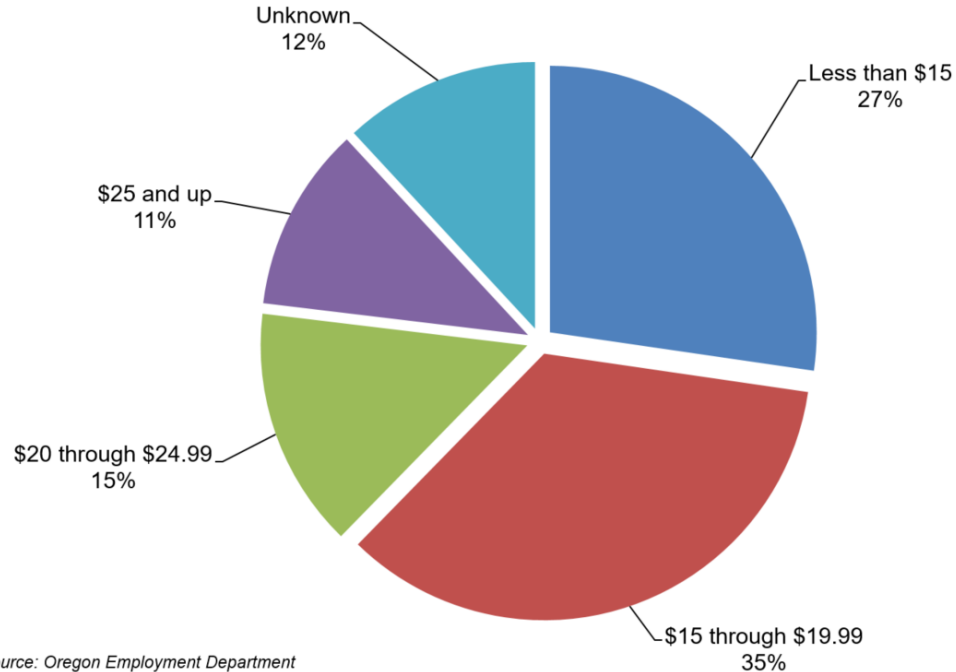


Source: Oregon Employment Department



Most vacancies in Eastern Oregon pay starting wages of less than \$20 per hour.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage, 2022



Source: Oregon Employment Department



Vacancies requiring higher education are more likely to be high-paying, and to require previous experience.

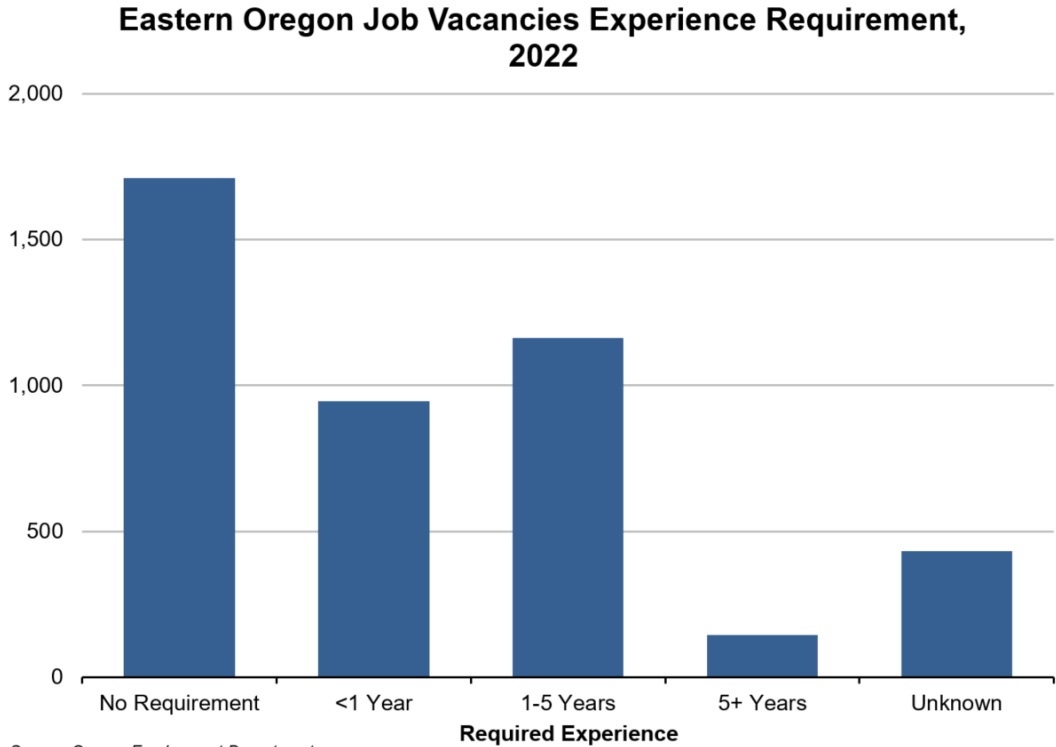
Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Required Education Level, 2022

Required Education Level	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage	Full-time Positions	Permanent Positions	Requiring Previous Experience	Difficult to Fill
All Education Levels	4,399	\$19.03	82%	95%	51%	76%
No Requirement	1,412	\$16.71	77%	96%	39%	87%
High School Diploma	1,498	\$16.42	86%	94%	47%	70%
Postsecondary or Other Certification	1,012	\$25.78	83%	95%	73%	81%
Bachelor's or Advanced Degree	163	\$29.31	87%	100%	98%	79%
Unknown	314	\$17.45	82%	100%	30%	35%

Source: Oregon Employment Department



Half (51%) of the Eastern Oregon vacancies require previous work experience.



Source: Oregon Employment Department

High-paying vacancies are more likely to require a combination of education and previous experience.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, 2022

Wage (per hour)	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage	Full-time Positions	Permanent Positions	Requiring Education Beyond High School	Requiring Previous Experience	Difficult to Fill
All Wage Ranges	4,399	\$19.03	82%	95%	29%	51%	76%
Less than \$15	1,201	\$13.13	70%	96%	2%	31%	79%
\$15 through \$19.99	1,540	\$16.51	88%	91%	13%	50%	81%
\$20 through \$24.99	642	\$21.24	97%	100%	56%	89%	87%
\$25 and up	493	\$38.41	81%	96%	82%	85%	92%
Unknown	523	-	79%	100%	63%	24%	21%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Employers had the most difficulty filling their higher-wage vacancies, with nine out of 10 jobs starting at \$20 per hour or more reported as difficult.



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

Two out of five (41%) vacancies in Oregon were in the Portland Tri-County (Portland Metro and Clackamas) area.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, 2022

Geography	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage	Full-time Positions	Permanent Positions	Require Education Beyond High School	Require Previous Experience	Difficult to Fill
Oregon Statewide	103,977	\$21.66	81%	94%	29%	52%	72%
Portland Metro	30,991	\$24.72	87%	94%	37%	62%	65%
Mid-Valley	15,083	\$20.51	76%	96%	26%	51%	70%
Clackamas	11,934	\$21.62	81%	98%	28%	47%	75%
East Cascades	10,697	\$20.74	81%	93%	24%	48%	74%
Lane	10,003	\$19.36	72%	93%	32%	46%	72%
Rogue Valley	8,934	\$20.14	78%	95%	24%	48%	76%
Northwest Oregon	6,624	\$20.18	74%	90%	21%	47%	79%
Eastern Oregon	4,399	\$19.03	82%	95%	29%	51%	76%
Southwestern Oregon	4,298	\$19.87	80%	95%	25%	43%	76%
Multi-area or unknown	1,014	\$24.09	86%	85%	31%	49%	76%

Source: Oregon Employment Department



Job vacancies have increased since 2021 in many areas of the state, with the largest increases in Mid-Valley, Clackamas, Lane, and Portland Metro.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, 2019-2022

Geography	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change from 2021
Oregon Statewide	57,241	44,408	96,887	103,977	7%
Portland Metro	21,218	13,429	28,014	30,991	11%
Mid-Valley	7,091	6,995	12,681	15,083	19%
East Cascades	5,673	4,402	10,771	10,697	-1%
Clackamas	5,795	3,921	10,088	11,934	18%
Lane	5,414	4,029	8,857	10,003	13%
Rogue Valley	4,134	3,749	8,752	8,934	2%
Northwest Oregon	3,357	2,255	7,311	6,624	-9%
Southwestern Oregon	1,745	2,195	4,801	4,298	-10%
Eastern Oregon	2,147	2,527	4,199	4,399	5%
Multi-area or unknown	667	906	1,413	1,014	-28%

Source: Oregon Employment Department





Chris Rich, Regional Economist
Oregon Employment Department
Christopher.M.Rich@employ.oregon.gov
(541) 963-7111

Find the latest workforce and economic research at QualityInfo.org,
or join the conversation on Twitter [@OED_Research](https://twitter.com/OED_Research).

