

Help Wanted In Oregon

Results from the Winter 2023 Job Vacancy Survey

April 13, 2023

Oregon businesses reported 74,900 vacancies in Winter 2023.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Winter 2023

Vacancies	74,902
Average Hourly Wage	\$24.41
Full-time Positions	80%
Permanent Positions	93%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	41%
Requiring Previous Experience	55%
Difficult to Fill	63%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

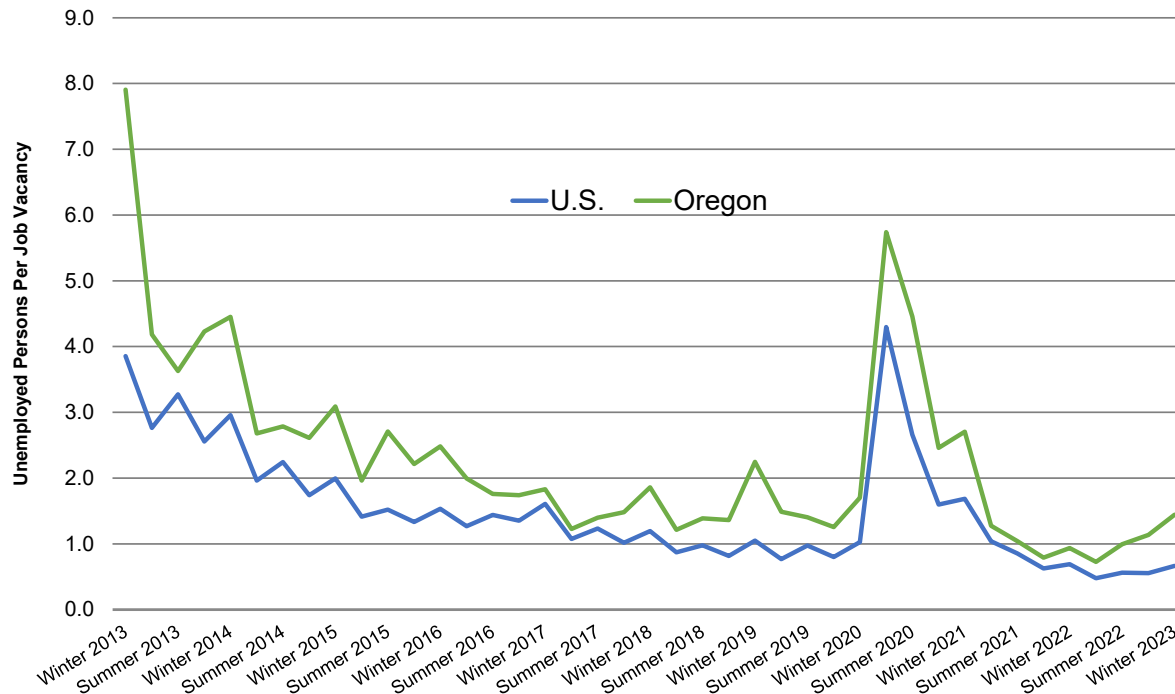
Vacancies decreased 13% from the fall and decreased 25% from winter 2022. Employers reported difficulty filling 63% of winter 2023 vacancies.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was \$24.41 per hour, an inflation-adjusted increase of 14.6% from winter 2022, but only 0.2% above fall 2022.

A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position. Two out of five openings required education beyond high school.

As vacancies dropped in the winter, the unemployed to job vacancy ratio increased.

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 January 2023, its seventh straight quarter below 1. It reached 4.3 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 1.4 unemployed per job vacancy in winter 2023, up from 0.9 in winter 2022 but still much lower than the peak of 5.7 in May 2020.

Businesses reported hiring in various industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Winter 2023

Industry	Vacancies
All Industries	74,902
Health care and social assistance	16,451
Manufacturing	9,014
Leisure and hospitality	8,818
Retail trade	7,844
Management, administrative, and waste services	7,038
Construction	5,433
Professional, scientific, and technical services	5,110
Other services	4,984
Wholesale trade	2,861
Financial activities	2,369
Information	1,405
Natural resources and mining	1,381
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	1,162
Private educational services	1,032

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Health care and social assistance had the most vacancies of any industry, with 16,500. Manufacturing vacancies accounted for 9,000. Leisure and hospitality had 8,800 vacancies.

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

The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$24.41 per hour in the winter.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range

Wage (per hour)	Winter 2022	Winter 2023
All Wage Ranges	100,145	74,902
Less than \$20	57,245	30,089
\$20 through \$29.99	19,889	17,839
\$30 and up	9,059	15,414

unknown excluded

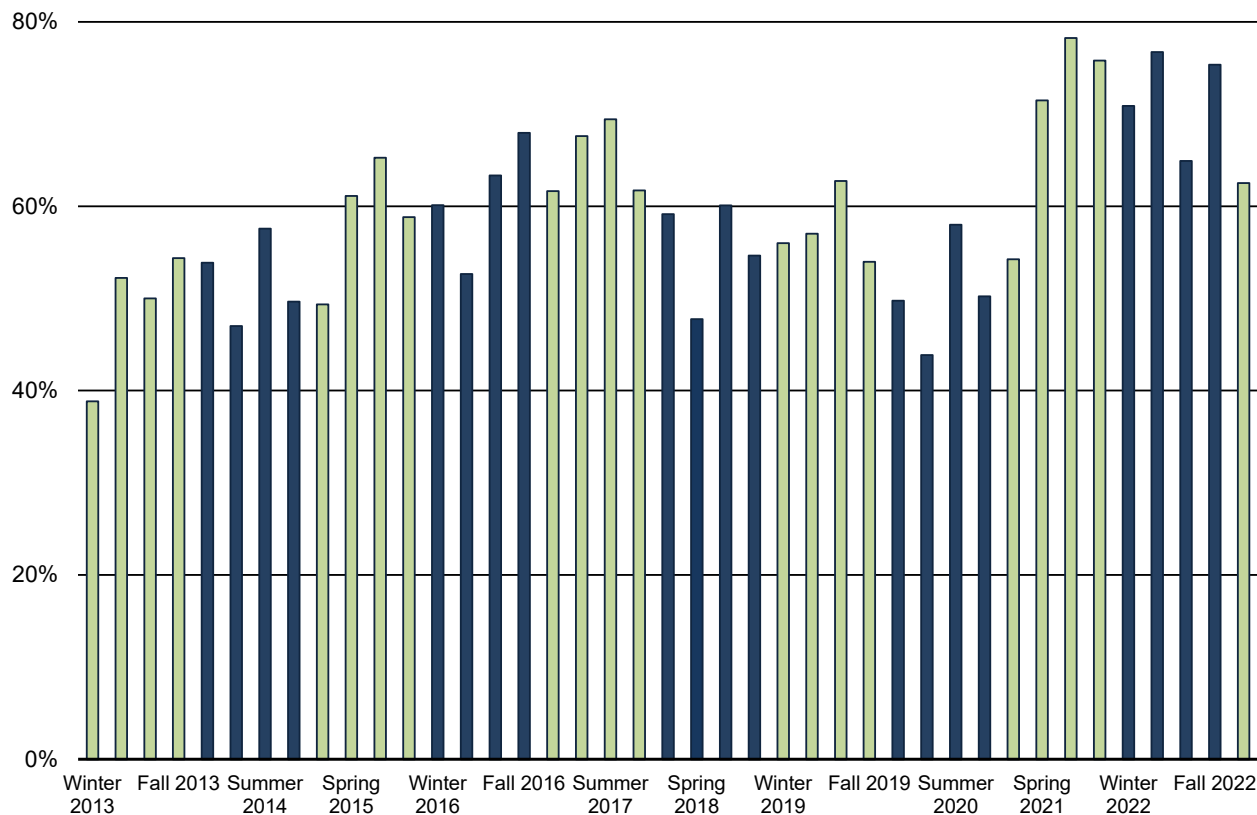
Source: Oregon Employment Department

The winter average of \$24.41 is about the same as in fall 2022 (+0.2%) and a very strong inflation-adjusted increase from winter 2022 (+14.6%).

The number of vacancies offering a starting wage below \$20 per hour decreased 47% over the year. The number of vacancies offering between \$20 and \$30 per hour decreased 10%. Vacancies paying above \$30 per hour increased 70%.

63% of winter job vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling 63% of Vacancies in Winter 2023



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Quarterly Job Vacancy

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

- Registered nurses (2,200)
- Truck drivers (2,000)
- Restaurant cooks (1,800)
- Nursing assistants (1,600)

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.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Winter 2023

Geography	Vacancies
Oregon Statewide	74,902
Portland Metro	18,828
Mid-Valley	10,270
East Cascades	10,236
Clackamas	9,719
Lane	8,007
Rogue Valley	5,489
Northwest Oregon	4,806
Southwestern Oregon	3,060
Eastern Oregon	2,843

Unknown/multiple regions excluded

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies decreased 13% from the fall and decreased 25% from winter 2022. The largest declines over the year were in the Rogue Valley and Eastern Oregon.

The Portland tri-county area represented 38% of winter vacancies.

Jessica Nelson, Employment Economist

Jessica.R.Nelson@employ.oregon.gov

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

Sign up for the latest workforce and economic research
www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe