



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Fall 2021

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 102,900 vacancies in fall 2021.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Fall 2021

Vacancies	102,892
Average Hourly Wage	\$21.22
Full-time Positions	81%
Permanent Positions	95%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	32%
Requiring Previous Experience	56%
Difficult to Fill	76%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies decreased 4% from the summer and increased 88% from fall 2020.

Employers reported difficulty filling 76% of fall 2021 vacancies.

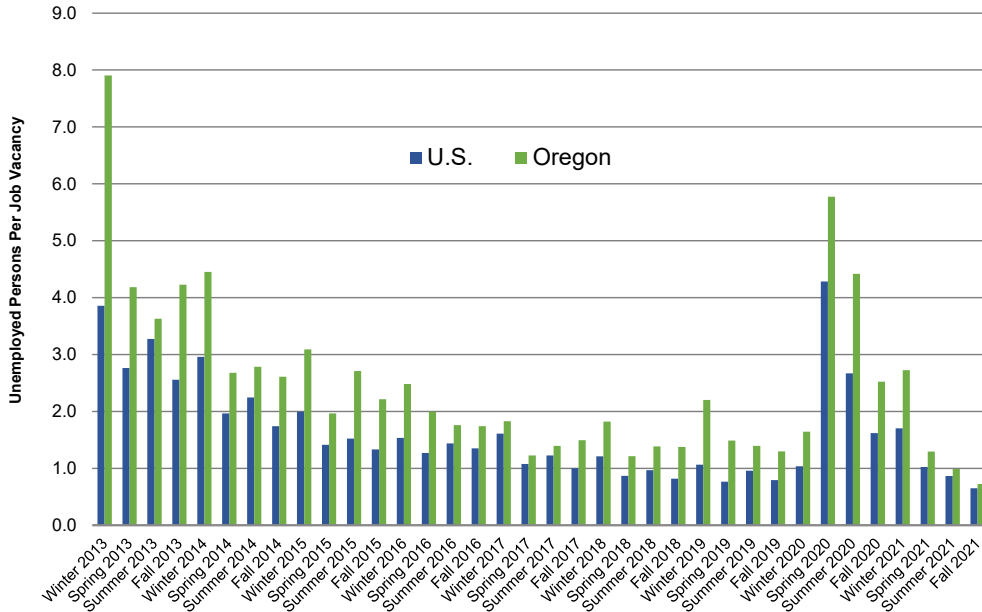
The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$21.22 per hour, an inflation-adjusted 14% increase from fall 2020 and 5% increase from summer 2021.

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 has dropped and vacancies rose, the unemployed to job vacancy ratio is at a record low.

U.S. and Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratios Reach Record Lows after Spring 2020 Peak
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2021)



The unemployed-to-vacancy ratio dropped dramatically in 2021.

The U.S. ratio was 0.7 in October 2021. It peaked very suddenly amid COVID closures, reaching 4.3 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 0.7 unemployed per job vacancy in October 2021 (a record low) after reaching 5.8 in May 2020.

Businesses reported hiring in various industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Fall 2021

Industry	Vacancies
All Industries	102,892
Health care and social assistance	27,720
Construction	11,134
Retail trade	10,784
Leisure and hospitality	10,610
Manufacturing	10,469
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	5,957
Management, administrative, and waste services	5,289
Other services	4,862
Professional, scientific, and technical services	4,748
Wholesale trade	4,564
Private educational services	3,180
Natural resources and mining	1,669
Financial activities	1,285
Information	621

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Health care and social assistance continued to be the top hiring industry in the fall, with 27,700 vacancies. This sector had the most vacancies in 22 of the past 24 quarters. Construction had 11,100 vacancies in the fall.

Note: While we've all seen evidence of local school districts hiring as in-person classes resume, those openings and other government hiring aren't captured in this survey of private-sector businesses.



The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$21.22 per hour in the fall.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, Fall 2021

Wage (per hour)	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Wage Ranges	102,892	\$21.22
Less than \$15	16,484	\$13.58
\$15 through \$19.99	35,258	\$16.45
\$20 through \$24.99	14,540	\$21.24
\$25 through \$29.99	6,754	\$26.44
\$30 and up	11,913	\$42.94
Unknown	17,943	

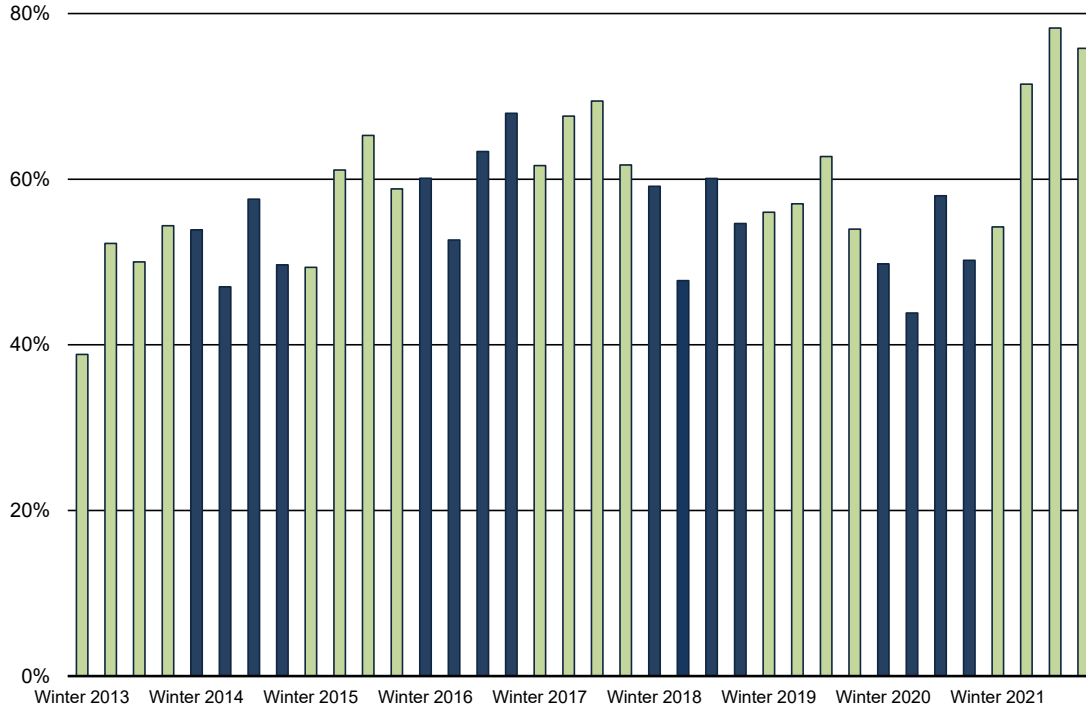
Source: Oregon Employment Department

The average starting wage reported in summer was \$21.22, a 14% inflation-adjusted increase from fall 2020.

Total vacancies were up 88% from the level last fall. The number of vacancies offering a starting wage below \$15 per hour decreased 16% over the year. The number of vacancies offering between \$15 and \$25 per hour increased 213% and vacancies paying above \$25 per hour increased 252%.

76% of fall job vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling 76% of Vacancies in Fall 2021



Occupations with the highest number of difficult-to-fill vacancies:

- Personal care aides (3,900)
- Truck drivers (3,800)
- Retail salespersons (3,700)
- Nursing assistants (2,900)

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

Fall vacancies were distributed across the state.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Fall 2021

<u>Geography</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
Oregon Statewide	102,892
Portland Metro	32,990
Mid-Valley	14,404
Lane	11,460
East Cascades	11,285
Clackamas	10,588
Rogue Valley	8,212
Northwest Oregon	5,994
Eastern Oregon	3,966
Southwestern Oregon	3,023

Unknown/multiple regions excluded

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies decreased 4% from the summer and increased 88% from fall 2020.

The Portland tri-county area represented 42% of fall vacancies. Vacancies increased the most over the year in Northwest Oregon and Lane County.



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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

