



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Spring 2021

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 97,800 vacancies in spring 2021.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Spring 2021

Vacancies	97,822
Average Hourly Wage	\$18.44
Full-time Positions	74%
Permanent Positions	91%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	30%
Requiring Previous Experience	53%
Difficult to Fill	71%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies increased from the level in the winter (+77%) and increased 130% from spring 2020. This is the highest number of job vacancies seen in Oregon since the beginning of this survey in 2013. The previous high was 66,600 vacancies in summer 2017.

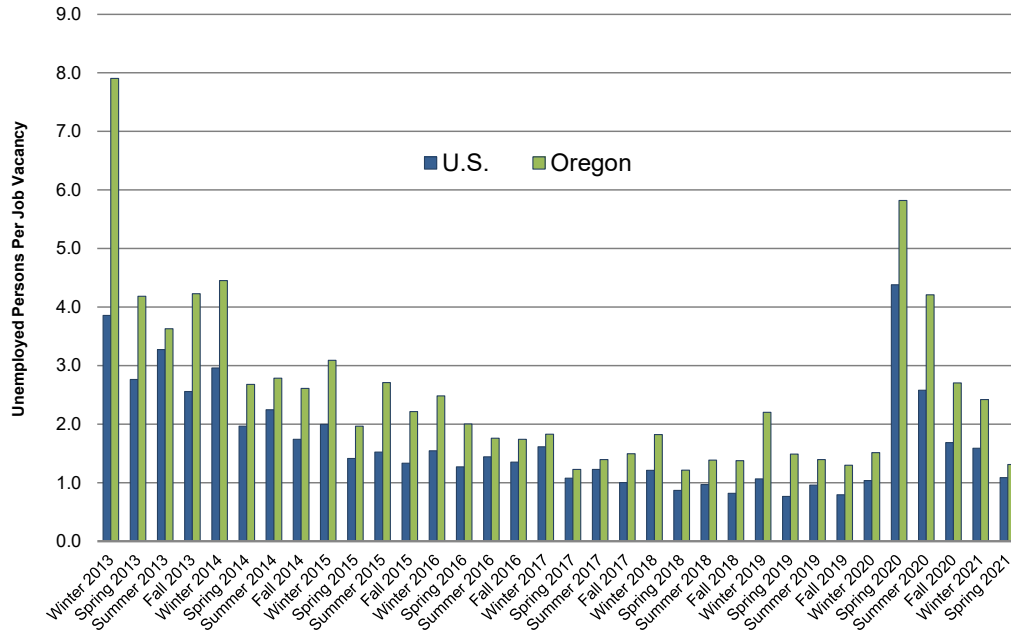
The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$18.44 per hour, a 3% inflation adjusted increase from spring 2020.

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 back to pre-recession levels.

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



The unemployed-to-vacancy ratio dropped dramatically in the spring.

The U.S. ratio was 1.1 in April 2021. It peaked very suddenly amid COVID closures, reaching 4.4 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 1.3 unemployed per job vacancy in April 2021 after reaching 5.8 in May 2020.

Businesses reported hiring in various industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Spring 2021

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Industries	97,822
Health care and social assistance	22,248
Leisure and hospitality	19,912
Retail trade	10,543
Manufacturing	8,265
Other services	7,079
Management, administrative, and waste services	6,595
Construction	6,009
Professional, scientific, and technical services	4,043
Natural resources and mining	3,441
Wholesale trade	3,245
Financial activities	3,044
Private educational services	1,959
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	1,027
Information	412

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Health care and social assistance continued to be the top hiring industry in the spring, with 22,200 vacancies. This sector had the most vacancies in 20 of the past 22 quarters. Leisure and hospitality, and retail trade also had more than 10,000 vacancies in spring.

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 \$18.44 per hour in the spring.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, Spring 2021

Wage (per hour)	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Wage Ranges	97,822	\$18.44
Less than \$15	28,851	\$12.92
\$15 through \$19.99	33,709	\$16.37
\$20 through \$24.99	8,696	\$21.30
\$25 through \$29.99	5,340	\$26.82
\$30 and up	8,227	\$37.86
Unknown	12,999	

Source: Oregon Employment Department

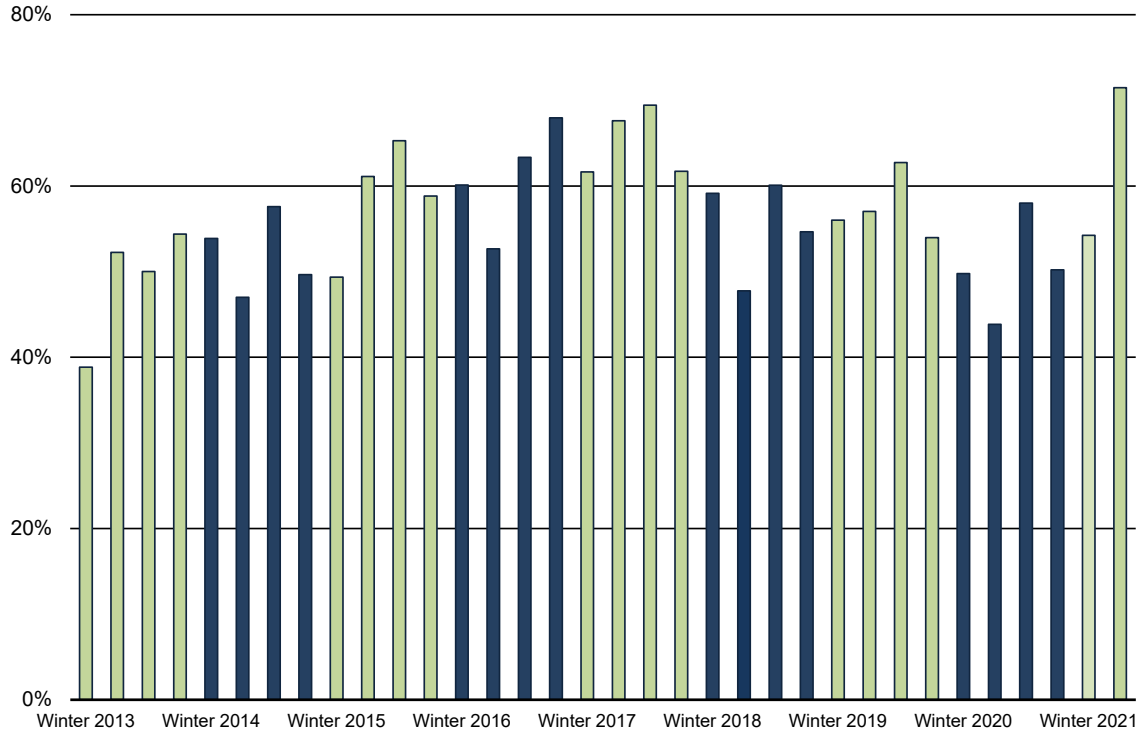
The average starting wage reported in winter was \$18.44, a 3% inflation-adjusted increase from spring 2020.

Total vacancies were up 130% from the level last spring at the height of pandemic restrictions. The number of vacancies offering a starting wage below \$15 per hour increased the slowest, at 64%. The number of vacancies offering between \$15 and \$25 per hour more than doubled (+187%), as did vacancies paying above \$25 per hour (+174%).



71% of spring job vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling 71% of Vacancies in Spring 2021



Several occupations had more than 3,000 difficult-to-fill vacancies:

- Maids and housekeeping cleaners (3,790)
- Retail salespersons (3,330)
- Personal care aides (3,172)
- Cooks, restaurant (3,132)



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

Spring vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county (Portland Metro and Clackamas) area accounting for 40%.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Spring 2021

Geography	Vacancies
Oregon Statewide	97,822
Portland Metro	30,682
East Cascades	11,128
Mid-Valley	10,314
Northwest Oregon	9,825
Clackamas	8,601
Rogue Valley	8,430
Lane	7,079
Southwestern Oregon	6,789
Eastern Oregon	4,168

Unknown/multiple regions excluded

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies increased 77% from the winter and increased 130% from spring 2020.

Vacancies increased over the year in every region of the state, with the largest gains in Northwest Oregon and Clackamas.





Anna Johnson

Senior Economic Analyst

Anna.L.Johnson@oregon.gov

(503) 991-2110

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

