



Summer 2023 Hiring Among Oregon's Private Employers

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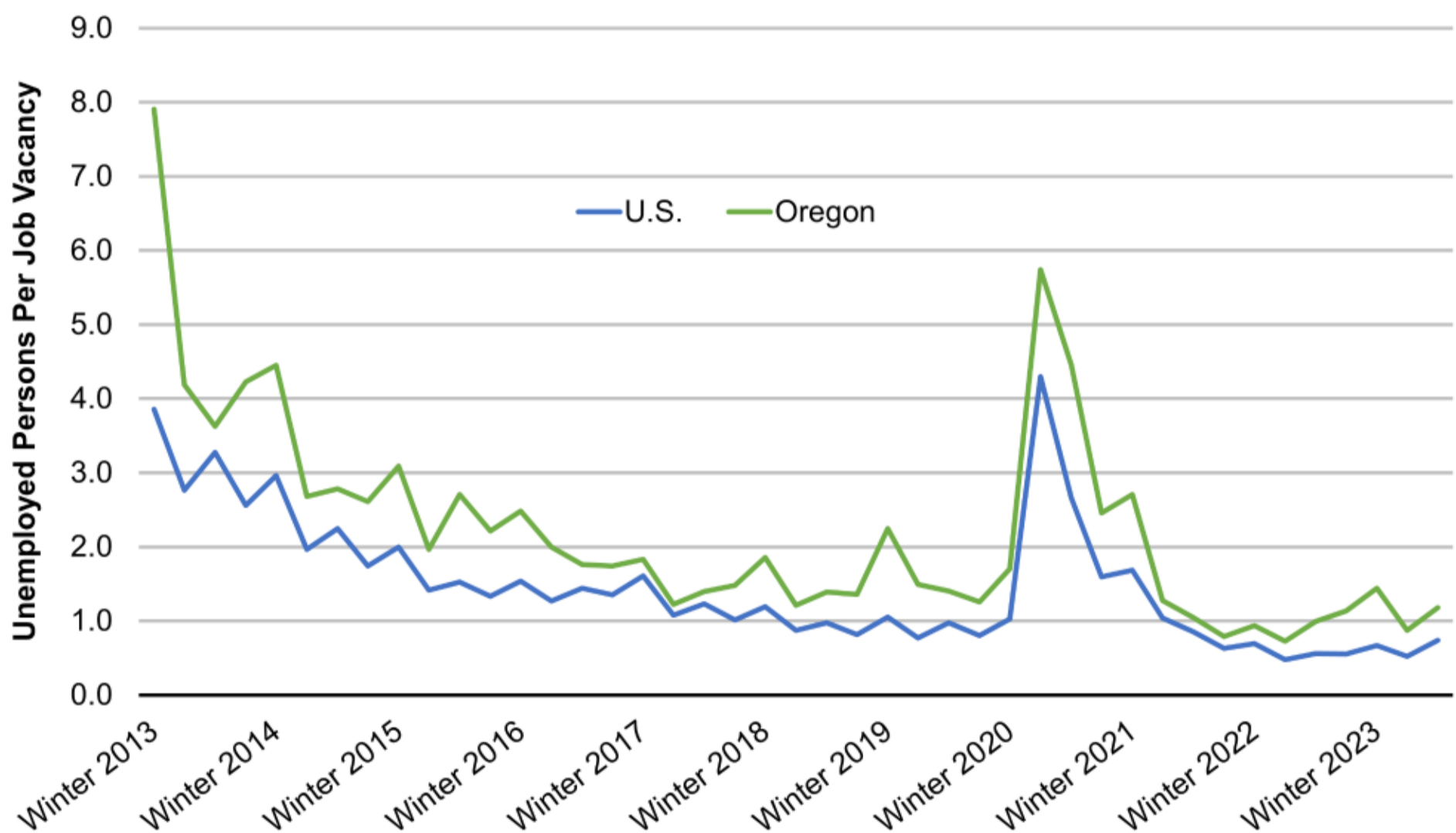
by *Anna Johnson*

Each quarter, the Oregon Employment Department surveys private employers from all industries and areas of the state to ask about the job vacancies they are actively trying to fill. Oregon businesses reported 70,500 job vacancies in summer 2023. Vacancies increased 2% from the spring and decreased 25% from summer 2022. The number of vacancies is closer to levels seen prior to the pandemic, after a streak of four quarters above 100,000 vacancies in 2022. The pre-pandemic record high was 66,600 vacancies in summer 2017.

The number of private-sector job openings in the U.S. peaked at 11.4 million in April 2022. Openings over the last two years have significantly exceeded the previous high of 7.0 million seen in April 2019.

The unemployed-to-vacancy ratio for the U.S. and Oregon remained low in summer 2023. In July 2023, there were 8.6 million private-sector job openings in the United States, as measured by the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, and 6.4 million people were unemployed, resulting in a U.S. ratio of 0.7 unemployed people per job opening (or seven unemployed persons per 10 job openings). This is the ninth straight quarter at or below a ratio of 1.0. In July 2023, there were 83,000 unemployed Oregonians and the number of job vacancies was 70,500 leaving about one unemployed person for every job opening.

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

Most openings in the summer were for full-time, permanent positions. Education beyond high school was required for 36% of summer vacancies. A majority of employers reported their vacancies as difficult to fill, accounting for 57% of vacancies in summer 2023, down from 65% in summer 2022.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$23.81 per hour, an inflation-adjusted increase of 4% from summer 2022, but a 14% decrease from spring 2023. Vacancies increased 2% from the spring and decreased 25% from summer 2022. The number of vacancies offering a starting wage below \$20 per hour decreased 34% over the year. The number of vacancies offering between \$20 and \$30 per hour decreased 12%, and vacancies paying above \$30 per hour increased 1%.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Summer 2023

Vacancies	70,485
Average Hourly Wage	\$23.81
Full-time Positions	81%
Permanent Positions	97%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	36%
Requiring Previous Experience	66%
Difficult to Fill	57%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Hiring demand was widespread throughout industries and occupations. Five out of 14 major sectors were hiring for more than 5,000 positions at any given time in summer 2023. Health care and social assistance had the most vacancies of any industry, with 19,200 vacancies. Leisure and hospitality and retail trade both followed, with about 9,200 openings each.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Summer 2023

Industry	Vacancies
All Industries	70,485
Health care and social assistance	19,153
Leisure and hospitality	9,232
Retail trade	9,189
Management, administrative, and waste services	7,678
Construction	5,258
Professional, scientific, and technical services	4,653
Other services	4,620
Manufacturing	2,863
Financial activities	2,178
Natural resources and mining	2,082
Wholesale trade	1,646
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	1,422
Private educational services	417
Information	94

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Employers reported vacancies in 200 different occupations. The occupation groups with the most vacancies in summer 2023 were food preparation and serving related (7,400), sales and related (7,400), and health care support (6,100). Detailed occupations reported most frequently included retail salespersons, cashiers, and nursing assistants.

Summer vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county area accounting for about 42%. Vacancies decreased over the year in every region of the state, with the largest declines in Northwest Oregon and the Portland Metro area.

**Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography
Summer 2023**

Geography	Vacancies
Oregon Statewide	70,485
Portland Metro	22,154
Mid-Valley	11,986
Clackamas	7,480
Lane	6,804
East Cascades	6,780
Rogue Valley	4,677
Northwest Oregon	4,096
Eastern Oregon	2,812
Southwestern Oregon	2,787

Unknown/multiple regions excluded

Source: Oregon Employment Department

More details about Oregon Job Vacancies are available on [QualityInfo.org](https://www.qualityinfo.org/), on the publications page under Job Vacancy Survey.

OREGON EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT