



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Summer 2020

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 46,300 vacancies in summer 2020.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Summer 2020

Vacancies	46,292
Average Hourly Wage	\$19.18
Full-time Positions	80%
Permanent Positions	92%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	35%
Requiring Previous Experience	62%
Difficult to Fill	58%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies increased from the level in the spring (+9%), but remained well below the level last summer (-26%).

The average starting wage among this smaller group of vacancies was more than \$19 per hour, up from about \$18 per hour in summer 2019 (+7%).

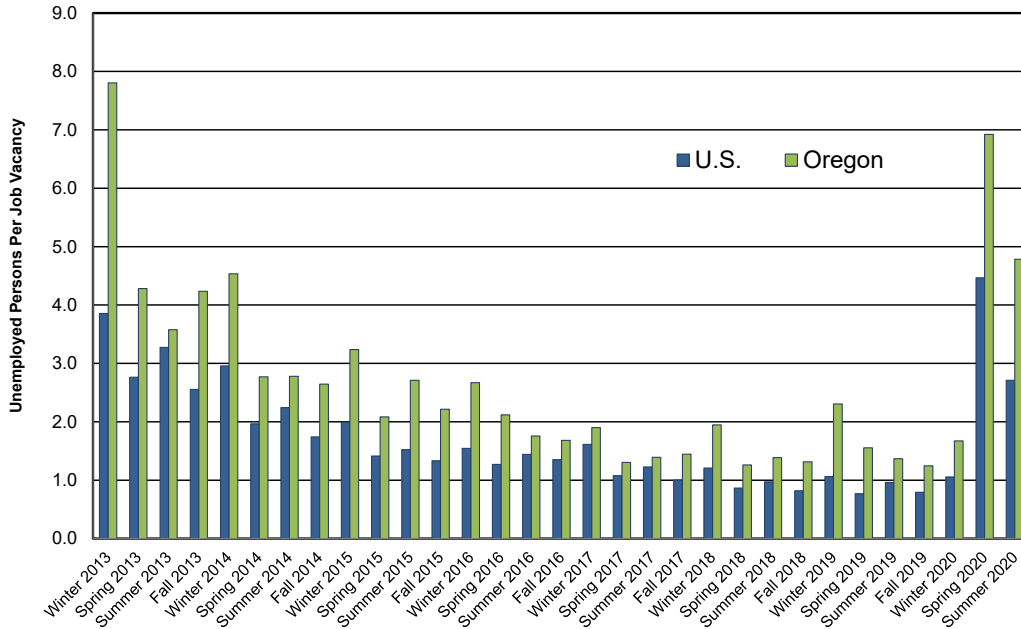
A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position. Employers reported difficulty filling three out of five summer vacancies.

Employers were asked “Is this location closed or operations curtailed due to COVID-19 restrictions?”

- The share of employers responding that their business operations were curtailed or closed due to COVID-19 restrictions dropped to 7 percent in summer 2020, from 18 percent in the spring.
- In summer, the leisure and hospitality and other services industries most often responded that operations were affected.
- Employers in the Portland-metro area and Northwest Oregon reported the highest shares of affected businesses.

COVID-19 led to mass unemployment – but job openings didn't disappear.

U.S. and Oregon Had Many Unemployed Workers per Vacancy in Spring and Summer 2020
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2020)



The unemployed-to-vacancy ratio dropped in the summer.

The U.S. ratio retreated to 2.7 in July. It had peaked very suddenly amid COVID closures, reaching 4.8 in April after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon dropped to 4.8 unemployed per job vacancy in July after reaching 6.9 in May.

Businesses reported hiring in various industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Summer 2020

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Industries	46,292
Health care and social assistance	8,400
Construction	7,020
Leisure and hospitality	5,220
Manufacturing	5,138
Retail trade	4,015
Management, administrative, and waste services	3,853
Professional, scientific, and technical services	2,859
Other services	2,424
Financial activities	1,906
Wholesale trade	1,751
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	1,364
Natural resources and mining	863
Private educational services	808
Information	671

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Health care and social assistance topped the industry list in summer, with 8,400 vacancies. This has been the sector with the most vacancies 17 of the past 19 quarters.

Construction had 7,000 vacancies, almost all of which were full-time and permanent, with four out of five requiring experience.

Leisure and hospitality had about 5,200 vacancies in summer. The industry didn't see its summer surge this year; there were about 10,000 openings during the last two summers.



The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$19.18 per hour in the summer.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, Summer 2020

Wage (per hour)	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Wage Ranges	46,292	\$19.18
Less than \$15	13,084	\$12.91
\$15 through \$19.99	14,326	\$16.43
\$20 through \$24.99	6,283	\$21.69
\$25 through \$29.99	1,952	\$26.40
\$30 and up	4,449	\$39.74
Unknown	6,198	

The average starting wage increased 7 percent from the average in summer 2019.

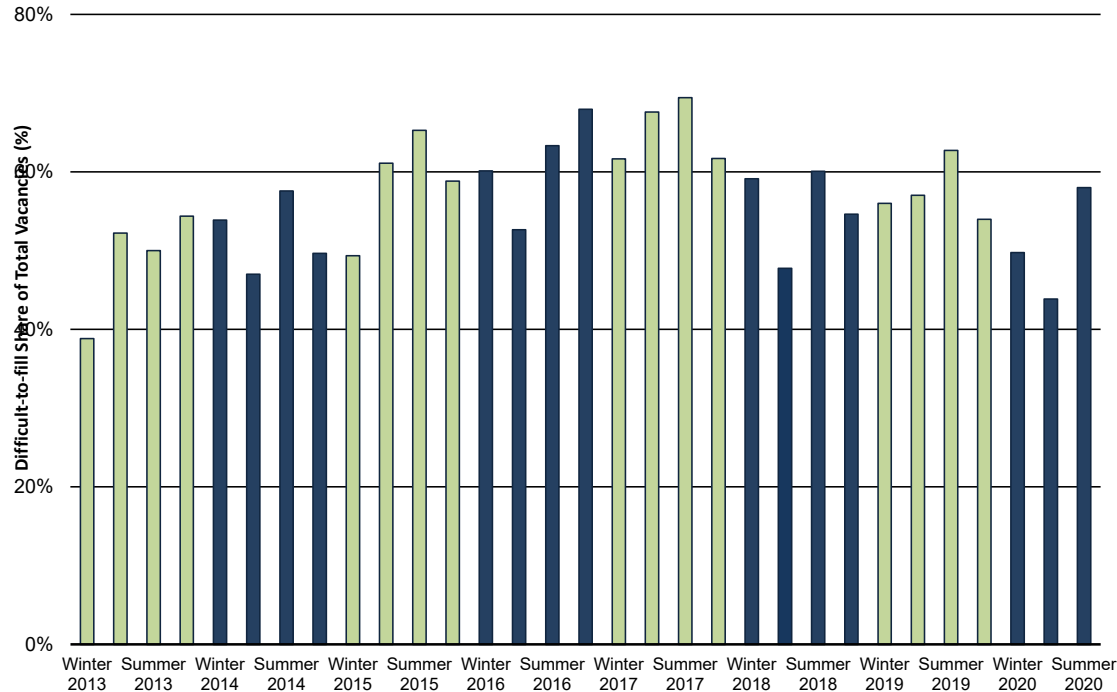
Total vacancies were down 26 percent from last summer. The number of vacancies paying less than \$15 per hour dropped 52 percent compared with summer 2019. Mid-wage vacancies paying between \$15 and \$24.99 increased 6 percent, and vacancies paying more than \$20 per hour dropped 20 percent.

Source: Oregon Employment Department



Three out of five spring job vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling Three out of Five Vacancies in Summer 2020



Several occupational groups had more than 2,000 difficult to fill vacancies:

- Transportation & material moving (4,200)
- Construction & extraction (4,100)
- Installation, maintenance & repair (2,500)
- Health care practitioners (2,400)
- Building & grounds cleaning & maintenance (2,200)



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

Summer vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county area accounting for two out of five.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Summer 2020

<u>Geography</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
Oregon Statewide	46,292
Portland Metro	11,248
Mid-Valley	6,618
Clackamas	6,340
Central Oregon/East Cascades	5,809
Lane	4,020
Rogue Valley	3,861
Northwest Oregon	3,378
Eastern Oregon	2,479
Southwestern Oregon	1,795
<i>multi-area or unknown excluded</i>	

Overall vacancies declined 26 percent since summer 2019.

Vacancies dropped the most over the year in the Rogue Valley, Lane County, and Northwest Oregon.

Every region had fewer vacancies in summer 2020 than in summer 2019.

Source: Oregon Employment Department





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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

