Job Growth in Health Care and Future Workforce Needs

Senate Committee on Health Care January 21, 2025

JOB GROWTH CONTINUES, ALTHOUGH SLOWLY, IN OREGON.



Job growth has slowed in Oregon. Employers added 15,700 jobs between 2023 and 2024. That's a growth rate of 0.8%.



PRIVATE HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTS FOR MOST OF THE JOB GAINS.

Annual Job Change in Oregon by Sector, 2023 - 2024*

-5,000

Health care and social assistance Government Other services Private educational services Wholesale trade Leisure and hospitality Construction Management of companies and enterprises Transportation, warehousing, and utilities Administrative and waste services Information Professional and technical services Financial activities Manufacturing Retail trade -10,000



Private health care and social assistance alone added 16,800 jobs in 2024.

That was a gain of 5.9%.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

*2024 annual data is Jan-Nov

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ALL MAJOR PARTS OF HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ADDED JOBS.

Job Growth by Subsector, Private Health Care and Social Assistance 2023-2024*



HEALTH CARE JOB OPENINGS STABLE DESPITE OVERALL DROP IN VACANCIES

Increasing Share of all Oregon Private Job Vacancies in Health Care and Social Assistance



The share of all private job openings in health care and social assistance rose from 20% in 2022 to 32% of the total at any given time in the first nine months of 2024.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Job Vacancy Survey



Characteristics of Private Health Care and Social Assistance Job Vacancies

Oregon, January - September 2024

		Average Hourly	% Full-Time	% Permanent	% Requiring	% Difficult
Occupational Title	Vacancies	Starting Wage	Positions	Positions	Experience	to Fill
Personal Care Aides	2,367	\$18.58	68%	100%	12%	56%
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	1,044	\$21.61	99%	95%	81%	72%
Registered Nurses	967	\$43.27	75%	99%	44%	67%
Medical Assistants	890	\$20.13	95%	98%	52%	65%
Teaching Assistants, Preschool, Elementary, Middle, and Secondary School, Except Special Education	744	\$18.21	78%	88%	35%	27%
Nursing Assistants	735	\$21.95	78%	99%	17%	78%
DentalAssistants	718	\$26.79	92%	100%	43%	74%
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	680	\$22.81	64%	91%	56%	39%
Mental Health Counselors	572	\$30.28	99%	100%	52%	57%
All Private Health Care and Social Assistance	19,349	\$26.02	77%	97%	44%	55%
All Private-Sector Job Vacancies	59,660	\$24.94	80%	94%	58%	55%

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Job Vacancy Survey

The top three occupations by total number of job vacancies in health care and social assistance are typically personal care aides, nursing assistants, and registered nurses.

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2023 - 2033 Projected Annual Job Openings by Industry in Oregon

Health Care and Social Assistance Accommodation and Food Services RetailTrade Manufacturing Educational Services Government (excl. health and education) Self-Employment Administrative, Support and Waste Management Services Construction Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services Transportation and Warehousing Wholesale Trade Other Services Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting Real Estate and Rental and Leasing Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation Management of Companies and Enterprises Finance and Insurance Information Utilities Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction



Nine out of every 10 job openings over the decade will be due to the need to replace retiring workers, or those who leave the labor force, or make major occupational changes.

In health care, there will be eight replacement openings for every one new job added by 2033.

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-5,000 0 5,000 10,000 15,000 20,000 25,000 30,000 35,000 40,000

Source: Oregon Employment Department, 2023-2033 Employment Projections

Several health care occupations are projected to grow faster than Oregon health care is projected to grow. This can be due to changes in the delivery of medicine, advancements to the treatment of diseases, or evolution of who is providing those services.

13%

Projected job growth in private health care and social assistance between 2023 and 2033.

Fastest Growing Health Care Practitioner and Health Care Support Occupations

		Projected Employment	Employment	Percent
Occupation Title	Employment 2023	2033	Change	Change
Nurse Practitioners	2,589	3,939	1,350	52.1%
Physician Assistants	1,536	2,092	556	36.2%
Physical Therapist Assistants	728	970	242	33.2%
Nurse Anesthetists	438	545	107	24.4%
Genetic Counselors	29	36	7	24.1%
Ophthalmic Medical Technicians	901	1,093	192	21.3%
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	1,231	1,492	261	21.2%
Occupational Therapy Aides	96	116	20	20.8%
Medical Assistants	12,285	14,834	2,549	20.7%
Exercise Physiologists	115	138	23	20.0%
Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars	689	826	137	19.9%
Physical Therapists	3,561	4,265	704	19.8%
Speech-Language Pathologists	1,728	2,068	340	19.7%

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Occupational Employment Projections 2023 - 2033

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OVER 22,000 ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS PROJECTED IN HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONS.

Job Openings Projected in Every Major Occupation Group



Job Openings Come from three major sources:

- Openings due to industry growth.
- Openings that arise when people retire and exit the workforce.
- Openings due to workers who transfer careers.

224,000+

Projected job openings in health care practitioner and support occupations between 2023 and 2033.

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Source: Oregon Employment Department, Occupational Employment Projections 2023-2033

Health Care and Behavioral Health Occupations With the Most Openings



Many occupations with the most openings can be seen as entry-level occupations to health care.

Large occupations can have a lot of openings, even if they do not have much turnover.

We can also see that many behavioral health, and community service occupations will be in high demand as well.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Occupational Employment Projections 2023 - 2033

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NURSING AND OTHER HEALTH CARE OPENINGS PROJECTED ACROSS THE STATE.

Percent Growth and Annual Openings Projected for Registered Nurses By Workforce Area



Health Care Openings are projected throughout the state. The projected openings for an occupation like registered nurse can be found across the state.

The projected 2,800 openings for registered nurses can be found in the Rogue Valley (170), Central Oregon (150), and Eastern Oregon (40).

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Source: Oregon Employment Department, Occupational Employment Projections 2023-2033

Percent Growth

Projected Openings in Health Care Rely More on Educated Workforce than Other Sectors



The health care sector relies on a highly skilled, talented workforce.

A higher share of jobs in health care require some form of postsecondary training (55%) than what we generally see for all other industries in Oregon (39%).

The current workforce reflects this need. According to recent U.S. Census estimates over 80% of workers in Oregon's health care sector have some form of postsecondary education.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Occupational Employment Projections 2023 - 2033 Chart based on the distribution of 2023 sector employment by typical entry-level education



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