

CAREERS

\$10.7 Billion: More Biotech Firms, More Life Research, More Jobs and Higher Industry Wages in Oregon Make an Increasingly Larger Economic Impact in Oregon

Oregon Bioscience Association via Business Wire

Oregon's biotechnology and life science sector continues its growth and gains in economic output and activity. Statewide data show Oregon is home to 19,157 bioscience jobs with \$1.5 billion paid in direct wages in 2017. Annual wages in corporate bioscience averaged \$70,451 and in life science research averaged \$92,840 in 2017. These two sectors far exceed Oregon's overall private annual wage by 40 percent and 46 percent, respectively.

The newest study underscores how Oregon's bioscience and health research sectors provide high-paying, skilled jobs, while showing increased exports, as well as substantial contributions

to the economy via taxes and overall economic activity.

The total economic impacts include the direct impacts of the bioscience industry plus

“The increased diversity shows larger numbers of women and minorities work in our sector

additional supply-chain and consumption-driven impacts. In 2017, the total impacts in Oregon consist of:

\$10.7 billion in output, including \$3.4 billion in income, and 47,238 jobs \$401.9 million in tax and fee revenues for state and local jurisdictions \$789.6 million in tax and fee revenues for the federal government. The report, Economic Impact Study 2019: Profiling the Growth of Oregon's Bio-

science Industry in 2017 (and Trends Since 2002), shows growth trends over the past 15 years with total bioscience employment increasing 76 percent (adding

6,700 jobs) and payrolls increasing 182 percent (\$767 million). The new economic impact study examines corporate/private bioscience alongside life science research and was independently researched and prepared by Pinnacle Economics.

“It is compelling to note that Oregon's biotech and health research sectors reside in all sizes of companies from start up to scale up to medium

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Oregon Businesses Report Challenges Filling Majority of Job Vacancies

Low application rates, unfavorable working conditions make vacancies difficult to fill

Oregon Employment Department

Oregon's private employers reported 58,000 job vacancies at any given time in 2018. The majority (33,000 or 57%) of those job openings were identified by businesses as difficult to fill. The Oregon Employment Department has published detailed findings about these job vacancies in the new report “Oregon's Current Workforce Gaps: Hiring Challenges for Unfilled Job Vacancies.”

In a long economic expansion with unemployment rates at or near record lows in Oregon for two years, a lack of applicants posed the greatest challenge to employers. In 2018, nearly one-third (29%) of all difficult-to-fill job vacancies had too few applicants, or none at all. The second most-common reason businesses cited for difficulty filling vacancies was unfavorable working conditions. These included challenges

finding workers for part-time, on-call, overnight, or inconsistent work shifts.

Employers faced challenges filling job vacancies across a variety of jobs. Occupations with the largest number of difficult-to-fill job vacancies included personal care aides (2,000), truck drivers (1,700), food preparation workers (800), roofers (700), restaurant cooks (700), and landscaping and groundskeeping workers (600). Although difficult-to-fill vacancy totals were smaller, employers reported challenges filling essentially all job vacancies for forest and conservation workers, plumbers, construction supervisors, printing press operators, and intercity and transit bus drivers.

By industry, health care and social assistance reported the largest number of difficult-to-fill job vacancies (5,500). Construction had the second-largest number of challenging job vacancies (4,800), which also represented

the highest share (85%) of hard-to-fill vacancies by sector. Construction grew the fastest of any industry in Oregon between early 2016 and 2018. Along with that outsized pace of job growth came a larger share (41%) of difficult-to-fill vacancies in the sector with a lack of applicants.

Employers across Oregon shared in the challenge of meeting their current workforce needs. Businesses reported difficulty filling the majority of job vacancies in every region of the state. The Portland Metro area (Multnomah and Washington counties) reported the largest number of difficult-to-fill vacancies (12,700) in 2018. Meanwhile, the largest shares of difficult-to-fill vacancies were found in the East Cascades (73%) and Southwestern Oregon (68%) regions.

For the full report and more details on recent Oregon job vacancies, visit the “publications” tab on QualityInfo.org.

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