Lane County’s Current Employment and Economic Situation

Presentation to Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce

Henry Fields
Lane County Workforce Analyst
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Workforce Analysts are your resource for labor market information!

• OED Research produces and provide data on:
  - Unemployment rates
  - Employment by industry
  - Wages
  - High-wage, high-demand jobs
  - ...plus many other subjects

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County and State Economic Trends
Net migration into Oregon is a source of labor force supply. It also grows the economy by increasing demand for products and services.

Components of Oregon's Annual Population Change

- Net Migration
- Natural Increase

Source: Portland State University, Population Research Center
About 95% of Lane County’s population growth in recent years is due to net migration. Sources differ slightly on how fast we’re growing.
Unemployment rates are near historic lows for our area and state. In Lane County, we’ve gone from 13% unemployment to around 4.5%.
Definition of unemployed

To be counted as unemployed an individual must be age 16 or older, not on active duty in the military, not in an institution, and:

– Not employed
– Available for work
– Making specific efforts to find employment within the last four weeks.

Note: whether or not an individual has applied for, is receiving, or has ever received unemployment insurance benefits is *not* a factor in the statistical definition of the unemployed.
23% of Workers Will Reach Retirement Age in Next 10 Years

Nearly One in Four Workers in Oregon is 55 or Older

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD
Widespread hiring and low unemployment has kept the unemployed-to-vacancy ratio near a record low.

The labor market remains tight in Oregon and across the U.S. Oregon had slightly more unemployed people than job vacancies in the spring. Private employers across the U.S. had more job openings than there were unemployed persons in the fall.

Source: Oregon Employment Department Quarterly Job Vacancy Survey
Every year we survey businesses on their job vacancies and ask them if they’re difficult to fill. Folks have a lot to say.

More than Half of Job Vacancies Were Difficult to Fill in Fall 2018

Difficulty filling job vacancies eased a bit in 2018. So did the share of job vacancies requiring previous work experience.

Source: Oregon Employment Department Quarterly Job Vacancy Survey
Oregon’s Current Workforce Gaps

Difficult-to-Fill Job Openings
Oregon Job Vacancy Survey
June 2018

Support Business ∙ Promote Employment
Nearly half of responses from businesses said their primary challenge was a lack of applicants or qualified candidates.

**Employer-Provided Reasons for Difficulty Filling Vacancies in Oregon, 2017**

- Lack of applicants: 30%
- Lack of qualified candidates: 17%
- Unfavorable working conditions: 14%
- Lack of soft skills: 11%
- Lack of work experience: 9%
- Low wages: 6%
- All other reasons: 13%

Source: Oregon Employment Department, 2017 Job Vacancy Survey
The most difficult to fill jobs in Lane County vary widely in pay, industry, and required education.

### Top Lane County Occupations With the Highest Number of Difficult-to-Fill Job Vacancies, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
<th>Median Wage, 2017</th>
<th>Typical Entry Level Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Difficult-to-Fill Vacancies in All Occupations</strong></td>
<td>3,568</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care Aides</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>$12.08</td>
<td>Less than high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitors and Cleaners</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>$12.38</td>
<td>Less than high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>$22.53</td>
<td>Postsecondary training (non-degree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Salespersons</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>$12.36</td>
<td>Less than high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>$19.44</td>
<td>Postsecondary training (non-degree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Guards</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>$14.10</td>
<td>High school diploma or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painters, Construction and Maintenance</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>$18.20</td>
<td>Less than high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Assistants</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>$15.68</td>
<td>Postsecondary training (non-degree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>$24.31</td>
<td>Postsecondary training (non-degree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>$43.09</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>$23.93</td>
<td>Less than high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVAC Mechanics and Installers</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>$24.12</td>
<td>Postsecondary training (non-degree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Workers, All Other</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>$15.86</td>
<td>High school diploma or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinists</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>$22.21</td>
<td>High school diploma or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order Clerks</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>$15.11</td>
<td>High school diploma or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>$18.07</td>
<td>High school diploma or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$25.20</td>
<td>High school diploma or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Drivers, School or Special Client</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$14.37</td>
<td>High school diploma or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers, All Other</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$36.68</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Oregon Employment Department, 2017 Job Vacancy Survey*
What’s Happening in Veneta?
Population has grown at different rates across Lane County. Which line do you think is Veneta?
Veneta saw the fastest population growth in Lane County in the 2000s. It’s continued to grow steadily, but not as quickly.
Lane County has seen an increase in building permits but is still well below the level seen in the 1990s and 2000s.

**Units Permitted by Structure Size, Lane County**

Source: US Census Bureau Building Permits Database
In Veneta, the number is nowhere near the rapid growth of the 2000s.

*Units Permitted, Veneta*

*Source: US Census Bureau Building Permits Database*
Many more workers live in the Veneta area and commute out than the opposite. An even smaller number both live and work in the area.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies, LED OnTheMap Application
In 2017, manufacturing was the largest private industry in the Fern Ridge area, similar to other small cities close in to Eugene-Springfield.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, 2017 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
Questions? Comments?

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