

OREGON

OREGON KEY FINDINGS

Key findings for Oregon are:

- The living wage for a single adult is \$10.07 an hour. This is based on what is needed to meet basic needs and provides some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead. The living wage for a single adult with two children is \$16.36 an hour.
- About half of all job openings (47 percent) pay less than the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult. About three quarters of all job openings (77 percent) pay less than the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult, there are six job seekers on average. For each job opening that pays at least the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, there are 14 job seekers on average.

WHAT IS A LIVING WAGE?

Living wages for Oregon, which reflect family budgets as shown on the following page, are:

- For a single adult household, \$20,943 a year or \$10.07 an hour.
- For a single adult with one child, \$27,202 a year or \$13.08 an hour.
- For a single adult with two children, \$34,019 a year or \$16.36 an hour.
- For two adults, one of whom is working, with two children, \$29,197 a year or \$14.04 an hour.
- For two adults, both of whom are working, with two children, \$37,404 a year or \$17.98 an hour (which means that the combined wages of both working adults needs to total this amount).

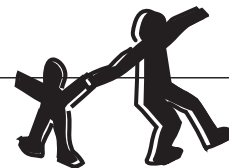
These are statewide averages. In some areas, costs are higher (particularly for housing and child care) and, as a result, living wages are higher. In other areas, including most of the state's rural areas, costs and, therefore, living wages are lower. Living wages for higher cost and lower cost areas are:









	Higher Cost Areas	Lower Cost Areas
Single adult	\$10.36/hour	\$9.45/hour
Single adult with one child	\$13.57/hour	\$12.31/hour
Single adult with two children	\$17.13/hour	\$15.37/hour
Two adults (one working) with two children	\$14.34/hour	\$13.32/hour
Two adults (both working) with two children	\$18.75/hour	\$17.05/hour

Oregon's higher cost areas are Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Benton, Lane, Deschutes, and Jackson counties.

Oregon's minimum wage is less than 60 percent of the living wage for a single adult and

OREGON FAMILY BUDGETS (IN 1996 DOLLARS)



	Household 1	Household 2	Household 3	Household 4	Household 5
 Food	141	263	331	462	462
 Housing & Utilities	453	568	568	568	568
 Transportation	372	321	364	333	390
 Health Care	60	112	125	152	152
 Child Care	0	146	498	0	498
 Household, Clothing & Personal	222	273	300	327	340
 Savings	139	171	188	205	212
 State, Local & Federal Taxes	359	414	461	386	495
Gross Monthly Income Needed	1,745	2,267	2,835	2,433	3,117*
Gross Annual Income Needed	20,943	27,202	34,019	29,197	37,404*
Living Wage (at 2080 hrs/yr)	\$10.07	\$13.08	\$16.36	\$14.04	\$17.98*

Household 1 is a single adult

Household 2 is a single adult with a school-age child (age 6-8 yrs)

Household 3 is a single adult with a toddler (12-24 months) and a school-age child (age 6-8 yrs)

Household 4 is two adults (one of whom is working) with a toddler and a school-age child

Household 5 is two adults (both of whom are working) with a toddler and a school-age child

*Total amount earned by two working adults

less than 35 percent of the living wage for a single adult with two children. The state's average annual wage (\$27,046 in 1996) is 129 percent of the living wage for a single adult and 80 percent of the living wage for a single adult with two children.

ARE WE CREATING ENOUGH JOBS THAT PAY A LIVING WAGE?

There were slightly more than 1 million working age households in Oregon in 1996, but fewer than 760,000 jobs that could support a single adult and only slightly more than 300,000 jobs that could support a single adult with two children.

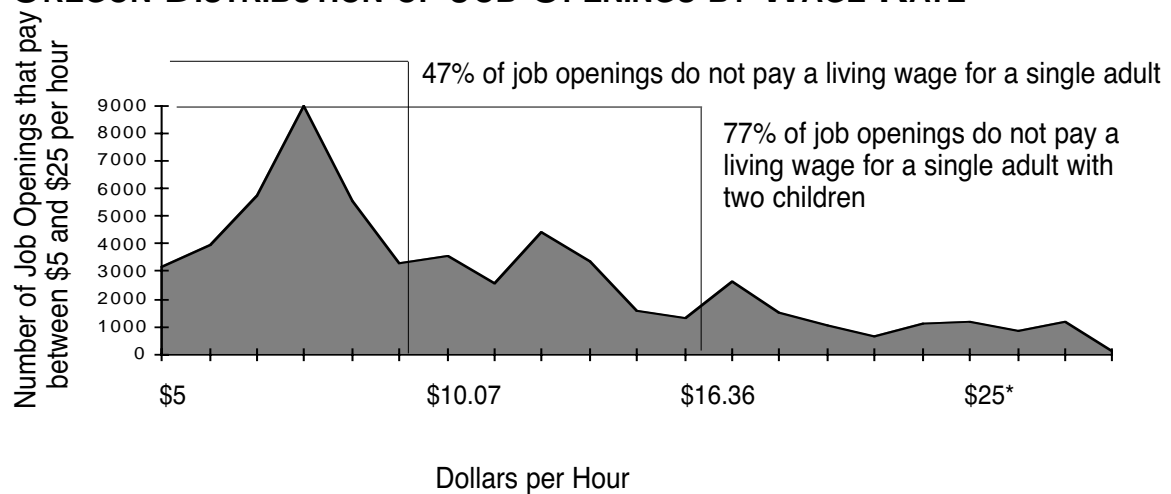
About 44 percent of all jobs in the economy pay less than the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult and 76 percent pay less than the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.

Of all job openings, about half (47 percent) pay less than the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult, as shown in the chart below. About three quarters of job openings (77 percent) pay less than the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.

It is important to note the distinction between jobs and job openings. Not all jobs come open during a year. Job openings are of particular interest because they provide employment opportunities to people looking for work.

In addition, there are more people looking for work than there are job openings that pay a

OREGON DISTRIBUTION OF JOB OPENINGS BY WAGE RATE

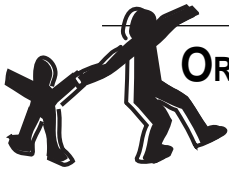


*There are few job openings in the economy that pay more than \$25 an hour. Due to lack of space they have not been included here.

living wage. As shown in the table on the following page, job gap ratios, which compare job seekers to job openings, are:

- For each job opening, regardless of pay, there are three job seekers on average.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult, there are six job seekers on average.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, there are 14 job seekers on average.

For those job openings that pay a living wage and require at most some combination of a high school diploma, on-the-job training, work experience, and/or post-high school vocational training, the competition may be even stronger. Fifty nine percent of all job openings that pay at least the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult require that amount of education and training. For those job openings that pay at least the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, the proportion is 23 percent.



OREGON JOB GAP RATIO

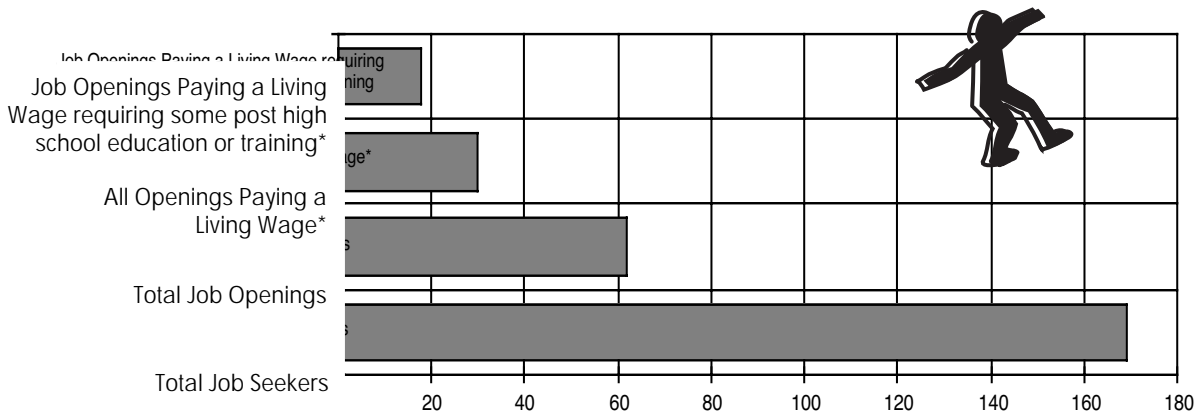
	Household 1 \$10.07	Household 3 \$16.36	All Job Openings
Job Seekers	166,926	166,926	166,926
Job Openings	30,190	11,947	61,796
Job Seekers per Job Opening	6 to 1	14 to 1	3 to 1
Percent of all Job Openings paying less than a living wage	47%	77%	

Job gap ratios are calculated by dividing the number of people who were looking for work at some point during 1996 by the number of job openings that year. Job seekers total 166,926, which equals about 10 percent of total employment in the state. Job seekers include the unemployed (about 64 percent of the total), involuntary part-time workers (29 percent), and discouraged and marginally attached workers (seven percent).

Job openings total 61,796 and include job openings due to growth (about 48 percent of the total) and job openings due to net replacement (52 percent).

As shown in the chart below, 30,190 of the 61,796 job openings pay at least the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult. And 17,713 of these job openings pay at least the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult and require at most some combination of a high school diploma, on-the-job training, work experience, and/or post-high school vocational training.

FINDINGS FOR OREGON



*Living wage refers to a single adult household

Thousands of Job Openings and Job Seekers