

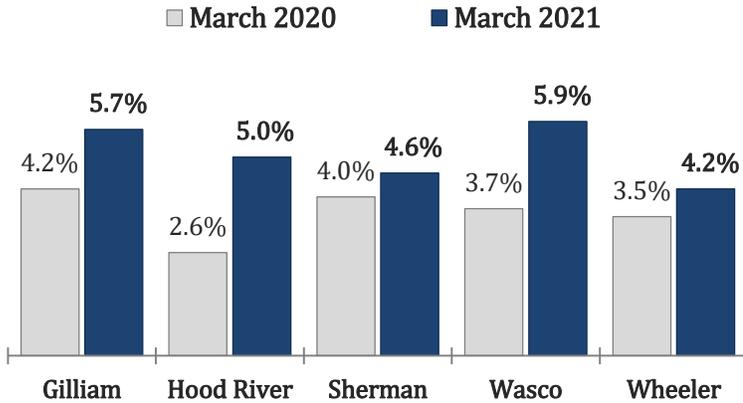


Columbia Gorge Economic Indicators

(March 2021 data)

April 2021 Edition

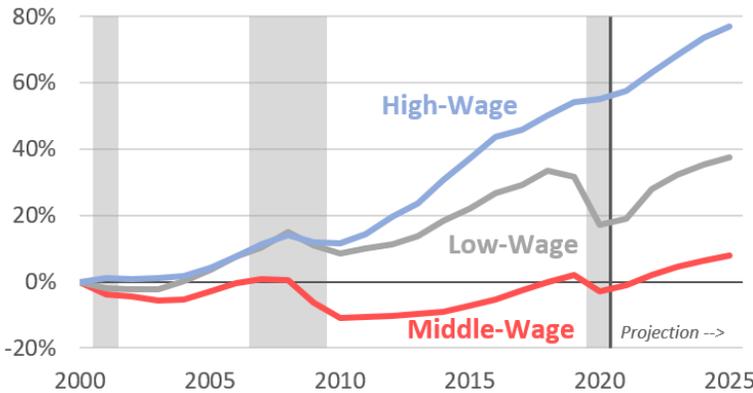
Local Area Unemployment Rates (Seasonally adjusted)



Graph of the Month COVID-19 and Job Polarization

Source: Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

Percent Change in Oregon Employment Since 2000



Wage groups based on median wage by occupation. Projections based on industry employment forecasts and mix of occupations each industry employs. | Latest Data: 2020 | Source: BLS, Oregon Office of Econ Analysis

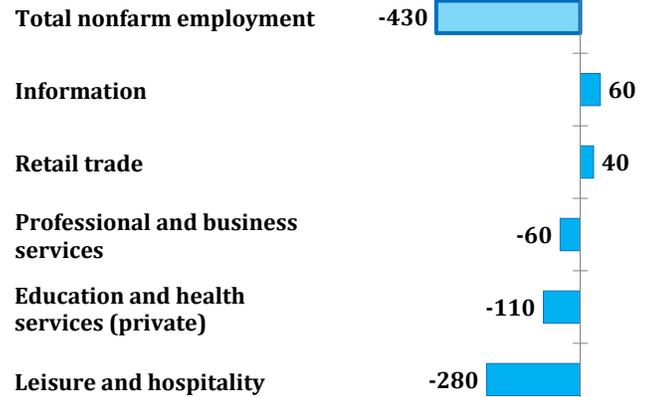
The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis (OEA) best summarizes this edition's Graph of the Month in their analysis, "In both the tech and housing busts, middle-wage jobs experienced the largest losses, while low- and high-wage jobs fared better. That's the definition of job polarization. Now, what's different about COVID is the low-wage jobs have been hit harder than they ever have before, and middle-wage jobs have experienced a moderate recession. Furthermore, high-wage jobs today are estimated to be at historic highs and have avoided losses overall... The concerning issue continues to be that middle-wage jobs have been primarily down for much of the past 20 years, and even in the best of times, they only really regain their lost ground... Looking forward, (the OEA) expects both low- and middle-wage jobs to fully recover, at least overall. Some individual occupations and industries are unlikely to entirely regain all their lost jobs, but the dynamics this cycle are different." Find more insightful analysis on [the OEA's blog!](#)

Select Industry Gains and Losses (Over-the-year net employment change)

Hood River County



Wasco County



Largest Over-the-Year Changes

Gilliam

Total nonfarm employment (-5)
Professional and business services (+10)
Local government (-15)

Sherman

Total nonfarm employment (-20)
Local government (-20)

Wheeler

Total nonfarm employment (-15)
Local government (-10)
Leisure and hospitality (-15)

Need local data? Want to join the distribution list? Contact me:
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