

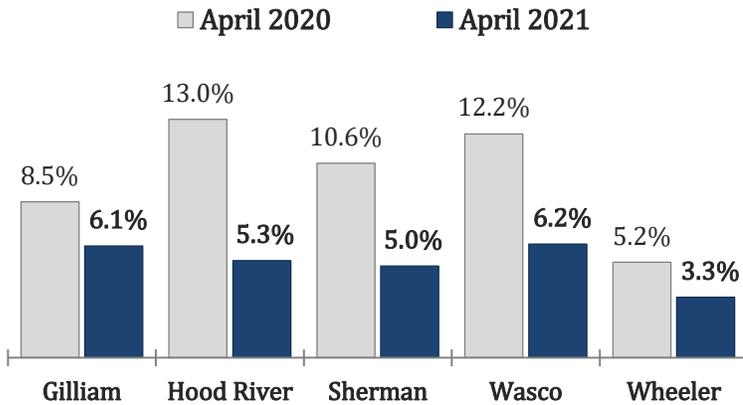


Columbia Gorge Economic Indicators

(April 2021 data)

May 2021 Edition

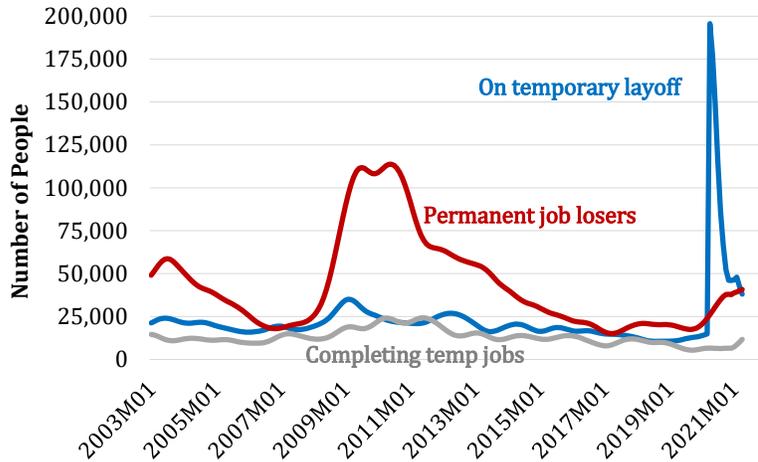
Local Area Unemployment Rates (Seasonally adjusted)



Graph of the Month

Over Half of Oregon's Layoffs Now Permanent

Source: Oregon Employment Department

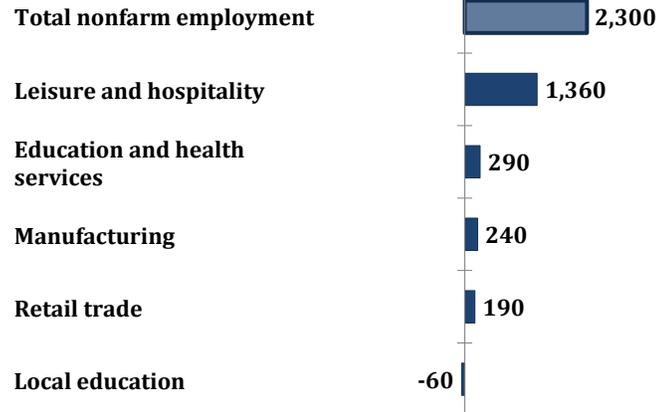


April 2021 marked a pivotal moment in our labor market as over half of Oregon's layoffs are now permanent. At the onset of the pandemic, the vast majority of layoffs were temporary. This is in direct contrast to the layoff patterns of the Great Recession where nearly all layoffs were permanent. As the turbulent months of 2020 went on, more of these temporary layoffs transitioned to permanent as some employers didn't have the capital or reserves to withstand extended closures and lack of business activity. It wasn't until last month that these lines of temporary vs. permanent job losses finally crossed.

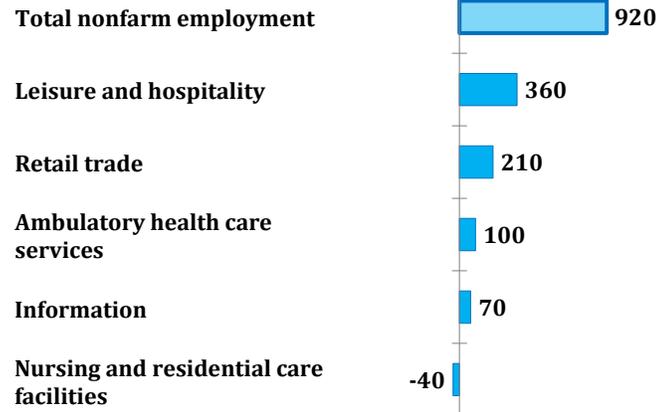
The work search requirements for unemployment insurance (UI) begin again on August 1st, and those who have been permanently laid off will need to complete one of the [work search activities](#) to remain eligible for UI benefits. That is, unless they have a [COVID-19 related situation](#) prohibiting them from finding work. Those temporarily laid off will not have to perform job search activities in order to remain eligible for UI.

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 (-90)

- Local government (+15)
- Professional and business services (-15)

Sherman

Total nonfarm employment (+60)

- Leisure and hospitality (+35)
- Retail trade (+30)

Wheeler

Total nonfarm employment (+15)

- No significant industry changes

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