

# OREGON EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

## THE OREGON WE SEE

FRIDAY JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2026

# HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN A BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS) SURVEY? *PLEASE DO!*

**BLS survey information is gathered to create data** for businesses, jobseekers, workers and policy-makers about the economy including:

Employment*	Unemployment*	Occupational Wages*
Job vacancies*	Productivity	Occupational Employment*
Consumer spending patterns	Workplace injuries	Compensation
Long-term employment projections*	Employer-provided benefits	Price movements

*\* Collected and produced by Oregon Employment Department*

**Your response is vital to ensuring accurate, complete, and unbiased data** that is representative of the people and businesses in Oregon and the United States.

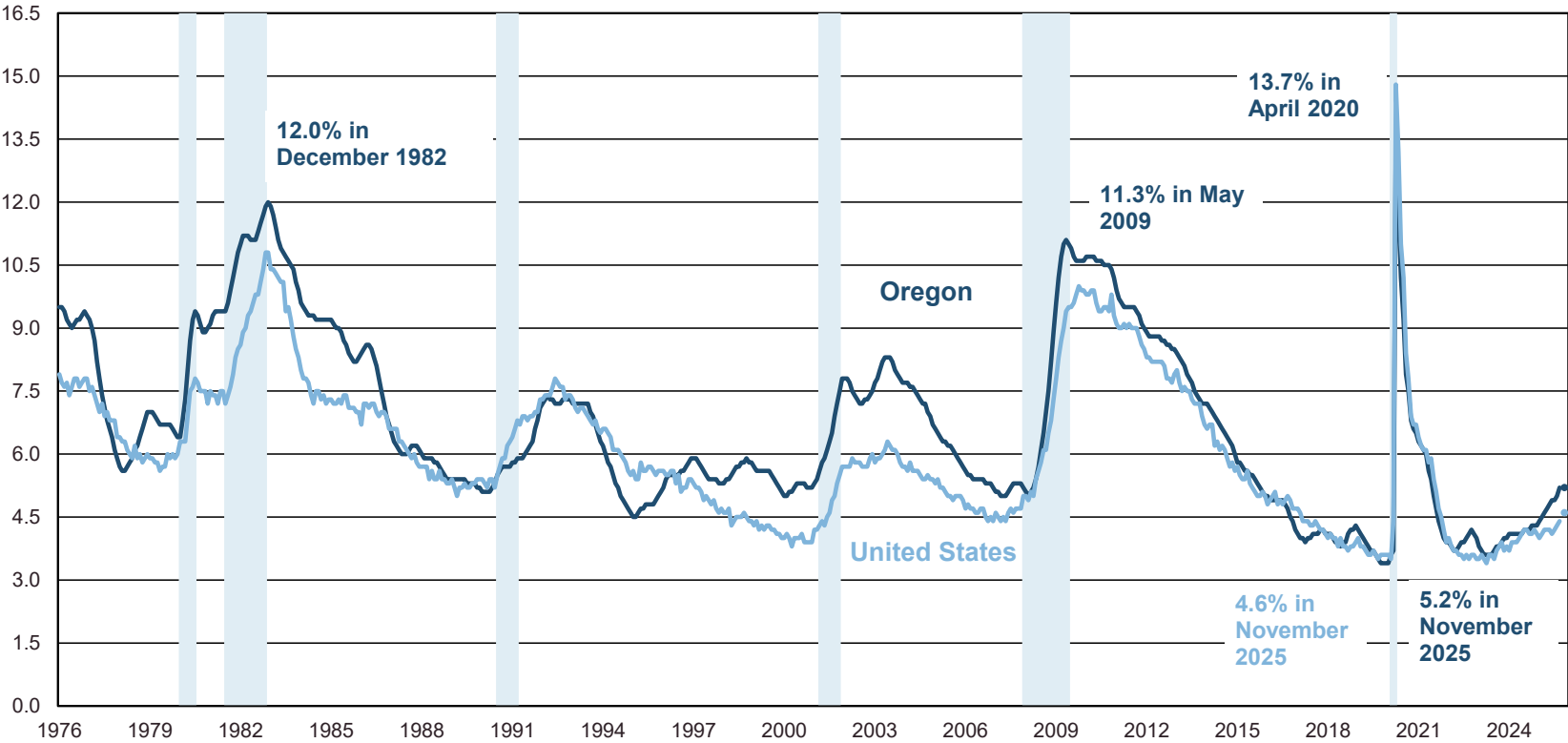
Your confidential responses are protected by federal and state law and strict security policies that prohibit us from releasing any information that could reveal the identity of you or your business without your consent.

**Thank you for helping us track the Oregon economy!**

# CURRENT EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

## Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 5.2% in December 2025

Unemployed % of Labor Force (Bars Represent Recessions)



Source: Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## OREGON ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Unemployment Rate - December 2025

5.2%

Seasonally Adjusted

0.0%

Total Unemployed - December 2025

116,797

Seasonally Adjusted

-23

Nonfarm Employment - December 2025

1,986,100

Seasonally Adjusted

-2,200

Job Vacancies - 3rd Quarter 2025

53,642

↑

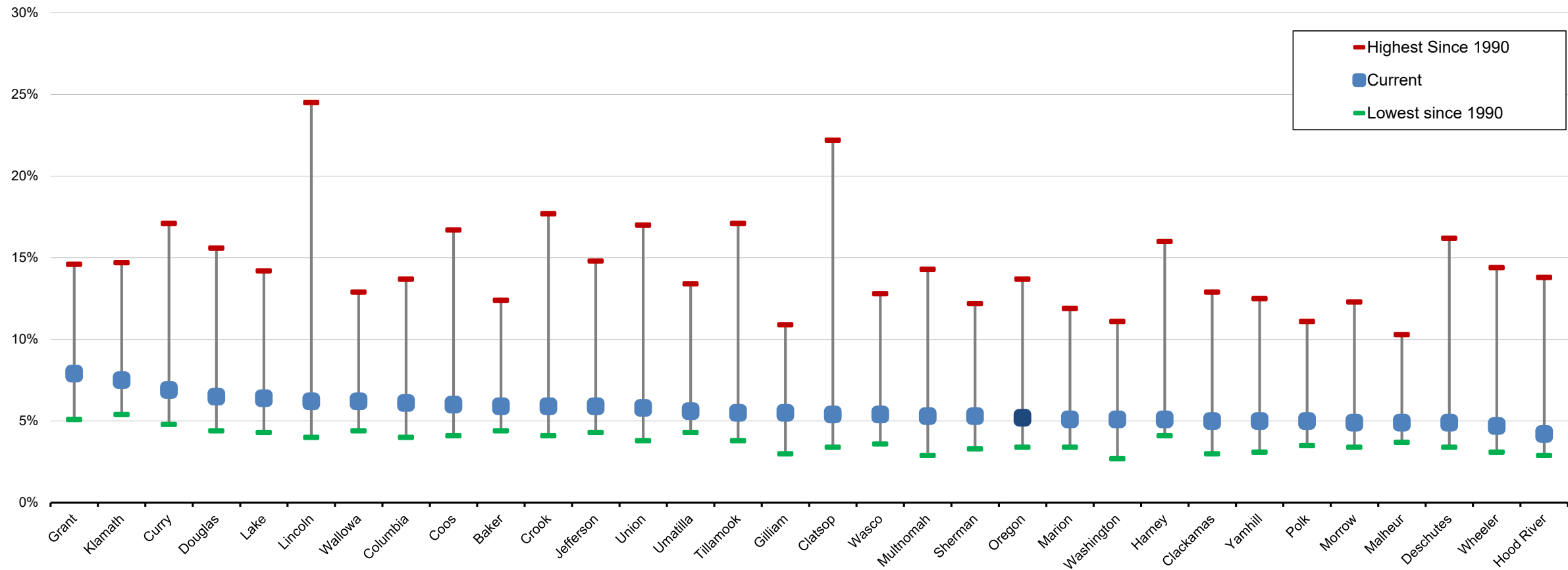
5.1%

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

# RECORD HIGH, LOW, AND CURRENT RATES

## Unemployment Rates in Oregon Counties

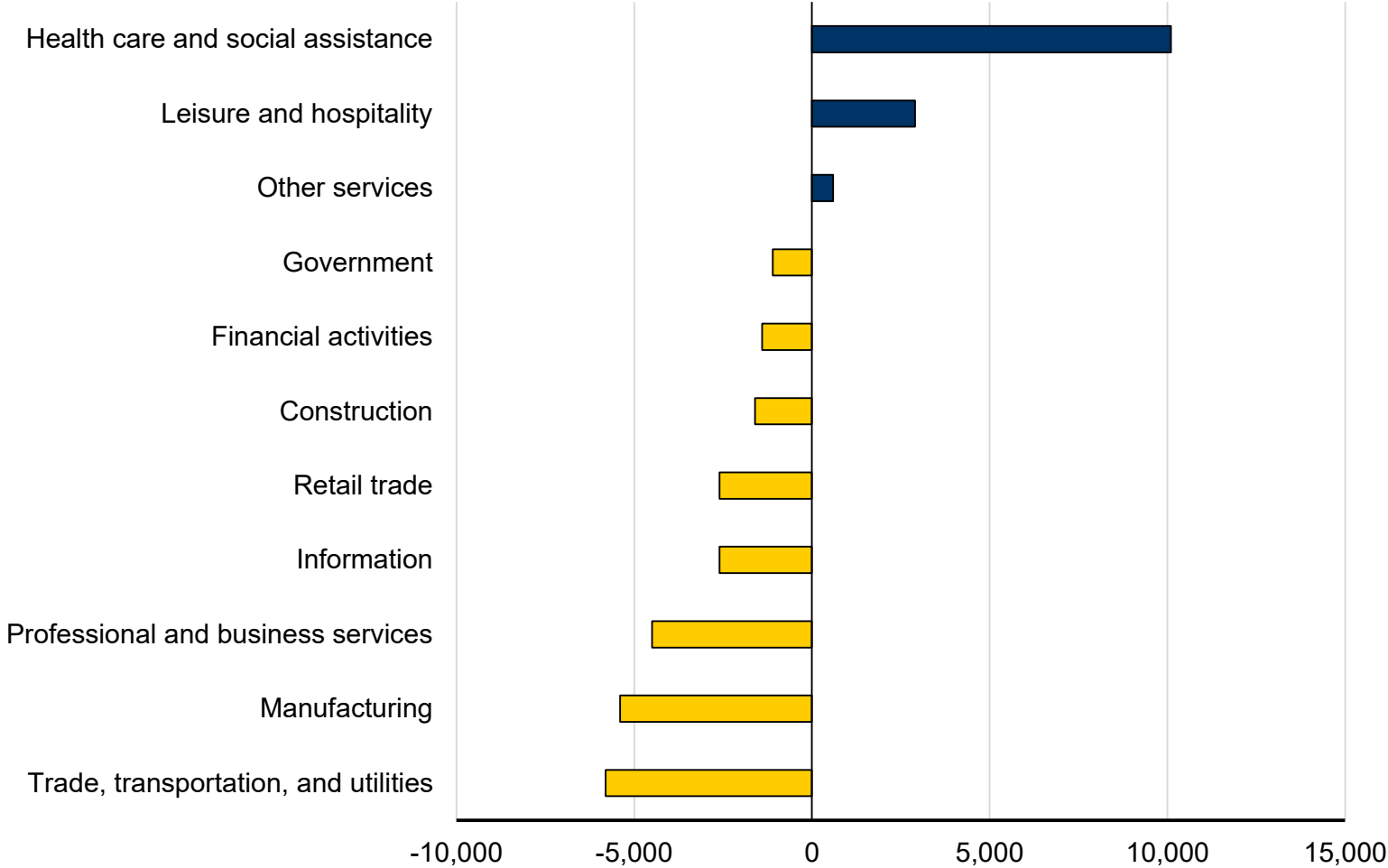
Current Rate (November 2025), Record High, and Record Low for Each County, Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

IN DECEMBER AND OVER THE PAST YEAR, SOME SECTORS ADDED JOBS WHILE OTHERS LOST JOBS.

Seasonally Adjusted Employment Change  
December 2024 - December 2025



According to December estimates, Oregon has lost about 9,200 jobs between December 2024 and December 2025.

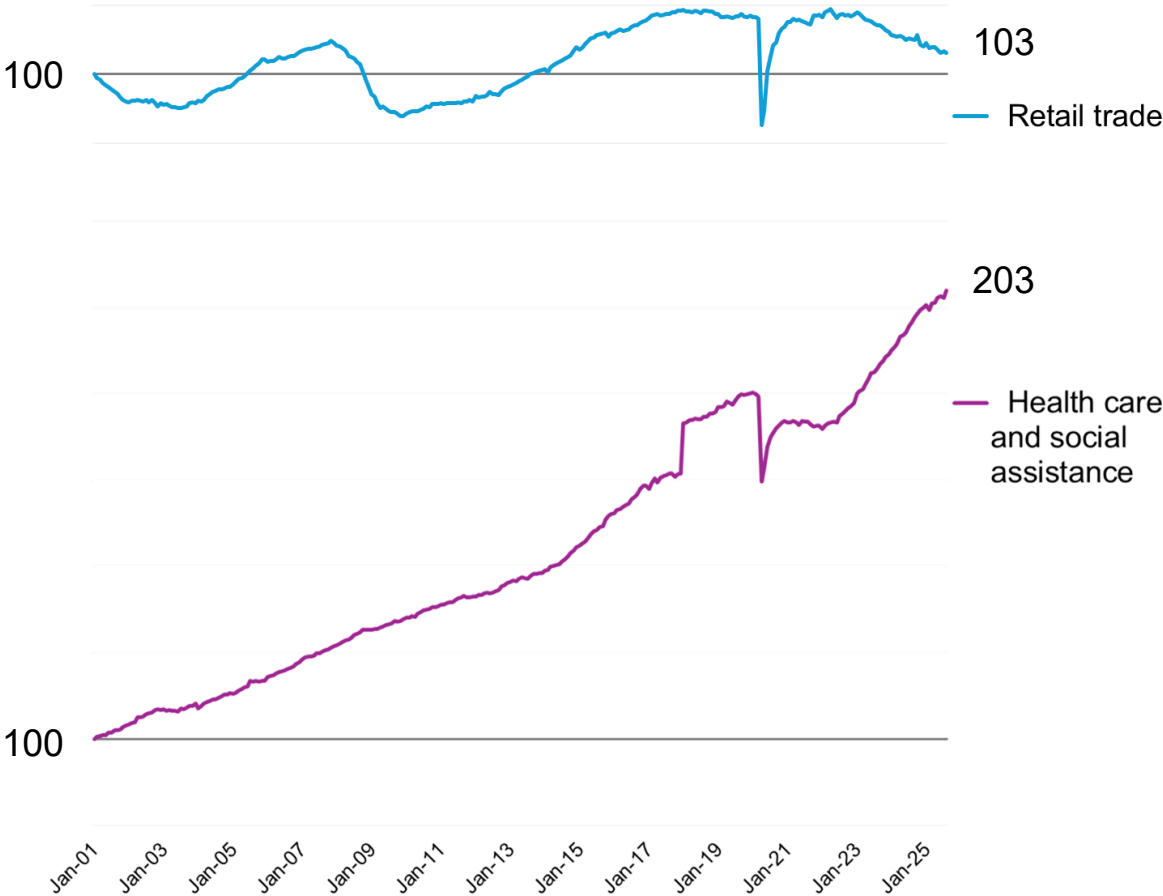
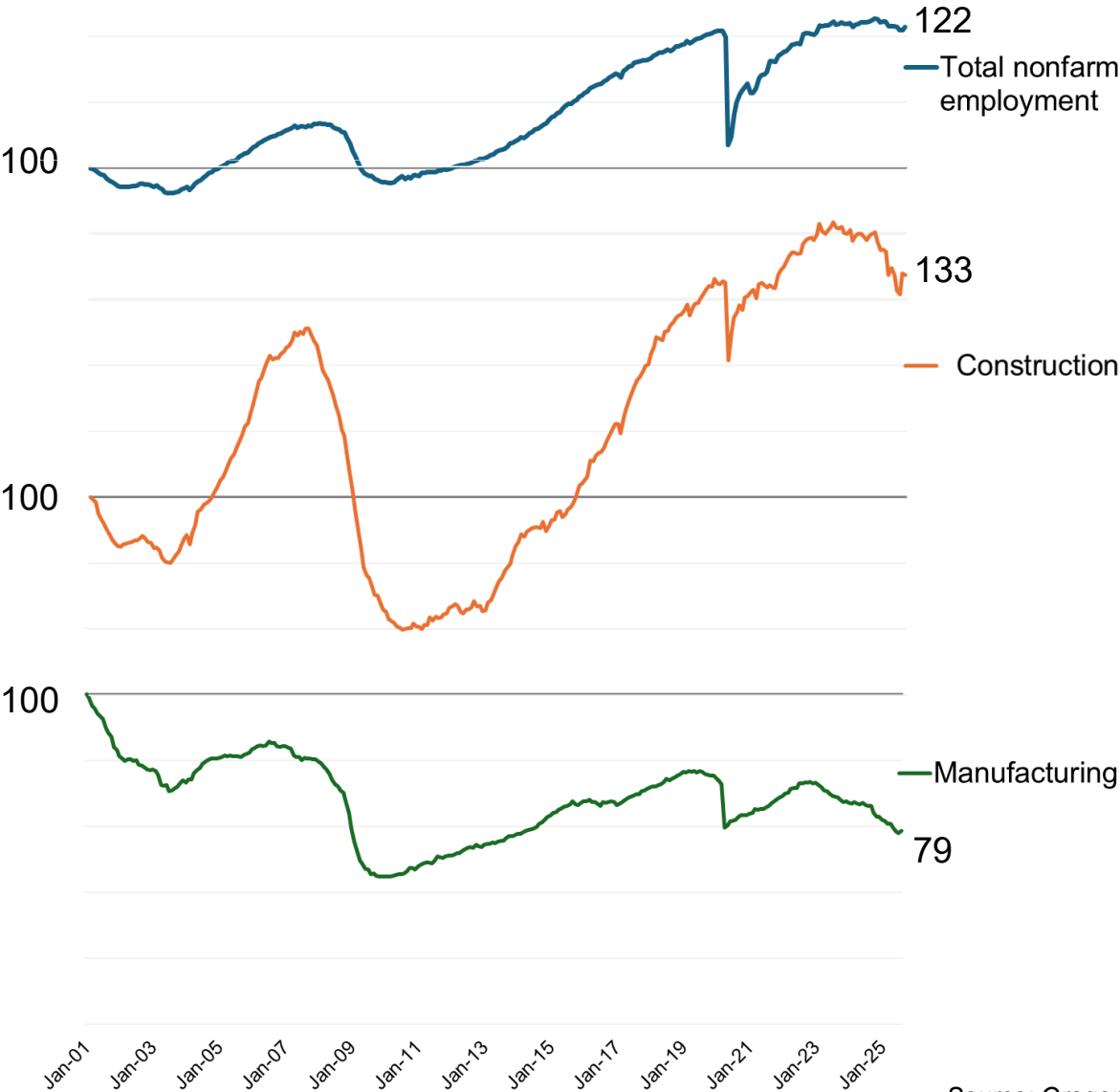
Health care has been the primary driver of employment growth in Oregon.

Sectors like manufacturing, professional business services and construction have seen decline in yearly employment.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

# INDEXED EMPLOYMENT SHOWS DIFFERENT NARRATIVES ACROSS INDUSTRIES

Employment Index  
100 = January 2001 Employment



Source: Oregon Employment Department,  
Current Employment Statistics (Seasonally Adjusted)

# OREGON BUSINESSES REPORTED 53,000 VACANCIES IN SUMMER 2025.

## Oregon Private Job Vacancies, Summer 2025

<b>Vacancies</b>	<b>53,642</b>
Average Hourly Wage	\$26.76
Full-time Positions	81%
Permanent Positions	93%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	37%
Requiring Previous Experience	62%
Difficult to Fill	57%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

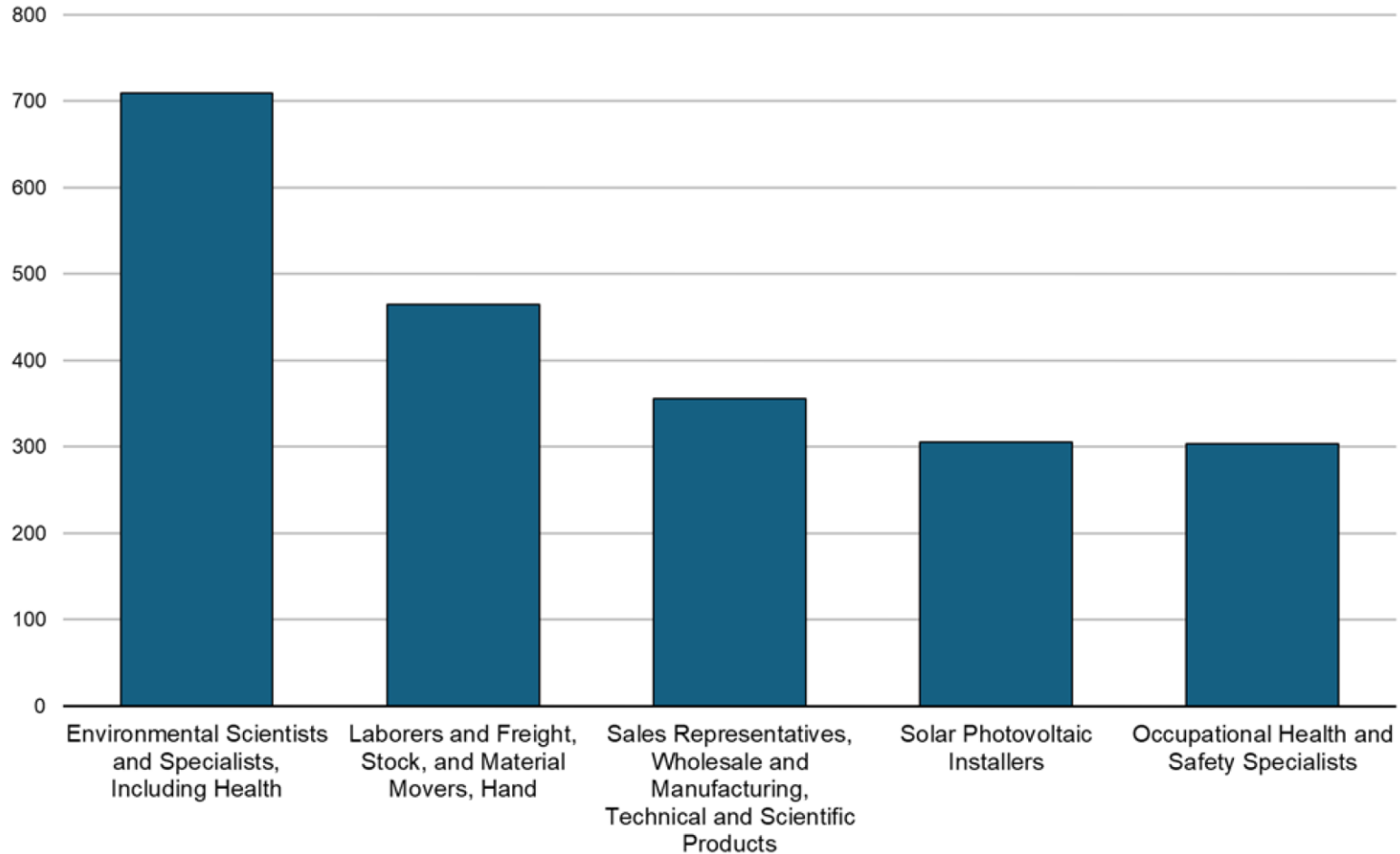
Oregon businesses reported 53,000 vacancies in summer 2025. Employers reported difficulty filling 57% of summer 2025 vacancies.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was \$26.76 per hour.

Characteristics of Oregon job vacancies were consistent with prior quarters. A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position.

## 5 CORE GREEN POSTINGS CAME FROM A WIDE RANGE OF OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

**Total Core Green Job Online Postings  
By Occupation in 2024**



Recent reviews of green jobs from our Division broadly covered jobs in renewable energy production, natural resource management, environmental conservation)

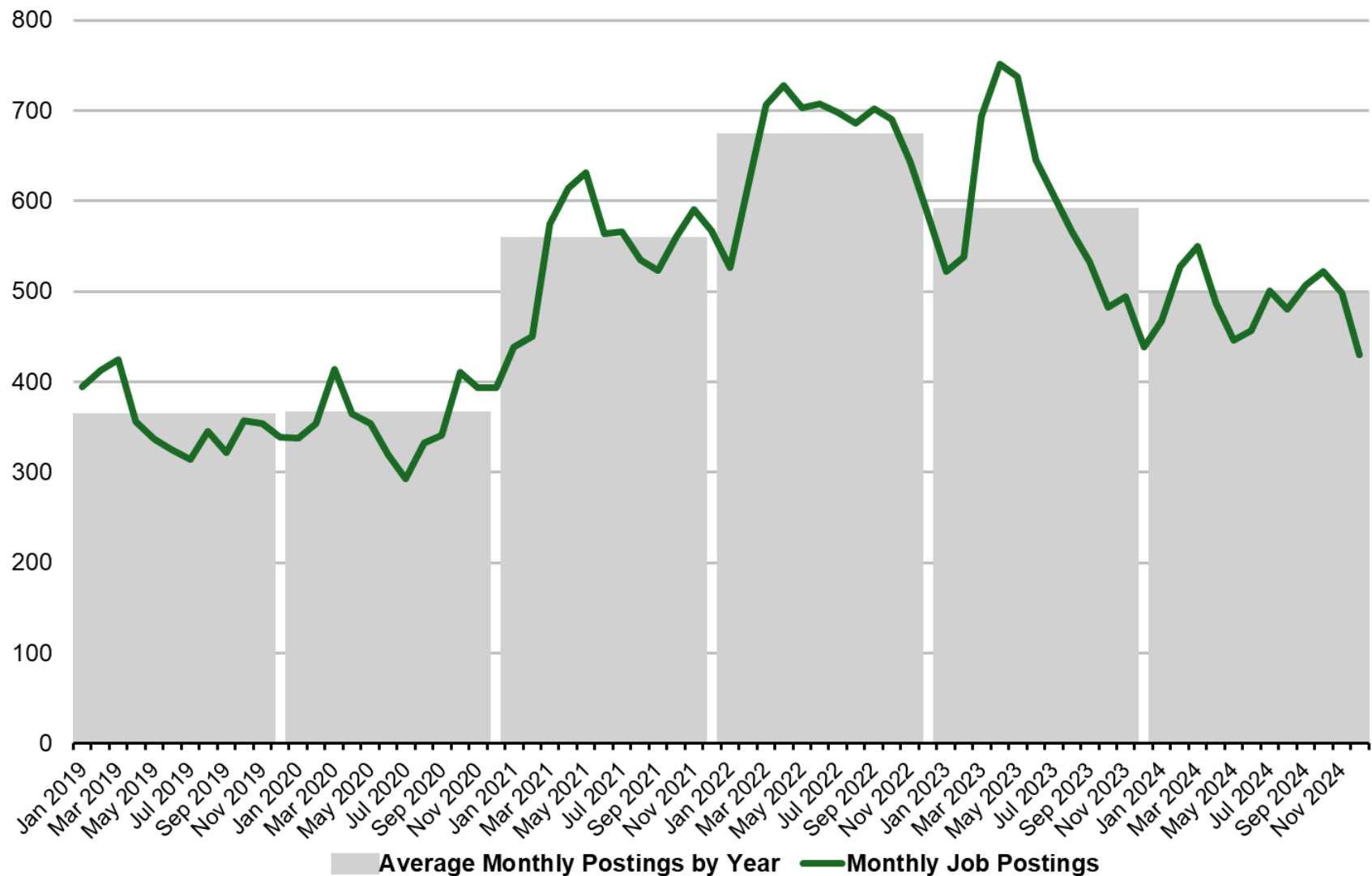
- Environmental Scientists topped the list in 2024, followed by laborers and movers
- wholesale sales representatives
- solar installers
- occupational health and safety specialists

**Demand for a wide range of jobs and skills in the green economy**



POSTINGS FOR GREEN JOBS REMAINED HIGHER THAN PRE-PANDEMIC IN 2024

Online Postings for Core Green Jobs Over Time



- Postings for core green jobs increased sharply post-pandemic, mirroring demand across sectors
- In 2024, total postings returned to pre-pandemic levels

Demand for green jobs remains elevated relative to pre-pandemic levels

More information can be found at [QualityInfo.org](https://QualityInfo.org) [\(Link\)](#)

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Lightcast-Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL)

## WHAT GOES INTO THE OUTLOOK FOR OREGON'S WORKFORCE?

National and state forecasts are based on asking, analyzing, and projection a number of workforce characteristics. Oregon projections economists will use state and national data to answer the following questions.

How have employment in different industries changed over time?

Has productivity changes affected who employers hire, and for what jobs?

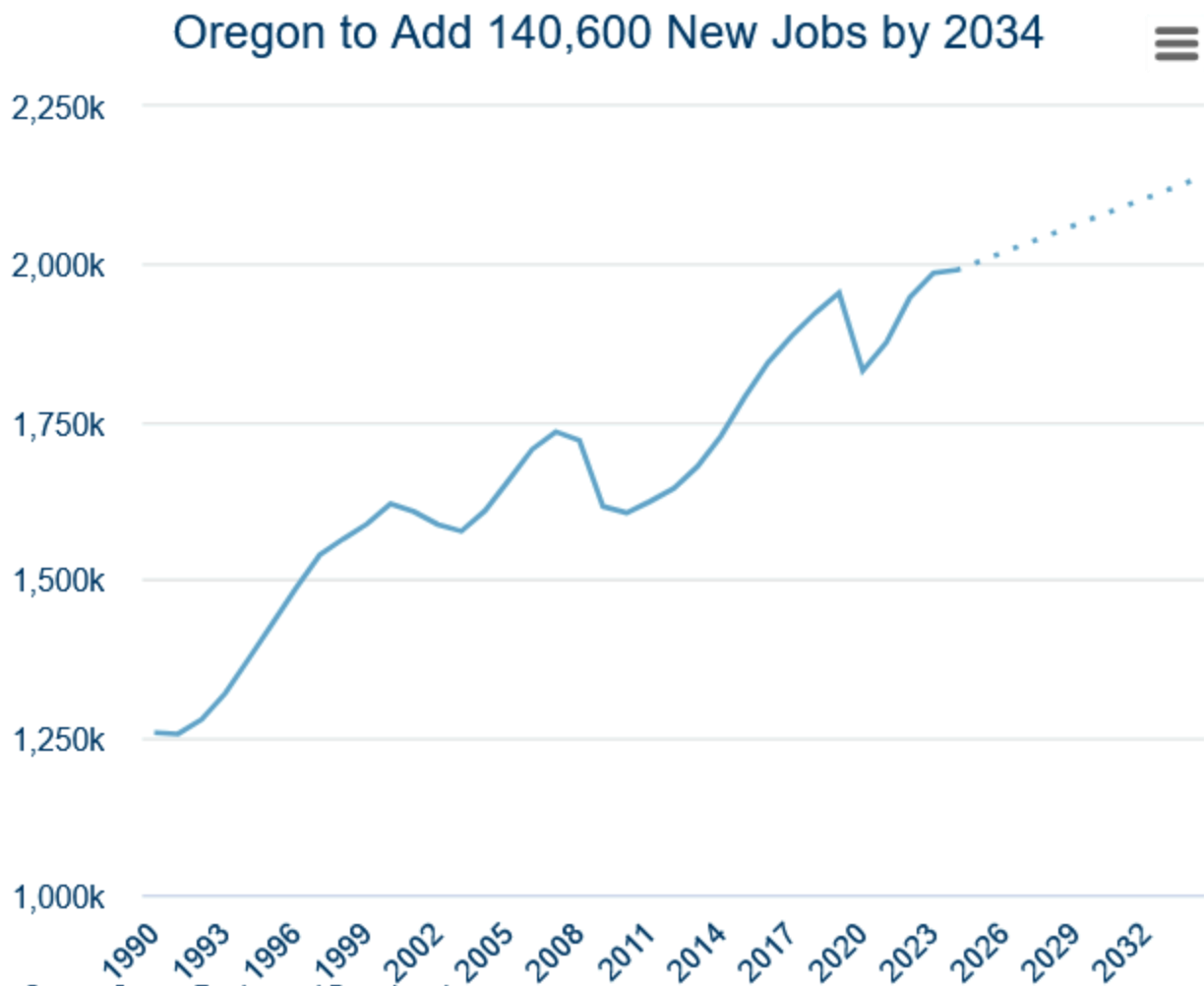
How often do workers exit the workforce?

Are there structural changes or major projects we should account for?



*More information about Oregon Industry and Employment Projections may be found at <https://www.qualityinfo.org/web/guest/projections>*

# OREGON JOBS PROJECTED TO GROW 6 PERCENT BETWEEN 2024 AND 2034



## Oregon to Add 140,600 New Jobs by 2034

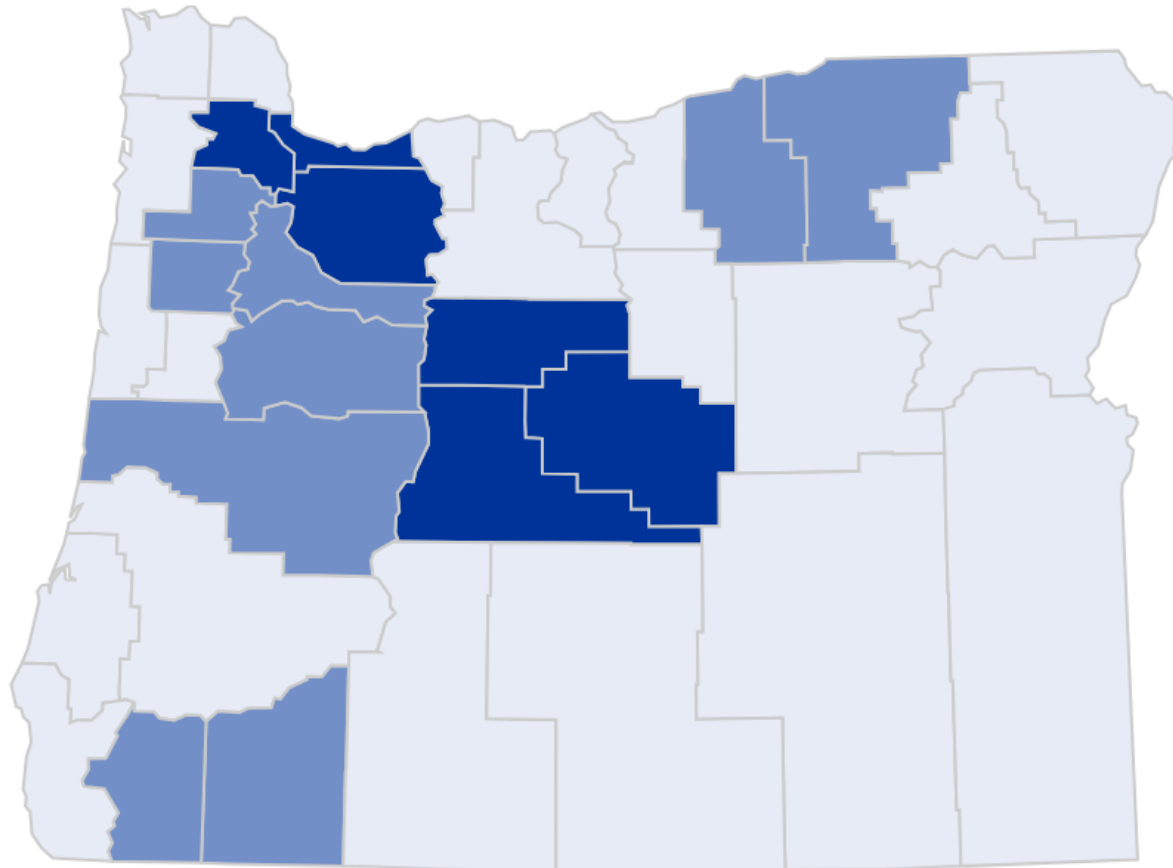
Oregon's job growth will total 6% between 2024 and 2034. Private payrolls are expected to grow by 125,500 (7%), while government employment will increase by 7,700 (2%), and self-employment will grow by 7,400 (5%).

For every new job added by growing and expanding businesses, Oregon employers will have another nine job openings requiring newly trained workers to replace those who leave the labor force or make a major occupational change.

## DIFFERENT AREAS AROUND THE STATE EXPECTED TO HAVE DIFFERENT GROWTH

### Regional Employment Projections, 2024 - 2034

Oregon = 6%



● 5% ● 6% ● 7%

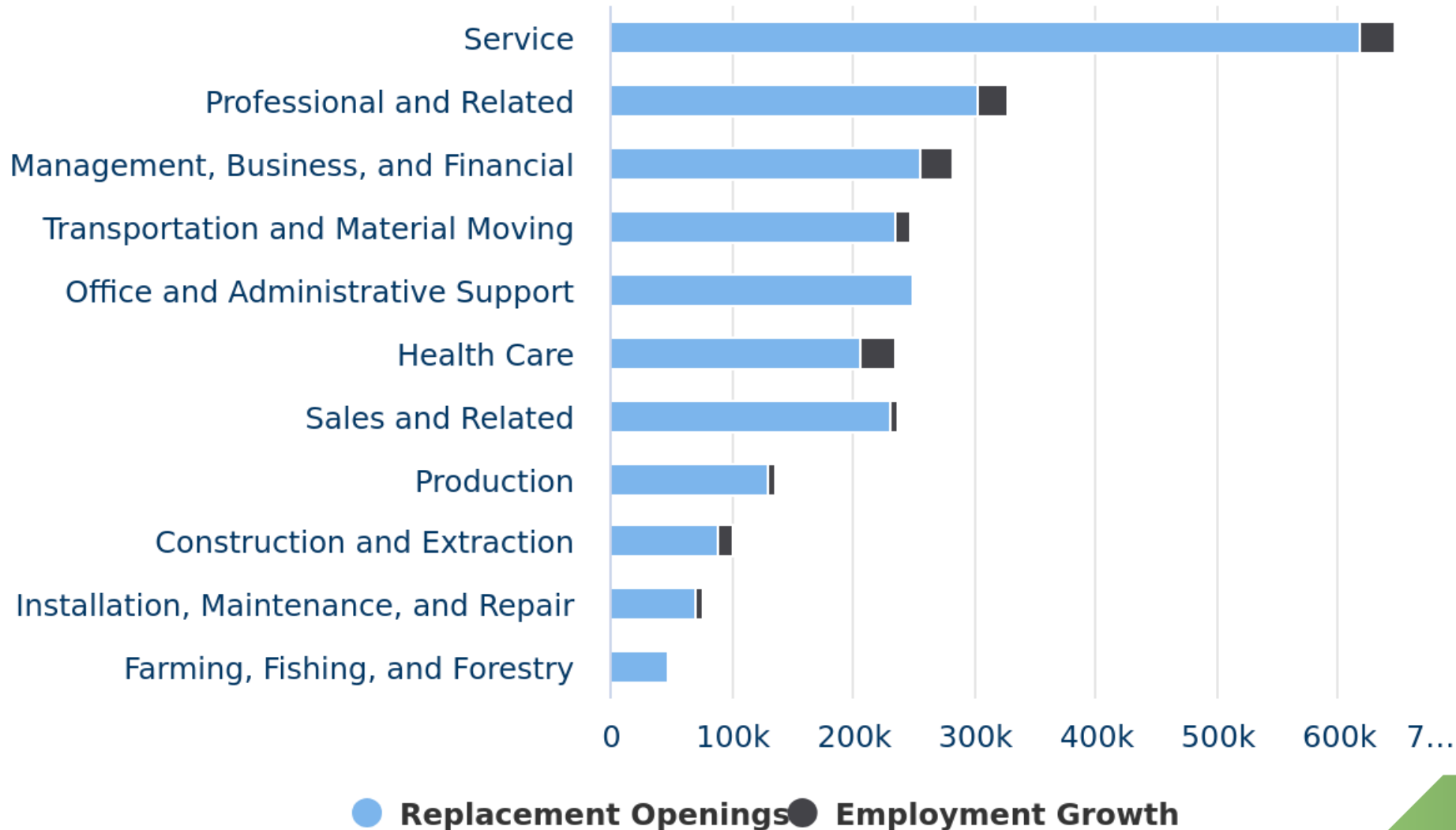
Demographic changes are driving many of the regional differences we see across the state.

Areas like Central Oregon have had some of the fastest population growth rates in the state. In kind, the region is also expected to employment growth over the next decade.

More rural areas of the state have seen slower growth rates over the past 20 years, also impacting the projected employment growth rates in these areas.

## MOST OPENINGS COME FROM WORKERS CHANGING JOBS OR LEAVING THE WORKFORCE

### Job Openings by Occupational Group in Oregon, 2024-2034

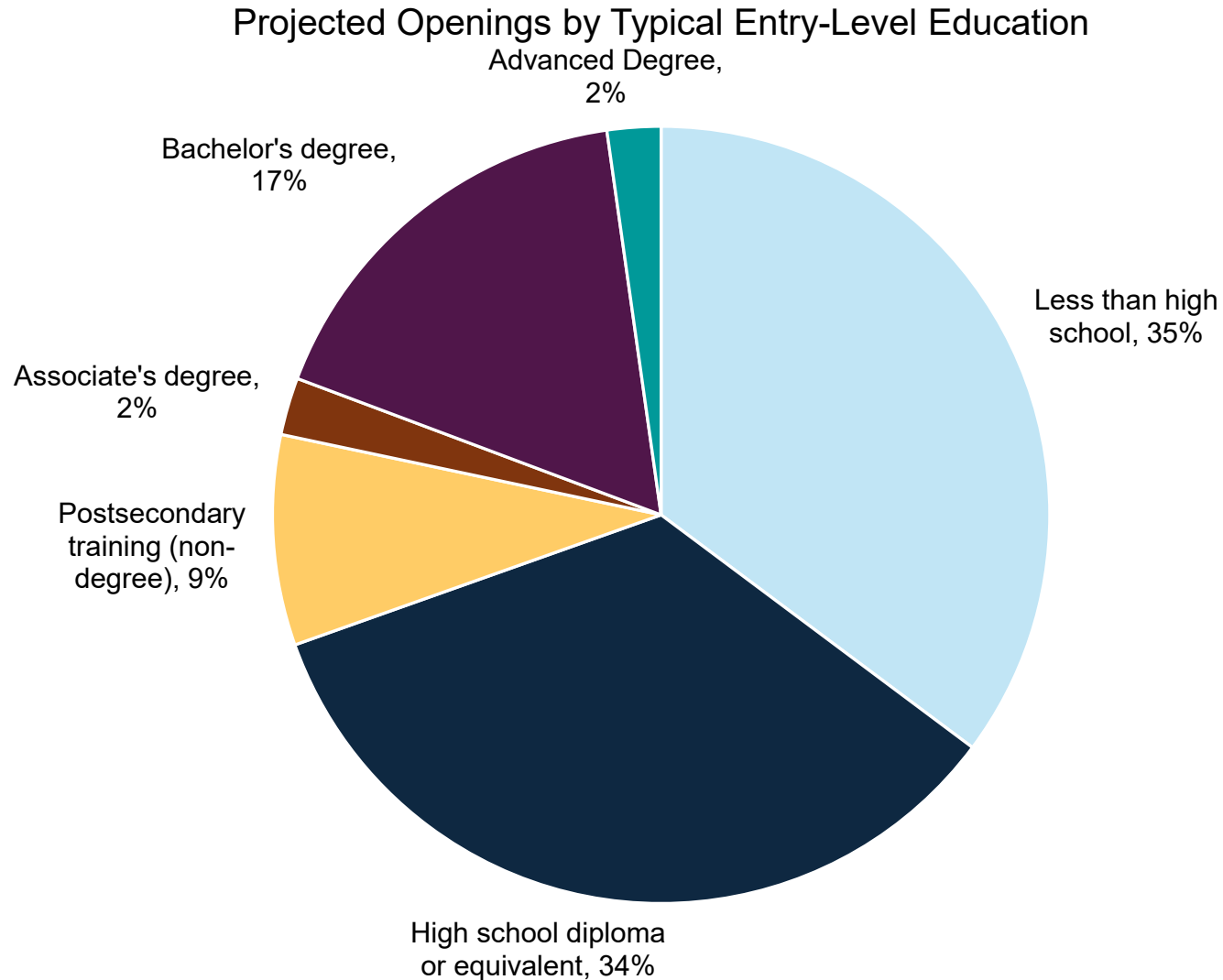


Economic growth, and job growth that stem from it, is vital to a thriving Oregon economy.

However, Oregon businesses will also need to replace workers as they change careers or exit the workforce.

For every opening from growth there are about 8 or about 9 openings from the need to replace workers.

## WHEN PLANNING STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE EXPECTING

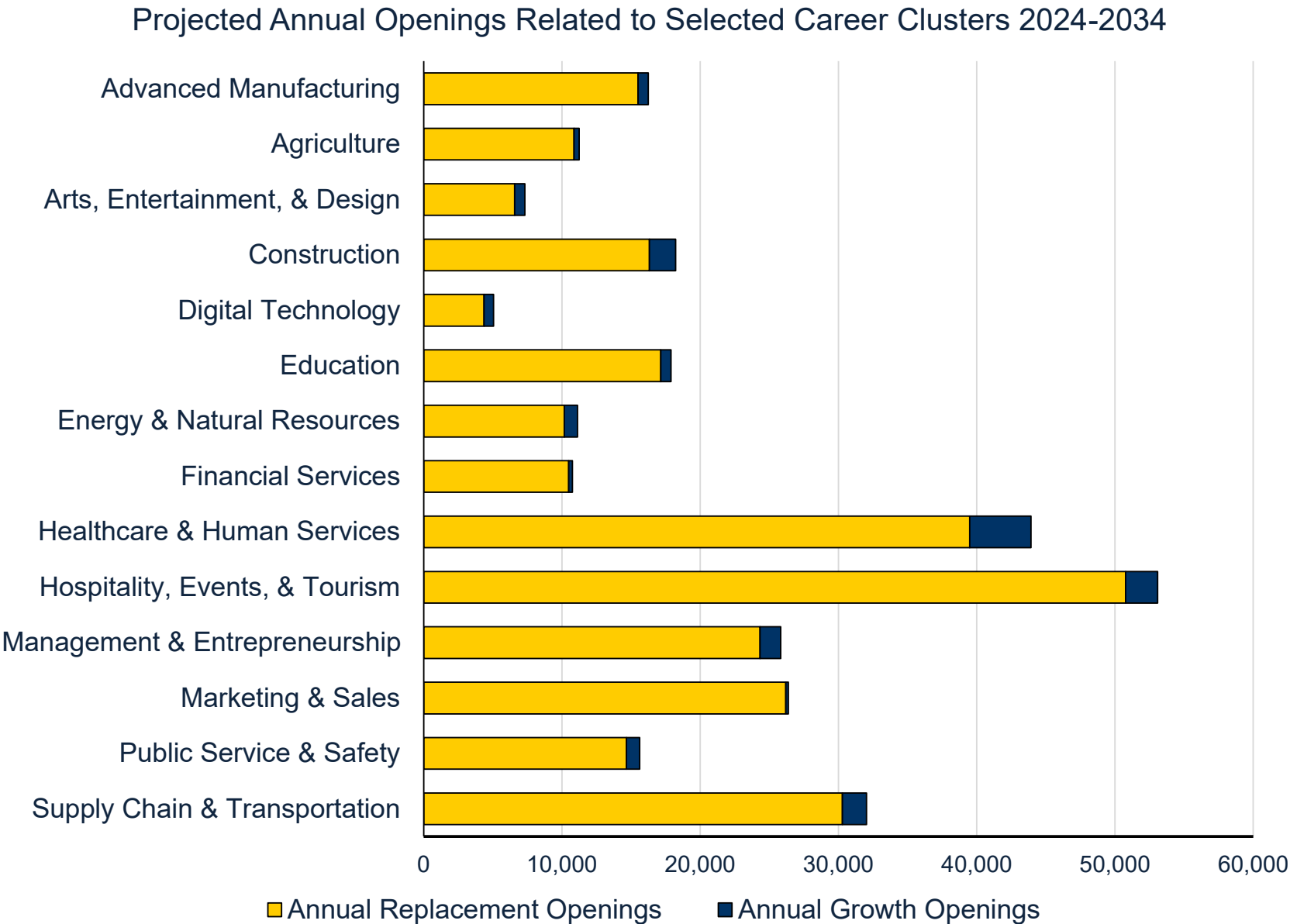


Typical entry-level education gives us a sense of what is required in order for a jobseeker to apply for a particular job.

The majority of projected job openings do not require postsecondary education (69%).

However part of what is driving those numbers are occupations that generally have higher turnover, and lower wages.

# OPENINGS BY CAREER CLUSTER (CTE)



Current projections find job openings across all career clusters in Oregon.

There are about 18,000 projected annual job openings over the next decade in the 93 occupations related to construction .

*Note: some occupations are assigned to multiple career clusters, duplicating some projected openings.*

# MANY HIGH WAGE AND HIGH DEMAND OPENINGS PROJECTED IN CONSTRUCTION

Over 74,000 Jobs in Construction are Considered  
to Pay High Wages and in High Demand

Occupation Title	Employment 2024	Projected Employment 2034	Percent Change	Annual Openings	2025 Median Annual Wage
<b>High Wage and High Demand Construction and Extraction Occupations</b>	<b>74,298</b>	<b>82,321</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>6,750</b>	<b>-</b>
Carpenters	21,942	24,361	11.0%	1,880	\$62,962
Electricians	10,812	12,115	12.1%	1,100	\$100,194
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	10,628	11,851	11.5%	940	\$103,834
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	6,636	7,410	11.7%	640	\$95,846
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	5,654	6,071	7.4%	510	\$70,200
Roofers	4,147	4,695	13.2%	350	\$57,990
Sheet Metal Workers	3,107	3,389	9.1%	280	\$67,101
Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	2,629	2,839	8.0%	200	\$64,126
Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers	2,071	2,305	11.3%	170	\$60,195
Construction and Building Inspectors	1,783	1,919	7.6%	200	\$84,635
Highway Maintenance Workers	1,708	1,797	5.2%	130	\$64,834
Tile and Stone Setters	1,704	1,915	12.4%	140	\$55,973
Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners	757	867	14.5%	70	\$57,533
Glaziers	720	787	9.3%	60	\$65,104

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Occupational Employment Projections 2024-2034, Oregon Wage Information 2025

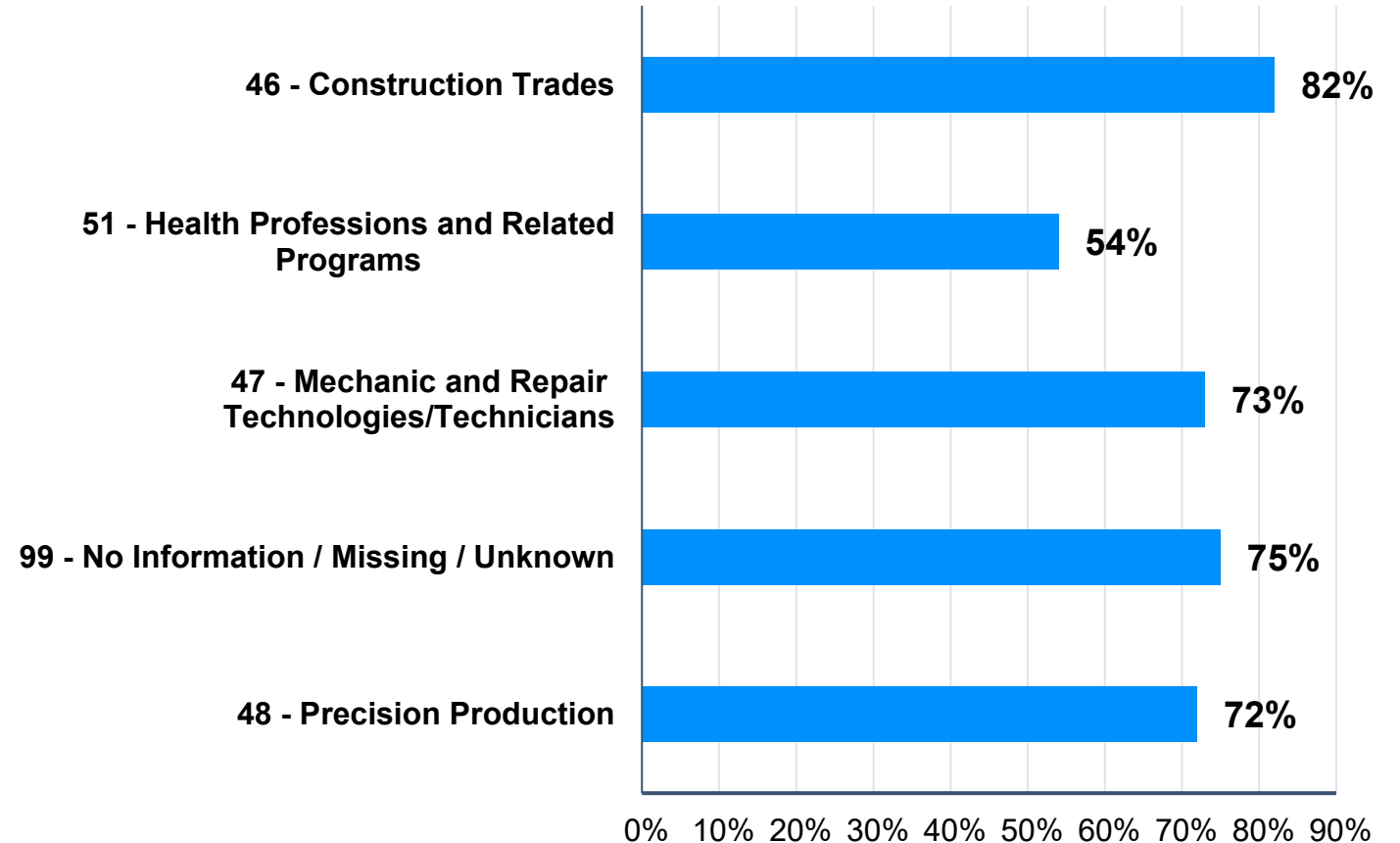


A lot of information is available about the relationship between education attainment, income, and employment.

However, skilling up also includes building skills through alternative paths. Apprenticeships are a great example of a career development option with real outcomes.

For instance, 82% of construction apprentices in 2023 experienced wage gains after exiting their apprenticeship program.

### SHARE OF APPRENTICES WITH WAGE GAINS AFTER EXITING APPRENTICESHIP



Source: Oregon Employment Department, PRISM

# Occupation Profile Tool

Home Tools Regional Info Data Publications Press Release

## Occupation Profiles


**Electricians (472111)**  
**Oregon (All Counties)**

Median Hourly Wage	2023 Employment	Job Openings per Year	10-Year Growth
\$48.17	10,029	1,162	19.8%

**Description**

Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems. Excludes Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers (49-2098).

- + Expand All
- + Job Openings Listed with the Oregon Employment Department
- + Job Openings from Other Websites
- + State of Oregon Licenses & Certifications
- + Wage Range 2025
- + Employment Outlook
- + Area Employment Projections
- + Industries of Employment

 Electricians Career Video

If you want to take a deeper dive in a particular career, we have profiles available for over 800 different careers in Oregon.

- Current job postings
- Education requirements
- Wage Ranges
- Knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Area employment levels

Profiles for hundreds of careers can be found at [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org)

# Thank You!

*Please scan the QR code for a short survey.*



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