

# Employment in Oregon and the Mid-Valley: A Summary Through April 2025

## Mid-Valley Workforce Investment Board

Updated: May 29, 2025

# KEY FACTS FROM RECENT NEWS RELEASE

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.7% in April and 4.6% in March.

- Oregon's 4.7% unemployment rate was 1.1 percentage points higher than the recent low of 3.6% during spring 2023.
- The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.2% in both March and April.

Oregon nonfarm payroll employment rose by 1,200 jobs in April.

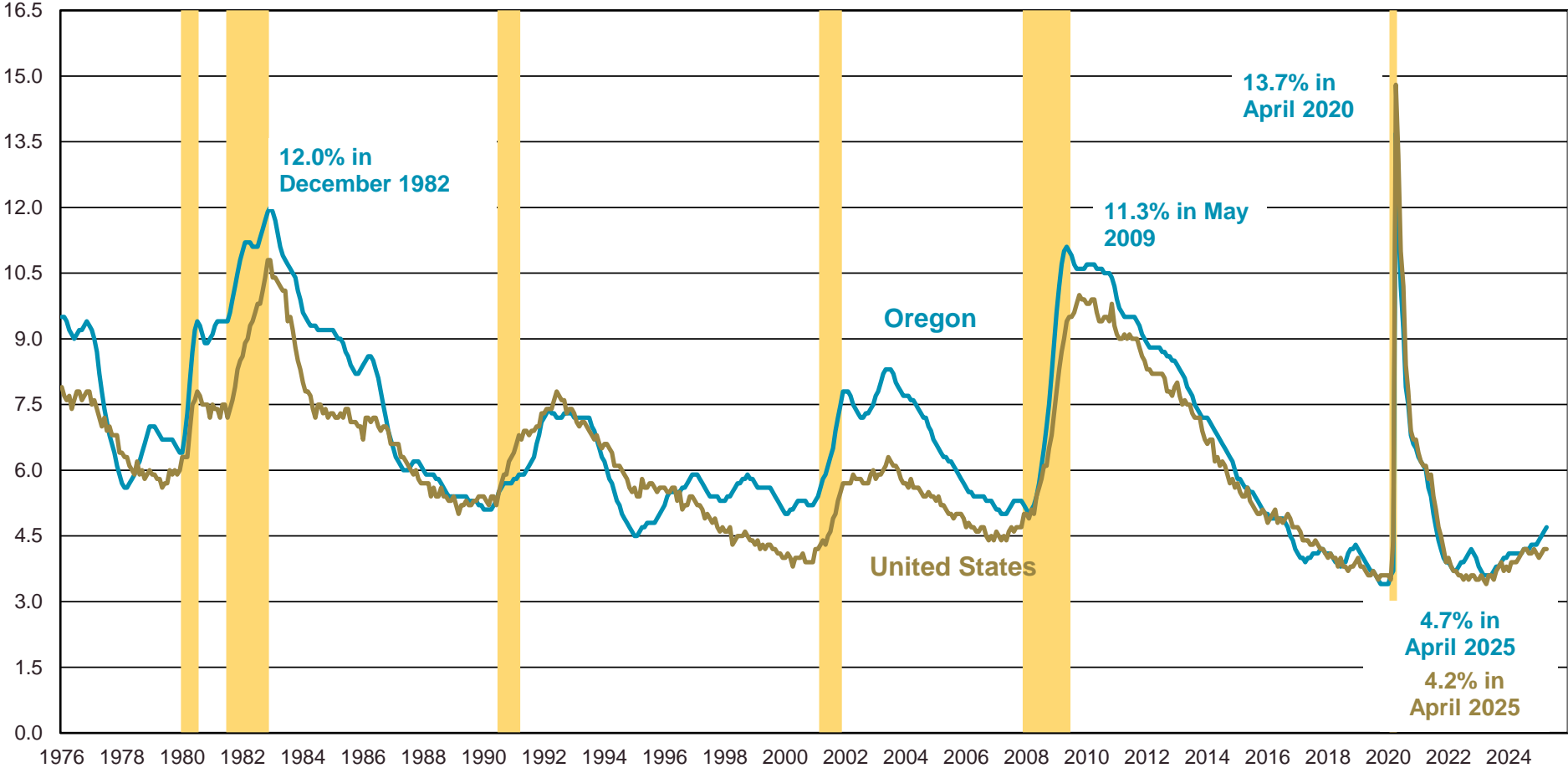
- April's gains were largest in leisure and hospitality (+3,300 jobs) and professional and business services (+900).
- Declines were largest in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-1,300 jobs) and other services (-600).
- None of the other major industries had a change of more than 400 jobs.

Employers added 16,400 nonfarm payroll jobs over the past year, a gain of 0.8%.

- Job gains were strongest in health care and social assistance (+14,700 jobs, or 4.9%).

# OREGON'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 4.7% IN APRIL.

**Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 4.7% in April 2025**  
**Unemployed % of Labor Force (Bars Represent Recessions)**



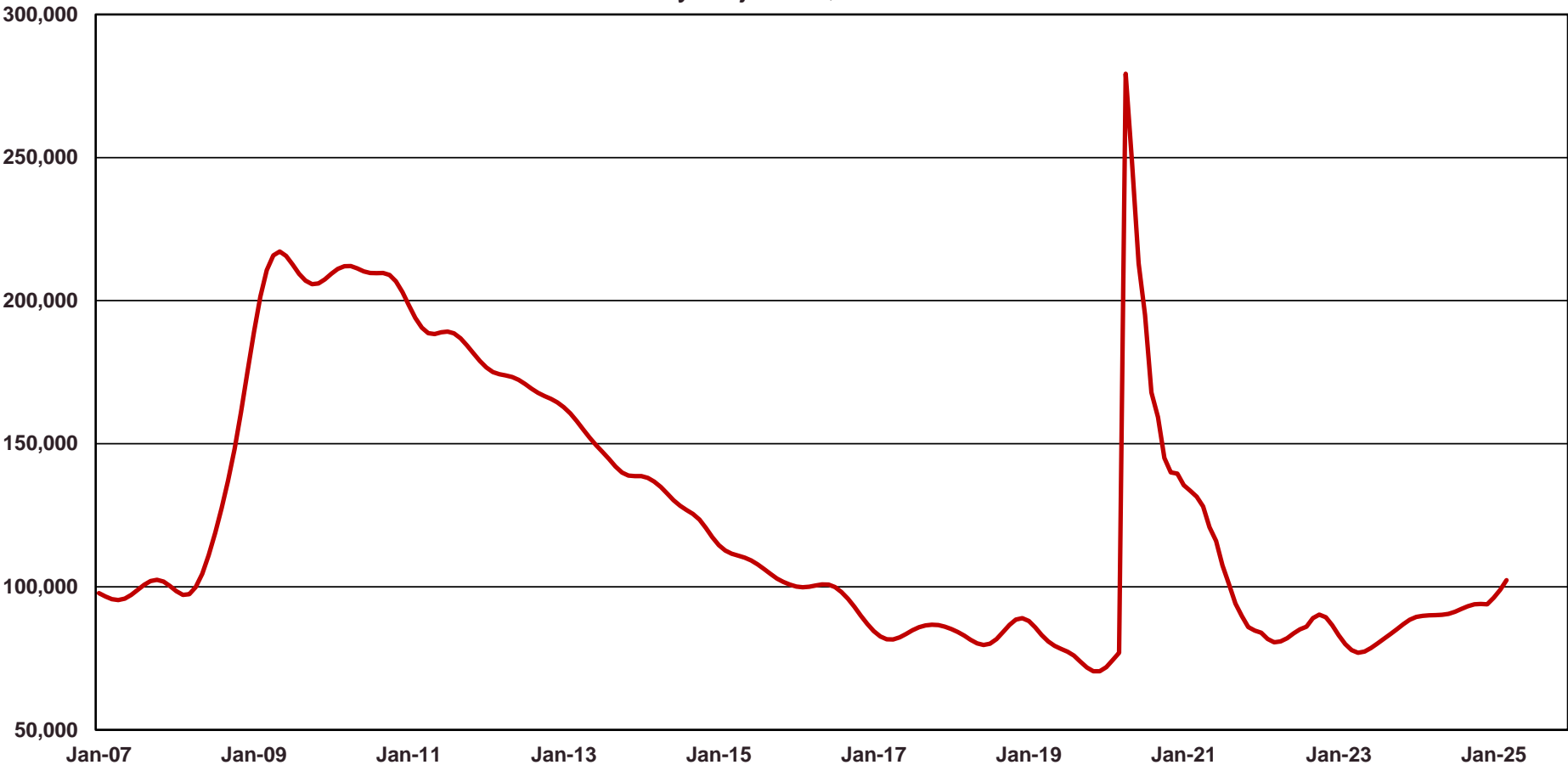
Source: Oregon Employment Department and National Bureau of Economic Research

# MID-VALLEY UNEMPLOYMENT

- Over the last year Oregon's unadjusted unemployment rate is up from 3.7% to 4.1%.
- Linn County's rate has increased from 4.2% to 4.7%.
- The Salem MSA's rate has increased from 3.6% to 4.0% over the last year.
- Yamhill County's rate has increased from 3.3% to 3.7% over the last year.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED OREGONIANS INCREASED BY 1,200 IN APRIL.

Unemployed Persons, Oregon Statewide  
Seasonally Adjusted, 2007 to Present



Seasonally Adjusted  
Unemployment:

Pre-COVID Low  
Nov 2019: 70,500

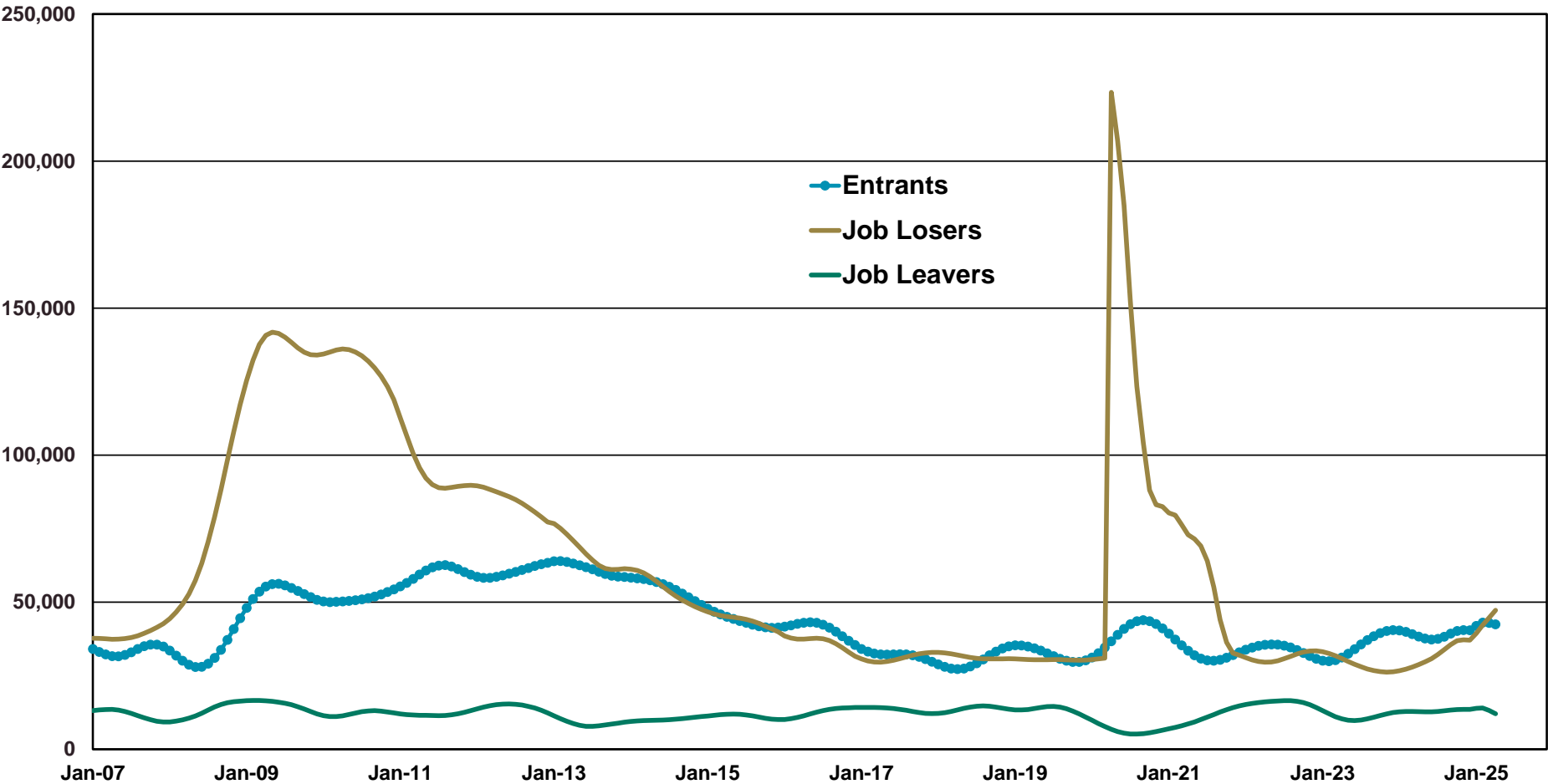
Highest  
April 2020: 279,300

Current  
Apr 2025: 103,300

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

# WHY ARE OREGONIANS UNEMPLOYED?

Oregon Unemployment by Reason [Trend]



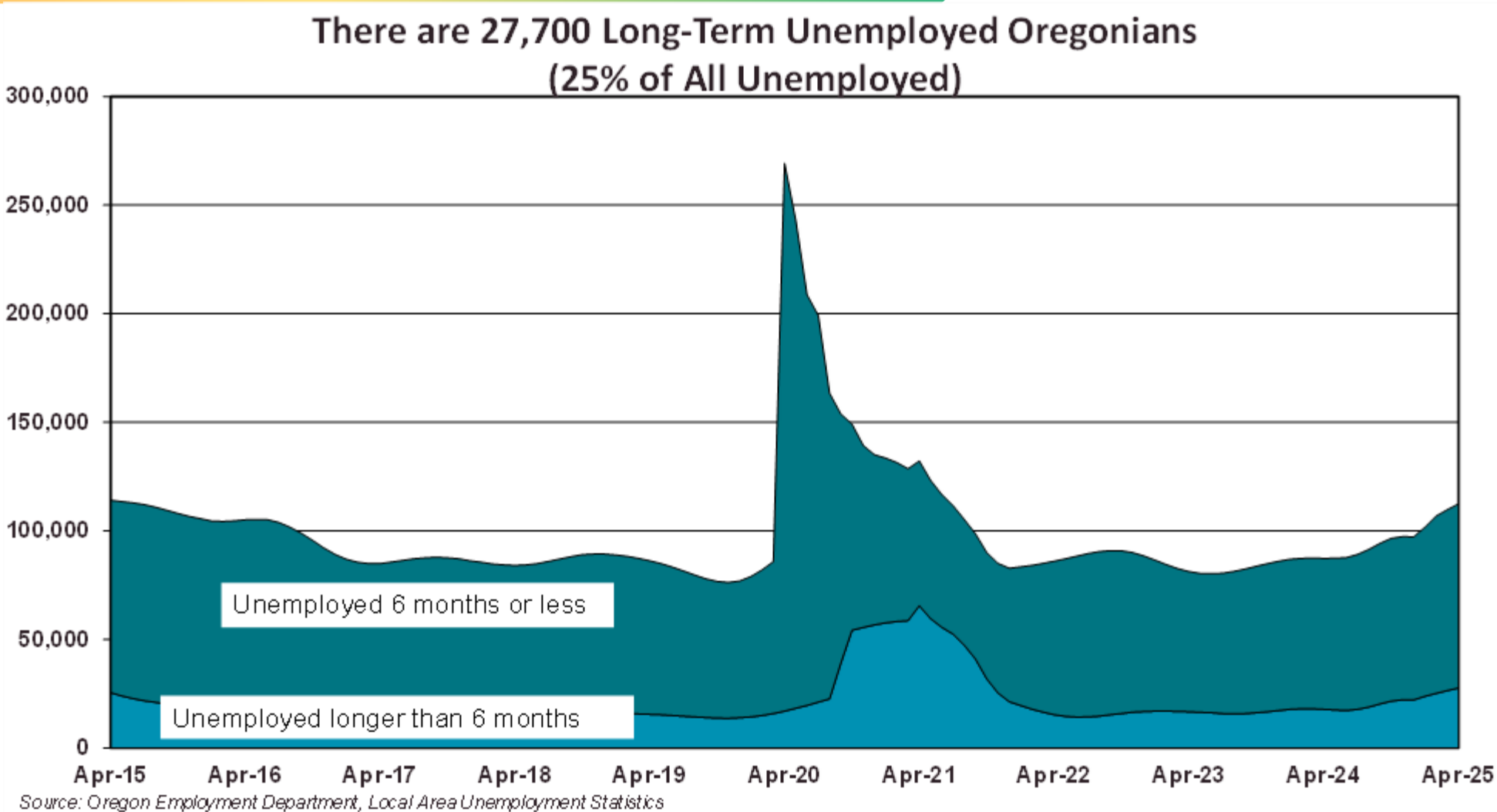
**New or returning to the workforce**  
42,500 (42%)

**Lost job**  
47,200 (46%)

**Left job voluntarily**  
12,100 (12%)

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Population Survey

ONE OUT OF FOUR UNEMPLOYED OREGONIANS HAVE BEEN OUT OF WORK FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS.



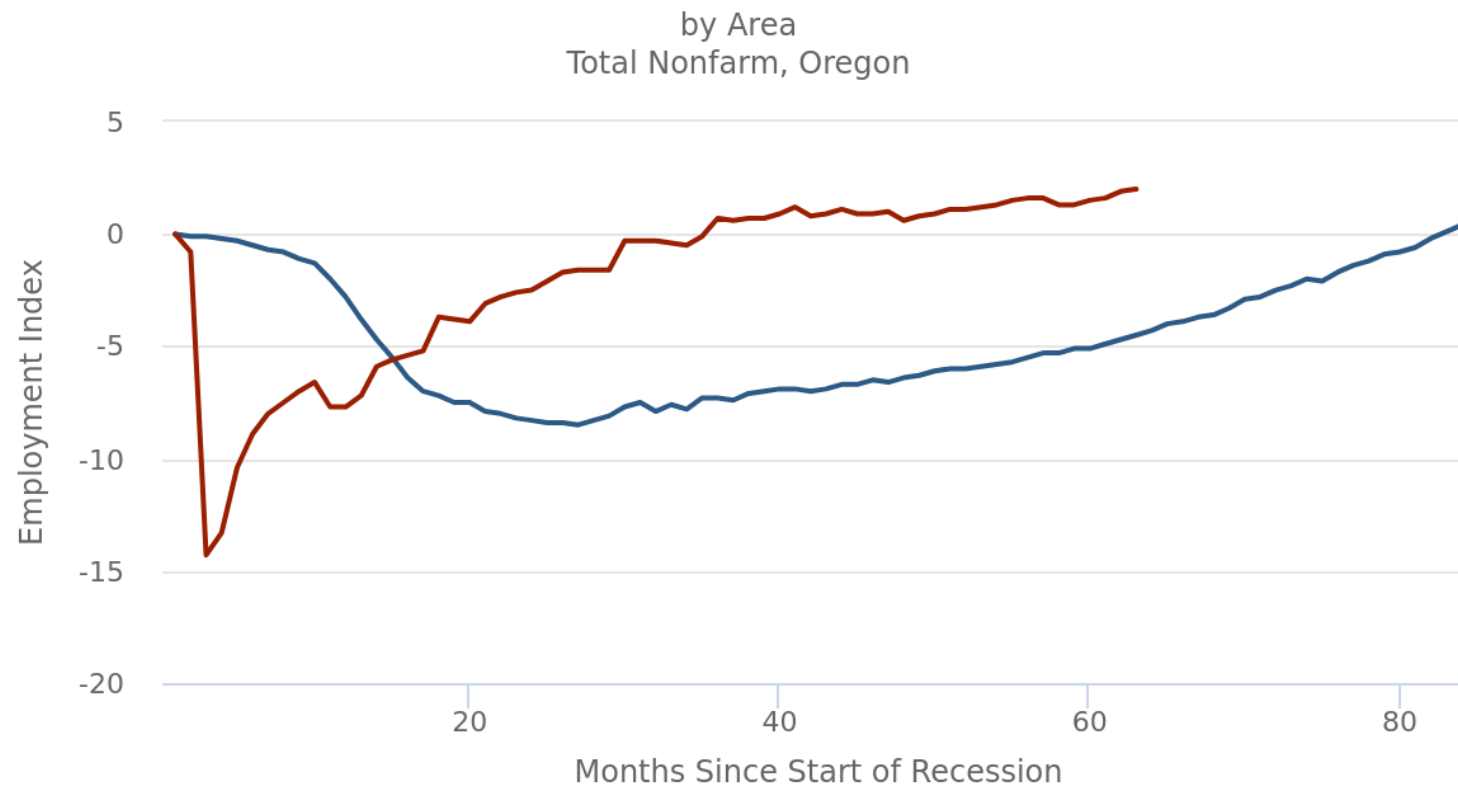
# JOB GROWTH BY INDUSTRY

Current Employment Statistics (CES)



# OREGON'S TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IS 2% ABOVE ITS PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL.

COVID-19 Job Changes Compared to Great Recession Job Changes

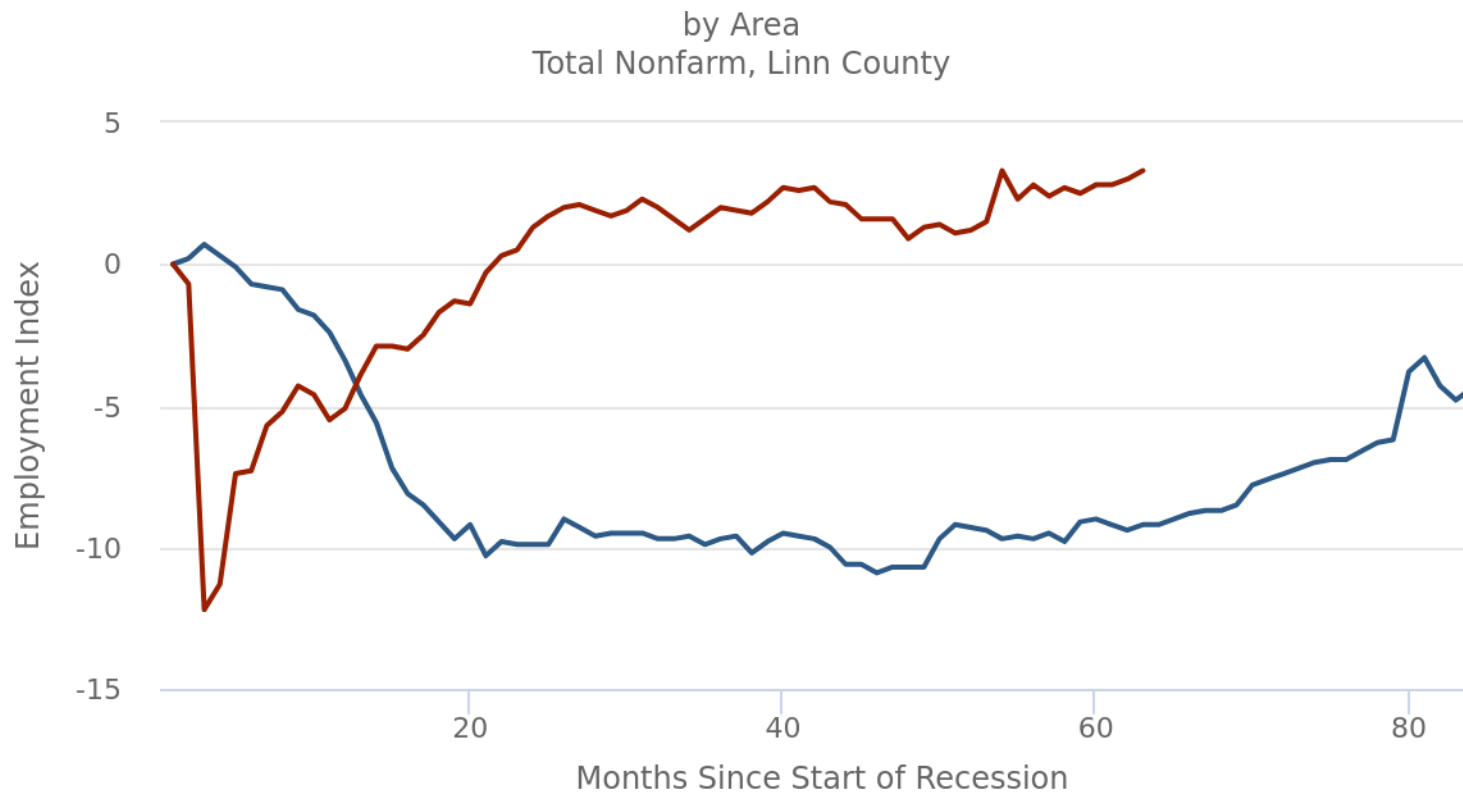


— Great Recession, 2007-2009 — COVID-19

Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

# LINN COUNTY'S EMPLOYMENT IS UP 3.3% FROM ITS PRE-RECESSION LEVEL.

COVID-19 Job Changes Compared to Great Recession Job Changes

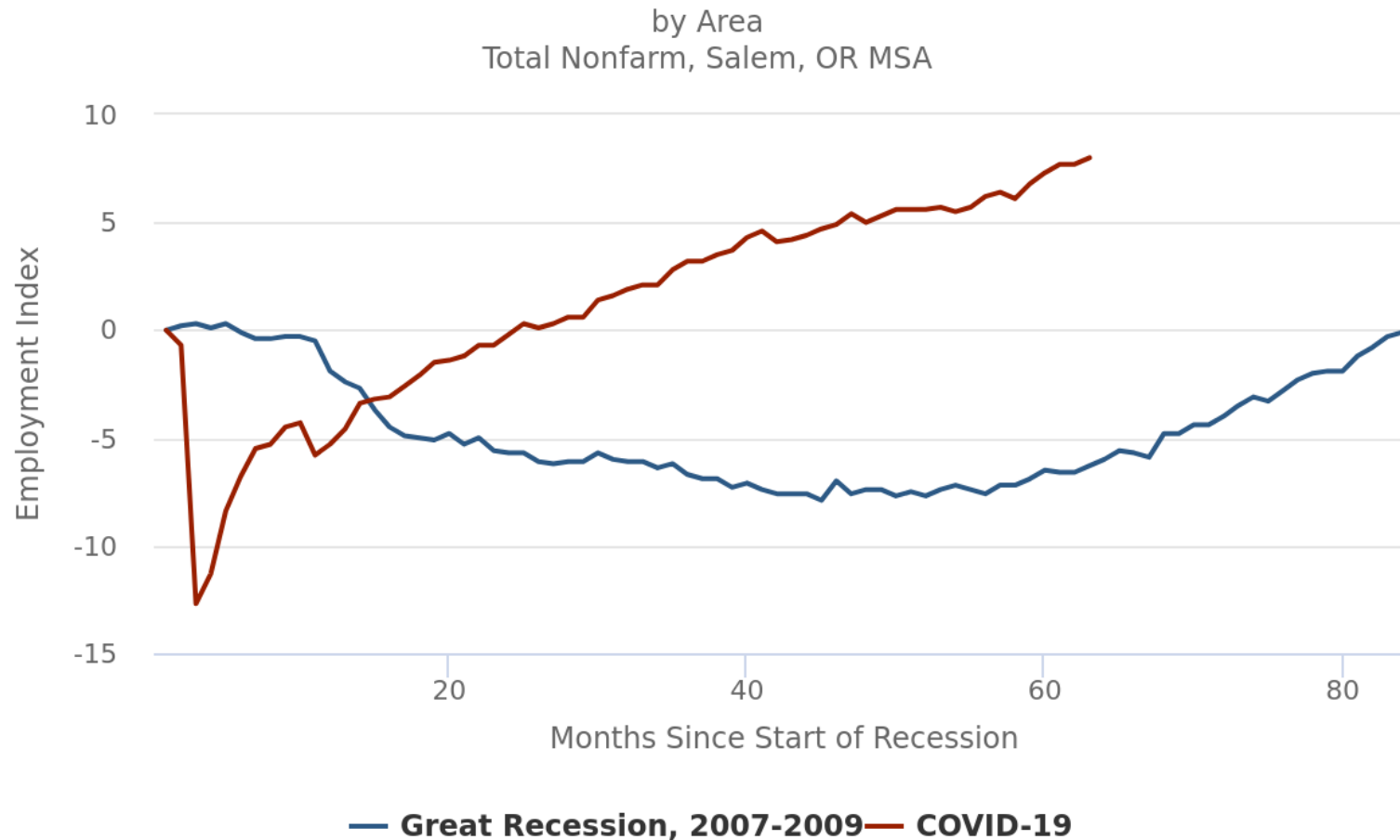


— Great Recession, 2007-2009 — COVID-19

Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

# THE SALEM METRO AREA'S EMPLOYMENT IS UP 8% FROM ITS PRE-RECESSION LEVEL.

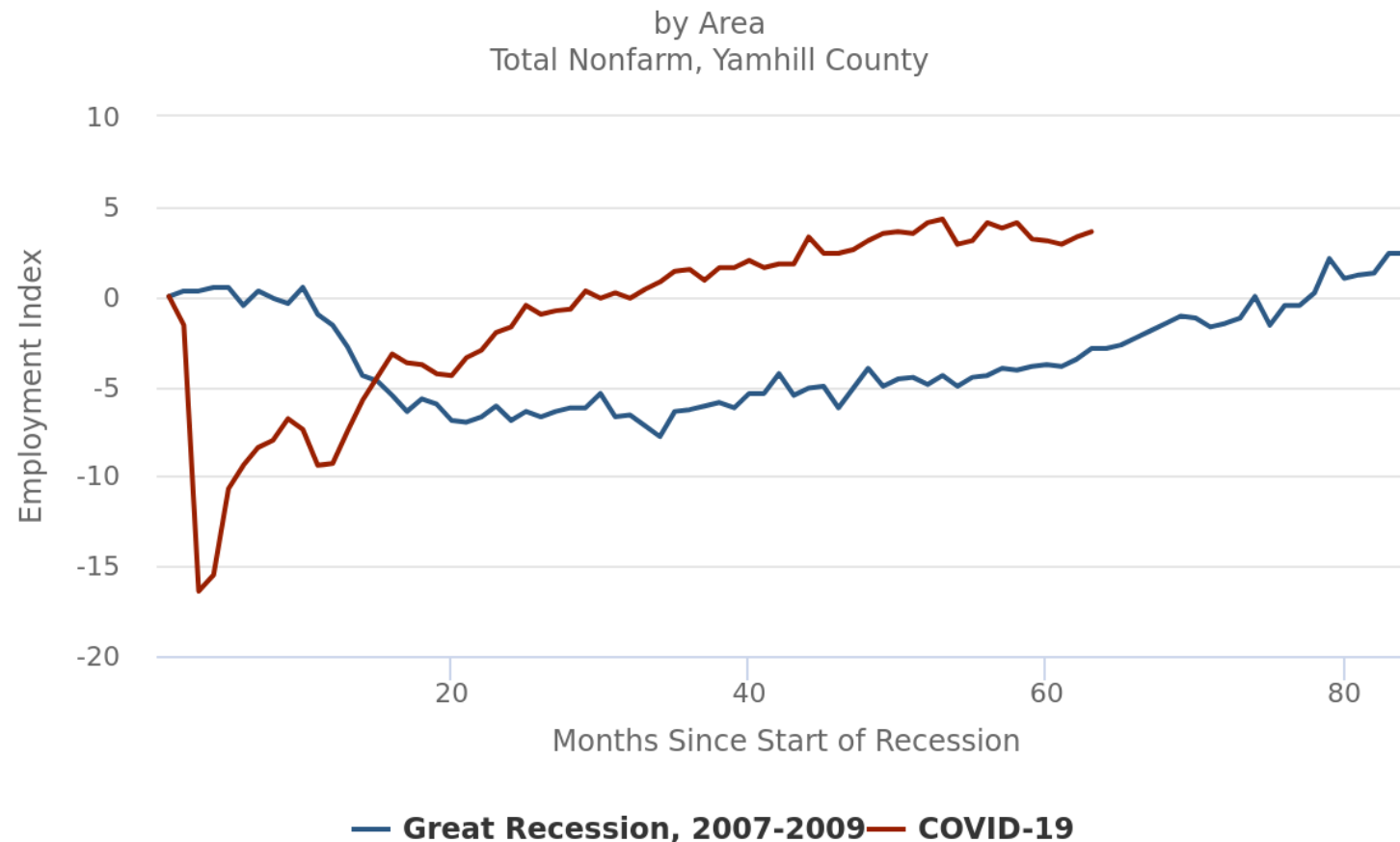
## COVID-19 Job Changes Compared to Great Recession Job Changes



Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

# YAMHILL COUNTY'S EMPLOYMENT IS UP 3.6% FROM ITS PRE-RECESSION LEVEL.

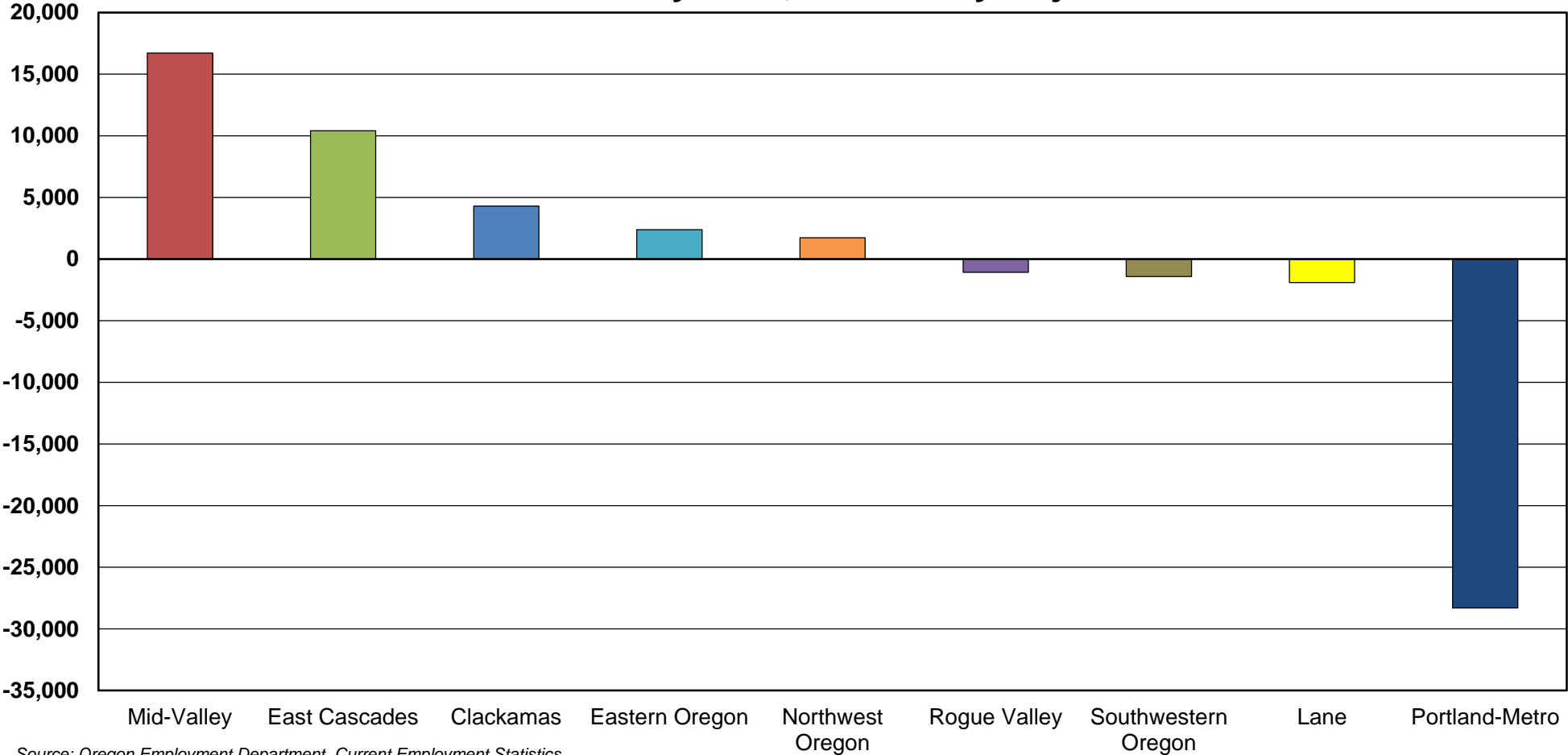
## COVID-19 Job Changes Compared to Great Recession Job Changes



Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

FIVE OF NINE WORKFORCE AREAS HAVE MORE JOBS THAN IN FEBRUARY 2020.

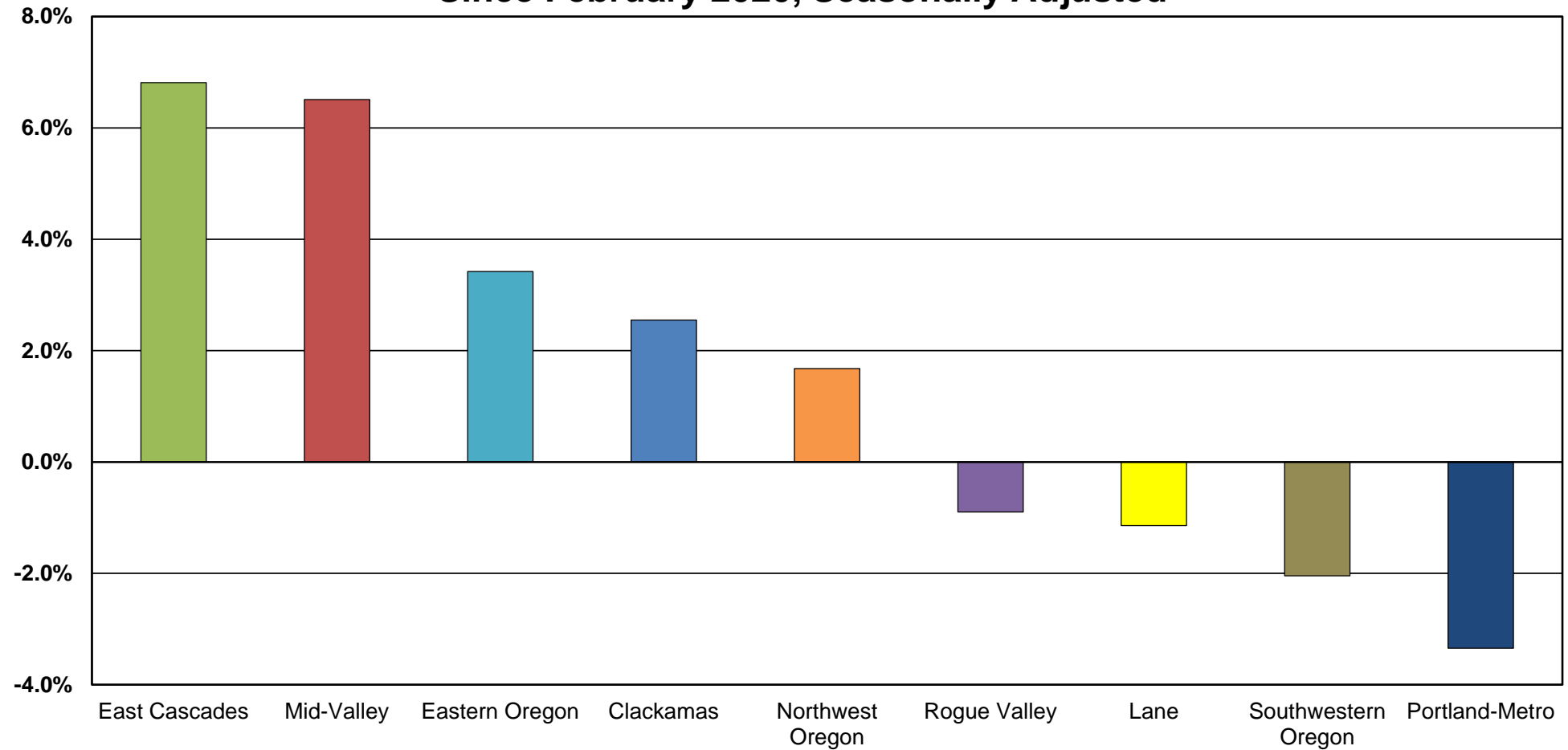
Job Change by Local Workforce Area as of April 2025  
Since February 2020, Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

**FIVE OF NINE WORKFORCE AREAS HAVE MORE JOBS NOW THAN IN FEBRUARY 2020.**

**Job Change Rates by Local Workforce Area as of April 2025  
Since February 2020, Seasonally Adjusted**

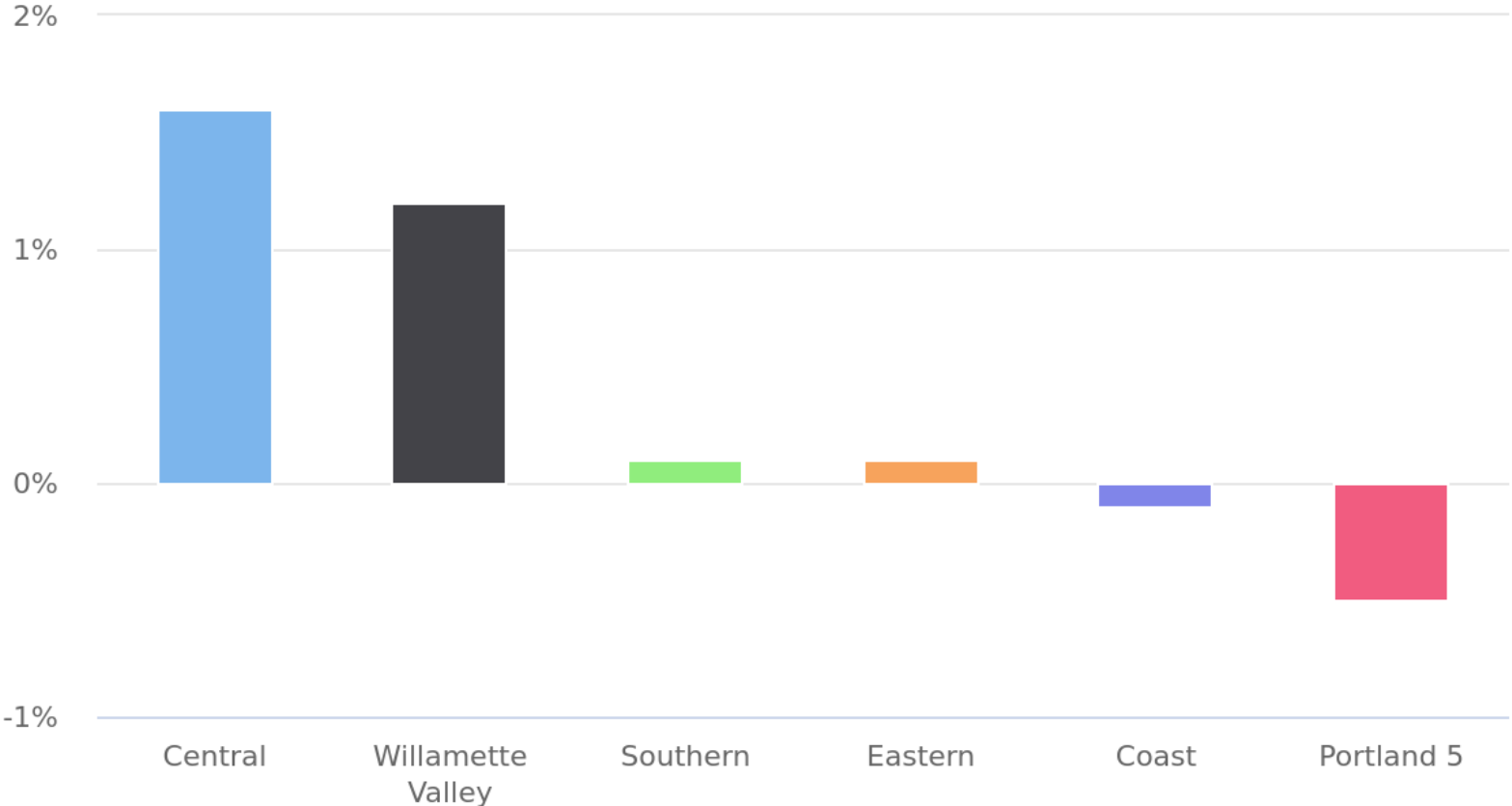


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

CENTRAL OREGON GREW AT THE FASTEST RATE OF ANY BROAD REGION OVER THE YEAR.

## Over-the-Year Employment Change by Region

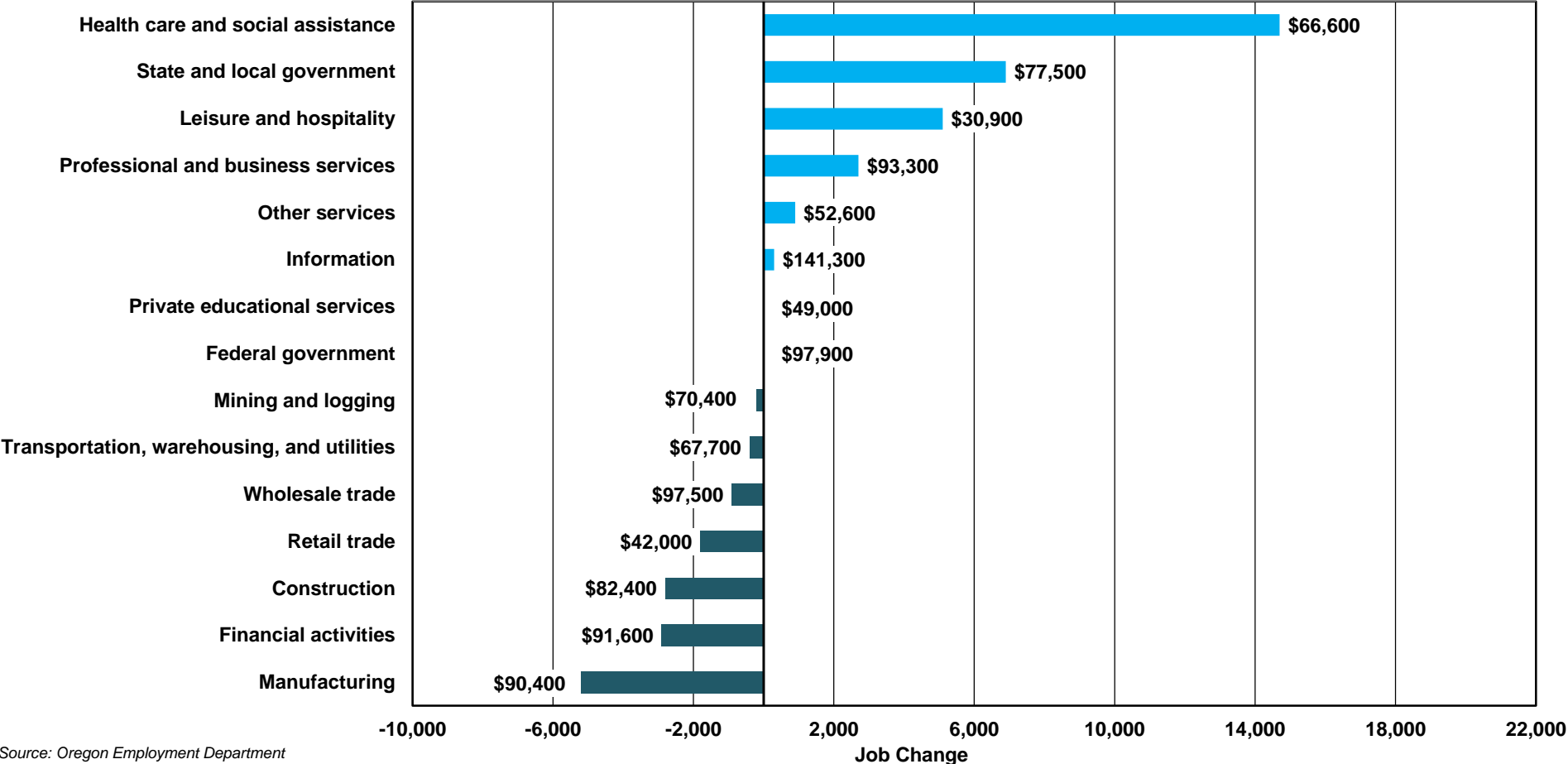
April 2024 to April 2025, Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment



Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

OREGON'S JOB GAINS HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED IN HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE.  
OREGON'S TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IS UP 8,000 OR +0.4% OVER THE PAST YEAR.

Oregon Job Change and Average Pay by Industry  
April 2024 - April 2025 Job Change, 2024 Average Pay



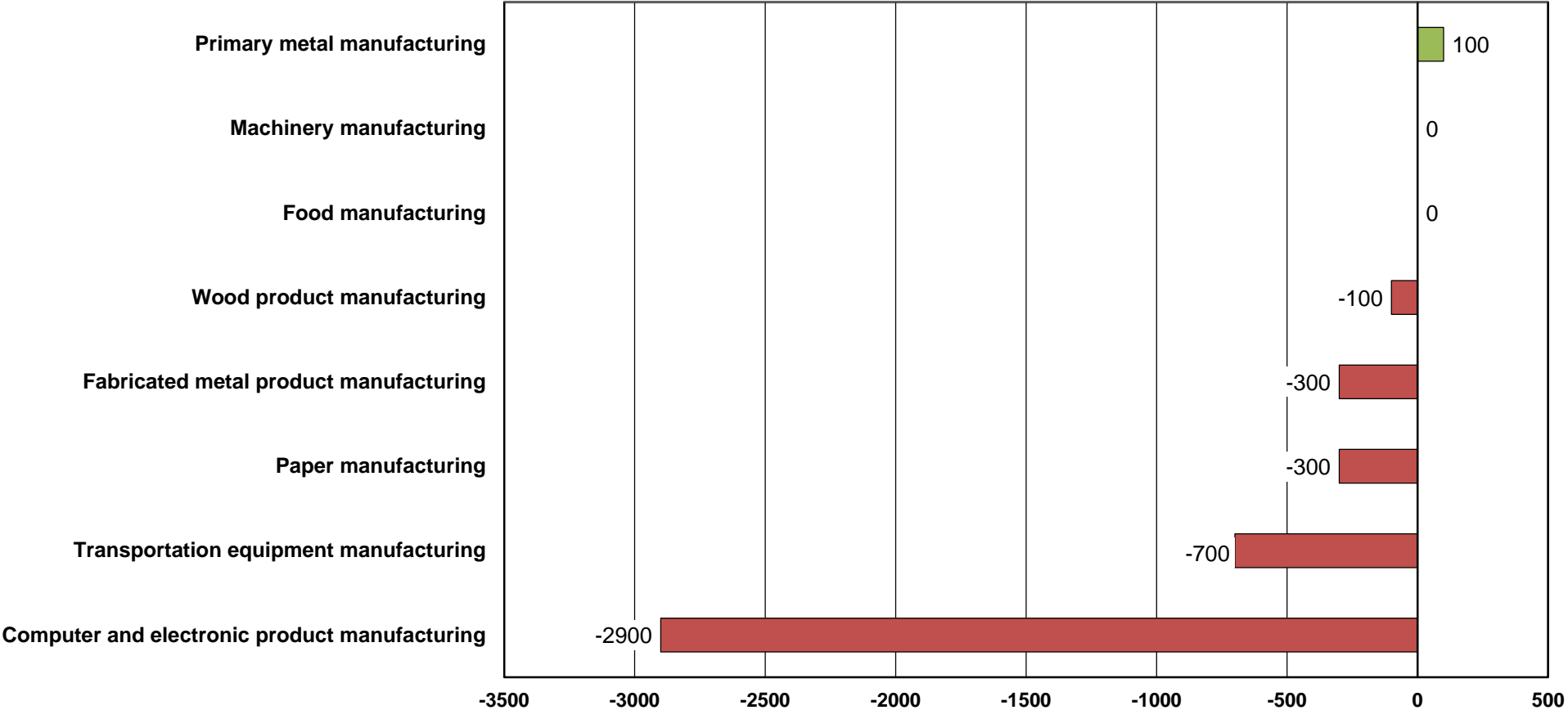
2024 All-Industry  
Average = \$71,300

Source: Oregon Employment Department



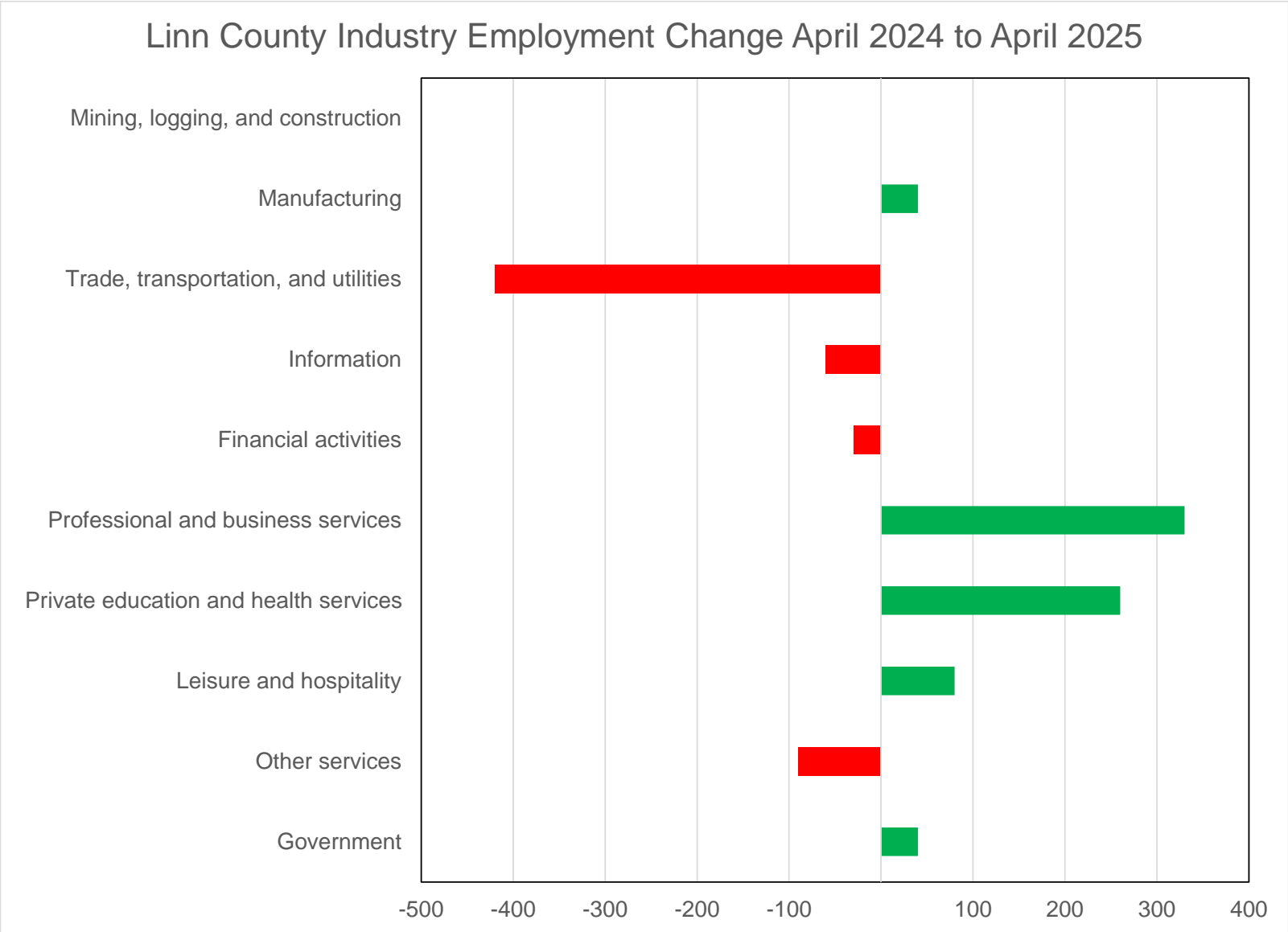
MOST AREAS OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR LOST JOBS OVER THE YEAR.

Oregon Manufacturing Employment Compared with Last Year  
April 2024 to April 2025



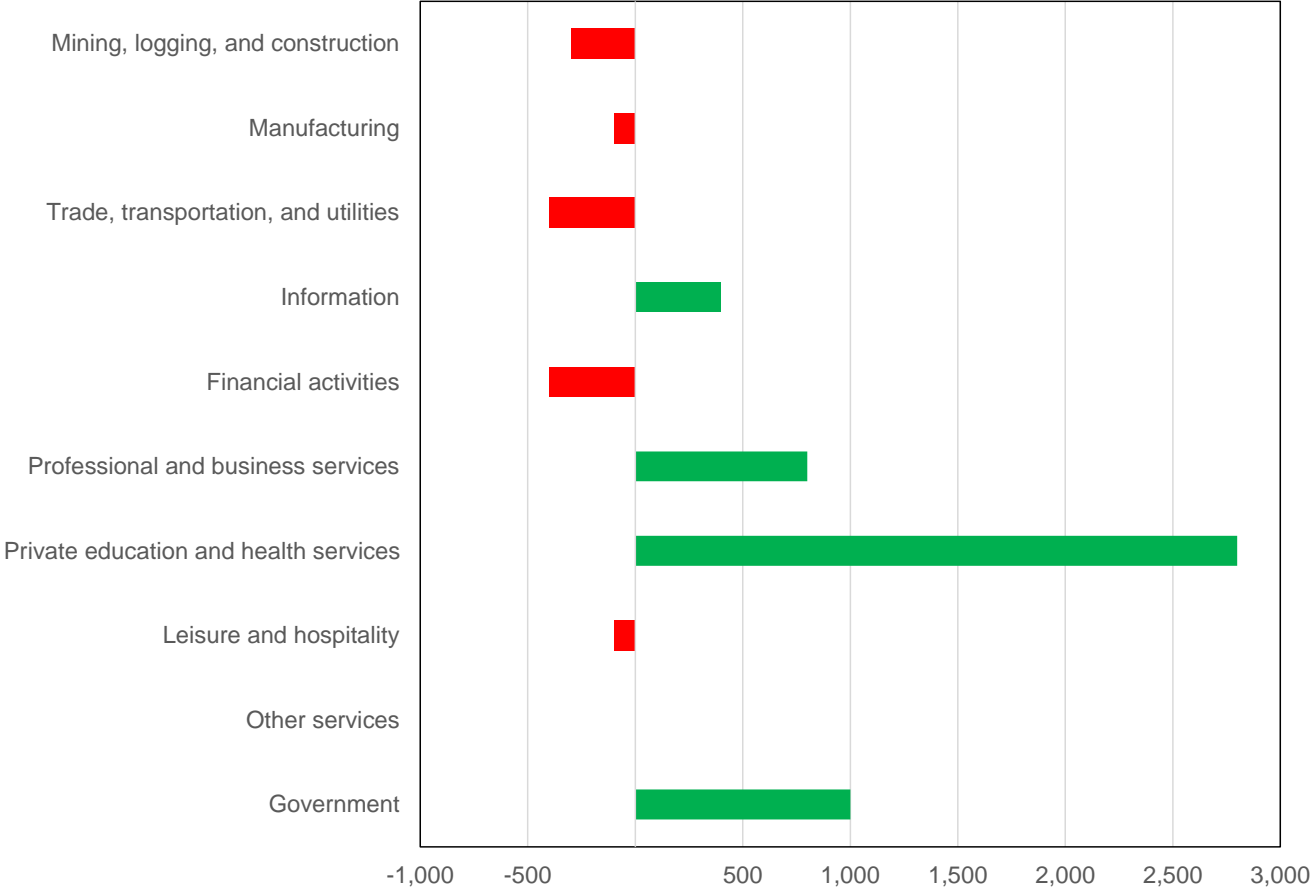
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

LINN COUNTY'S TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IS UP 150 OR +0.3% OVER THE PAST YEAR.

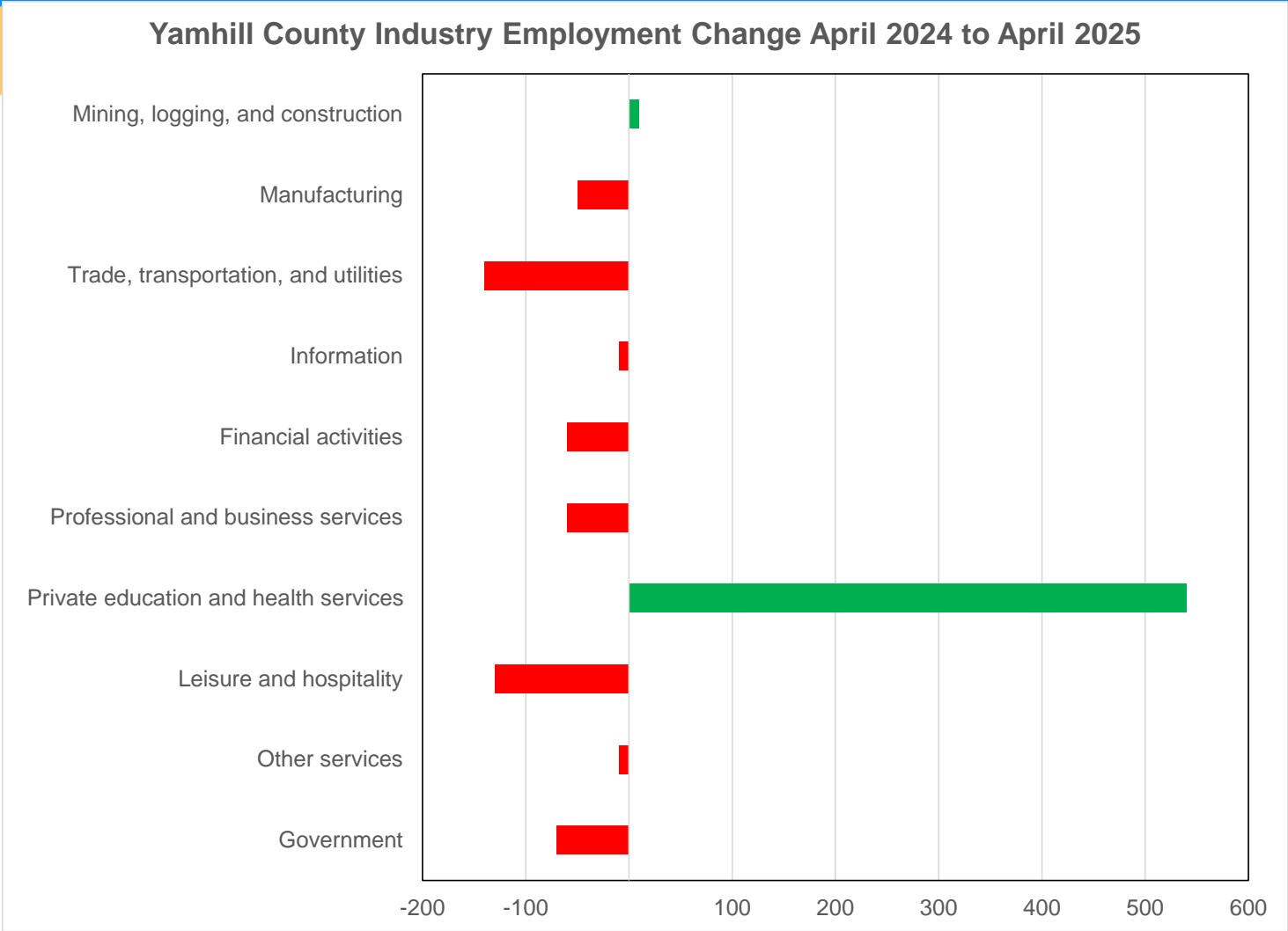


# SALEM'S TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IS UP 3,700 OR +2.0% OVER THE PAST YEAR.

Salem MSA Industry Employment Change April 2024 to April 2025



YAMHILL COUNTY'S EMPLOYMENT IS UP 20 OR 0.1% OVER THE PAST YEARS.  
HEALTH CARE IS THE ONLY SECTOR SHOWING JOBS GROWTH OVER THE YEAR.



# OREGON BUSINESSES REPORTED 51,300 VACANCIES IN WINTER 2025, THE LOWEST WINTER SINCE 2020.

## Oregon Job Vacancies, Winter 2025

<b>Vacancies</b>	<b>51,295</b>
Average Hourly Wage	\$25.38
Full-time Positions	83%
Permanent Positions	94%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	34%
Requiring Previous Experience	68%
Difficult to Fill	54%

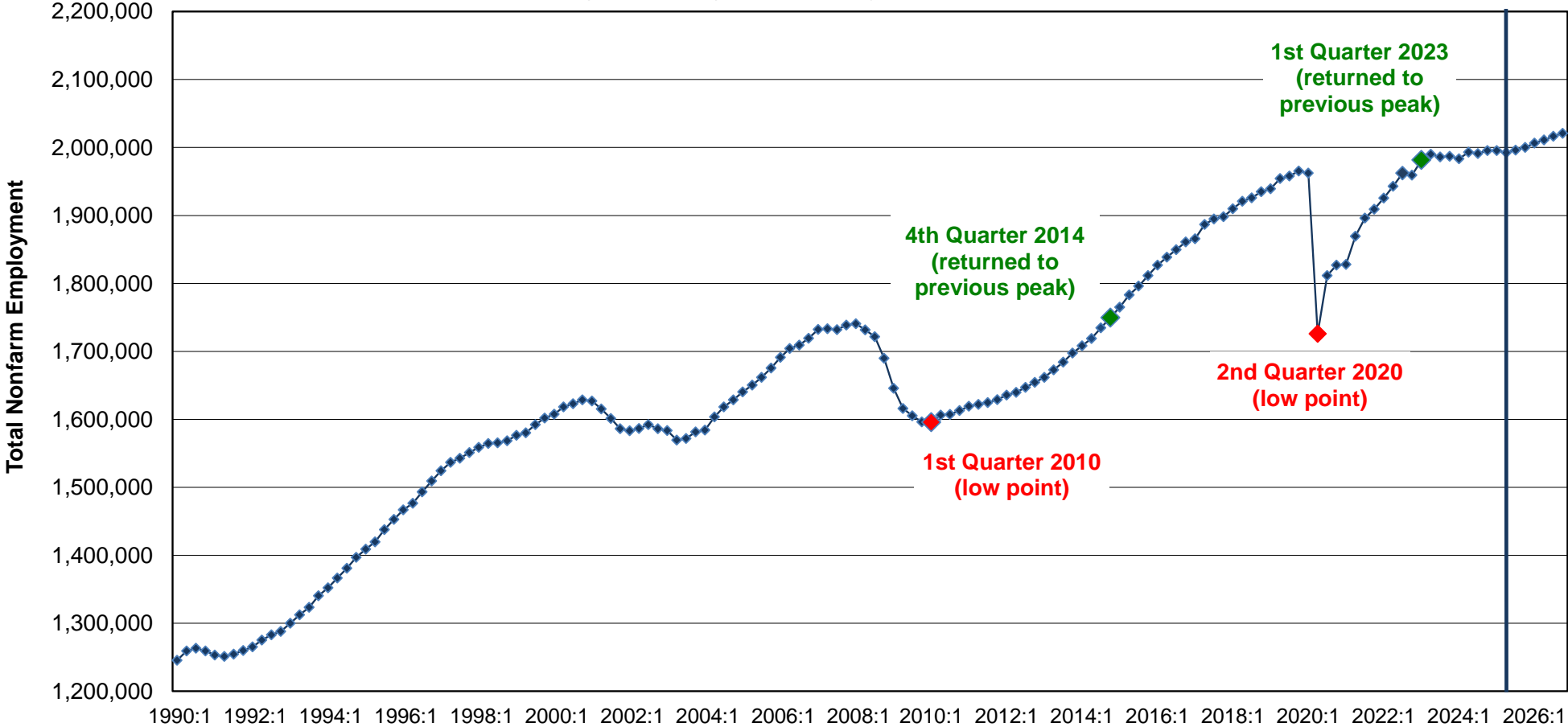
Source: Oregon Employment Department

Oregon businesses reported 51,300 vacancies in winter 2025. Vacancies increased 3% from the fall and decreased 15% from winter 2024. Employers reported difficulty filling 54% of winter 2025 vacancies.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was \$25.38 per hour, an inflation-adjusted increase of 6% from winter 2024, and a 5% decrease from fall 2024.

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

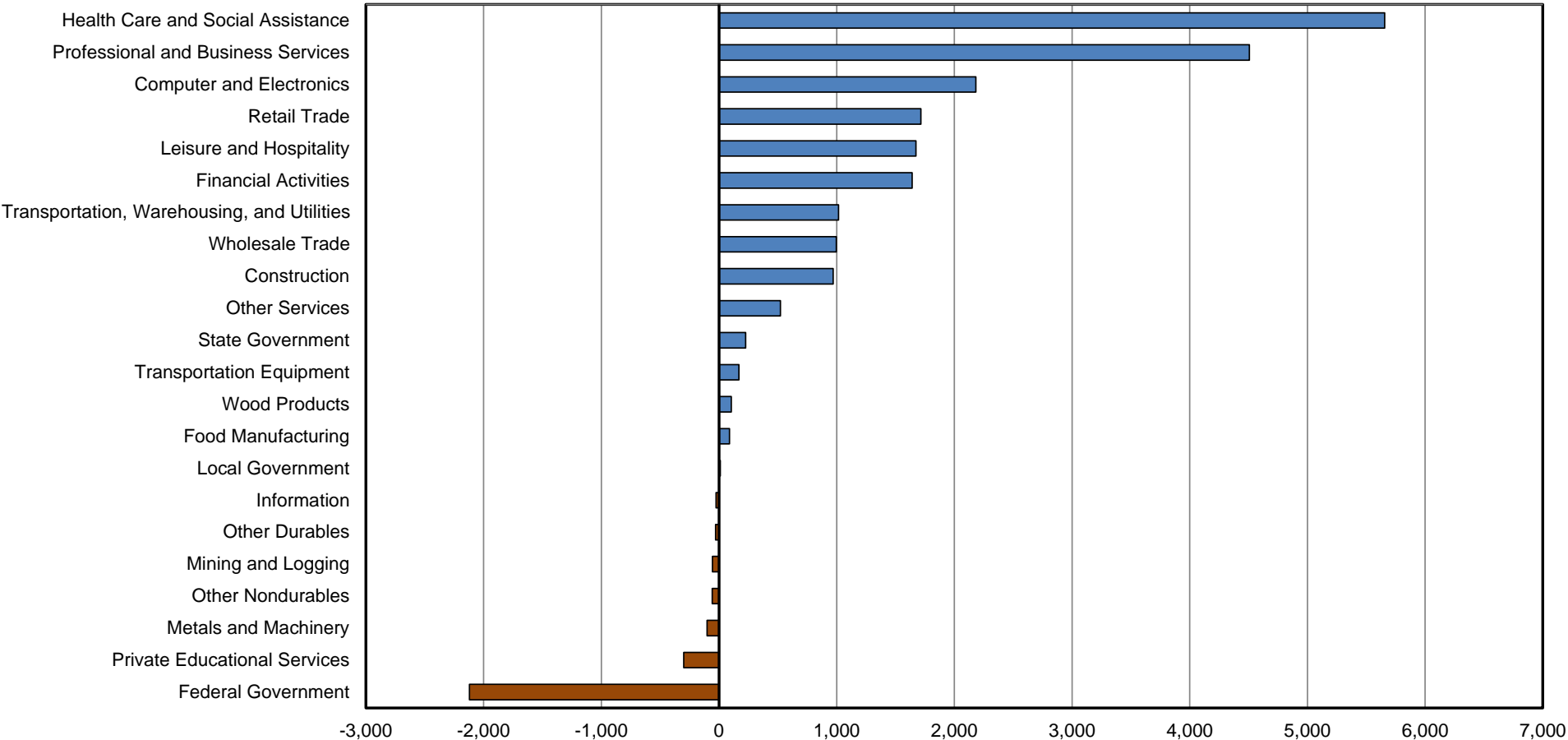
Oregon Nonfarm Payroll Employment  
Quarterly History and Projection, 1990-2026



Source: Office of Economic Analysis, Department of Administrative Services, May 2025

OEA EXPECTS OREGON TO GAIN ABOUT 18,800 JOBS IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

Expected Job Changes by Industry Sector Over The Year  
(2Q2025 - 2Q2026)



Source: Oregon Employment Department analysis using Oregon Office of Economic Analysis Forecast, May 2025

# US Macro Forecast:

*Sluggish growth insufficient to stabilize unemployment*

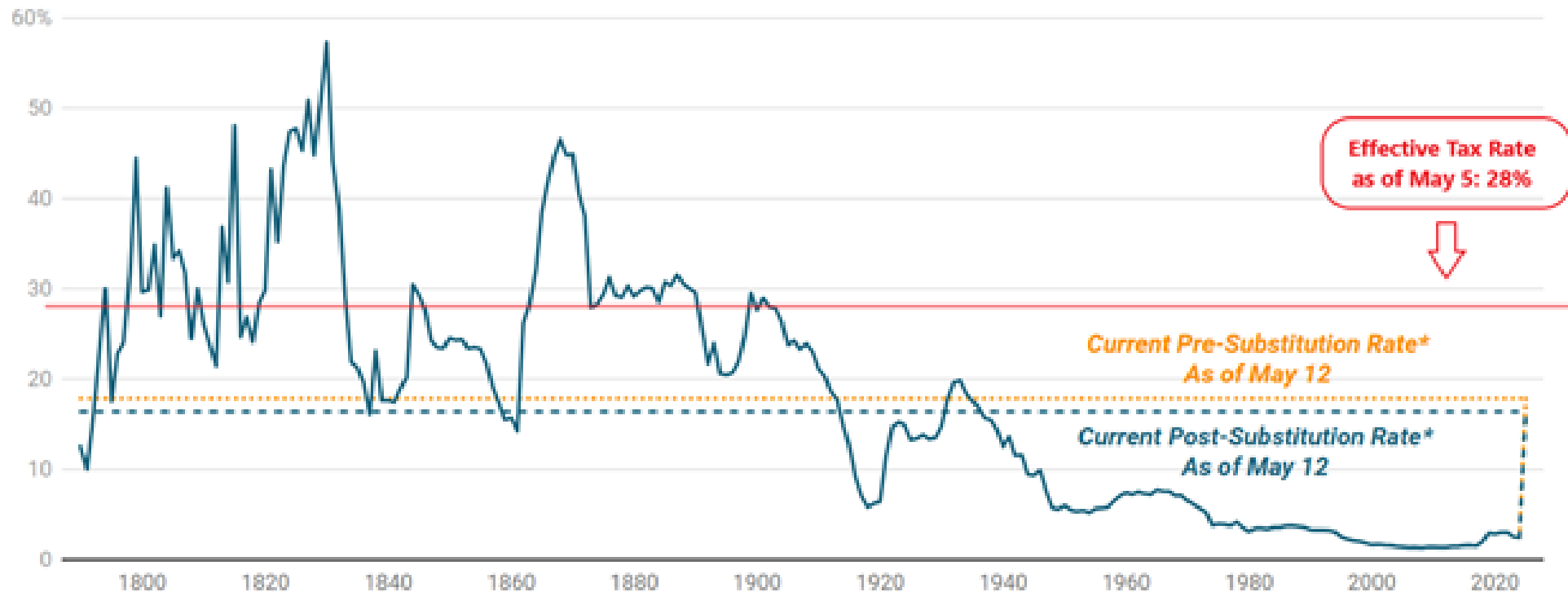
Consensus among forecasters anticipates a close brush with recession in 2025

- Inflation-adjusted **growth** (real GDP) slowing to 0.9% Q4/Q4
- **Inflation** accelerating to 3.5%
- **Unemployment** rising moderately to 4.6%
- Slower growth drives heightened recession risk
  - Consensus recession risk = 40%
  - OEA estimates at 25%
- Trade policy is a significant drag and source of uncertainty
- Fiscal policy could provide material offset
- Oregon economy tied to national trend, but more sensitive to manufacturing and trade trends



# TARIFF RATES AT GENERATIONAL HIGH

## U.S Average Effective Tariff Rate Since 1790



Source: Yale Budget Lab, OEA

\* Assumes revised April 9 tariffs stay in place.

Chart: The Budget Lab • Source: Historical Statistics of the United States Ea424-434, Monthly Treasury Statement, Bureau of Economic Analysis, The Budget Lab analysis. • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

# SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS DOWN ACROSS DISTRICTS IN THE MID-VALLEY AND OREGON.

	2024-25 Kindergarten	2024-25 Grade Twelve	Percent Difference
Linn County	1,330	1,818	-26.8%
Marion County	3,580	5,033	-28.9%
Polk County	400	547	-26.9%
Yamhill County	926	1,399	-33.8%
<b>Mid-Valley</b>	<b>6,236</b>	<b>8,797</b>	<b>-29.1%</b>
<b>Oregon</b>	<b>34,738</b>	<b>47,028</b>	<b>-26.1%</b>

# Slowing Population, Labor Force, and Job Growth in Oregon

Updated: June 12, 2024

# THE WORKFORCE CONTINUES AGING, IN OREGON AND THE U.S.

## Workers Ages 55+ Could Be Within a Decade of Retirement

Oregon Jobs in 2022	All Workers	Age 55+	% Age 55+
<b>All Sectors</b>	<b>1,908,164</b>	<b>455,792</b>	<b>24%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	52,269	17,026	33%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,787	574	32%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	30,756	8,795	29%
Utilities	8,025	2,230	28%
Other Services	65,394	17,780	27%
Public Administration	75,343	20,117	27%
Wholesale Trade	77,229	20,205	26%
Educational Services	144,633	37,806	26%
Manufacturing	188,469	49,178	26%
Transportation and Warehousing	80,059	20,392	25%
Finance and Insurance	55,032	13,480	24%
Health Care and Social Assistance	284,182	69,324	24%
Retail Trade	209,208	47,907	23%
Administrative and Waste Services	108,487	24,775	23%
Construction	122,998	28,005	23%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	111,361	24,248	22%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	29,817	6,345	21%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	51,883	10,705	21%
Information	41,014	7,684	19%
Accommodation and Food Services	170,218	29,216	17%

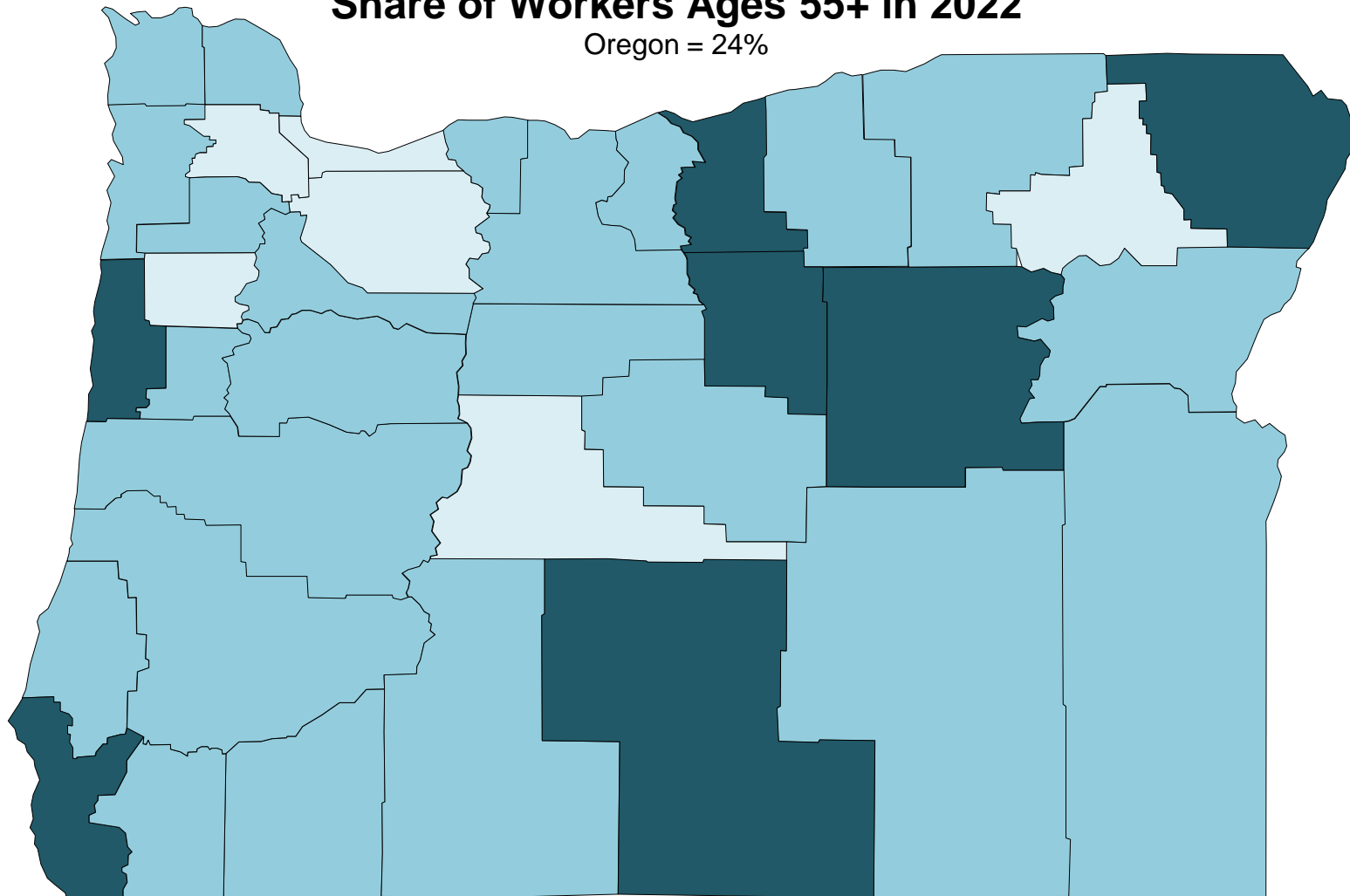
In the early 1990s, one out of 10 jobs was held by a worker age 55 or older.

By 2022, nearly one-fourth of all jobs in Oregon and the U.S. were held by workers 55+ years old.

# THE WORKFORCE CONTINUES AGING, IN OREGON AND ACROSS THE U.S.

## Share of Workers Ages 55+ in 2022

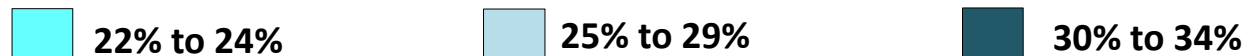
Oregon = 24%



Rural counties tend to have higher shares of workers who may be nearing retirement in the coming years.

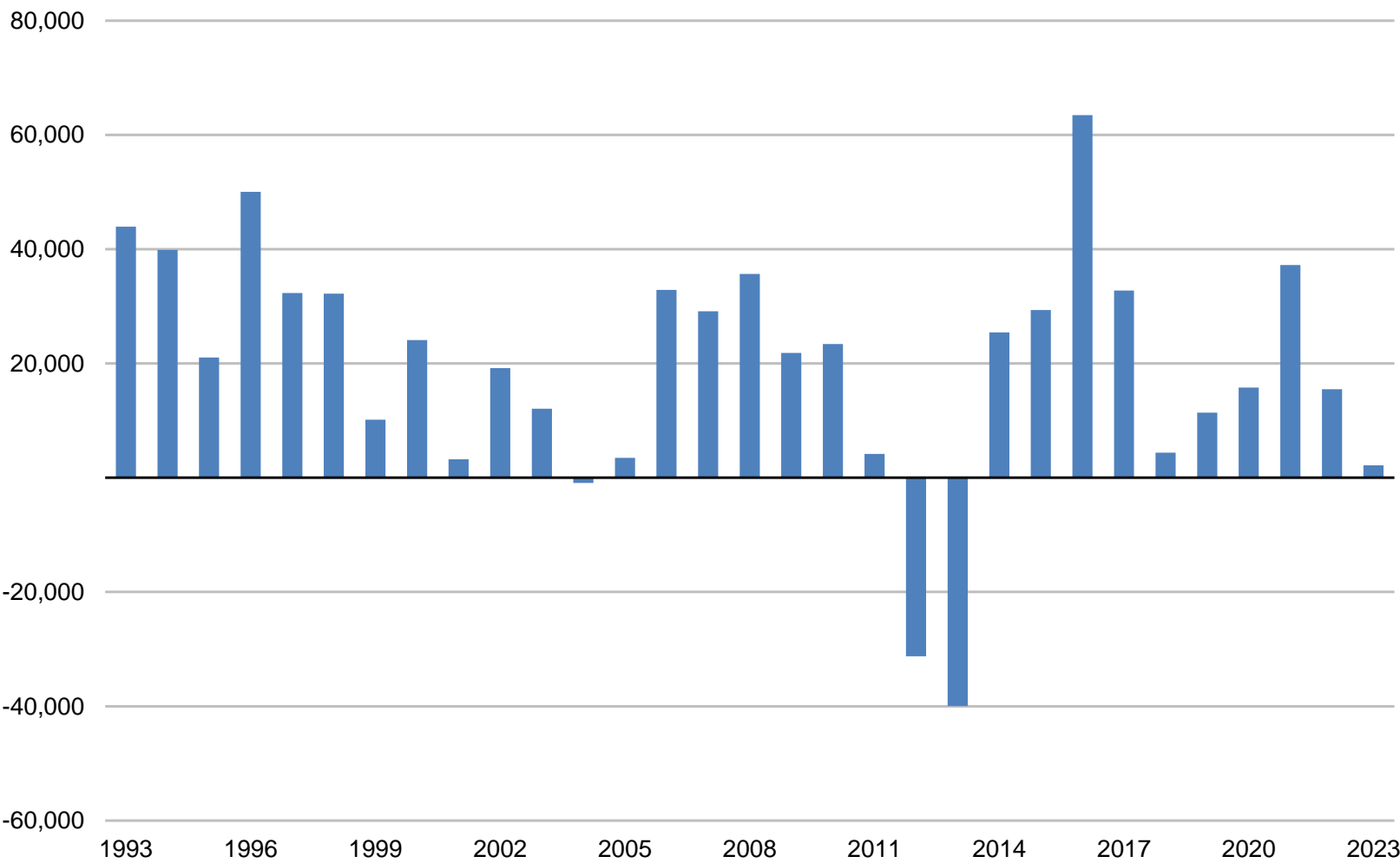
Yet, Multnomah County has more jobs held by workers 55 or older than all rural counties combined.

Source: Oregon Employment Department



# OREGON'S LABOR FORCE GROWTH HAS SLOWED.

Annual Labor Force Change in Oregon, 1993 - 2023



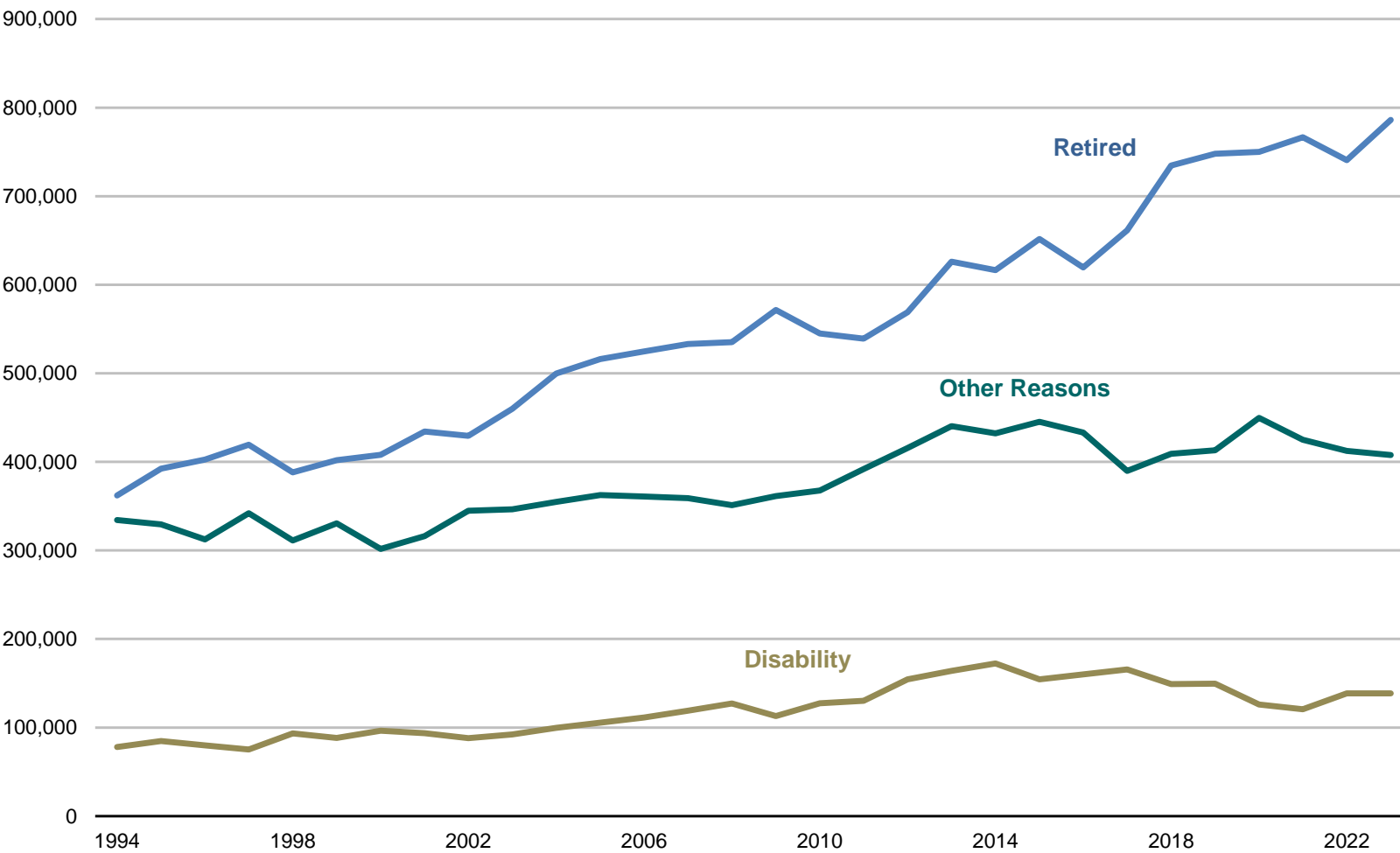
In 2023, Oregon added 2,200 people to the labor force.

That was a gain of 0.1%.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

# SLOWING LABOR FORCE GROWTH: MORE RETIREMENTS

Reasons Oregonians Ages 16+ are Not in Labor Force  
Annual Average, 1994-2023

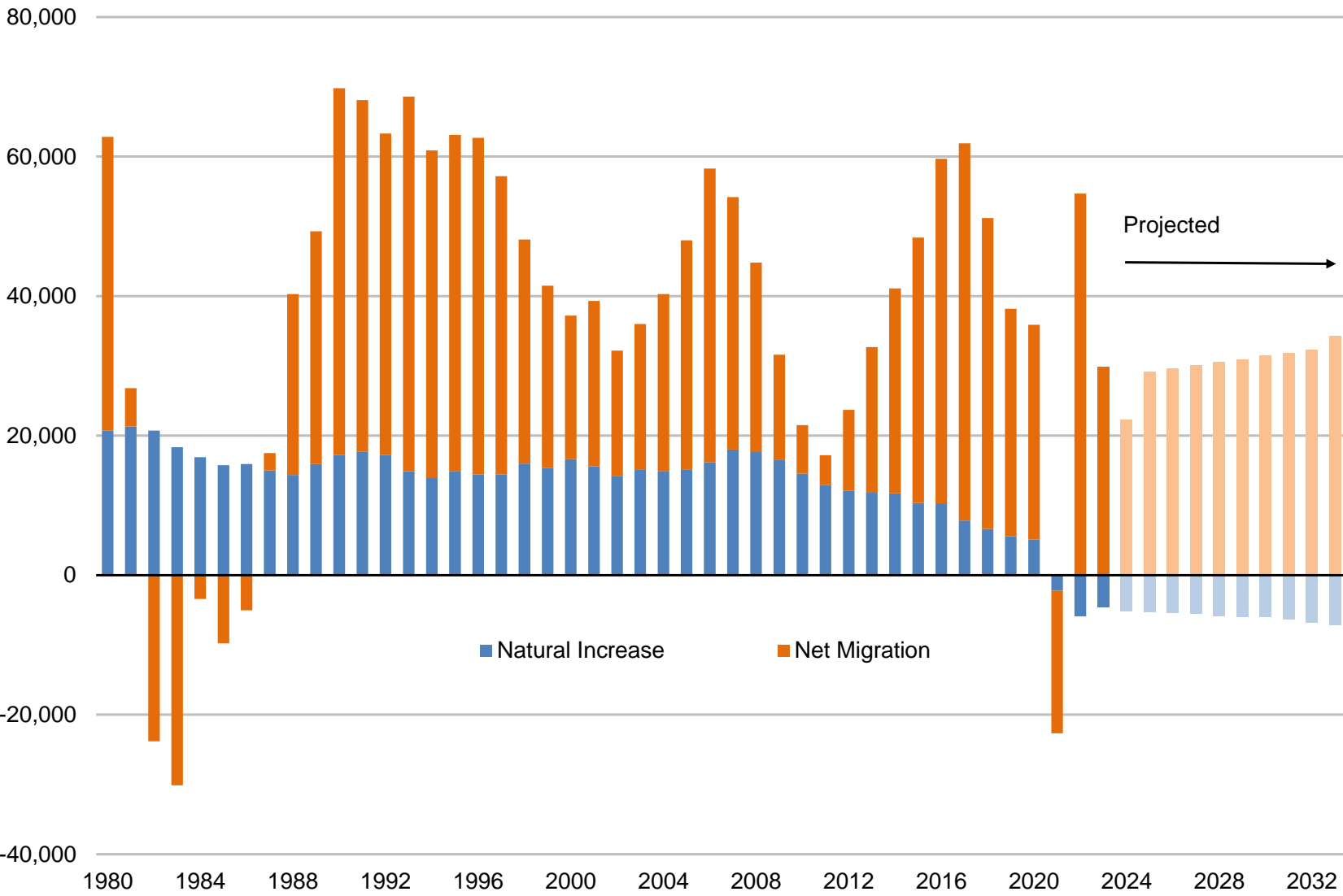


Not in Oregon's labor force due to retirement:

- Up 5% since 2019
- Rose by 26% over the past decade

# SLOWING LABOR FORCE GROWTH: SLOWER POPULATION GROWTH

Oregon's Population Components of Change



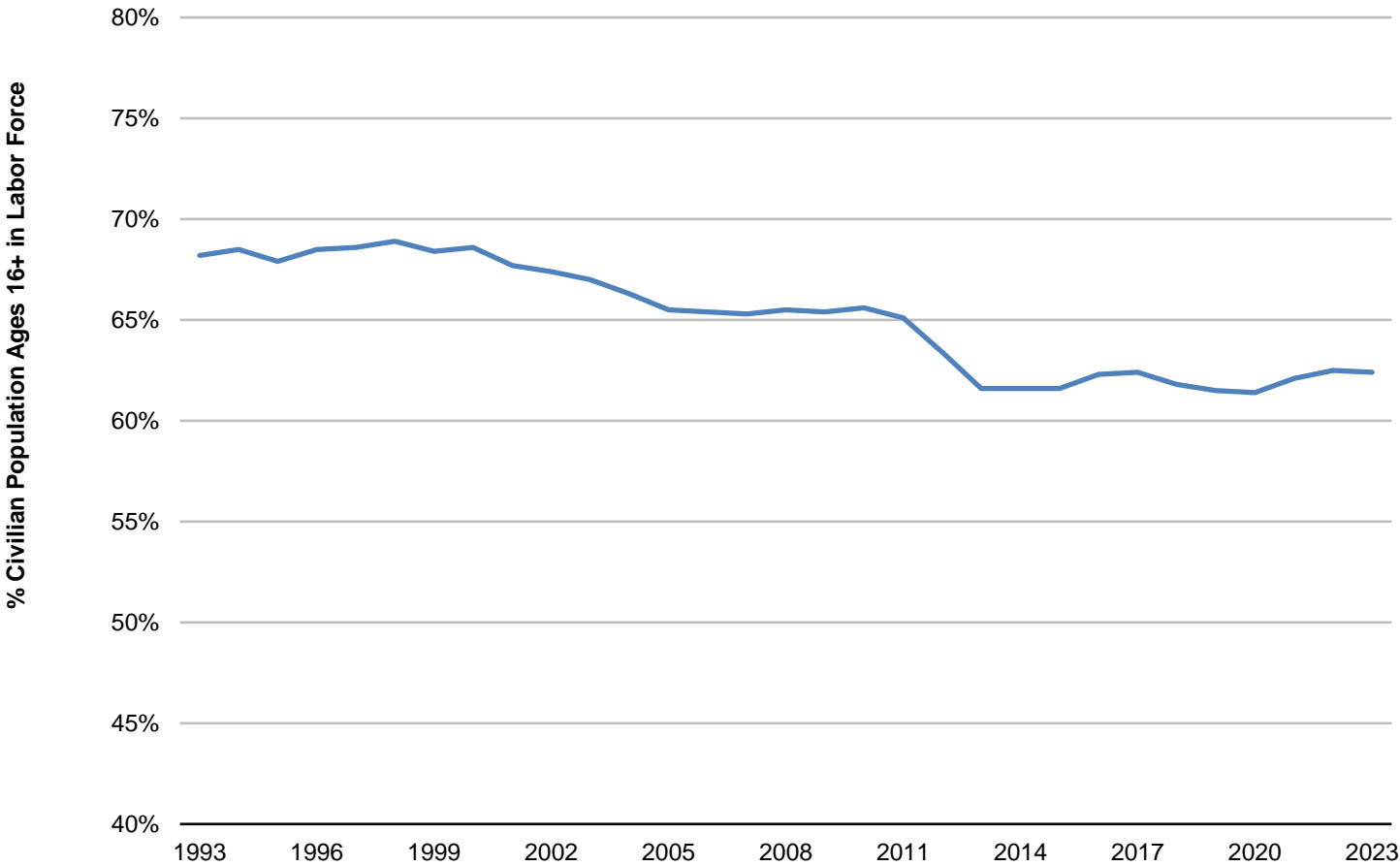
Portland State University estimates show a rebound in 2022, but population growth is projected to be slower in the coming years than historical norms.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis



# LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES HOLDING

Oregon's Labor Force Participation Rate, 1993-2023

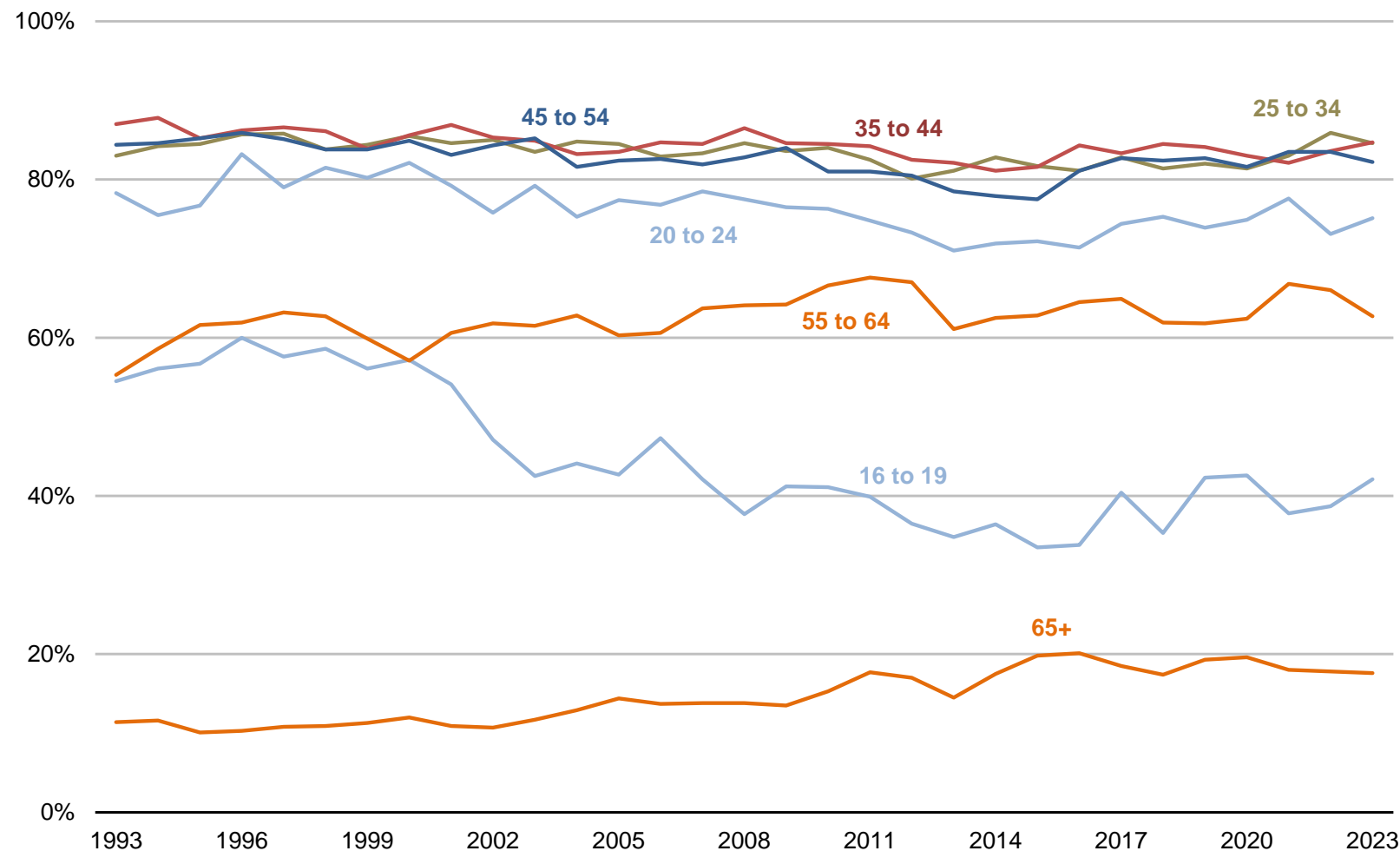


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

May be able to grow the labor force amid slower population and labor force growth by instead increasing participation rates within the existing population.

# LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES VARY WIDELY BY AGE CATEGORY

Oregon Labor Force Participation Rates by Age Category, 1993 - 2023



Participation rate rebounding slightly for teens, but well below historic highs.

The rate doubled for those 65 years and older over the past decade.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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