

Employment Trends in Oregon: What to Know and Where to Find Information

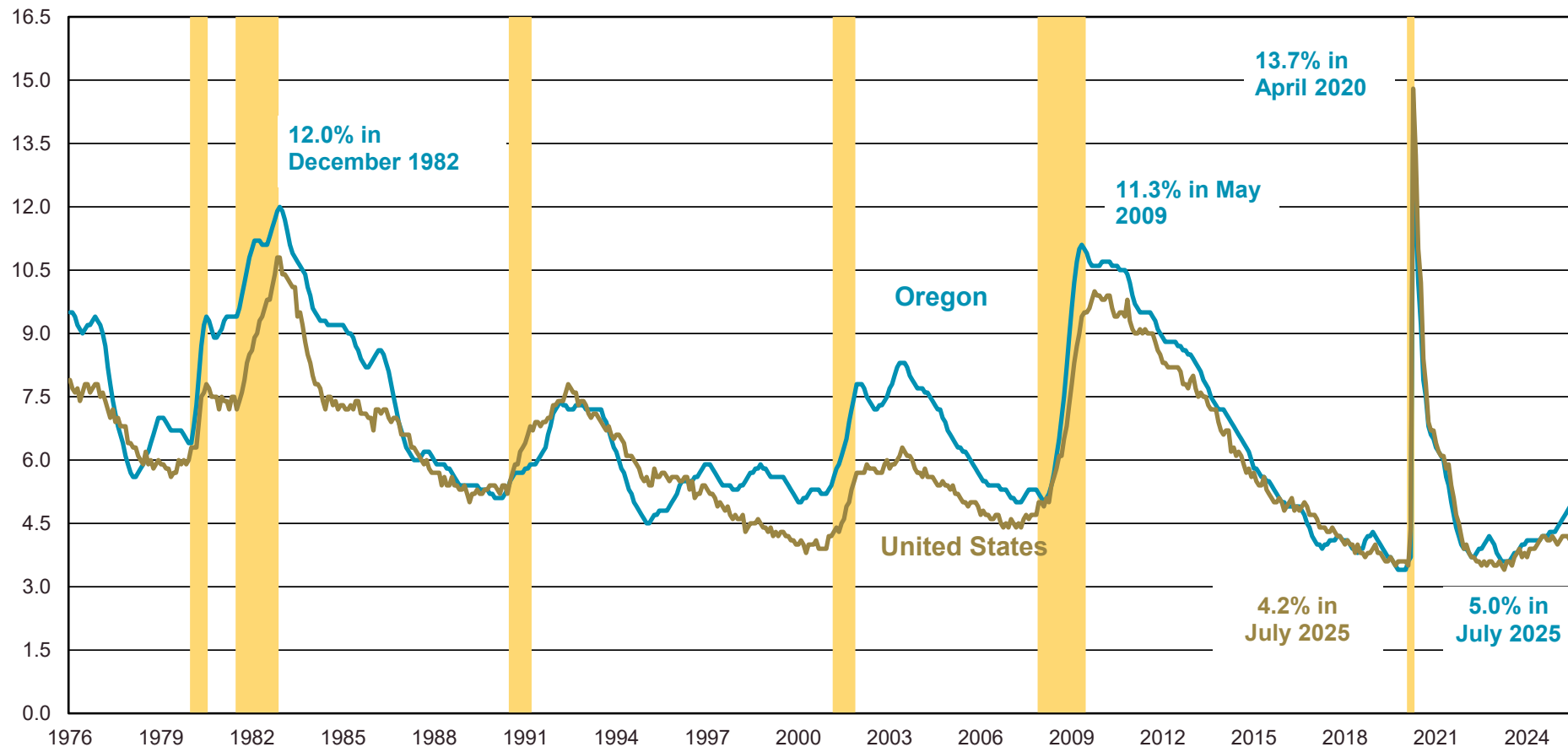
Oregon Commission for the Blind
August 27th, 2025

UNEMPLOYMENT

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
and Current Population Survey (CPS)

Oregon's unemployment rate was 5.0% in July.

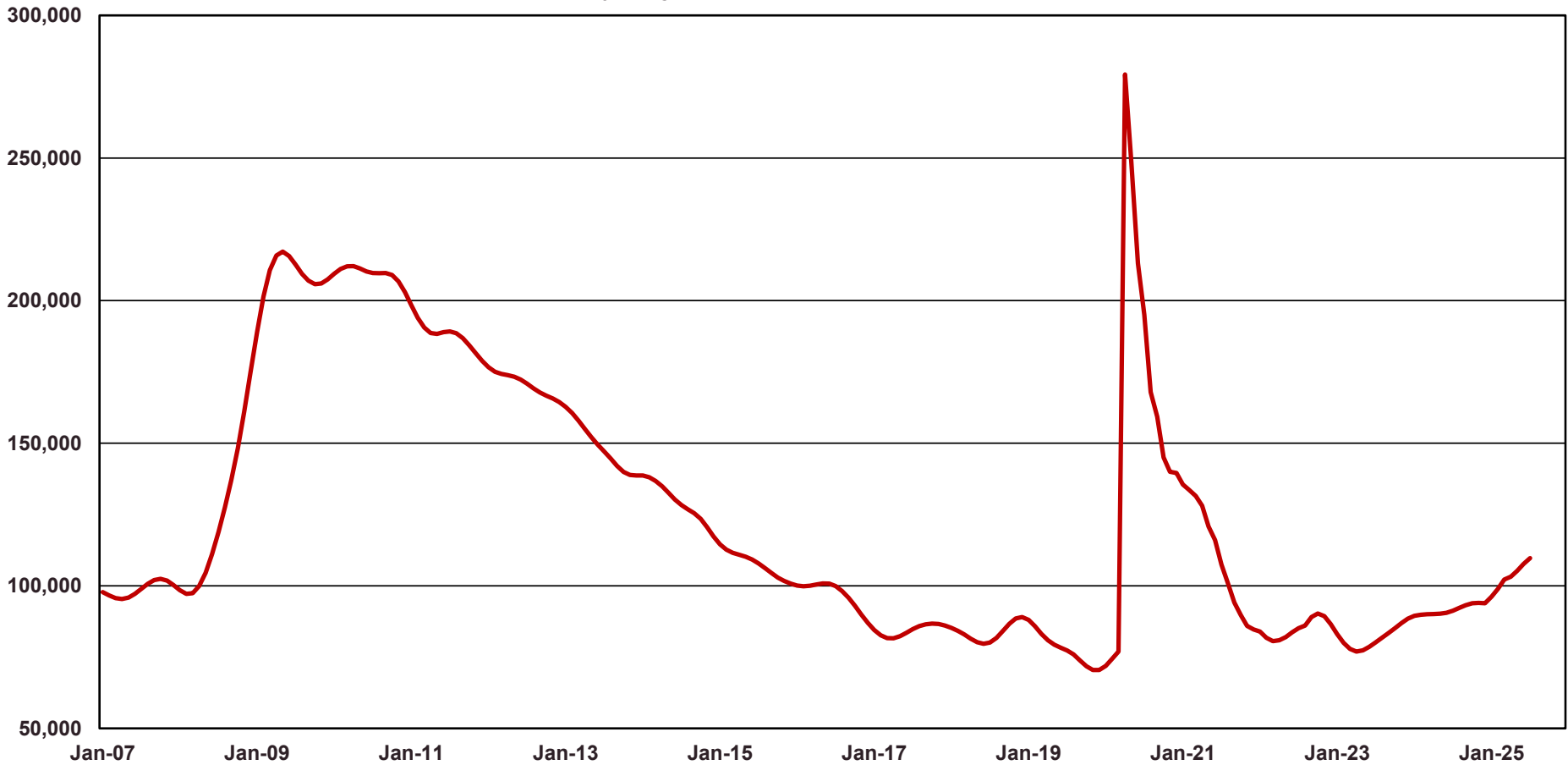
Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 5.0% in July 2025 Unemployed % of Labor Force (Bars Represent Recessions)



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

The number of unemployed Oregonians increased by 2,000 in July.

Unemployed Persons, Oregon Statewide
Seasonally Adjusted, 2007 to Present



Seasonally Adjusted
Unemployment:

Pre-COVID Low
Nov 2019: 70,500

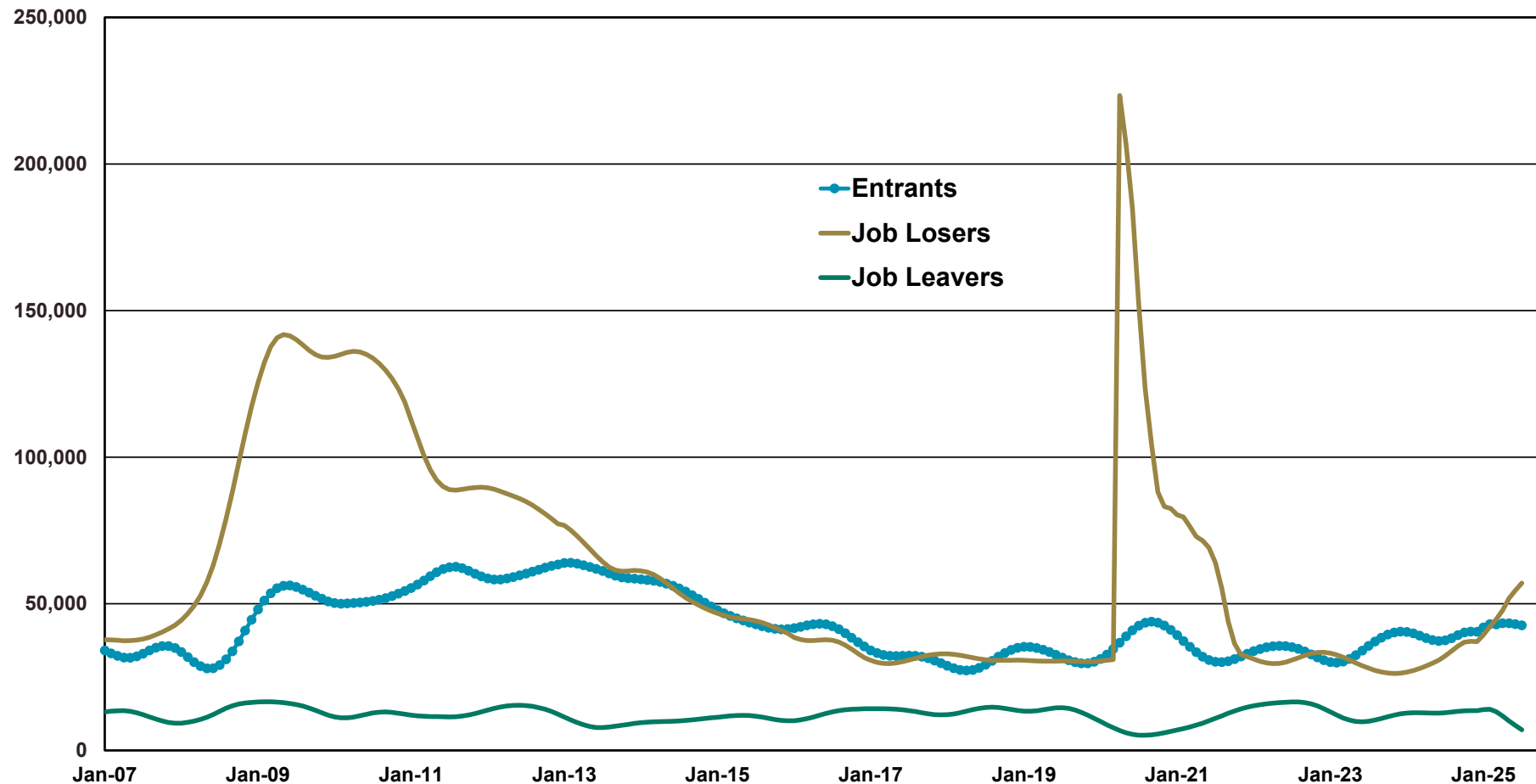
Highest
April 2020: 279,300

Current
July 2025: 109,700

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Why are Oregonians unemployed?

Oregon Unemployment by Reason [Trend]



New or returning to the workforce
42,700 (40%)

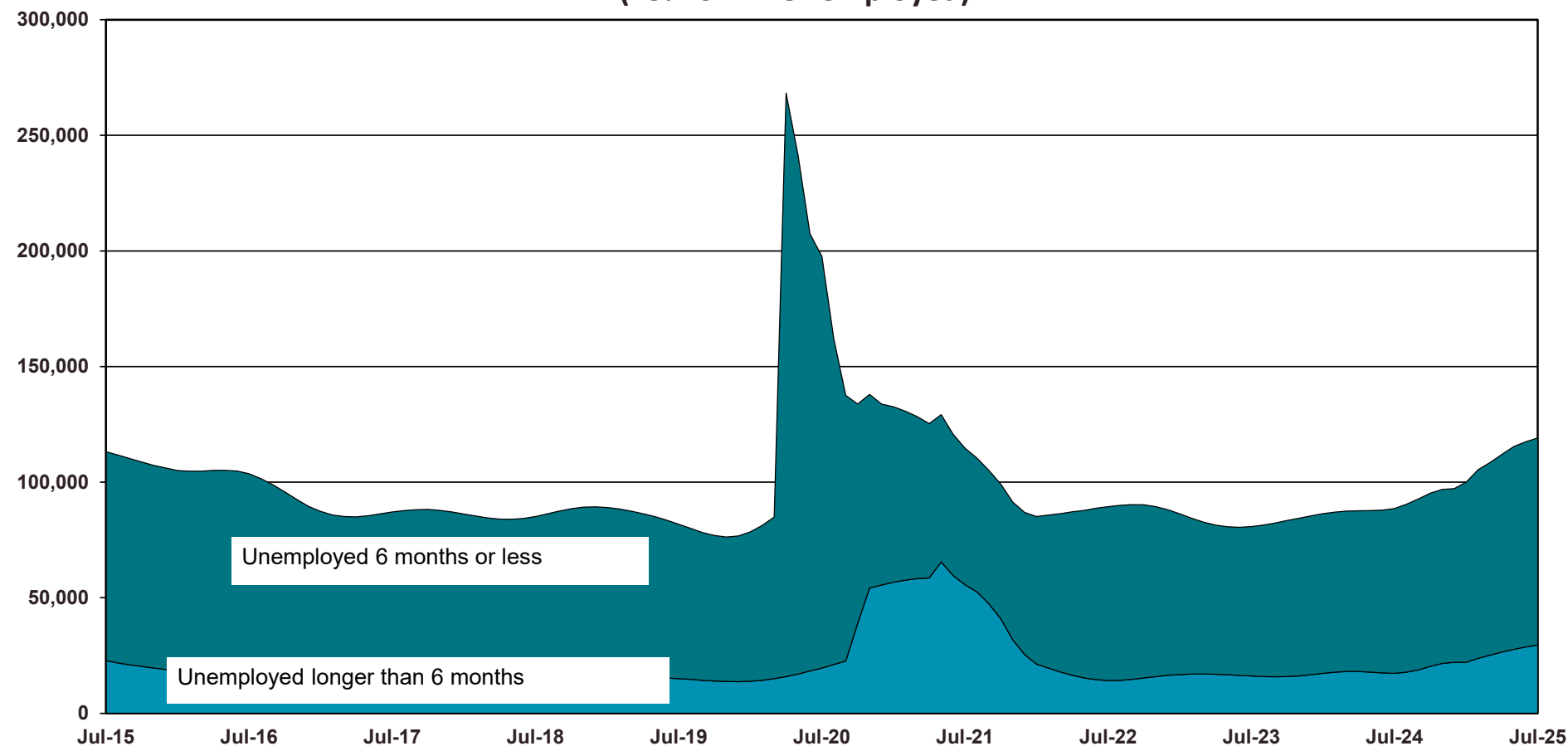
Lost job
57,100 (53%)

Left job voluntarily
7,000 (7%)

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Population Survey

One of four unemployed Oregonians have been out of work for at least six months.

There are 30,300 Long-Term Unemployed Oregonians
(25% of All Unemployed)



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Definition of unemployed

To be counted as unemployed (in the regularly used definition), an individual must be age 16 or older, not on active duty in the military, not in an institution, and:

- Not employed
- Available for work
- Making specific efforts to find employment within the last four weeks.

Note: Whether or not an individual has applied for, is receiving, or has ever received unemployment insurance benefits is not a factor in the statistical definition of being unemployed.

JOB CHANGE BY INDUSTRY

Employers dropped 2,700 jobs from nonfarm payrolls jobs in July.

Oregon's Monthly Job Change
July 2022 - July 2025, Seasonally Adjusted

Average monthly nonfarm
employment changes:

2019

+2,600 jobs

2020

-12,700 jobs

2021

+8,500 jobs

2022

+4,000 jobs

2023

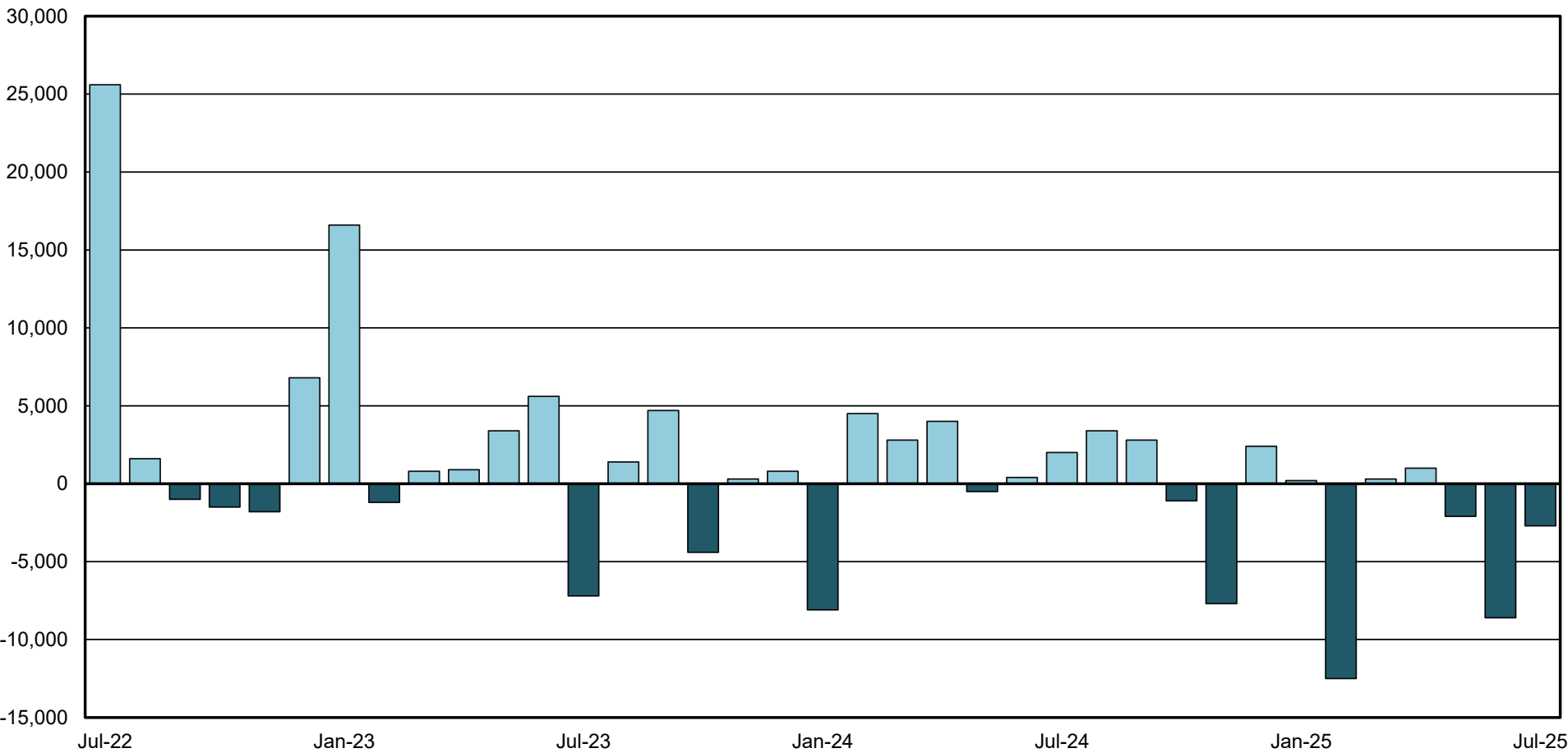
+1,800 jobs

2024

+400 jobs

2025 (Jan-Jul)

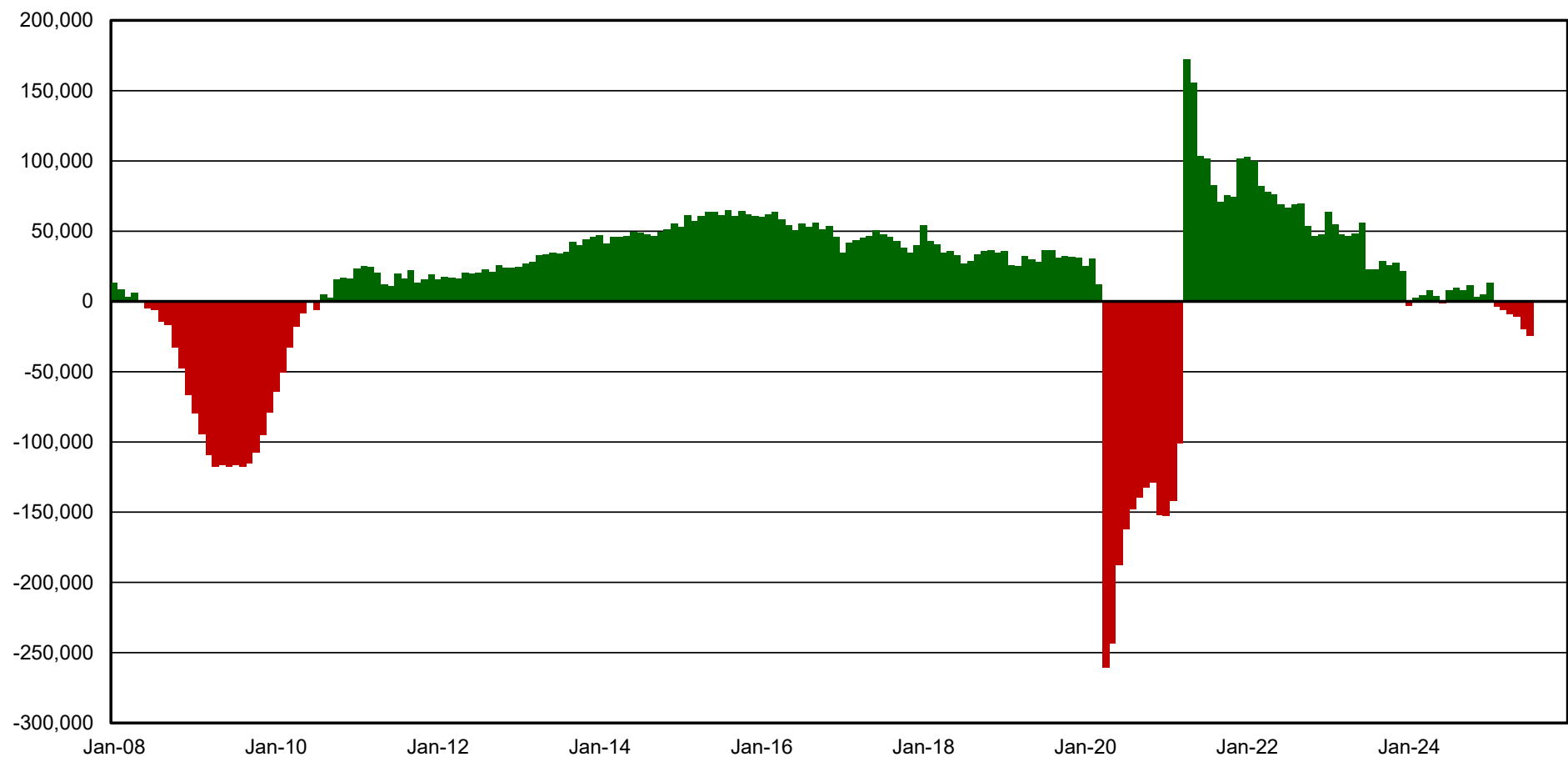
-3,500 jobs



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

Employment dropped 24,600 (-1.2%) jobs from July 2024 to July 2025.

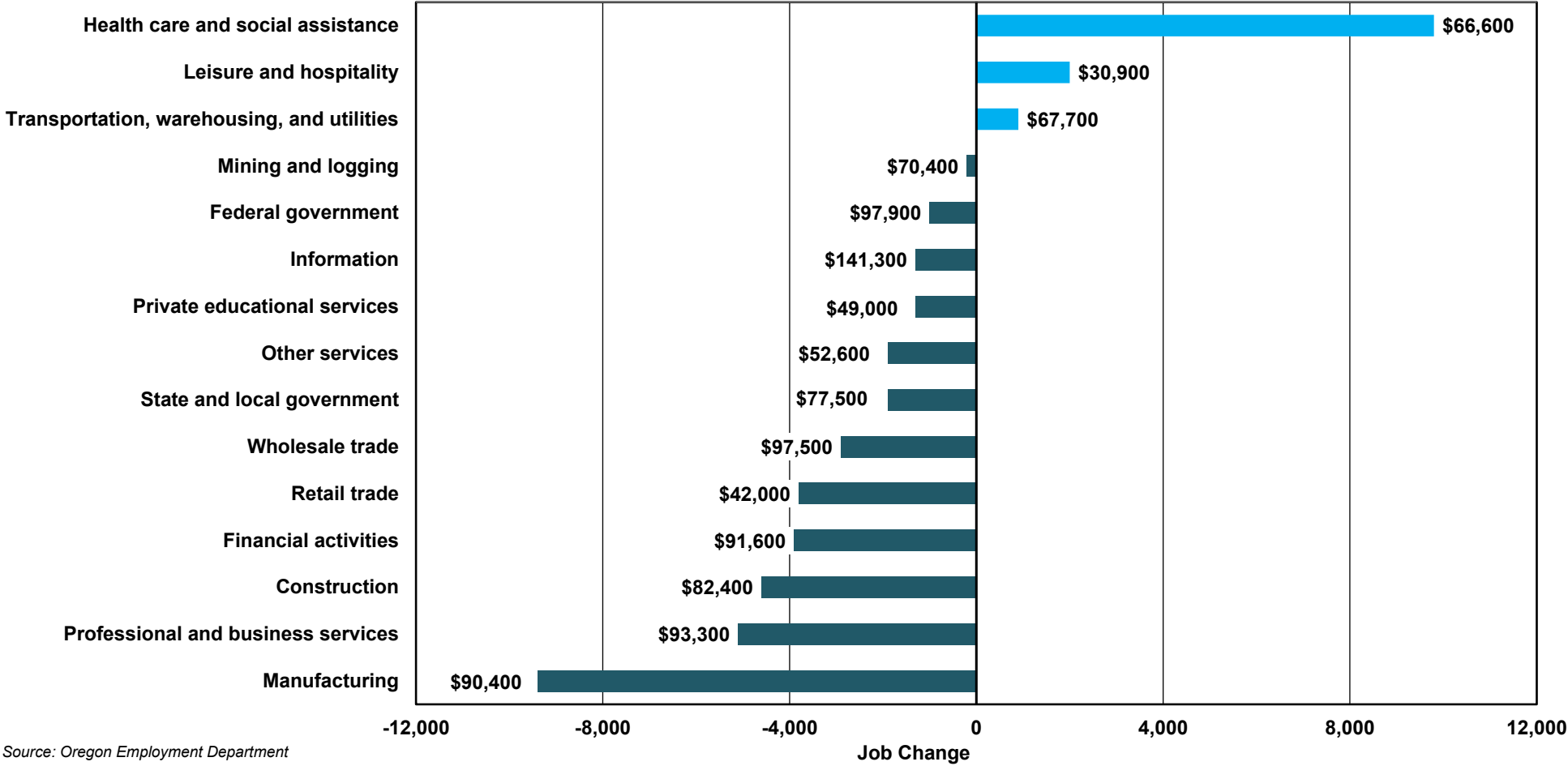
Oregon's Year-Over-Year Job Growth/Decline
Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

Oregon's job gains have been concentrated in health care and social assistance.

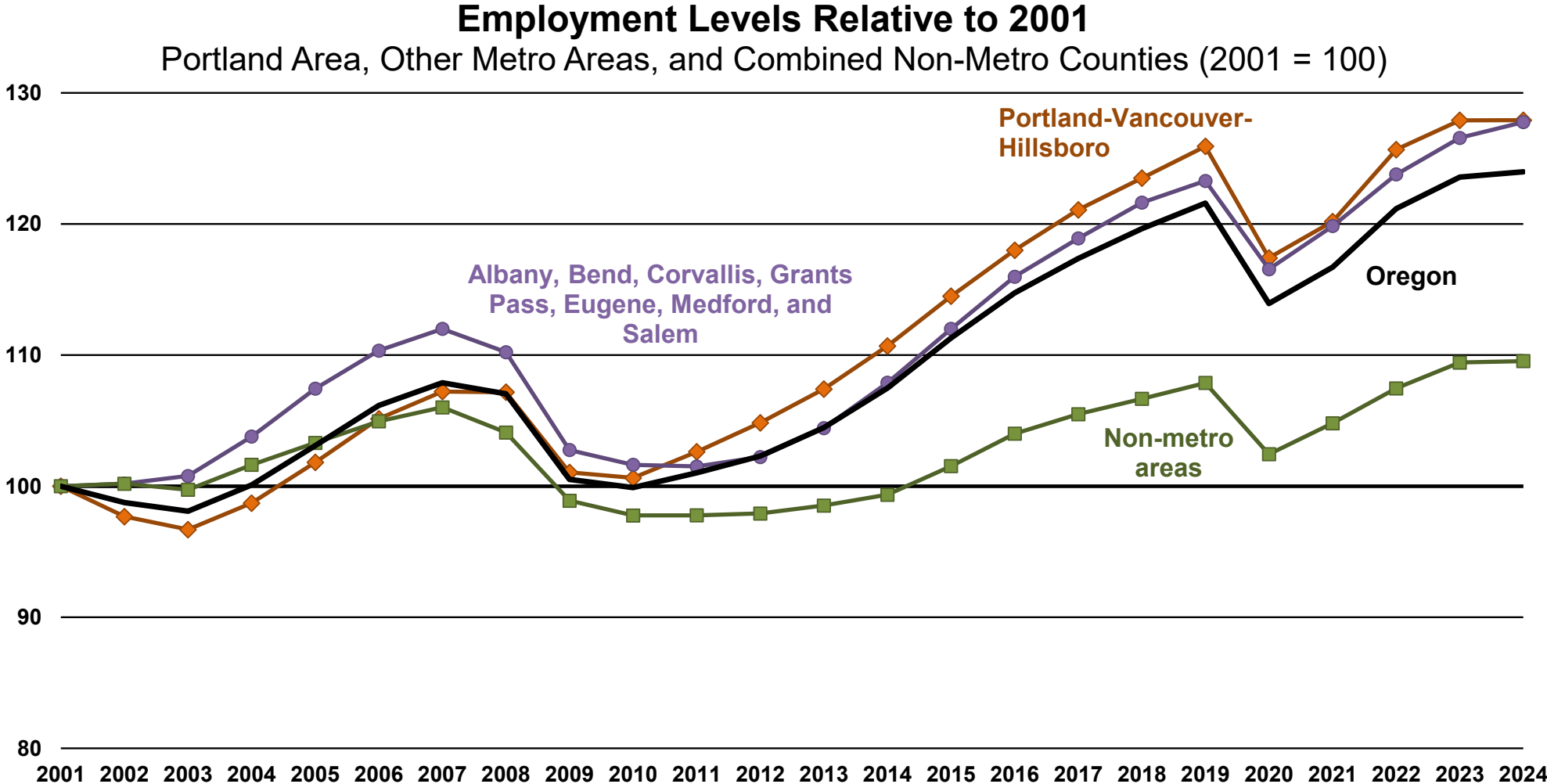
Oregon Job Change and Average Pay by Industry
July 2024 - July 2025 Job Change, 2024 Average Pay



2024 All-Industry
Average = \$71,300

Source: Oregon Employment Department

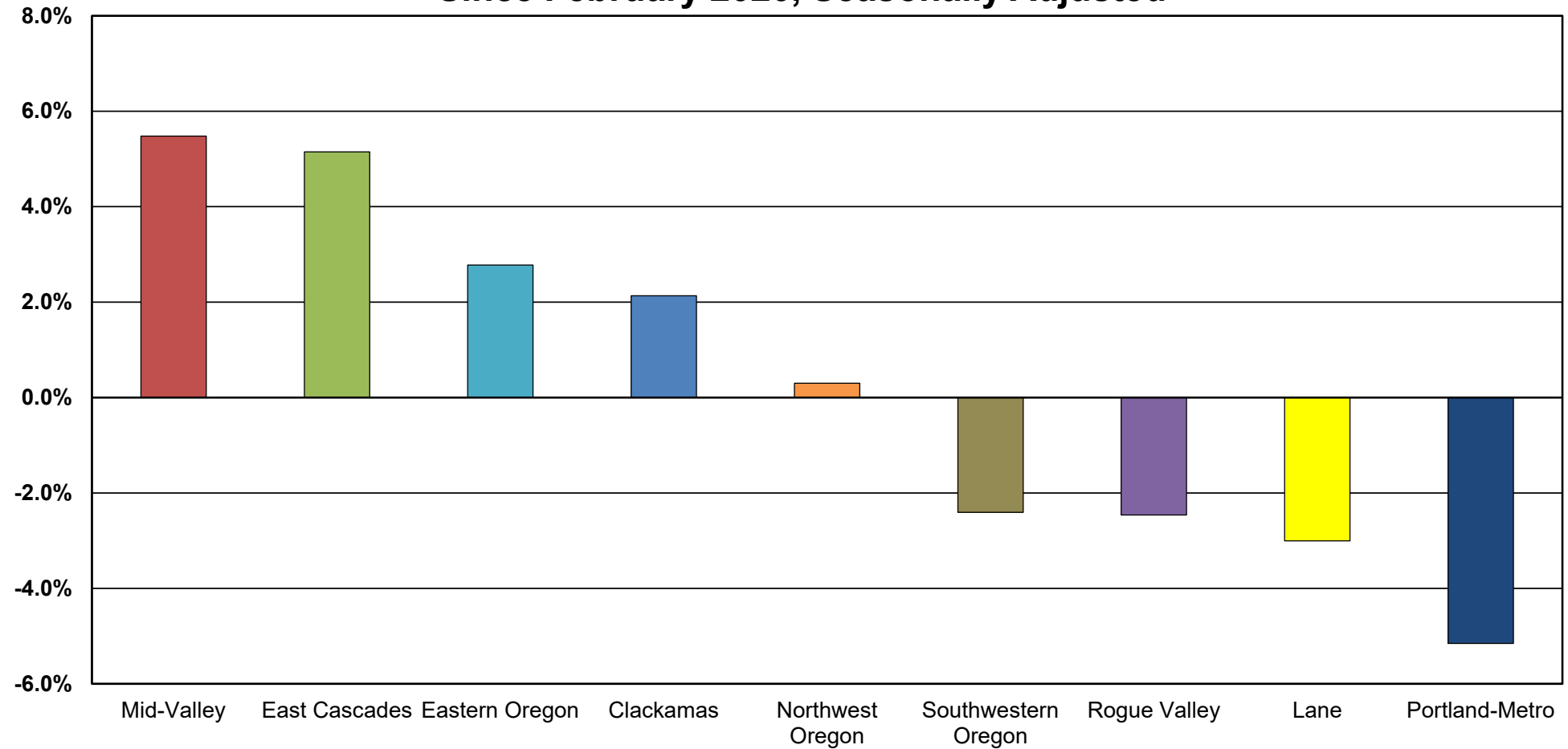
Employment gains slowed in 2024.



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

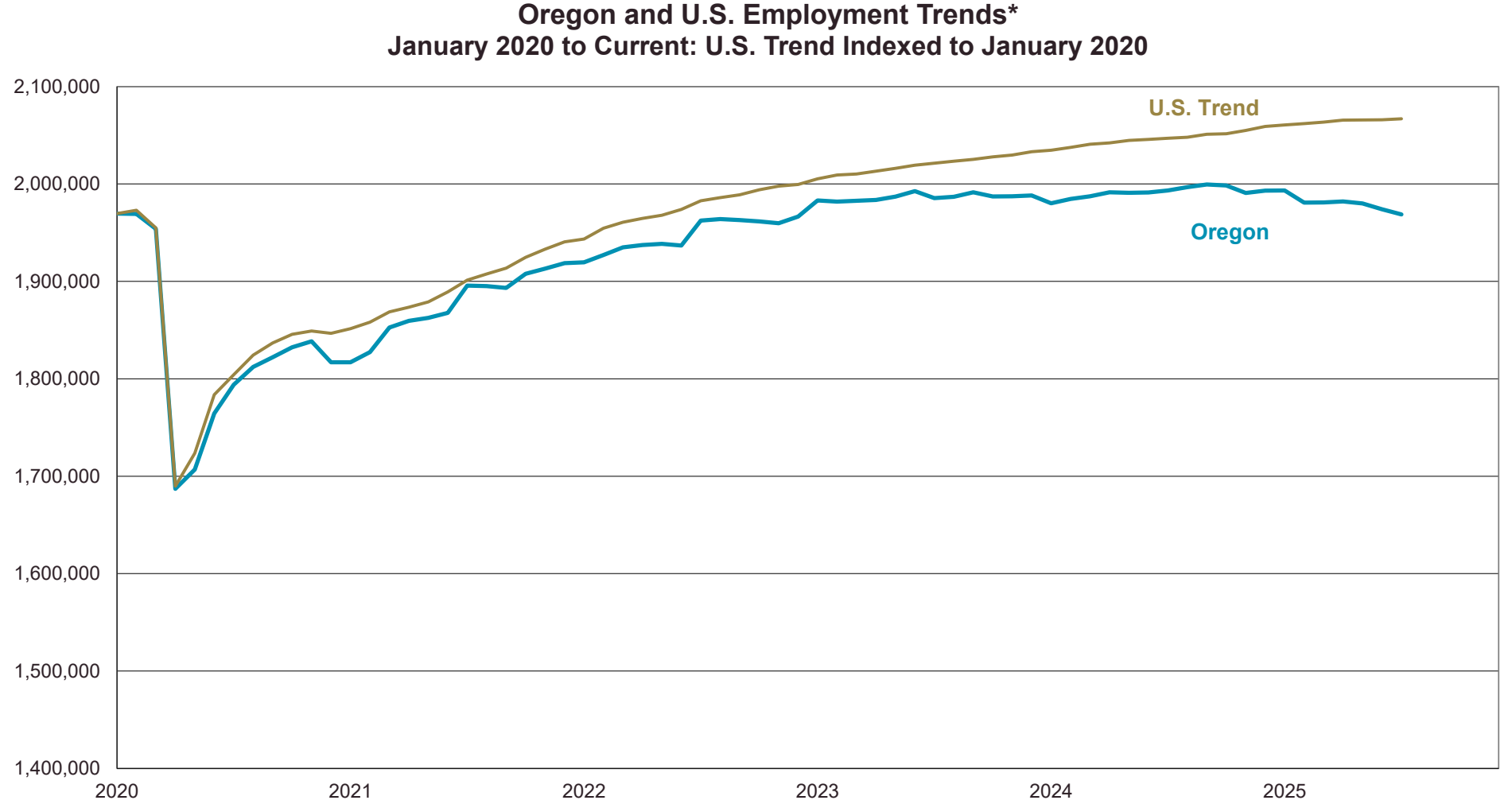
Five of nine workforce areas have more jobs now than in February 2020.

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



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

Oregon no longer has as many jobs as before the pandemic recession

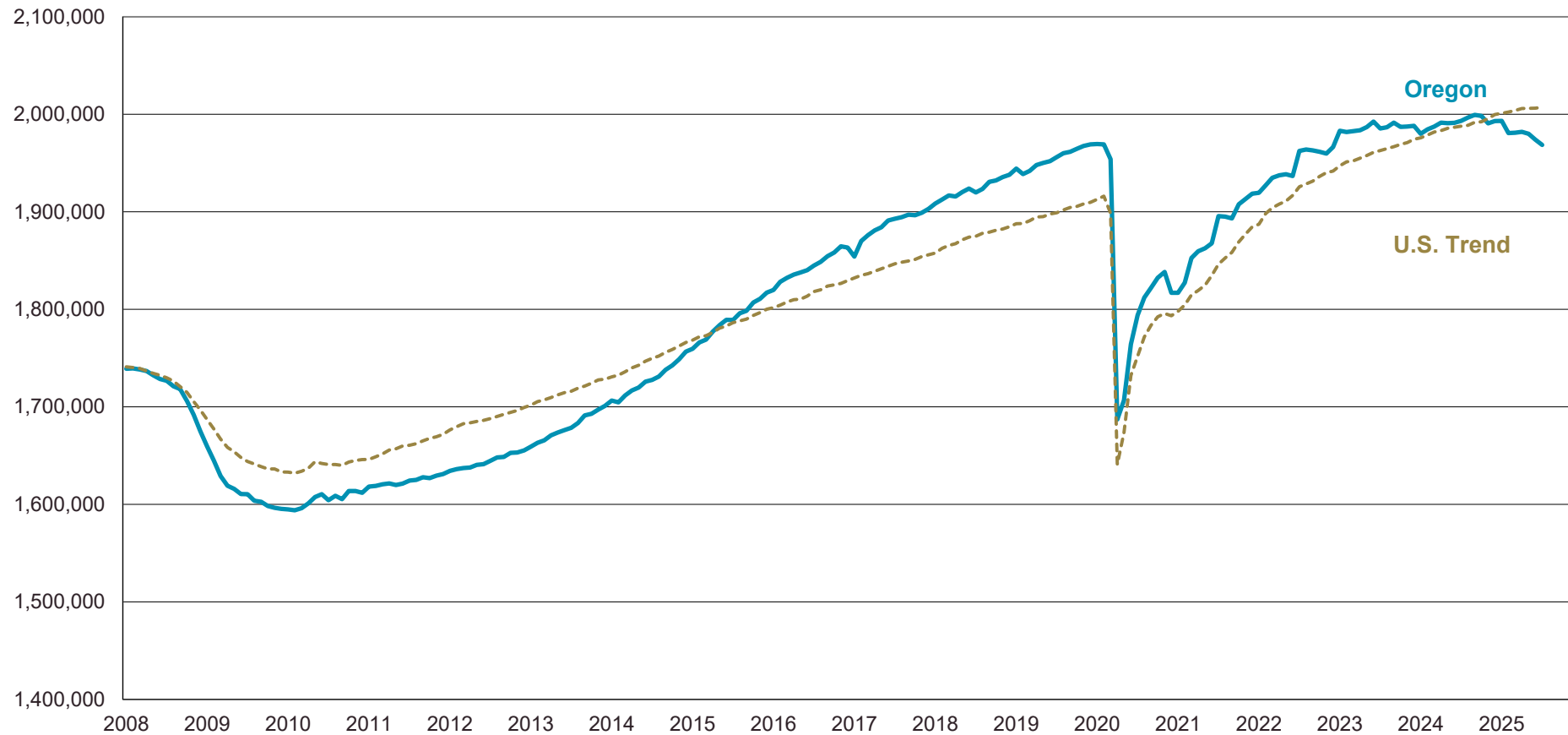


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

* Seasonally Adjusted

Oregon gained fewer jobs in the last recession

Oregon and U.S. Employment Trends*
December 2007 to Current:
U.S. Trend Indexed to December 2007

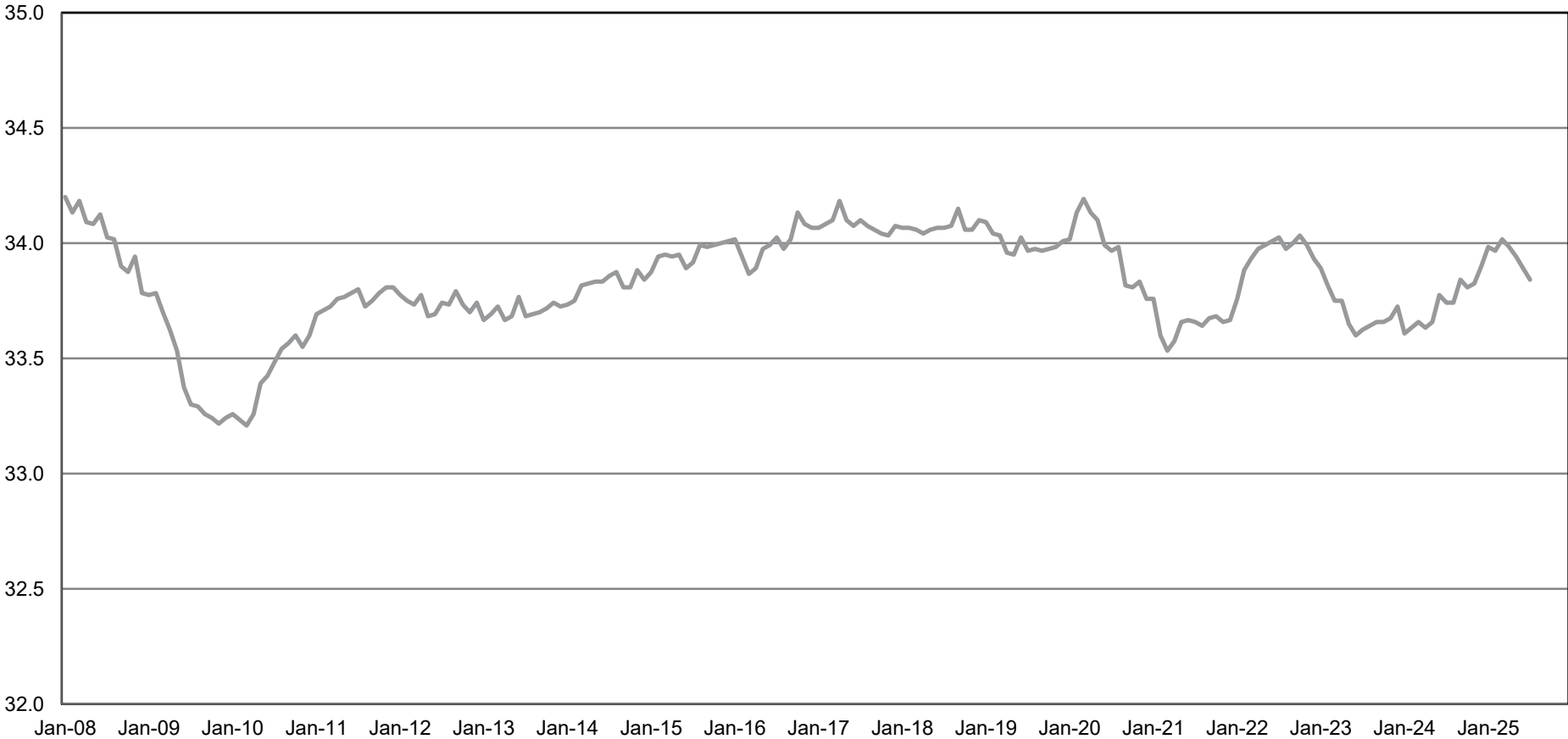


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

* Seasonally Adjusted

Private-sector employees worked an average of 33.8 hours over the past year.

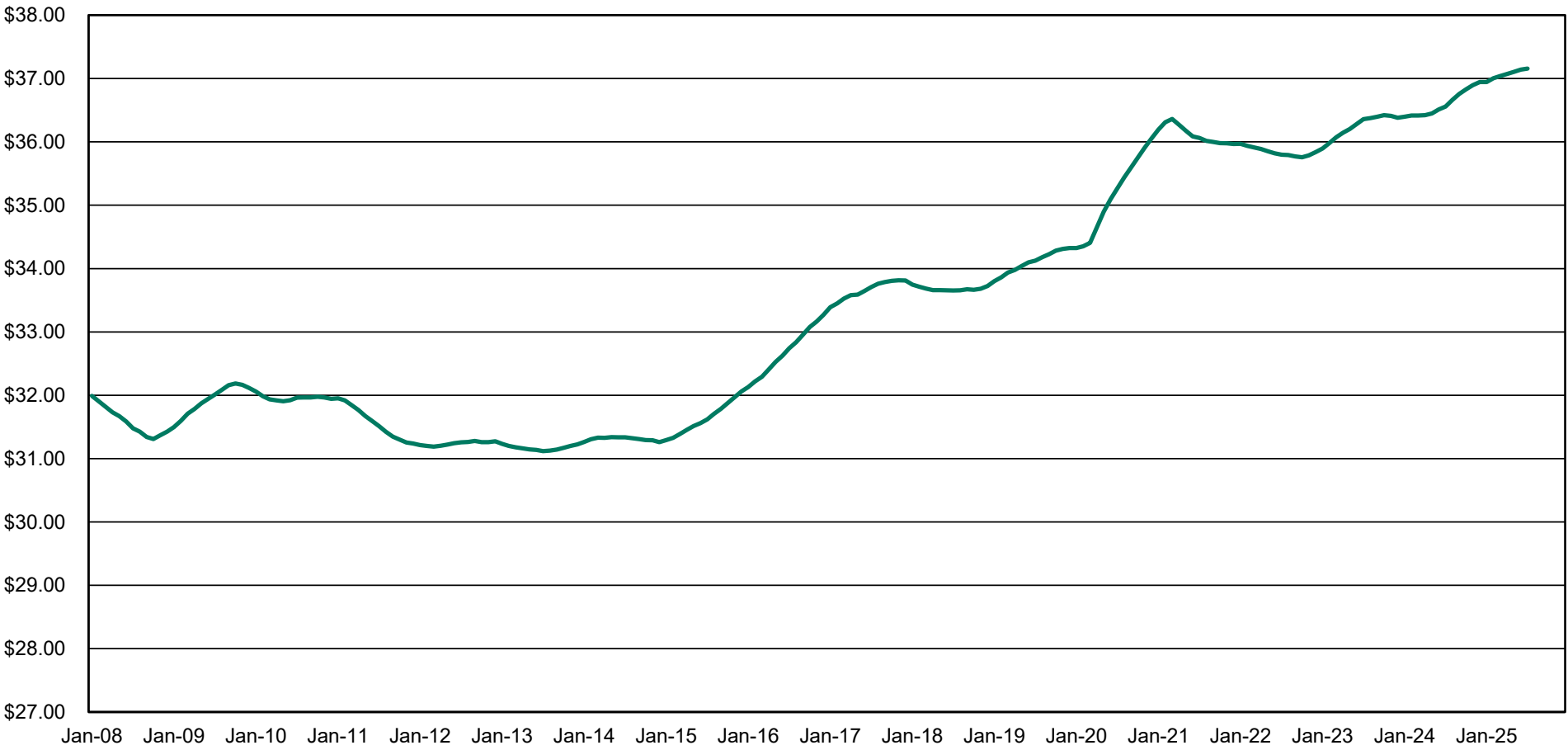
Weekly Hours per Worker, Oregon
Private Nonfarm Employment, 12-Month Moving Average



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

Real average wages for private nonfarm jobs have risen in recent months.

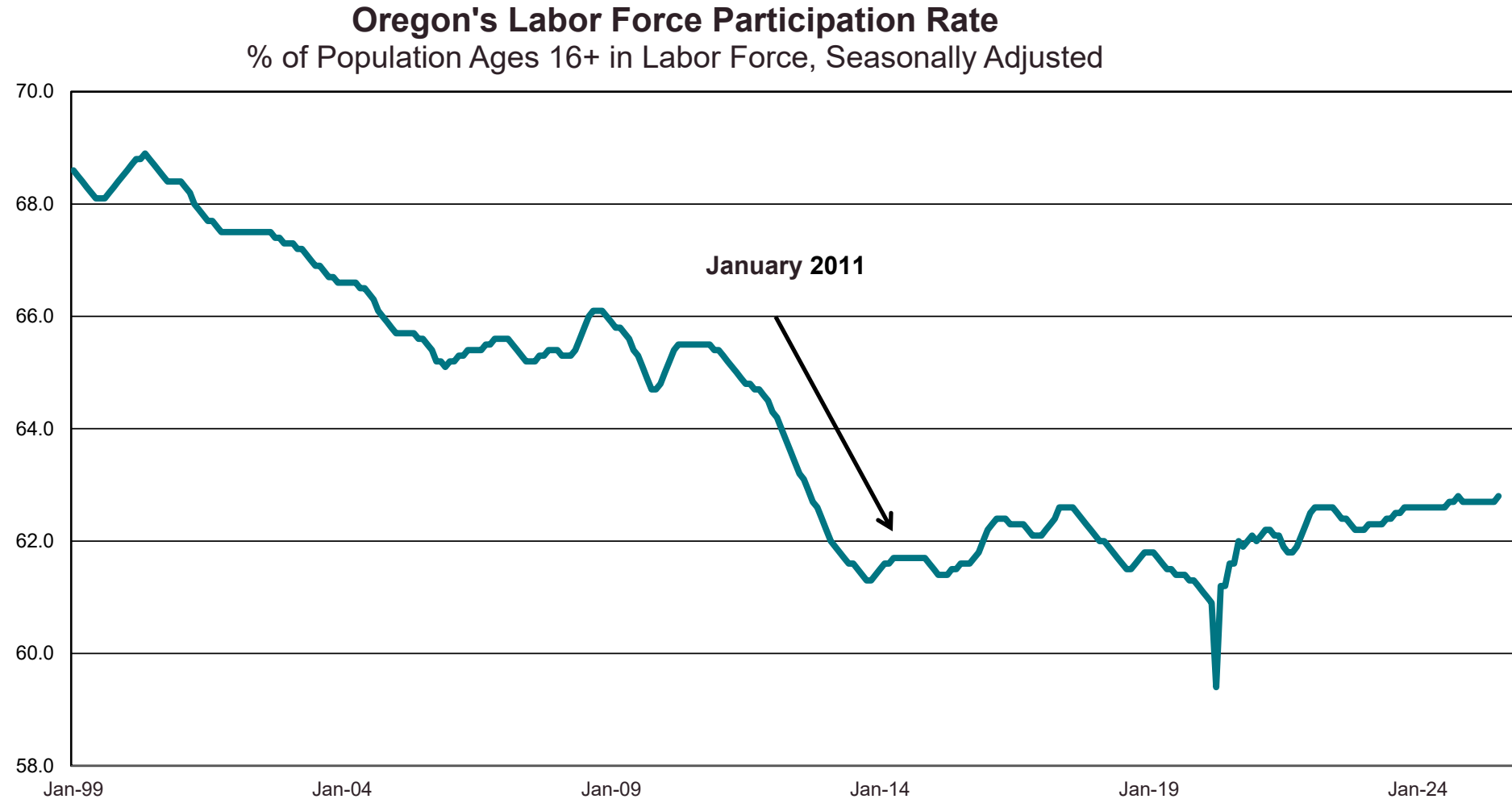
Average Hourly Earnings
Oregon, 12-Month Moving Average, Adjusted for Inflation



Source: Oregon Employment Department and Bureau of Labor Statistics. The inflation adjustment is calculated using the U.S. CPI-U.

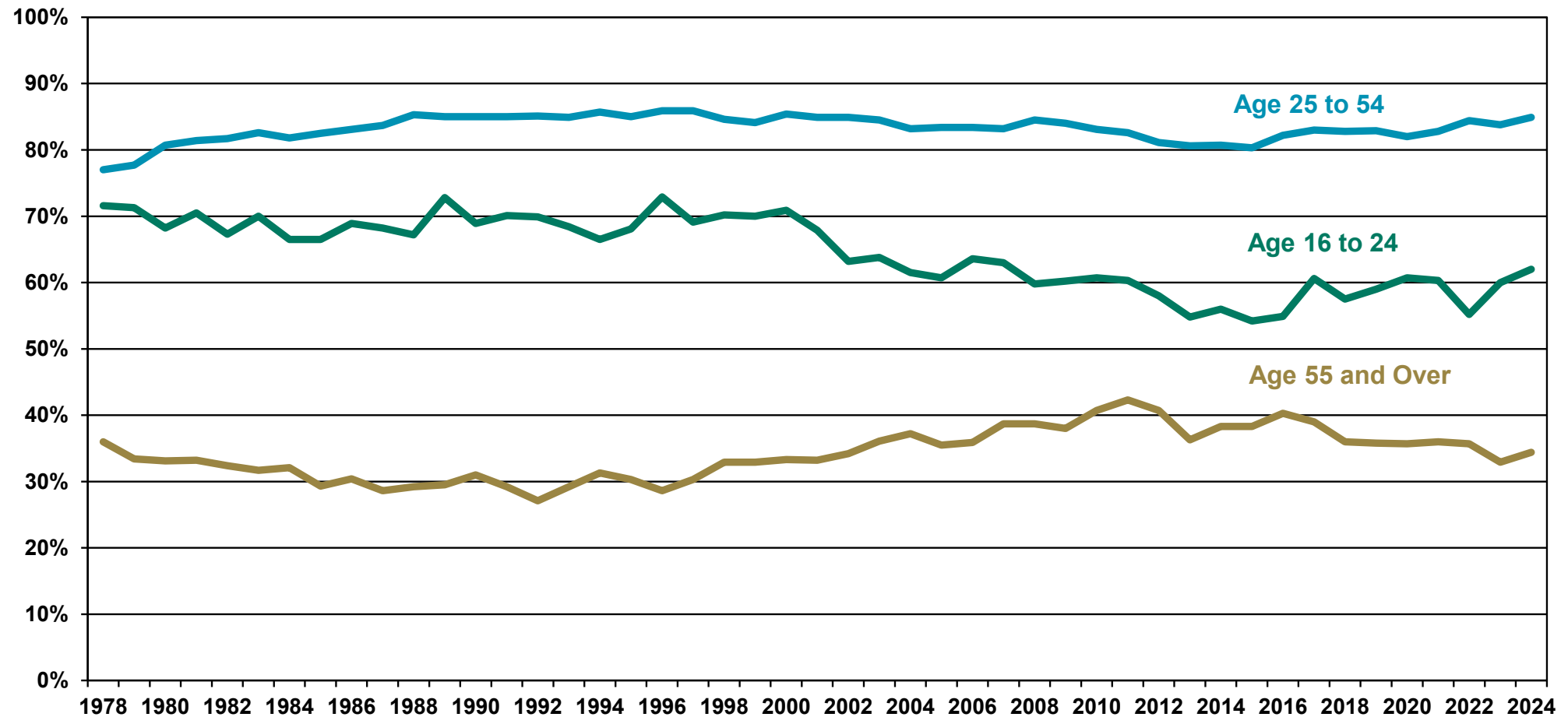
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Oregon's labor force participation rate was 62.8% in July.



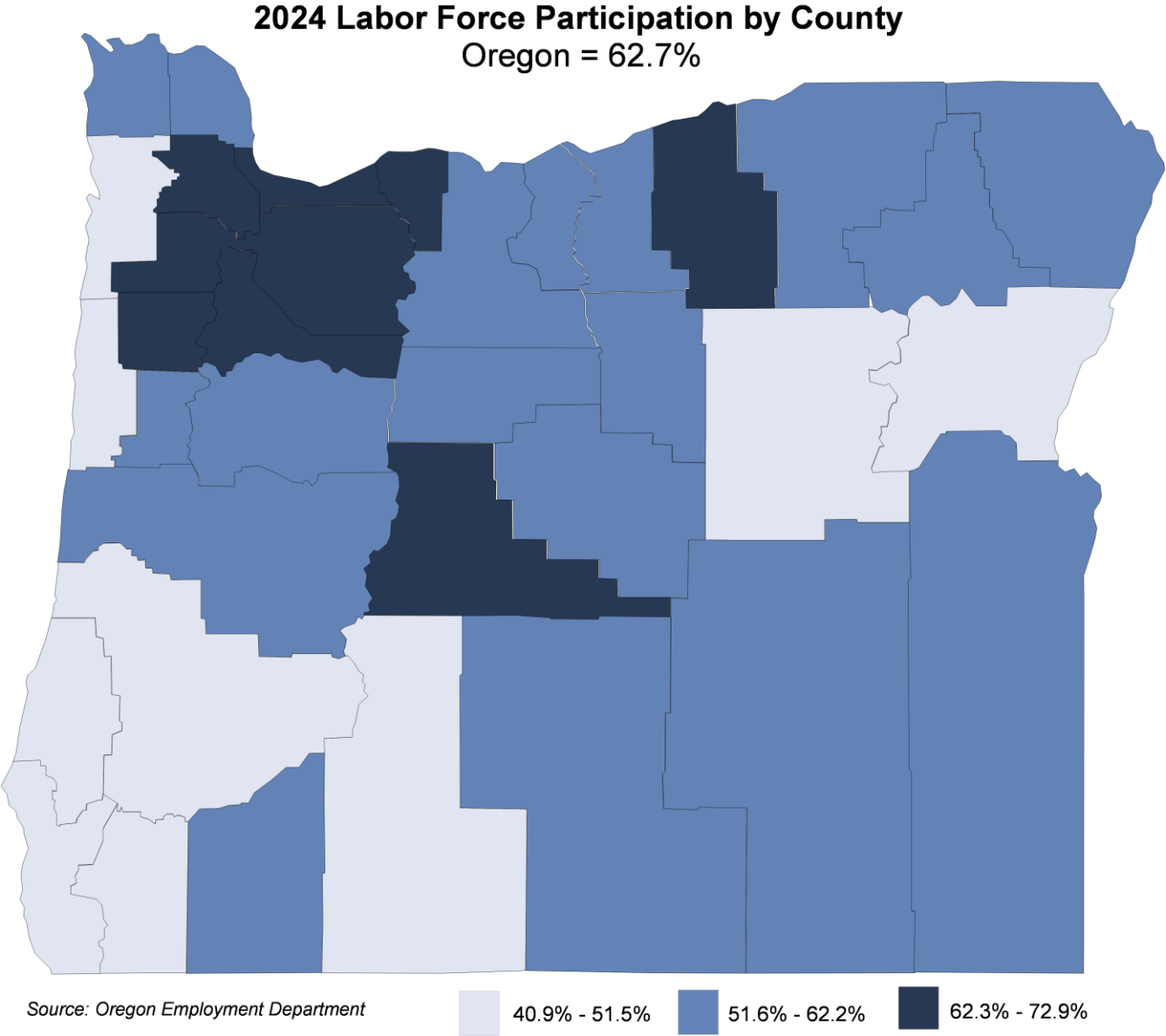
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Oregon Labor Force Participation Rates by Age Group



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Labor force participation rates vary widely across Oregon's counties.

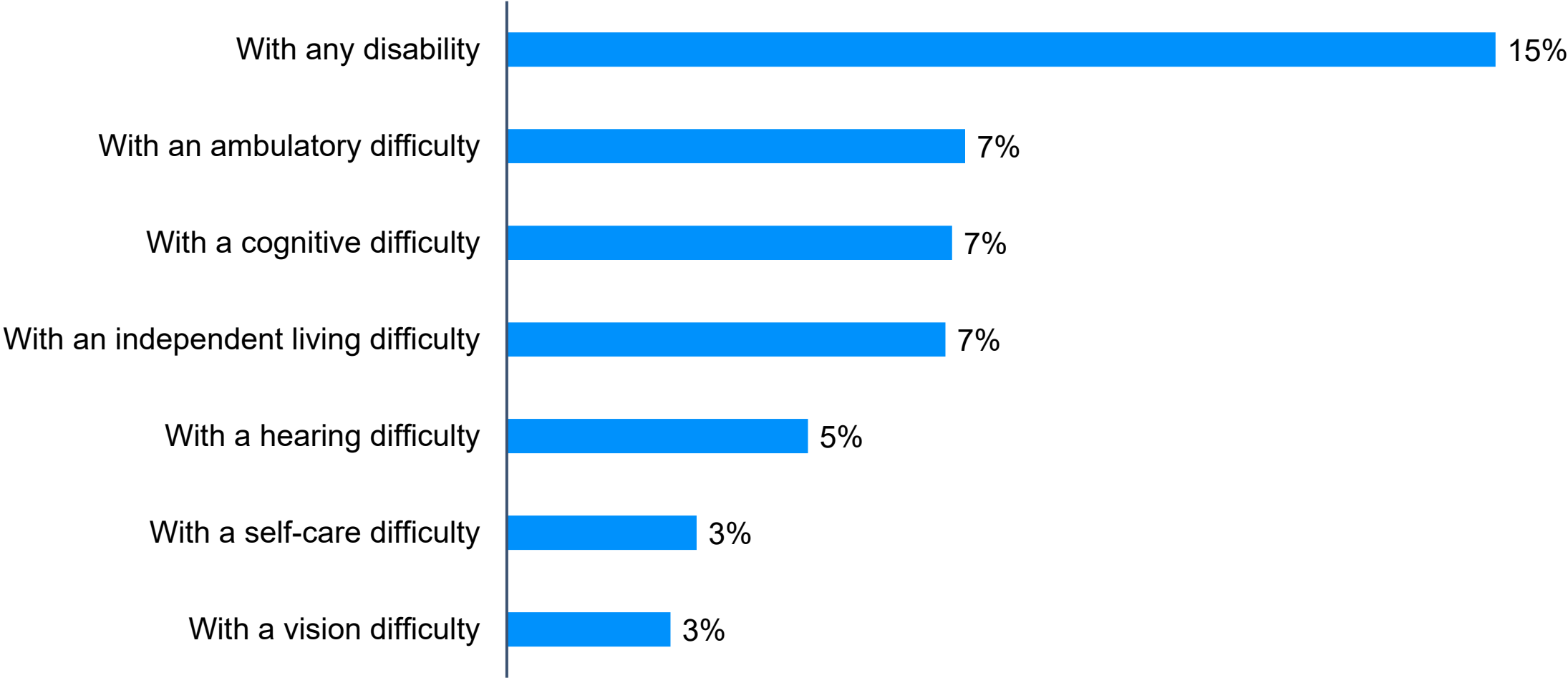


High
Hood River County
72.9%

Low
Curry County
40.9%

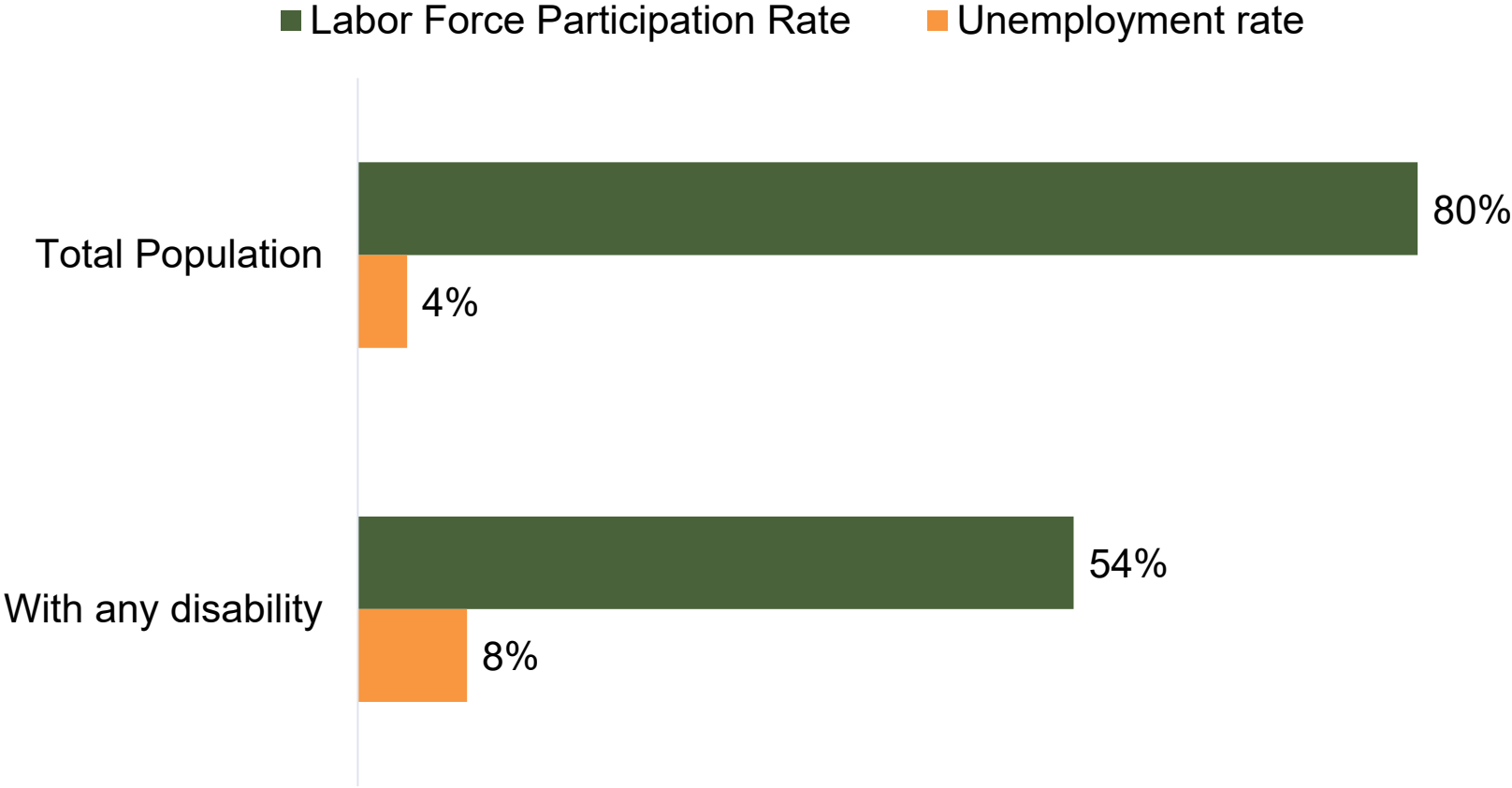
15% of Oregon's population has a disability

Percentage of Oregon's Population with a Disability, 2023



Source: Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Employment Status for Population 20 to 64
Oregon, 2023



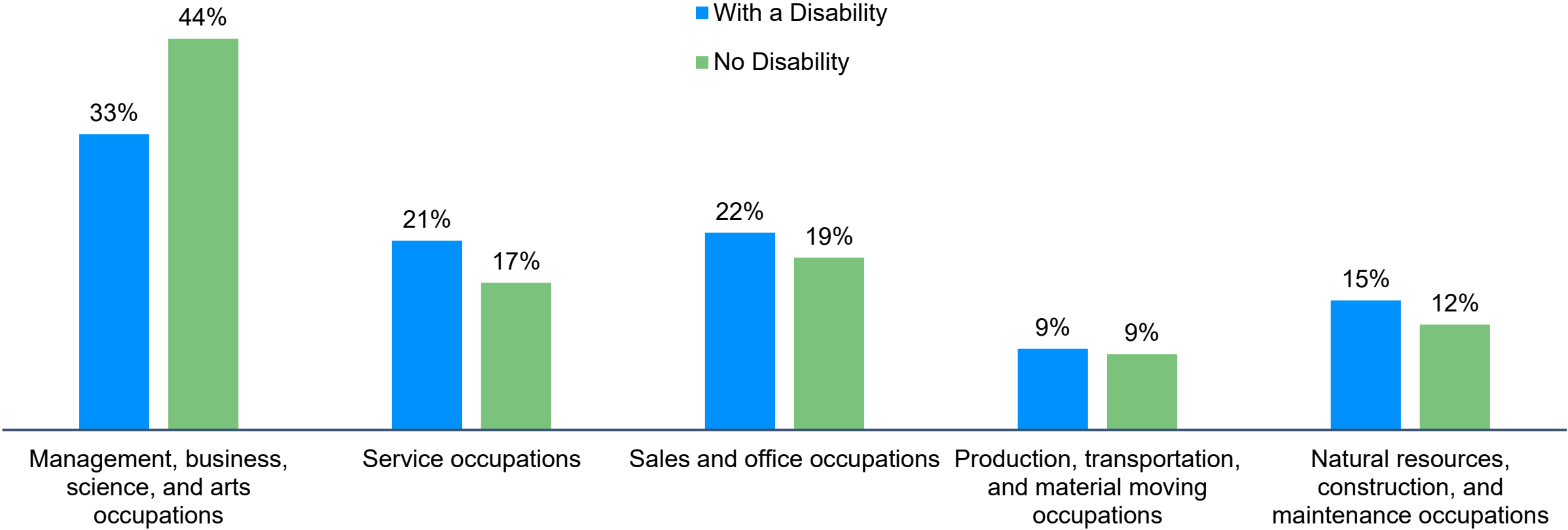
If people with a disability participated in the labor force at the same rate as the total population, there would be 79,000 more workers in the Oregon economy.

If workers with a disability were employed at the same rate as the total population, there would be 7,400 fewer unemployed Oregonians.

Source: [Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Table S2301](#)

Workers with a disability are underrepresented in some occupations.

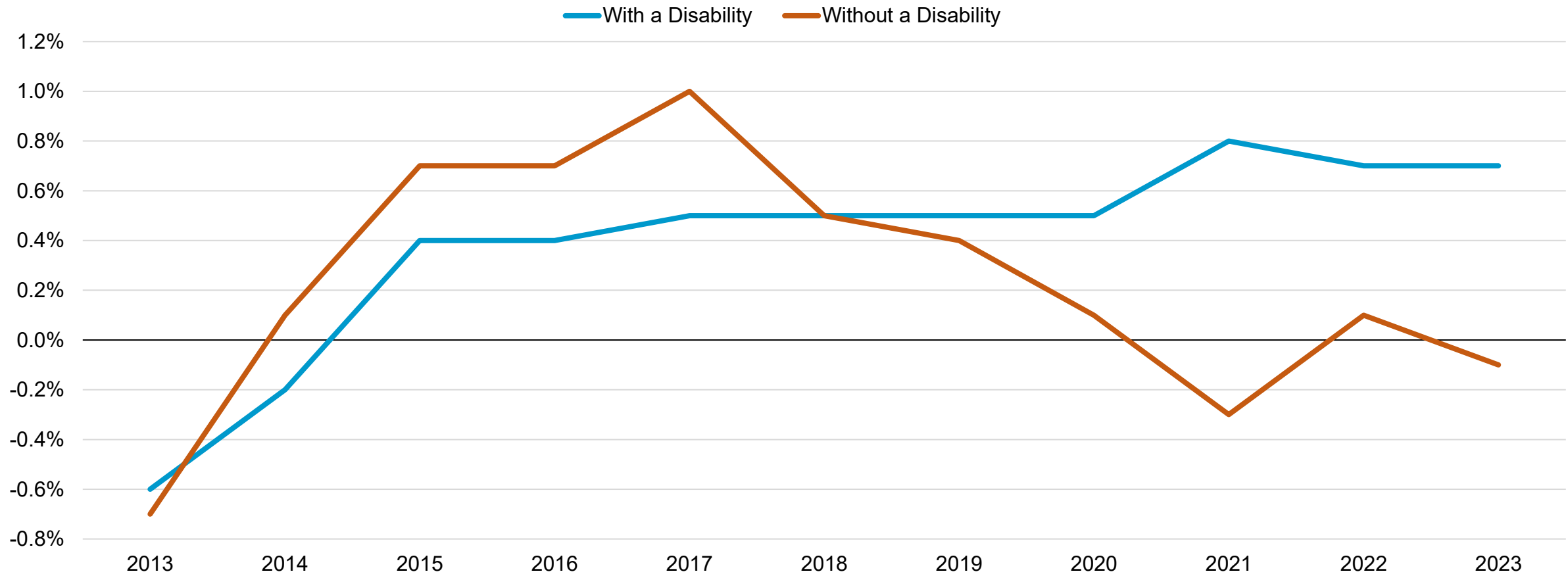
Percentage of Total Workers in Occupational Group
By Disability Status, 2023



Source: Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Employment rates for individuals with a disability have grown in recent years

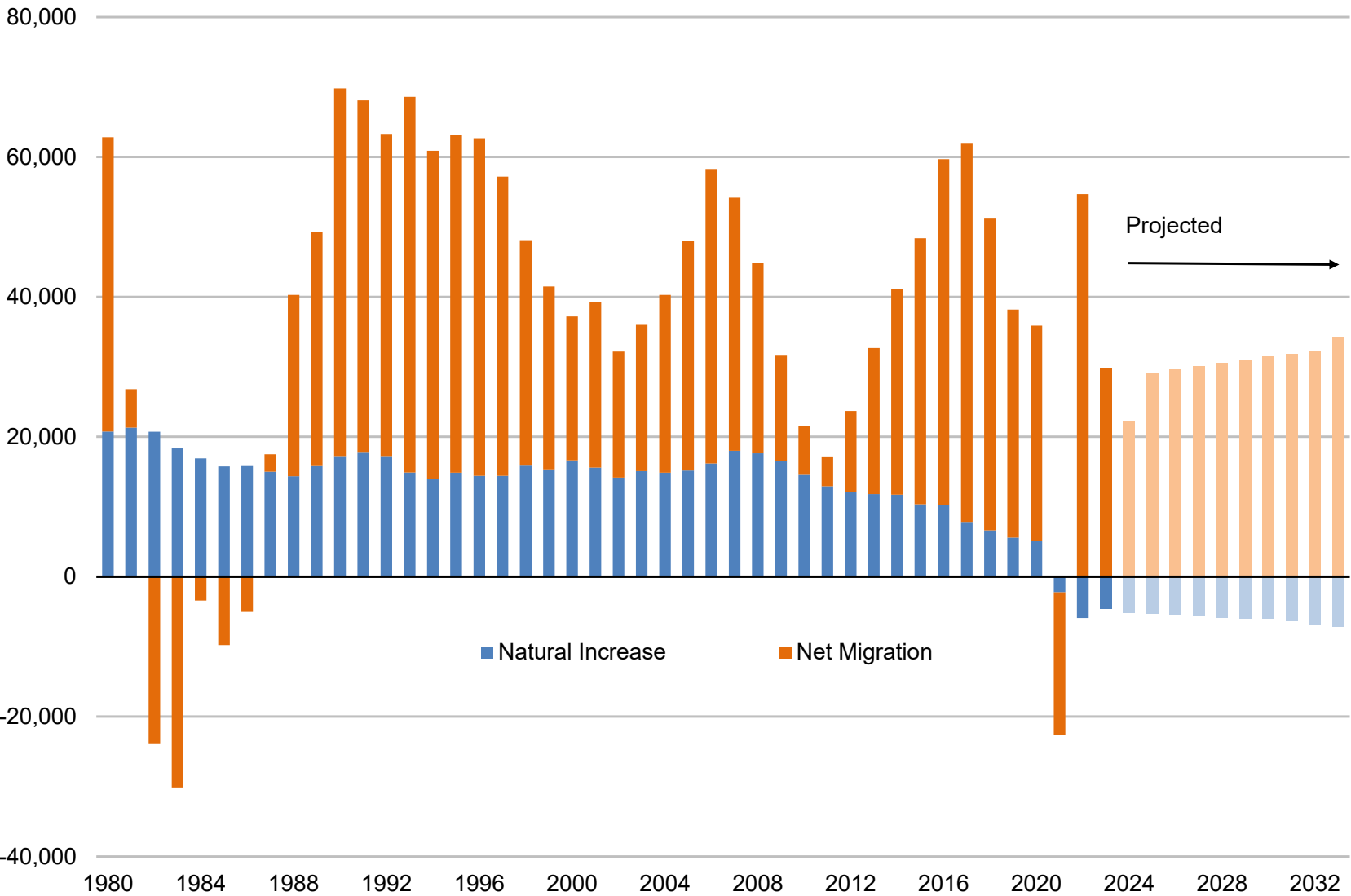
Year-Over-Year Change in Employment Rate
For Individuals With and Without a Disability



Source: Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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

The workforce continues aging, in Oregon and the U.S.

| Oregon Jobs in 2022 | All Workers | Age 55+ | % Age 55+ |
|--|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| All Sectors | 1,908,164 | 455,792 | 24% |
| 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.

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Quarterly Workforce Indicators*

BUSINESSES' NEED FOR WORKERS

Job Vacancy Survey, Help Wanted Online Advertisements (HWOL), and Quarterly Forecast from the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

Oregon businesses reported 51,000 vacancies in Spring 2025.

Oregon Private Job Vacancies Spring 2025

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Vacancies | 51,048 |
| Average Hourly Wage | \$28.38 |
| Full-time Positions | 79% |
| Permanent Positions | 94% |
| Requiring Education Beyond High School | 32% |
| Experience | 62% |
| Difficult to Fill | 58% |

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Oregon businesses reported 51,000 vacancies in spring 2025. Vacancies stayed flat from the winter and decreased 12% from spring 2024. Employers reported difficulty filling 58% of spring 2025 vacancies.

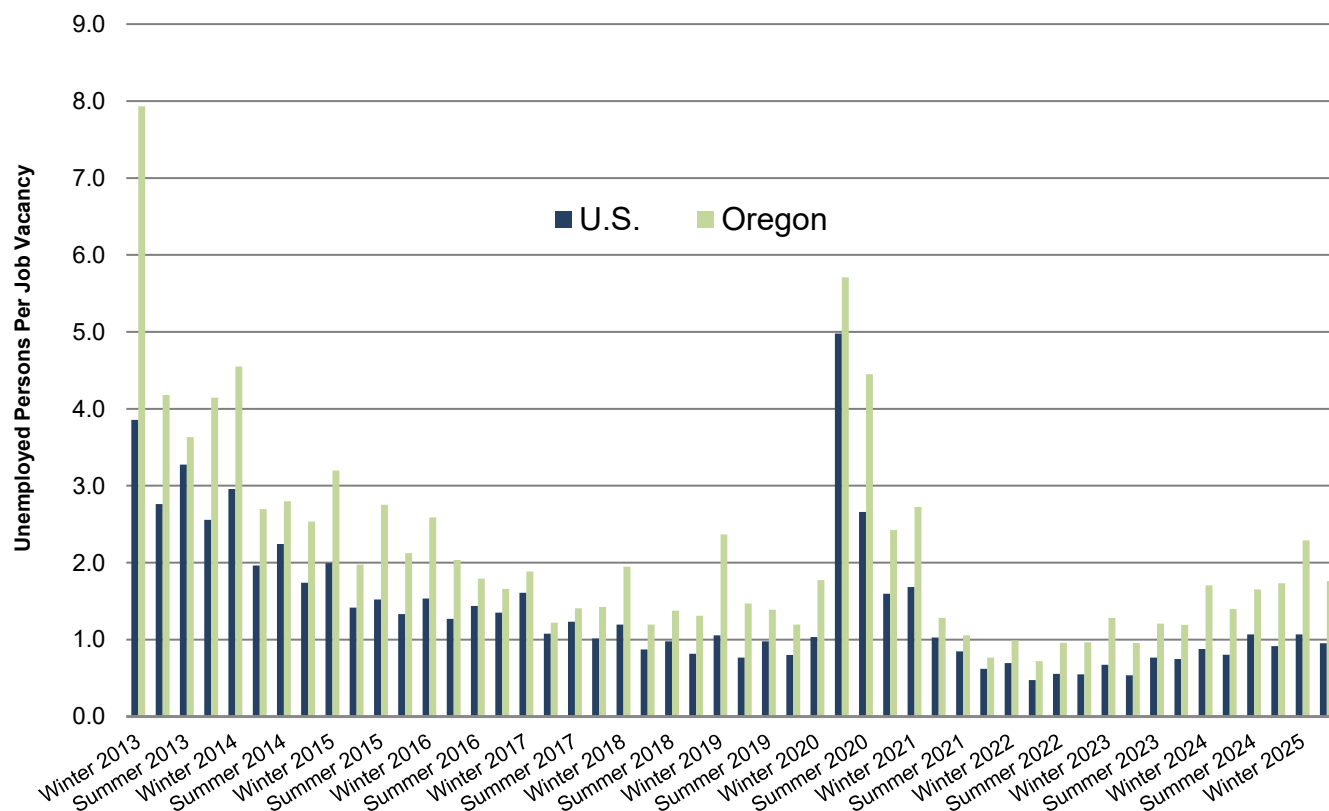
The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was \$28.38 per hour, an inflation-adjusted increase of 6% from spring 2024, and a 11% increase from winter 2025.

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

Oregon has roughly two unemployed people per job vacancy. Nationally, the ratio remains near 1-to-1.

U.S. and Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratios Rising Slowly after Record Lows

(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2025)



Source: Oregon Employment Department

The U.S. ratio was around 1.0 in January 2025. It reached 5.0 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1. It has remained at or below 1.0 for 16 quarters.

Oregon had 1.8 unemployed per job vacancy in spring 2025, part of a steady rise since the post-pandemic recession expansion period in 2021 and 2022.

Businesses reported hiring in various industries.

Oregon Private Job Vacancies by Industry, Spring 2025

| Industry | Vacancies |
|--|---------------|
| All Industries | 51,048 |
| Health care and social assistance | 11,108 |
| Professional, scientific, and technical services | 6,792 |
| Manufacturing | 6,696 |
| Retail trade | 5,705 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 4,384 |
| Other services | 3,262 |
| Construction | 2,835 |
| Management, administrative, and waste services | 2,788 |
| Wholesale trade | 2,562 |
| Financial activities | 2,435 |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities | 1,158 |
| Natural resources and mining | 1,157 |
| Private educational services | n/a |
| Information | n/a |

Unclassified industries excluded

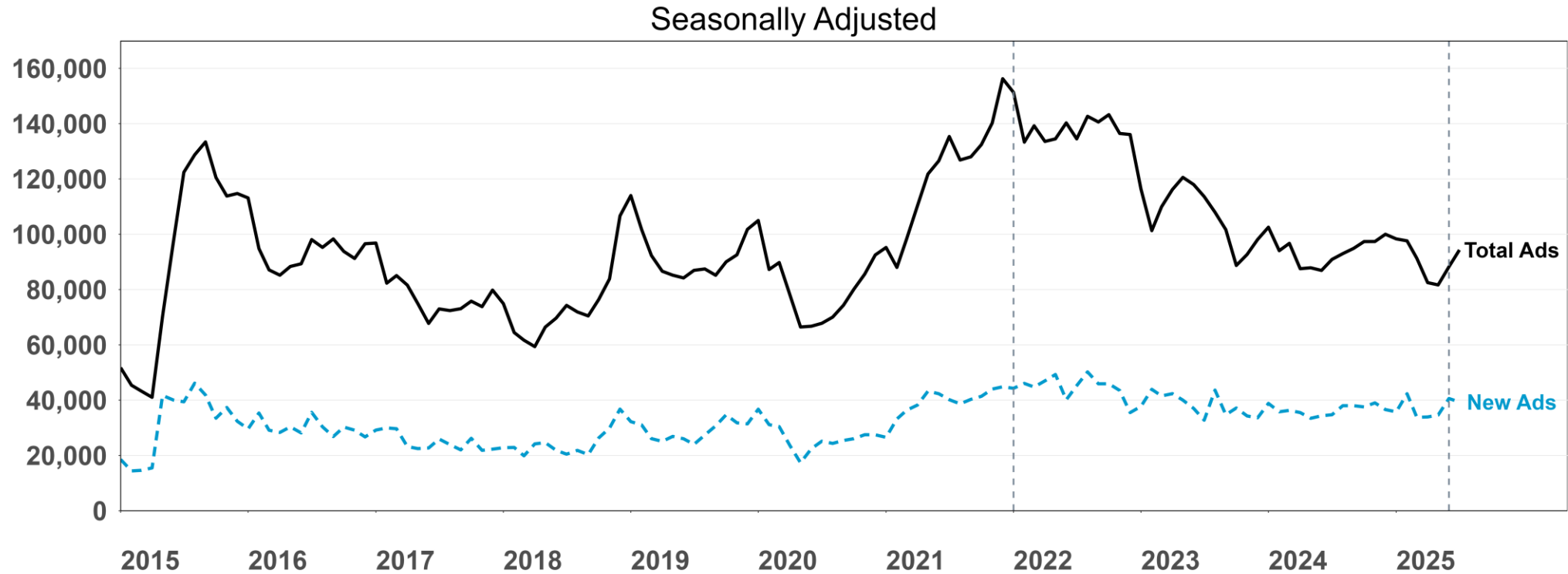
Source: Oregon Employment Department

Health care and social assistance represented 22% of all vacancies, with 11,100. Professional, scientific, and technical services had 6,800 and manufacturing had 6,700.

Note: The Oregon Job Vacancy Survey includes only private-sector businesses with two or more employees.

Total ads increased while new ads fell in Oregon in July.

The number of online ads in Oregon was 94,300 in July.
The number of new ads **decreased** by 1,290 over the month.



Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL)

Note: Dotted lines indicate methodological changes occurring in January 2022 and June 2025

Around the State

- **Community Action Resource Enterprises Inc.** opened a new shelter in **Tillamook**. *Headlight-Herald Aug 18, 2025*
- **Harbor Christian Academy** will open in **Astoria**. It will enroll 10 to 15 students. *The Daily Astorian Aug 18, 2025*
- **Polk County CARES Center** will open in **Dallas**. It will offer crisis and substance use services. *Statesman Journal Aug 18, 2025*
- **Crane Data Centers** will open in **Forest Grove**. *Forest Grove News Times Aug 18, 2025*
- **Mountain View Community Development**, a 75-unit community for homeless disabled people, opened in **Redmond**. *The Redmond Spokesman Aug 14, 2025*
- **OHSU Knight Cancer Institute** in **south Portland** will hire 300 faculty, staff, and patient navigators. *Portland Business Journal Aug 14, 2025*
- **Grande Ronde Hospital & Clinics** in **La Grande** added a podiatrist. *The Observer Aug 09, 2025*

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