



# **Portland Area Economy And Utilities**

Jake Procino, Workforce Analyst/Economist  
for Multnomah County



# Have you ever been asked to participate in a Bureau of Labor Statistics 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

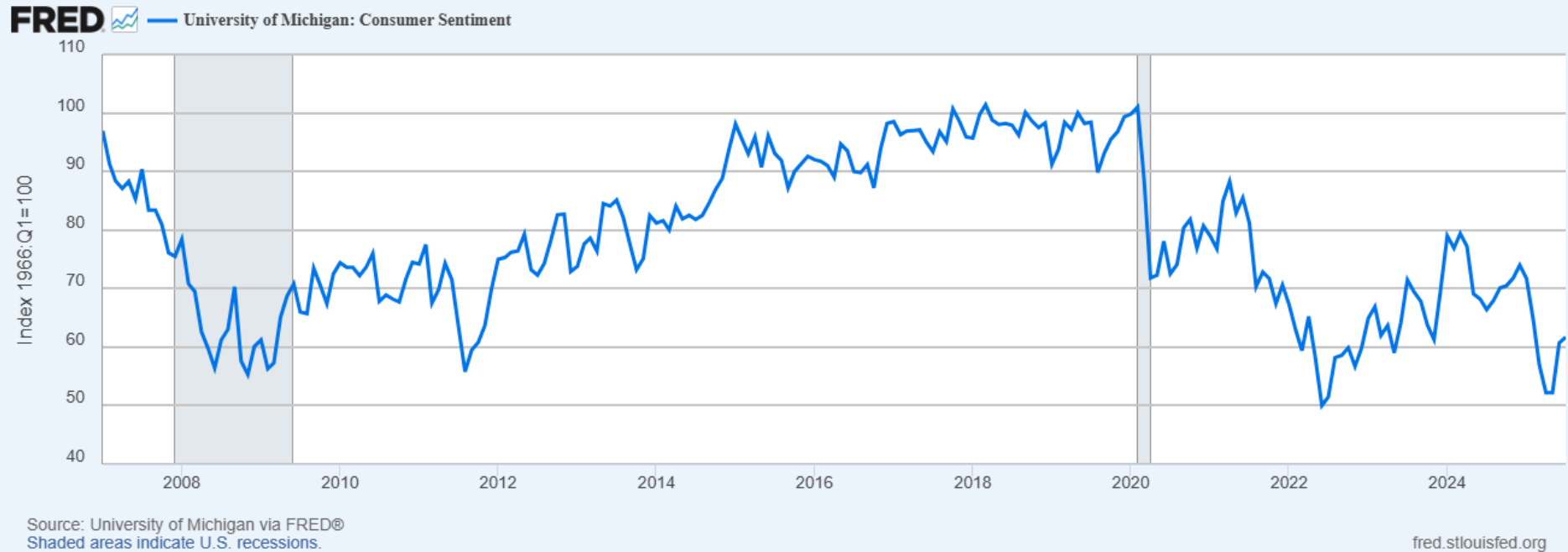
*\* Collected and produced by Oregon Employment Department*

**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.

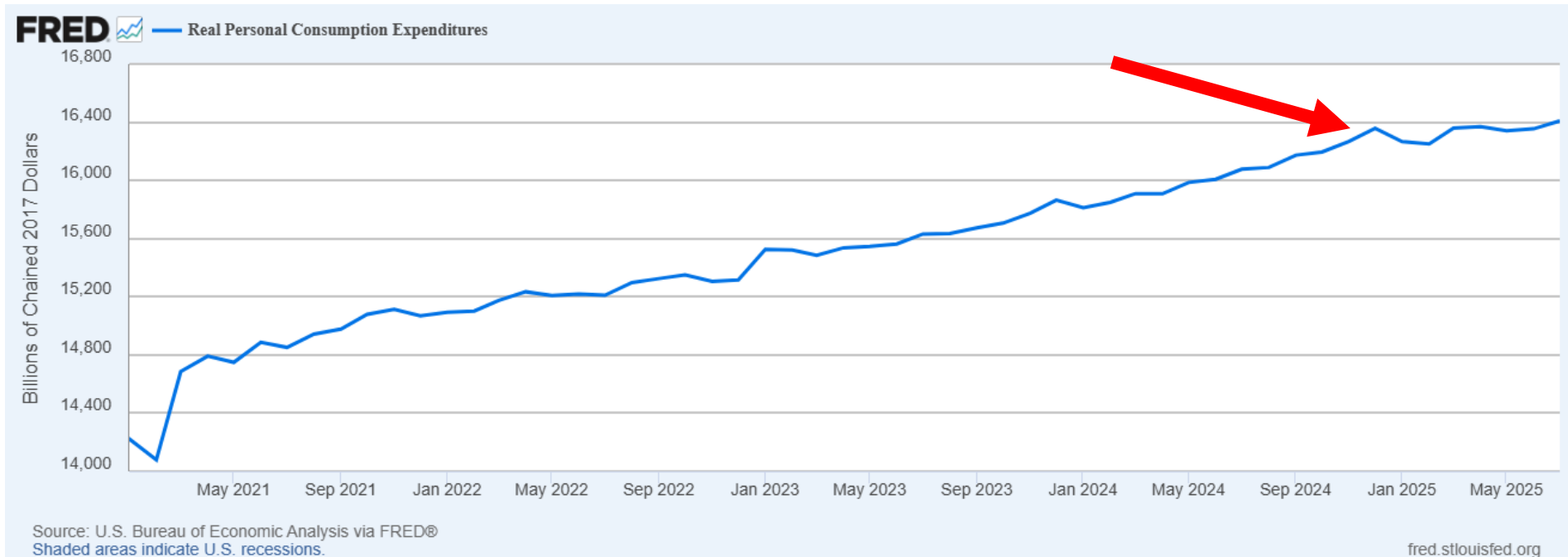
Your confidential responses are protected by federal and state law and strict security policies that prohibit us from releasing any information that could reveal the identity of you or your business without your consent.

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

# Consumer Sentiment Has Dropped

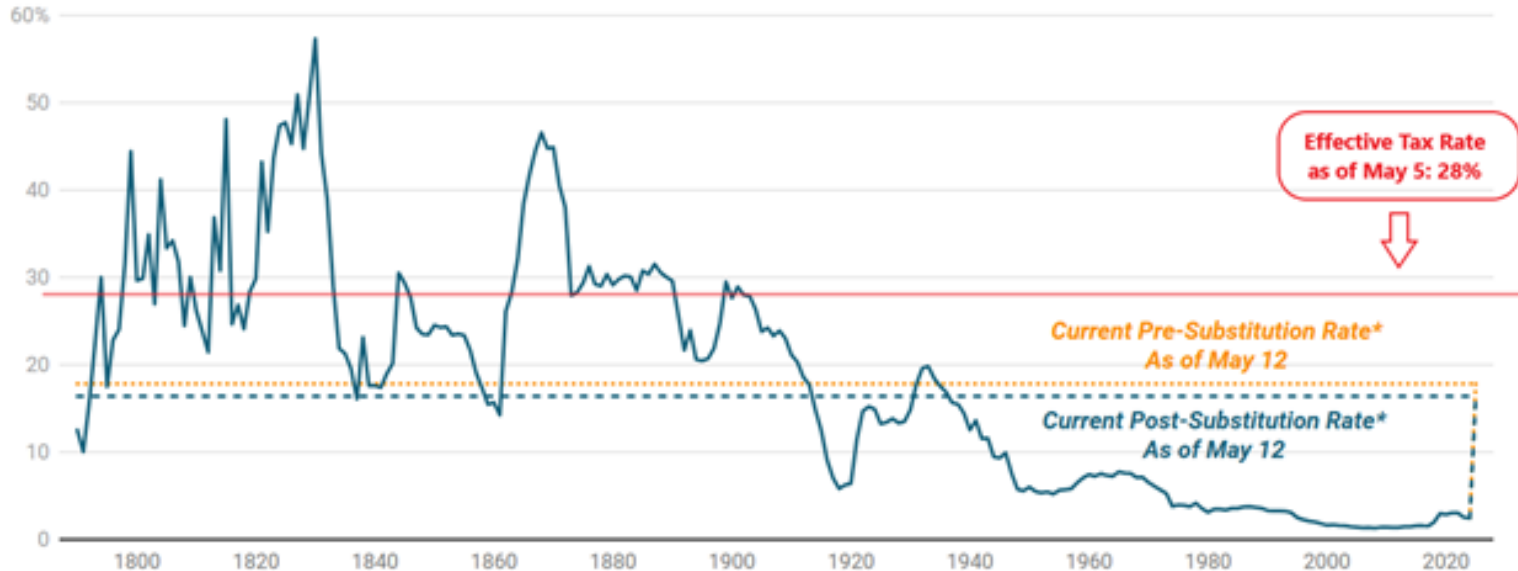


# Real Consumer Spending Has Flattened in the Last Six Months



# Tariffs Are Generationally High

## U.S Average Effective Tariff Rate Since 1790

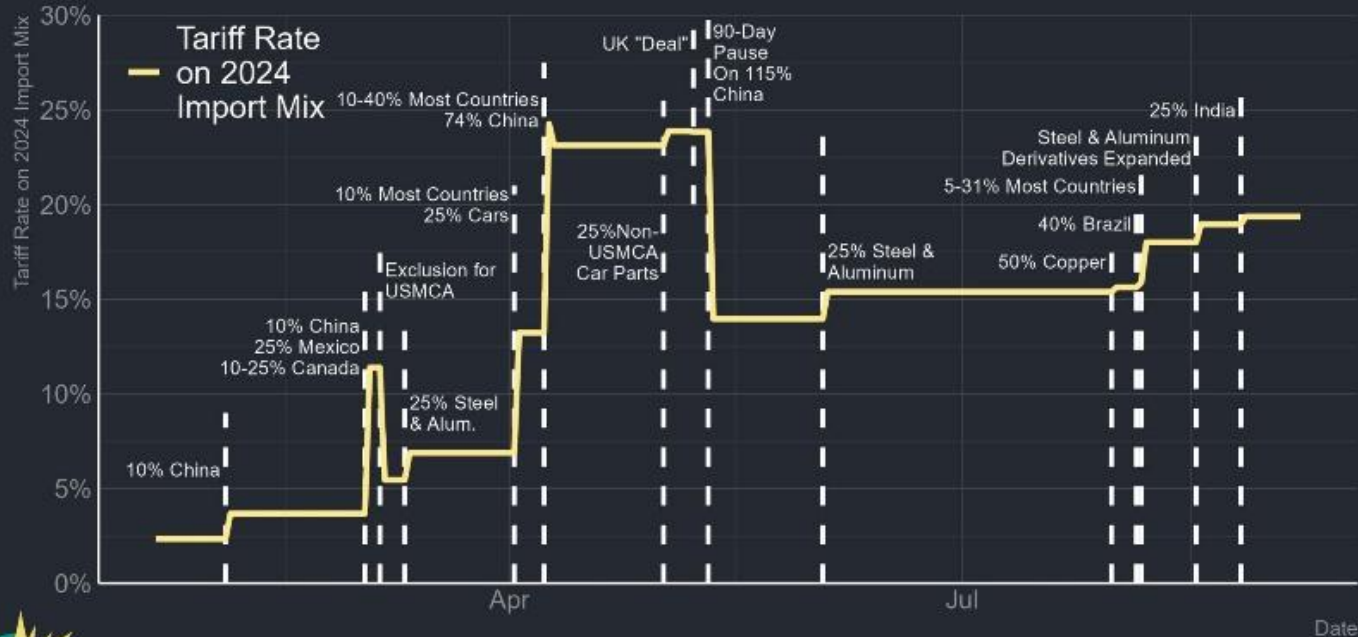


\* Assumes revised April 9 tariffs stay in place.

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](#)

# A Timeline of Trump's 2nd-Term Tariffs

In His 2nd Term, Trump Has Imposed Tariffs On Trillions of Dollars in US Trade

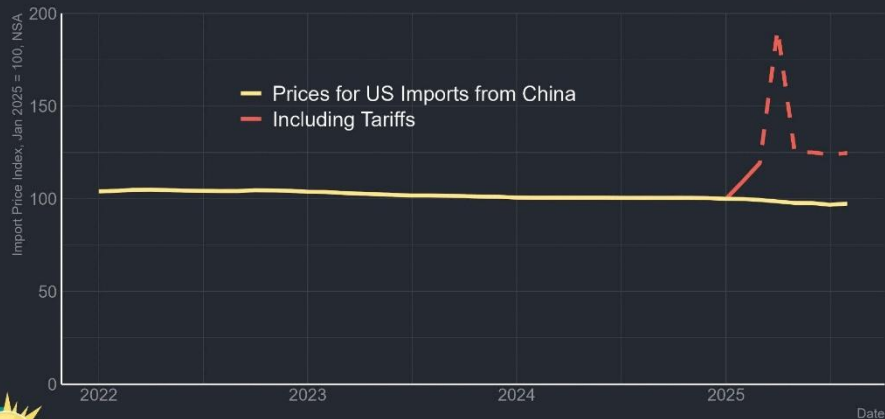


Graph created by @JosephPolitano using US Census data.



## Americans are Paying the Costs of Tariffs

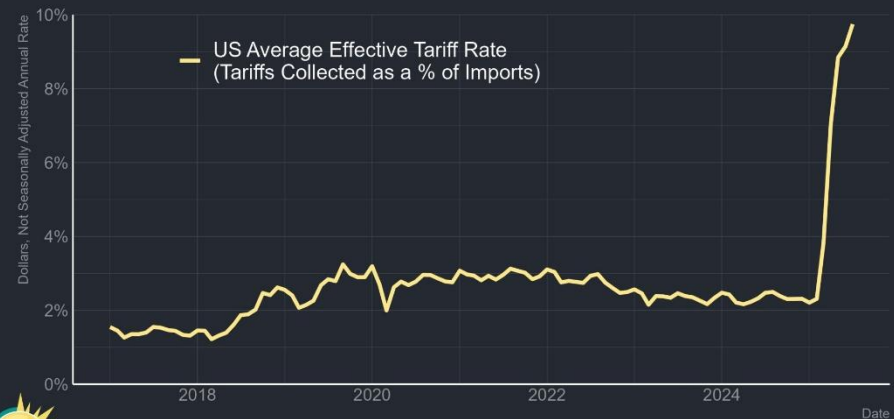
Chinese Import Prices Have Barely Fallen—Implying Americans are Primarily Absorbing the Costs



Graph created by @JosephPolitano using BLS data. NOTE: April Tariff Projection Based on 74% Increase Including Exemptions

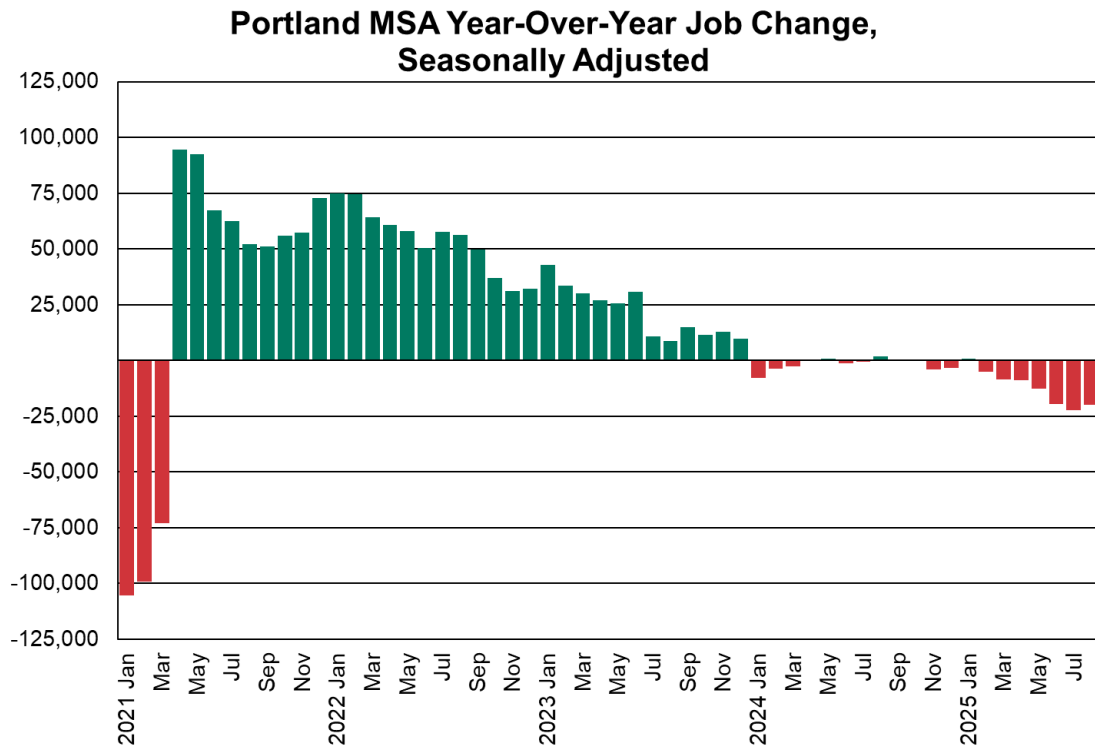
## US Tariff Rates are Rapidly Rising

Costs are Rising as Trump Imposes Massive Tariffs on Major US Trading Partners



Graph created by @JosephPolitano using US Census data

# Employment shrank by -19,900 jobs (or -1.6%) from August 2024 to August 2025

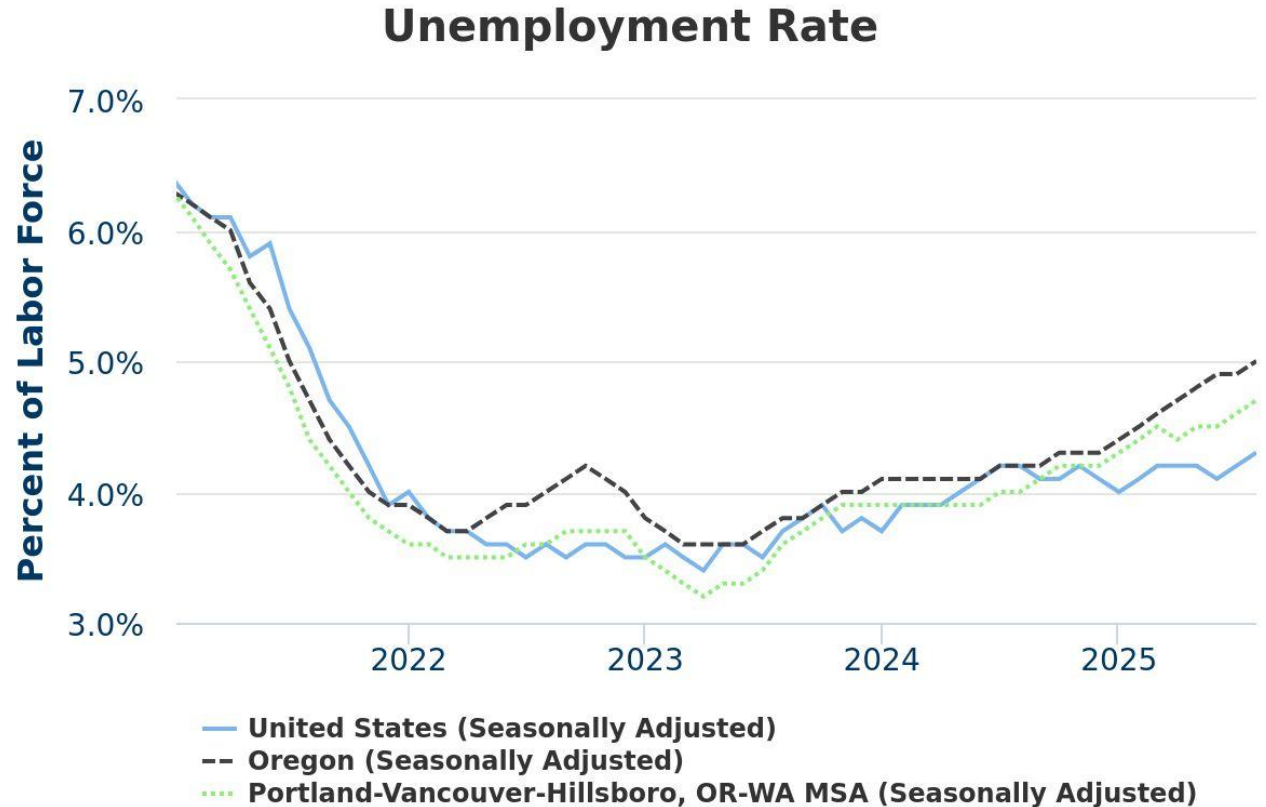


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics



## Unemployment is increasing

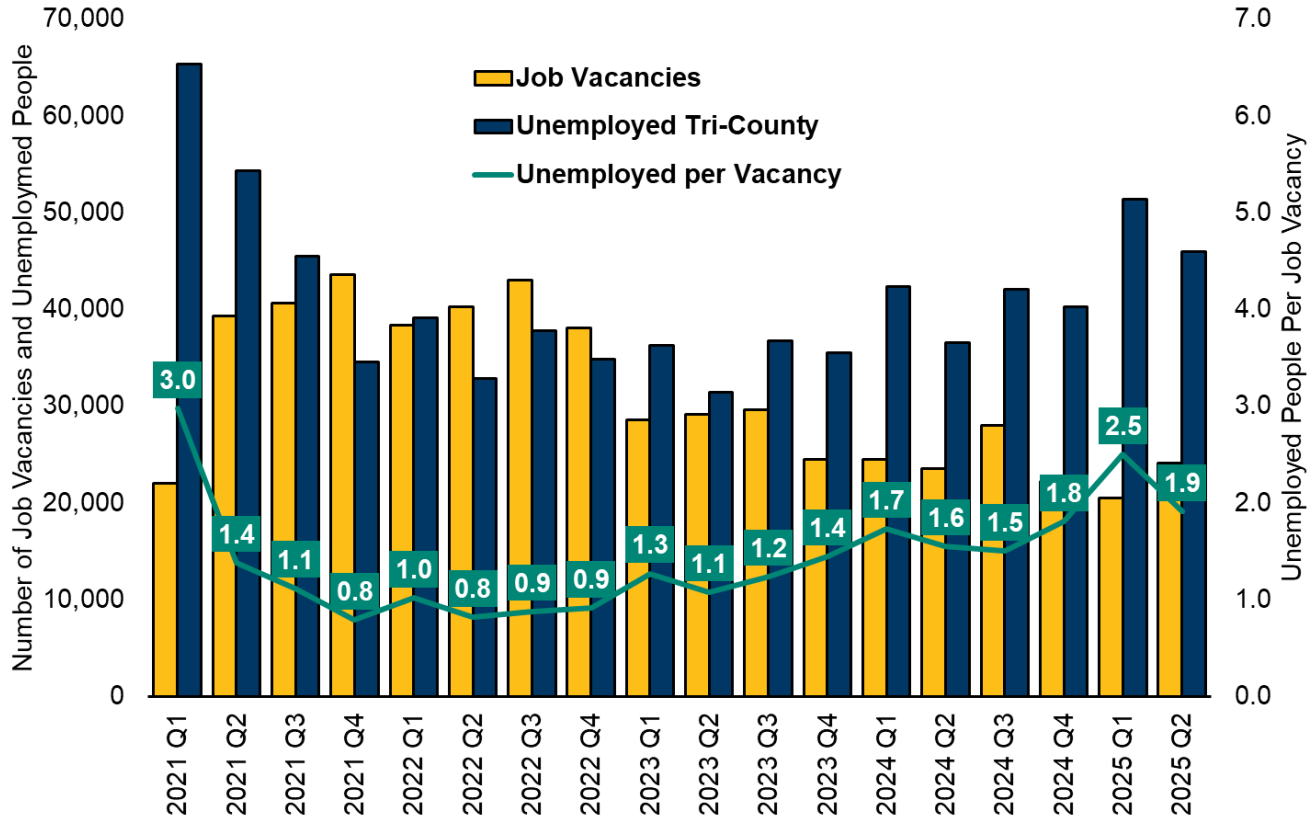
- Portland MSA increased from 4.0% to 4.7%
- Oregon increased 4.2% to 5.0%
- US slightly increased 4.2% to 4.3%



Source: Oregon Employment Department [Qualityinfo.org](https://qualityinfo.org)

# Portland's Labor Market

# Loosening Labor Market in the Portland Tri-County Area

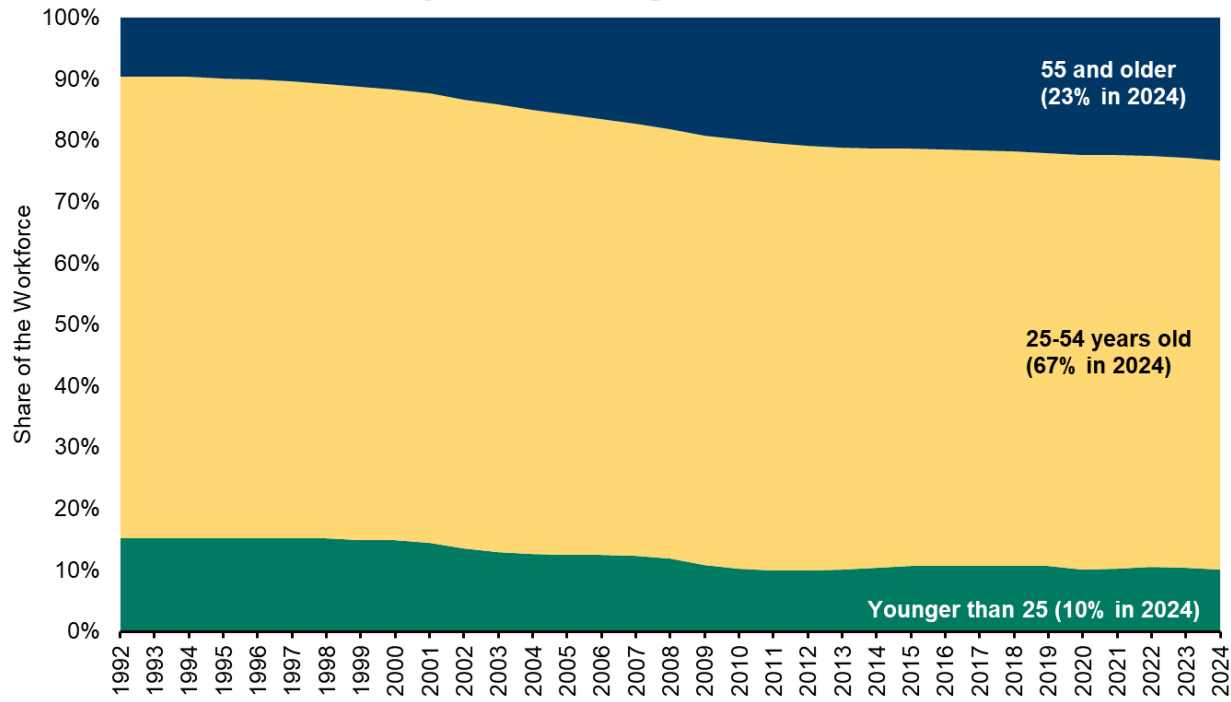


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Job Vacancy Survey



# 23% of the workforce is expected to retire in the next 10 years

More Than One in Five Portland MSA Jobs is  
Held by Workers Aged 55 or Older

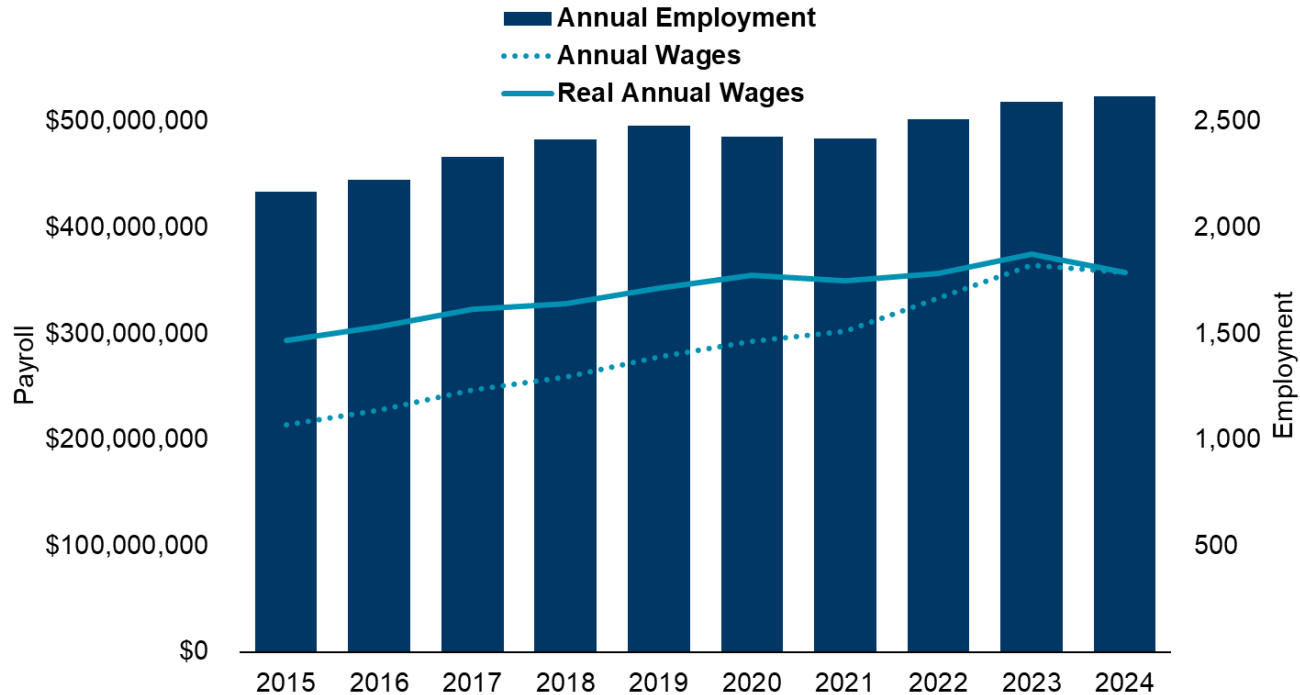


Source: Census, Quarterly Workforce Indicators



# **Portland MSA's Power Generation and Supply Industry**

## Private Utilities Industry Grew 21% in Employment and 22% in Real Wages Over the Decade in the Portland MSA\*

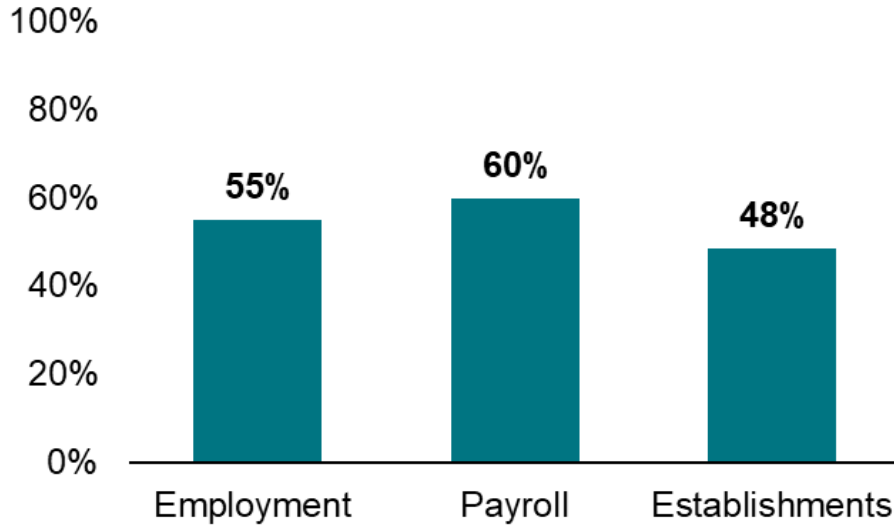


Note: \*Portland MSA here is only the Oregon portion, it excludes the Washington state portion of the MSA.  
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Quarterly Census of Employment of Wages

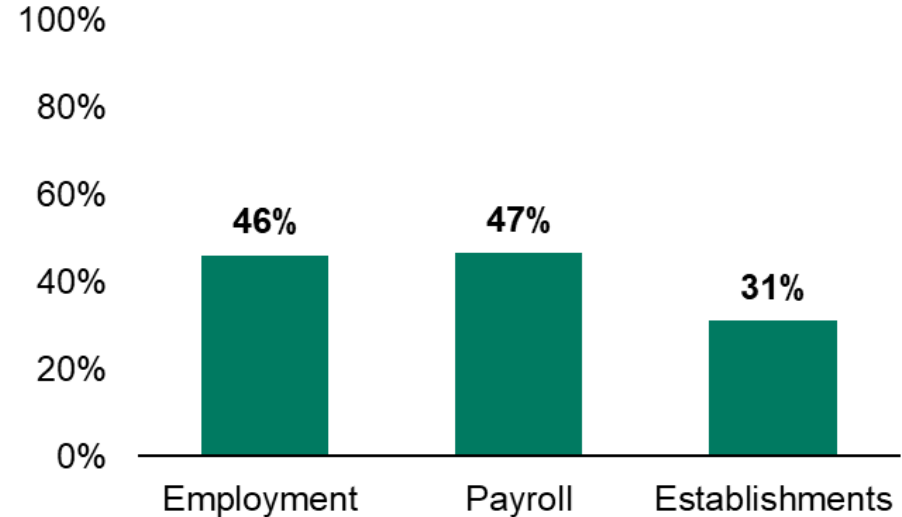


# Portland MSA Energy Utilities Supply A Large Chunk of Employment and Wages

Power generation and supply as percentage of all utilities in Portland

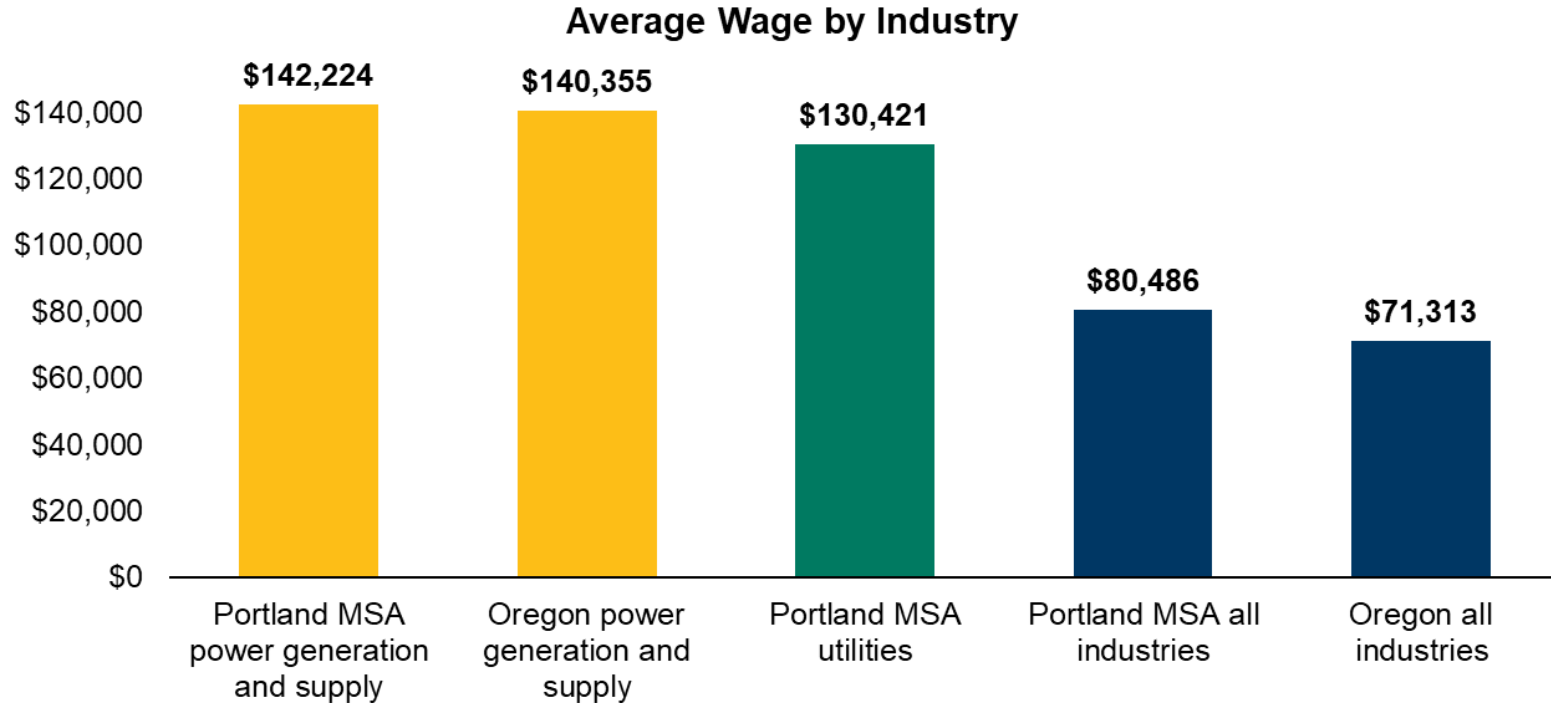


Portland MSA power generation and supply as percentage of Oregon's



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

# Portland MSA Power Generation and Supply Wages Tend to Be Higher than Utilities and All Industry Wages



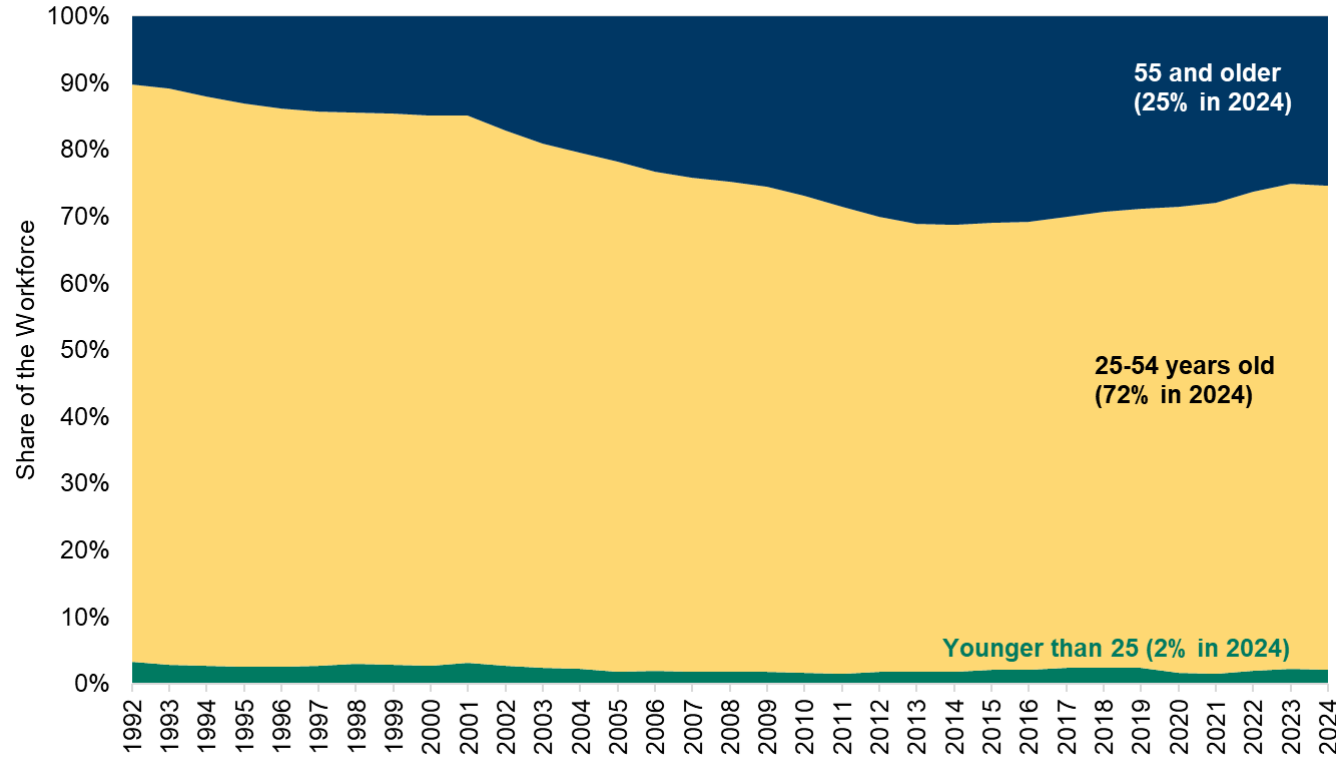
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages



# Portland's Utilities Workforce

**25% of the  
utilities workforce  
is expected  
to retire in the  
next 10 years**

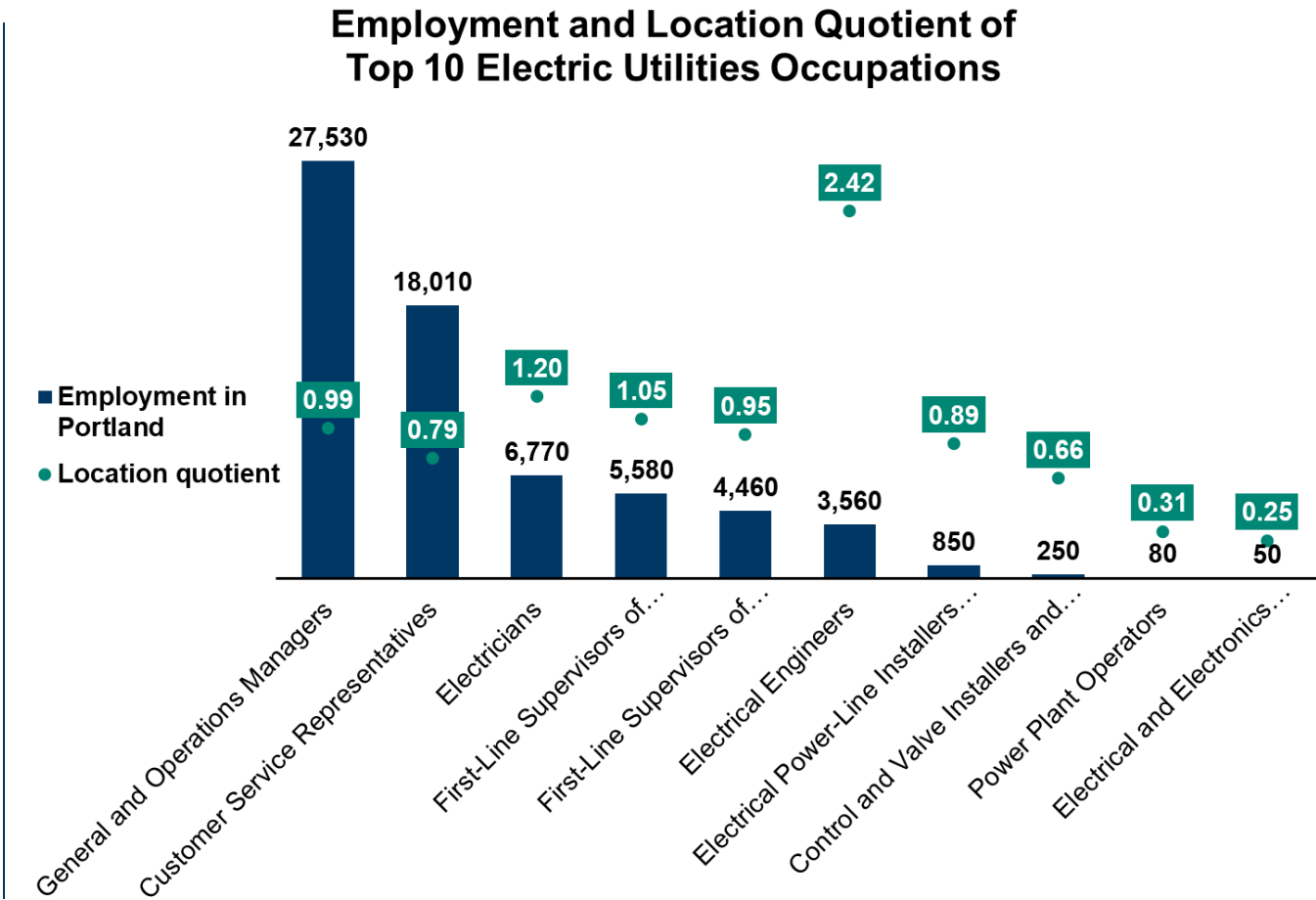
## One in Four Portland Tri-County Utilities Jobs is Held by Workers Aged 55 or Older



Source: Census, Quarterly Workforce Indicators

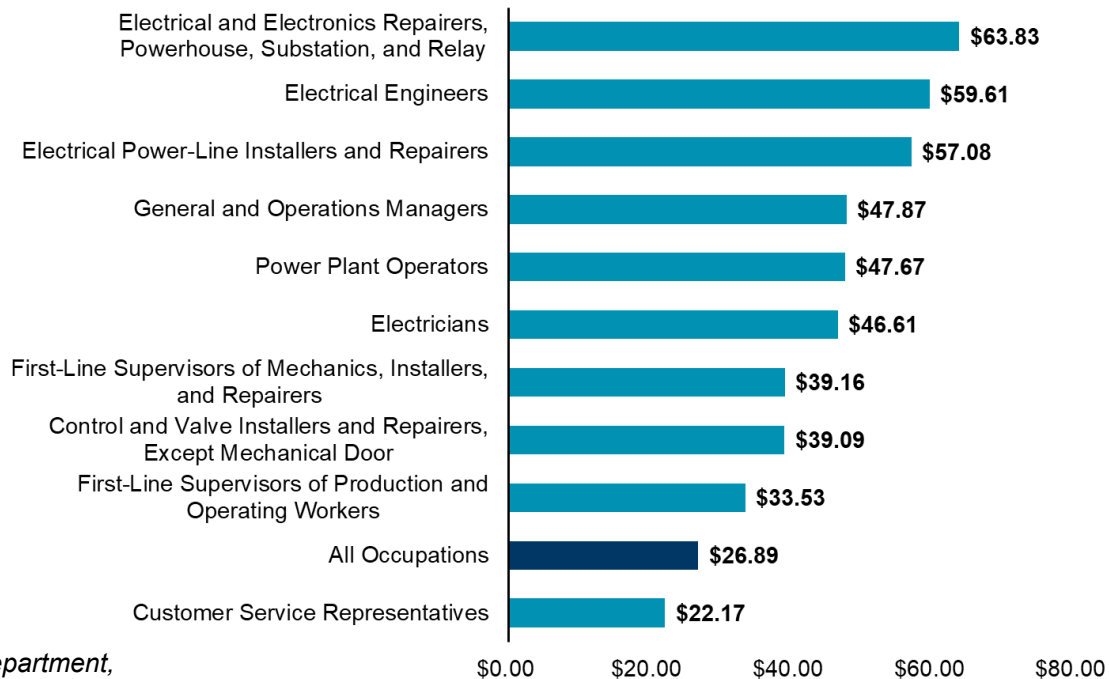
# Portland MSA Doesn't Have Strong Concentration of Utilities Workers

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Occupational Employment and Wage  
Survey



# Portland MSA Power Generation and Supply Wages Tend to Be Higher than Utilities and All Industry Wages

## Median Wage of Top 10 Occupations in Electric Utilities in the Portland MSA



Source: Oregon Employment Department,  
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages





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for the Portland Area**

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## US Monthly Solar Generation

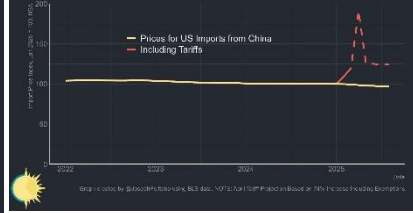
US Solar Generation is Growing Quickly, and is Up 30% Compared to Last Year



Graph created by @JosephPolitano using EIA Data. NOTE: Includes Rooftop & Utility-Scale Solar

## Americans are Paying the Costs of Tariffs

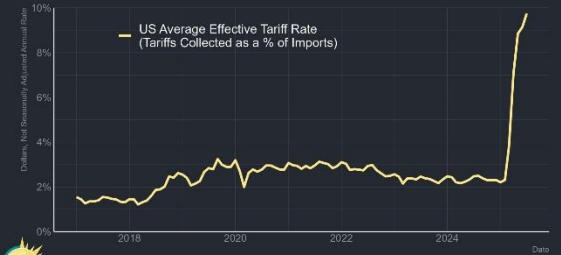
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Import prices by @JosephPolitano using EIA Data. NOTE: Data for 2025 is based on EIA's forecast. Excludes 10% of 100 most sensitive commodities.

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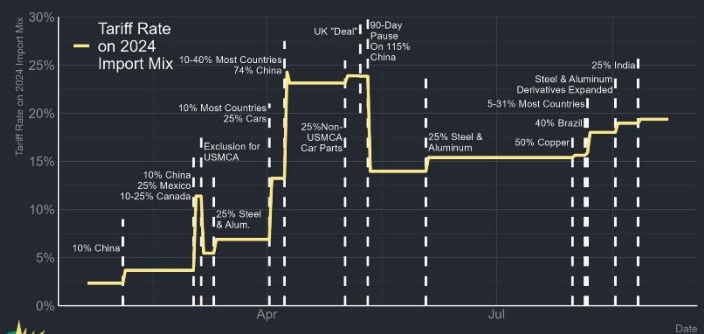
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## The Share of People Working from Home in Multnomah County Declined from 2021 to 2023

<b>Means of Transportation to Work</b>	<b>Share of All Workers</b>			
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Car, truck, or van	68%	57%	59%	62%
Drove alone	59%	50%	52%	53%
Carpooled	9%	7%	7%	9%
Public transportation	12%	4%	6%	6%
Walked	6%	3%	5%	5%
Bicycle	4%	2%	3%	3%
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	1%	1%	1%	1%
Work from home	9%	32%	26%	24%

*Note: 2020 1-year estimates suppressed due to impact from COVID-19 pandemic*

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates; Table B08301*

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