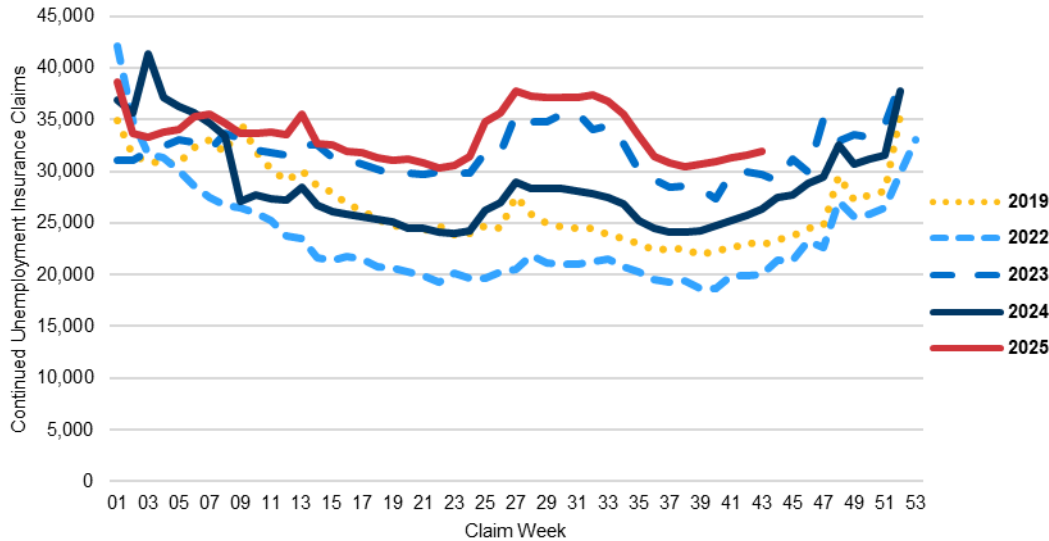


## Oregon Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims

Source: Oregon Employment Department



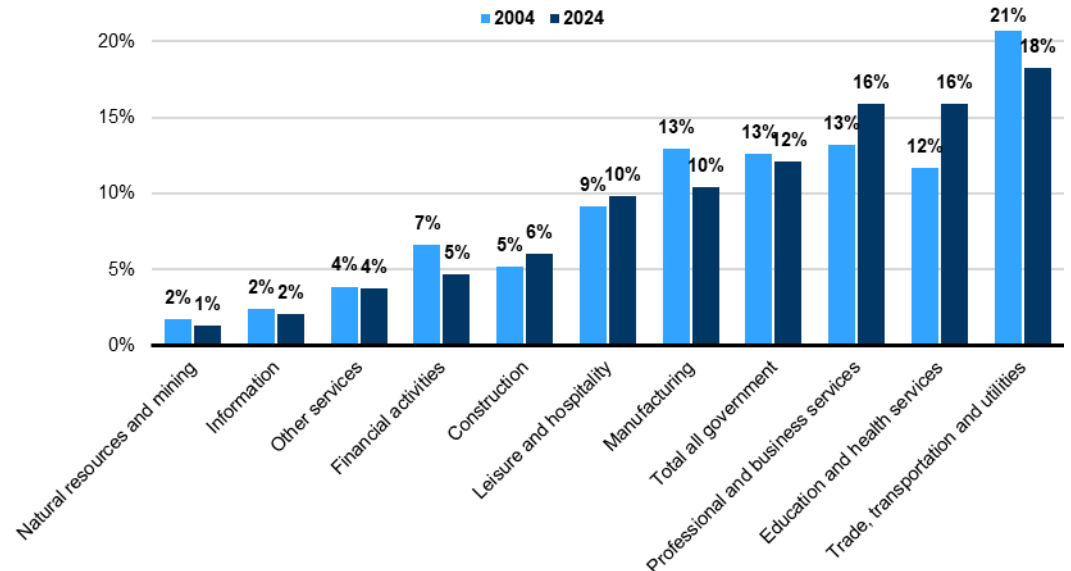
### Continued UI Claims Increased Year-Over-Year in Oregon.

Continued claims reflect the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. This includes workers in private and public organizations covered by unemployment insurance, and includes federal civilian workers covered by Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE).

After staying relatively low in 2024, continued claims have remained slightly elevated in 2025. In 2022, Oregon averaged the lowest level of continued claims in recent years, with about 23,500 per week. Oregon is averaging about 33,600 continued claims per week so far in 2025. That's 20% higher than the same period a year ago.

## Employment by Share of Total Employment in the Portland MSA, 2004 and 2024

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Note: Some industries excluded.



The local economy of the Portland-Hillsboro-Vancouver Metropolitan Statistical Area in Oregon has changed quite a lot over the past 20 years. Total payroll employment increased 20%, from 821,995 to 1,033,355.

The top three industries in the Portland MSA in 2004 by employment were: (1) trade, transportation, and utilities; (2) professional and business services; and (3) manufacturing. In 2024, the top three industries were: (1) trade, transportation, and utilities; (2) education and health services; and (3) professional and business services.

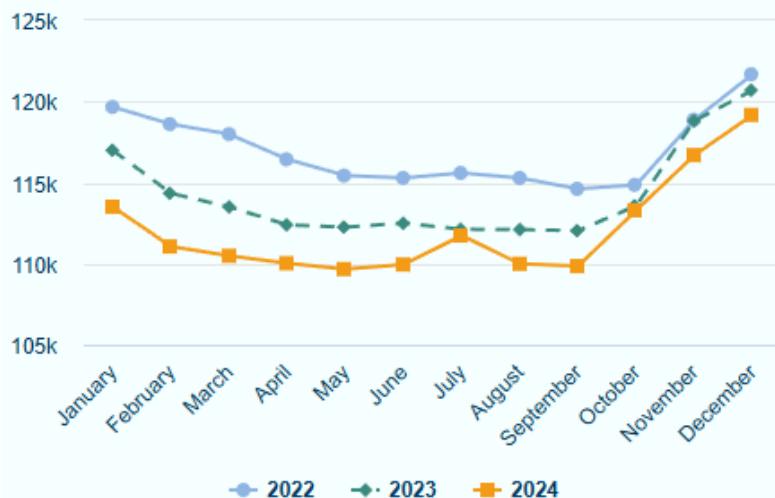
Education and health services had the largest numerical and percentage increase in employment. There are 68,000 (42%) more jobs in the sector than there were twenty years ago. This mostly due to the healthcare industry growing as the region has gotten older and more care workers are needed.

Natural resources and mining and financial activities saw declines in employment over the last twenty years.

Trade, transportation, and utilities and manufacturing saw the largest decline in overall share of total employment, both declining by three percentage points as the region's economy shifts away from relying on retail stores and manufacturing.

## Employment in Holiday Hiring Industries in '22, '23, '24

Source: Oregon Employment Department



## Oregon Had A Holiday Buildup of 9,300 Employees in 2024, an 8.5% Increase from September to December

The 2024 holiday season had a holiday buildup of 9,300 employees, an 8.5% increase from September to December. That's higher than the 8,700 (7.7%) buildup in 2023 and the 7,100 (6.2%) rise in 2022.

At the same time, holiday hiring businesses employed fewer workers throughout 2024, and failed to reach the peak December employment of the previous two years. The December 2024 peak was 1,500 jobs lower than 2023 and 2,500 jobs lower than 2022. The September 2024 base was 2,200 lower than September 2023 and 4,800 lower than 2022.

This corresponds to a looser labor market in 2024. In the few years immediately following the pandemic recession, Oregon's unemployment rate dropped historically low and job vacancies reached historic highs. This meant that employers had a hard time finding employees and were more reluctant to let them go once they had them. Oregon's unemployment rate fell to 3.6% in mid-2023, close to its lowest recorded rate, but then drifted upwards, rising to 4.1% by the start of 2024 and 4.3% by the end of the year. The lower September employment base and higher holiday buildup could indicate that employers were more likely to let go of workers in 2024 and had more bargaining power to bring them back during that year's holiday season.

Want to join the distribution list?  
Have questions? E-mail me!

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