

# **COLUMBIA COUNTY ECONOMIC UPDATE**

**VIRTUAL PRESENTATION  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY BUSINESSES AND STAKEHOLDERS  
FEBRUARY 26, 2025**

Shaun Barrick-Workforce Economist

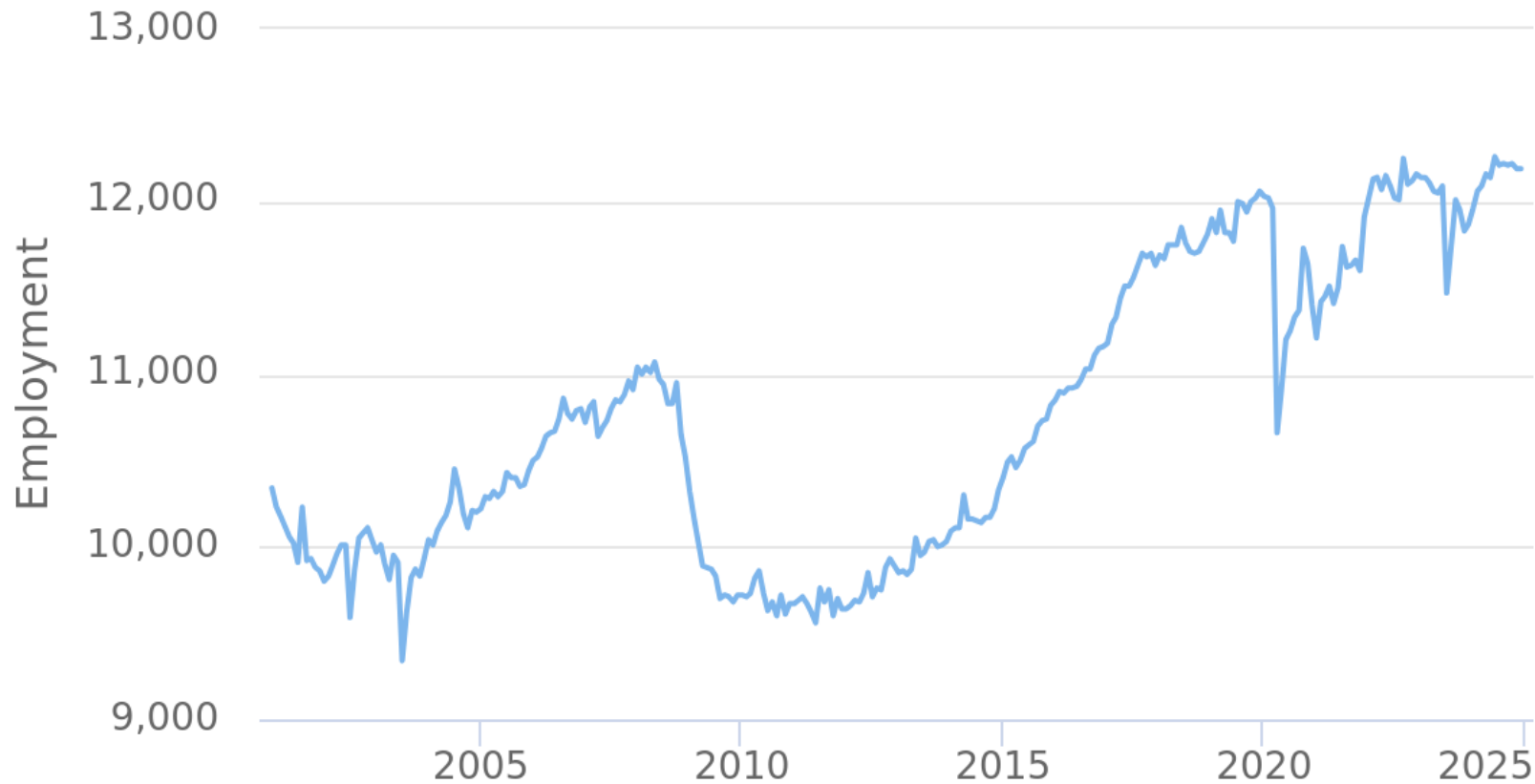
*Program Purpose: To provide economic and labor market information to Oregon business and employers.*

- **Our day-to-day is responding to direct customer information requests, in addition to giving presentations, writing articles, and keeping up on economic trends.**
- **This includes wage, recruitment, and retention data, skills analysis, and population trends at the county and sub-county levels.**
- **Also work to help the media, workforce professionals, and WorkSource partners access and understand economic data.**
- ***In essence, we are your local economists providing labor market information for free!***

# TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT INCREASED BY 2.7% IN 2024

## Columbia County Total nonfarm employment

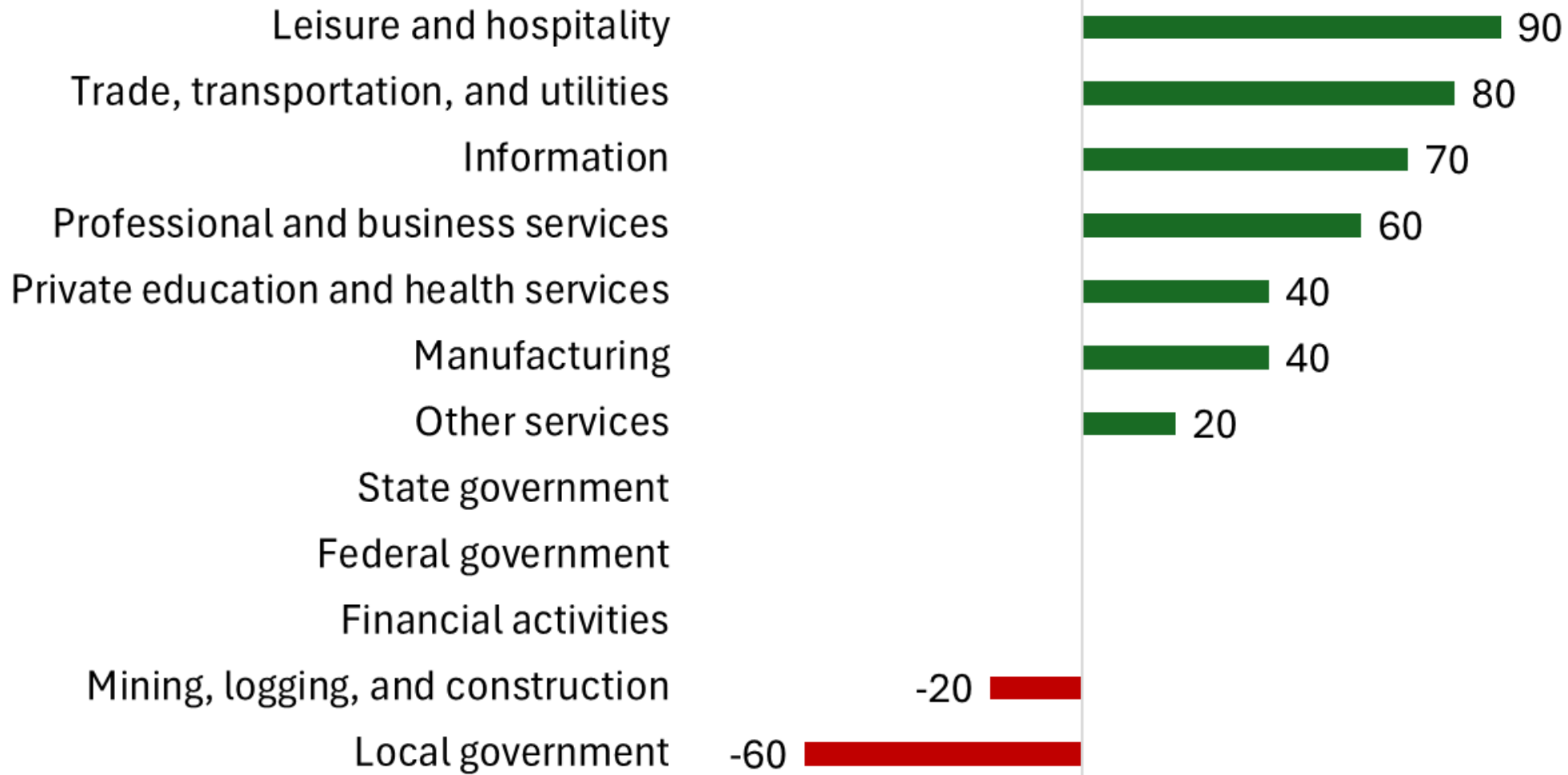
(seasonally adjusted)  
Official Oregon Series



Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

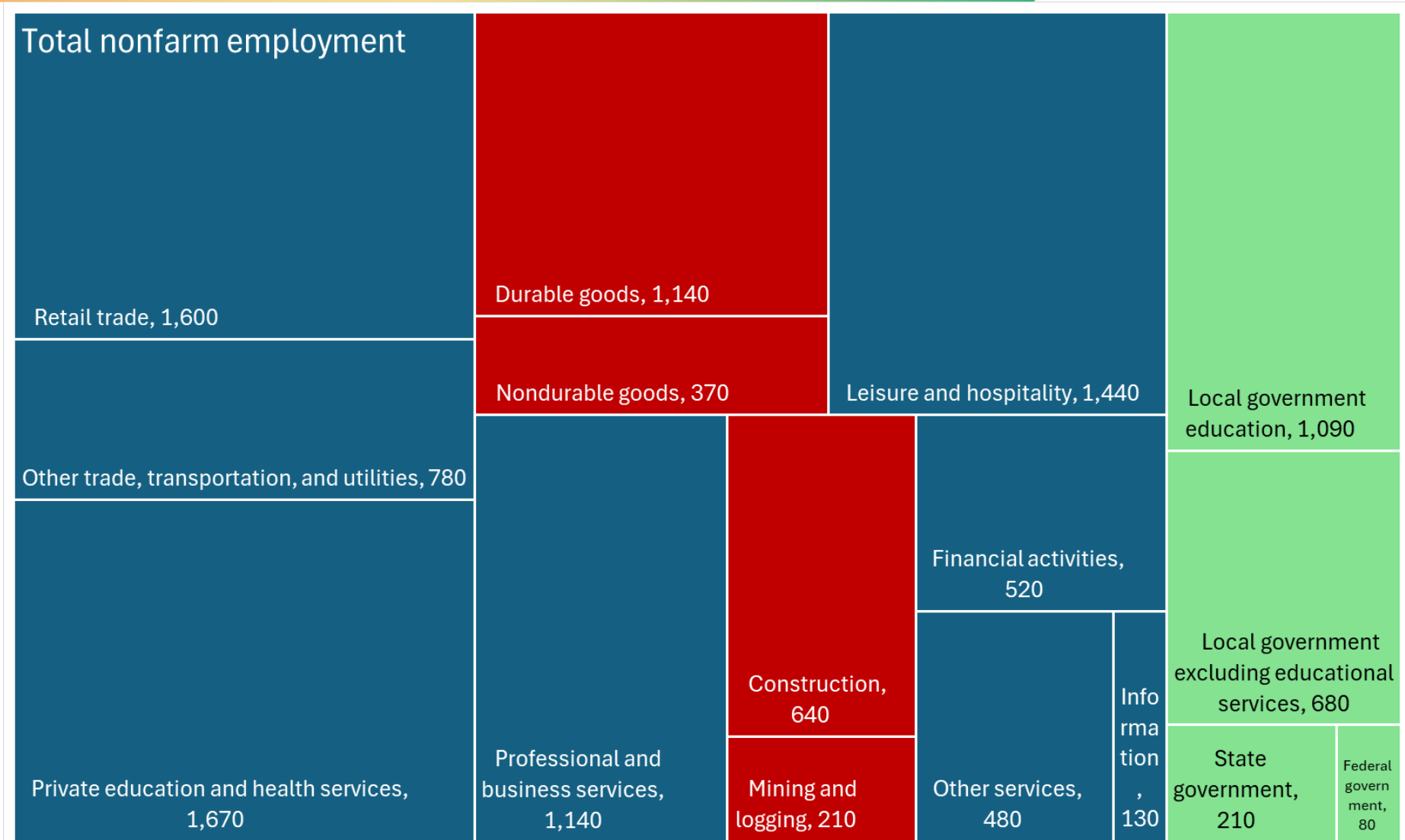
<b>December 2024 Employment</b>	<b>12,190</b>
Change from December 2023	+320
Change as Percent	+2.7%

# IN 2024, PRIVATE SECTOR GAINED 380 JOBS, GOVERNMENT LOST 60



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

# GOV'T MAKES UP 17% OF EMPLOYMENT, GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES 19%



Blue	Private-Services
Red	Private-Goods
Green	Gov't

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

# GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES AND LOCAL GOV'T HAVE OUTSIZED IMPORTANCE

Industry	Establishments	Employment	Total Wages	Average Weekly Wage	Average Annual Wage	Employment Location Quotient	Wages Location Quotient
Total, all private	1,454	9,932	\$ 496,740,057	\$ 962	\$ 50,014	0.97	0.92
Service-providing	1,172	7,319	\$ 317,984,377	\$ 836	\$ 43,448	0.87	0.72
Goods-producing	282	2,613	\$ 178,755,680	\$ 1,315	\$ 68,404	1.48	1.74

Federal Gov	8	74	\$ 4,557,554	\$ 1,188	\$ 61,797	0.32	0.28
State Gov	16	198	\$ 13,028,773	\$ 1,266	\$ 65,857	0.55	0.64
Local Gov	54	1,698	\$ 114,633,499	\$ 1,299	\$ 67,531	1.53	2.23

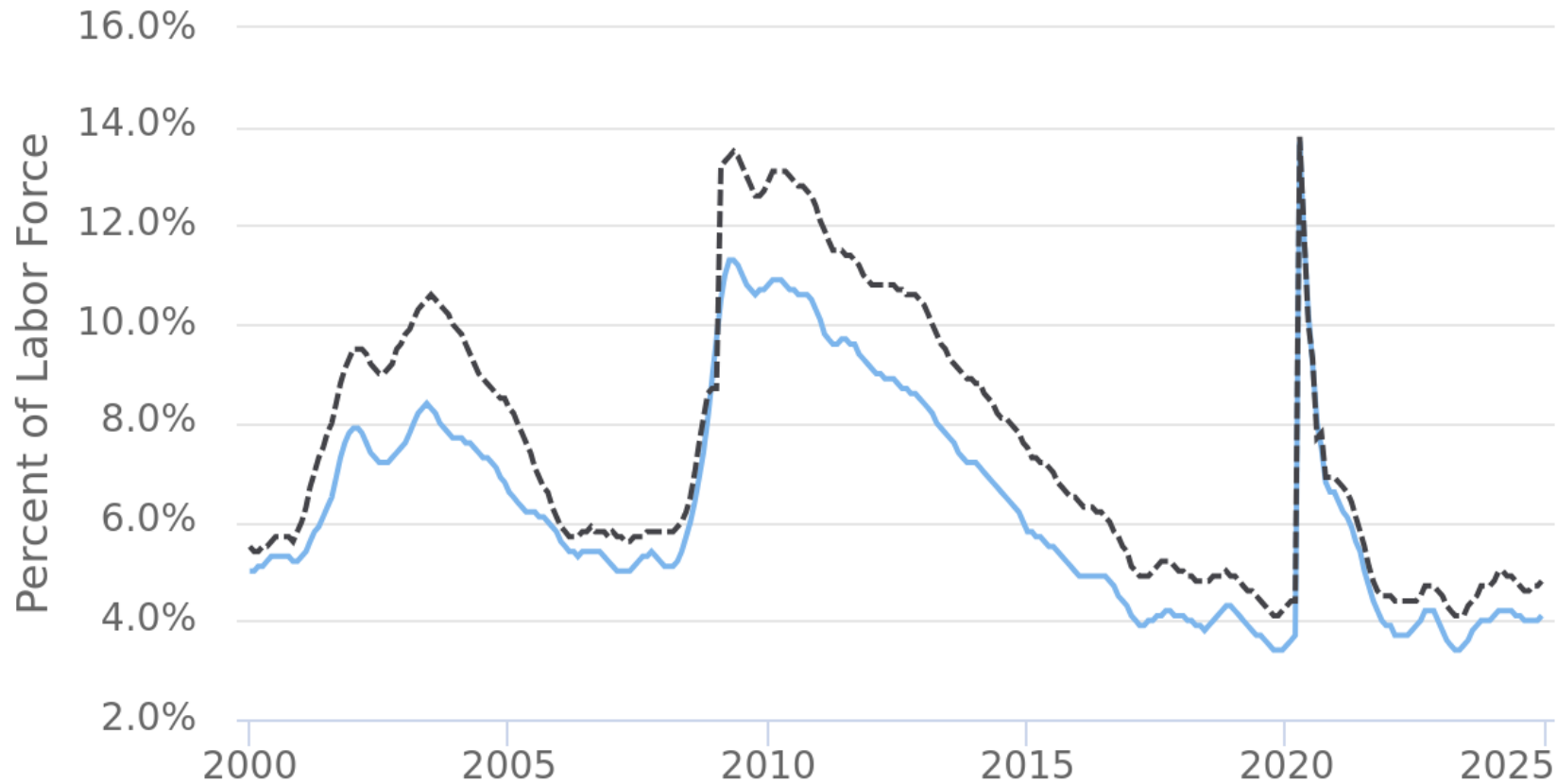
Natural resources and mining	43	355	\$ 21,518,301	\$ 1,166	\$ 60,658	2.49	2.94
Information	25	64	\$ 4,310,194	\$ 1,295	\$ 67,347	0.28	0.16

- Location Quotients show the relative importance of an industry to an area.
- $LQ < 1$  means there is less of an industry in an area compared to the average across the nation.
- $LQ > 1$  means that there is more of an industry present than there is on average across the nation.
- High LQ means high importance to a region.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2023 Annual

# DISTANCE BETWEEN OR AND COLUMBIA TIGHTER THAN IN PAST

## Unemployment Rate



### Unemployment Rate, December 2024

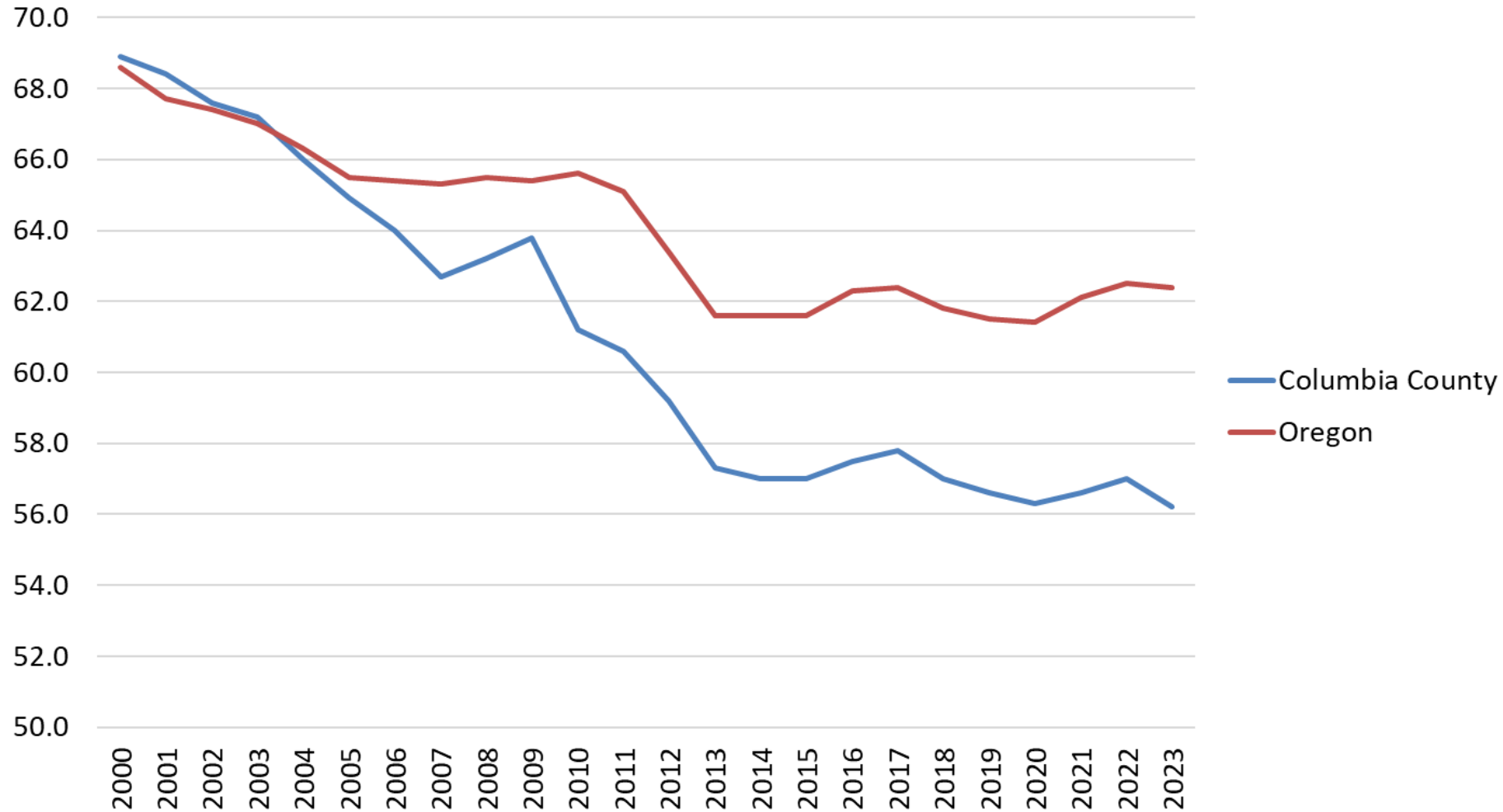
Columbia	4.8%
Oregon	4.1%

— Oregon (Seasonally Adjusted) — Columbia County (Seasonally Adjusted)

Source: Oregon Employment Department Qualityinfo.org

# COLUMBIA COUNTY LFPR LOWER THAN STATE AVERAGE

Labor Force Participation Rate, 2000-2023



## 2023 Labor Force Participation Rate

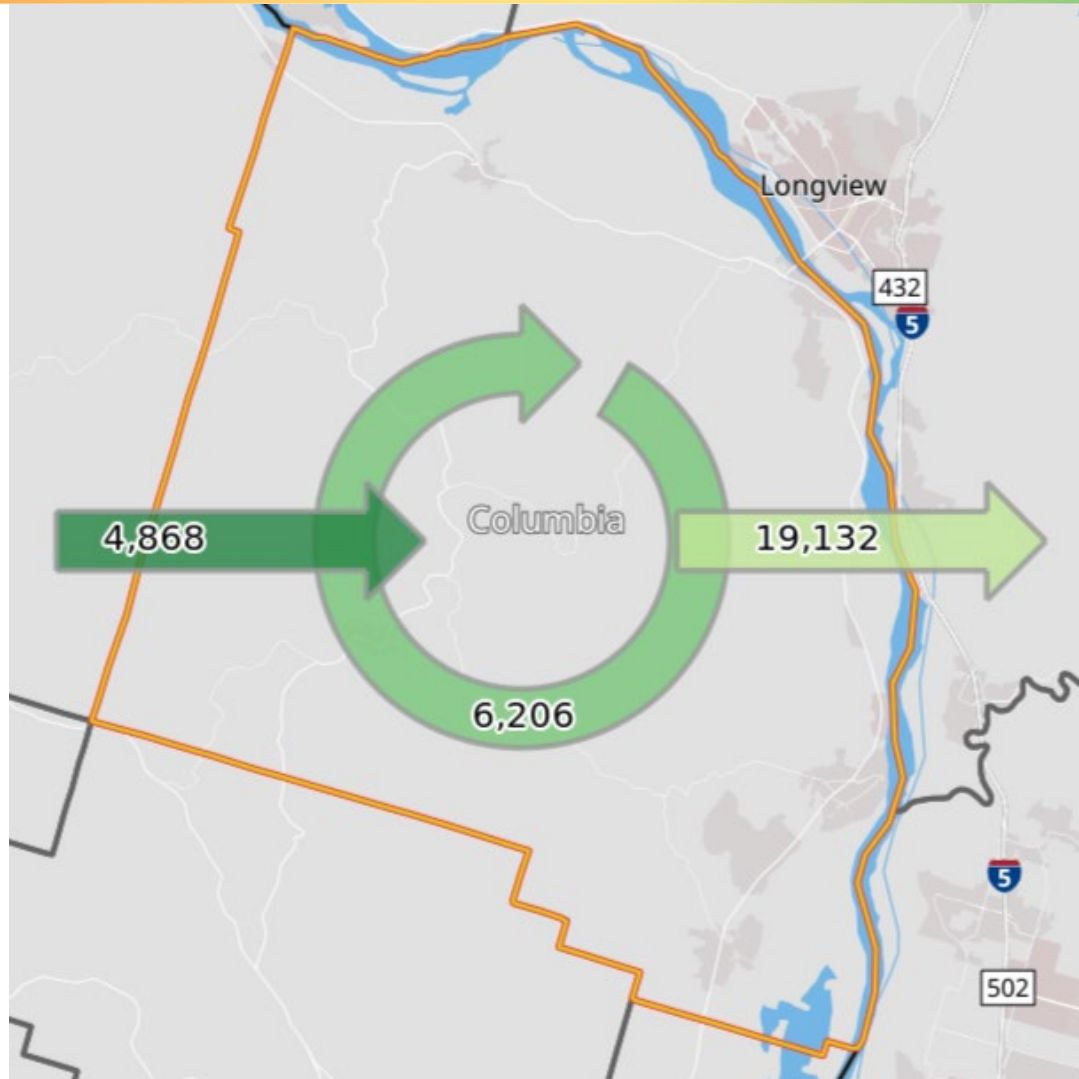
Columbia 56.2

Oregon 62.4

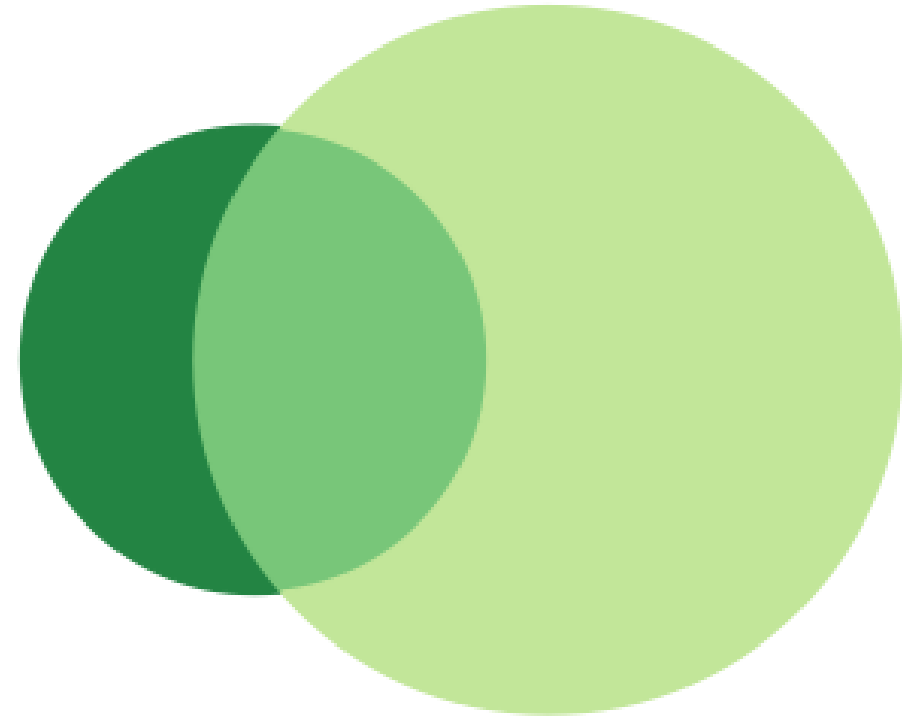
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



# ONLY 25% OF WORKFORCE BOTH LIVE AND WORK IN COLUMBIA COUNTY



Inflow/Outflow Job Counts in 2022  
All Workers



- 4,868 - Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside
- 19,132 - Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside
- 6,206 - Employed and Live in Selection Area

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD, Onthemap

# RESIDENTS LEAVE FOR HIGHER PAYING JOBS DURING PRIME EMPLOYMENT YEARS

Job Characteristics (All Jobs)	Interior		Outflow		Difference (Outflow-Interior)	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Internal Jobs Filled by Residents	6,206	100.0%	19,132	100.0%	12,926	0.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	1,361	21.9%	3,444	18.0%	2,083	-3.9%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	3,211	51.7%	10,774	56.3%	7,563	4.6%
Workers Aged 55 or older	1,634	26.3%	4,914	25.7%	3,280	-0.6%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	1,346	21.7%	2,541	13.3%	1,195	-8.4%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	2,037	32.8%	4,358	22.8%	2,321	-10.0%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	2,823	45.5%	12,233	63.9%	9,410	18.4%
Workers in the “Goods Producing” Industry Class	1,546	24.9%	4,816	25.2%	3,270	0.3%
Workers in the “Trade, Transportation, and Utilities” Industry Class	999	16.1%	4,234	22.1%	3,235	6.0%
Workers in the “All Other Services” Industry Class	3,661	59.0%	10,082	52.7%	6,421	-6.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD, Onthemap

# MOST WORKERS TRAVEL BETWEEN 10-50 MILES TO MULTNOMAH/WA COUNTY

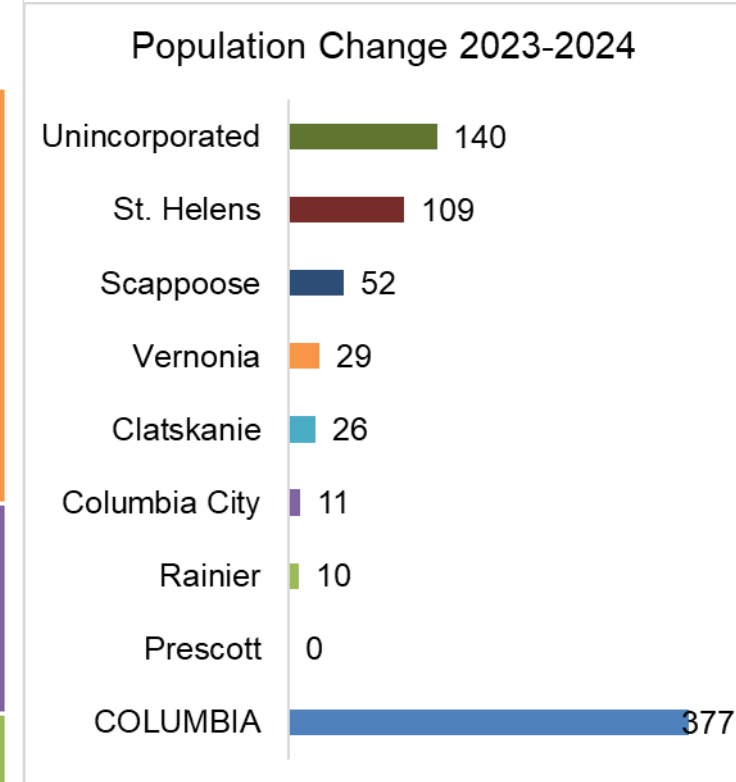
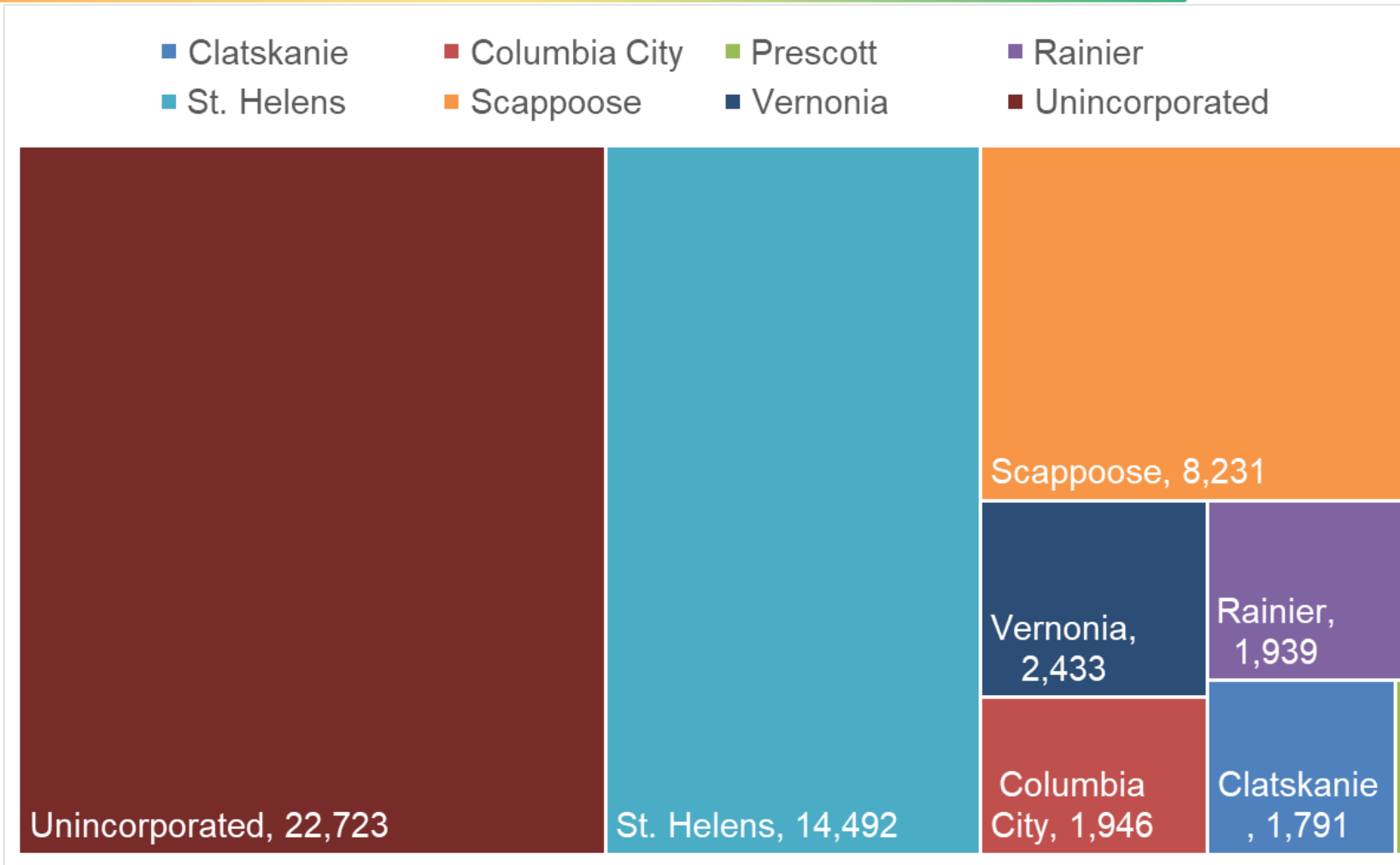
## Job Counts by Places (Cities, CDPs, etc.) Where Workers are Employed - All Jobs

	2022	
	Count	Share
Portland city, OR	6,314	24.9%
St. Helens city, OR	2,534	10.0%
Hillsboro city, OR	1,880	7.4%
Scappoose city, OR	1,030	4.1%
Beaverton city, OR	782	3.1%
Salem city, OR	720	2.8%
Longview city, WA	608	2.4%
Tigard city, OR	503	2.0%
Clatskanie city, OR	415	1.6%
Vancouver city, WA	401	1.6%
All Other Locations	10,151	40.1%

## Job Counts in Work Blocks by Distance 2022

	Count	Share
Total All Jobs	25,338	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	5,737	22.6%
10 to 24 miles	8,632	34.1%
25 to 50 miles	7,127	28.1%
Greater than 50 miles	3,842	15.2%

# 53,639 PEOPLE IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, GREW BY 0.7% FROM 2023-2024



Source: Portland State University, Population Research Center

# 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!**

# Thank You!

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



**SHAUN BARRICK, NORTHWEST OREGON, WORKFORCE ECONOMIST**  
**SHAUN.BARRICK@EMPLOY.OREGON.GOV**

**SIGN UP FOR THE LATEST WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH**  
**[WWW.QUALITYINFO.ORG/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.QUALITYINFO.ORG/SUBSCRIBE)**