# **Workforce Trends in Oregon**

# Oregon Economic Development Association Summit

July 30, 2024



## 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!

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# **KEY FACTS FROM RECENT NEWS RELEASE**

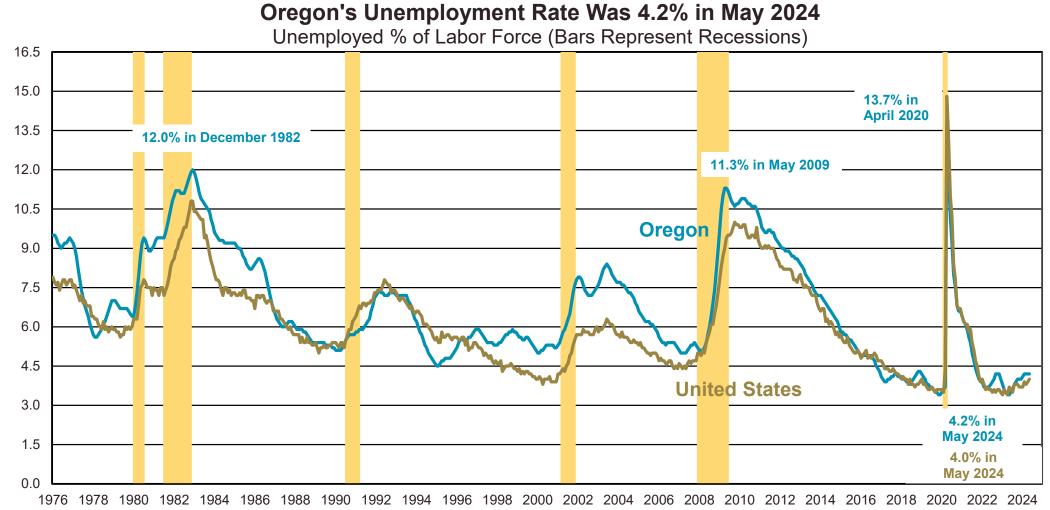
Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.2% in May for the fourth straight month.

- Looking back at the past few years, Oregon's monthly unemployment rate has been 4.2% or lower every month since October 2021.
- The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.0% in May.
- Oregon's nonfarm payrolls increased by 4,000 jobs in May.
  - This followed a revised gain of 2,400 jobs in April.
  - Health care and social assistance gained 1,900 jobs in May, while leisure and hospitality added 1,000.
  - Monthly declines were largest in retail trade (-800) and construction (-400).
- Nonfarm payroll employment added 12,600 jobs over the past year, or 0.6%.
  - The private sector added 3,500 jobs, or 0.2%, over the most recent 12-month period.



## UNEMPLOYMENT

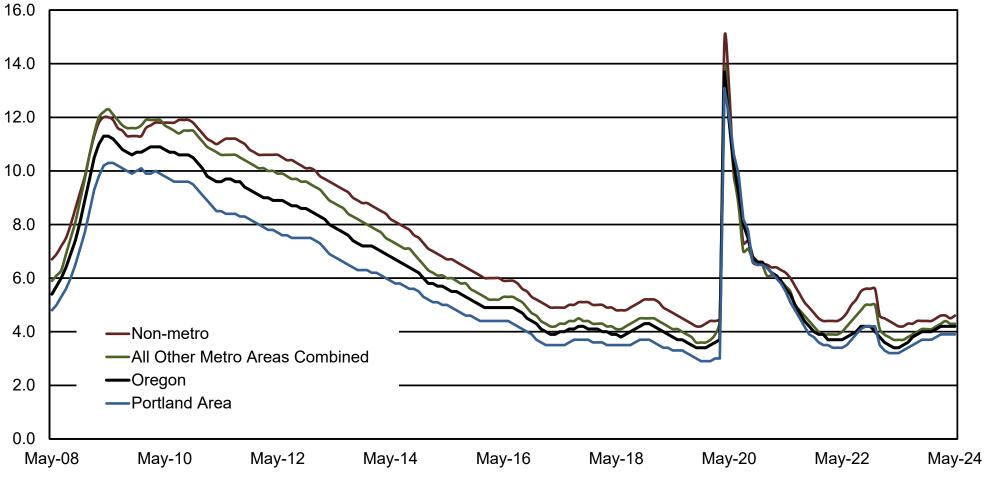
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) and Current Population Survey (CPS)



Source: Oregon Employment Department and National Bureau of Economic Research

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ROSE IN OREGON'S COMBINED NON-METRO AREAS IN MAY.

**Oregon Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates** 

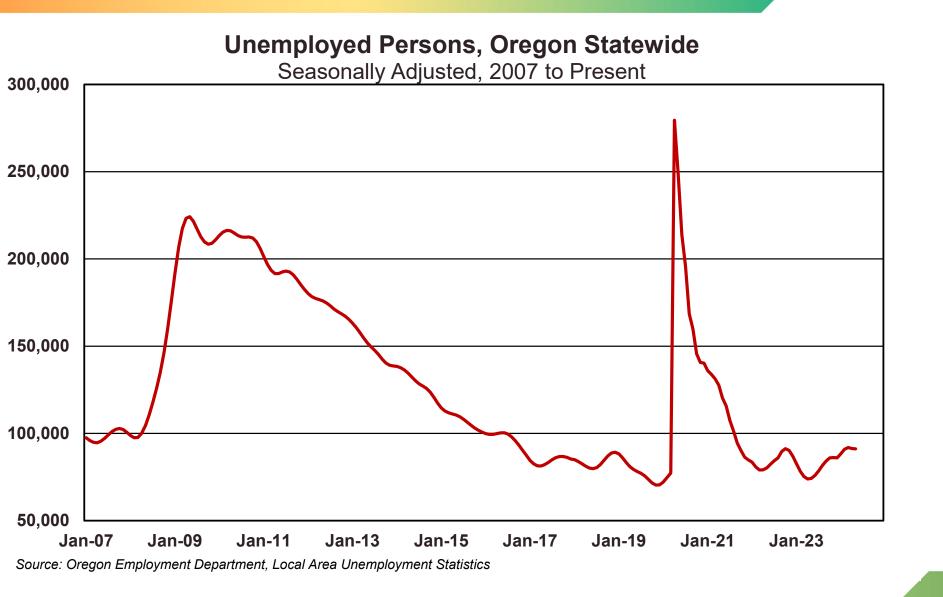


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Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

#### THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED OREGONIANS DECLINED BY 200 IN MAY.



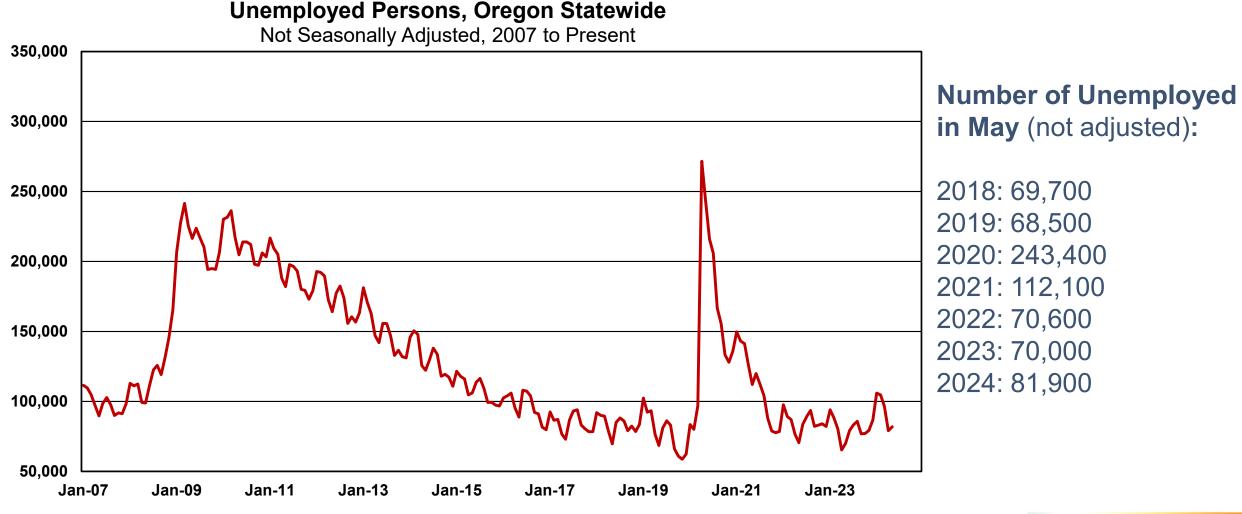
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment:

Pre-COVID Low Dec 2019: 70,500

<u>Highest</u> April 2020: 279,400

<u>Current</u> May 2024: 91,100

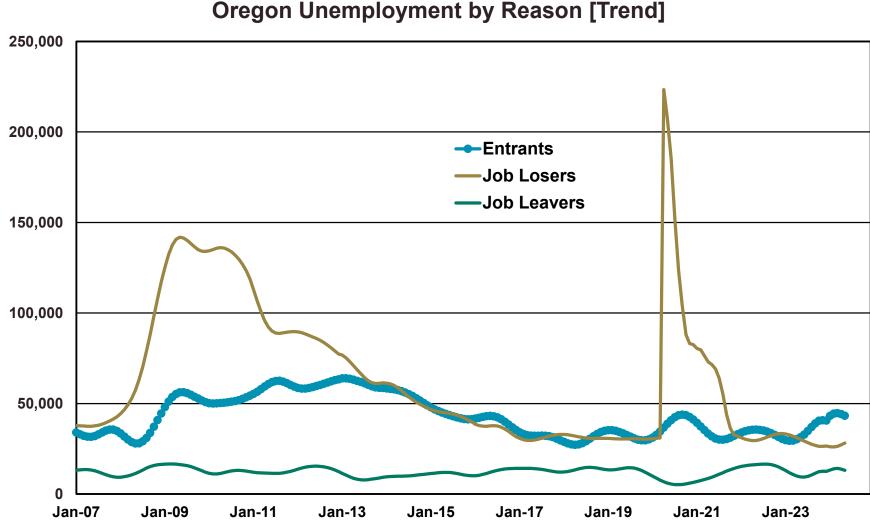
### THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED OREGONIANS REMAINS RELATIVELY LOW.



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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#### WHY ARE OREGONIANS UNEMPLOYED?



New or returning to the workforce 43,300 (51%)

Lost job 28,200 (33%)

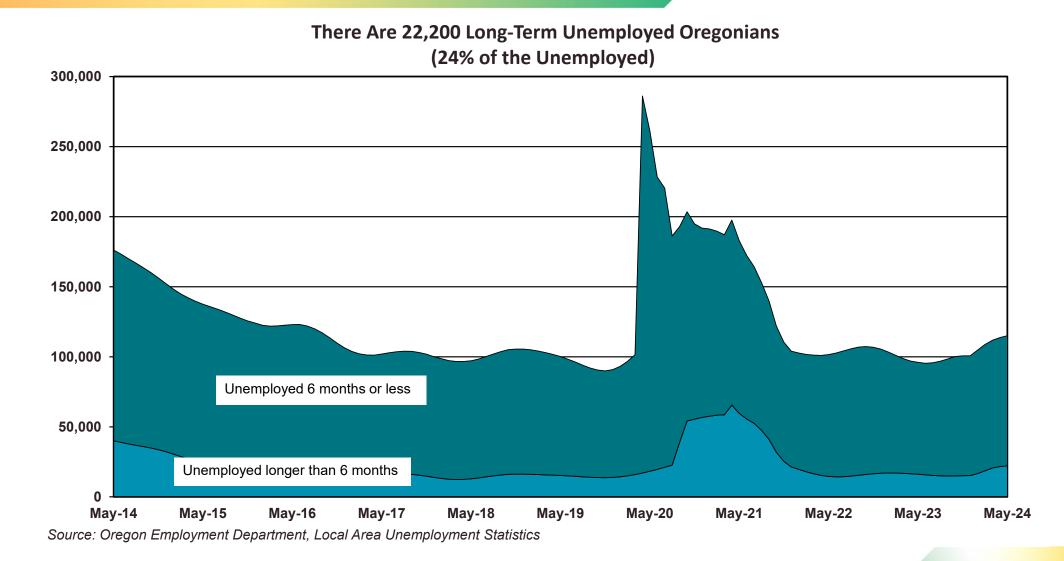
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Left job voluntarily 13,100 (16%)

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Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Population Survey

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



## **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.



## **INPUTS TO OREGON'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CALCULATION**

#### Labor Force data from the Current Population Survey

Around 1,100 households sampled in Oregon

Information from Unemployment Insurance system

• A count of individuals claiming a week of benefit payments

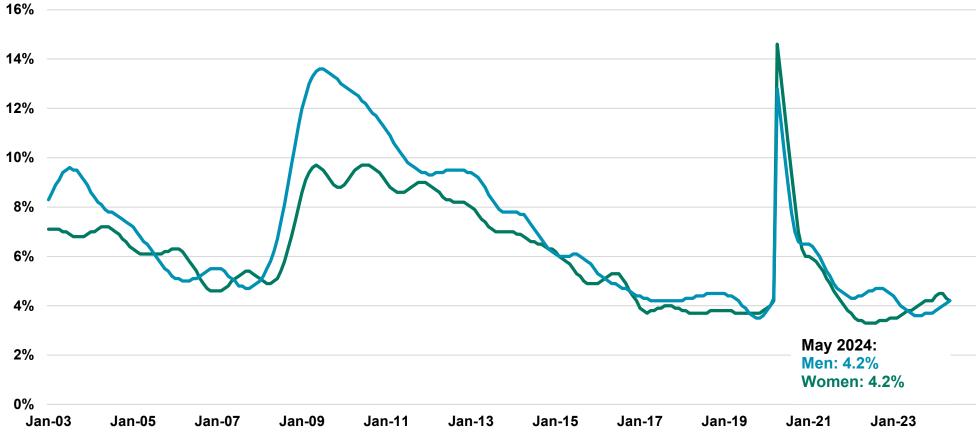
Nonfarm Payroll Employment numbers from Current Employment Statistics Survey

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• 7,600 businesses sampled in Oregon

#### Monthly Unemployment Rates by Gender

Oregon, 2003 - Present

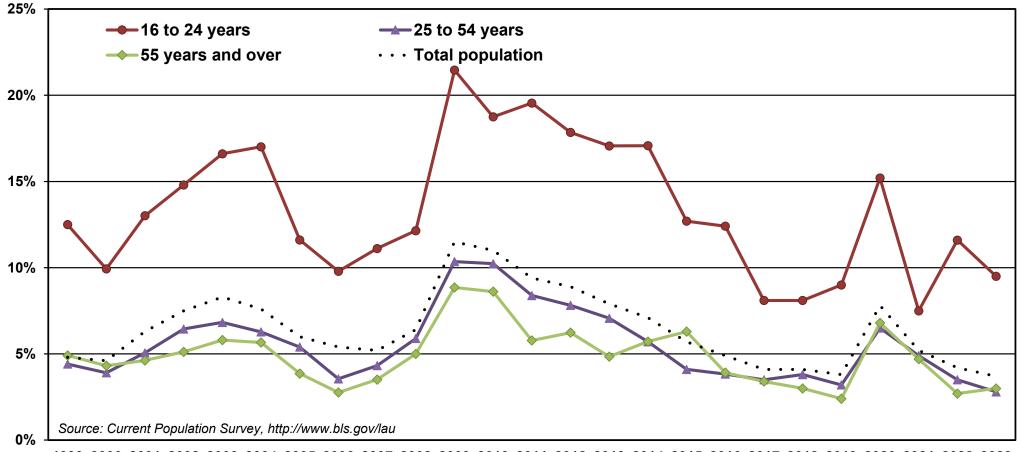


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Population Survey



#### Average Annual Unemployment by Age Category

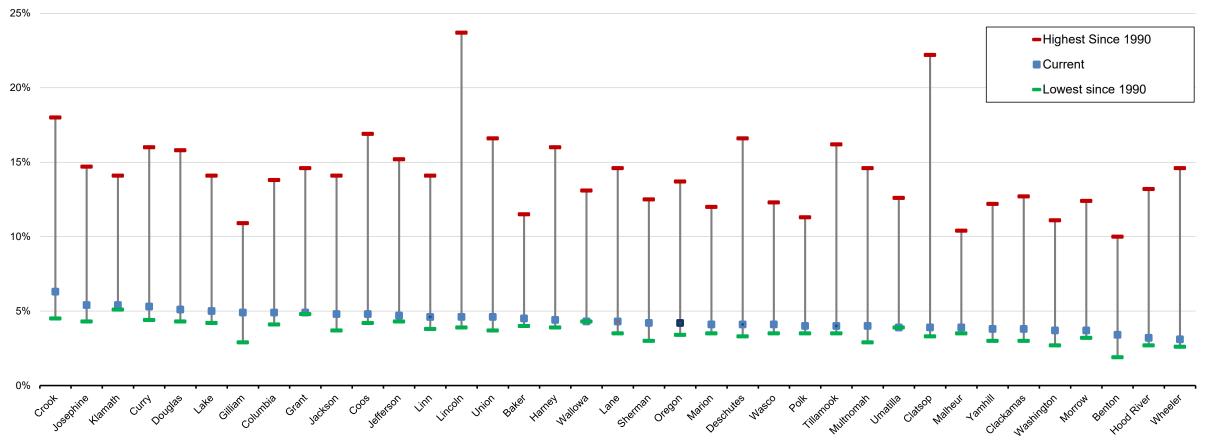
Oregon, 1999-2023



1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

#### **Unemployment Rates in Oregon Counties**

Current Rate (May 2024), Record High, and Record Low for Each County, Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

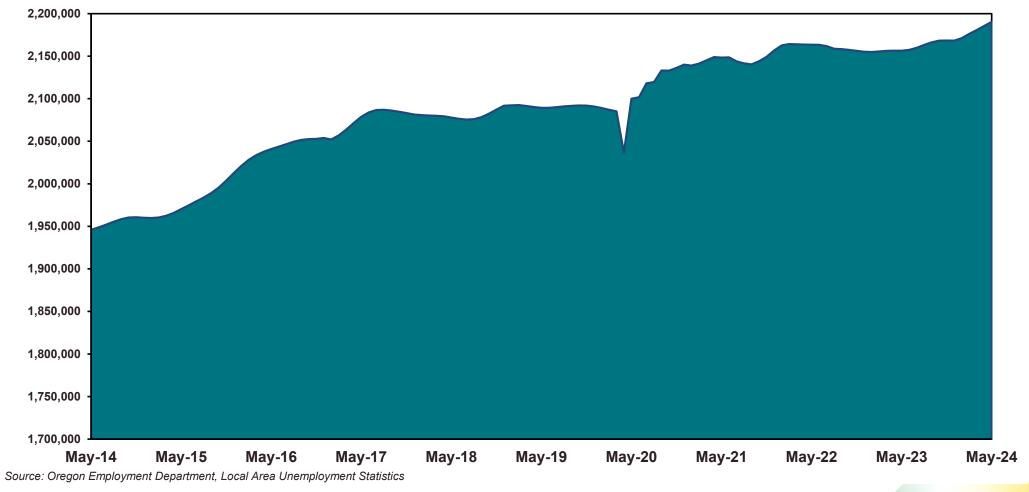
## **LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION**



## **OREGON'S LABOR FORCE HAS BEEN GROWING IN RECENT MONTHS.**

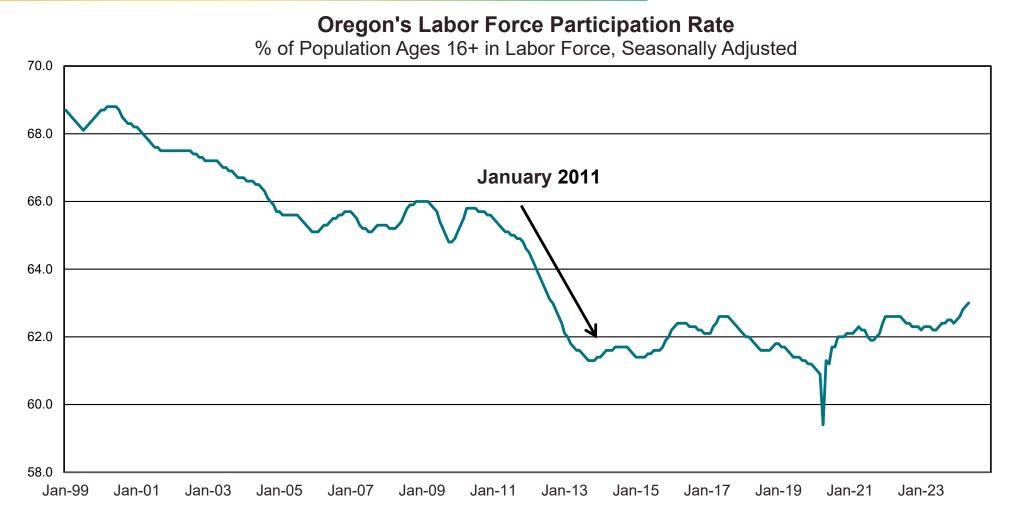
Oregon Civilian Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted





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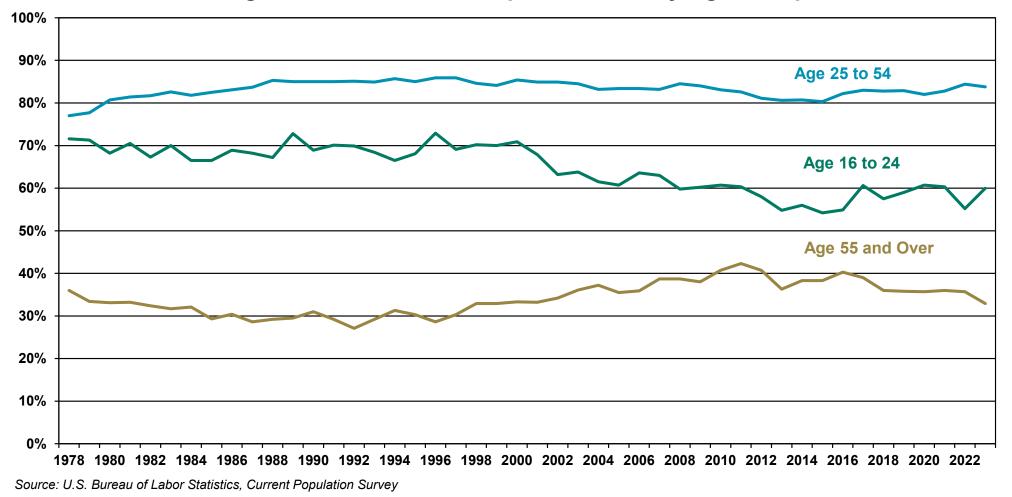
## **OREGON'S LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE WAS 63.0% IN MAY.**



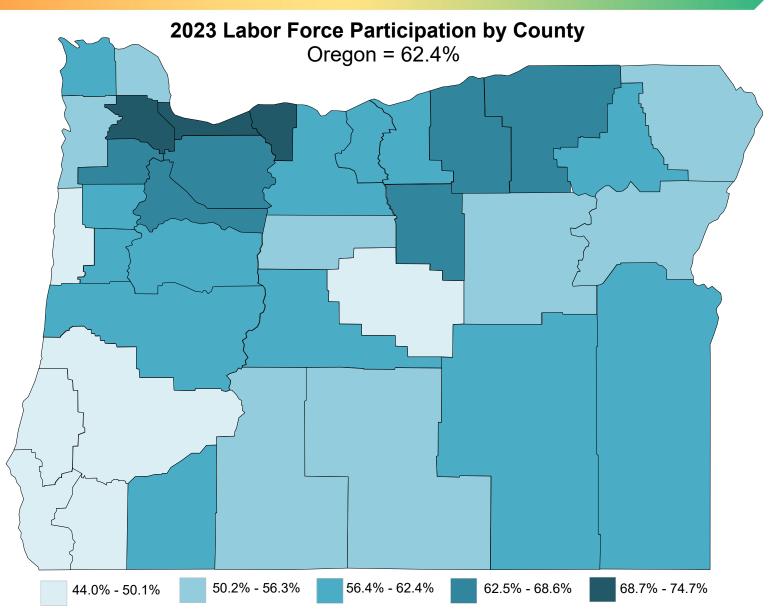
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



**Oregon Labor Force Participation Rates by Age Group** 



### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES VARY WIDELY ACROSS OREGON'S COUNTIES.



High Hood River County 74.7%

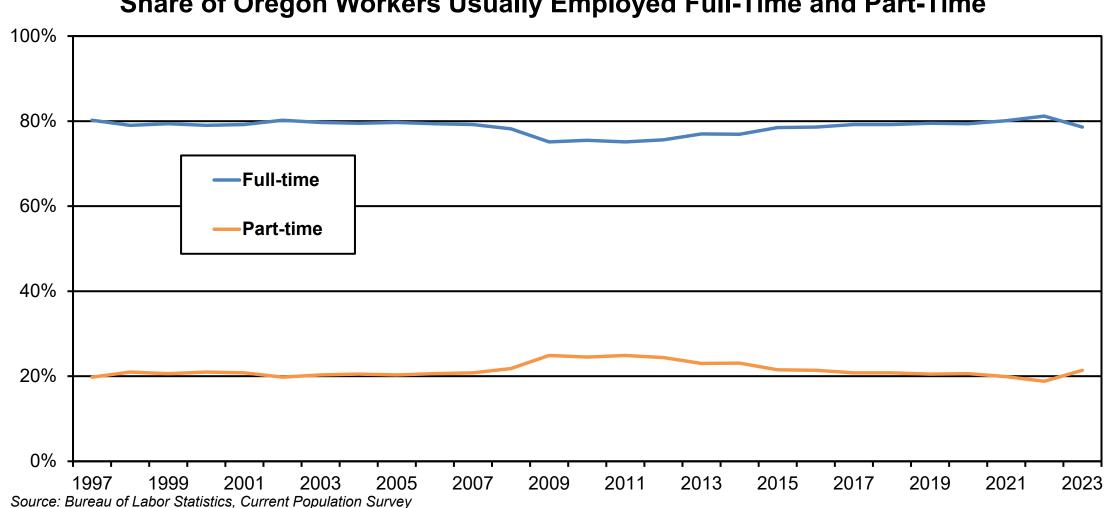
### Low Curry County 44.0%

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Source: Oregon Employment Department

## **ONE OUT OF FIVE OREGON WORKERS USUALLY WORKED PART TIME IN 2023.**



Share of Oregon Workers Usually Employed Full-Time and Part-Time

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

**Updated: June 12, 2024** 

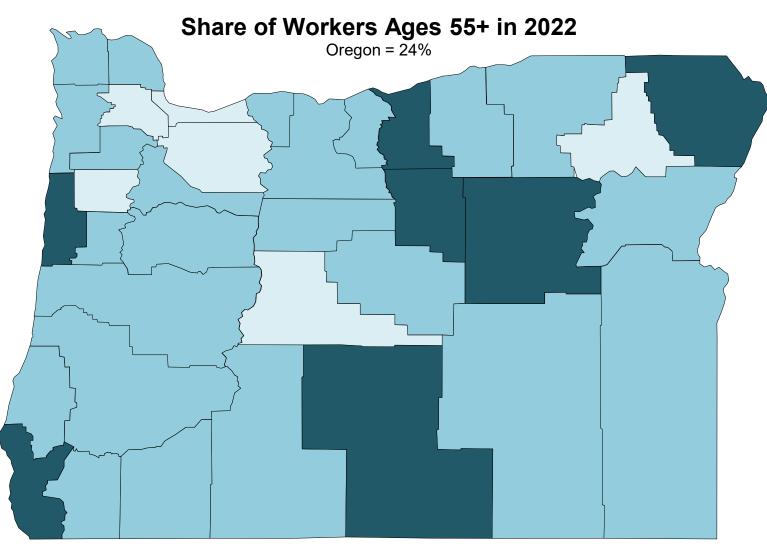
#### Workers Ages 55+ Could Be Within a Decade of Retirement

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%	

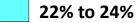
In the early 1990s, one out of 10 jobs was held by a worker age 55 or older.

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

Source: Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators



Source: Oregon Employment Department



25% to 29%



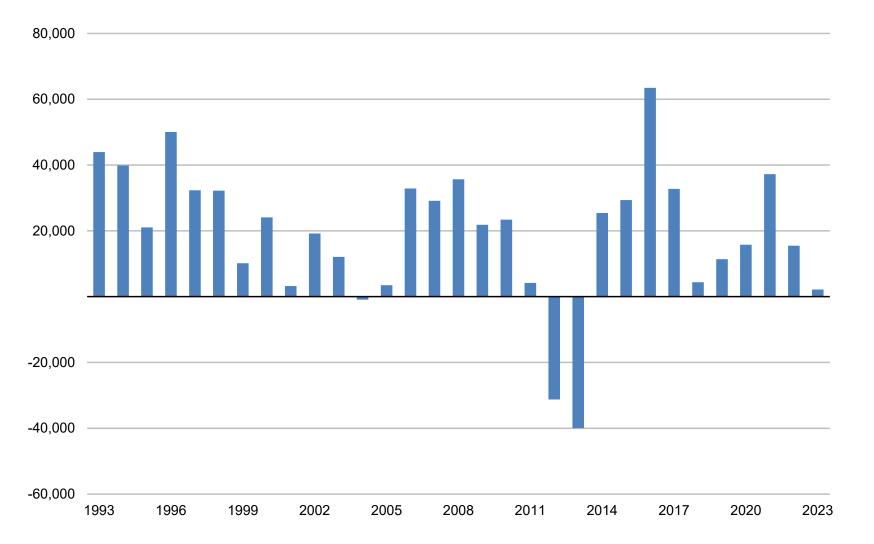
Rural counties tend to have higher shares of workers who may be nearing retirement in the coming years.

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

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#### **OREGON'S LABOR FORCE GROWTH HAS SLOWED.**

Annual Labor Force Change in Oregon, 1993 - 2023



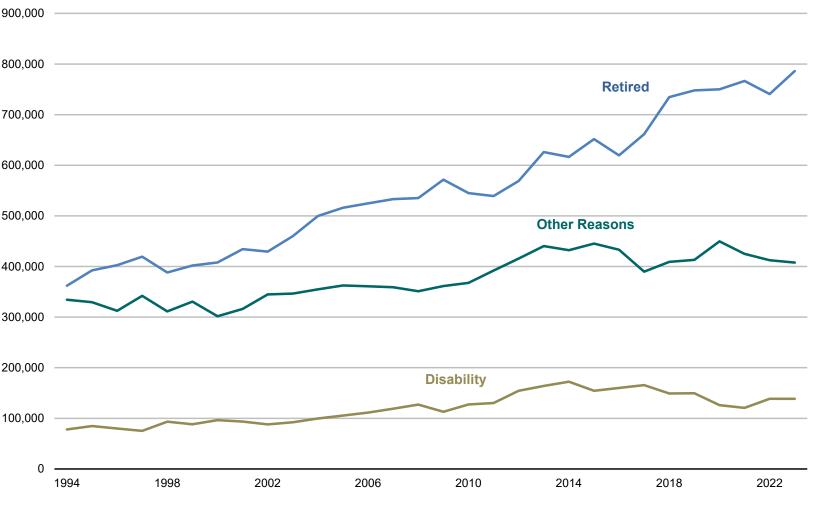
In 2023, Oregon added 2,200 people to the labor force.

That was a gain of 0.1%.

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#### **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:

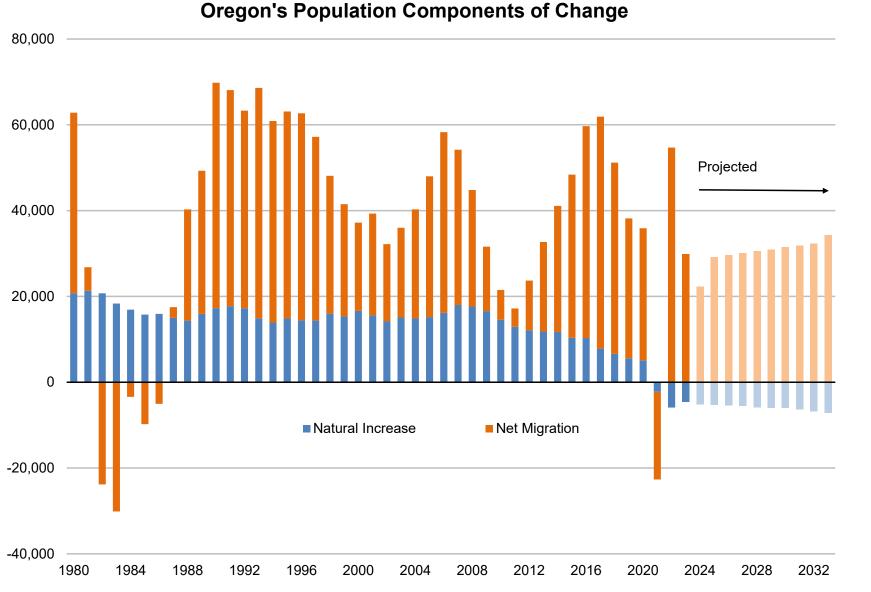
- Up 5% since 2019
- Rose by 26% over the past decade

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Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

#### **SLOWING LABOR FORCE GROWTH: SLOWER POPULATION GROWTH**



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

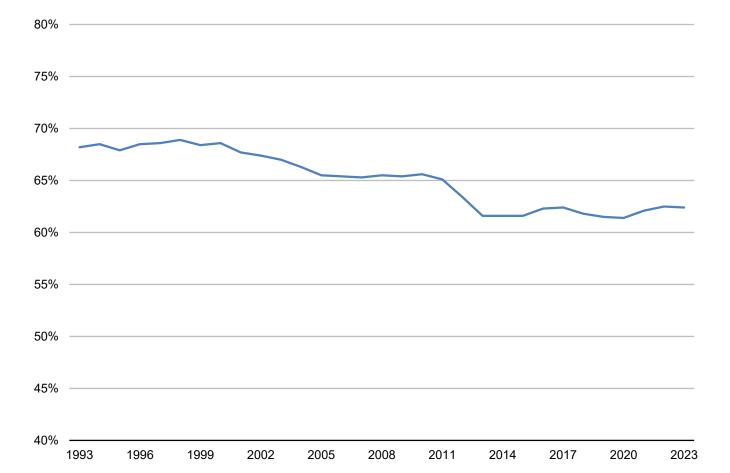
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Source: Oregon Employment Department, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

#### **LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES HOLDING**

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

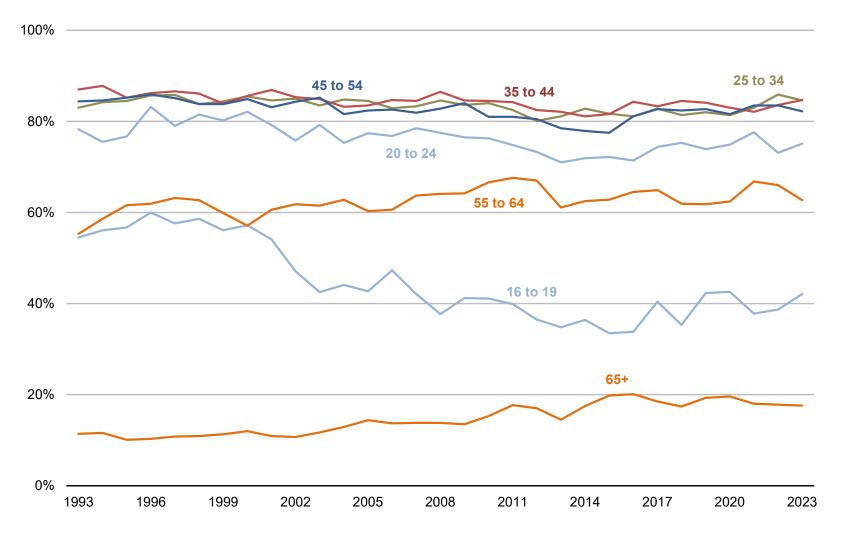


Oregon's Labor Force Participation Rate, 1993-2023

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.

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#### **Oregon Job Vacancies and Unemployment Rates**, 2019-2023

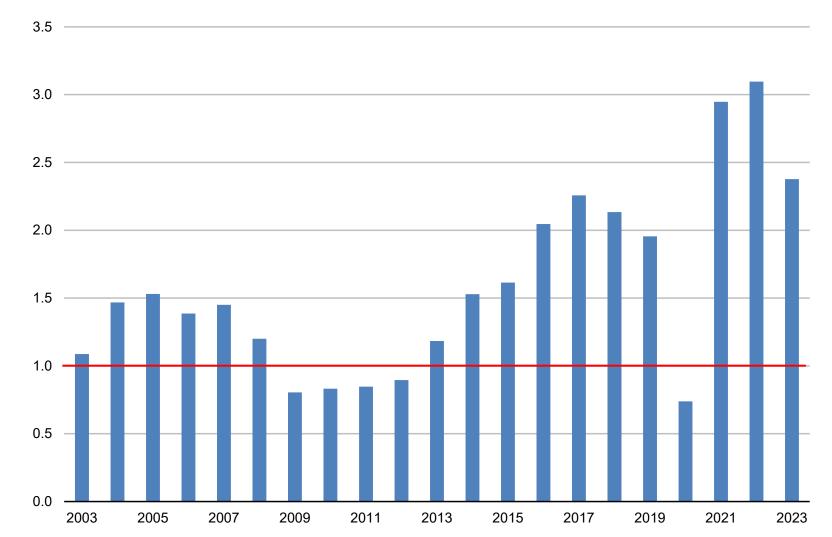
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Vacancies	57,241	44,408	96,887	103,977	72,815
Average Hourly Wage (in 2023\$)	\$22.42	\$21.25	\$22.14	\$22.55	\$25.13
Full-time Positions	77%	79%	78%	81%	82%
Permanent Positions	93%	92%	93%	94%	94%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	34%	33%	30%	29%	39%
Requiring Previous Experience	57%	53%	53%	52%	58%
Difficult to Fill	57%	51%	72%	72%	61%
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	7.8%	5.2%	4.2%	3.7%

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

Employers still have a relatively large number of job openings.

#### **JOB SEEKERS' LABOR MARKET**

Labor Leverage Ratio in Oregon, 2003-2023



Slow labor force growth, many job openings, and low unemployment give workers the upper hand in the labor market.

Workers have quit jobs at 2-3 times the rate of employer-initiated layoffs or discharges in recent years.

Layoffs / discharges hit their lowest level in 20 years in Oregon during 2023.

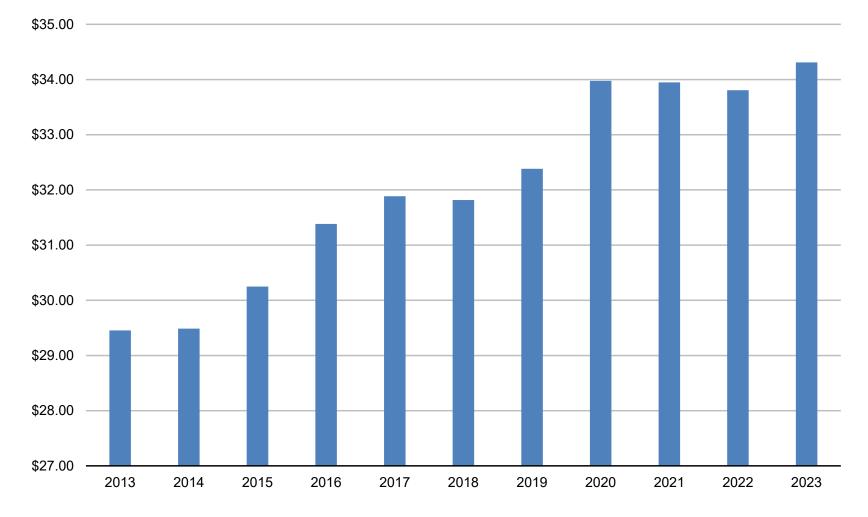
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Quits per Layoff or Discharge

#### **ATTRACTING AND RETAINING WORKERS IN A TIGHT LABOR MARKET: MORE MONEY**

#### Real Average Hourly Earnings of All Private Employees in Oregon (2023 Dollars)



It has taken more than eight years for the average hourly earnings of incumbent employees to see a similar-sized gain (13%) to that of average starting wages for job openings in just the past two years.

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

#### Top 10 States by Share of Those Working from Home in 2022

Area	Worked from Home		
District of Columbia	33.8%		
Colorado	21.2%		
Washington	20.5%		
Maryland	19.2%		
Arizona	19.2%		
Oregon	19.0%		
Massachusetts	18.4%		
Virginia	18.2%		
Utah	18.0%		
New Hampshire	17.3%		

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

#### Share of U.S. Workers With Access to Selected Benefits, by Employer Class Size

	_	Employer Size Class				
	Year	All	Less than 50	50 - 99	100 - 499	500+
	2013	77%	66%	76%	84%	90%
Paid Vacation	2023	79%	71%	76%	86%	91%
	2013	77%	67%	74%	85%	91%
Paid Holidays	2023	80%	73%	75%	86%	92%
Health	2013	70%	53%	69%	83%	89%
Insurance	2023	72%	56%	75%	85%	90%
Retirement	2013	64%	45%	63%	79%	87%
Benefits	2023	70%	53%	71%	83%	91%

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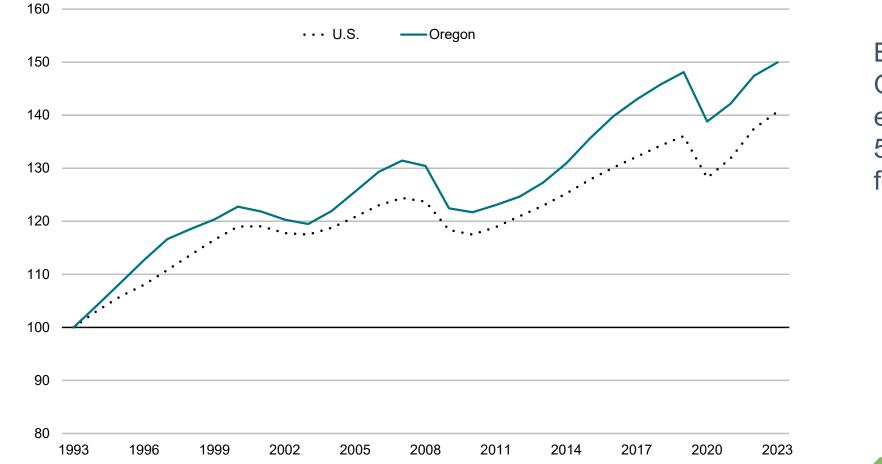
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Source: Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Reducing previous work experience requirements – when it's safe to do so – and increasing recruitment intensity are also considerations.

#### AGING WORKFORCE AND SLOWER LABOR FORCE GROWTH COULD IMPACT JOB GROWTH

Employment Levels Relative to 1993 U.S. and Oregon



Between 1993 and 2023, Oregon's total nonfarm employment grew by 50%, compared with 41% for the U.S.

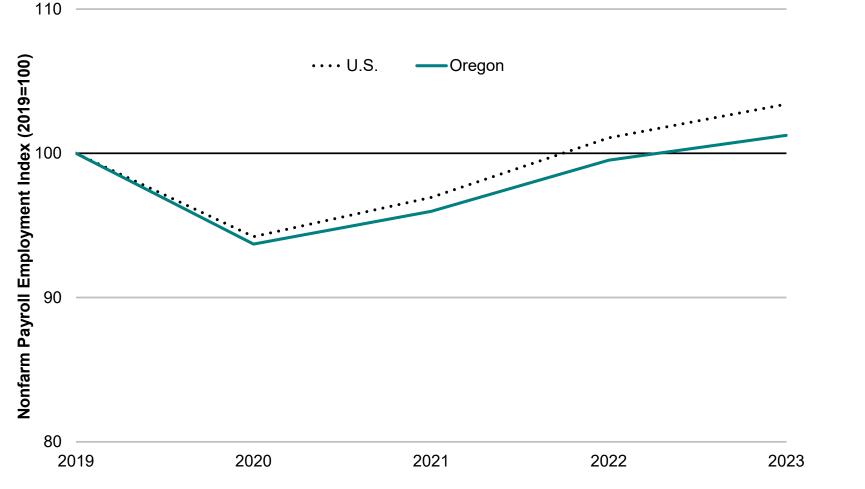
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Nonfarm Payroll Employment Index (1993=100)

#### AGING WORKFORCE AND SLOWER LABOR FORCE GROWTH COULD IMPACT JOB GROWTH

#### Employment Levels Relative to 2019 U.S. and Oregon



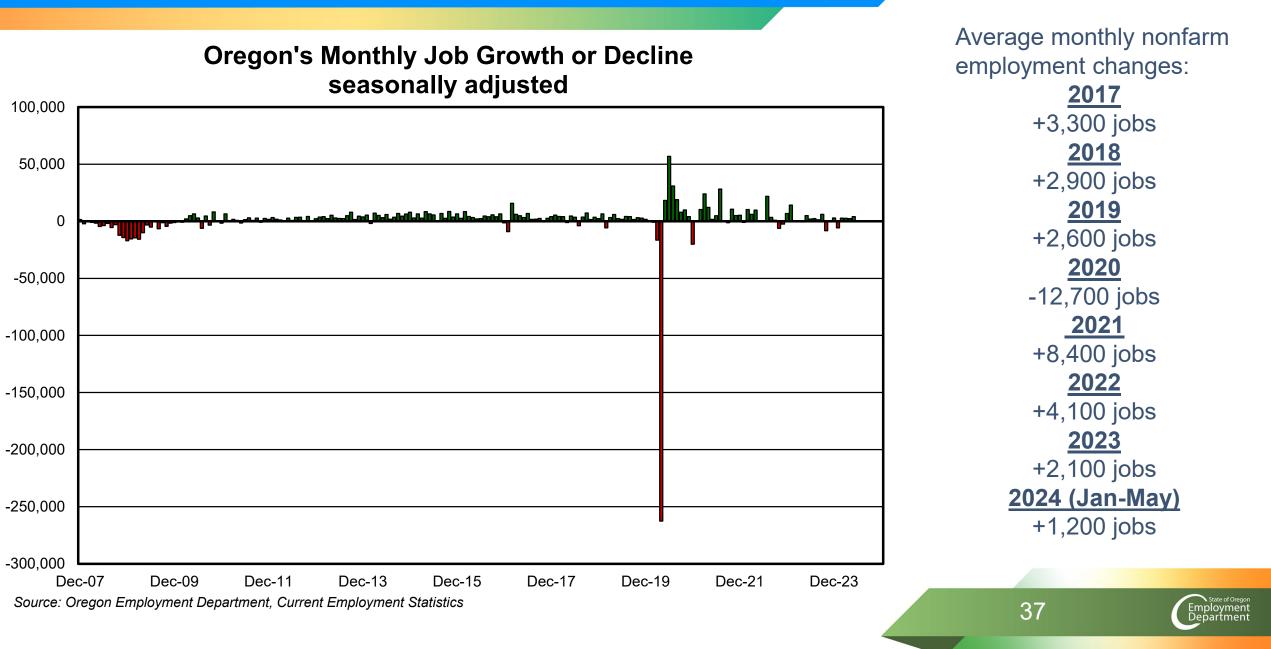
Oregon has lagged the U.S. in jobs recovery and expansion since 2020.

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JOB GROWTH BY INDUSTRY Current Employment Statistics (CES)

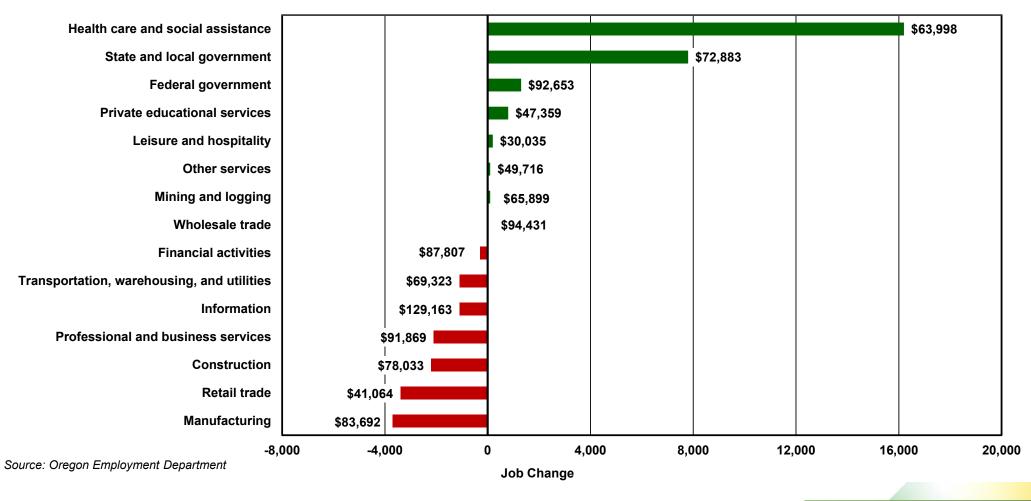


### **OREGON EMPLOYERS GAINED 4,000 NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS IN MAY.**



### HEALTH CARE HAS THE STRONGEST GROWTH IN OREGON'S ECONOMY OVER THE PAST YEAR.





130

120

110

100

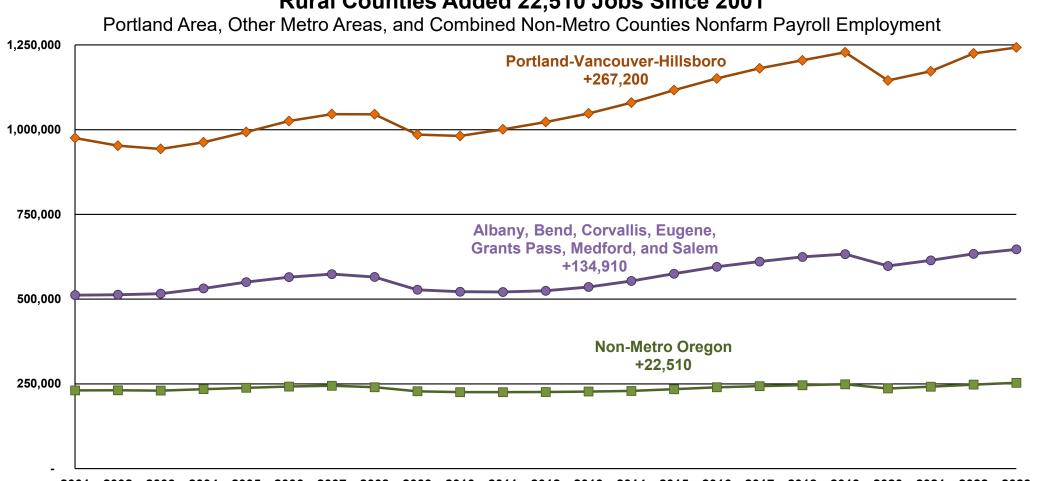
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Employment Levels Relative to 2001 Portland Area, Other Metro Areas, and Combined Non-Metro Counties (2001 = 100)





Non-metro areas



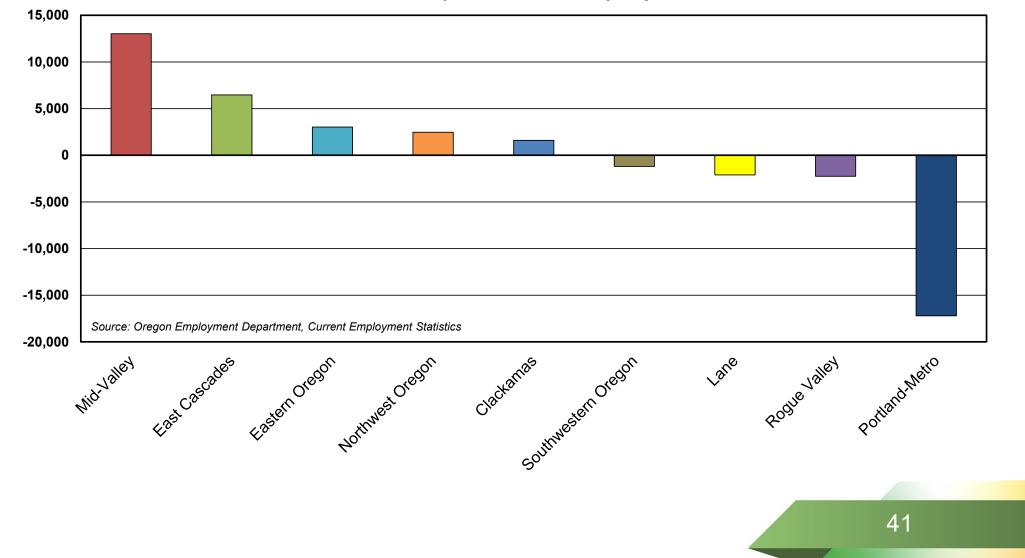
Rural Counties Added 22,510 Jobs Since 2001

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics



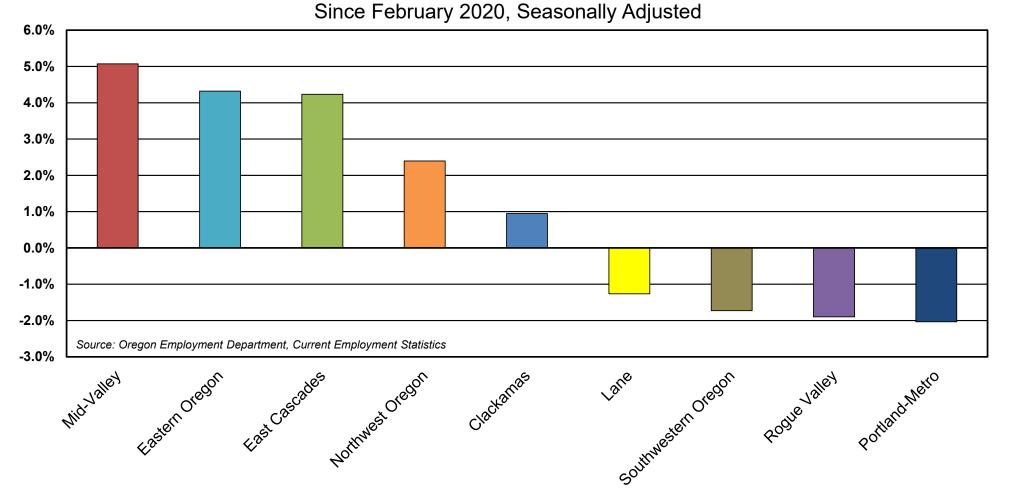
Job Change by Local Workforce Area as of May 2024

Since February 2020, Seasonally Adjusted



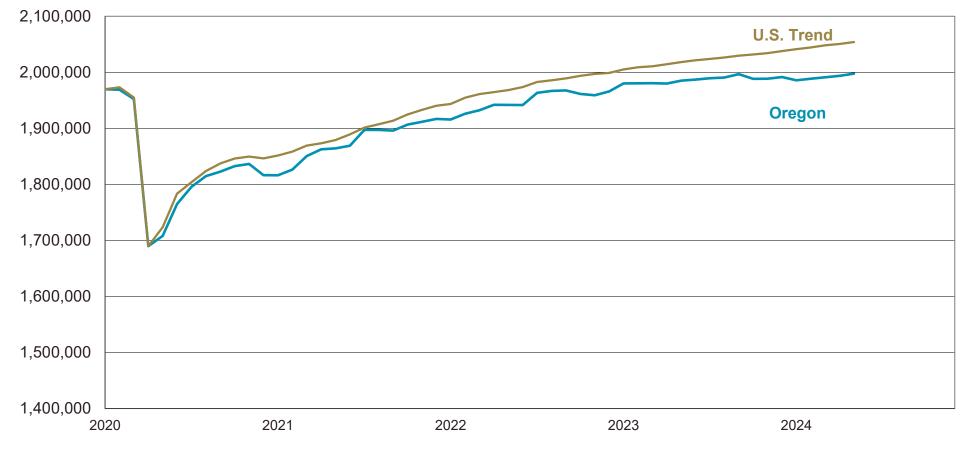
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#### THE U.S. AND OREGON HAVE MORE JOBS NOW THAN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC RECESSION.

Oregon and U.S. Employment Trends\* January 2020 to Current: U.S. Trend Indexed to January 2020



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

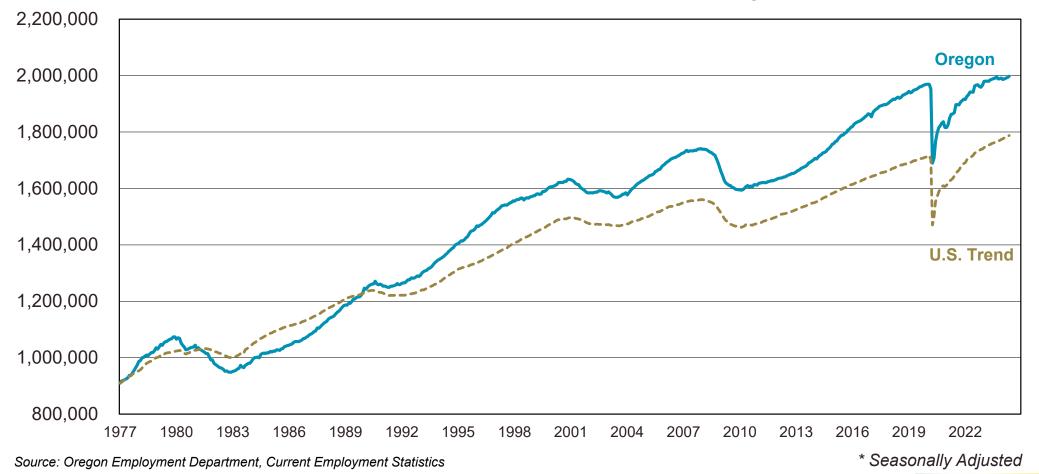


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#### IN THE LONGER-TERM, OREGON HAS A TRACK RECORD OF GREATER JOB GROWTH THAN THE U.S.

#### Oregon and U.S. Employment Trends\* 1977 to Current: U.S. Trend Indexed to January 1977

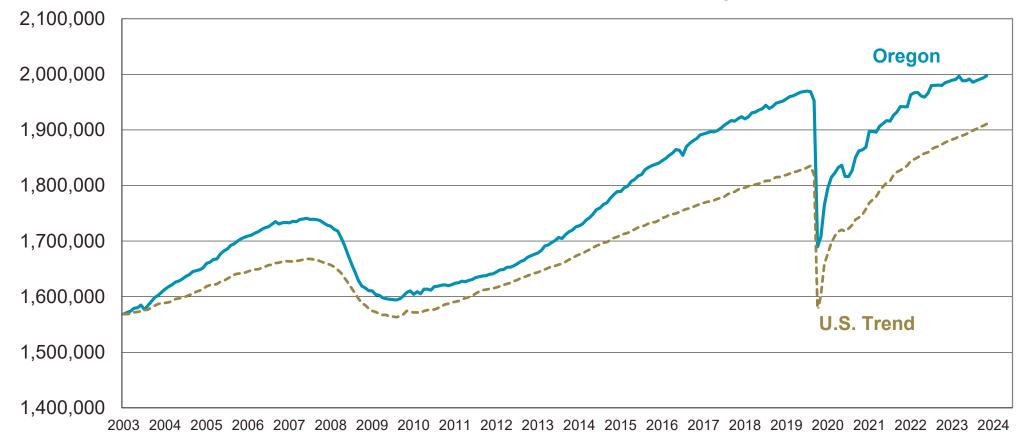


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#### WE'VE TENDED TO GROW FASTER THAN THE U.S. DURING GOOD ECONOMIC TIMES...

#### Oregon and U.S. Employment Trends\* 2003 to Current: U.S. Trend Indexed to July 2003



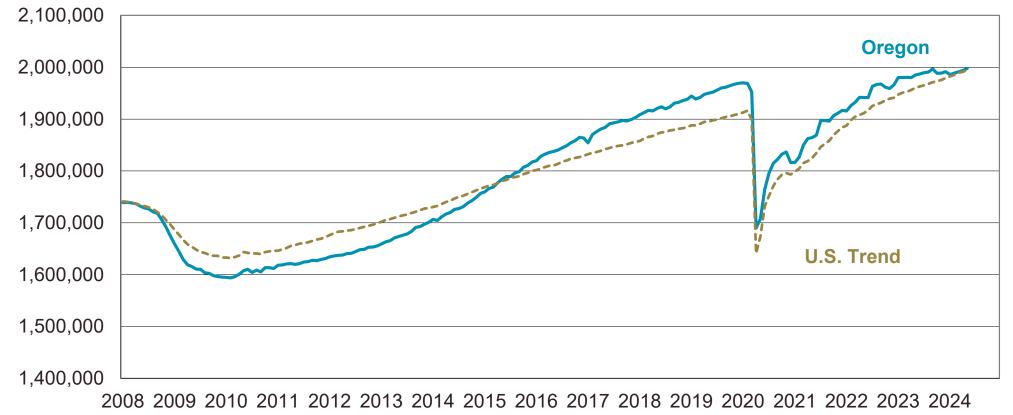
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

\* Seasonally Adjusted

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### ...ALTHOUGH THIS TREND HAS CHANGED SINCE 2020.

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



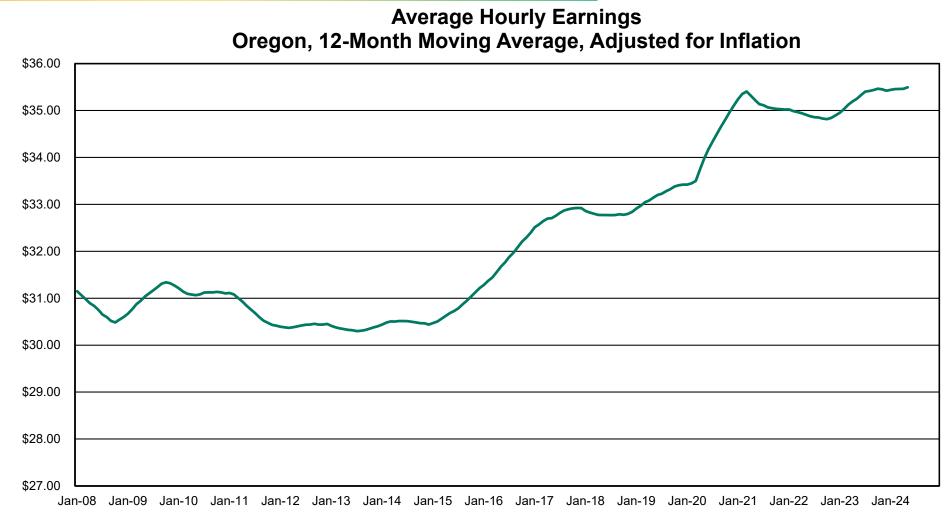
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

\* Seasonally Adjusted





#### **REAL AVERAGE WAGES FOR PRIVATE NONFARM JOBS LEVELED OFF IN RECENT MONTHS.**



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

## NOTES FROM THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK'S *THE* BEIGE BOOK

May 29, 2024

# **EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES (U.S. SUMMARY)**

- Employment rose at a slight pace overall.
- Eight Districts reported negligible to modest job gains, and the remaining four Districts reported no changes in employment.
- A majority of Districts noted better labor availability, though some shortages remained in select industries or areas.
- Multiple Districts said employee turnover has decreased, and one noted that employers' bargaining power has increased.
- Hiring plans were mixed—a couple of Districts expect a continuation of modest job gains, while others noted a pullback in hiring expectations amid weaker business demand and reluctance due to the uncertain economic environment.
- Wage growth remained mostly moderate, though some Districts reported more modest increases.
- Several Districts reported that wage growth was at pre-pandemic historical averages or was normalizing toward those rates.

# **EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES (WESTERN U.S.)**

- Employment levels were generally flat over the reporting period.
- Reports of low attrition rates continued, and employers preferred to fill only critical positions.
- One contact described the labor market to be in a "lock-in" situation—employers are generally not laying off workers, and workers are not quitting as often as in recent years.
- Employers across sectors reported receiving more applications for entry-level positions than before.
- However, they are still finding it difficult to attract experienced engineers as well as electricians and other skilled trades workers including machinists and welders.
- Several contacts in the hospitality industry reported hiring more foreign-born workers—on permanent and temporary bases—in recent months to address persistent labor shortages.
- Reports indicated that wages grew slightly in recent weeks, in line with the prior reporting period.
- Businesses needing workers knowledgeable in generative artificial intelligence technologies reported strong wage pressures and competition.

## **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 60,300 VACANCIES IN WINTER 2024.

#### **Oregon Job Vacancies, Winter 2024**

Vacancies	60,282
Average Hourly Wage	\$23.32
Full-time Positions	78%
Permanent Positions	93%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	38%
Requiring Previous Experience	63%
Difficult to Fill	58%
Source: Oregon Employment Department	

Oregon businesses reported 60,300 vacancies in winter 2024. Vacancies decreased 4% from the fall and decreased 20% from winter 2023. Employers reported difficulty filling 58% of winter 2024 vacancies.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$23.32 per hour, an inflationadjusted decrease of 7% from winter 2023, and a 9% decrease from fall 2023.

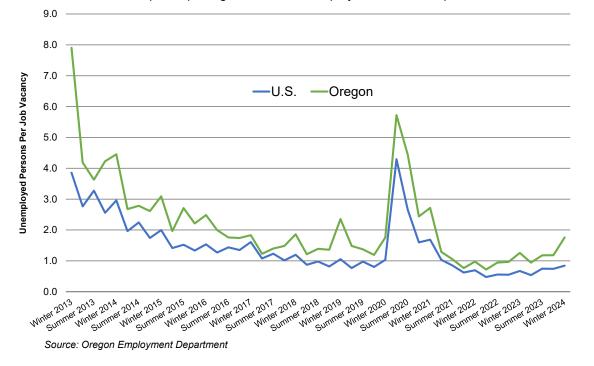
Characteristics of Oregon job vacancies were consistent with prior quarters. A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position.





# AS UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASED AND VACANCIES DROPPED IN THE WINTER, THE UNEMPLOYED TO JOB VACANCY RATIO IN OREGON INCREASED.





The U.S. ratio was 0.8 in January 2024, its 11th straight quarter below 1. It reached 4.3 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 1.8 unemployed per job vacancy in winter 2024, still much lower than the peak of 5.7 in May 2020.

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# **BUSINESSES REPORTED HIRING IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.**

#### Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Winter 2024

Industry	Vacancies
All Industries	60,282
Health care and social assistance	18,820
Leisure and hospitality	8,511
Management, administrative, and waste services	4,984
Manufacturing	4,908
Retail trade	4,578
Other services	4,577
Professional, scientific, and technical services	3,626
Construction	3,060
Financial activities	1,595
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	1,343
Wholesale trade	1,332
Private educational services	824
Information	627
Natural resources and mining	626
Source: Oregon Employment Department	

Health care and social assistance had the most vacancies of any industry, with 18,800. Leisure and hospitality had 8,500 vacancies in winter. Management, administrative, and waste services and manufacturing each had about 5,000 vacancies.

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



# VACANCIES DECLINED OVER THE YEAR IN EVERY REGION, EXCEPT IN The Portland Metro Area and Northwest Oregon.

#### Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Winter 2024

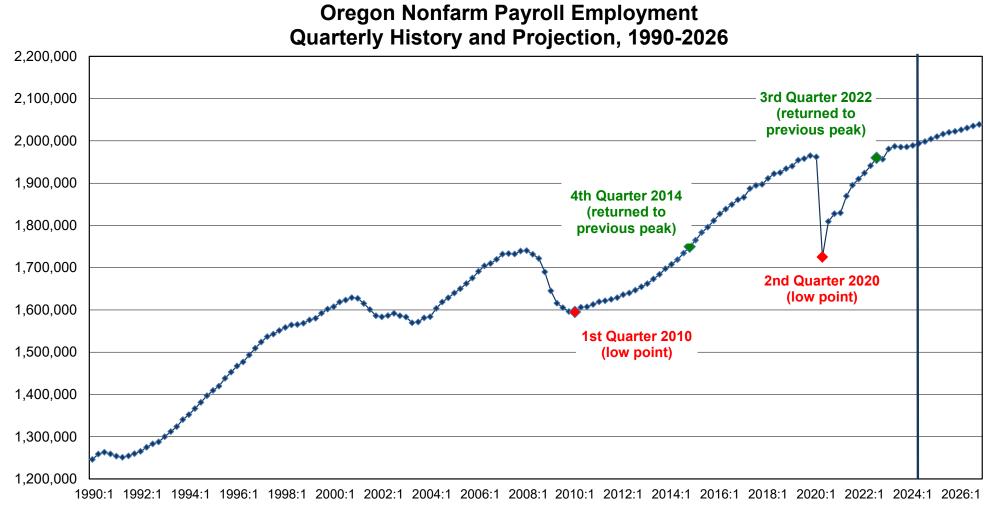
Geography	Vacancies
Oregon Statewide	60,282
Portland Metro	19,333
Mid-Valley	7,465
East Cascades	6,779
Rogue Valley	5,368
Clackamas	5,122
Lane	4,998
Northwest Oregon	4,962
Eastern Oregon	2,802
Southwestern Oregon	2,299
Multi-area or unknown regions excluded	
Source: Oregon Employment Department	ţ

Winter vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county area accounting for about 41%.

Vacancies decreased over the year in every region of the state, except the Portland Metro area and Northwest Oregon. These regions' vacancies increased by 3% each.



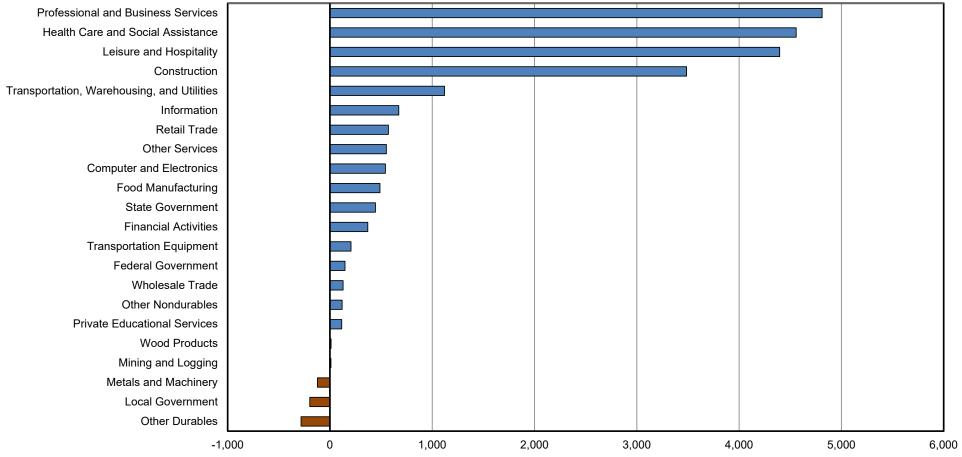
#### THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FORECASTS OREGON WILL GAIN 22,100 JOBS OVER THE NEXT YEAR.



Source: Office of Economic Analysis, Department of Administrative Services, May 2024

## OEA EXPECTS OREGON TO GAIN ABOUT 22,100 JOBS IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

## Expected Job Changes by Industry Sector Over The Year (2Q2024 - 2Q2025)



Source: Oregon Employment Department analysis using Oregon Office of Economic Analysis Forecast, May 2024

## **OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY**



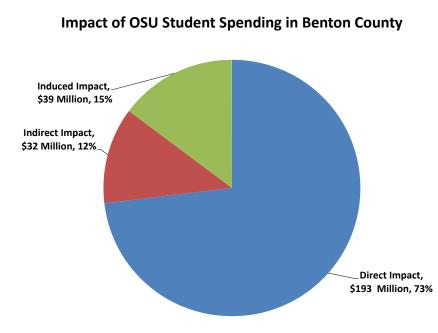
Oregon State's impact on the economy should not be underestimated.

- In 2017, OSU's statewide economic impact was more than \$2.7 Billion; an increase of more than \$343 million since 2014.
- In 2017 OSU employed nearly 19,000 people statewide, 12,666 jobs in Benton County. OSU provided \$726 million in wages and employer-paid benefits.
- The Presence and activities of OSU contribute a source of 20,691 jobs in Benton and Linn counties. And a total of 30,452 direct, indirect and induced jobs statewide.

Source: ECONorthwest analysis of 2017 OSU expenditure data



OSU's impact is deeper than just the jobs they provide. What about the student's impact?



- Spending from students at OSU have an economic impact of \$318 million in Benton County.
- 3,948 jobs have been created locally as a result of OSU student spending.

Source: ECONorthwest analysis of 2014 and 2011 OSU expenditure data



# Benton County has a large share of college graduates. However, a high education level doesn't always translate to high wages.

Metro Area	Education Ranking of U.S. MSAs	Percent with Bachelor's Degre or Higher	Ranking of		
			Average	2010 Average	
			Wage	Wag	Wage
Boulder, CO Metro Area	1	57.0%	13	\$	53,815
Ann Arbor, MI Metro Area	2	50.8%	52	\$	46,053
Ithaca, NY Metro Area	3	49.7%	150	\$	40,717
Lawrence, KS Metro Area	4	48.3%	358	\$	32,318
Corvallis, OR Metro Area	5	47.9%	174	\$	39,869
Ames, IA Metro Area	6	47.2%	291	\$	35,627
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	7	47.1%	4	\$	66,682
Iowa City, IA Metro Area	8	45.5%	249	\$	37,027
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA Metro Area	9	44.5%	1	\$	89,395
Columbia, MO Metro Area	10	43.6%	285	\$	35,754

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