

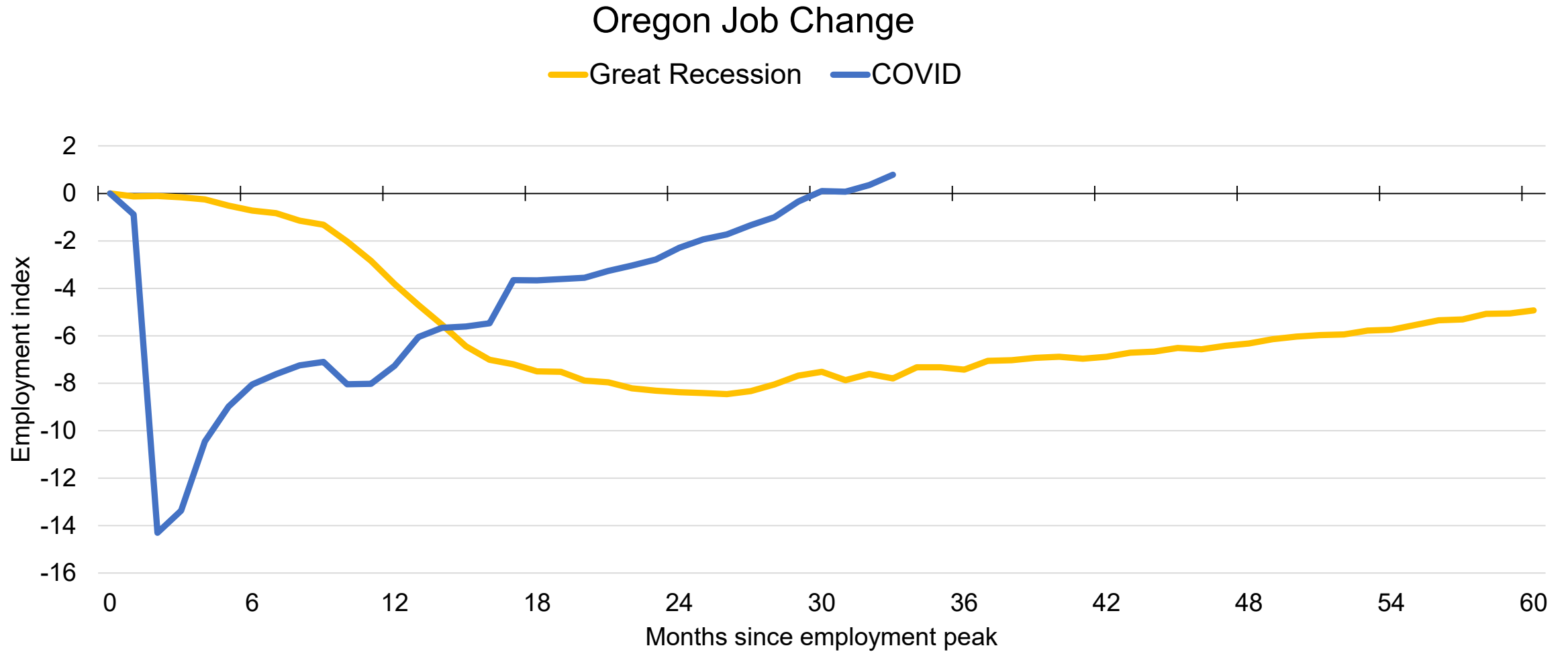
# Douglas County Economic Update

Henry Fields, Lane and Douglas County  
Workforce Analyst

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

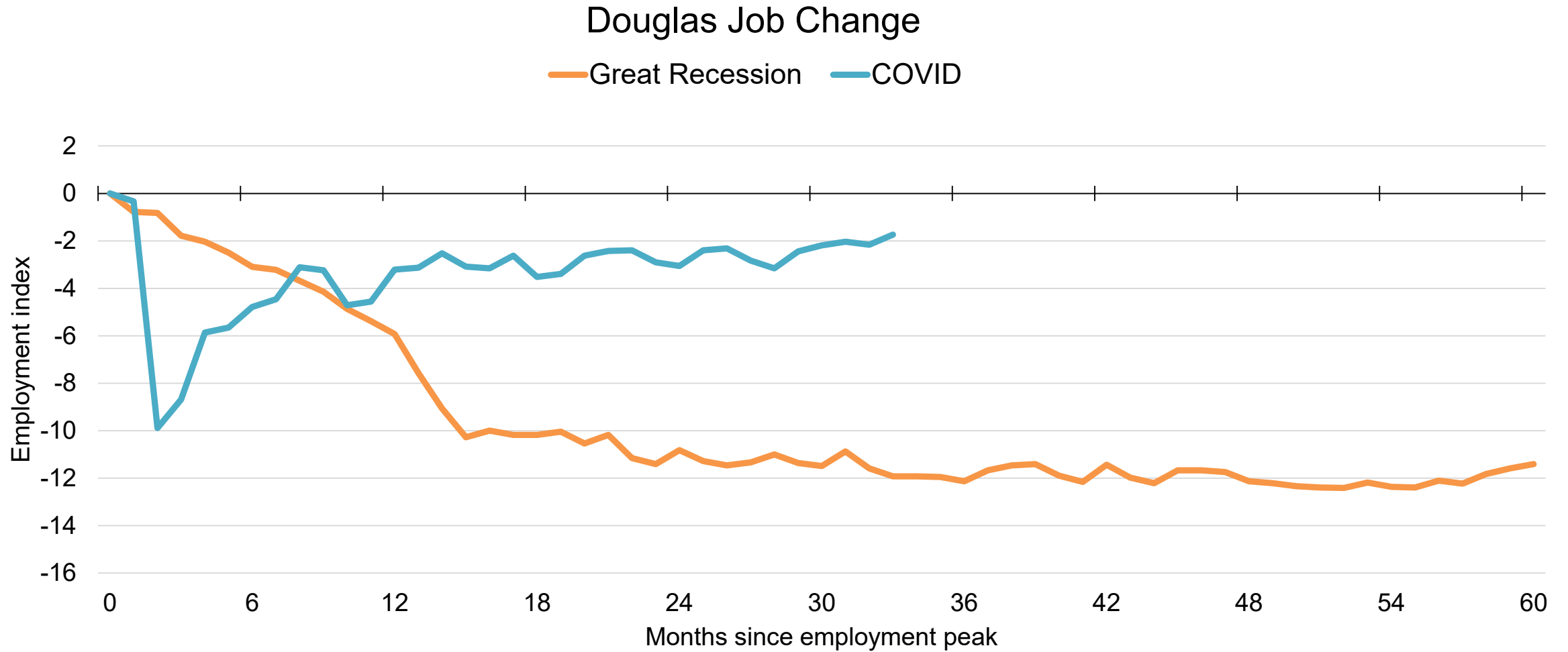
# The Current Economic Environment

# Overall, jobs recovery is fast by historical standards



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

# Douglas had a harder Great Recession and easier 2020 (at first)

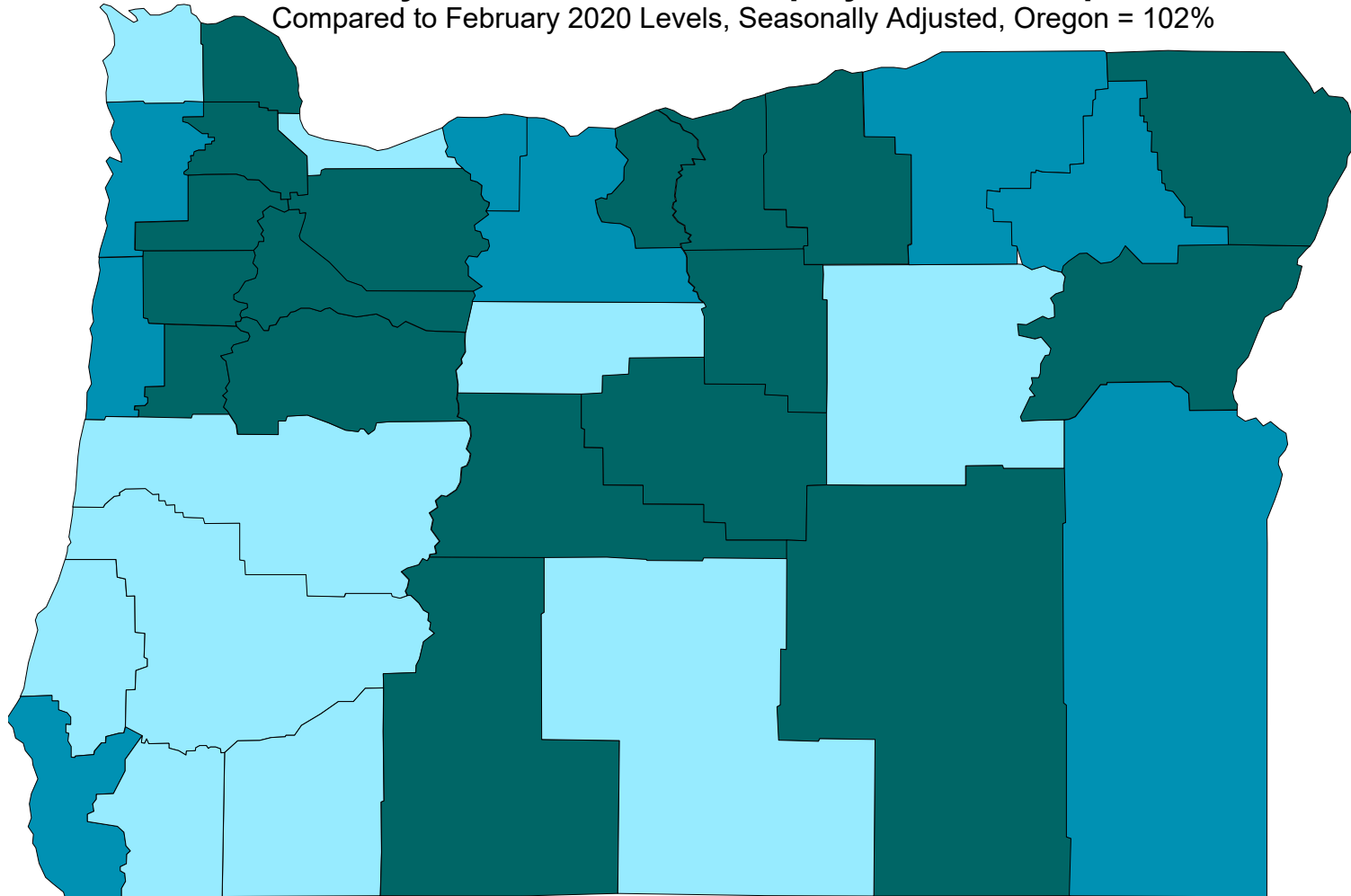


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

# Oregon has more jobs now than before the pandemic recession

## Recovery of Total Nonfarm Employment as of April 2023

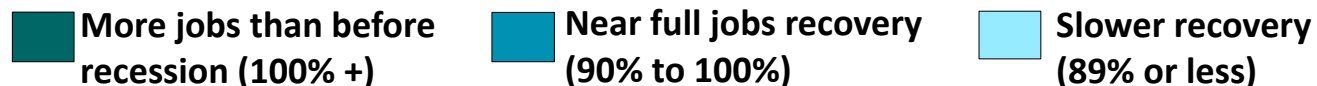
Compared to February 2020 Levels, Seasonally Adjusted, Oregon = 102%



Jobs recovery and expansion is widespread across the state:

- Twenty-one counties have regained their total pandemic recession job losses.
- Recovery has been a bit slower in Southern Oregon.

Source: Oregon Employment Department



# Recovery by industry has varied widely

## Douglas County Employment by Industry

Industry	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2023	Net Change	Pct. Change
Wholesale trade	820	1,020	200	24%
Private education & health services	6,330	6,510	180	3%
Other services	1,300	1,330	30	2%
State government	710	720	10	1%
Construction	1,700	1,720	20	1%
Indian tribal	1,060	1,070	10	1%
Leisure & hospitality	3,480	3,510	30	1%
Retail trade	4,790	4,780	-10	0%
Local government ex. educ. & Tribal	1,460	1,450	-10	-1%
Total nonfarm employment	38,840	38,020	-820	-2%
Manufacturing	4,740	4,590	-150	-3%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	1,530	1,480	-50	-3%
Information	290	280	-10	-3%
Federal government	1,430	1,360	-70	-5%
Mining and logging	1,000	930	-70	-7%
Financial activities	1,470	1,340	-130	-9%
Local education	3,210	2,850	-360	-11%
Professional & business services	3,520	3,080	-440	-13%

### Bright spots:

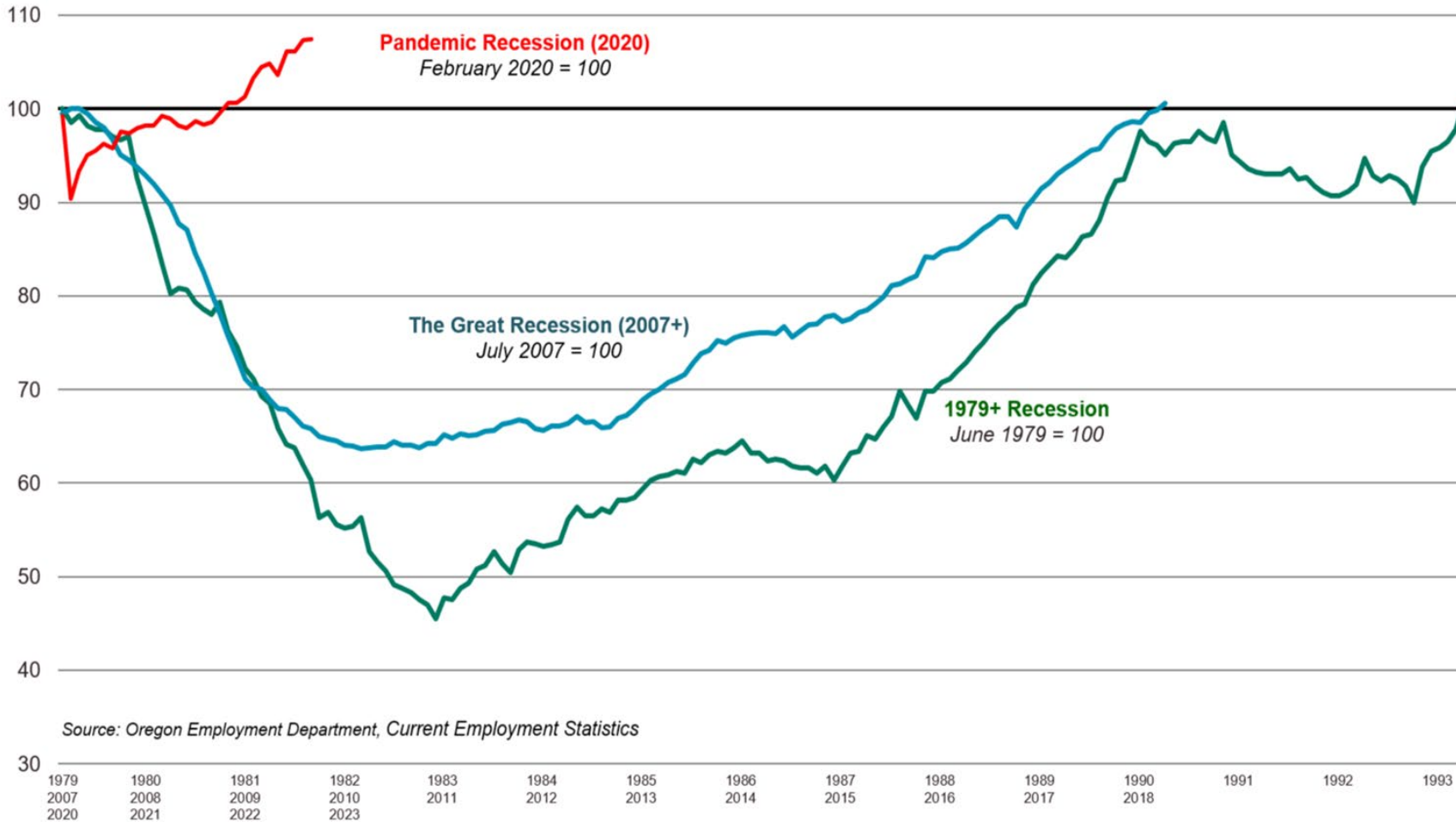
- Wholesale
- Leisure and hospitality above 2020 peak
- Health care

### Challenges:

- Professional and business services
- Financial activities
- Local education

# Construction employment was not severely impacted in 2020

Oregon Construction Employment Indices  
Select time periods, seasonally adjusted



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

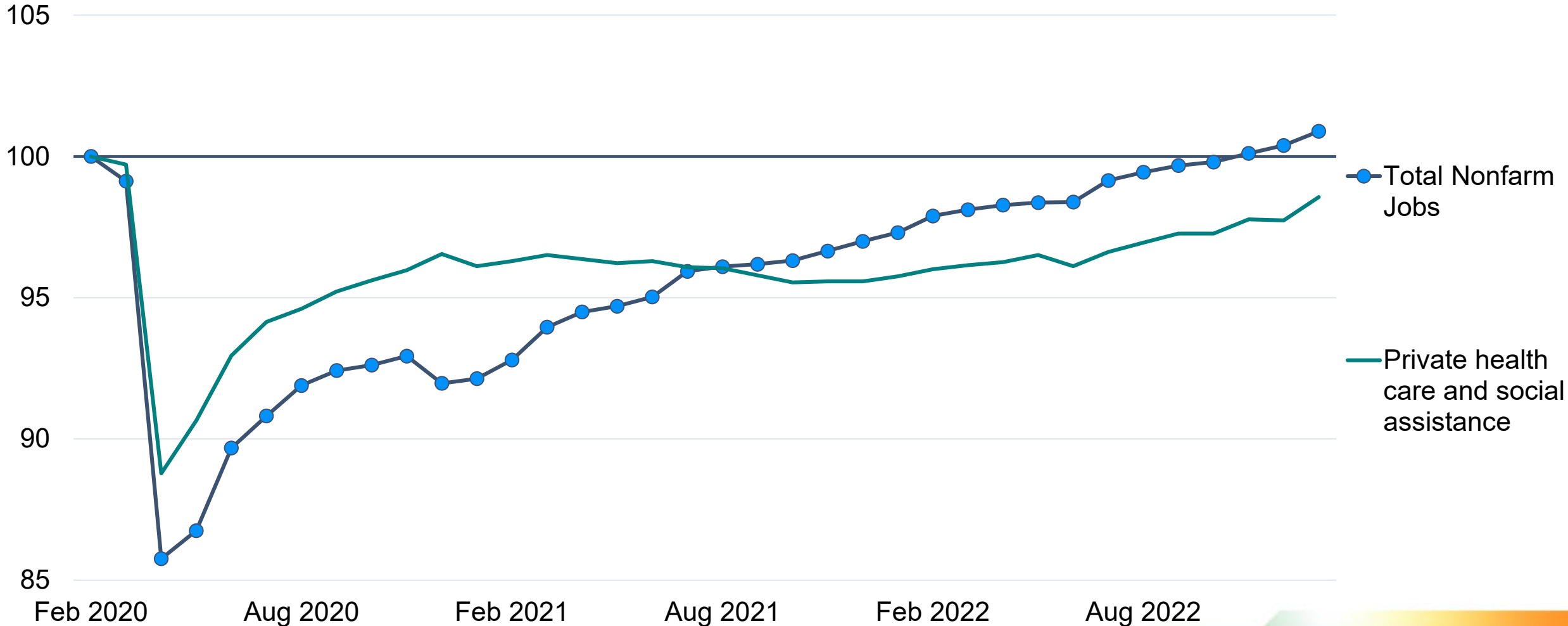
1979 Recession:  
55% job loss  
14 years until full recovery

2007 Recession  
35% job loss  
11 years until full recovery

2020 Recession  
10% job loss  
<2 years until full recovery

# Unlike in previous recessions, health care has struggled

## Oregon Indexed Employment, Seasonally Adjusted, February 2020 - January 2023

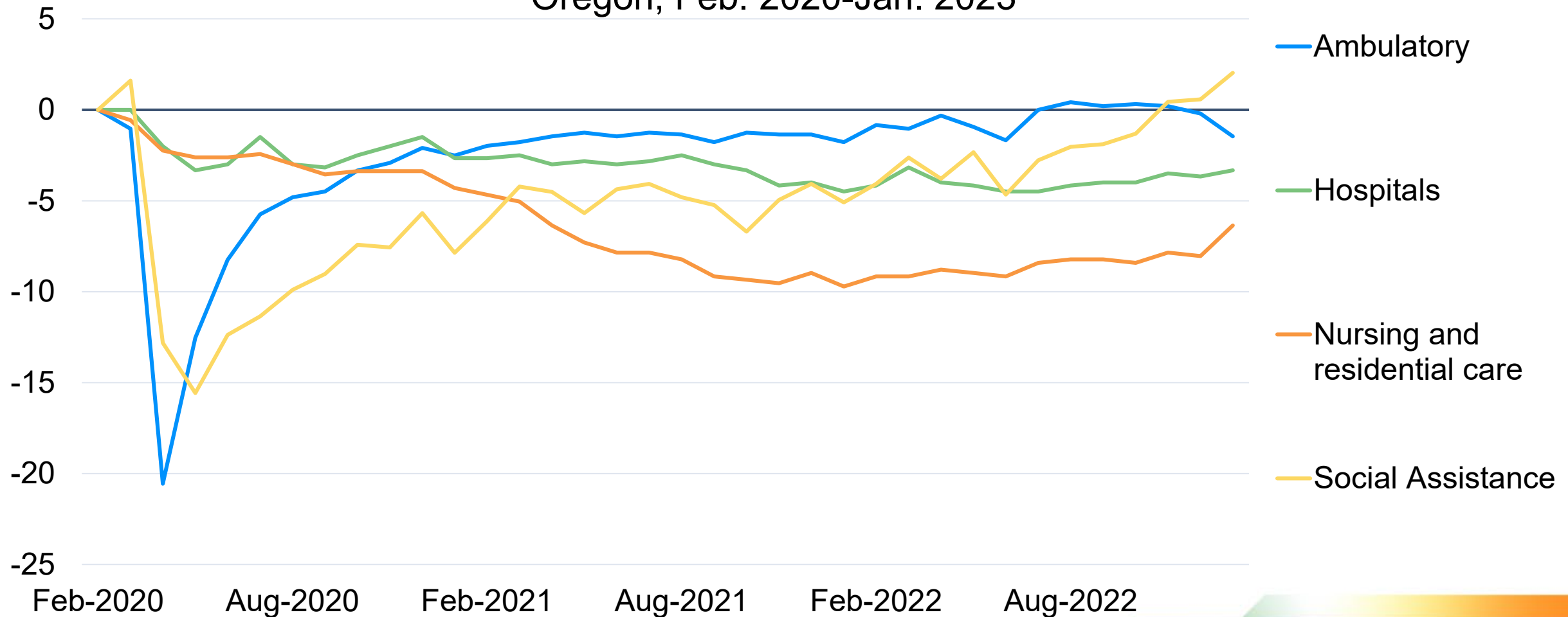


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics



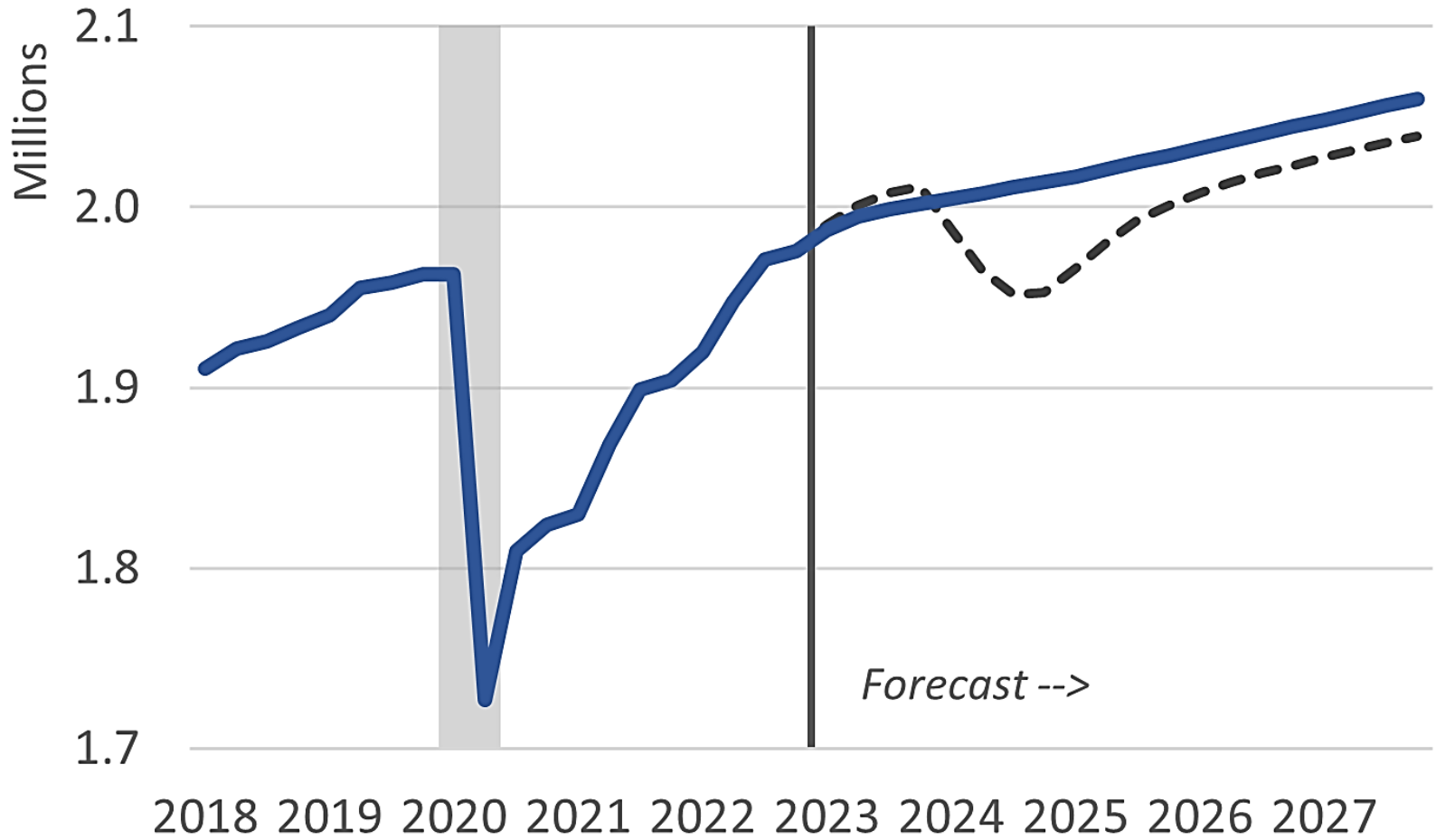
# Health care employment post-2020 diverged by subsector

## Employment change in health care subsectors Oregon, Feb. 2020-Jan. 2023



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

### Baseline Soft Landing and Boom/Bust Alternative Scenario



Source: Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

#### Bad News

Inflation remains too high, economy suffered a goods recession last year and banking turmoil this year, full force of interest rate increases yet to impact economy

#### Good News

Inflation is slowing some, Fed is looking to pause rate hikes, housing and manufacturing are stabilizing, consumers on solid footing

#### Alternative Boom/Bust Scenario

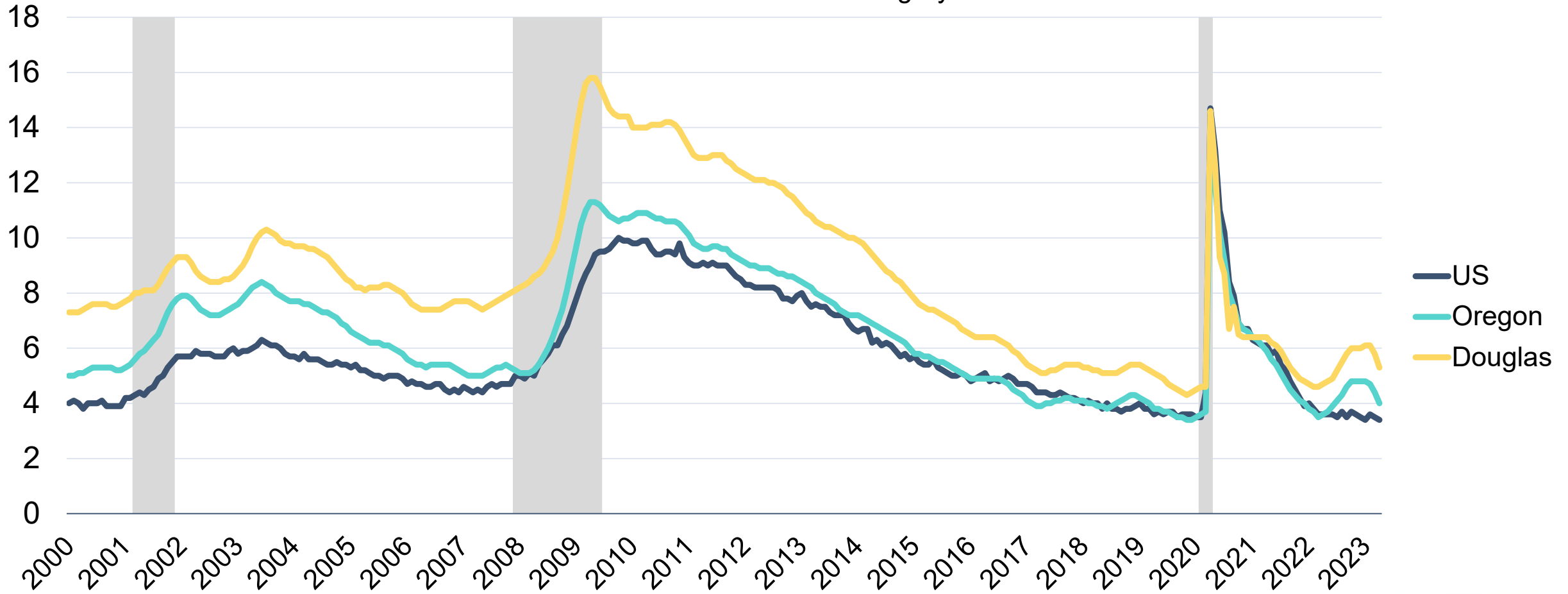
Moderate sized recession starting in 2024

# Job Vacancies and Difficulty Finding Workers

# Unemployment is near historic lows

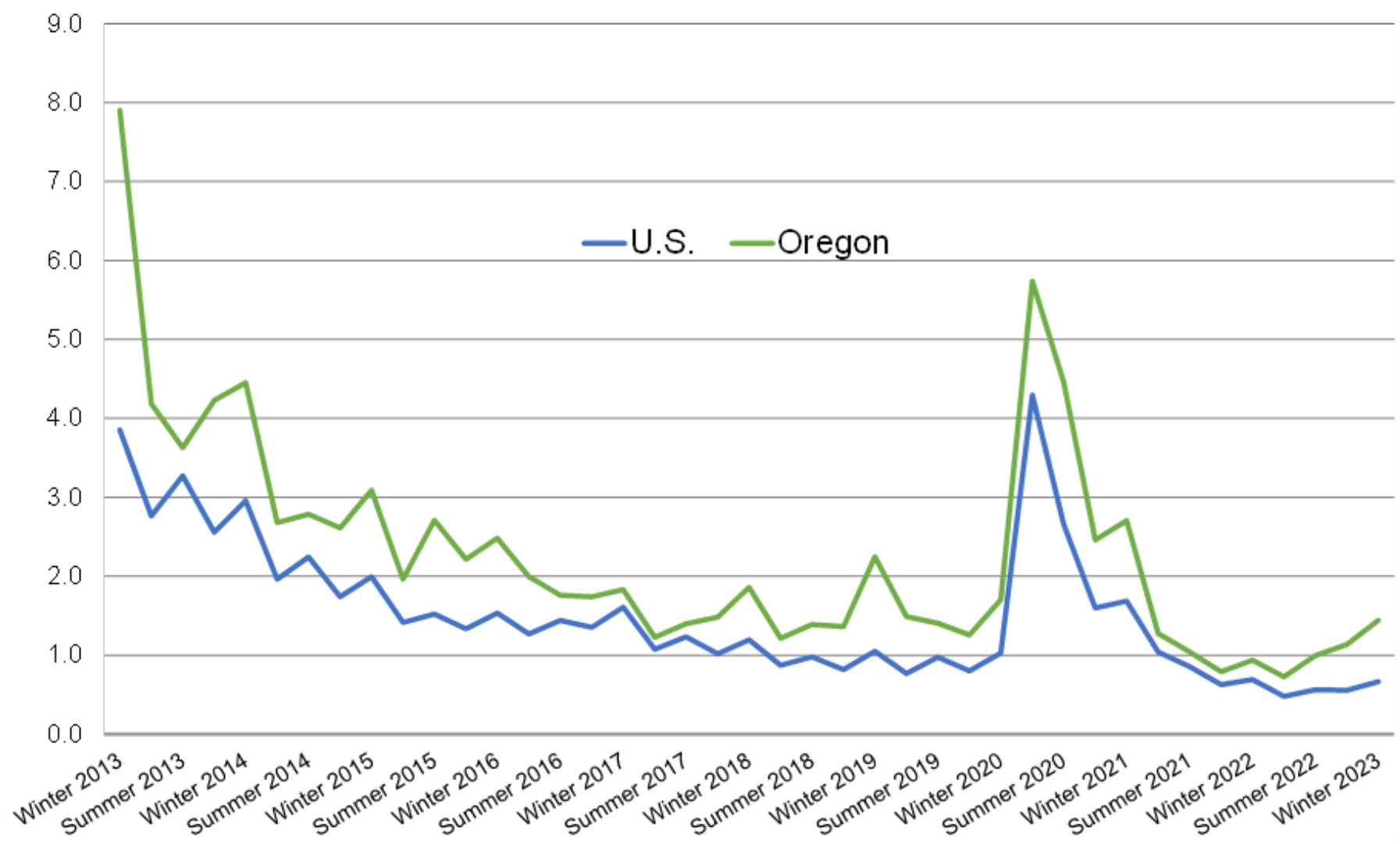
## Unemployment Rate, Seasonally Adjusted

Recessions shaded in grey



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

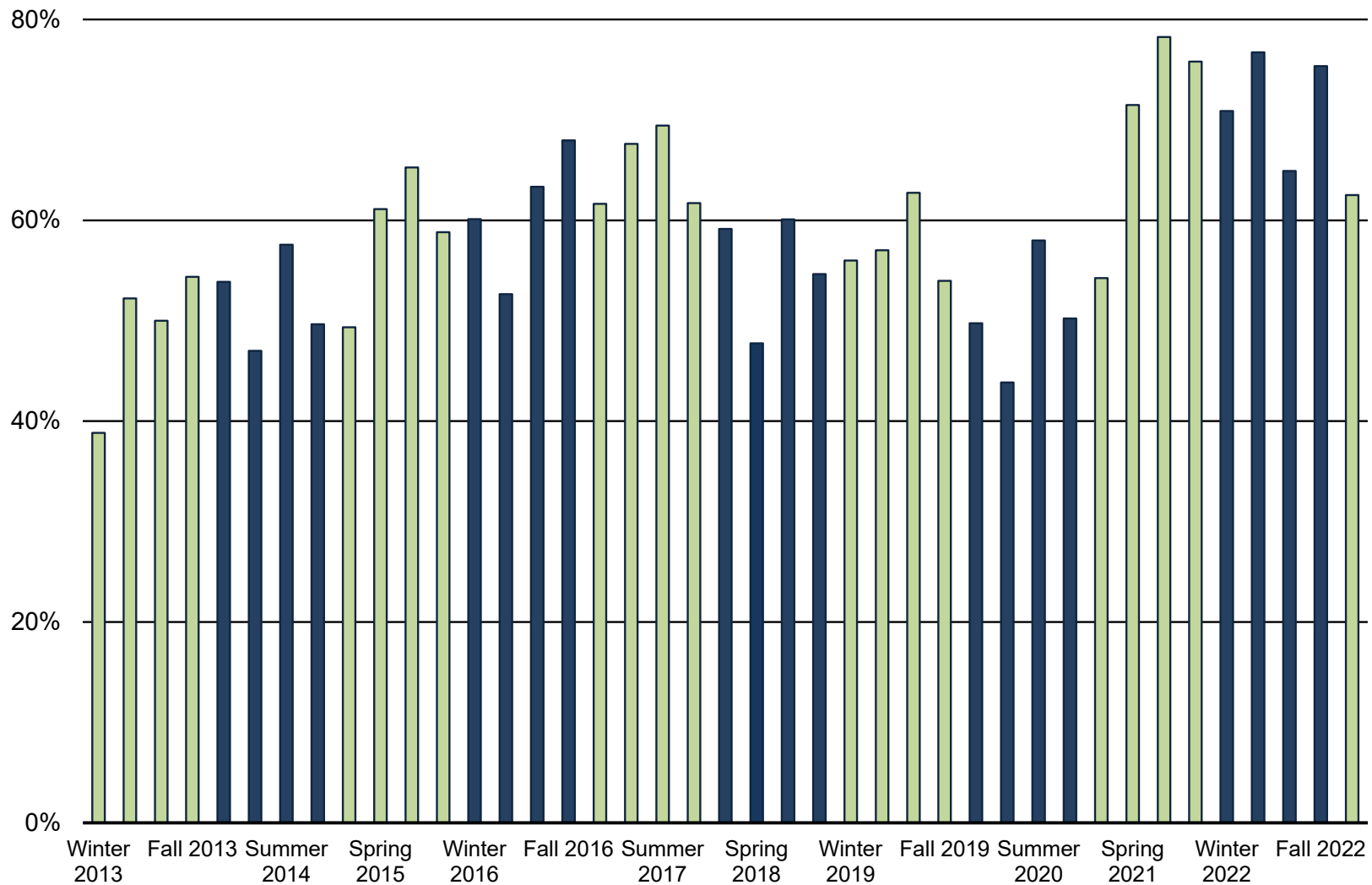
# Recent data shows a low jobseeker to vacancy ratio



Number of unemployed people per private job opening

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Bureau of Labor Statistics

# In Oregon, 63% of winter job vacancies were difficult to fill.



The occupations with the highest number of difficult-to-fill vacancies:

- Registered nurses (2,200)
- Truck drivers (2,000)
- Restaurant cooks (1,800)
- Nursing assistants (1,600)

Source: Oregon Employment Department Job Vacancy Survey

# Job vacancies were much higher in 2021 and 2022



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Job Vacancy Survey

# Some jobs are more difficult to fill in SW Oregon

## Top Southwestern Oregon Occupations With the Highest Number of Job Vacancies, 2022

Occupation	Vacancies
<b>Difficult-to-Fill Vacancies in All Occupations</b>	<b>3,259</b>
Fast Food and Counter Workers	334
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	214
Retail Salespersons	177
Nursing Assistants	160
Registered Nurses	138
Cooks, Restaurant	97
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	84
Personal Care Aides	83
Cooks, Fast Food	70
Construction Laborers	68
Cashiers	64
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	62
Logging Workers, All Other	59
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	54
Marriage and Family Therapists	53



### Oregon Job Vacancies, Winter 2023

<b>Vacancies</b>	<b>74,902</b>
Average Hourly Wage	\$24.41
Full-time Positions	80%
Permanent Positions	93%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	41%
Requiring Previous Experience	55%
Difficult to Fill	63%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

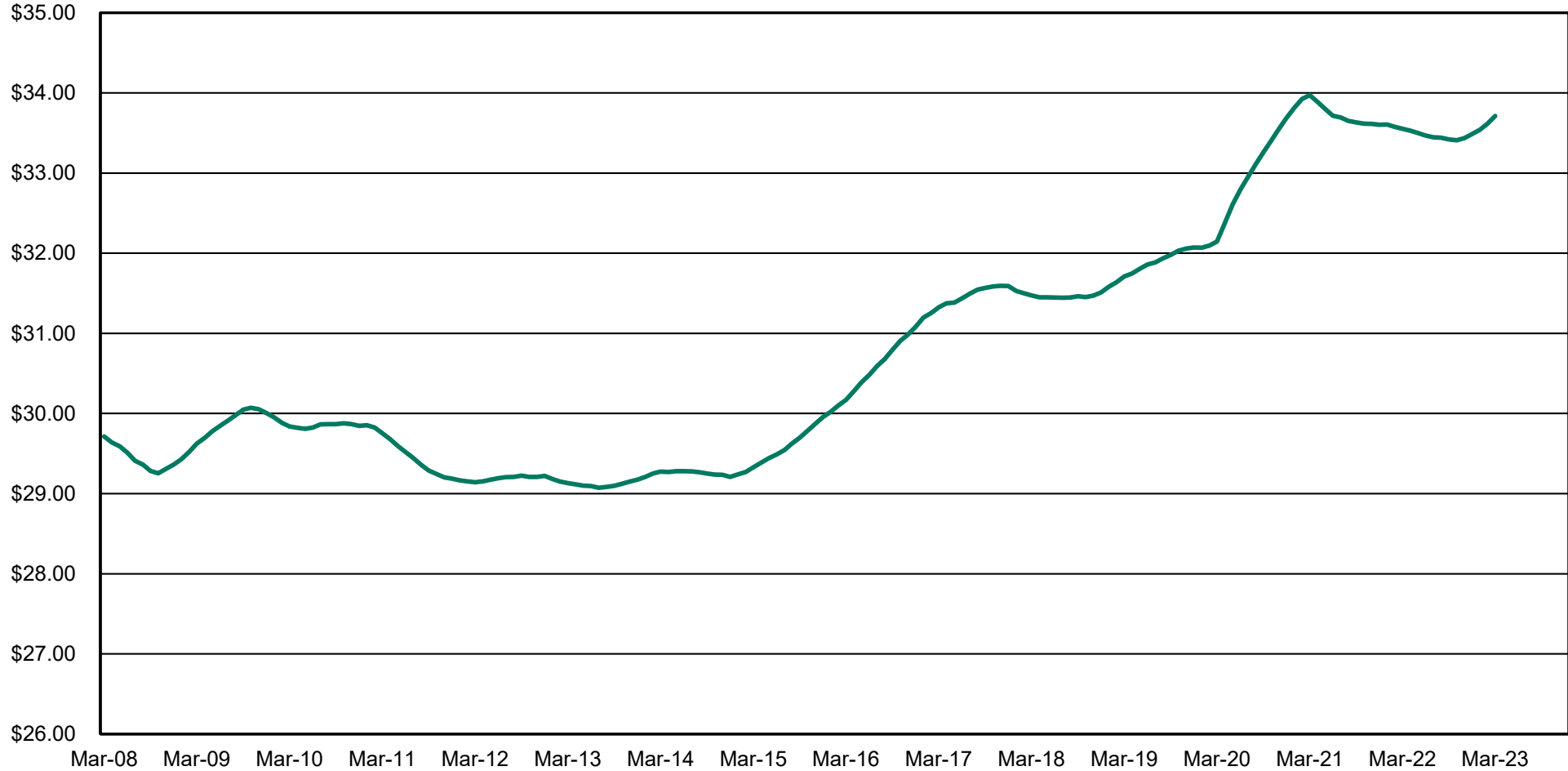
Vacancies decreased 13% from the fall and decreased 25% from winter 2022. Employers reported difficulty filling 63% of winter 2023 vacancies.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was \$24.41 per hour, an inflation-adjusted increase of 14.6% from winter 2022, but only 0.2% above fall 2022.

A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position. Two out of five openings required education beyond high school.

# Real average wages for private jobs rose again in recent months

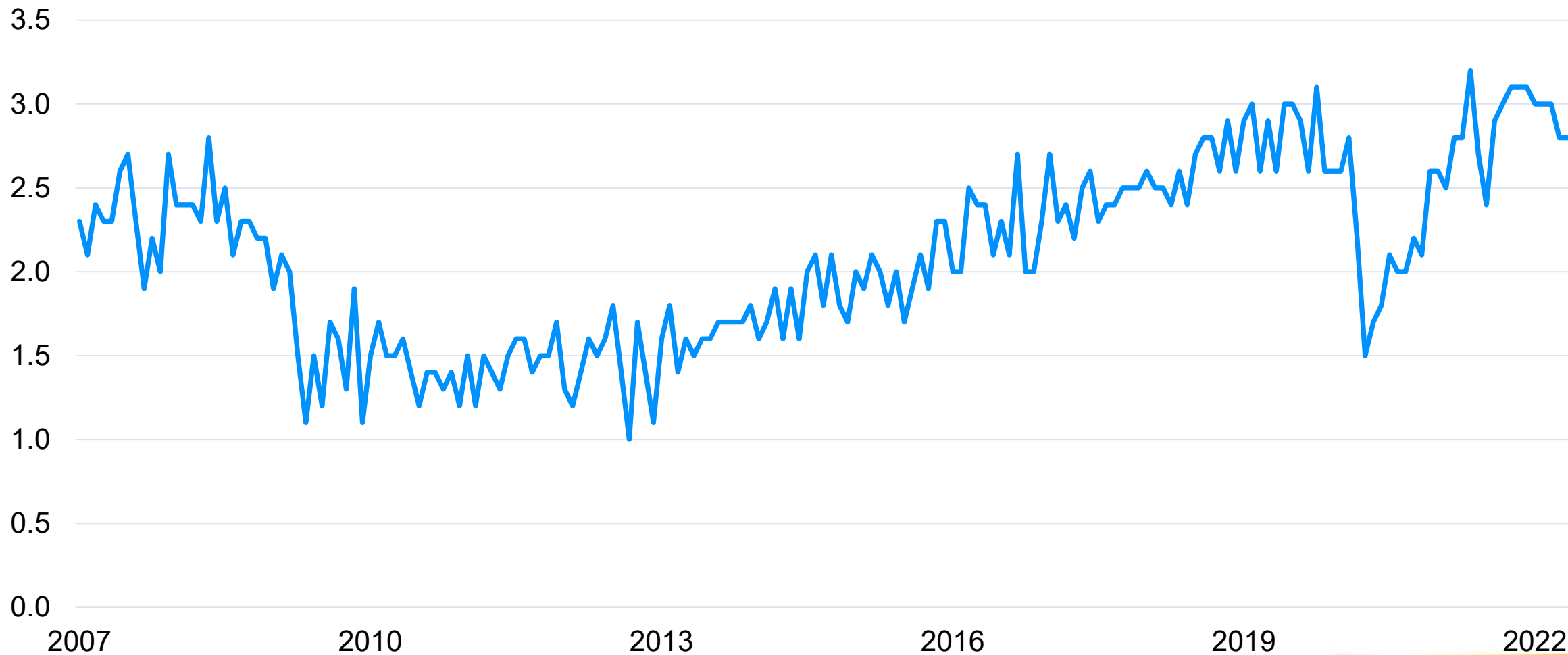
## Average Hourly Wages Oregon, 12-Month Moving Average, Adjusted for Inflation



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

# People are quitting at higher rates, leaving openings behind

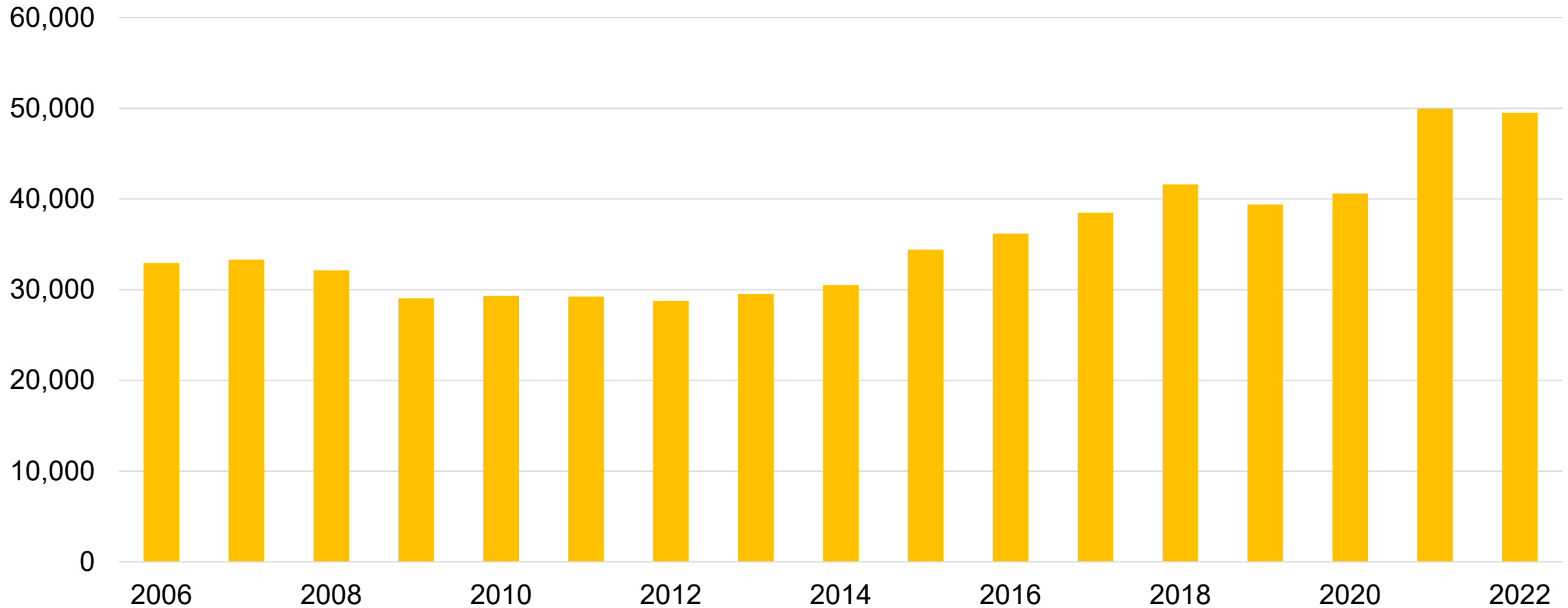
## Monthly Quits Rate, Oregon



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Job Opening and Labor Turnover Survey

# People are starting businesses at elevated rates

## Oregon New Business Applications

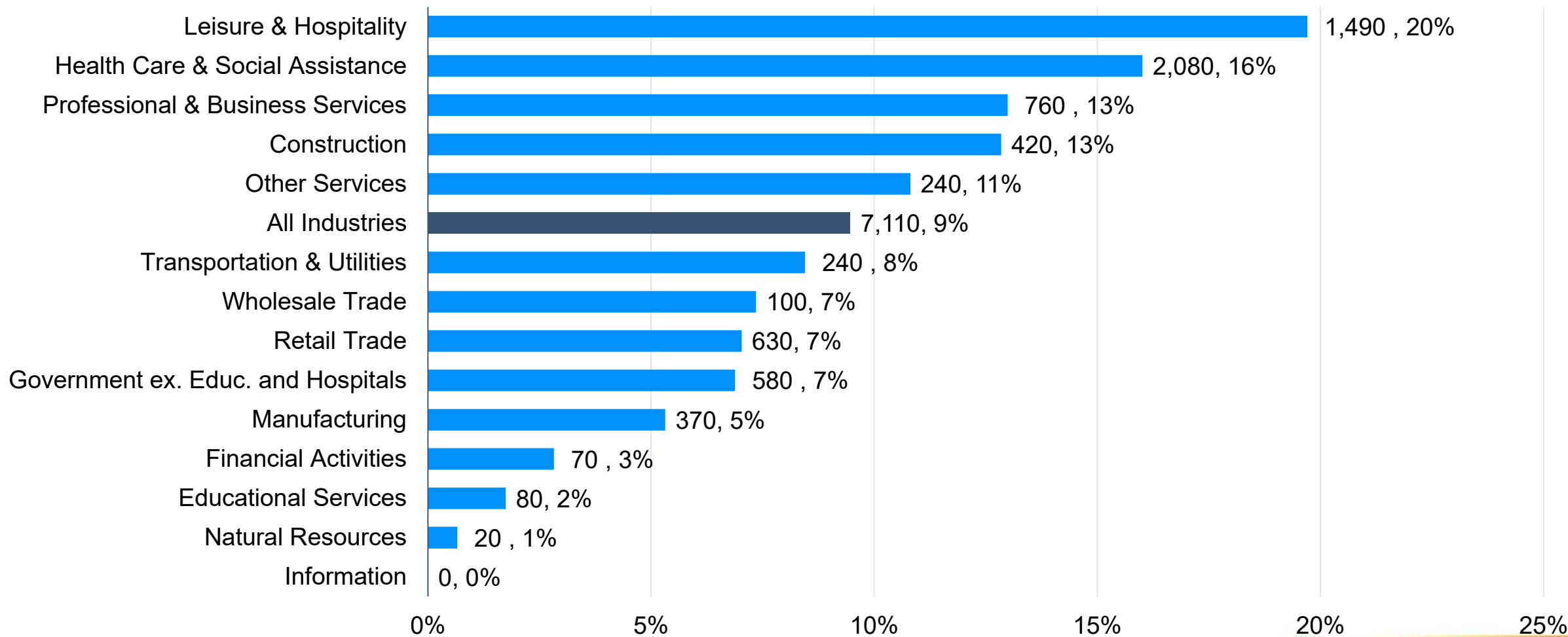


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics

# Long Term and Demographics

# No major industry is projected to decline in SW Oregon

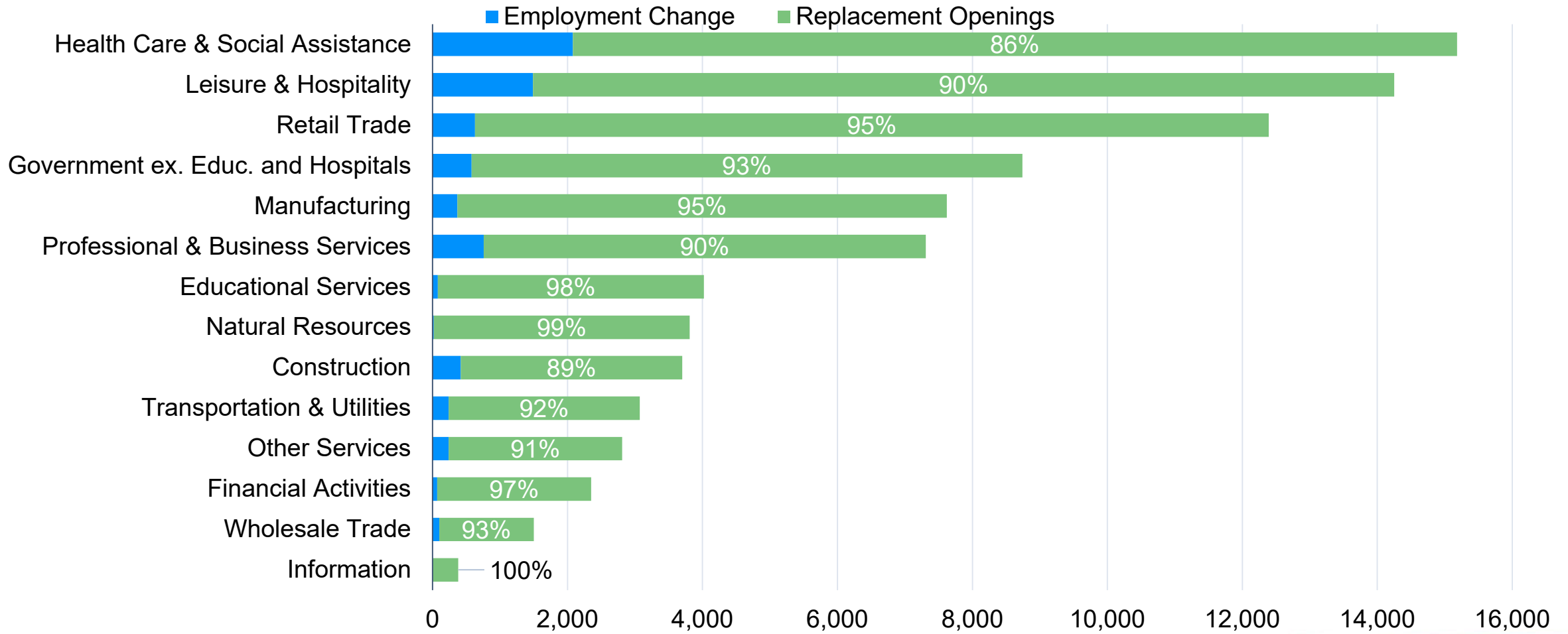
## Job Openings by Industry, 2021-2031



Source: Oregon Employment Department, 2021-2031 Employment Projections

# 80-90% of job openings are due to replacement needs

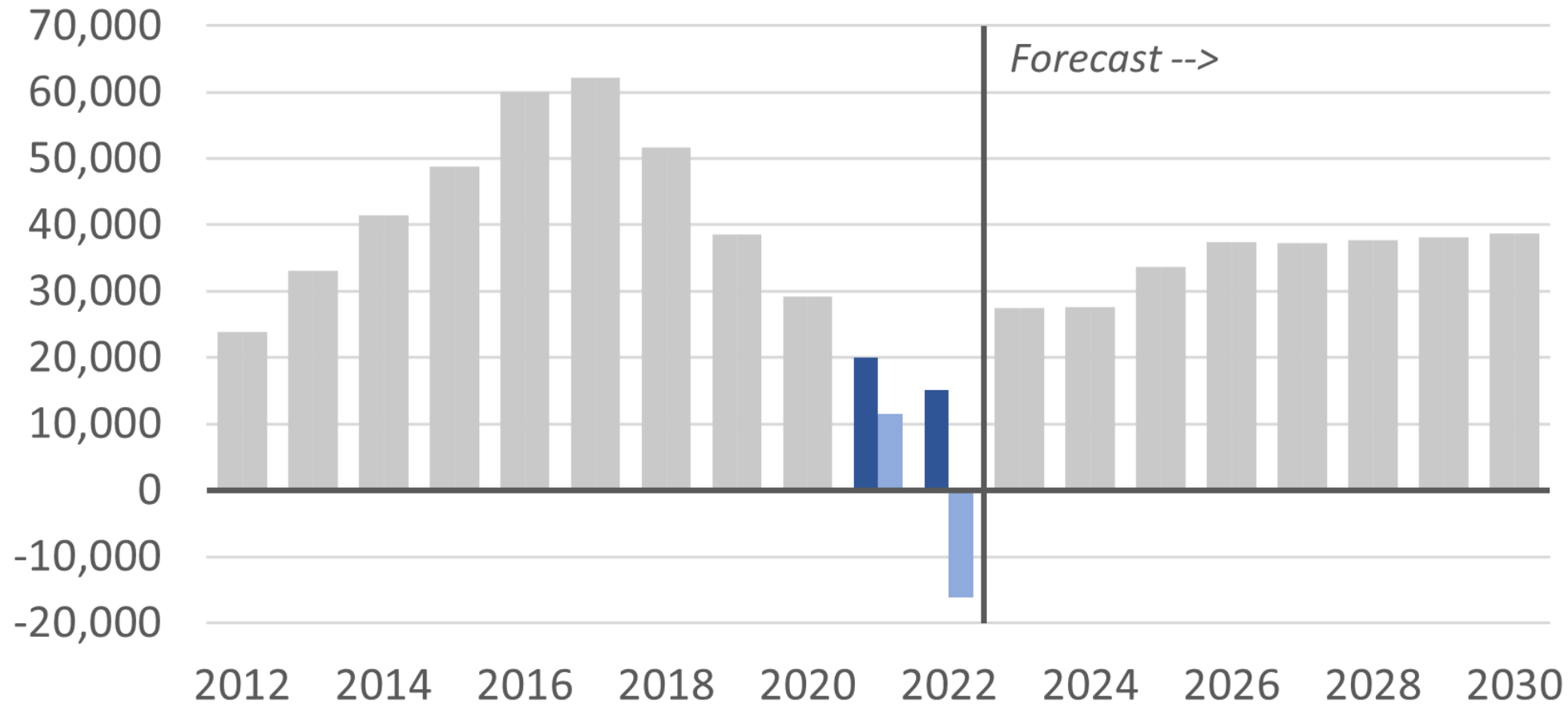
## Job Openings by Industry, 2021-2031



# Oregon population (may be) growing slowly, or declining

*Annual change in total state population*

OEA History and Forecast, **Portland State Estimates**, **Census Bureau Estimates**



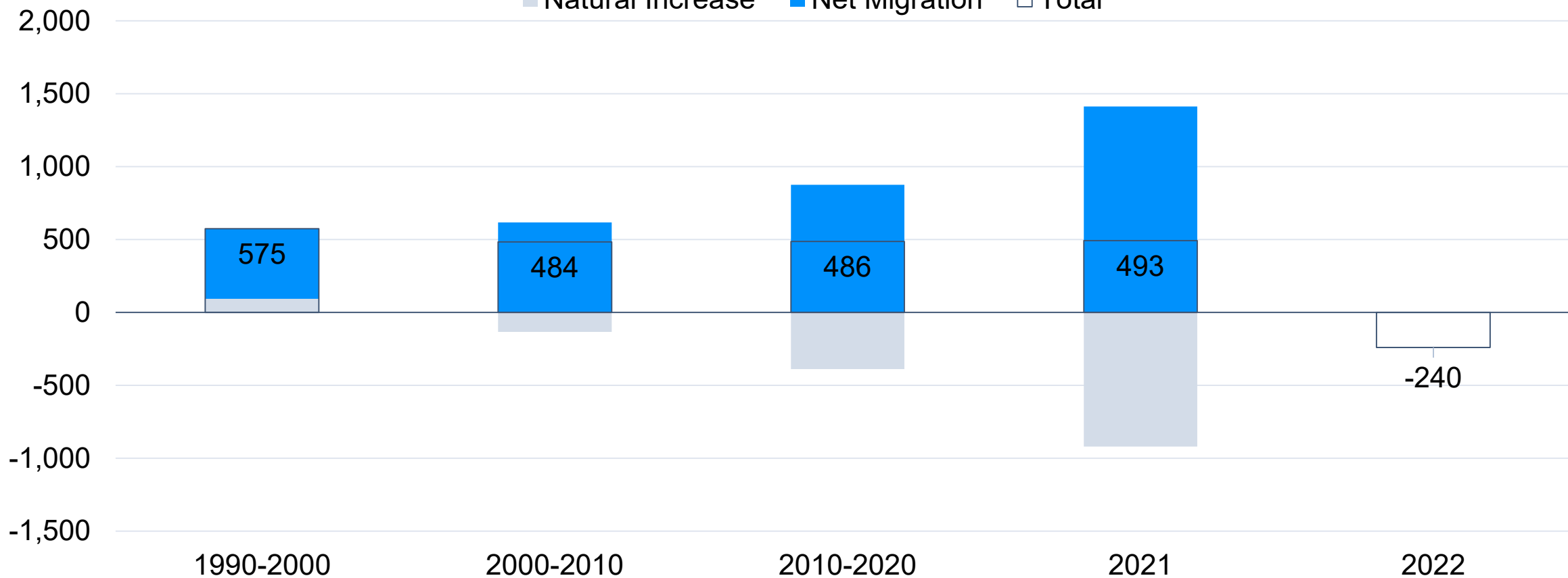
Source: Census, PSU Population Research Center, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis



# Douglas tends to attract people from out of state

Douglas Annual Population Change  
1990-2020 average over decade

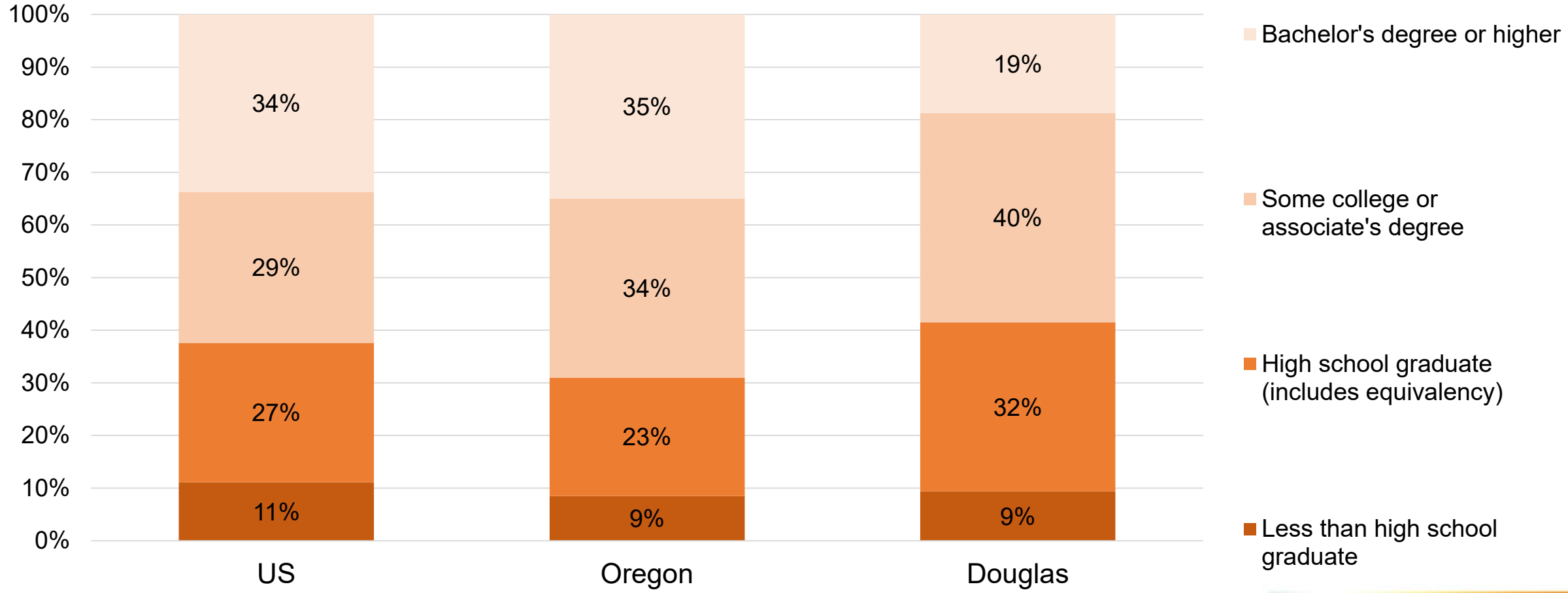
■ Natural Increase ■ Net Migration □ Total



Source: Portland State University Population Research Center, U.S. Census Bureau

# Douglas has more HS grads, and less B.A. and higher

### Educational Attainment 2021, Population 25+

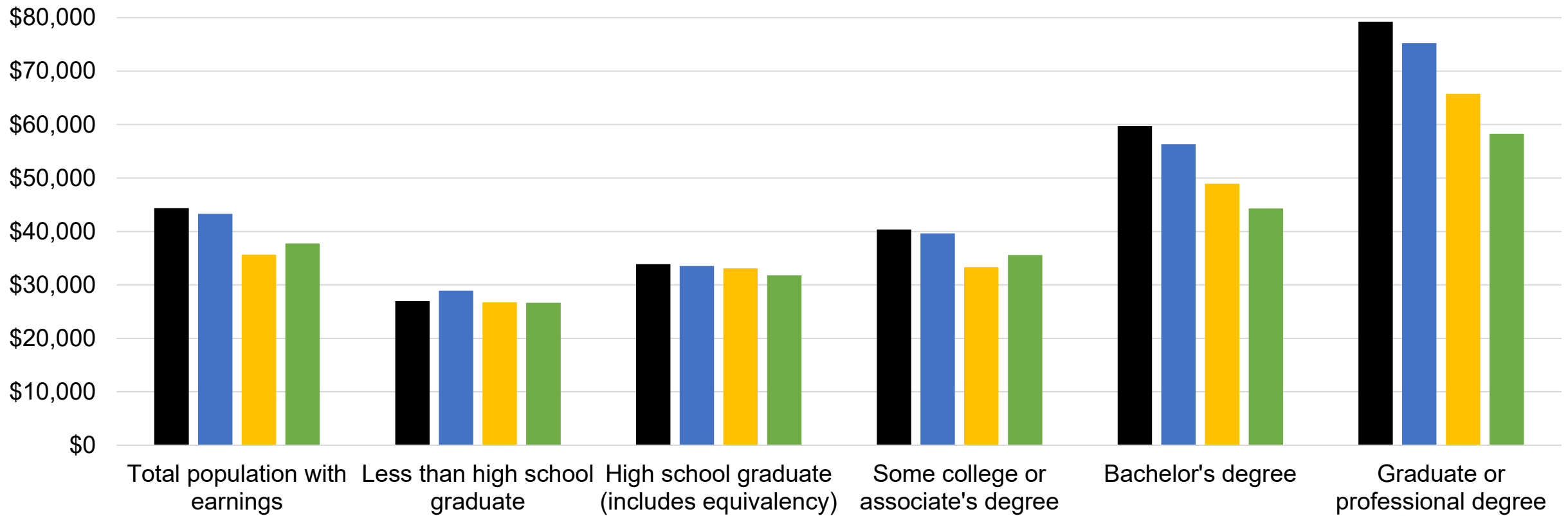


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates

# Earnings for higher education levels are lower in Douglas and Lane

Median Earnings  
Population 25+, 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars

■ US ■ Oregon ■ Douglas ■ Lane

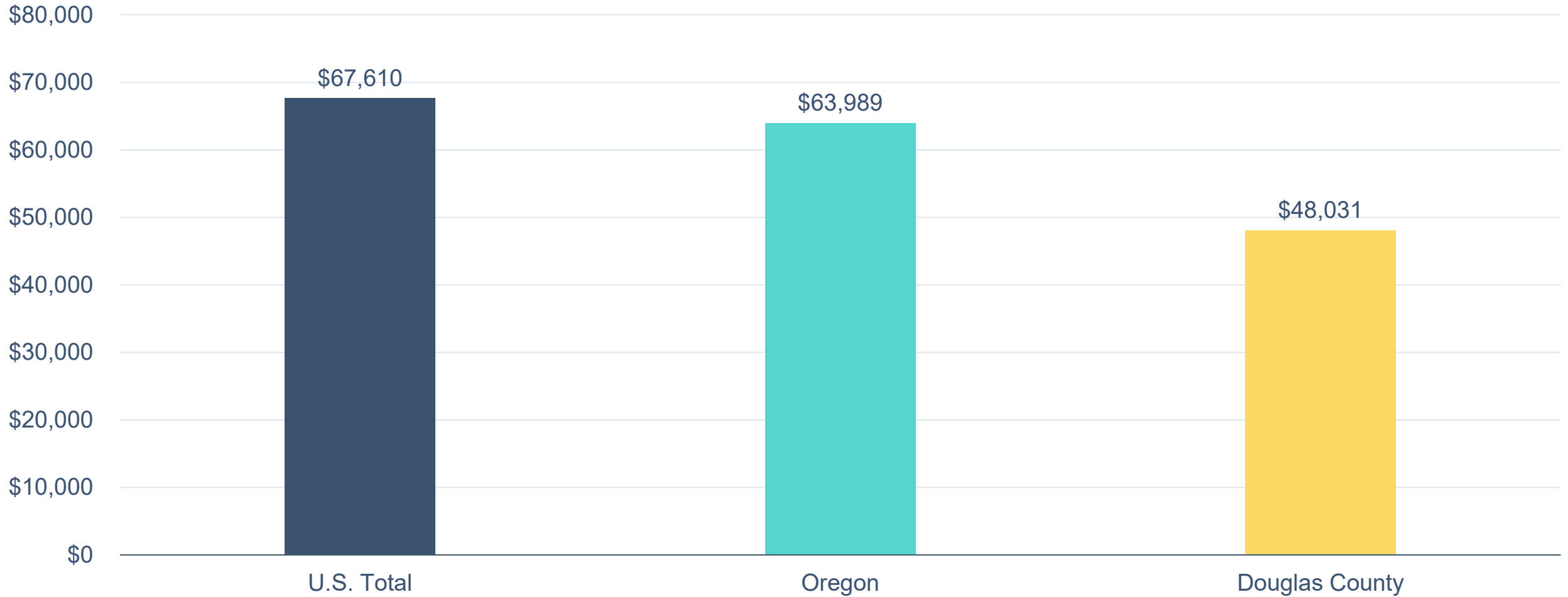


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates

# What makes Douglas County Unique?

# Wages are lower in Oregon, and in Douglas in particular

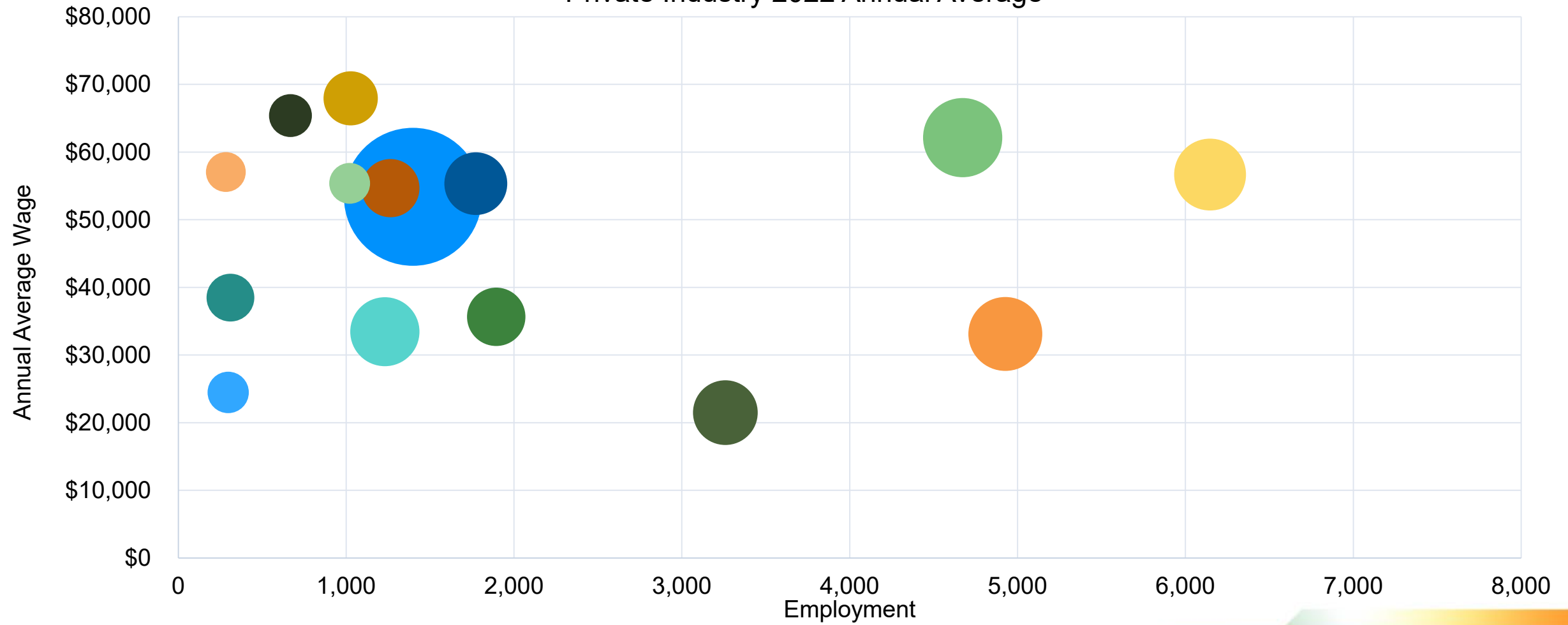
Annual Average Wage, 2021



Source: Oregon Employment Department

Douglas has concentrated health, manufacturing, and natural resources employment

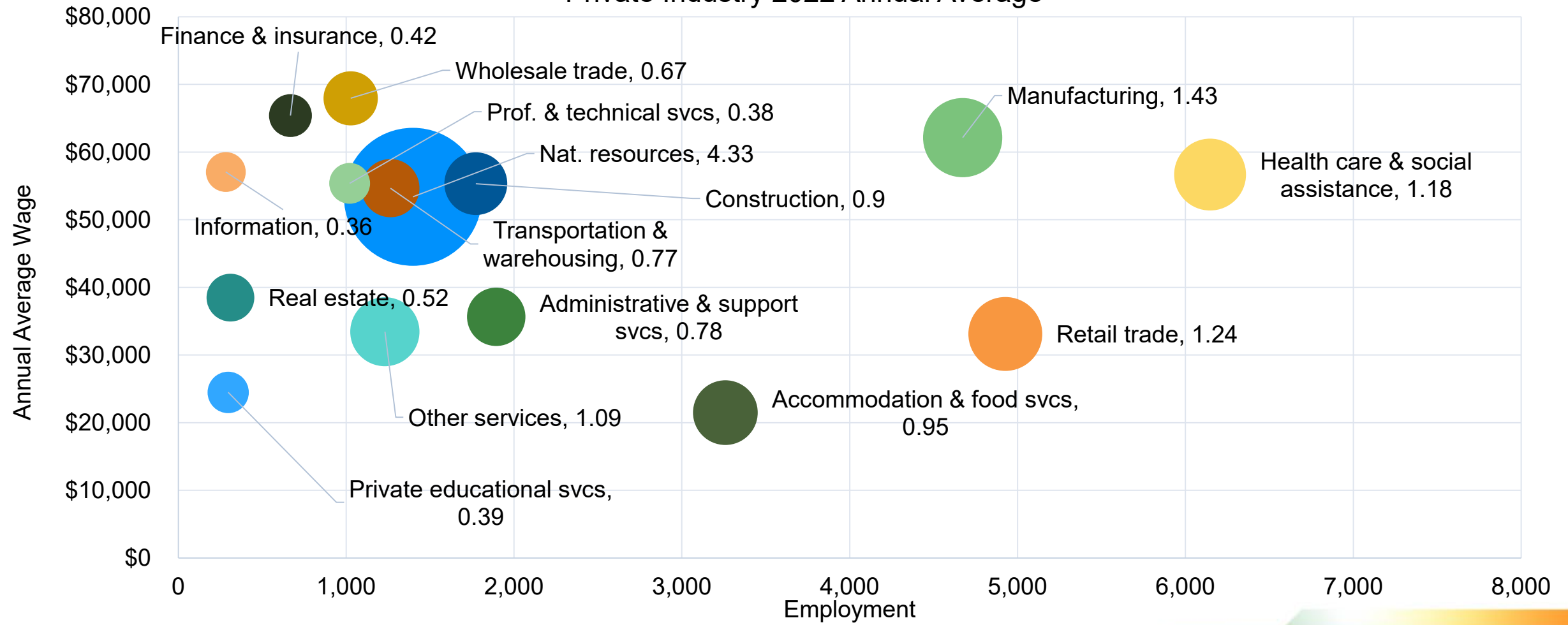
Douglas County Wages, Employment and Concentration  
Private Industry 2022 Annual Average



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Douglas has concentrated health, manufacturing, and natural resources employment

Douglas County Wages, Employment and Concentration  
Private Industry 2022 Annual Average



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Those specializations show up in the work people do

## Employment in Coastal Oregon Nonmetro, 2022

Title	Employment	Location Quotient
<b>Logging and Wood Products</b>		
Logging Equipment Operators	640	33.9
Log Graders and Scalers	90	29.5
Tool Grinders, Filers, and Sharpeners	100	24.5
Machine Feeders and Offbearers	560	14.4
Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood	440	12.5
Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	360	7.4
Furnace, Kiln, Oven, Drier, and Kettle Operators and Tenders	60	5.1
<b>Forestry and Conservation</b>		
Foresters	110	15.2
Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	190	14.1
Forest and Conservation Technicians	290	13.2
Biological Technicians	190	3.5
Tree Trimmers and Pruners	110	3.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



# Those specializations show up in the work people do

## Employment in Coastal Oregon Nonmetro, 2022

Title	Employment	Location Quotient
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>		
Automotive and Watercraft Service Attendants	820	10.8
Lodging Managers	190	6.4
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	1,080	5.8
Gambling Surveillance Officers and Gambling Investigators	30	4.0
Gambling Cage Workers	30	3.9
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	2,180	3.7
First-Line Supervisors of Gambling Services Workers	60	3.7
<b>Food and Beverage</b>		
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	390	3.9
Food Science Technicians	40	3.4
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	80	2.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Henry Fields

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