The Portland Economy in the Time of COVID 19

The economic situation is rapidly changing, globally and here in Portland. The closest thing we have to “real time” economic data is the initial unemployment claims data. The charts here give a sense for what’s happening in the local economy.

Statewide we can see the initial unemployment claims by occupational category, using the 2018 US Census as a benchmark. Customer service jobs have been hardest hit, followed closely by health care, construction and manufacturing jobs. At the other end of the spectrum, white collar jobs have been the least affected by the crisis. Relatively speaking, the Portland area enjoys a strong concentration of these white collar, professional jobs.

Looking around Oregon, tourism heavy economies have been hit the hardest. We can see that clearly in Oregon’s north coast and the Bend region. A handful of the most rural, farming and ranching counties have been relatively lightly affected.

For more detail on initial unemployment claims in Oregon:

www.qualityinfo.org/covid-19