Employment in Portland Metro
2019 and 2020 through July

After losing 14 percent of all jobs in March and April, we’ve regained about 38 percent of the jobs lost. However, July’s growth was noticeably slower than June’s.

Portland Metro Industry Growth
February to April and April to July

Industries are bouncing back differently. Manufacturing hasn’t recovered any employment, while construction has almost completely regained lost employment.

Unemployment Rate
July 2020 - Seasonally Adjusted

The Multnomah County unemployment rate is noticeably higher than the U.S. and Oregon rate. Washington County has a relatively low rate.

Manufacturing Growth by Sector
Portland Metro Region - July 2019 to July 2020

Manufacturing, on the other hand has not yet bounced back from its April shock. Looking at manufacturing sectors, metal and food products has been hardest hit, while high tech manufacturing is only lightly affected.

Who Works From Home

Looking at U.S. Census data for the Portland Region before COVID-19, some folks were more likely to be working from home than others.

Working from home was rare for workers under age 25 and for workers without high school diplomas, while working from home is relatively common among workers over age 70.

Much of this variation is explained by the nature of the jobs where these folks work. Jobs in food service, cleaning, and personal care are more likely to be held by younger, less educated workers. While many white collar jobs, like lawyers, architects and engineers can be done from home.

Source: US Census, American Community Survey, 2018