

# **UNPACKING KLAMATH COUNTY & OREGON'S LABOR MARKETS**

**KLAMATH COUNTY ECONOMIC SUMMIT**

**JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

# 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.

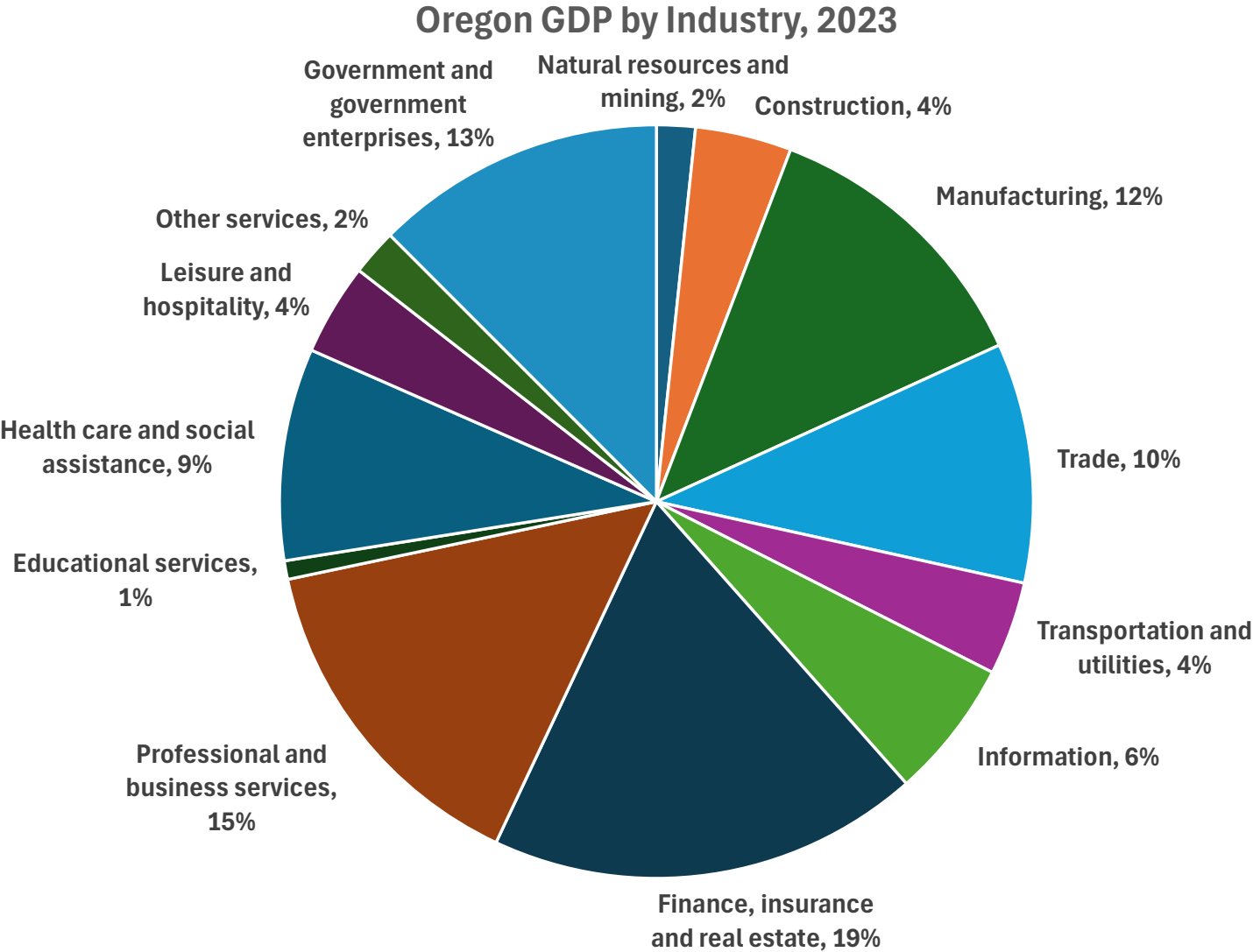
**Thank you for helping us track the Oregon economy!**

# AGENDA

- Macroeconomic Overview
- Housing
- Labor Market Conditions
  - Supply
  - Demand
- Industry and Occupational Projections

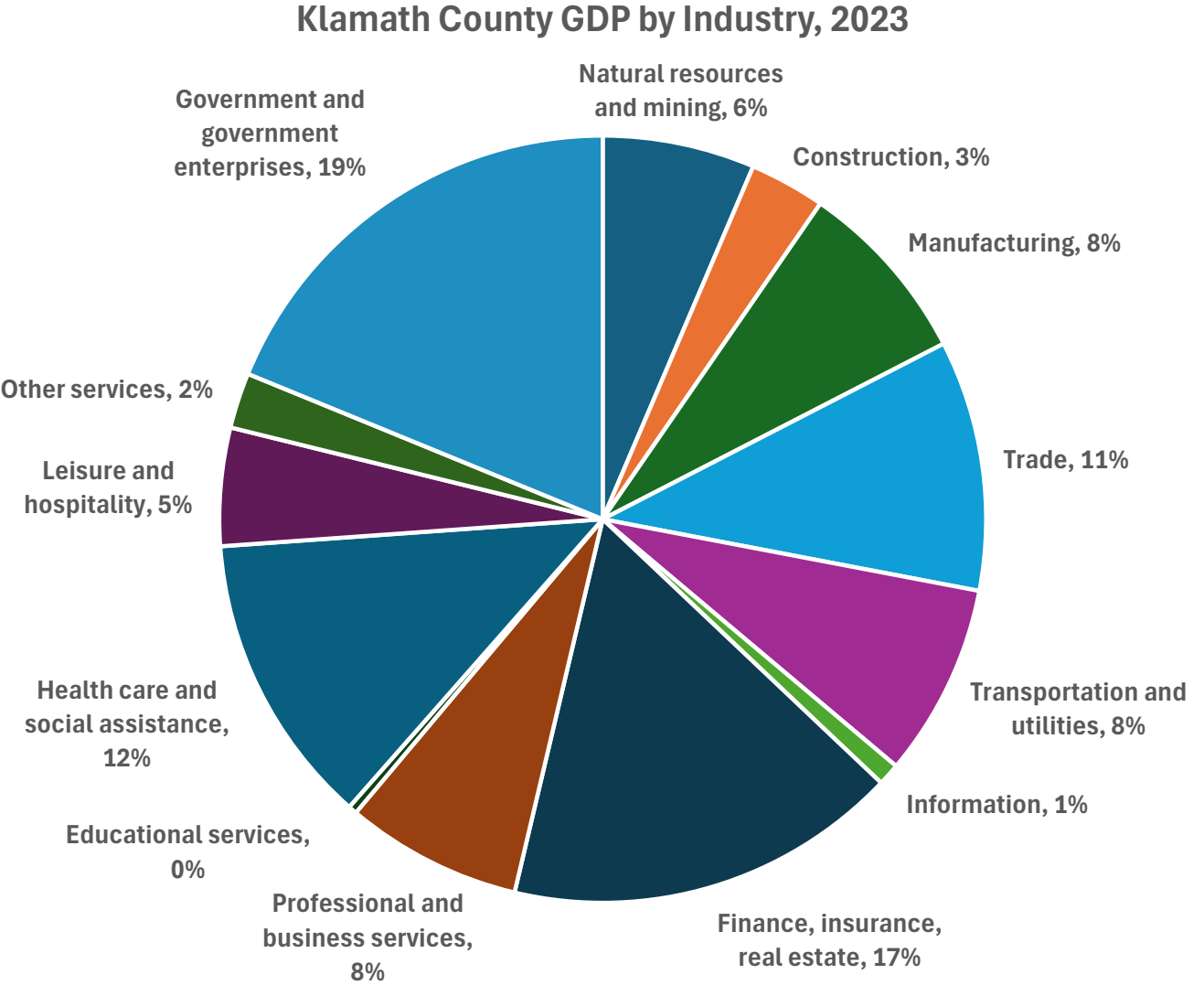
# MACROECONOMIC OVERVIEW

FINANCE, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT FOR 47% OF OREGON GDP



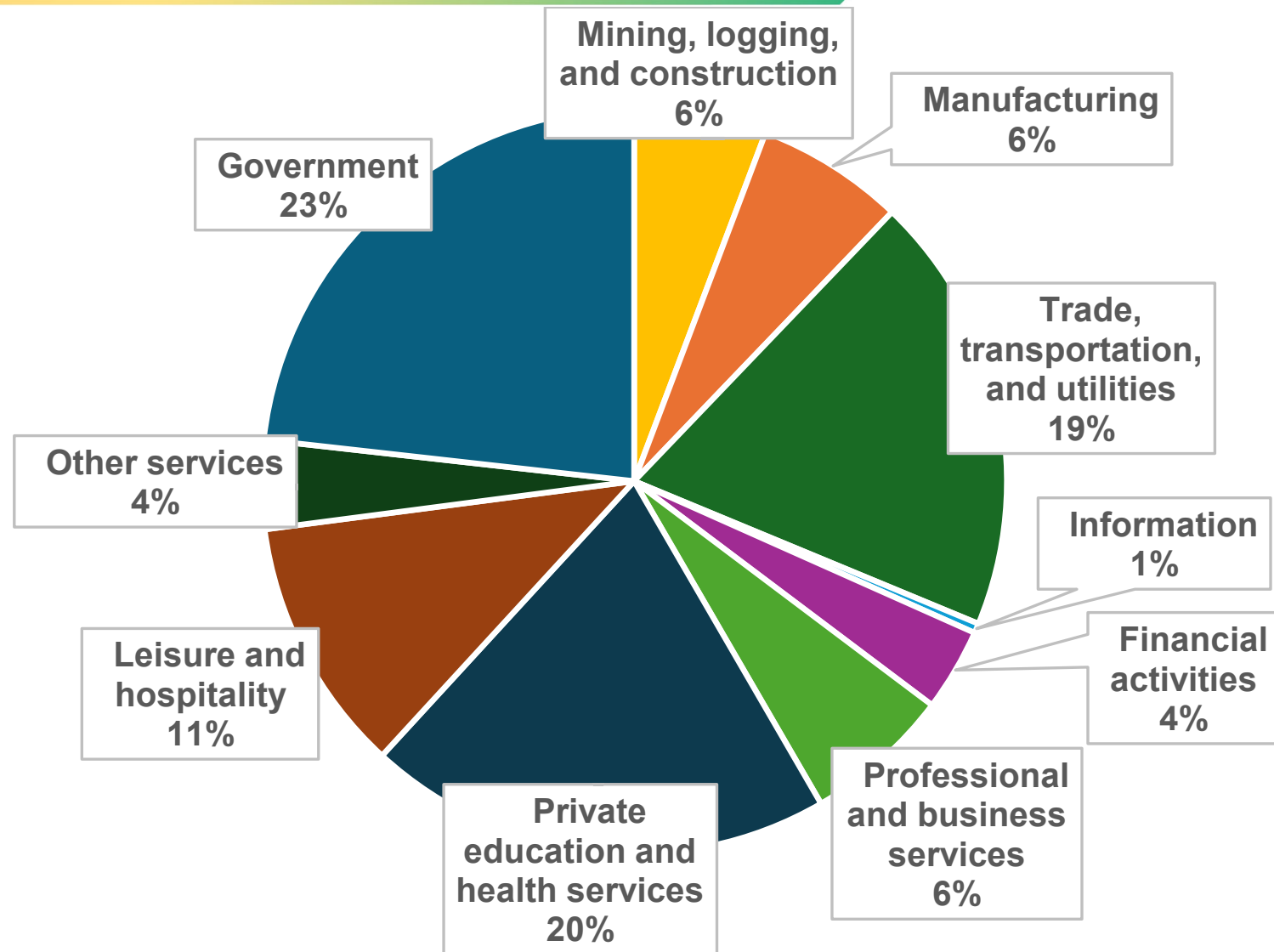
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND HEALTH CARE ACCOUNT FOR 48% OF KLAMATH COUNTY GDP

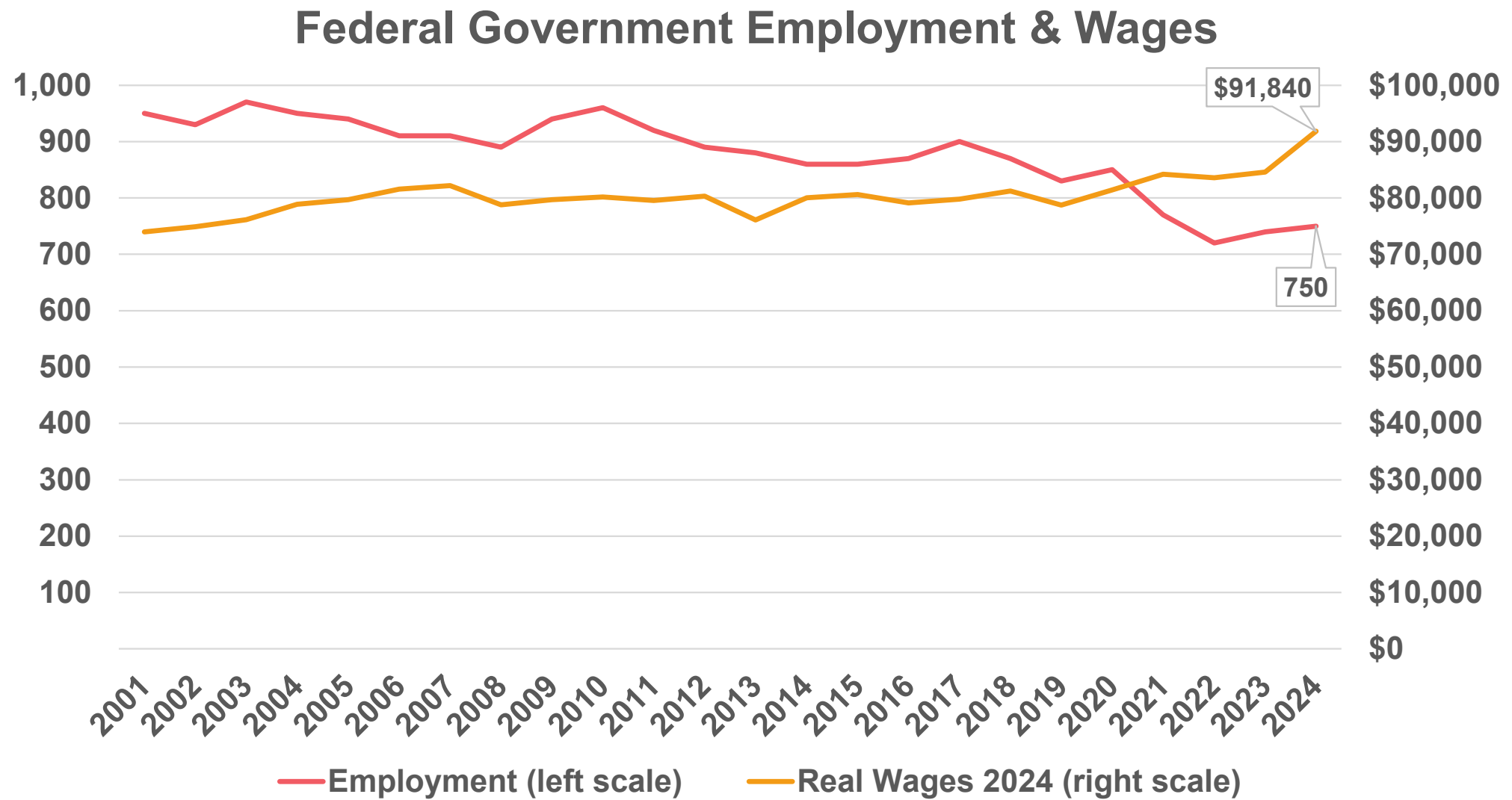


Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

# INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT DISTRIBUTION

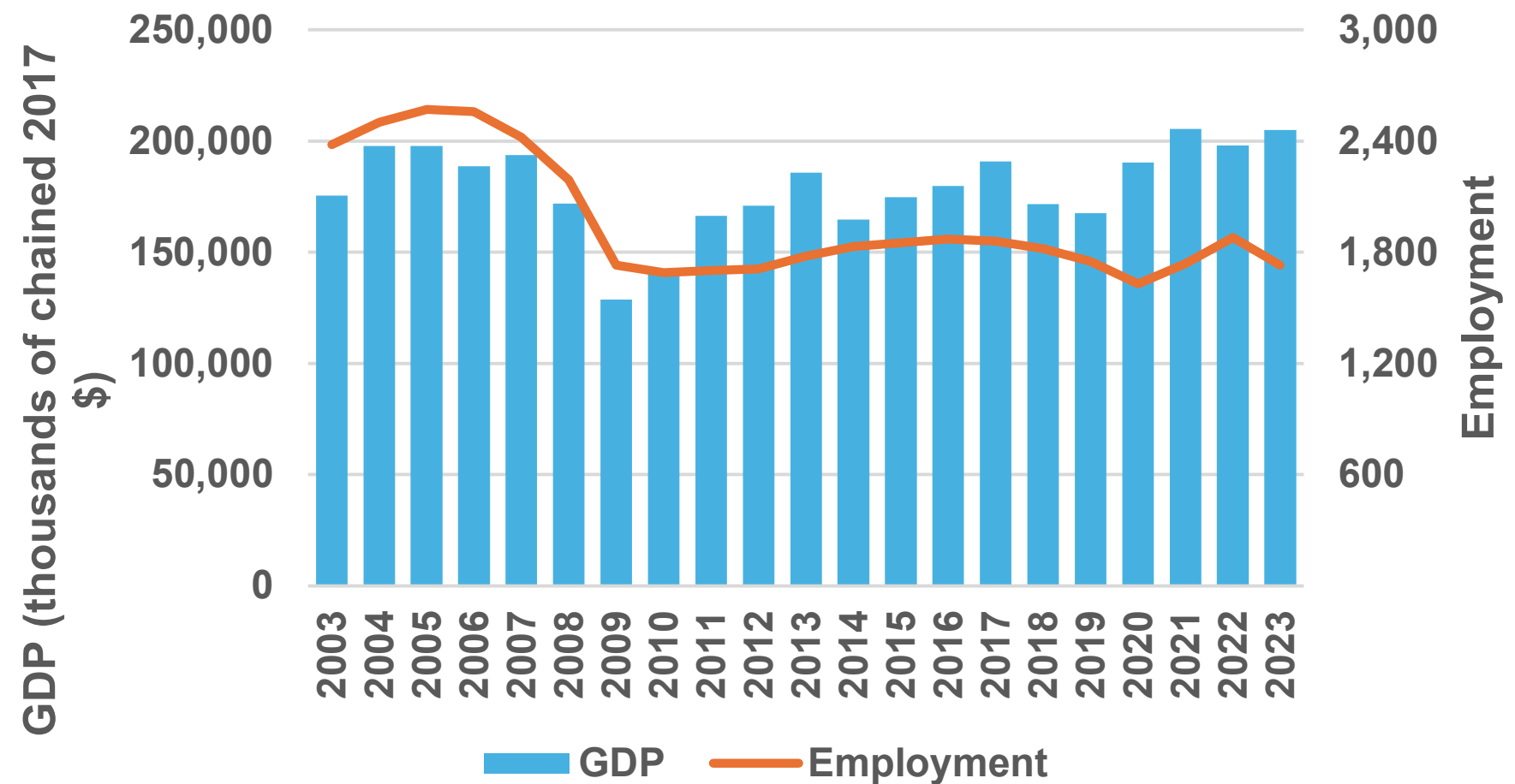


EMPLOYMENT TRENDING DOWN, WAGES TRENDING UP

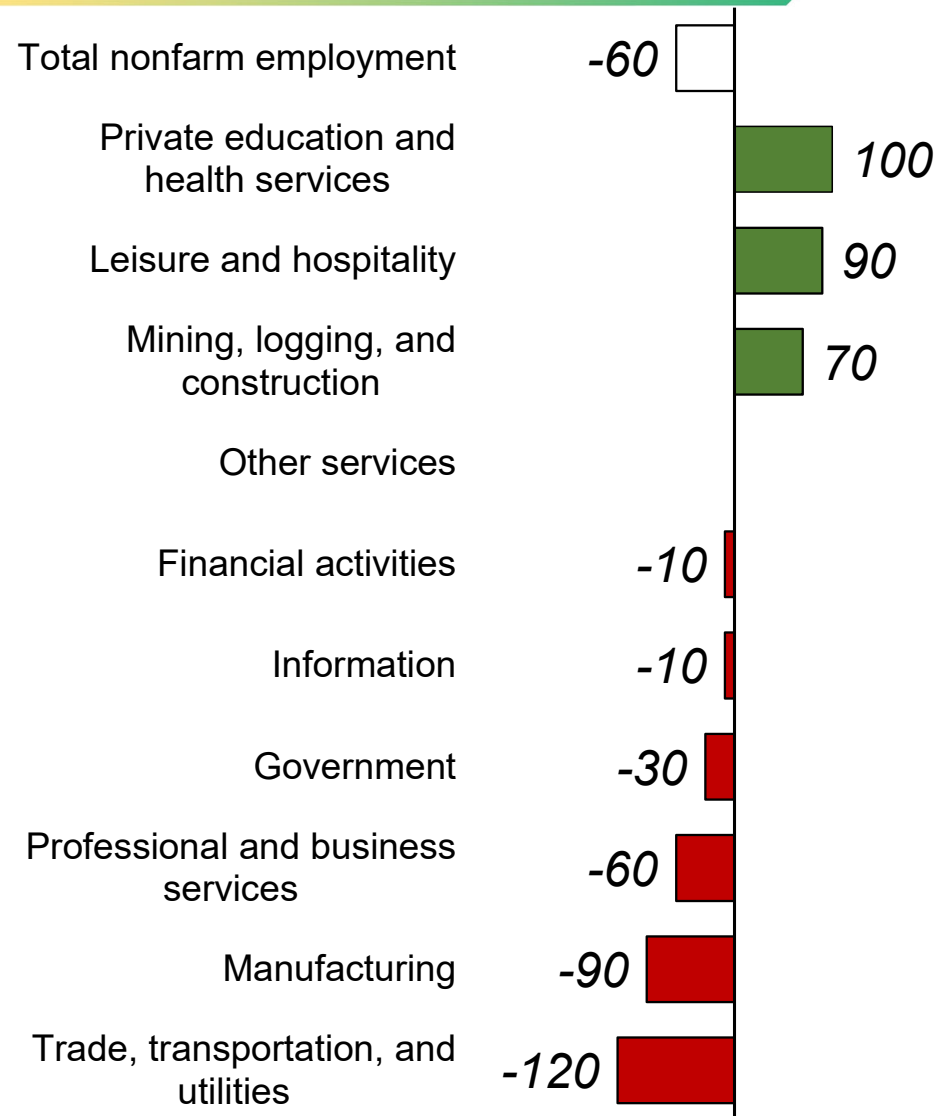




Manufacturing GDP & Employment

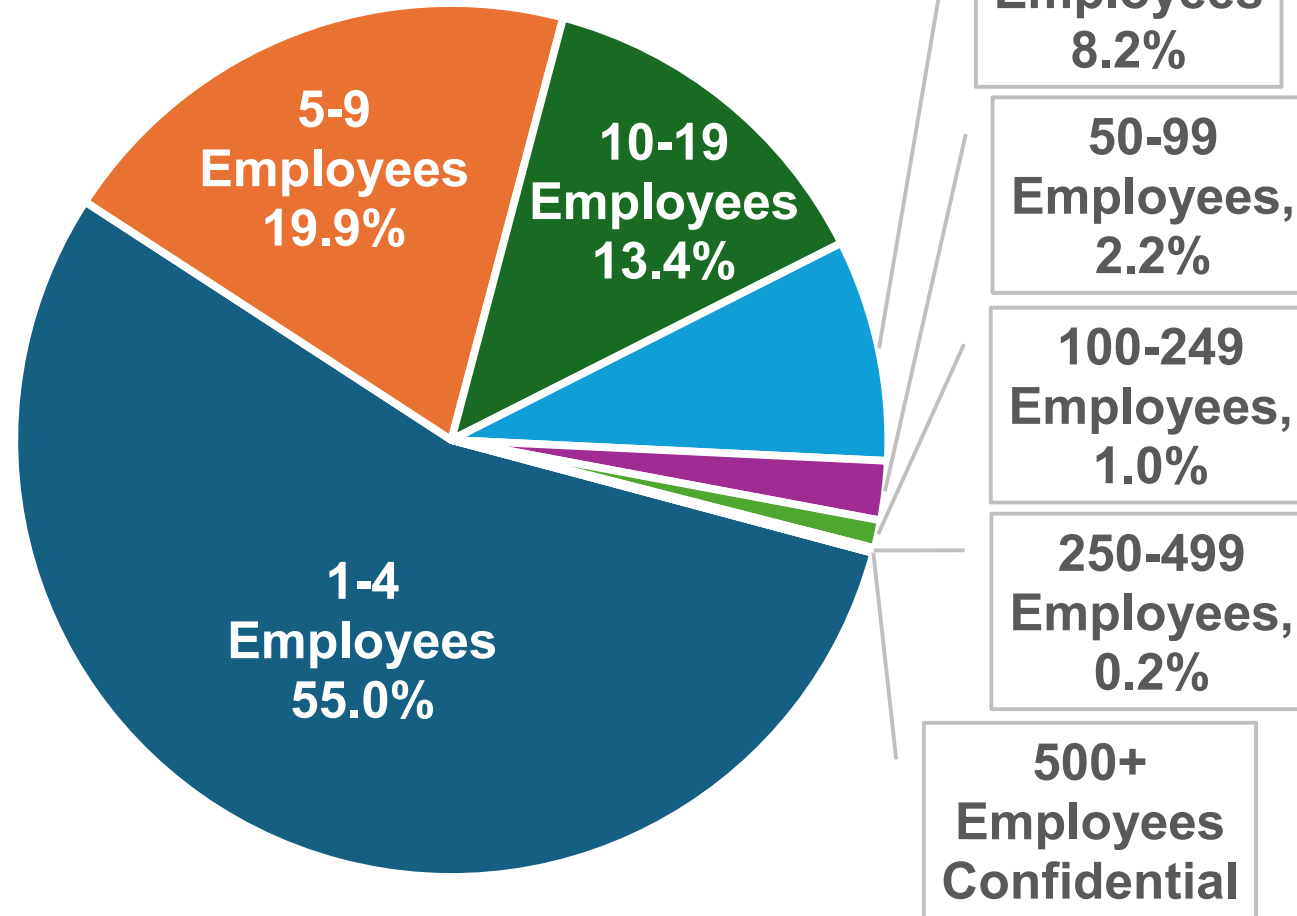


# NOVEMBER 2024 – NOVEMBER 2025 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT CHANGE



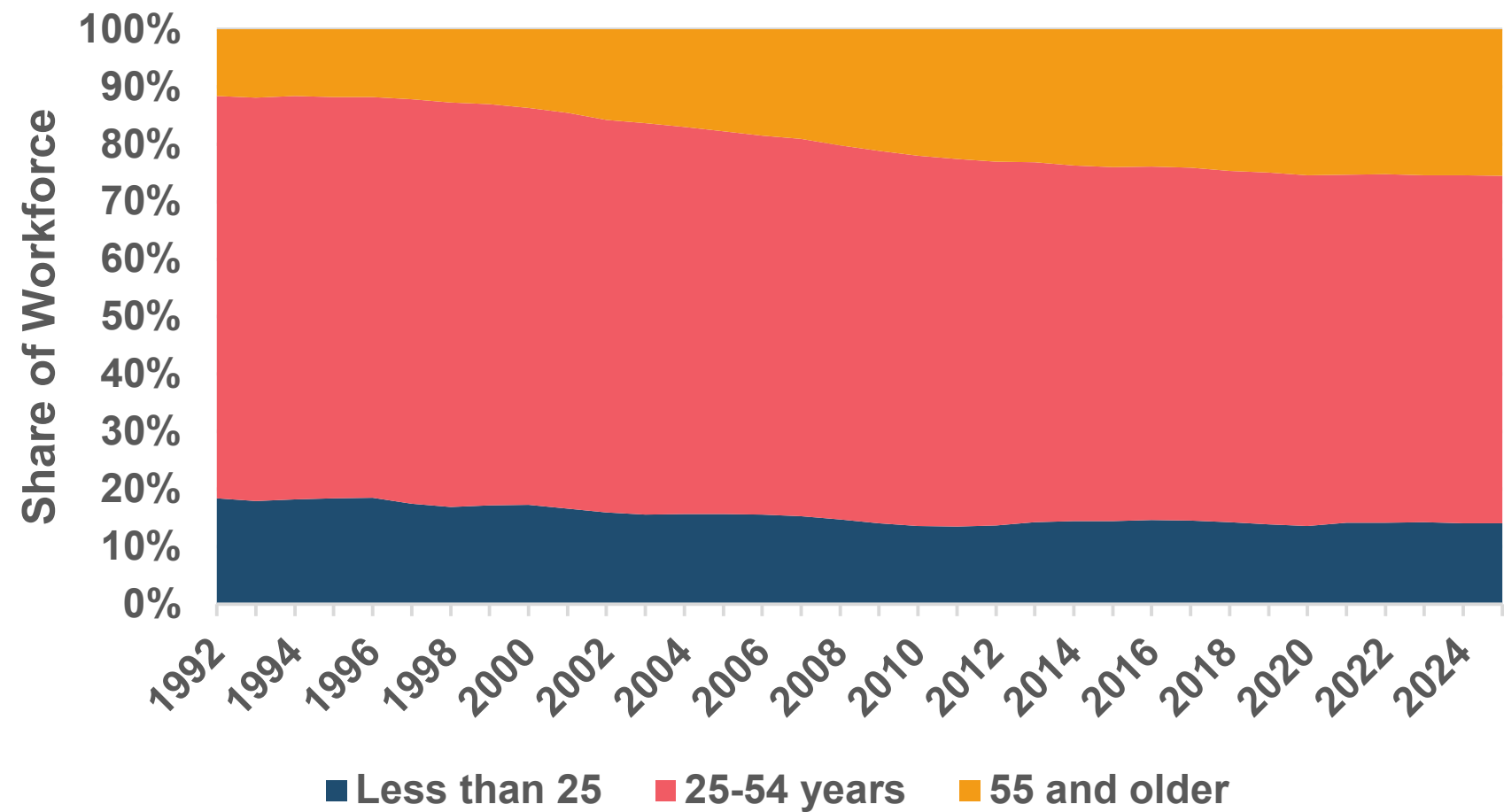
**75% OF ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE FEWER THAN 10 EMPLOYEES**

## Size Class of Establishments



55 AND OLDER REPRESENTATION HAS DOUBLED OVER THIS PERIOD

## Workforce Age Distribution

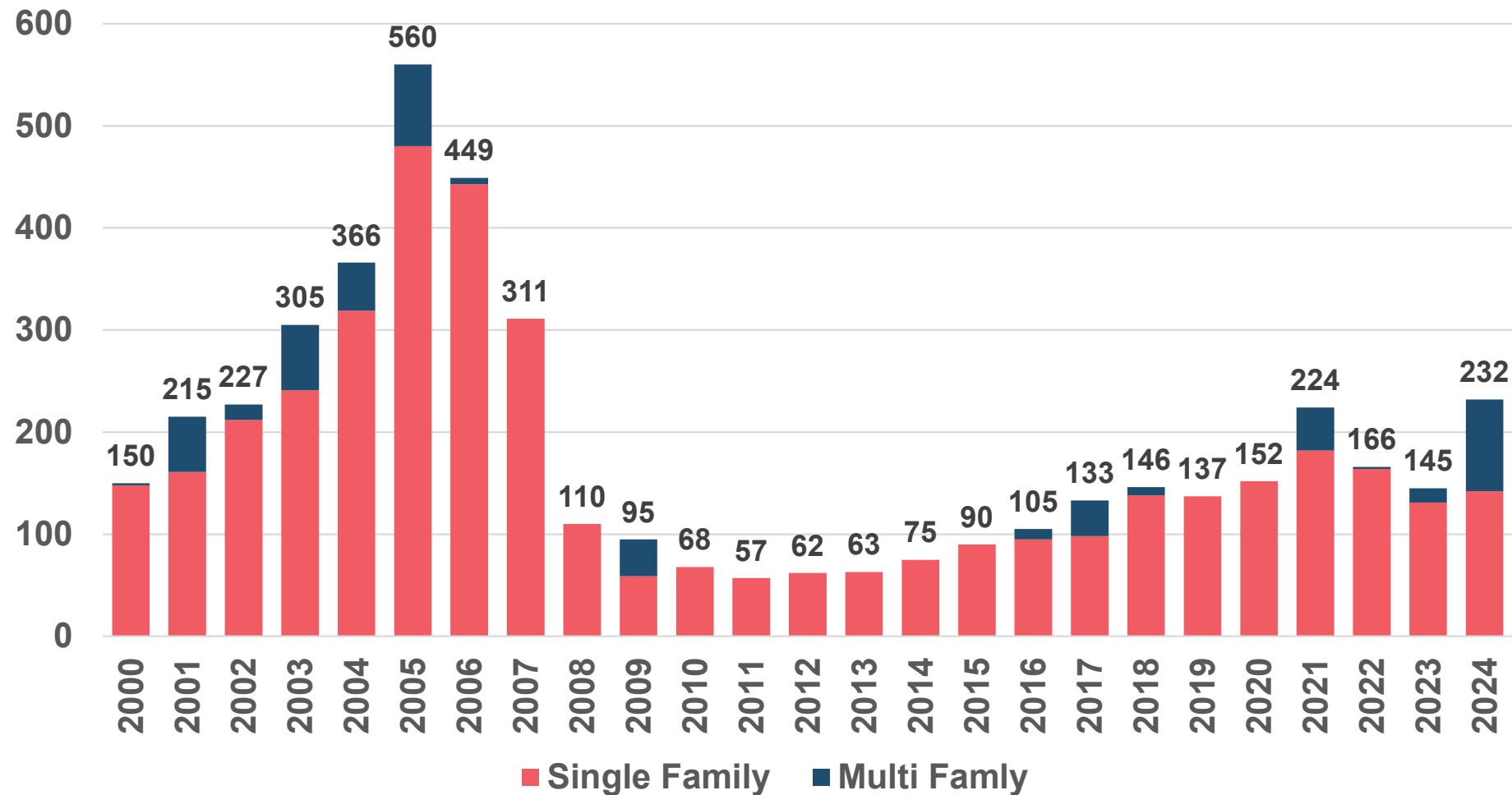


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators

# HOUSING

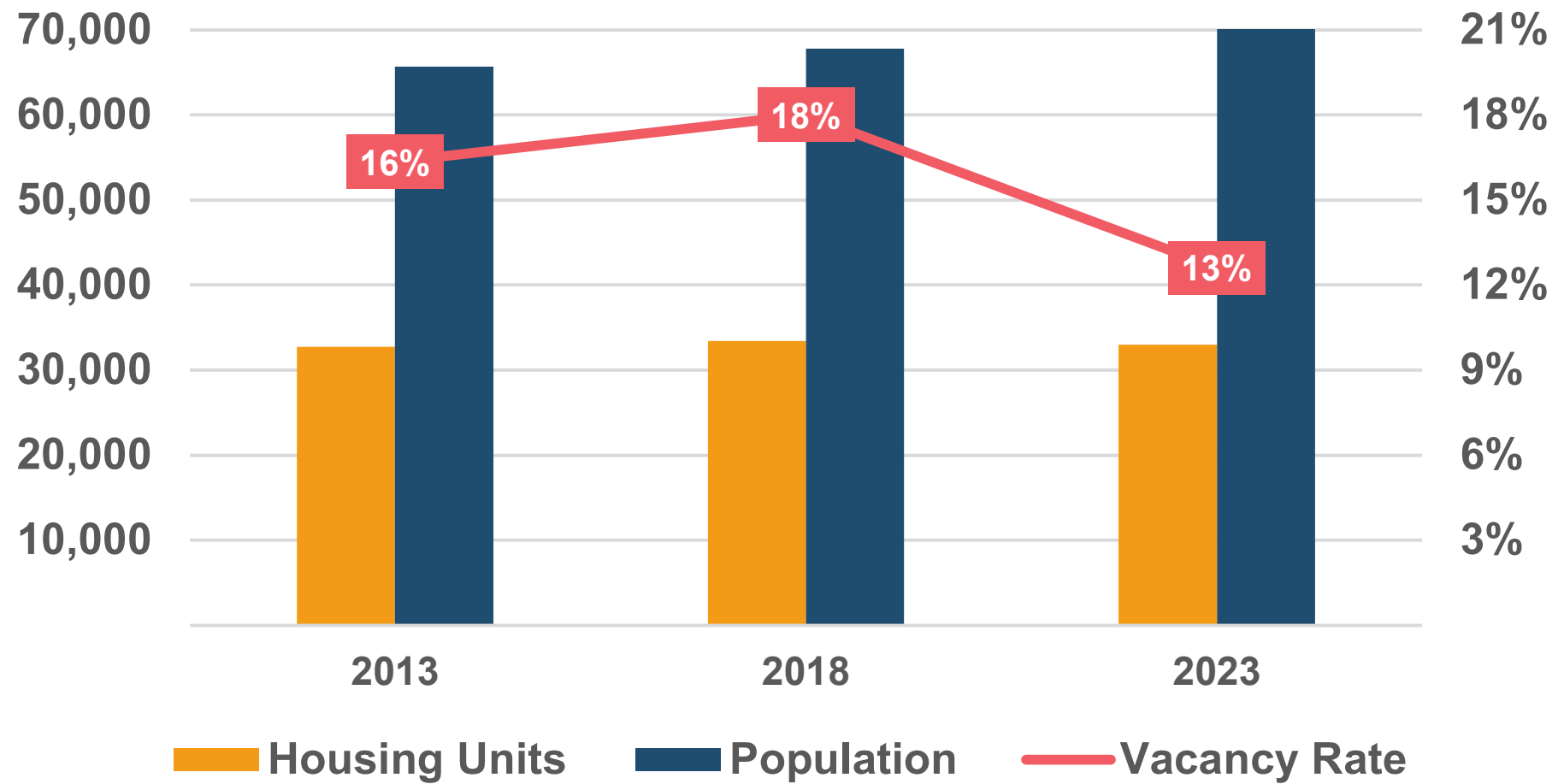
RECENT PERMITTING PEAK IN 2024, BUT LESS THAN HALF WHAT WE SAW IN 2005

# Housing Building Permits



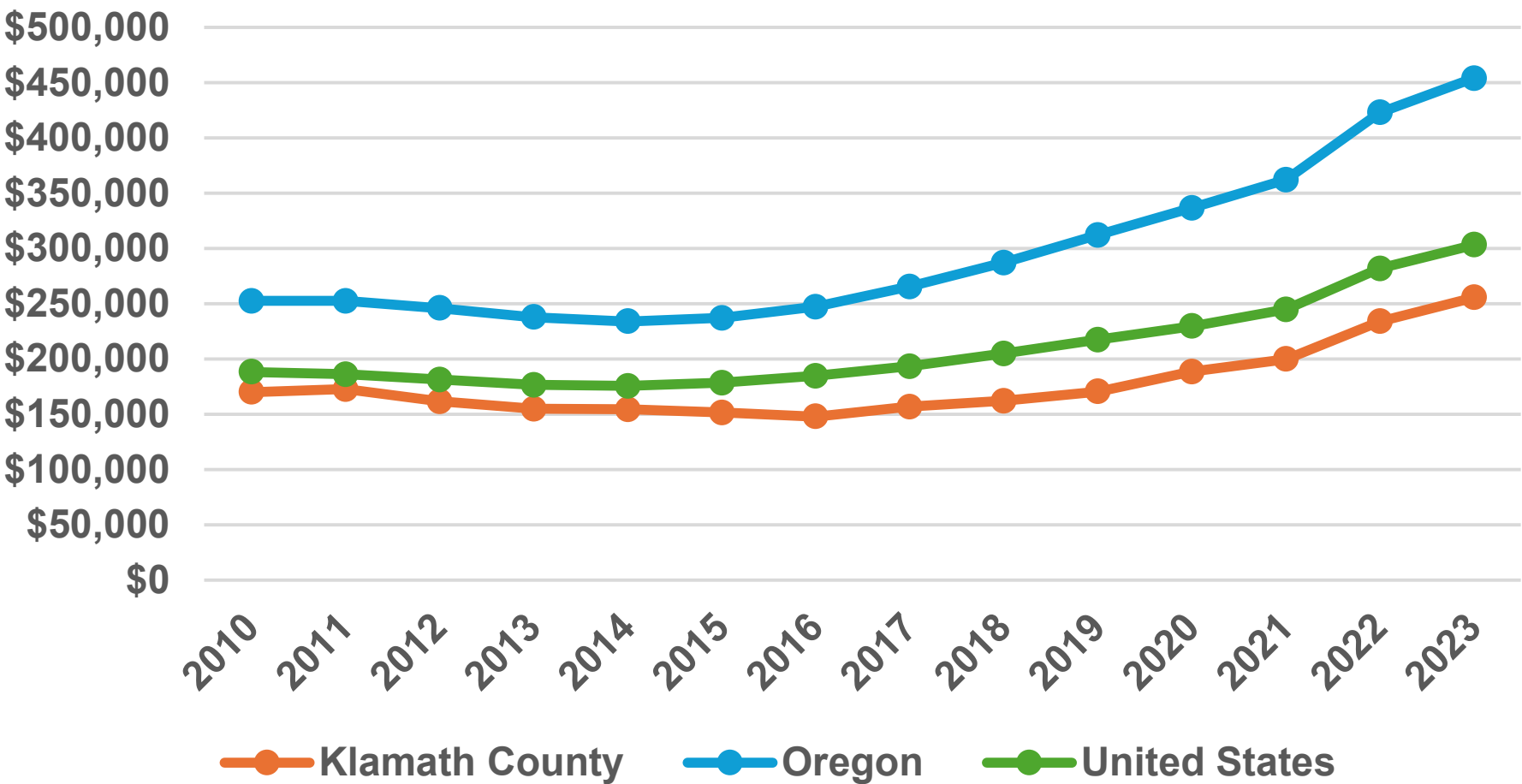
Source: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

# Workforce Housing & Vacancy Rate



HOME VALUES HAVE BEEN INCREASING SINCE 2016

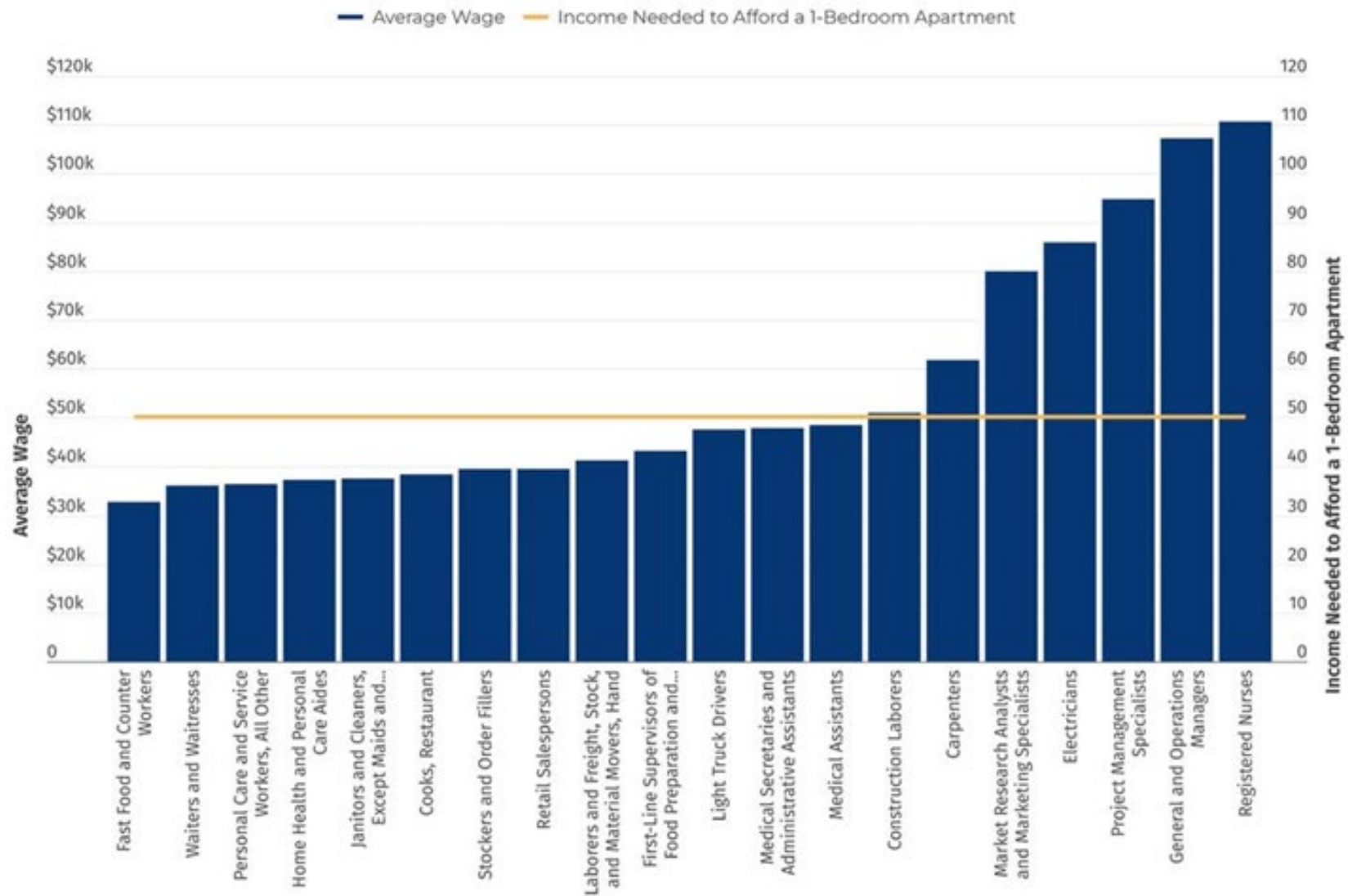
# Median Home Values



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey



OF THE 20 FASTEST GROWING OCCUPATIONS 13 CAN'T AFFORD A 1BR APARTMENT



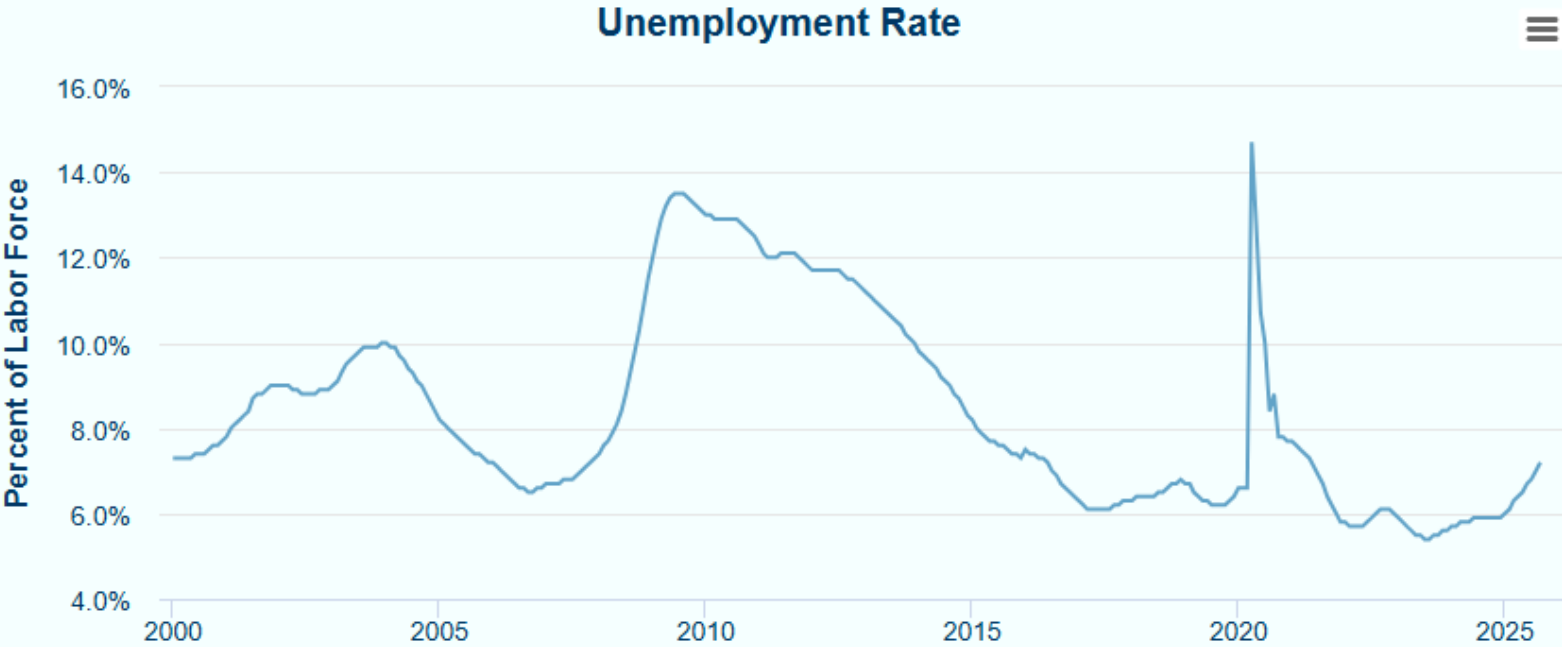
Source: Oregon Housing & Community Services Tabulation of Oregon Employment Department Wage Data & Employment Projections, Apartments List

# LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS SUPPLY

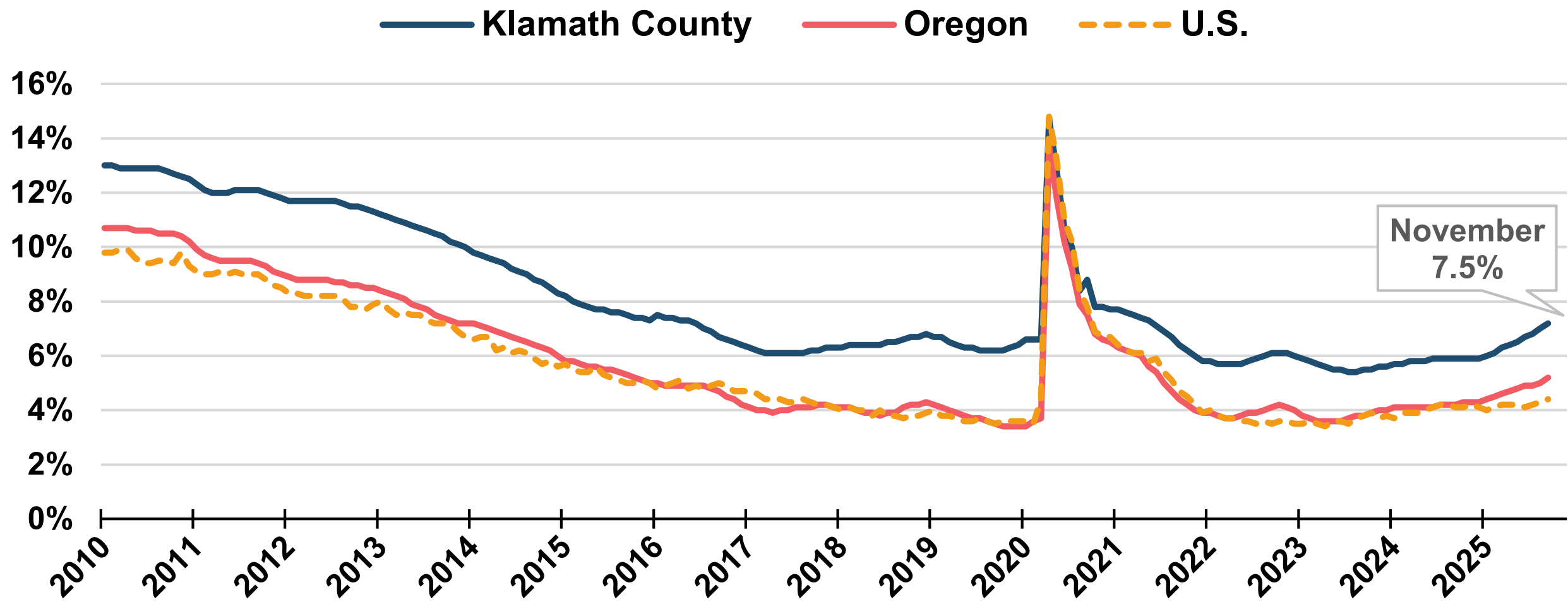
SINCE NOVEMBER 2024 THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS INCREASED +1.6%

Klamath County  
November 2025  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Civilian Labor Force	Unemployment Rate	Number of Employed	Number of Unemployed
29,417	7.5%	27,218	2,199

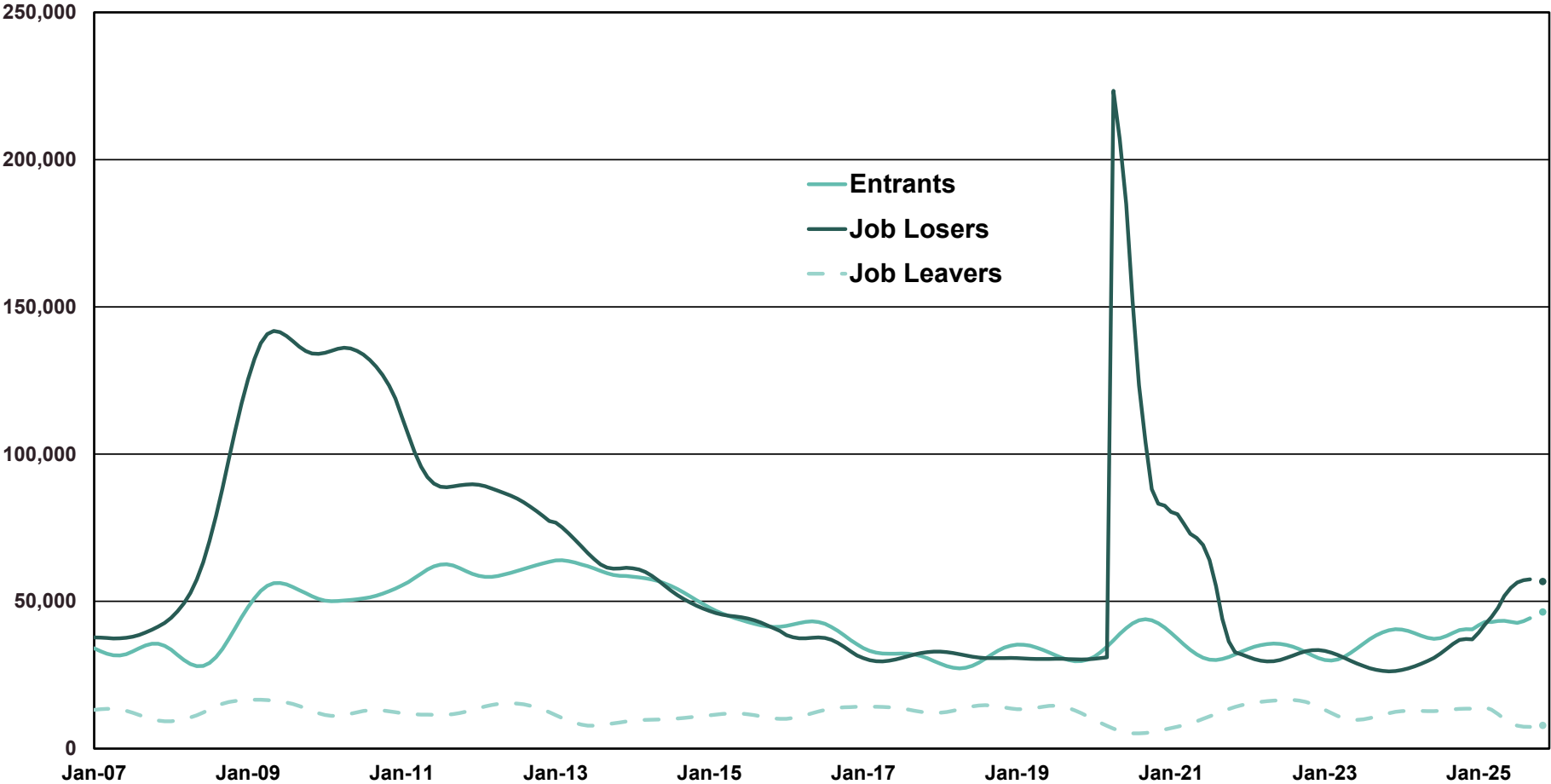


UNITED STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 4.6%, OREGON AT 5.2%



# WHY ARE OREGONIANS UNEMPLOYED?

Oregon Unemployment by Reason [Trend]



**New or returning to the workforce**  
46,400 (42%)

**Lost job**  
56,700 (51%)

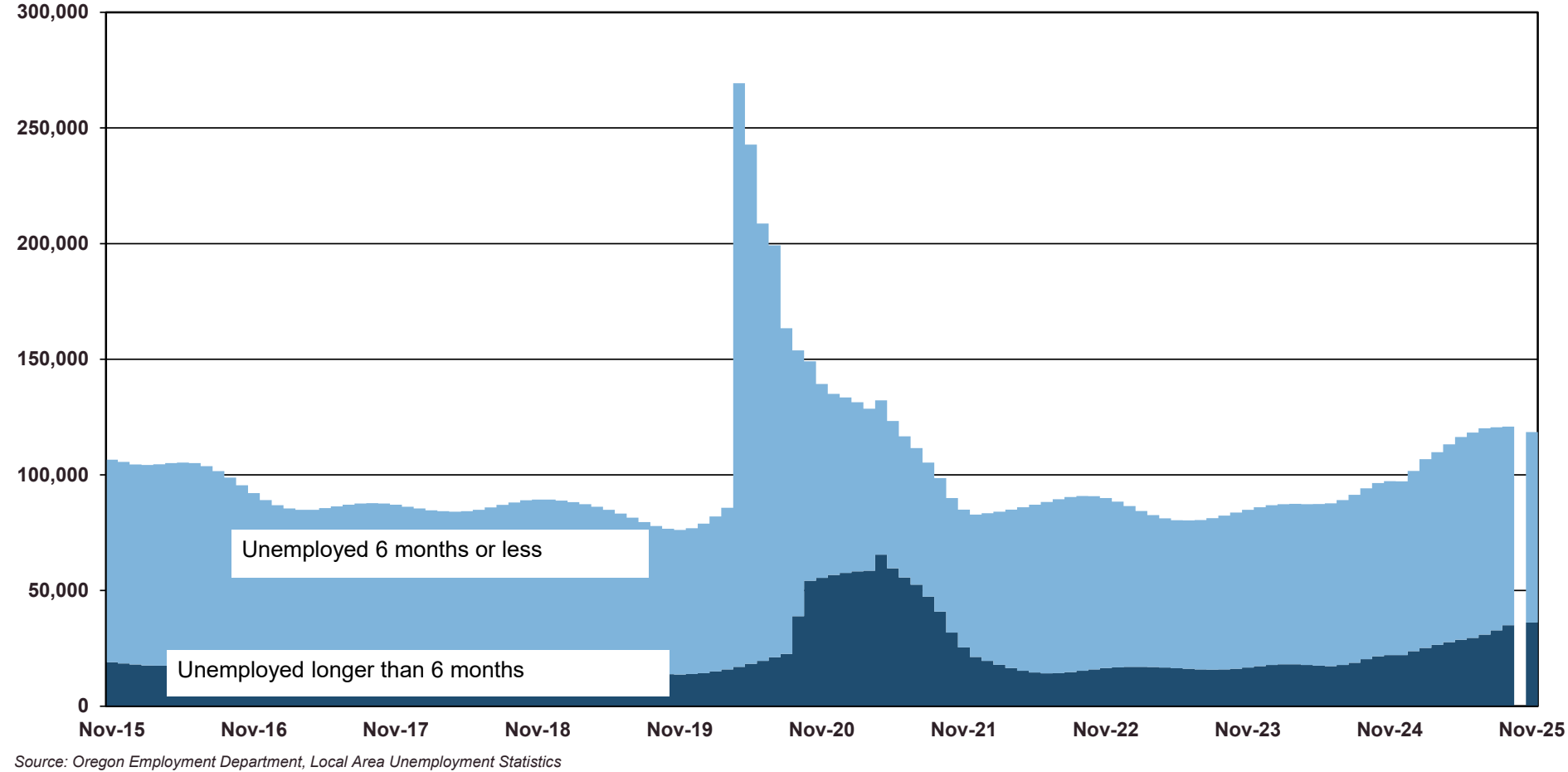
**Left job voluntarily**  
7,900 (7%)

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Population Survey

*Note: The October 2025 LAUS data is not available since underlying data was not collected due to the federal government shutdown that month.*

# 1 OUT OF 3 UNEMPLOYED OREGONIANS HAVE BEEN OUT OF WORK FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS

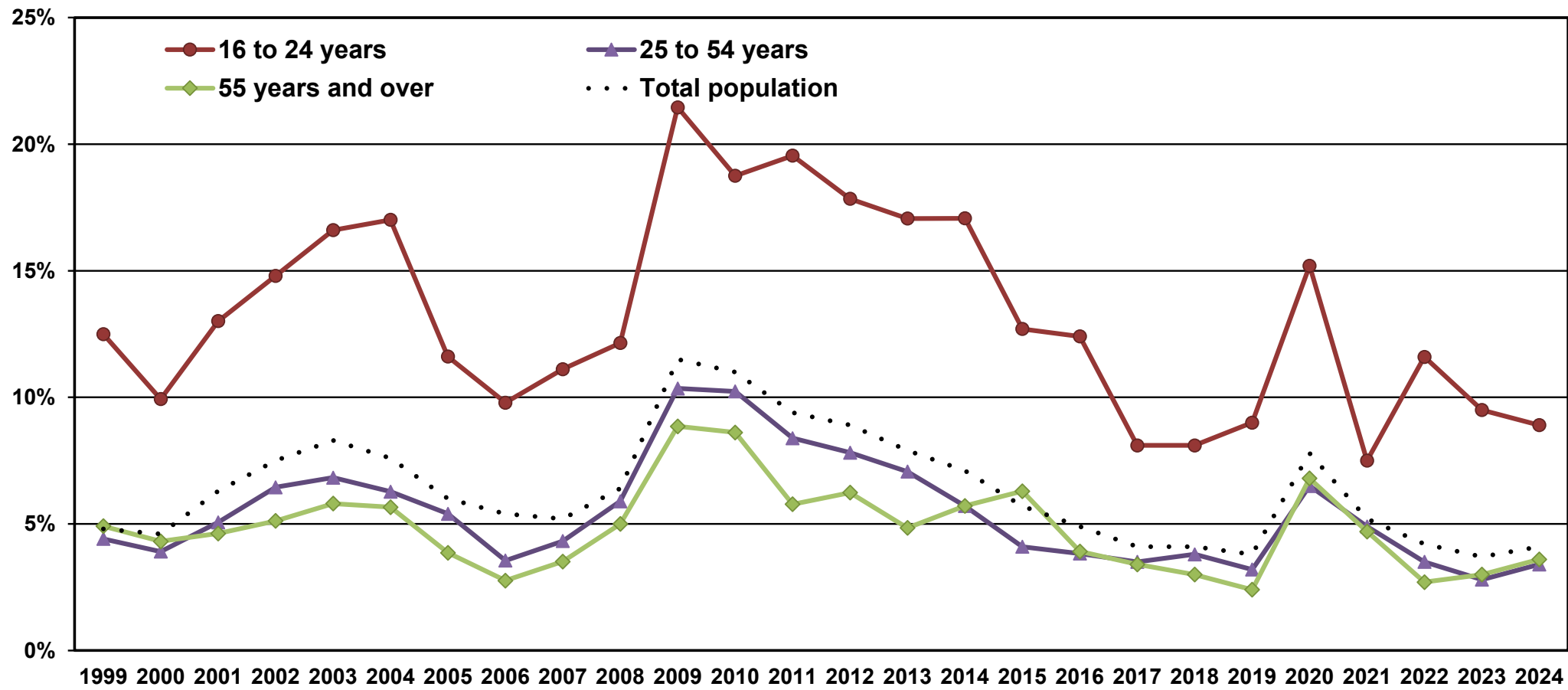
There are 36,200 Long-Term Unemployed Oregonians  
(31% of All Unemployed)



*Note: The October 2025 LAUS data is not available since underlying data was not collected due to the federal government shutdown that month.*

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WERE RELATIVELY LOW FOR EACH AGE GROUP IN 2024

Average Annual Unemployment Rate by Age Category  
Oregon, 1999-2024



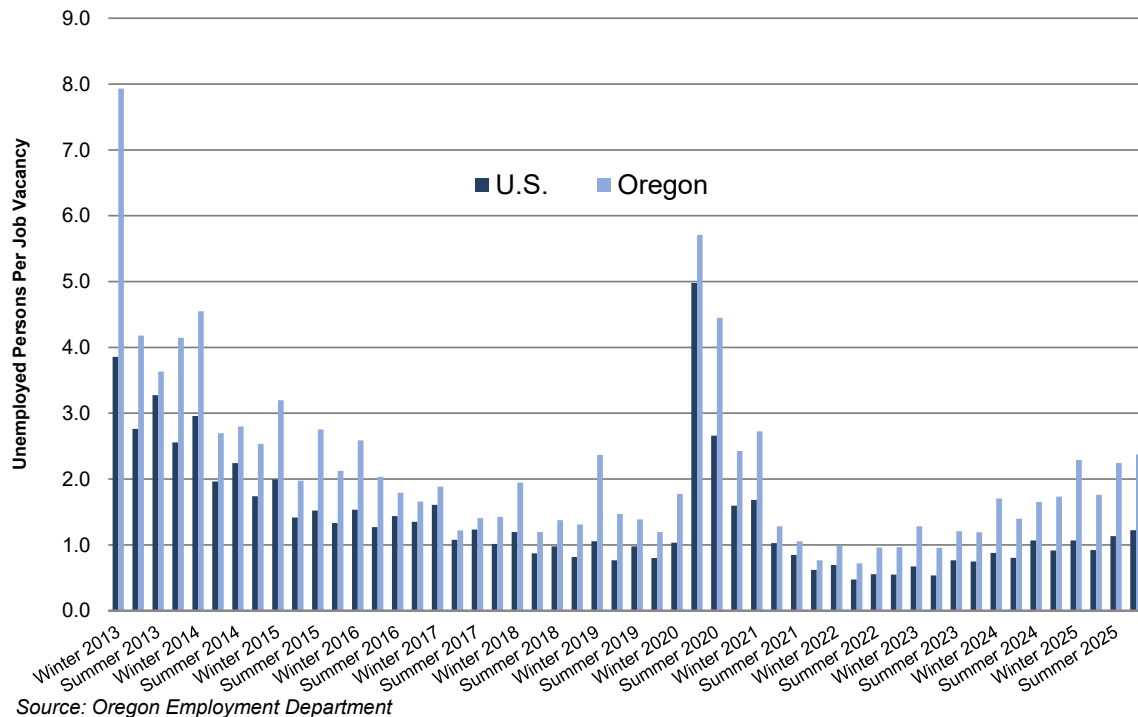
Source: Current Population Survey, <http://www.bls.gov/lau>

# LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS DEMAND



# AS UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASED AND VACANCIES DECLINED, THE UNEMPLOYED TO JOB VACANCY RATIO IN OREGON INCREASED TO 2.4 IN THE FALL

**U.S. and Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratios Rising Slowly after Record Lows**  
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2025)



The U.S. ratio was 1.2 in November 2025. It reached 4.3 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 2.4 unemployed per job vacancy in fall 2025, part of a steady rise since the post-pandemic recession expansion period in 2021 and 2022.

# THE EAST CASCADES REGION REPRESENTED 19% OF FALL 2025 VACANCIES

## Oregon Private Job Vacancies by Geography, Fall 2025

Geography	Vacancies
<b>Oregon Statewide</b>	<b>46,265</b>
Portland Metro	11,675
East Cascades	8,914
Mid-Valley	4,858
Southwestern Oregon	4,635
Clackamas	3,799
Rogue Valley	3,149
Eastern Oregon	2,570
Lane	2,515
Northwest Oregon	2,036

Fall vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county area (Portland Metro and Clackamas County) accounting for 33%.

*Multi-area or unknown regions excluded*  
*Source: Oregon Employment Department*

# BUSINESSES REPORTED HIRING IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES

## Oregon Private Job Vacancies by Industry, Fall 2025

Industry	Vacancies
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>46,265</b>
Health care and social assistance	14,482
Management, administrative, and waste services	5,513
Leisure and hospitality	5,486
Retail trade	4,034
Financial activities	3,682
Professional, scientific, and technical services	3,373
Construction	3,042
Other services	2,640
Manufacturing	1,786
Wholesale trade	957
Natural resources and mining	604
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	570

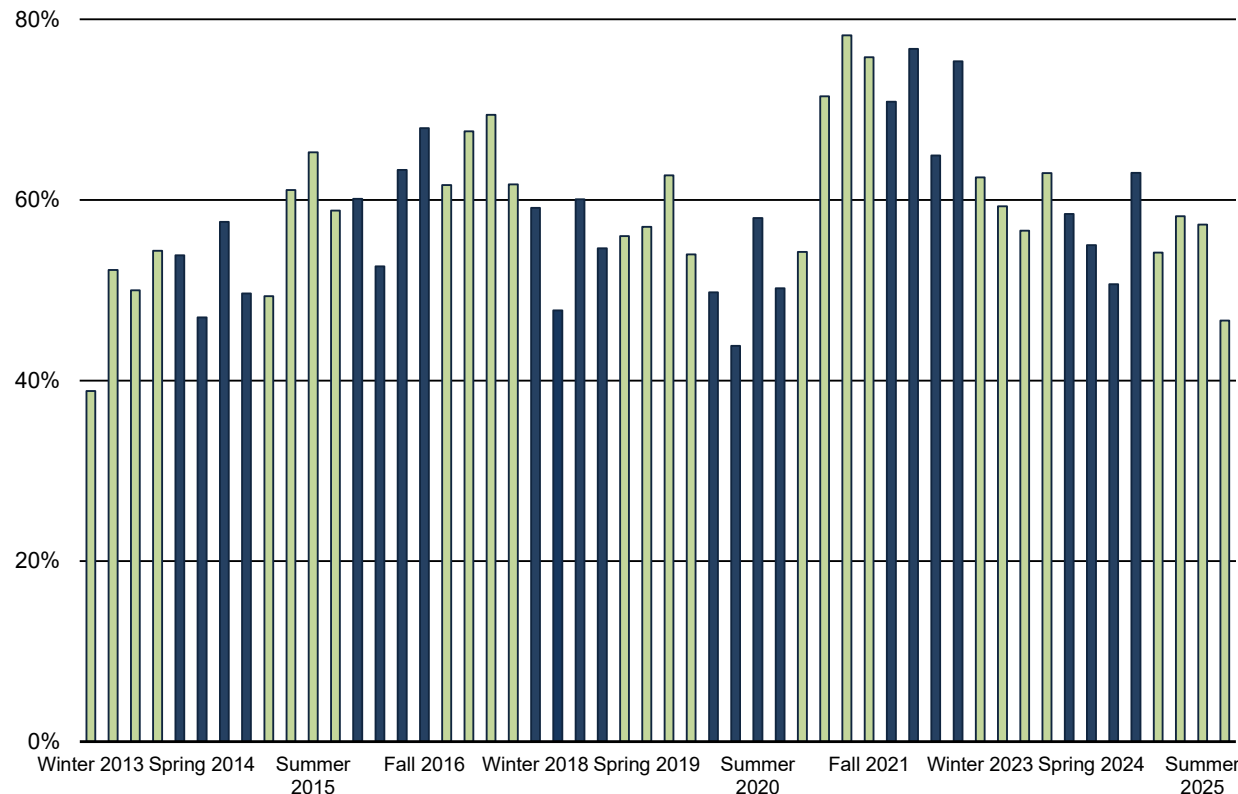
Source: Oregon Employment Department

Health care and social assistance represented 31% of all vacancies, with 14,500. Management, administrative, and waste services had 5,500 and leisure and hospitality had 5,500.

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

# 47% OF FALL JOB VACANCIES WERE REPORTED AS DIFFICULT TO FILL

**Businesses Report Difficulty Filling  
47% of Vacancies in Fall 2025**



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Quarterly Job Vacancy

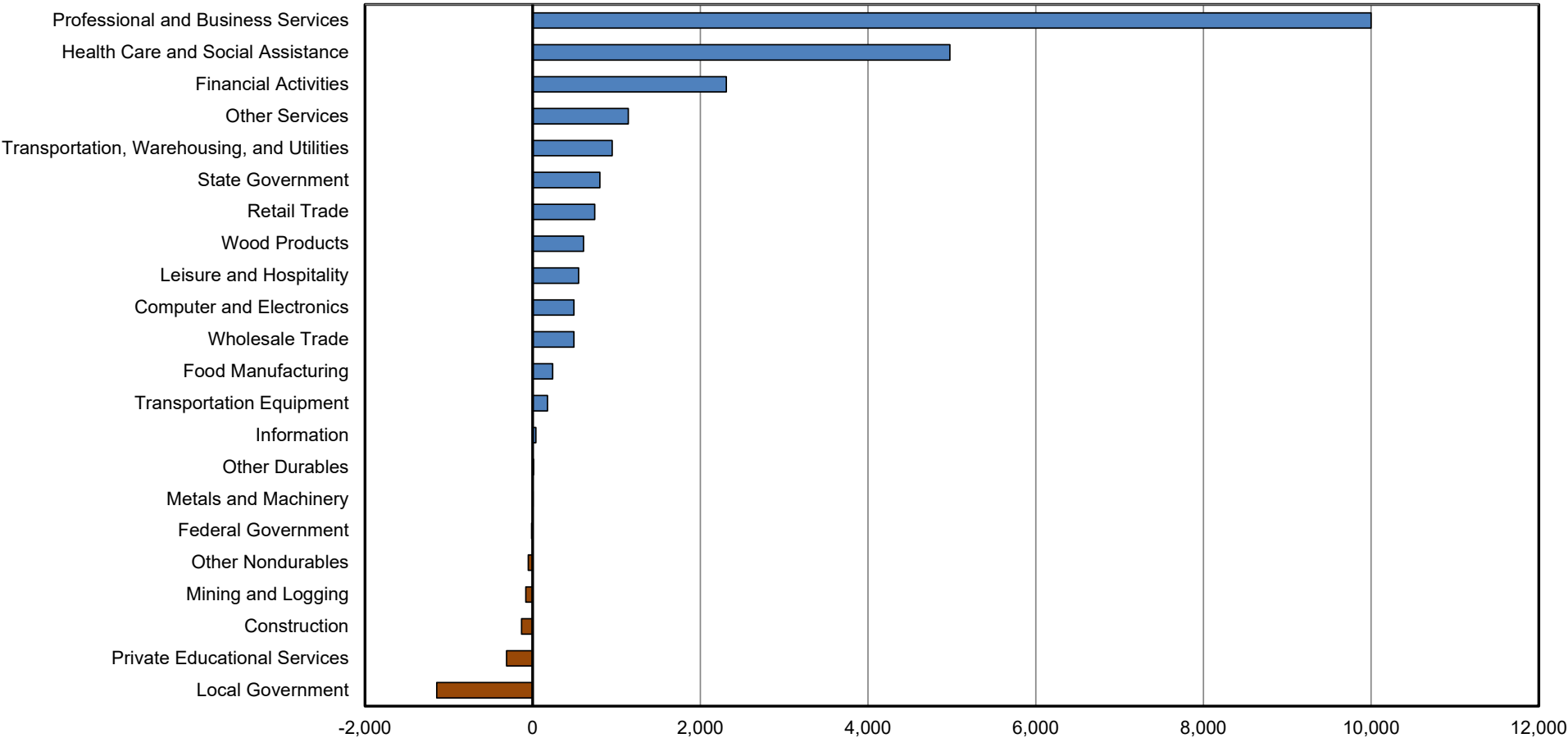
The occupations with the highest number of difficult-to-fill vacancies:

- Restaurant cooks
- Personal care aides
- Social and human service assistants
- Truck drivers

# INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

# OEA EXPECTS OREGON TO GAIN ABOUT 11,400 JOBS IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

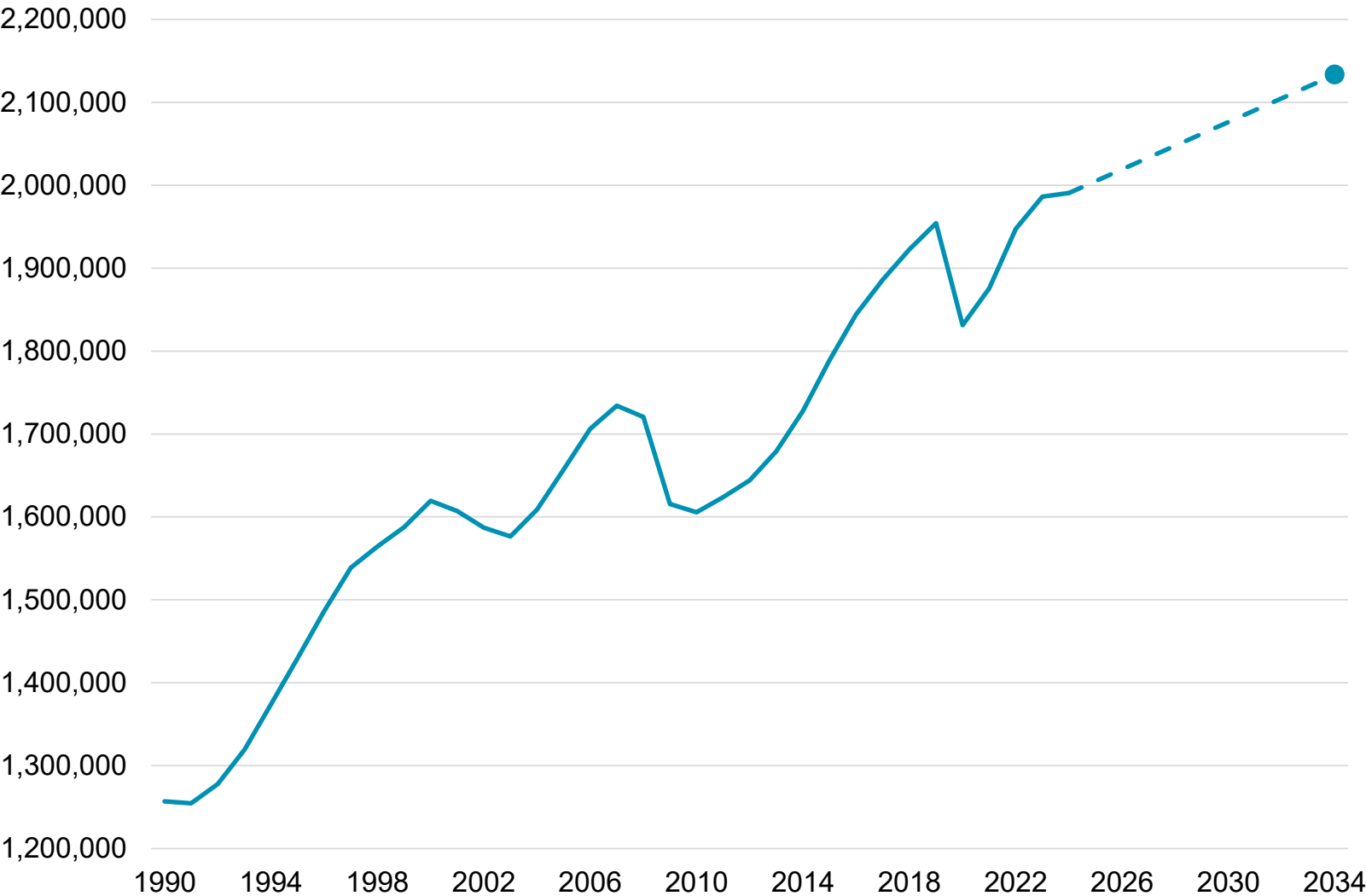
Expected Job Changes by Industry Sector Over The Year  
(4Q2025 - 4Q2026)



Source: Oregon Employment Department analysis using Oregon Office of Economic Analysis Forecast, December 2025

OREGON'S TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IS PROJECTED TO GROW BY 6%

Oregon to Add 140,600 New Jobs by 2034



Source: Oregon Employment Department

- Private-sector growth of 125,500 jobs (7%)
- Slower growth in government, adding 7,700 jobs (2%)
- Additional 7,400 self-employed Oregonians (5%)

**Oregon's total employment is projected to grow by 6% between 2024 and 2034.**

- 140,600 new jobs over the decade.
- 258,000 average annual total job openings, mostly to replace workers who leave the labor force or transfer into significantly different occupations.

**Health care and social assistance is projected to grow the fastest and add the largest number of jobs.**

- Private health care and social assistance accounts for roughly three out of 10 new jobs in Oregon by 2034.

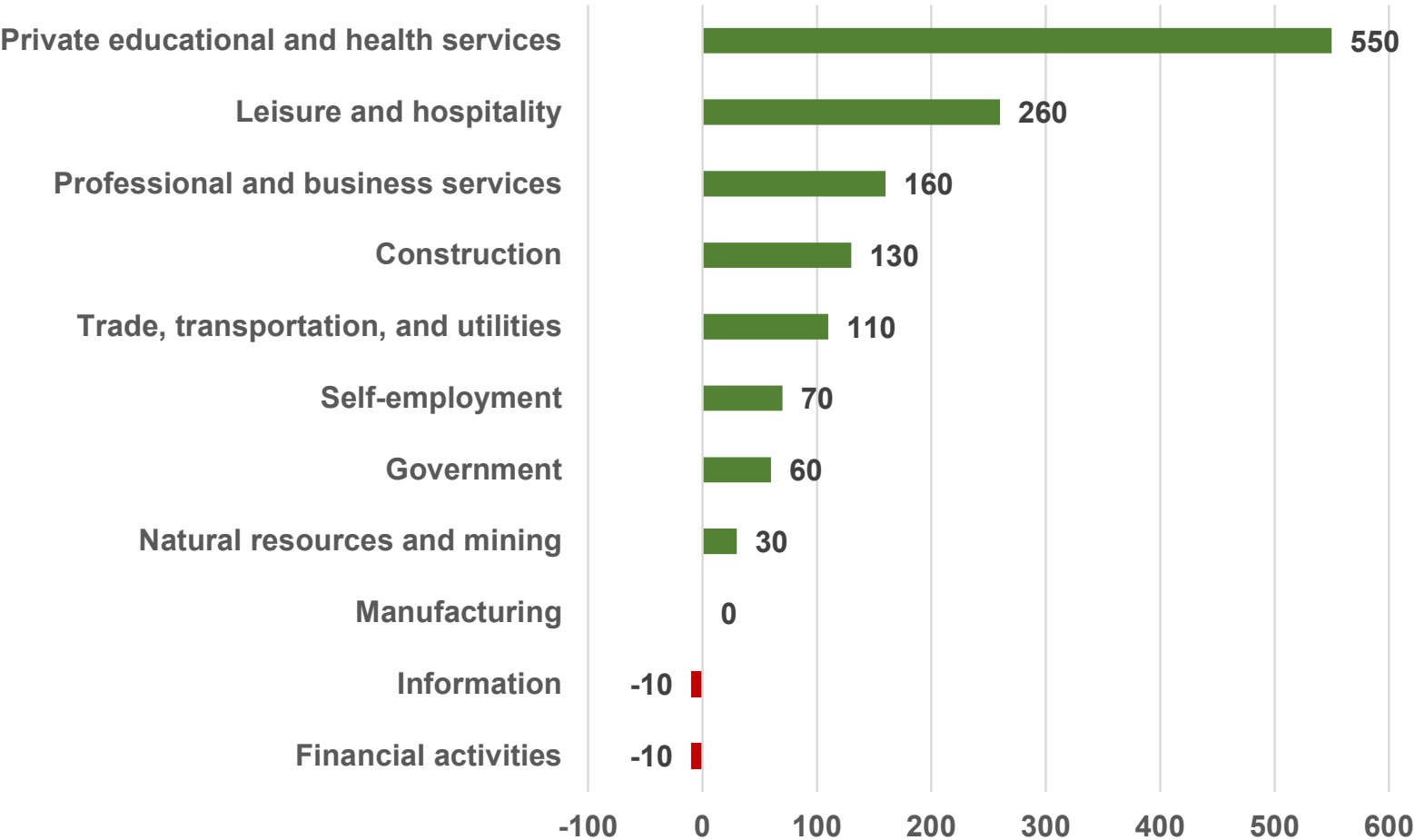
**A broad array of future career opportunities exist across Oregon's economy.**

- All sectors statewide and all regions of the state are expected to add jobs except for Federal government, which is projected to decline by 3%.
- Even slower-growing sectors and regions need an abundance of newly trained workers to replace those who retire or otherwise leave the labor force.



TOTAL EMPLOYMENT EXPECTED TO GROW BY 1,400 JOBS (+5%)

South Central  
Industry Employment Projections 2024-2034



# SOUTH CENTRAL INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

**Total employment is projected to grow by 5% between 2024 and 2034.**

- +1,400 new jobs over the decade.
- 3,466 average annual total job openings, mostly to replace workers who leave the labor force or transfer into significantly different occupations.

**Health care and social assistance is projected to grow the fastest and add the largest number of jobs.**

- +530 jobs (+11%)
- Accounts for 38% of new job growth, or nearly 4 out of every 10 new jobs in 2034
- Construction +130 jobs (+10%)
- Professional and business services +160 jobs (+10%)

**Federal government is projected to contract and lose the most jobs.**

- -50 jobs (-3%)
- Information also projected to decline by -10 jobs (-7%)

# Thank You!

*Please scan the QR code for a brief survey*



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