

Portland's Labor Market

Jake Procino, Economist for Portland Region



Have you ever been asked to participate in a Bureau of Labor Statistics 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.

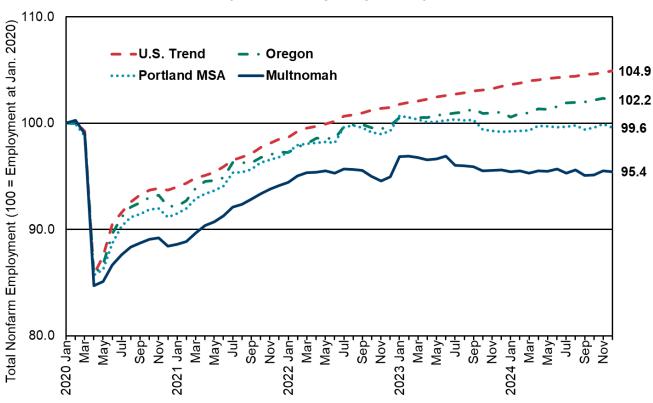
Thank you for helping us track the Oregon economy!



Employment in Oregon and Portland



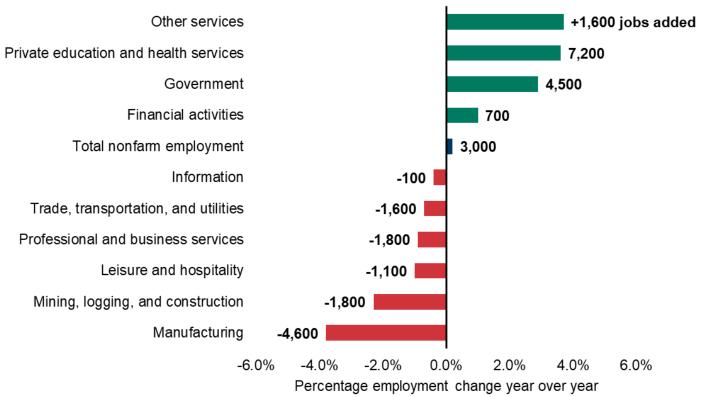
Normalized Total Nonfarm Employment Trend (Seasonally-Adjusted)



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Bureau of Labor Statistics



Portland MSA Employment Change by Industry, Jan. 2024 to Jan. 2025



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Estimates (CES)



Unemployment in Oregon



Unemployment definitions

- Unemployed, if they meet all the criteria
 - They were not employed during the survey reference week.
 - They were available for work during the survey reference week, except for temporary illness.
 - They made at least one specific, active effort to find a job during the 4-week period ending with the survey reference week (see active job search methods) OR they were temporarily laid off and expecting to be recalled to their job.



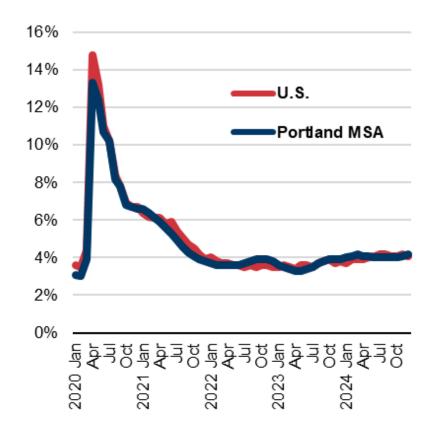
Unemployment definitions

- Employed if they meet any of the critieria
 - worked at least 1 hour as a paid employee
 - worked at least 1 hour in their own business, profession, trade, or farm
 - were temporarily absent from their job, business, or farm, whether or not they were paid for the time off
 - worked without pay for a minimum of 15 hours in a business or farm owned by a member of their family



Portland MSA Unemployment Rate Remains Low at 4.2%

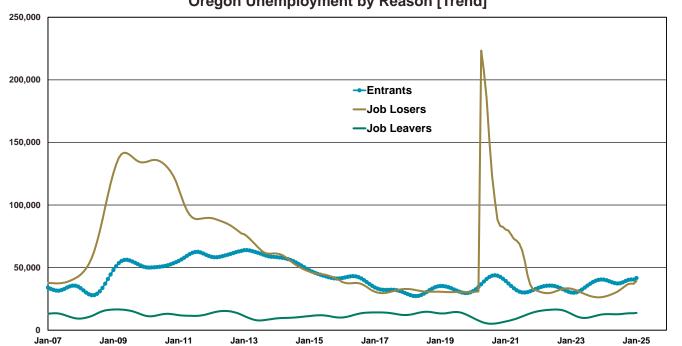
- U.S. rate is 4.1%
- Oregon rate is 4.1%
- Portland MSA average unemployment rate
 - 10-year: 4.5%
 - 20-year: 5.8%





Why are Oregonians unemployed?





New or returning to the workforce 41,700 (44%)

Lost job 39,300 (41%)

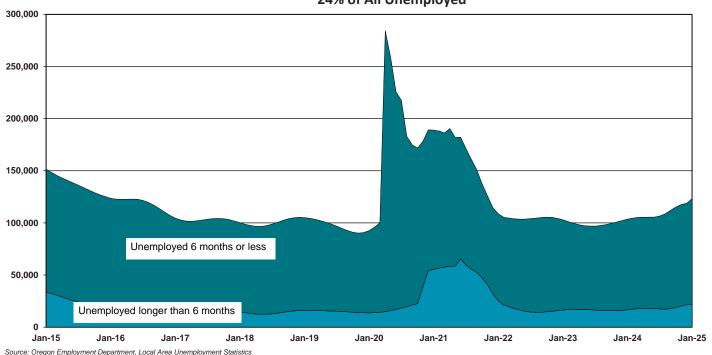
Left job voluntarily 13,900 (15%)

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Population Survey



One out of four unemployed Oregonians have been out of work for at least six months.

There are 24,400 Long-Term Unemployed Oregonians 24% of All Unemployed





The unemployment rate is pretty similar for men and women in Oregon.

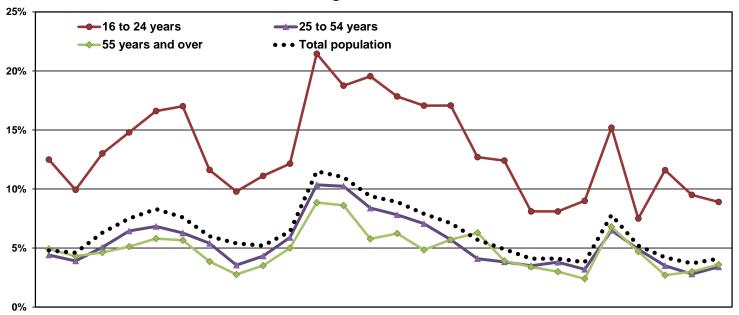
Monthly Unemployment Rates by Gender





unemployment rates were relatively low for each age group in 2024.

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



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 2024

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



Labor Force in Oregon



Labor force definitions

- Civilian labor force, or labor force
 - The labor force includes all people age 16 and older who are classified as either employed and unemployed, as defined below.
 - Conceptually, the labor force level is the number of people who are either working or actively looking for work.



Labor force definitions

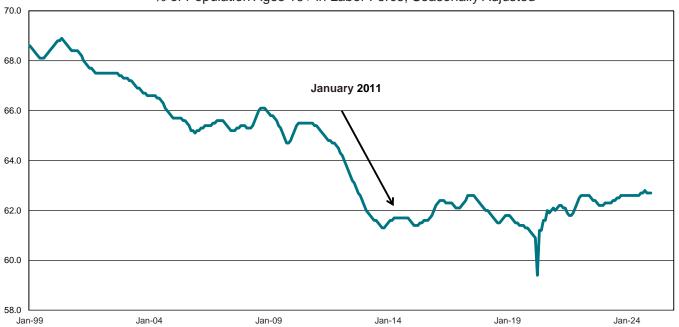
- Labor force participation rate, or participation rate
 - The labor force participation rate represents the number of people in the labor force as a percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population. In other words, the participation rate is the percentage of the population that is either working or actively looking for work.
 - The labor force participation rate is calculated as: (Labor Force ÷ Civilian Noninstitutional Population) x 100.



Oregon's labor force participation rate was 62.7% in January.

Oregon's Labor Force Participation Rate

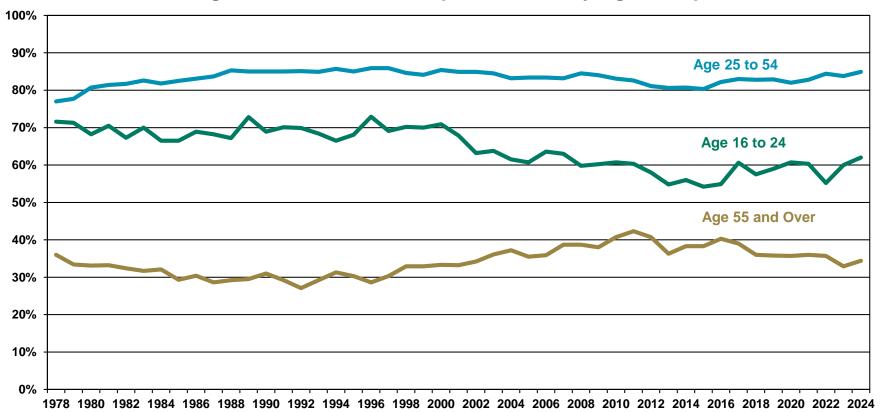
% of Population Ages 16+ in Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Oregon Labor Force Participation Rates by Age Group

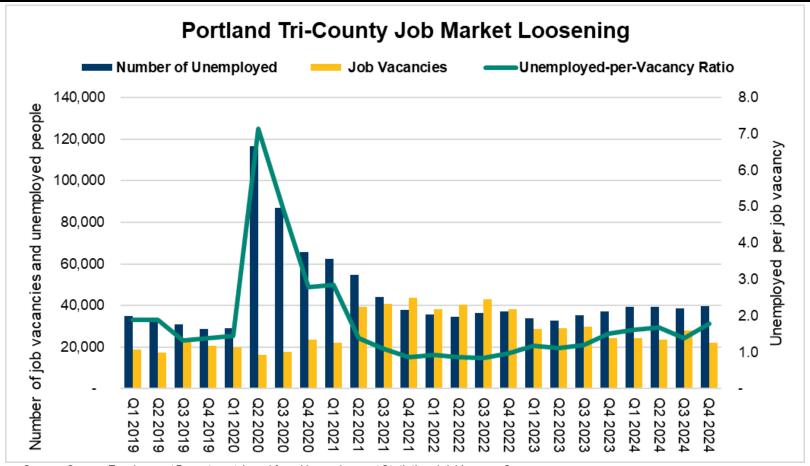


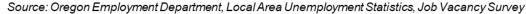
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



Labor Market in Oregon



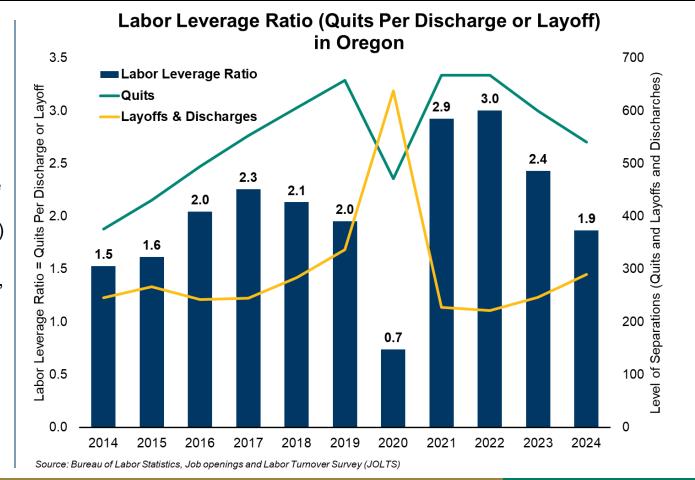






Decline in labor leverage ratio indicates looser labor market

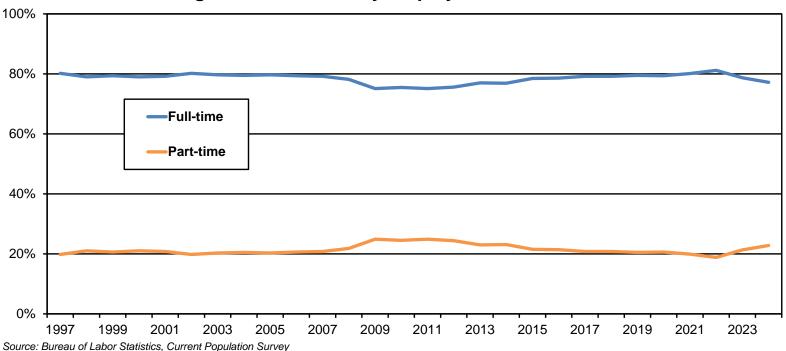
- The relationship between quits and layoffs is a proxy for how confident each side of the labor market is (employers and employees)
- A higher ratio indicates more employee confidence, and vice versa





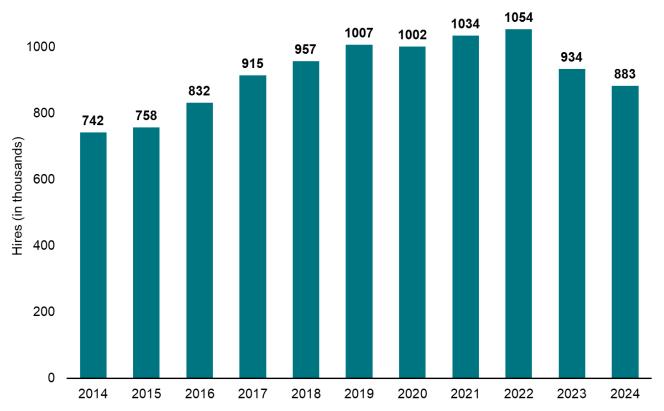
One out of five Oregon workers usually worked part time in 2024.

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





Annual Hiring Level in Oregon



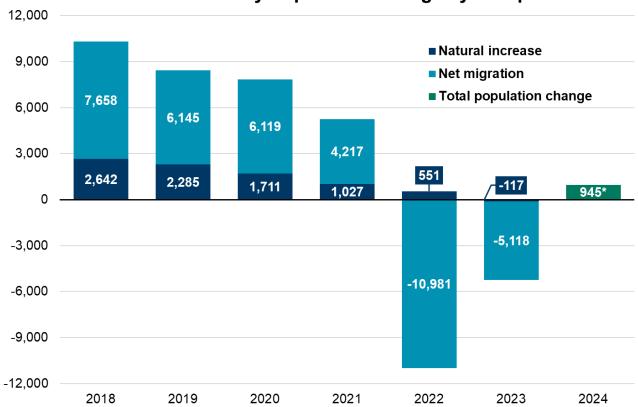
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Job Openeings and Labor Turnover Survey



Multnomah County Migration and Housing



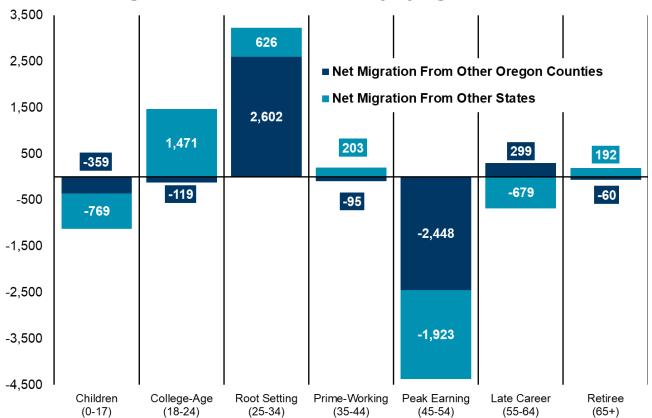
Multnomah County Population Change by Component



*Note: Components of Multnomah County population change for 2024 are not available yet. Source: Portland State University Population Research Center



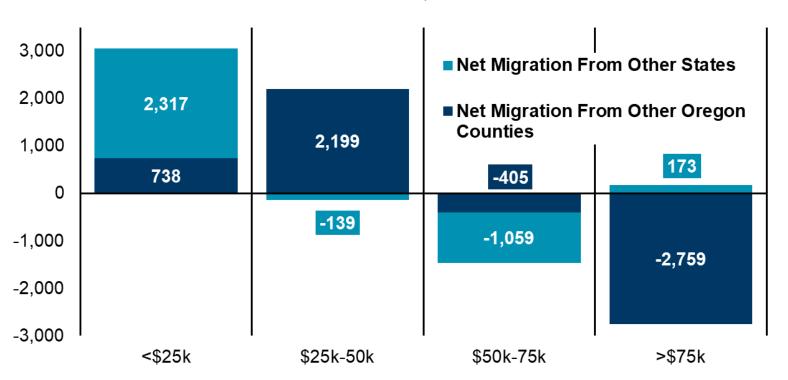
Net Migration in Multnomah County by Age, 2022 to 2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 1-year American Community Survey; Tables B07010 & B07410



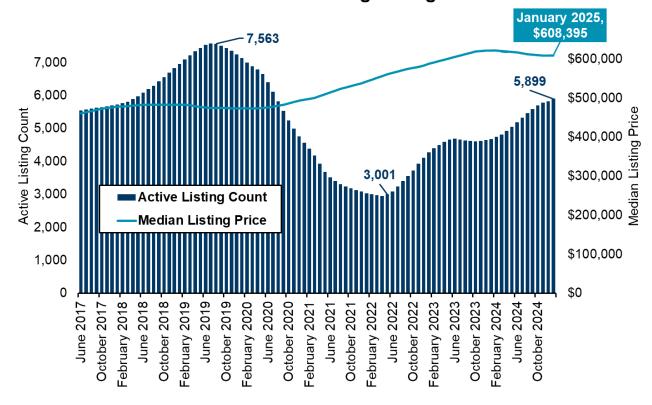
Net Migration in Multnomah County by Household Income, 2022 to 2023



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 1-year American Community Survey; Tables B07001 & B07401



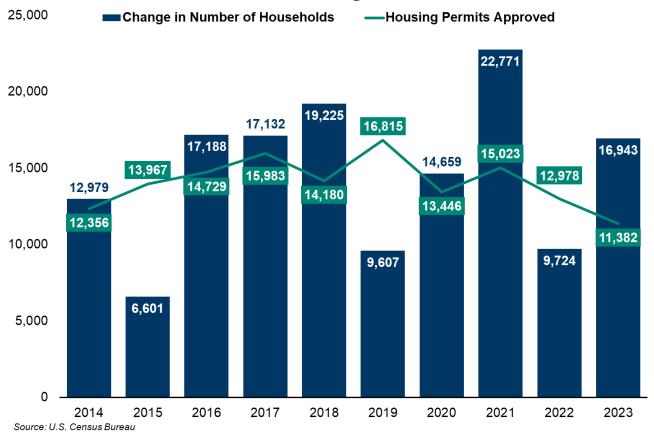
Median Sales Price and Inventory, Portland MSA, 12-month moving average







Portland MSA Housing Fundamentals





Portland Out-Migration 2022

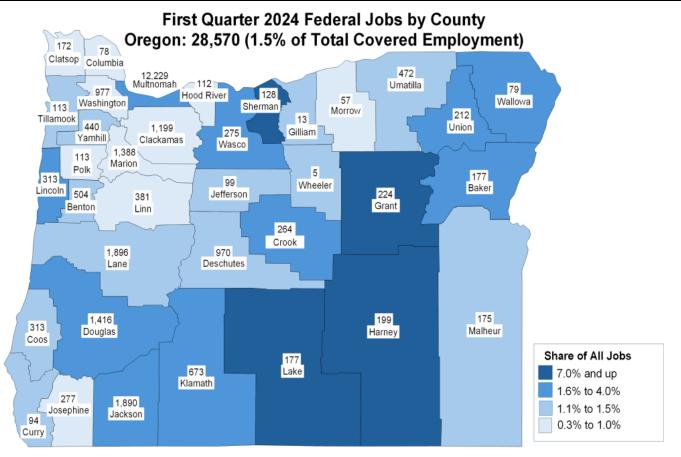
Households moving from Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties to a different state

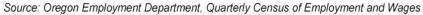
Moving to all U.S. States						
	Number of	Percent of	Housing Cost			
	Households	Total	Median	% Diff		
Total	31,200	100%	\$560,000			
To Similar Housing Cost Area (+/-10%)	5,200	17%	\$548,000	-3%		
Clark County, WA	3,200	10%	\$545,000	-4%		
To Less Expensive Housing	15,500	50%	\$360,000	-36%		
Arizona	2,700	9%	\$367,000	-36%		
WA, not Seattle MSA or Clark Co.	1,800	6%	\$391,000	-31%		
Clark County, WA	1,300	4%	\$479,000	-14%		
Texas	1,300	4%	\$338,000	-37%		
New York	1,000	3%	\$311,000	-43%		
To More Expensive Housing	10,500	34%	\$988,000	80%		
California	5,400	17%	\$1,152,000	109%		
Seattle MSA	1,800	6%	\$956,000	78%		
Clark County, WA	1,000	3%	\$591,000	11%		
Colorado	800	2%	\$723,000	33%		
New York	700	2%	\$823,000	39%		
Excluding California and Washingto	n					
Total	15,900	100%				
To Similar Housing Cost Area (+/-10%)	1,700	11%				
To Less Expensive Housing	11,900	75%	\$341,000	-40%		
To More Expensive Housing	2,300	14%	\$802,000	44%		



Federal Jobs in Portland











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