Pandemic Impacts and Demographic Shifts in the GEODC Region

By Chris Rich - Eastern Oregon Regional Economist

June 2, 2022
Region's Unemployment Rate Trending Similar to State's
(Bars Represent Recessions)

- **Oregon**: 13.3% at Peak
- **GEODC Region**: 10.4% at Peak

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate - 1990 to April 2022

Source: Oregon Employment Department
Definition of unemployed

To be counted as unemployed (for statistical purposes), an individual must be age 16 or older, not on active duty in the military, not in an institution, and:

– Not employed
– Available for work
– Making specific efforts to find employment within the last four weeks.

Note: whether or not an individual has applied for, is receiving, or has ever received unemployment insurance benefits is not a factor in the statistical definition of the unemployed.
Total Unemployed, Seasonally Adjusted and Not Adjusted - 2006 to 2019

Source: Oregon Employment Department
Large Portion of Unemployed From Seasonal Swings
(Bar Represents Great Recession)

Seasonal Highs Averaged 25% Above and Seasonal Lows Averaged 16% Below Seasonal Trend Since 2010

Source: Oregon Employment Department
Number of Unemployed in GEODC Region is Very Low
(Bar Represents Great Recession)

Source: Oregon Employment Department
32.6% Unemployed Long-Term in 2021 Compared to 17.8% in 2019

Unemployed Longer than 6 Months

Unemployed 6 Months or Less

Source: Oregon Employment Department
Employment Gains Continue to Outpace Labor Force Gains
(Bars Represent Recessions)

Source: Oregon Employment Department
Nonfarm Employment Gained 8.8% Since March 2014
(Bars Represent Recessions)

Source: Oregon Employment Department
Seasonal Spikes: High in June and October, Low in January
(Bars Represent Recessions)

Source: Oregon Employment Department
Since 2010: Average Upswing is 2,600, Downswing is 2,205
(Bars Represent Recessions)

4.3% Gain from January

3.5% Drop from October

Source: Oregon Employment Department
GEODC Region Job Gains Slowed in 2018, Picked Up in 2019
(Bar Represents Great Recession)

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Year-Over-Year Job Growth or Decline, Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment - 2007 to 2022

Employment Low Point 2020

April
Number of Business Units Grew by 850 Since 2010 and 220 Since 2019

Source: Oregon Employment Department
Long-term Trend is a Bumpy Road Downhill

Source: Oregon Employment Department
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Change 2010-19</th>
<th>Change 2019-20</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
<td>61.8%</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
<td>-3.8</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilliam</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
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<td>53.3%</td>
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<td>-2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harney</td>
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<td>60.1%</td>
<td>61.0%</td>
<td>-5.4</td>
<td>0.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malheur</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
<td>60.2%</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morrow</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
<td>63.4%</td>
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<td>-2.2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>64.8%</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
<td>-2.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheeler</td>
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<td>61.8%</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
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<td>-3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEODC Region</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
<td>-3.0</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Oregon Employment Department*
Four Percentage Point Decrease in Prime Working Age Group Since 2010

Age Group as Share of The Workforce - 3Q 2010 to 3Q 2021

Source: Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Census Bureau Quarterly Workforce Indicators
Largest Change in Workforce is From Older Age Groups

Age Group as Share of The Workforce - 3Q 2010 to 3Q 2021

Source: Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Census Bureau Quarterly Workforce Indicators
Population Grew by Roughly 6,700 Residents from 2010 to 2021

2010: total population is 136,735
2021: total population is 143,411

Source: Oregon Employment Department and Portland State University Population Research Center
Retirement Age Group Grew by Roughly 5,900 from 2010 to 2021

Source: Oregon Employment Department and Portland State University Population Research Center
For More Information

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