Northwest Oregon Economic Indicators
For Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln & Tillamook Counties July 2023 (June 2023 Data)

Graph of the Month
This month we are taking a look at the percent change in employment by industry in Northwest Oregon. Before the pandemic, employment changed at relatively low levels. Some industries fluctuated seasonally, but the spread of employment change was minimal. Since the pandemic, the spread of employment change by industry has increased, with some industries increasing employment over 2018 levels by over 20%.

Key Takeaways
Unemployment rates continue to decrease across the region, nearing record lows. Employment changes are varied, showcasing the breadth and diversity of the northwest counties. One industry worth highlighting is food manufacturing. Food manufacturing makes up a portion of the nondurable goods sector, which is comprised of industries that manufacture things that get used up, such as food or paper. While food manufacturing employment has decreased in three counties over the year, that doesn’t necessarily mean the industry is struggling. Seafood processing makes up a large portion of food manufacturing, and the timing of the various fishing seasons can change when firms hire for fish processing. This variation year to year can lead to large swings in employment when comparing data over the year.

For more economic or labor market data or to be added to this monthly email list, contact:
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