



State of the Recovery, Economy and Industry in the Portland Area

Jake Procino, Workforce Analyst/Economist for Multnomah County



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!

American's Outlook is Pretty Gloomy

BUSINESS

Why Americans feel gloomy about the economy despite falling inflation and low unemployment



1 of 3 | Workers apply sheathing to the exterior of a new multifamily residential building, Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, in the East Boston neighborhood of Boston. According to a raft of

BY CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

Updated 3:50 AM PST, November 19, 2023

BUSINESS

Outlook on economy brightens as inflation slows, including grocery prices

Updated: Jan. 24, 2024, 7:35 a.m. | Published: Jan. 24, 2024, 5:49 a.m.



Portland Tribune Reader Sentiment is Mixed, but Largely Gloomy

Reader: “Prices are going up but business’s can’t afford a higher wages for employees.”

Reader: “Inflation is too high. Housing is too high. Insurance is too high.”

Reader: “Businesses are hiring and building is happening. Infrastructure projects all over the state. People are traveling. The shopping malls are crowded.”

Reader: “A person can’t afford to live and eat in Oregon.”

Reader: “I am working one full-time job and two part-time jobs and barely supporting a family with house payments, school debt, taxes, and inflation.”

Reader: “Utilities keep going up. The cost of groceries is ridiculous as well as gas prices. The cost of rent/mortgages are rising. The roads are not getting repaired. The only concern the government has is about the homeless population.”

Reader: “Everything is too expensive: buying a house, renting, gas, food, power bills and heating bills, we’re over-taxed.”

Reader: “Too many people are struggling to make it. Housing costs are too high.”

Reader: “Inflation along with lack of employment compensation to offset the effects of high prices for basic needs is creating hardships for low and middle class folks.”

Reader: “Unemployment is low, many employers are hiring, several unions negotiated pay raises for their employees, lots of spending during the holidays and people are traveling.”

Reader: “Rent and housing too high. A loaf of bread and a can of beans cost \$8.50. 4 years ago \$2.00 for the same.”

Reader: “I’m doing well financially and everyone I know is also doing well. All the businesses I visit are busy.”

Reader: “More and more people—even working full time, even working more than one job—can’t afford a place to live as well as groceries, medical care, transportation, etc.”

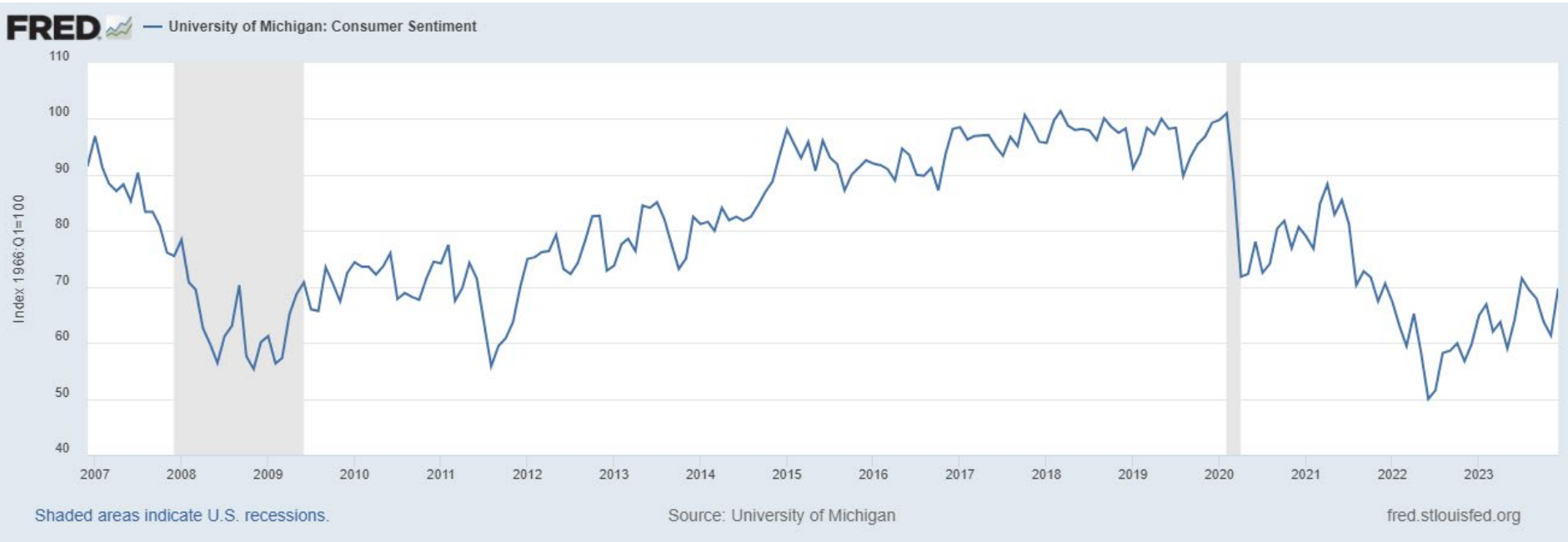
Reader: “Everyone, everywhere has taken a hit over the past several years. As a whole, I think the state is rebounding incredibly well financially.”

Reader: “Things haven’t changed for me because I have a stable job and own my home. Things have gotten really expensive though, I can afford it but many people are struggling right now.”

Source: https://www.portlandtribune.com/opinion/readers-respond-heres-how-oregonians-feel-about-the-economy-today/article_56884cf0-bf98-11ee-b376-83fe0bf3b771.html



Consumer Sentiment Improving, but Remains Low



However, Consumer Spending Remains High (Even Accounting for Inflation)

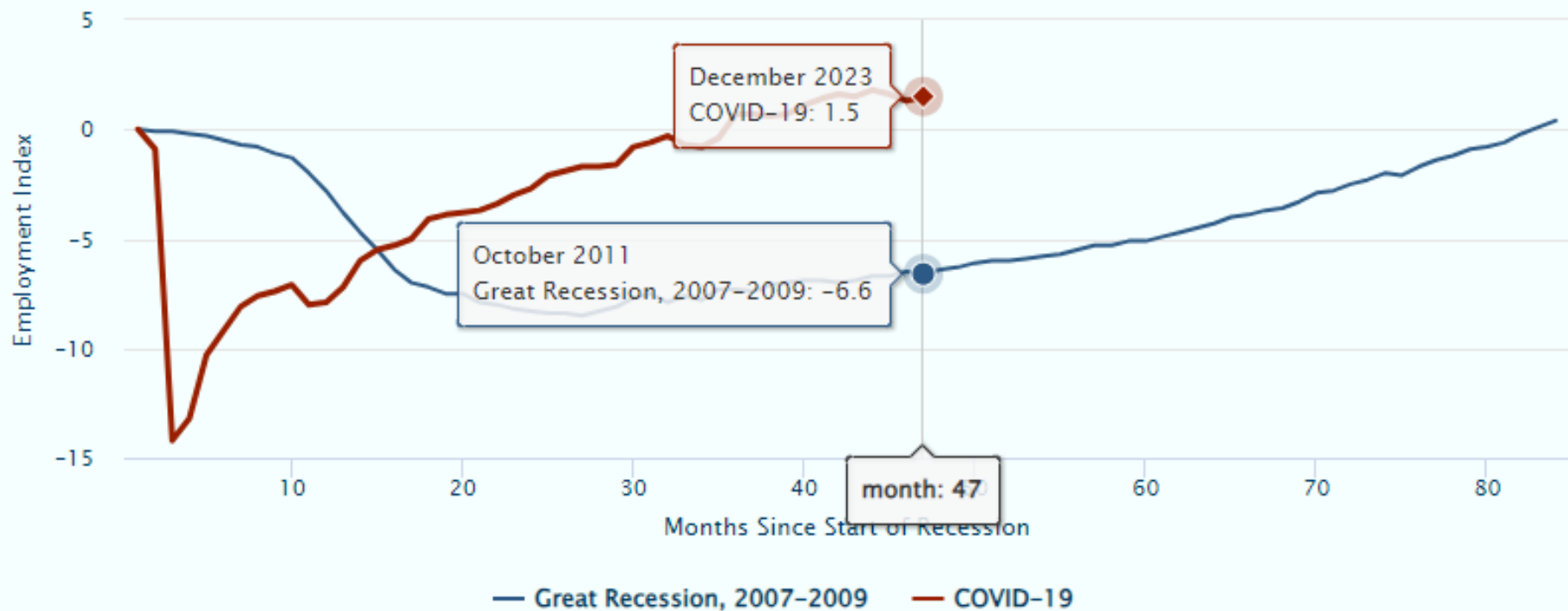


Broader Economic Trends

COVID-19 Job Changes Compared to Great Recession Job Changes



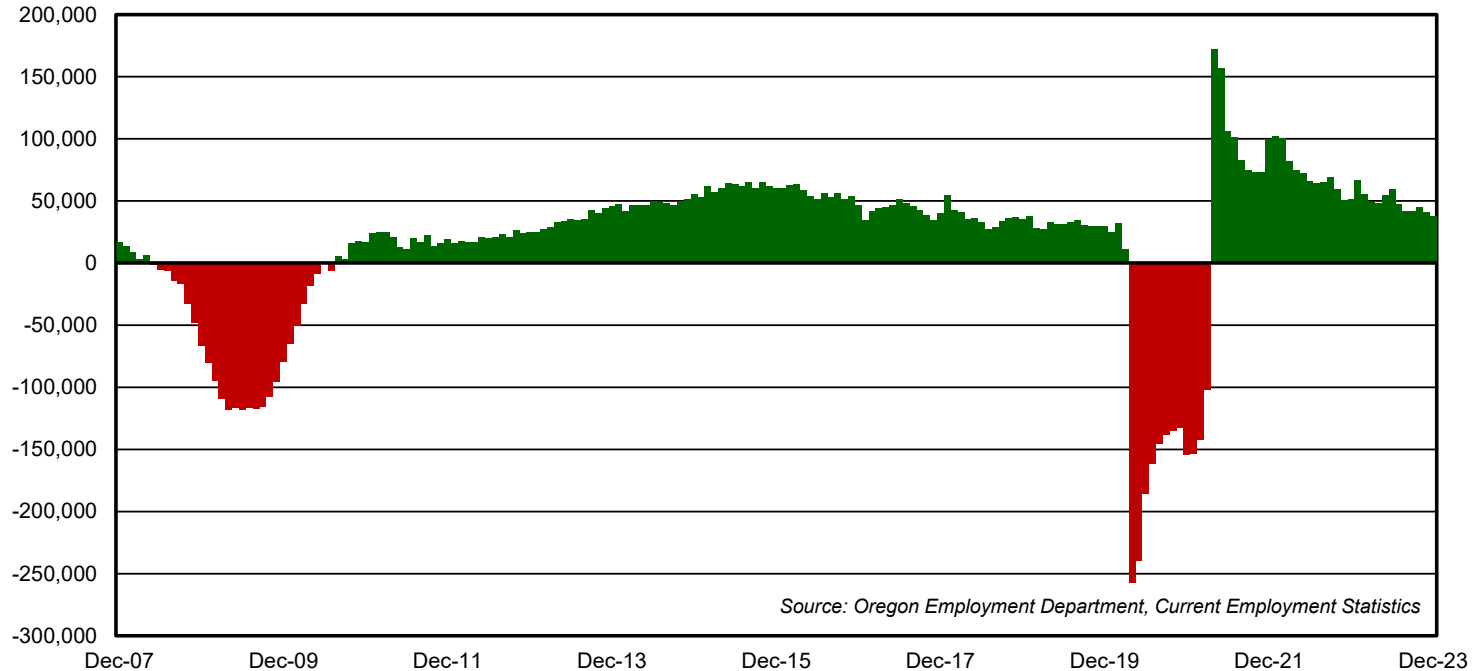
by Area
Total Nonfarm, Oregon



Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

Employment grew by 37,400 jobs (or 1.9%) from December 2022 to December 2023.

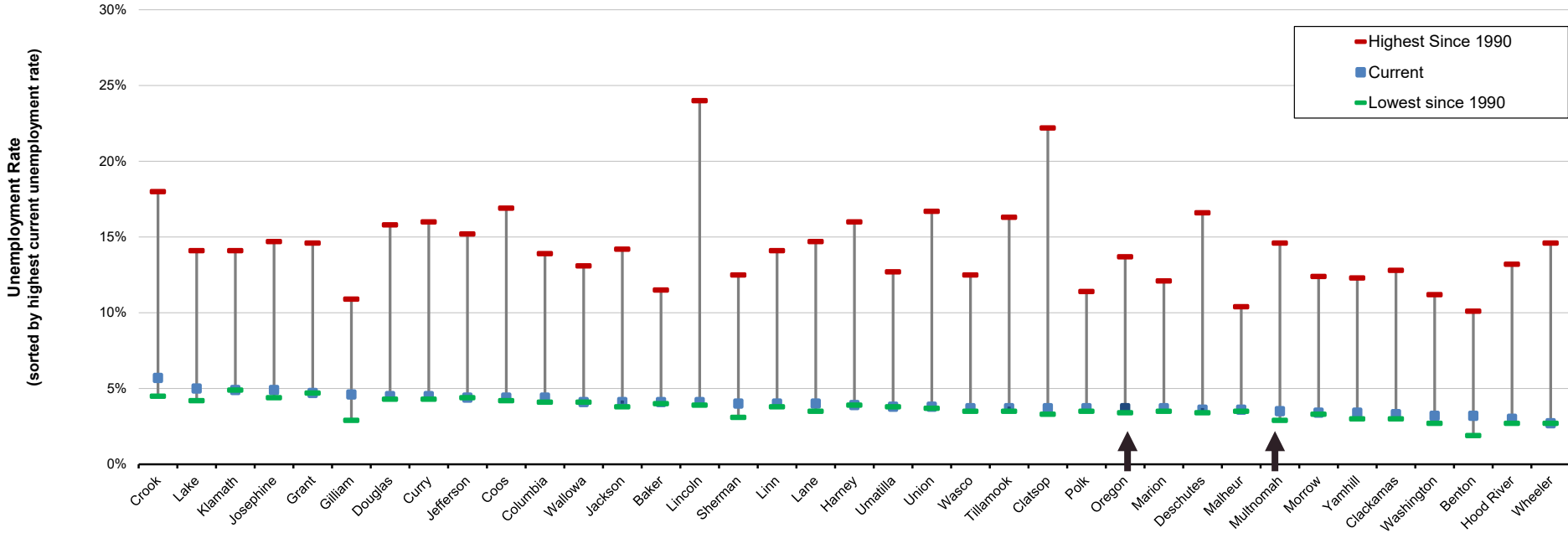
Oregon's Year-Over-Year Job Growth/Decline
Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rate is Low

Unemployment Rates in Oregon Counties

Current Rate (December 2023), Record High, and Record Low for Each County, Seasonally Adjusted



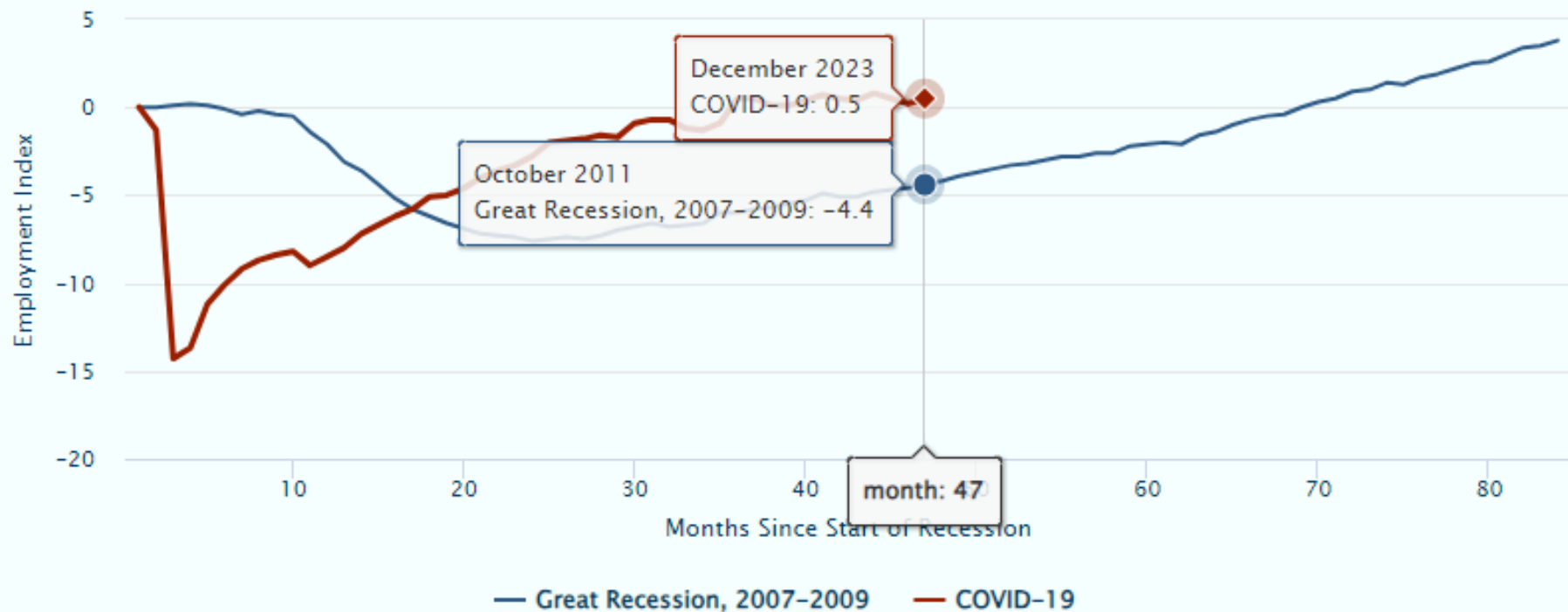
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



COVID-19 Job Changes Compared to Great Recession Job Changes

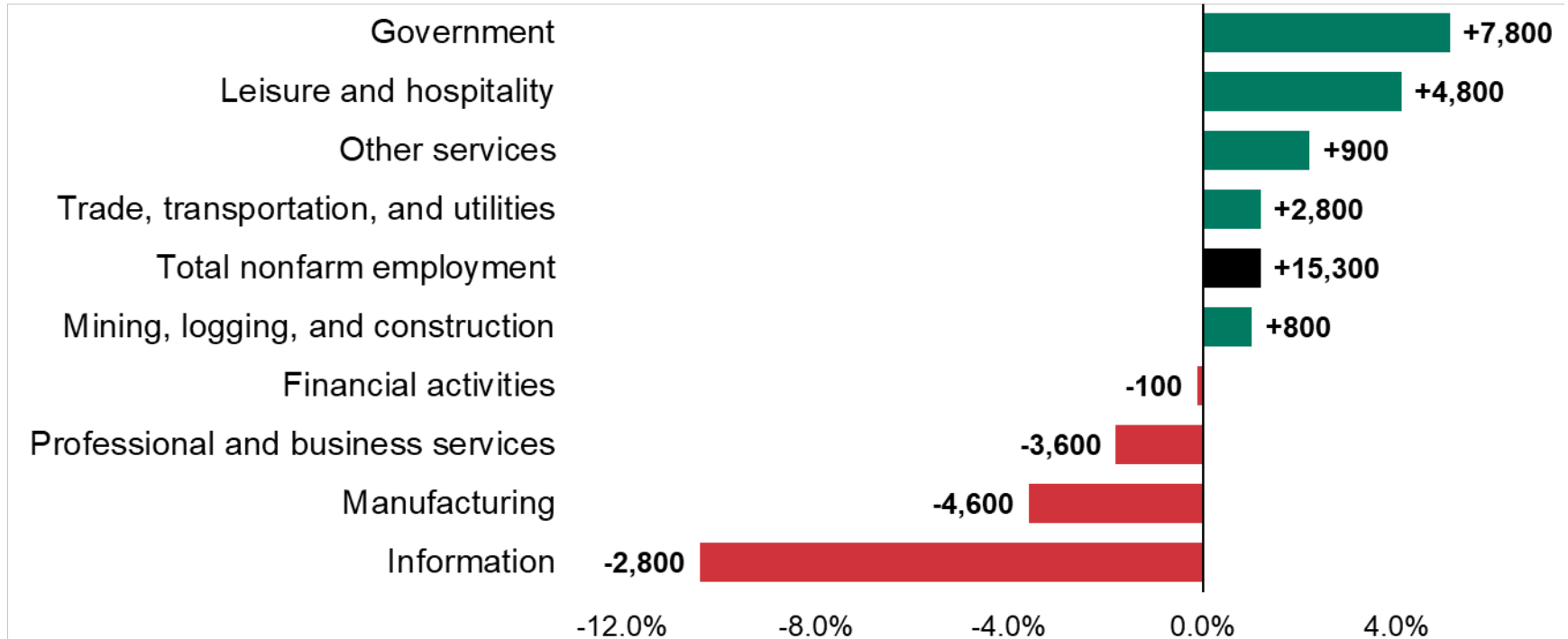


by Area
Total Nonfarm, Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA MSA



Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

Percent Employment Change Over Year by Industry in the Portland MSA

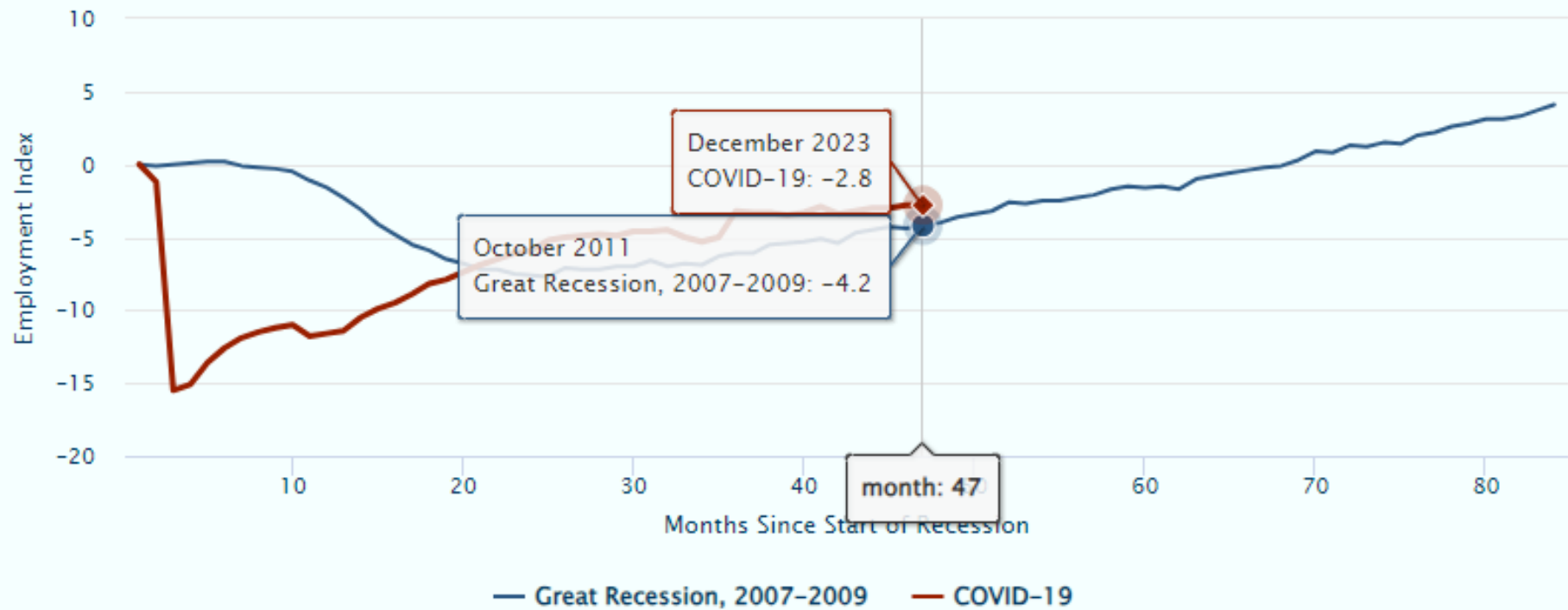


Pandemic Effects on Portland and Multnomah County

COVID-19 Job Changes Compared to Great Recession Job Changes



by Area
Total Nonfarm, Multnomah County

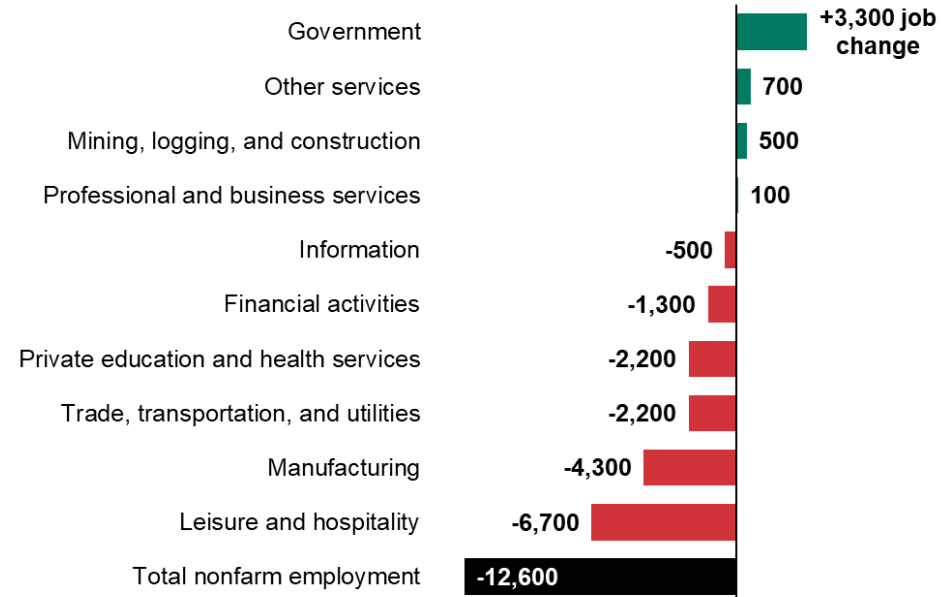


Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

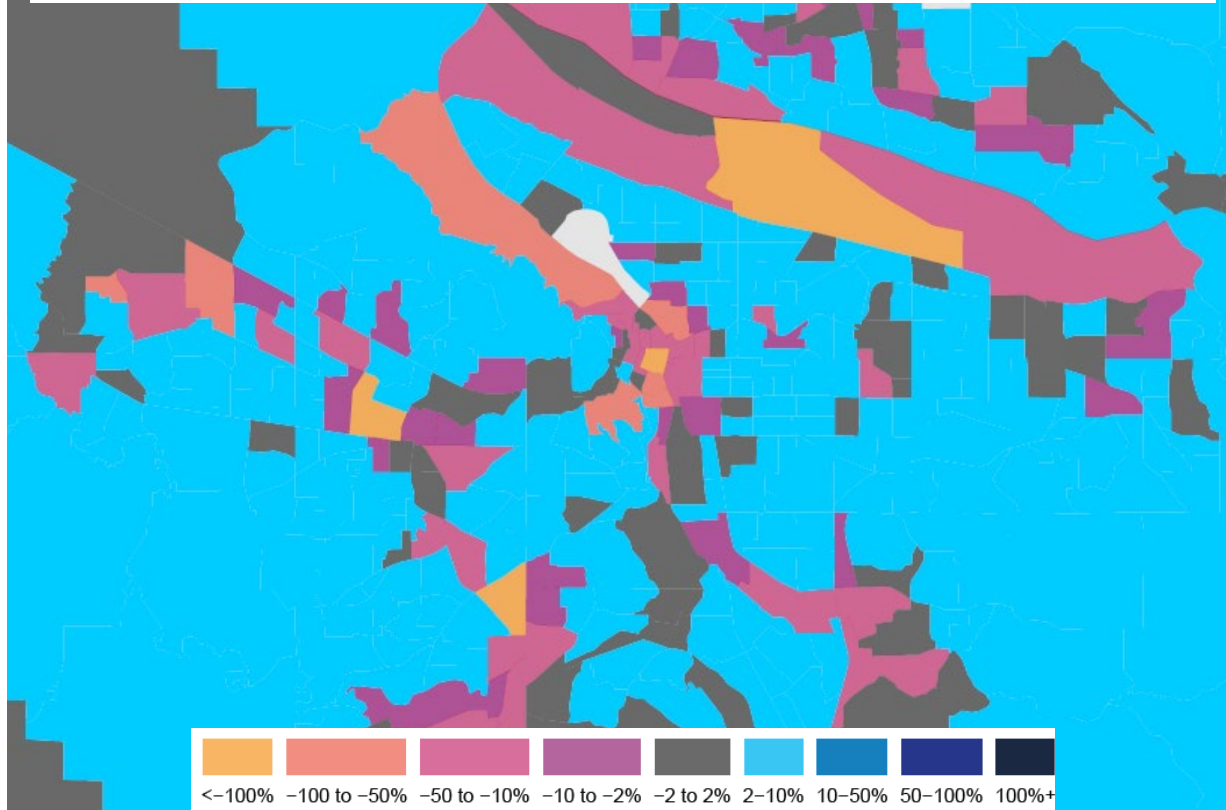
Multnomah County Employment is Sluggish Largely Due to Remote Work

- In Dec. 2023, there were 12,600 fewer total nonfarm jobs than Dec. 2019
- Sluggish job recovery should be seen through the lens of the decrease of foot traffic downtown
 - Fewer working in downtown offices
 - Fewer people going downtown for lunch → decline in leisure and hospitality
 - Companies relocate because there's no longer an advantage to downtown office space

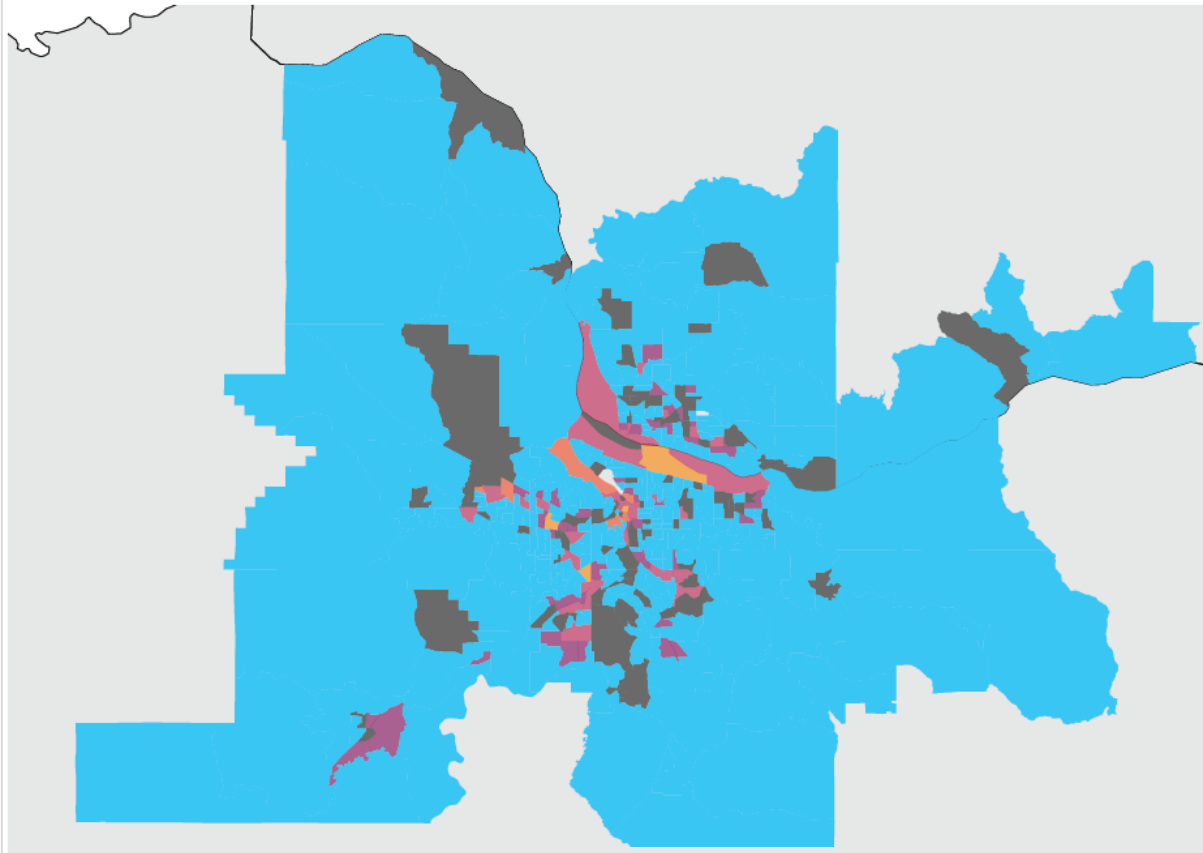
Job Change in Multnomah County from Dec 2019 to Dec 2023 by Sector



Change in Foot Traffic in Summer 2021 by Census Tract Portland Metro Area



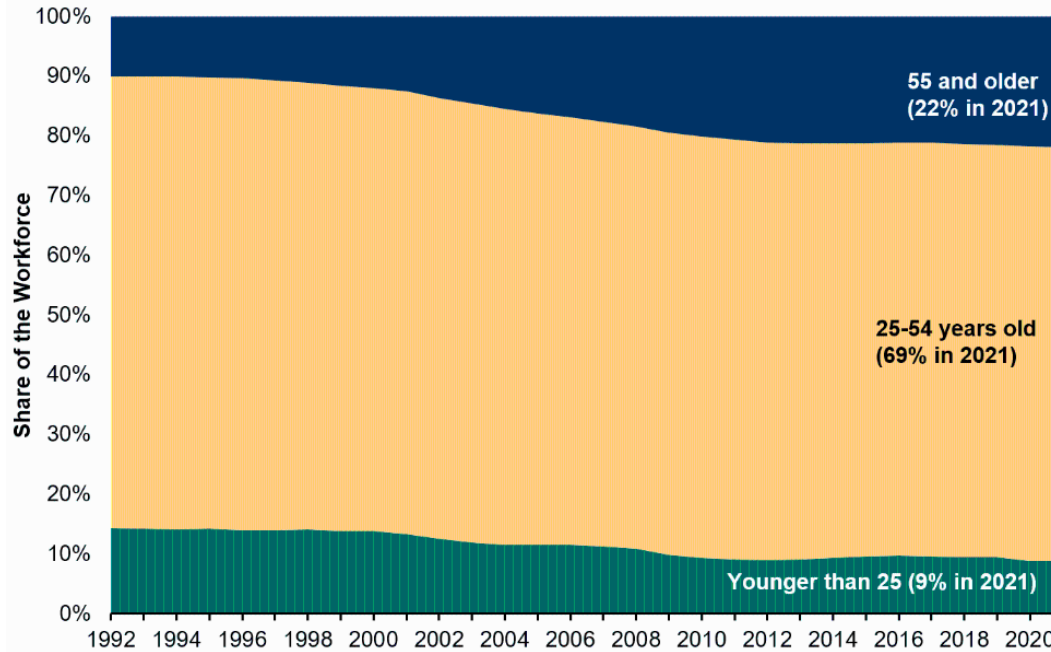
Change in Foot Traffic in Summer 2021 by Census Tract Portland Metro Area



Current and Future Labor Shortage

22% of the workforce is expected to retire in the next 10 years

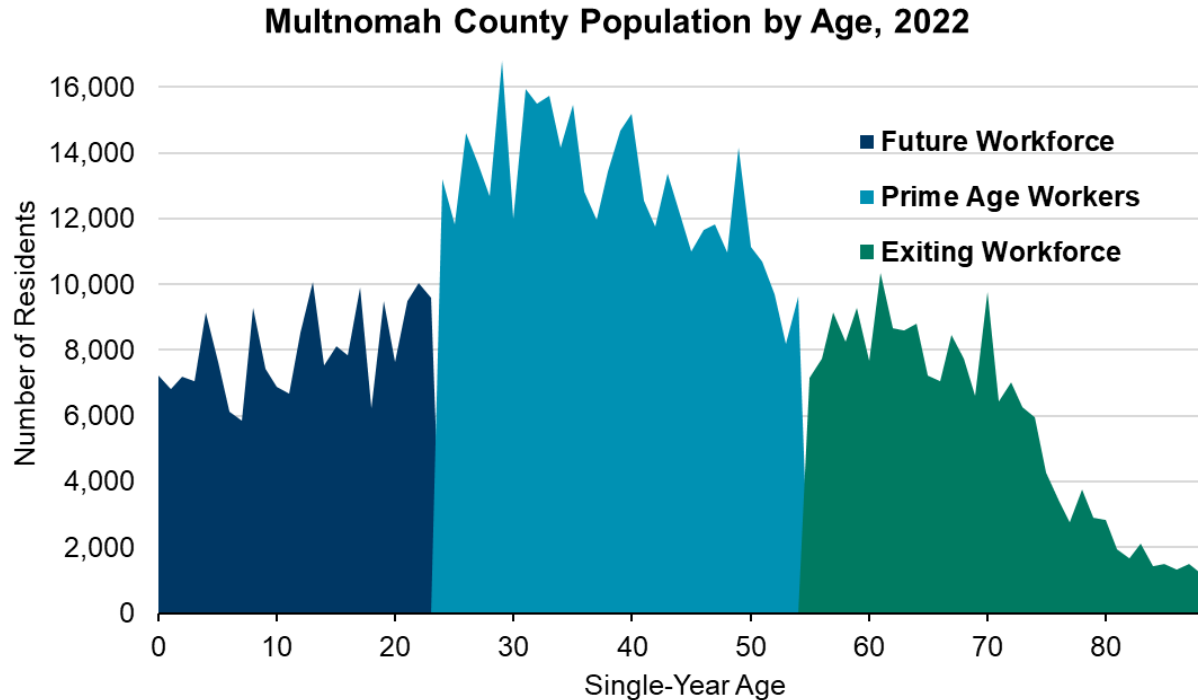
More Than One out of Five Multnomah County Jobs are Held by Workers Aged 55 or Older



Source: Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Census, Quarterly Workforce Indicators

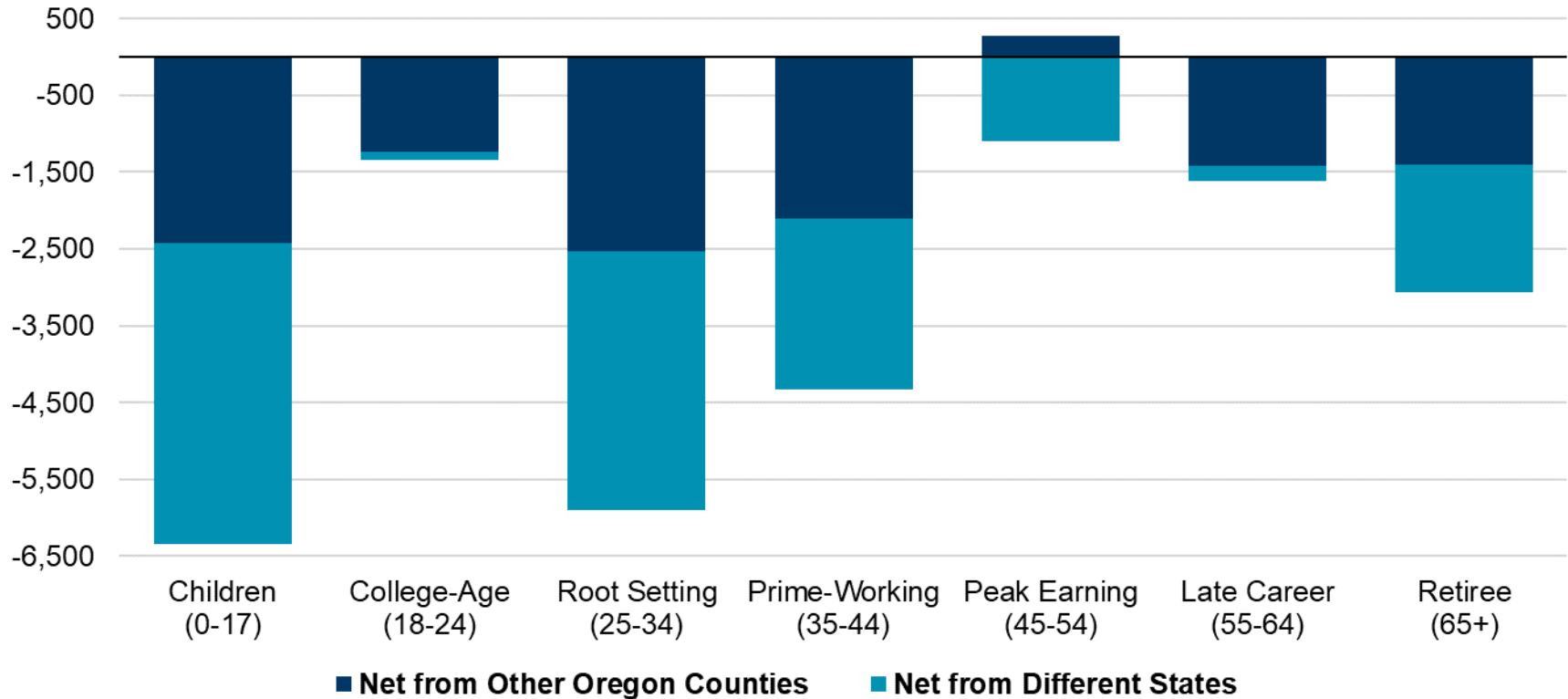


The declining birth rate means that the workforce won't be naturally replaced

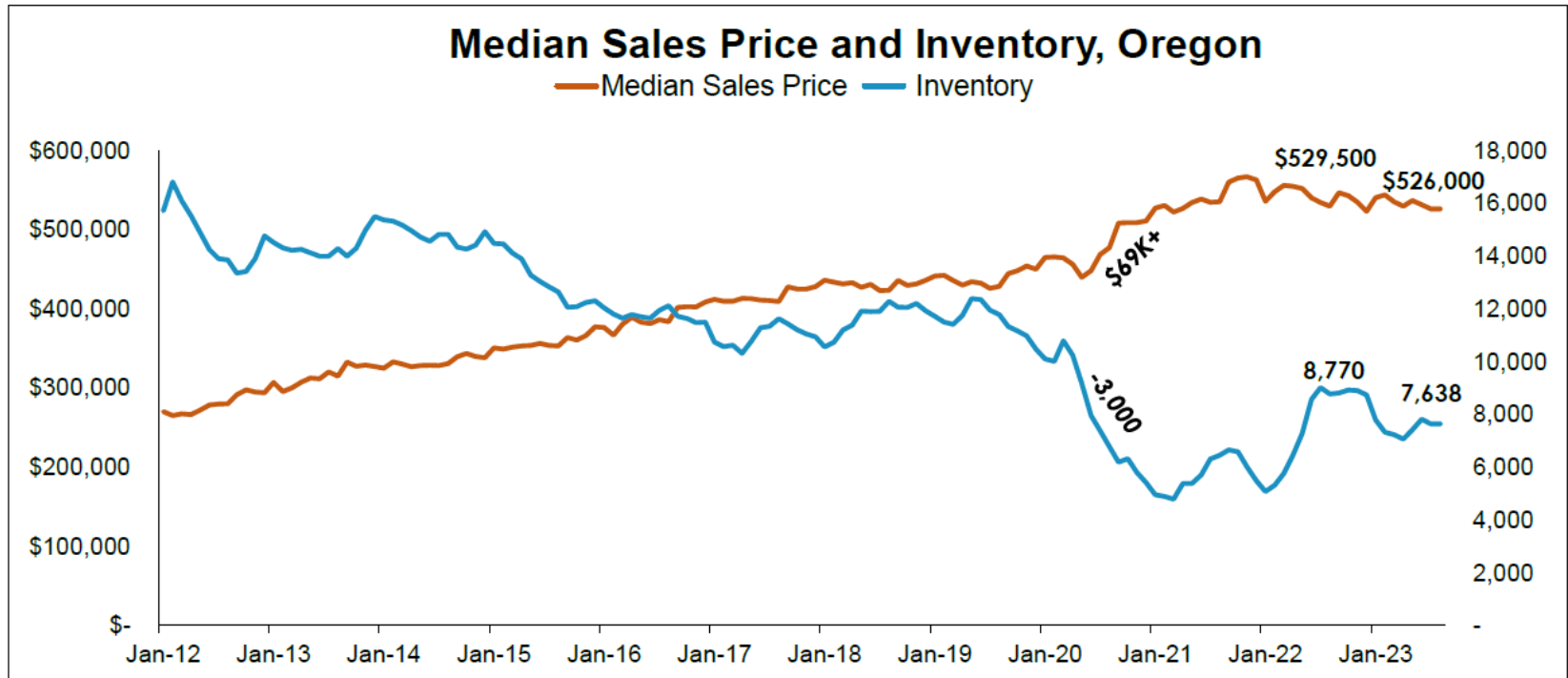


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Normally, workforce is supplemented by in-migration, but Multnomah County is currently seeing net out-migration



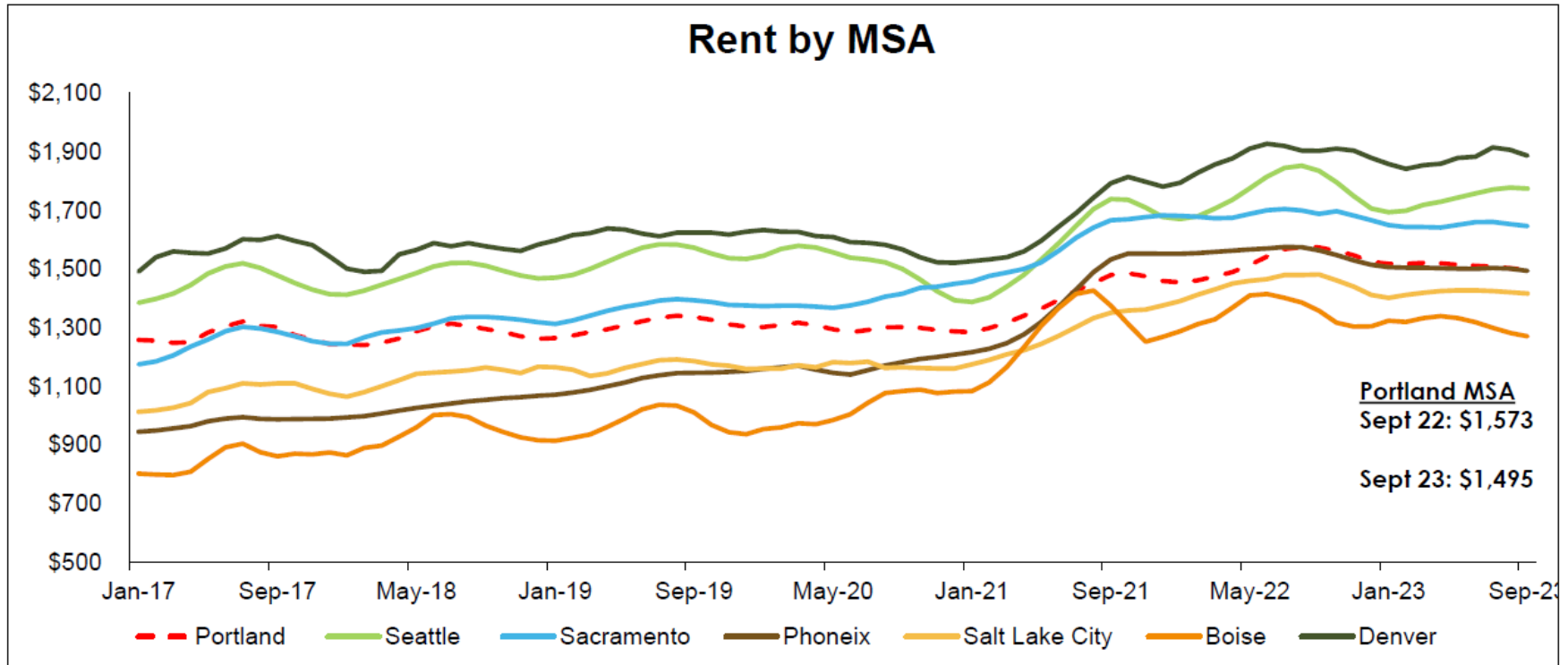
Bad Housing Market for Buyers



National Association of Realtors, Median Sales Price, Seasonally Adjusted and Inventory, 2012 - 2023

Rent in the Portland MSA Has Declined Recently, But Has Increased Considerably Over the Past Several Years

Rent by MSA



Apartment List, Historic Rent Value, Seasonally Adjusted, 2017 - 2023





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