

# Northwest Oregon Economic Update

Northwest Oregon Works  
August 25, 2023

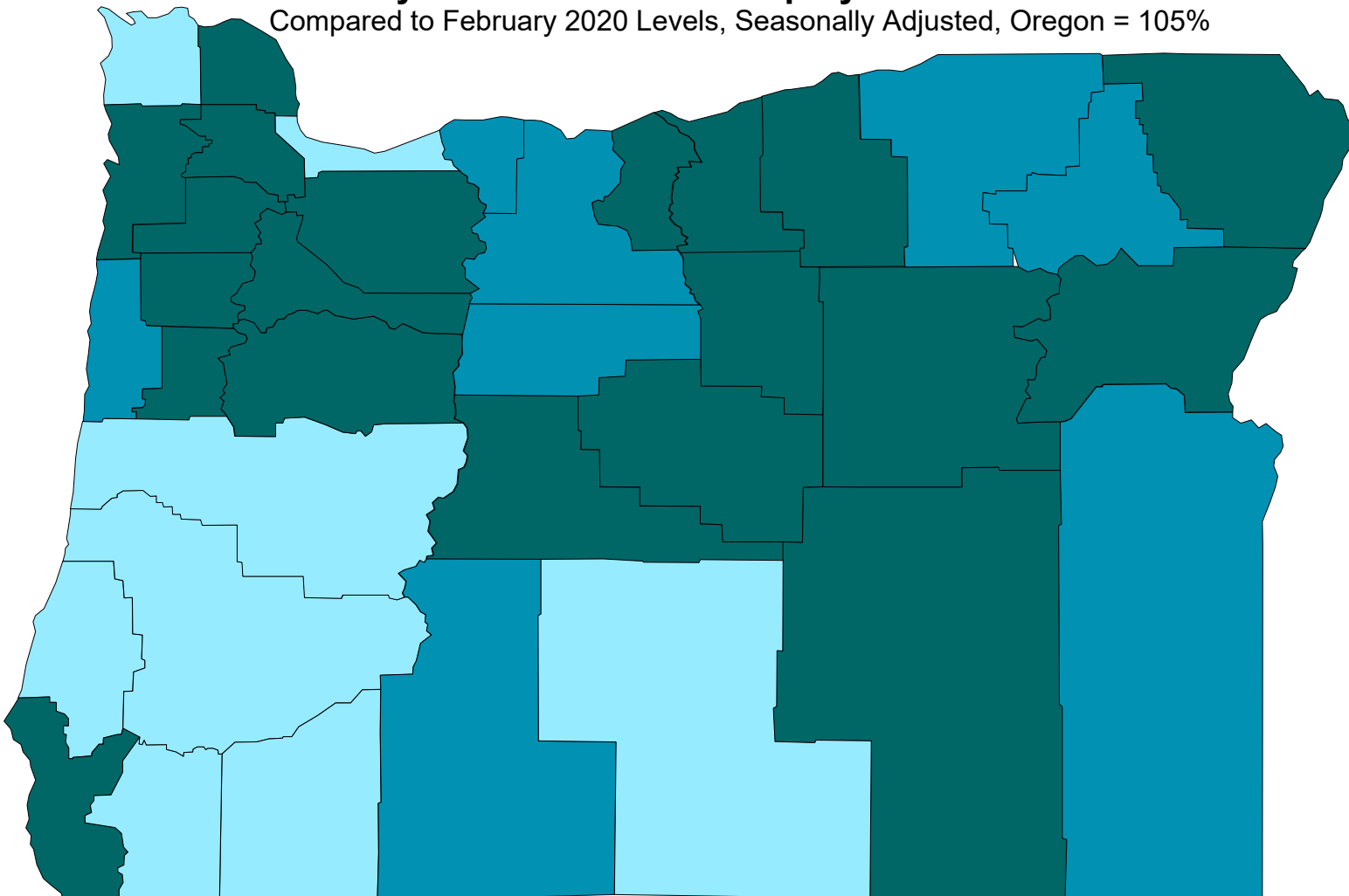
Shaun Barrick-Workforce Analyst

# Focus on Oregon

Oregon has more jobs now than before the pandemic recession.

### Recovery of Total Nonfarm Employment as of June 2023

Compared to February 2020 Levels, Seasonally Adjusted, Oregon = 105%



Nineteen counties have regained their total pandemic recession job losses:

- Baker
- Benton
- Clackamas
- Columbia
- Crook
- Curry
- Deschutes
- Gilliam
- Harney
- Linn
- Marion
- Morrow
- Polk
- Sherman
- Tillamook
- Wallowa
- Washington
- Wheeler
- Yamhill

Source: Oregon Employment Department



# Key Facts from Recent News Release

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 3.5% in June, down from 3.7% in May.

- The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.6% in June.
- The number of unemployed Oregonians fell to 75,600 in June, the lowest since February 2020.

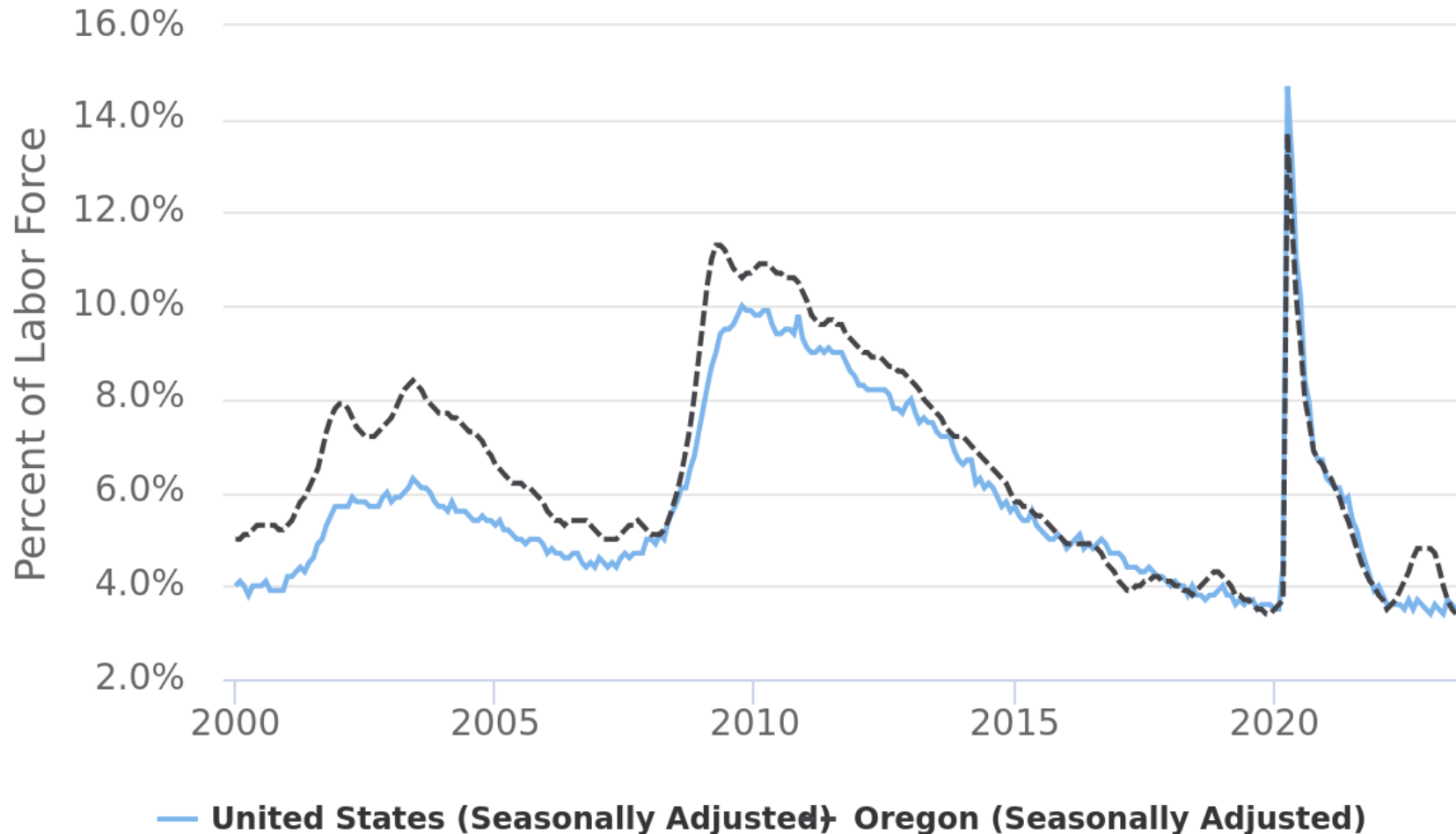
Oregon employers added 5,700 jobs to nonfarm payrolls in June.

- Monthly gains were largest in government (+2,400 jobs).
- Other services added 1,800 jobs over the month.
- Leisure and hospitality employment rose by 1,600 jobs in June.
- Declines were largest in wholesale trade (-1,300); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-1,000); and manufacturing (-1,000).

Employers added 45,100 jobs to nonfarm payrolls over the past year, a growth rate of 2.3%.

Oregon unemployment rate below US at 3.4%, tied with record low for OR

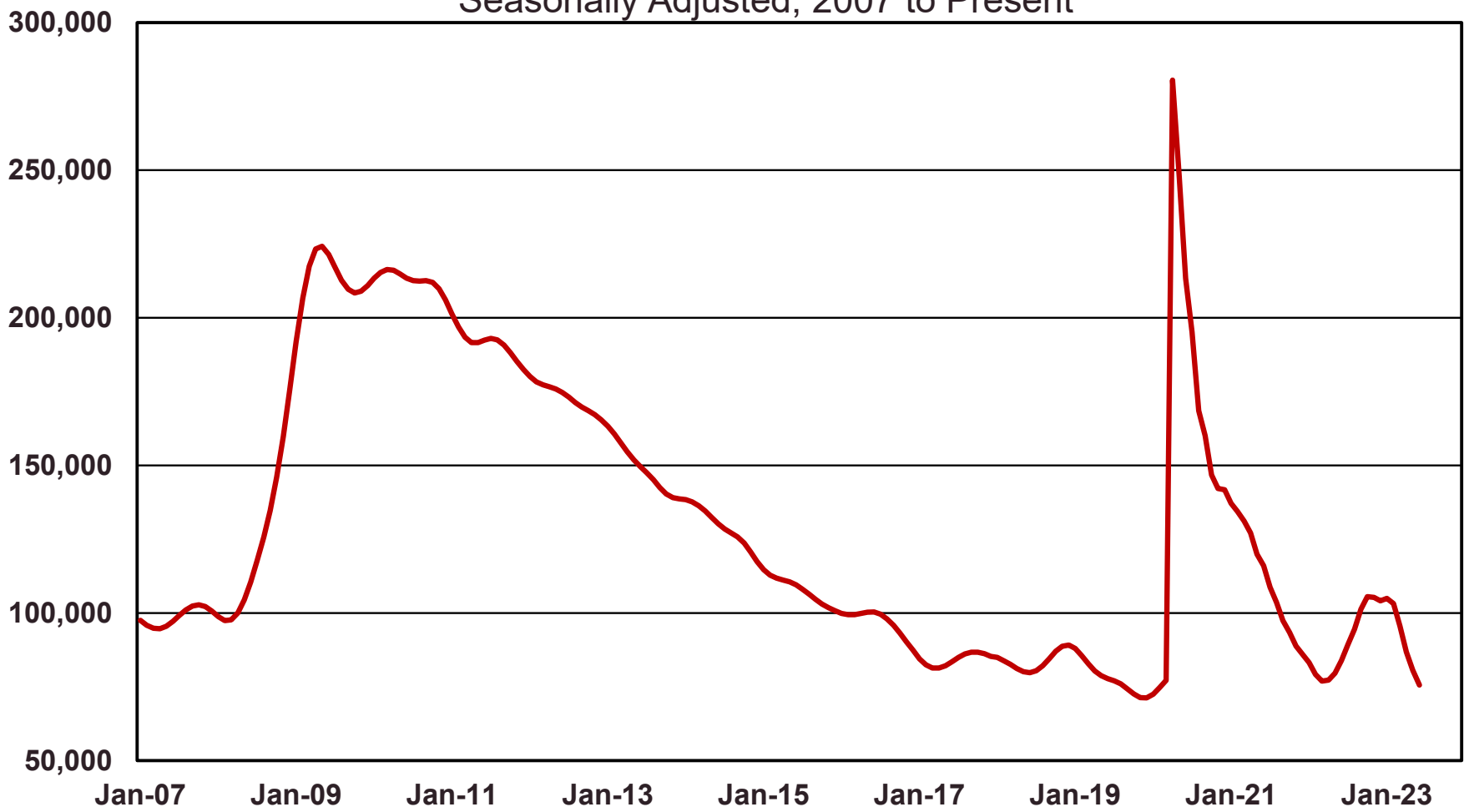
## Unemployment Rate



Source: Oregon Employment Department Qualityinfo.org

The number of unemployed Oregonians decreased by 5,100 in June.

### Unemployed Persons, Oregon Statewide Seasonally Adjusted, 2007 to Present



**Seasonally Adjusted  
Unemployment:**

**Pre-COVID Low**  
Dec 2019: 71,300

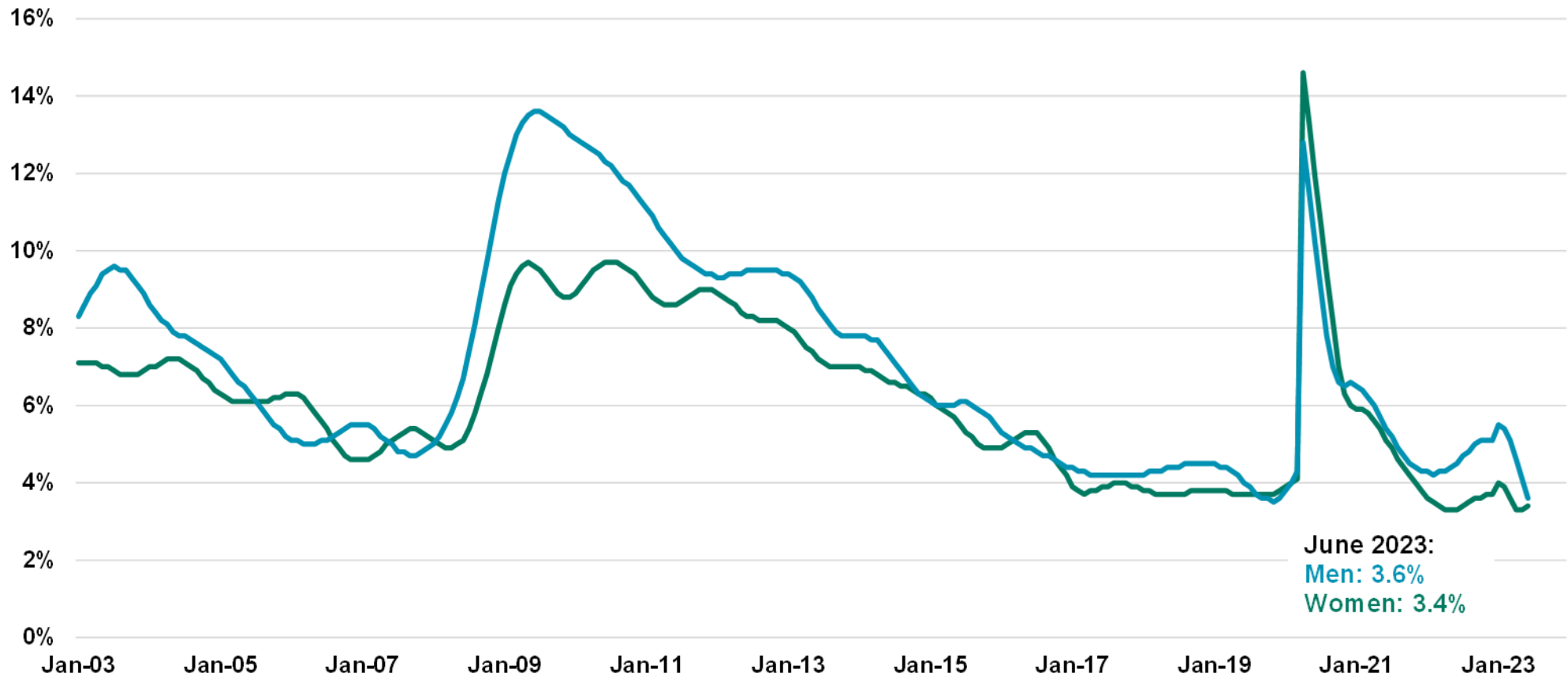
**Highest**  
April 2020: 280,500

**Current**  
June 2023: 75,600

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

# June unemployment rate was higher for men than women in Oregon

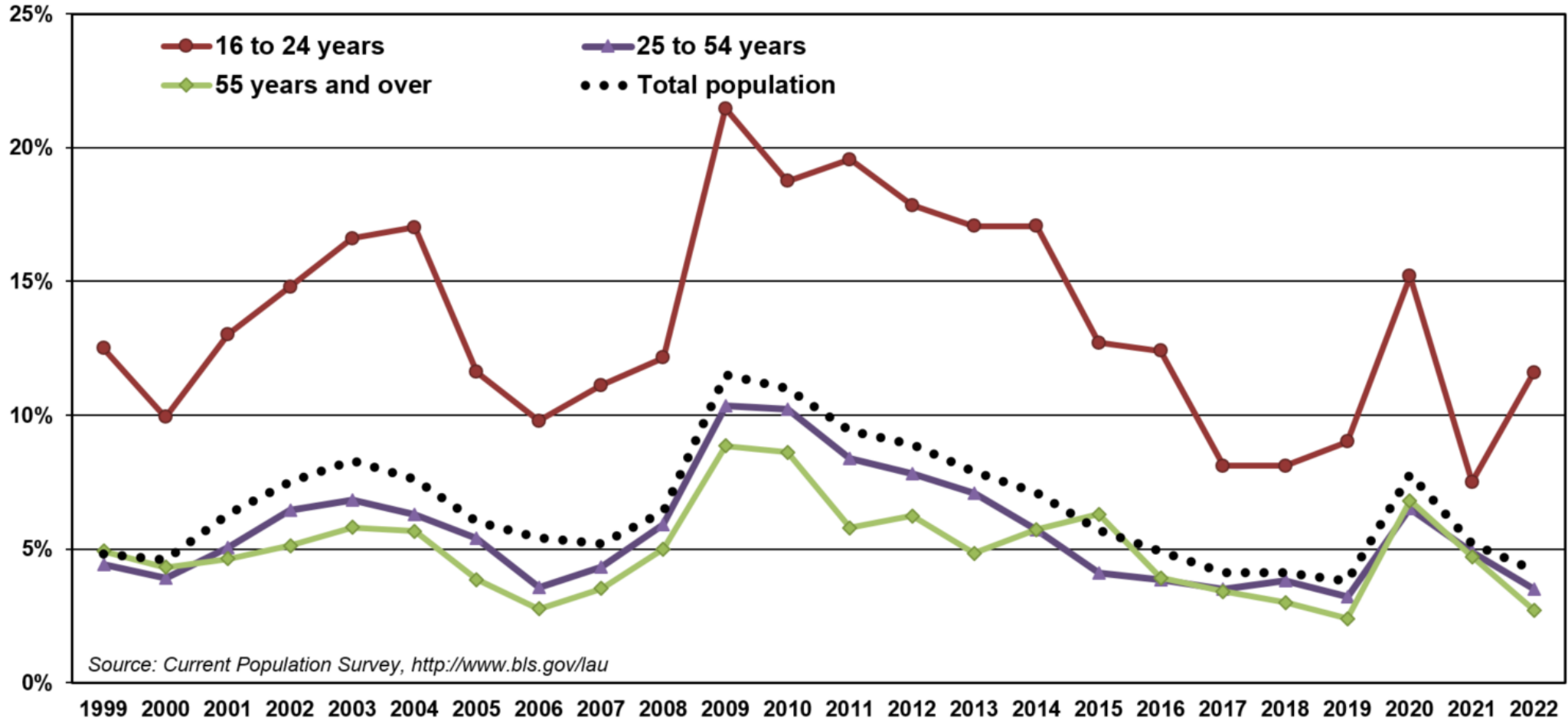
## Monthly Unemployment Rates by Gender Oregon, 2003 - Present



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Population Survey

# The unemployment rate rose for younger workers in 2022.

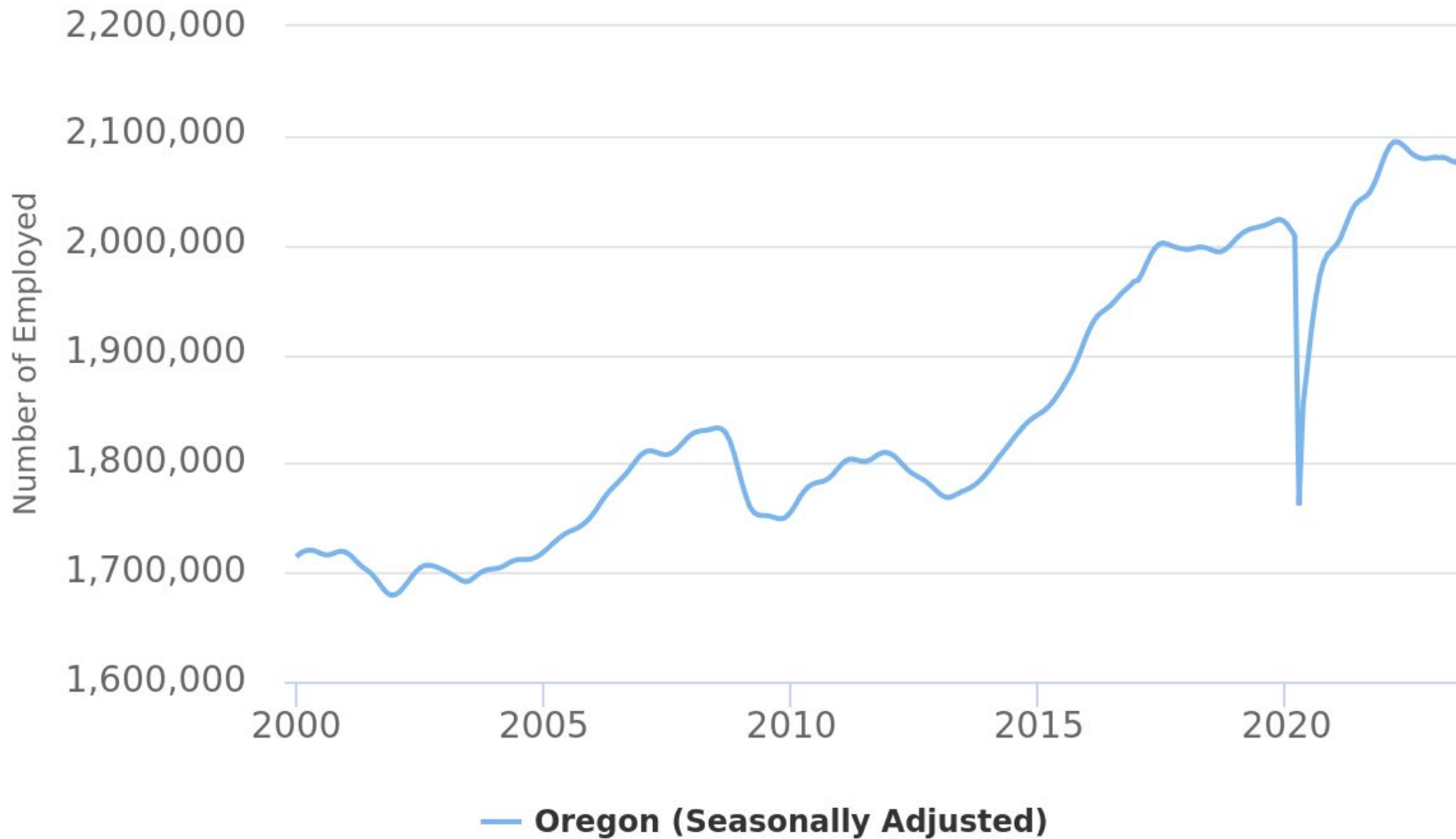
## Average Annual Unemployment by Age Category Oregon, 1999-2022





Seasonally-Adjusted total employment mostly unchanged OTY(-0.5%)

## Number of Employed

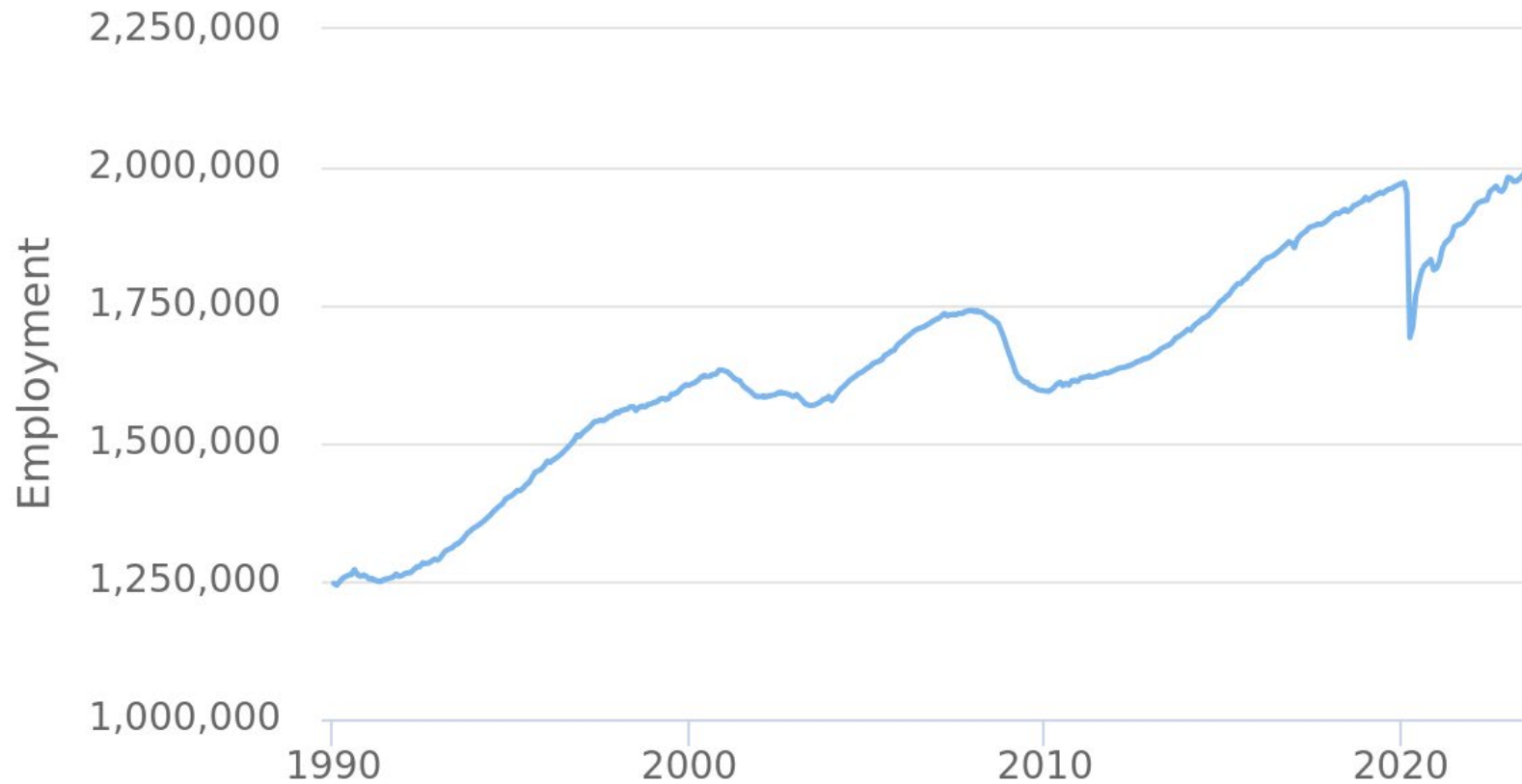


Source: Oregon Employment Department Qualityinfo.org

Payroll employment has grown moderately (1.8% OTY)

## Oregon Total nonfarm employment

(seasonally adjusted)  
Official Oregon Series

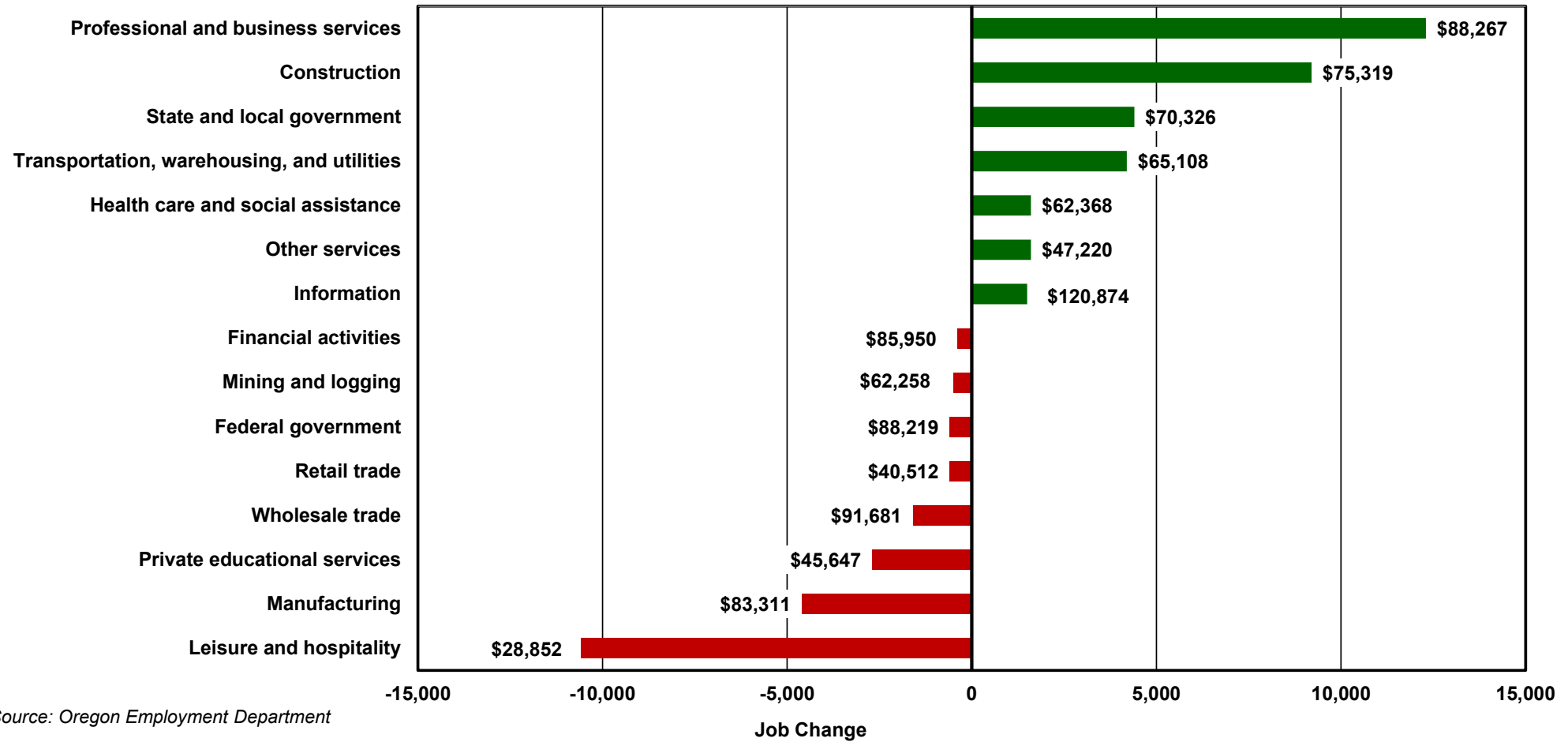


Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

Seven broad sectors of Oregon's economy have employment above pre-recession levels.

### Oregon Job Change and Average Pay by Industry

February 2020 - June 2023 Job Change, 2022 Average Pay



Source: Oregon Employment Department

# Oregon's Private businesses reported 69,200 vacancies in spring 2023.

## Oregon Job Vacancies, Spring 2023

<b>Vacancies</b>	<b>69,171</b>
Average Hourly Wage	\$27.41
Full-time Positions	87%
Permanent Positions	95%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	44%
Requiring Previous Experience	62%
Difficult to Fill	59%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

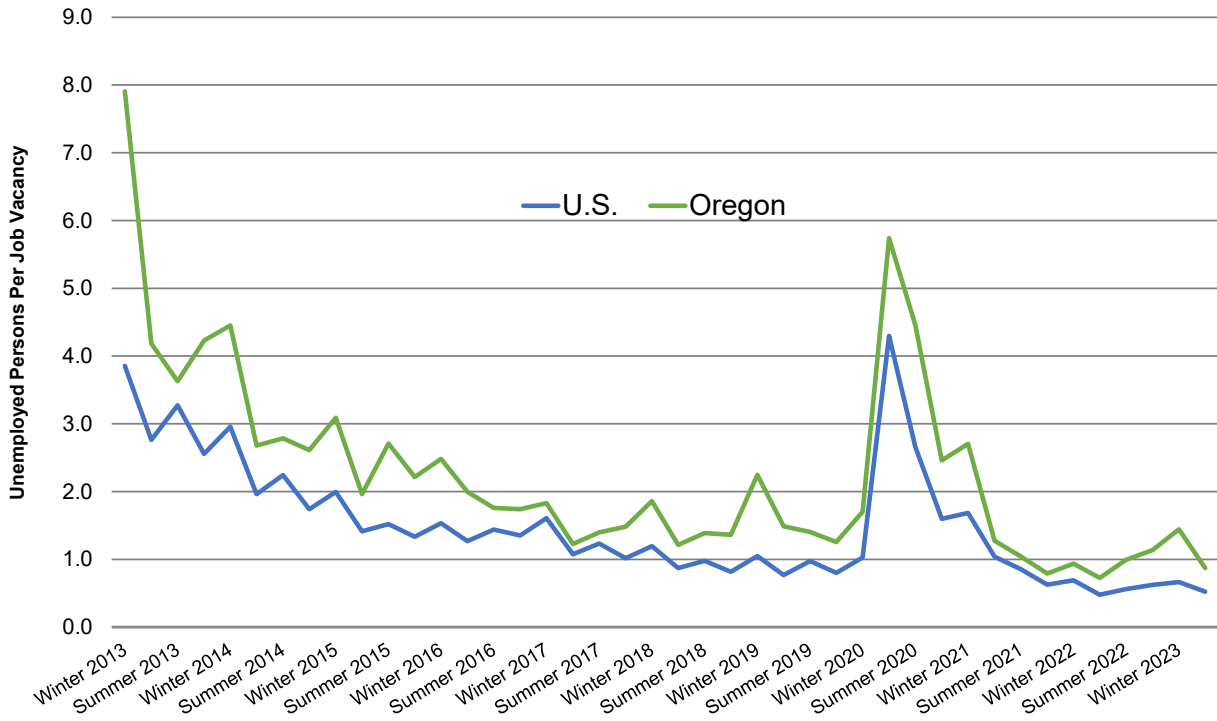
Vacancies decreased 8% from the winter and decreased 35% from spring 2022. Employers reported difficulty filling 59% of spring 2023 vacancies.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$27.41 per hour, an inflation-adjusted increase of 22% from spring 2022, and 11% above winter 2023.

A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position. 44% of openings required education beyond high school.

# As vacancies and unemployment dropped in the spring, the unemployed to job vacancy ratio decreased.

**U.S. and Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratios Still Low after Spring 2020 Peak**  
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2023)



Source: Oregon Employment Department

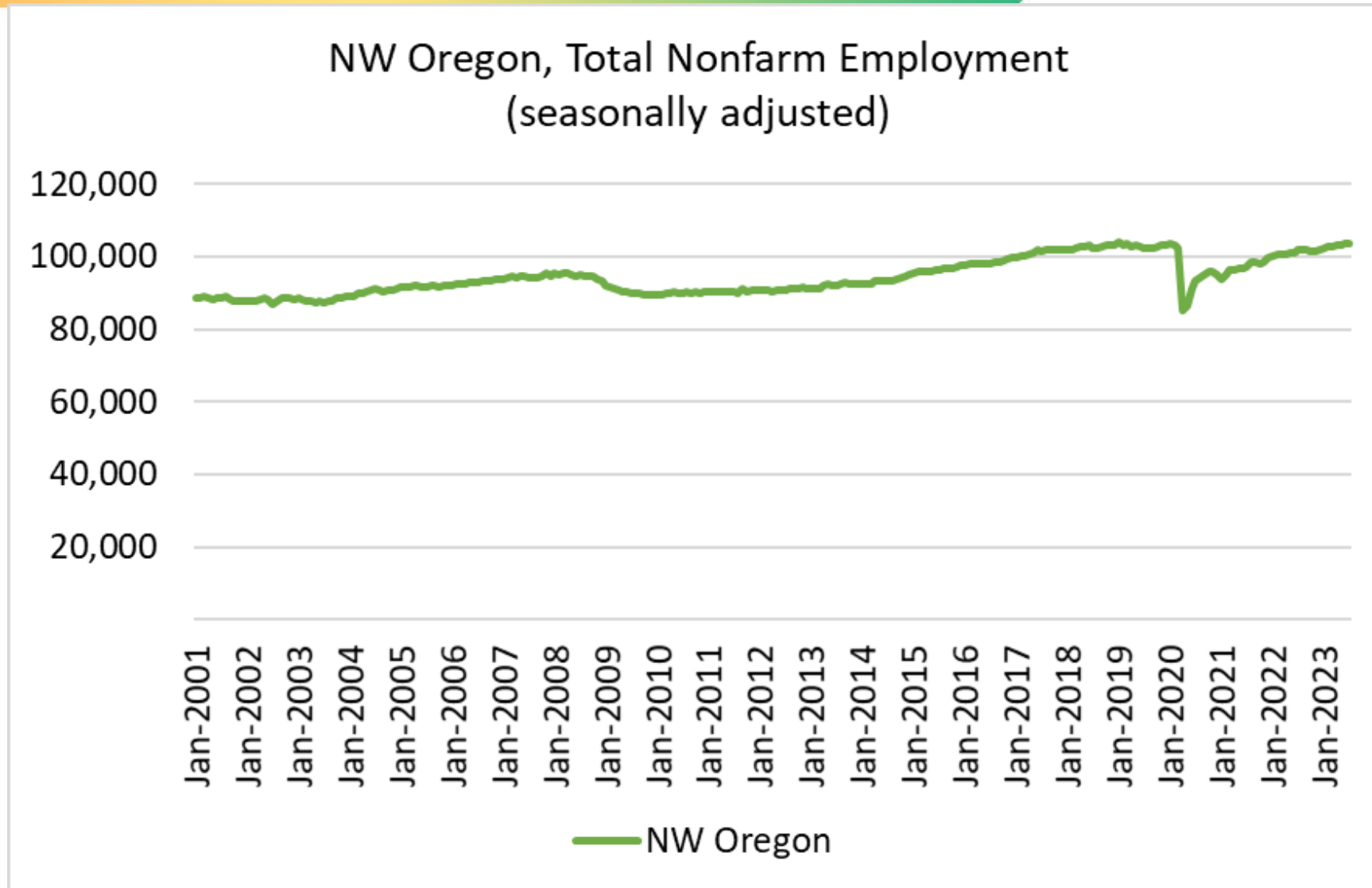
Oregon's unemployed-to-vacancy ratio has been below pre-pandemic levels for the past two years.

The U.S. ratio was 0.5 in April 2023, its eighth straight quarter below 1. It reached 4.3 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 0.9 unemployed per job vacancy in spring 2023, up from 0.7 in spring 2022 but still much lower than the peak of 5.7 in May 2020.

# Focus on Northwest Oregon

# Above pre-pandemic level, 550 jobs below peak employment level



Peak: Jan-19, 104,000

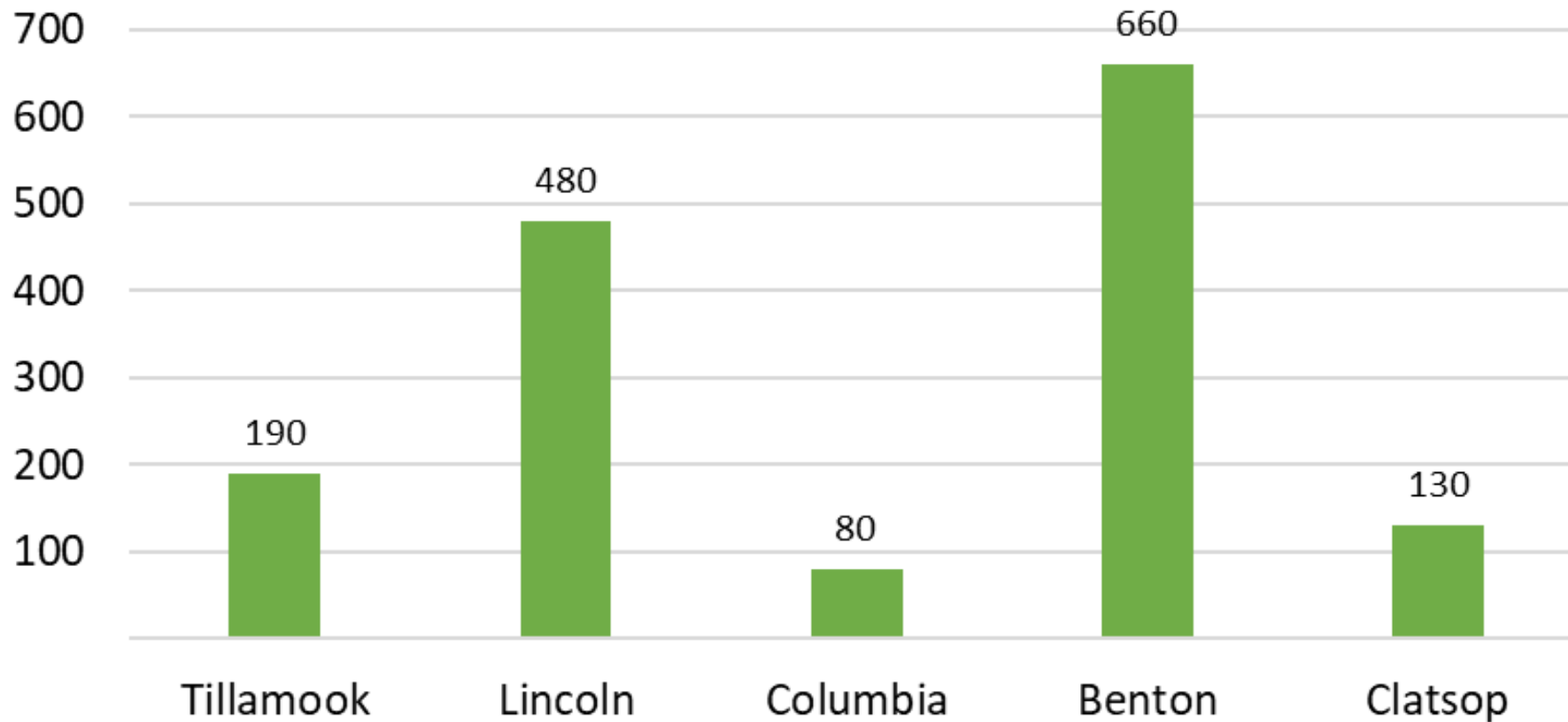
July-19, 102,420

July-23, 103,450

Source: Oregon Employment Department

NWO up 1,540 jobs OTY, a 1.5% increase

## Over-the-Year Change in SA Nonfarm Employment, July 2023

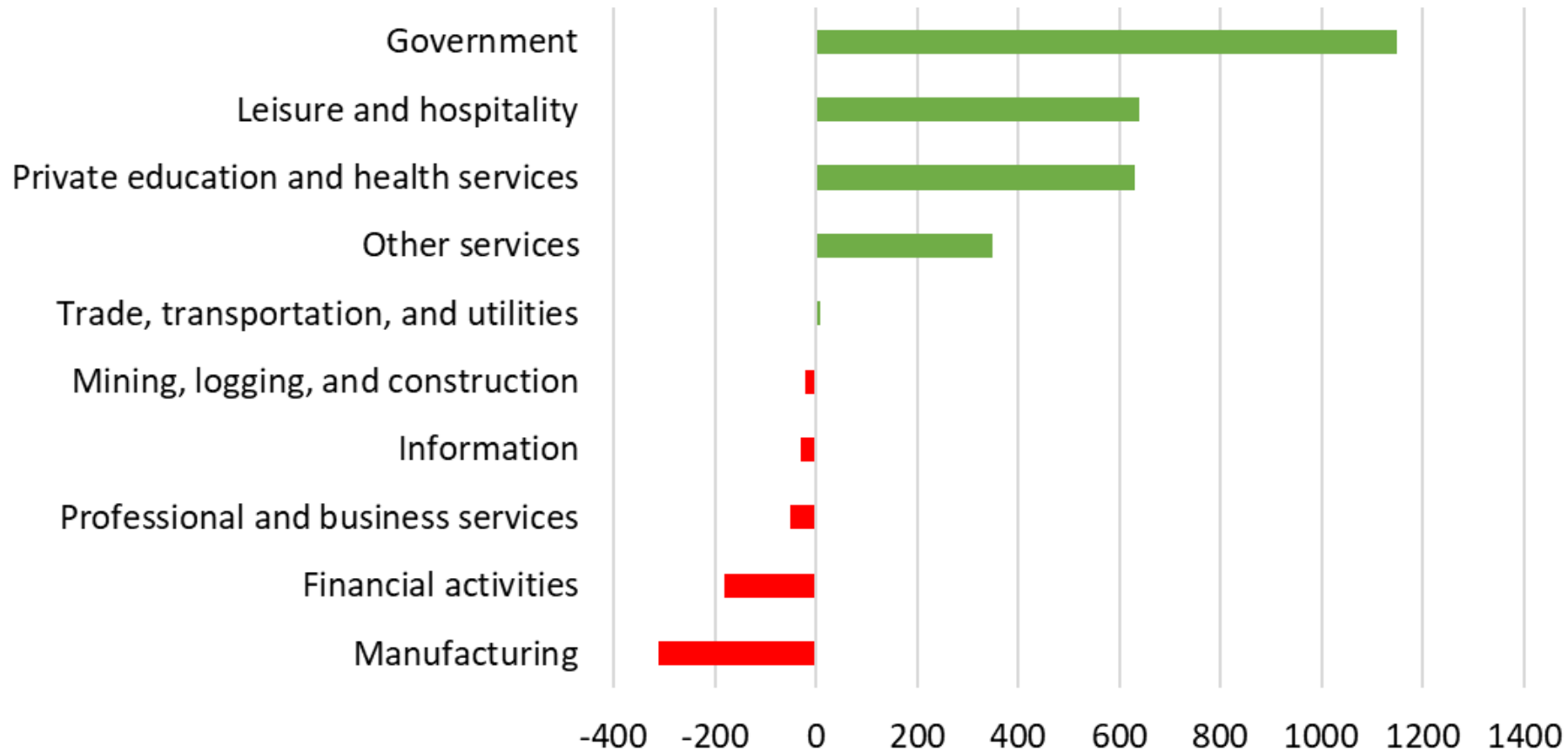


Source: Oregon Employment Department



# Local Ed, L&H, Healthcare continue to recover

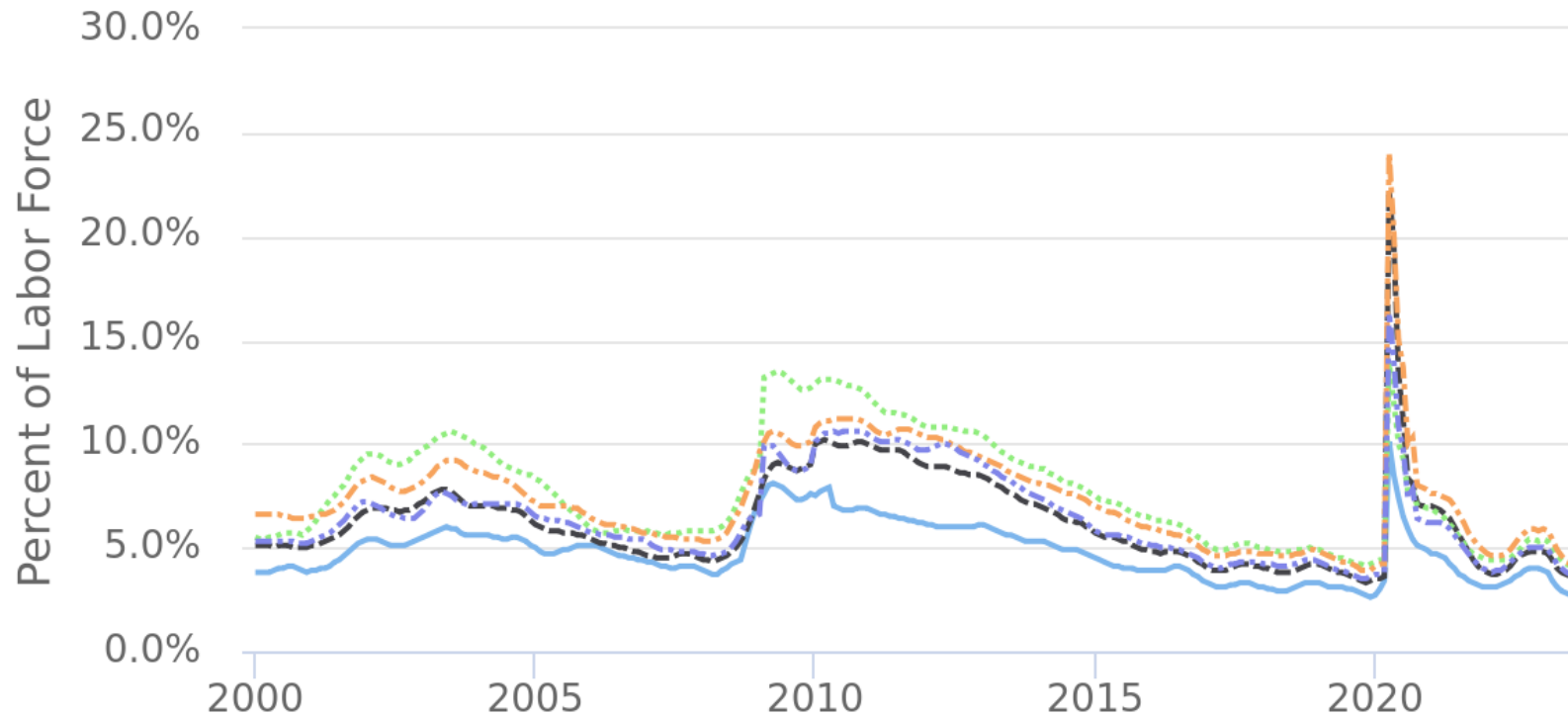
## Change in Industry Employment in NW Oregon, July '22-July '23



Source: Oregon Employment Department

# Near record low unemployment across the region

## Unemployment Rate



## Unemployment Rates for July 2023

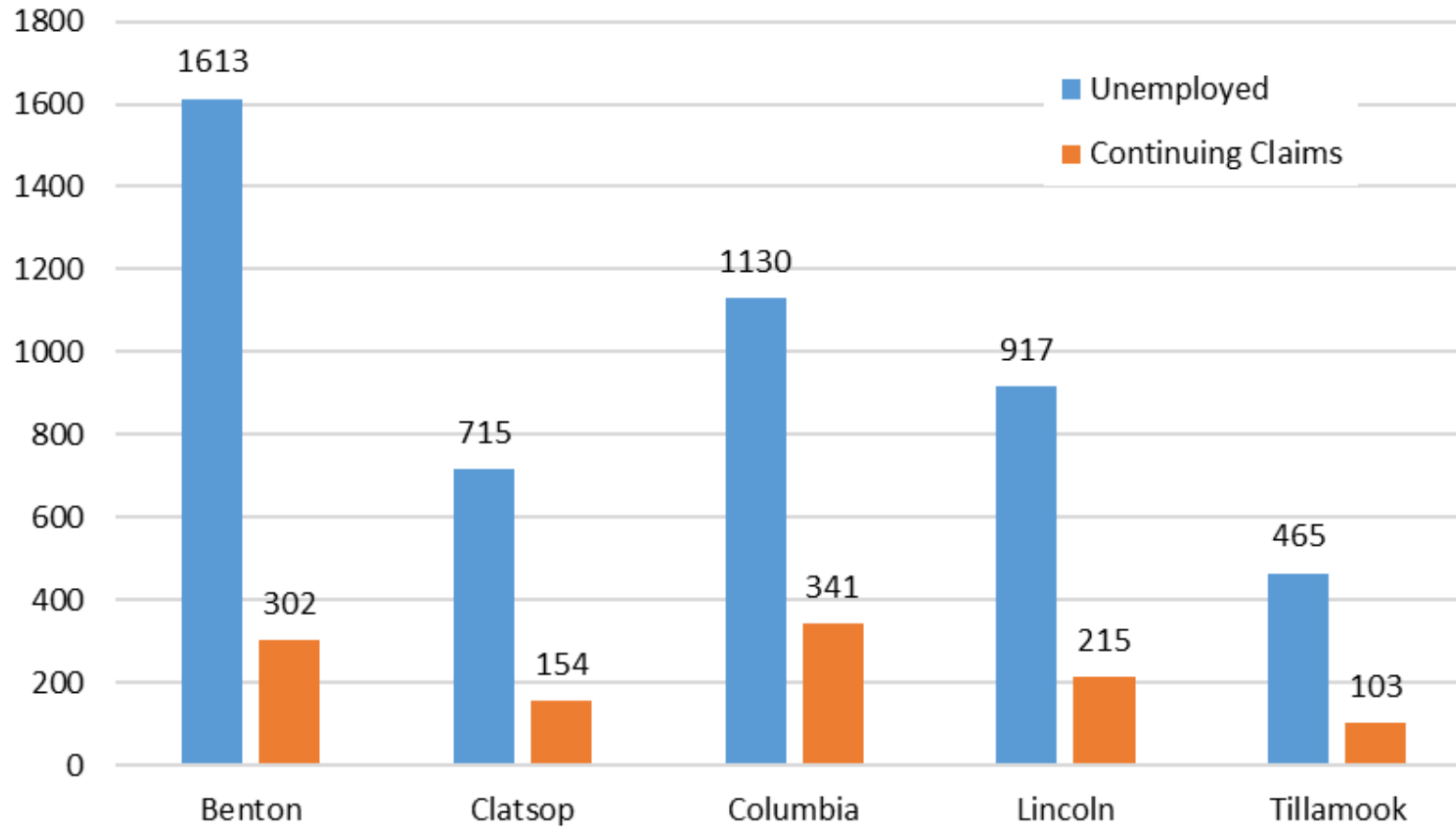
Benton: 2.7%  
Clatsop: 3.6%  
Columbia: 4.1%  
Lincoln: 4.2%  
Tillamook: 3.7%

— Benton County (Seasonally Adjusted) -- Clatsop County (Seasonally Adjusted)  
- - - Columbia County (Seasonally Adjusted) - - - Lincoln County (Seasonally Adjusted)  
- - - Tillamook County (Seasonally Adjusted)

Source: Oregon Employment Department Qualityinfo.org

# Continuing claims decreased to 23% of total UI claims

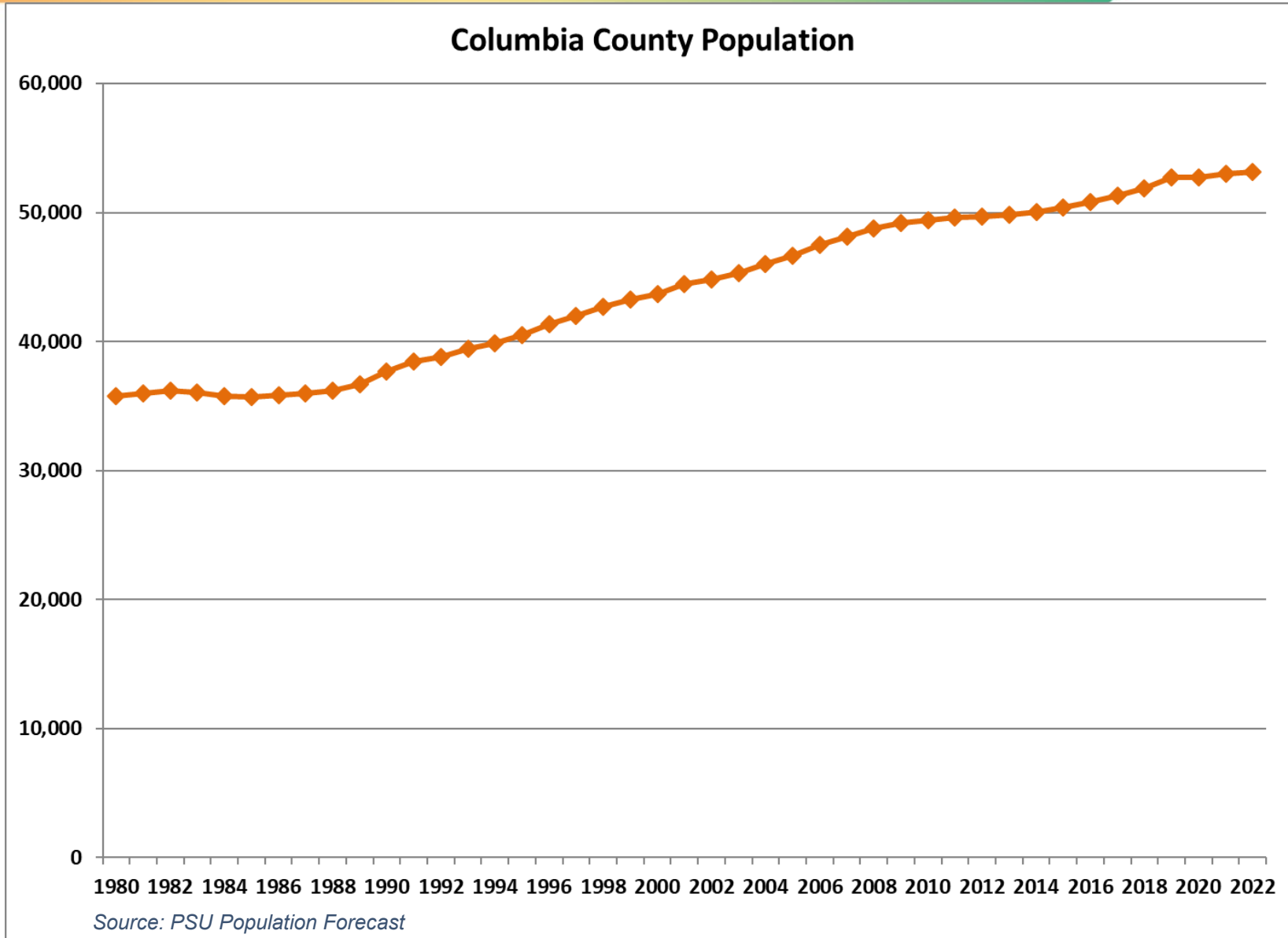
## Unemployed People and Continuing UI Claims July 2023



Source: Oregon Employment Department

# Focus on Columbia County

2022 population was 53,156 and growing at 0.4% per year

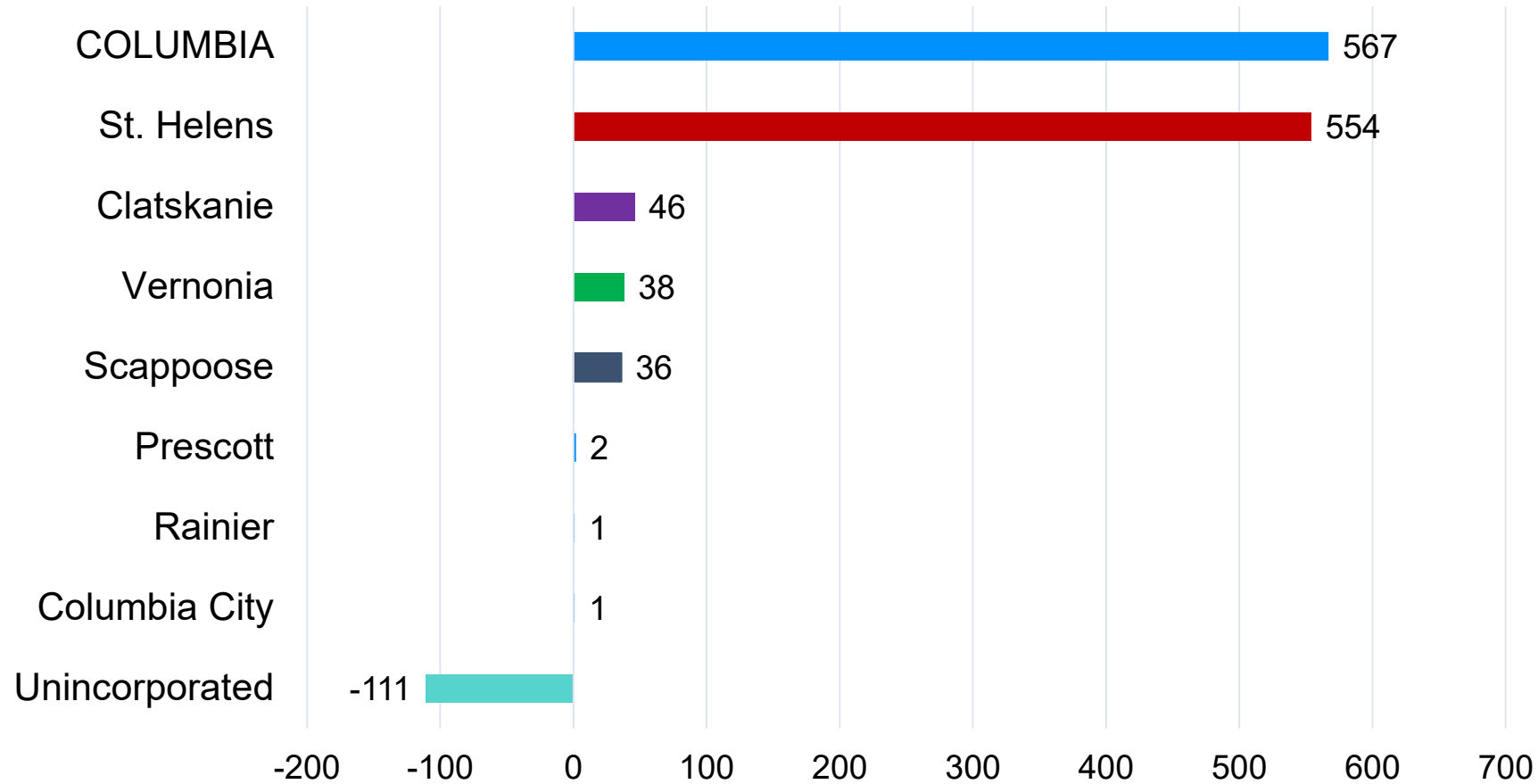


Columbia County added 176 residents in the year to July 2022.

From 2012-2022 the share of the population ages 18-64 fell from 61.9% to 60.3%. The share of those ages 65+ increased from 15.1% to 19.9%

# Growth centered in St. Helens, unincorporated population decreased

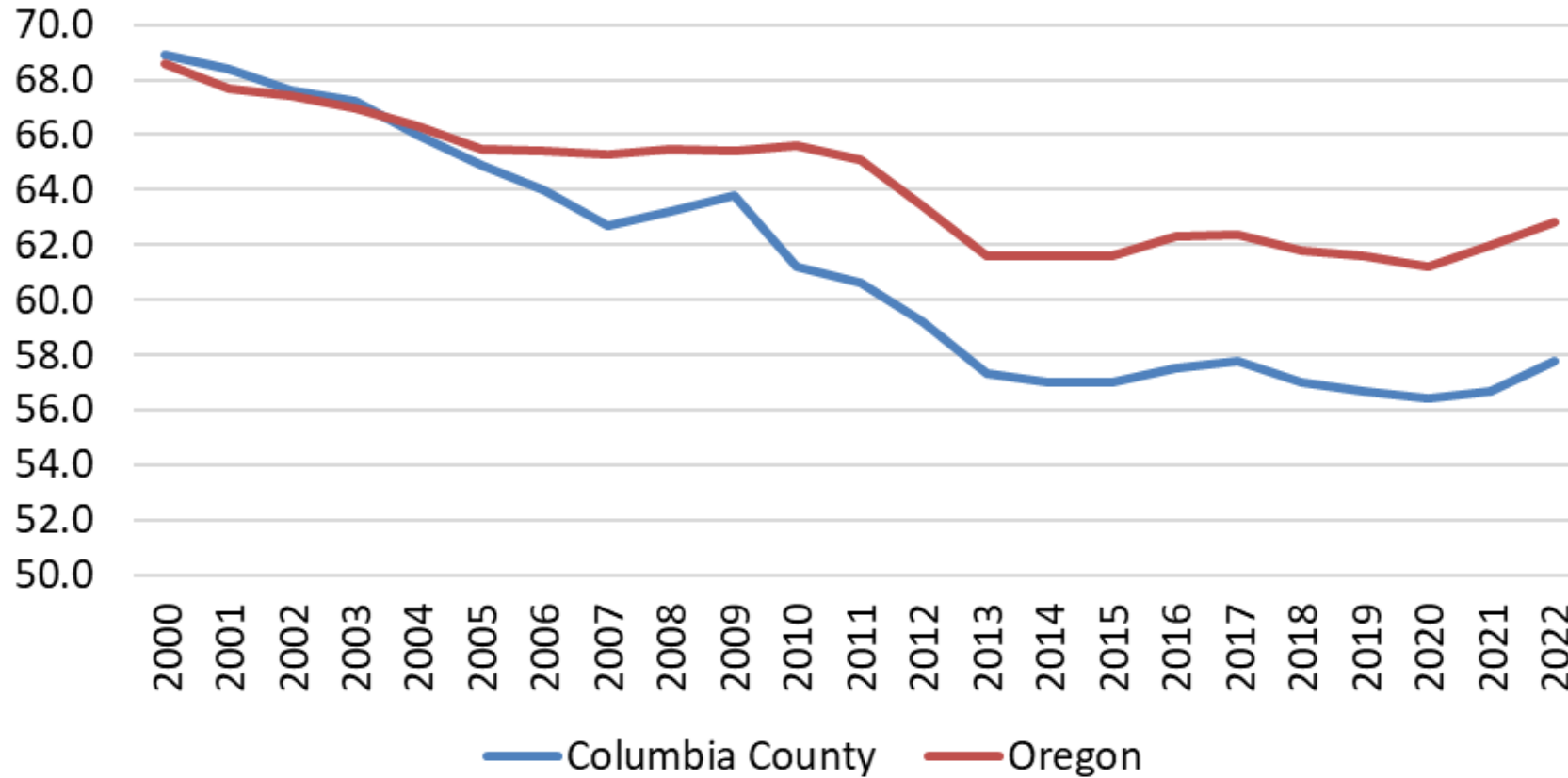
## Columbia County Population Change, 2020-2022



Source: PSU Population Forecast

Labor force participation increased 1.1% from 2021-2022

## Labor Force Participation Rate in Columbia County, 2000-2022



Source: Oregon Employment Department

Employment recovered from pandemic, up 140 jobs OTY (1.2%)

## Columbia County Total nonfarm employment

(seasonally adjusted)  
Official Oregon Series

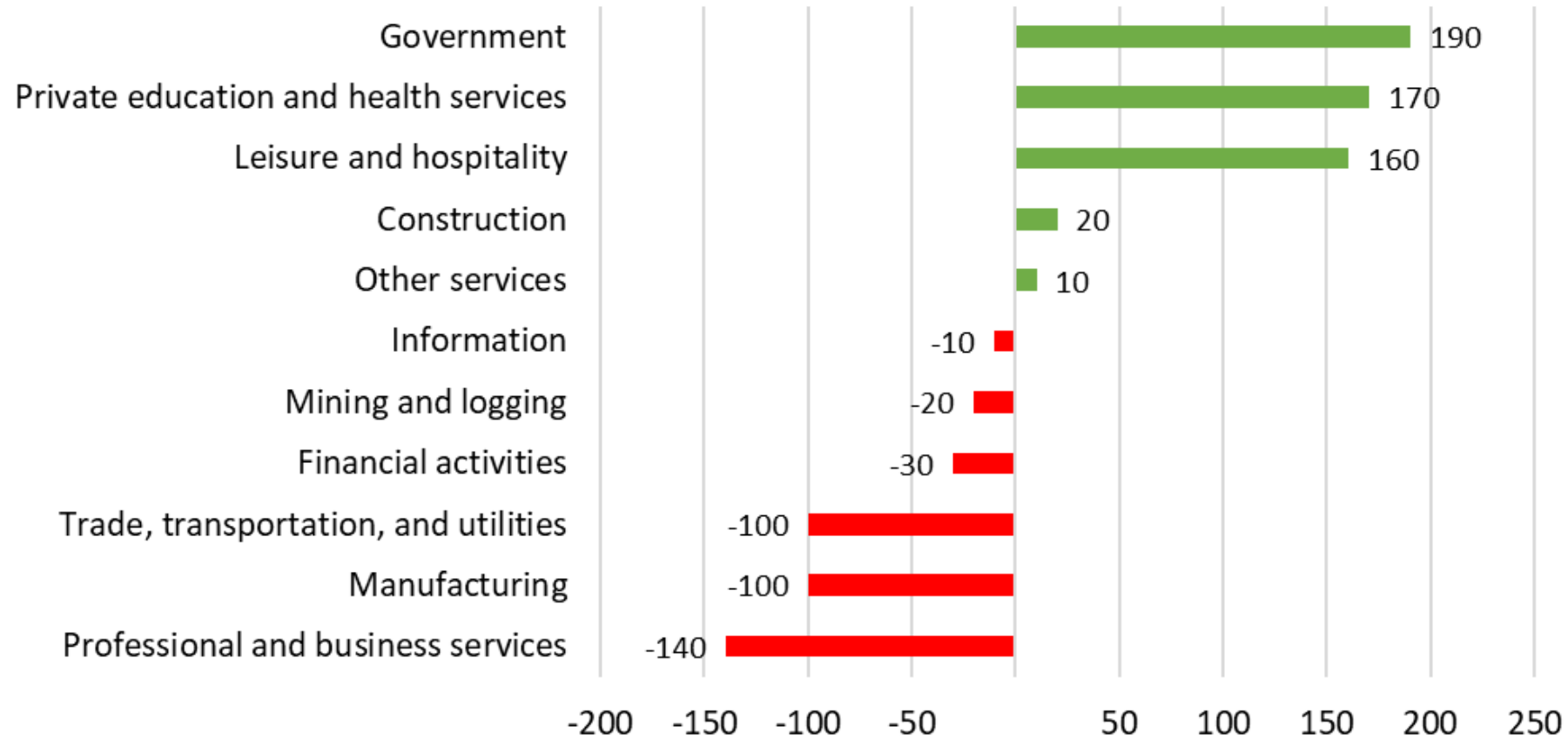


Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org



Includes first Cascades Tissue layoff (manufacturing)

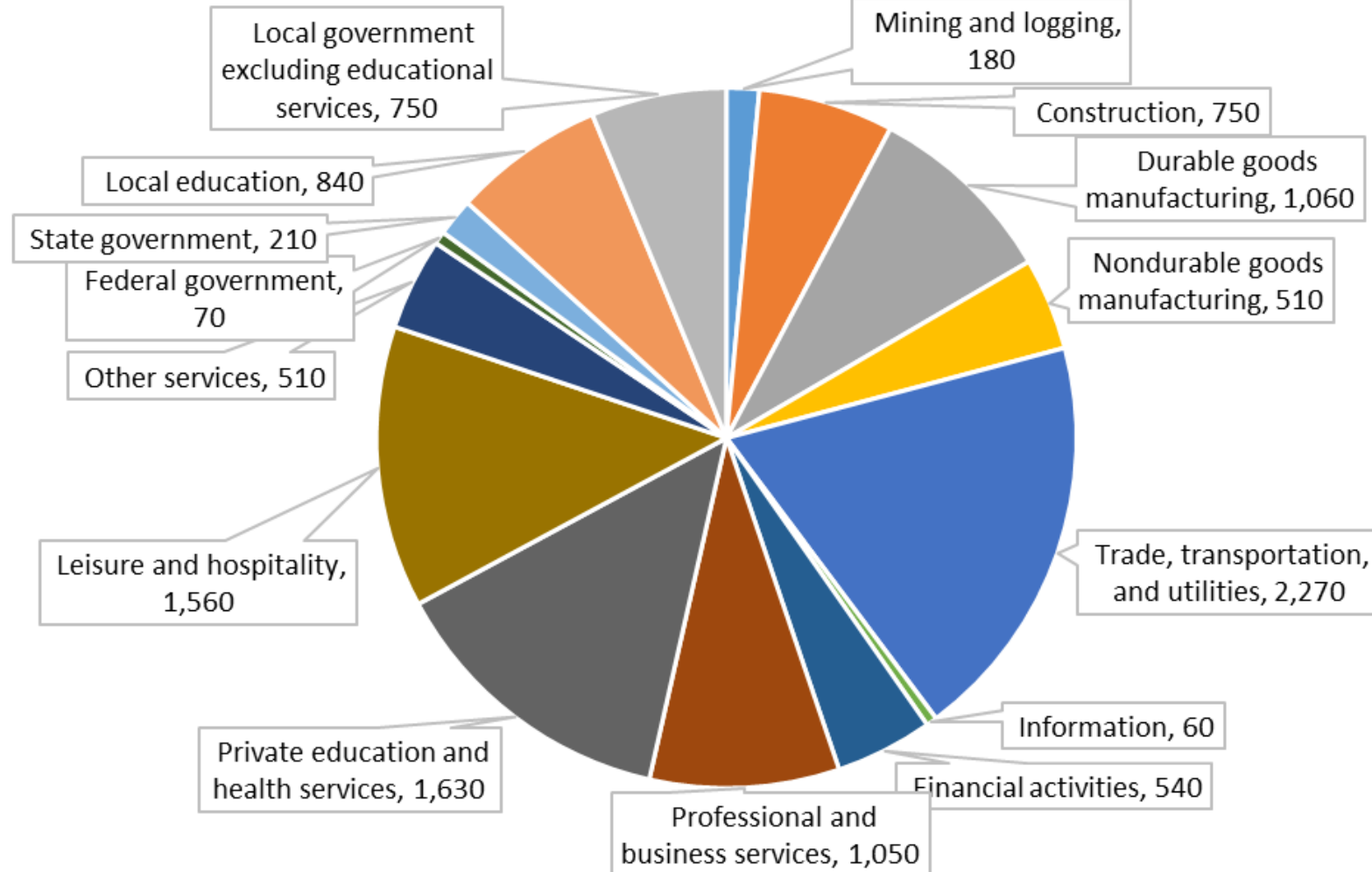
### Columbia County Annual Employment Change July '22-July '23



Source: Oregon Employment Department

# Government, health services, manufacturing, and retail lead employment

## Columbia County Nonfarm Employment, July 2023



Source: Oregon Employment Department

# Average wages grew by 7.7% in 2022, roughly equal to inflation

<b>Columbia Industry</b>	<b>2022 Annual Average Wage</b>
Total all ownerships	\$51,135
Total private coverage	\$48,579
Natural resources and mining	\$60,022
Construction	\$64,260
Manufacturing	\$63,435
Wholesale trade	\$76,890
Retail trade	\$33,105
Transportation, warehousing & utilities	\$69,686
Information	\$61,573
Financial activities	\$59,938
Professional and business services	\$59,108
Education and health services	\$43,417
Leisure and hospitality	\$22,324
Other services	\$33,439
Unclassified	\$55,678
Total all government	\$64,269

Source: Oregon Employment Department

## Columbia County by Income

Columbia County Income Source	Millions, 2021
Gross Domestic Products	\$ 1,243
Personal current transfer receipts	\$ 845
Visitor spending at destination	\$ 36
Dividends, interest, and rent	\$ 336
Government and government enterprises	\$ 182
Manufacturing	\$ 126
Health care and social assistance	\$ 77
Retail Trade	\$ 63
Construction	\$ 58
Per capita personal income (dollars)	\$ 53,573

Source: Office of Economic Analysis, Dean Runyon

# 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!**

**Shaun Barrick, Workforce Analyst**  
**[Shaun.Barrick@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:Shaun.Barrick@employ.oregon.gov)**

Sign up for the latest workforce and economic research  
[www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe](http://www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe)

Follow us on Twitter [@OED\\_Research](https://twitter.com/OED_Research)