

LABOR MARKET UPDATE

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING, WEA

9 OCTOBER 2025

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*

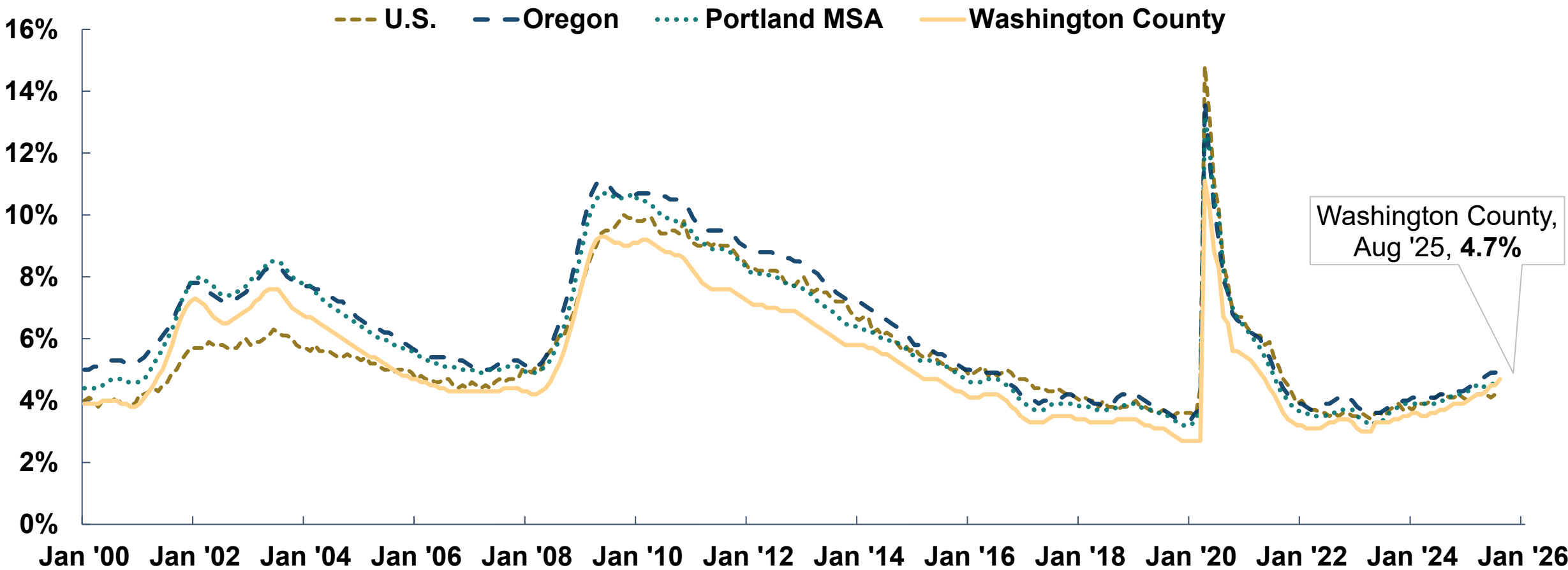
Your response is vital to ensuring accurate, complete, and unbiased data that is representative of the people and businesses in Oregon and the United States.

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!

UNEMPLOYMENT

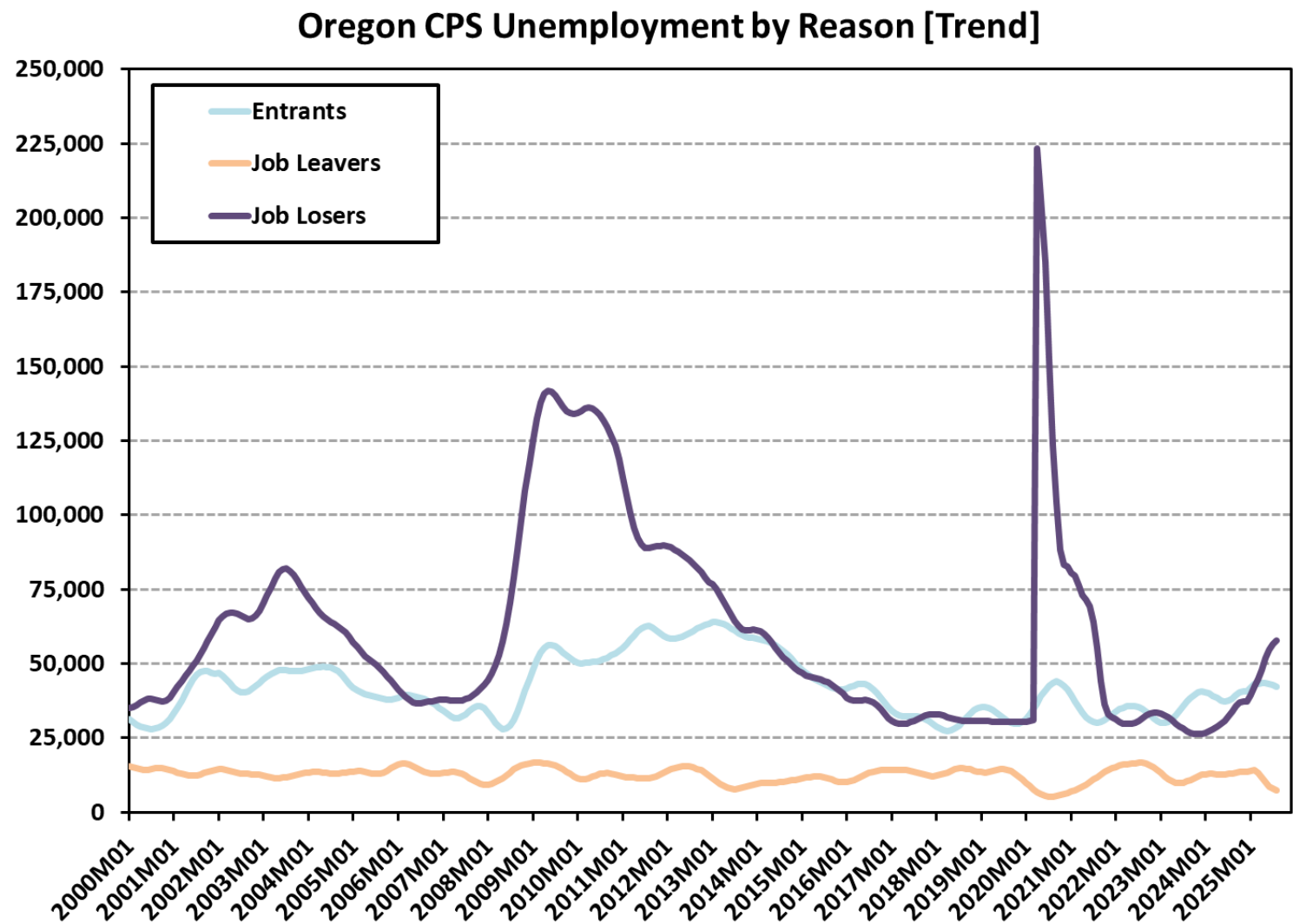
Unemployment Rate is Rising, Still Low



Washington County,
Aug '25, 4.7%

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS):
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

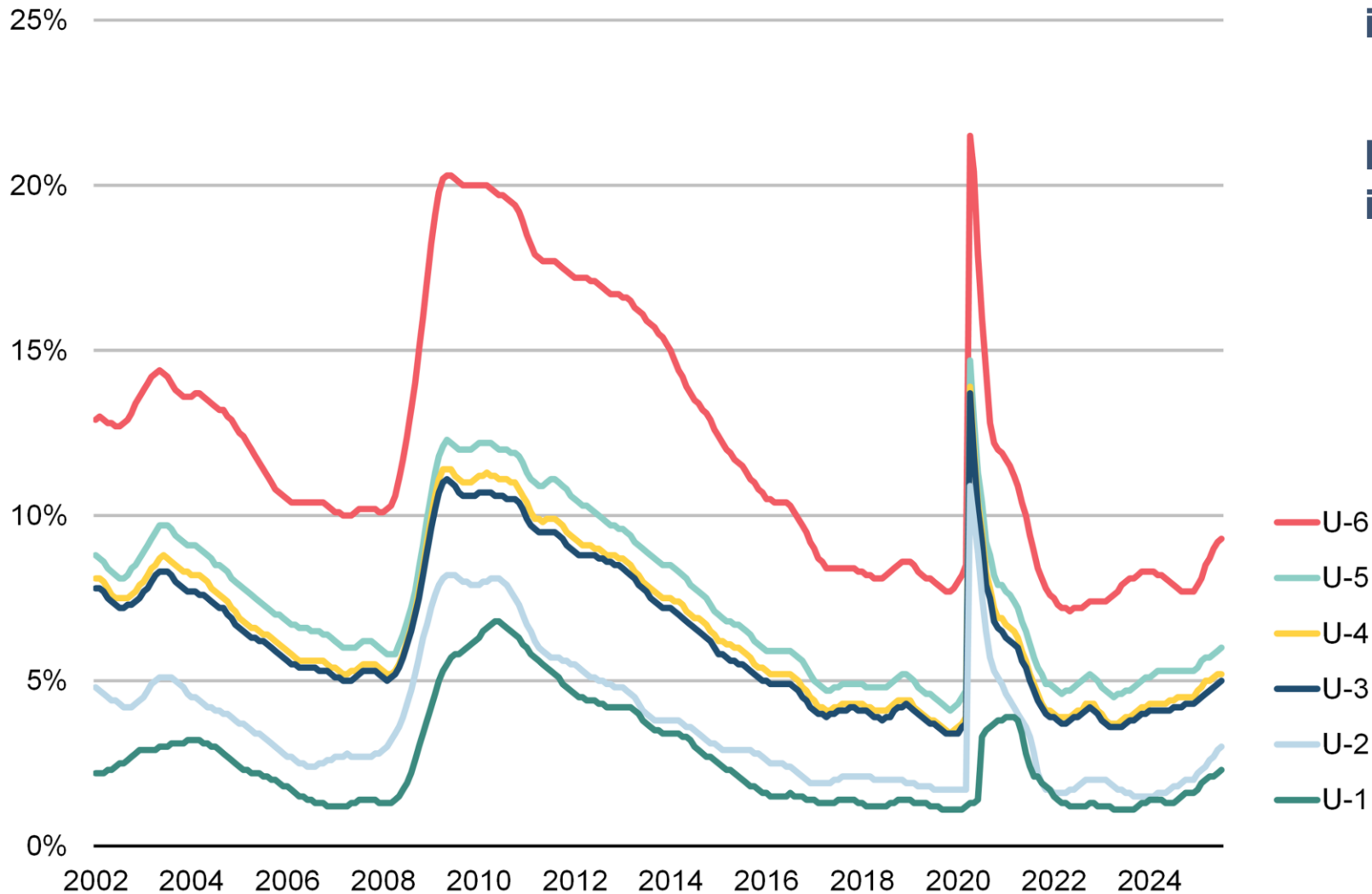
LAYOFFS UP. QUILTS AND ENTRANTS DOWN.



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Population Survey

INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES: LONG-TERM, LAYOFFS, & UNDEREMPLOYMENT

Oregon Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization



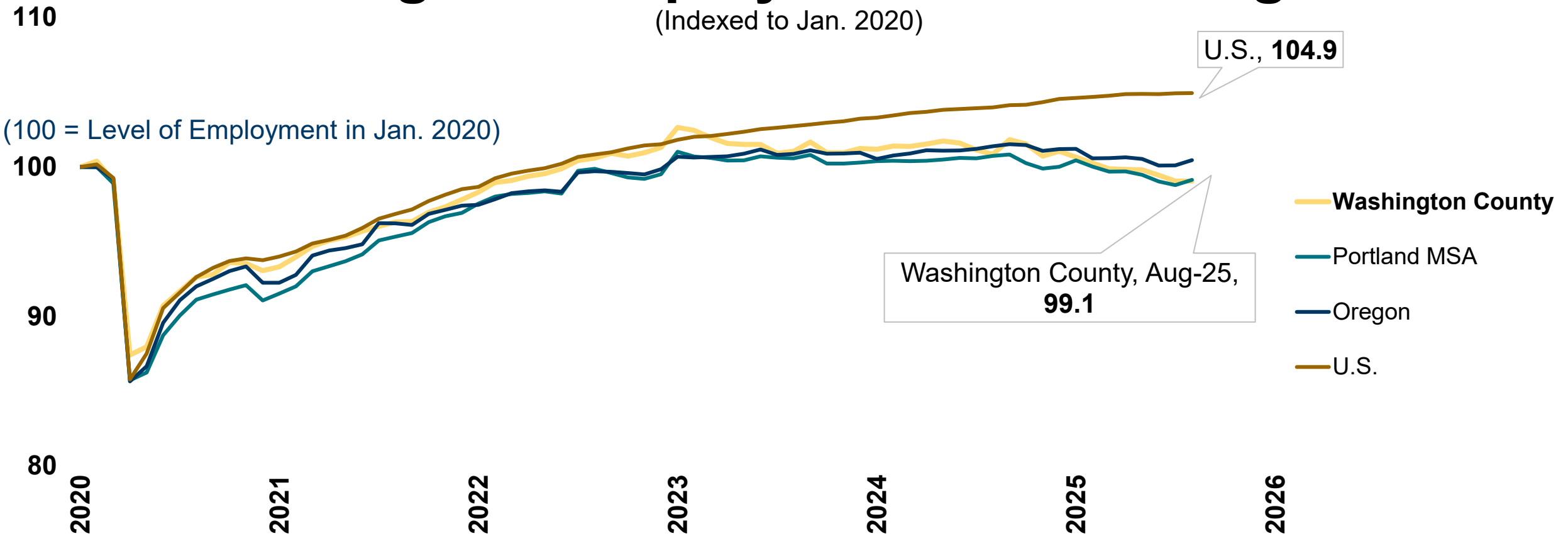
Unemployed for 15 Weeks & Over is Rising in U.S. and Oregon. (U-1)

Employed part-time but want full-time is rising. (U-6 minus U-5).

EMPLOYMENT

Oregon's Employment is Declining

(Indexed to Jan. 2020)

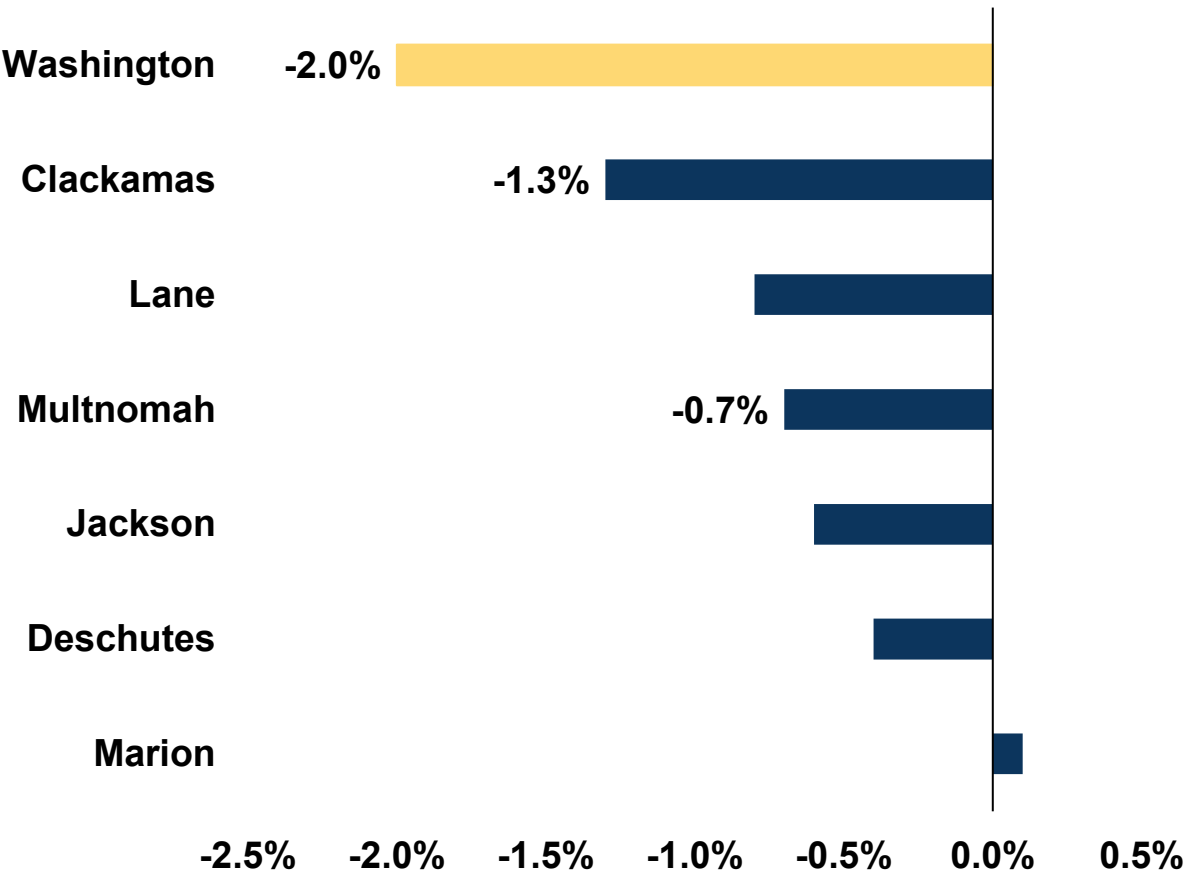


WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE LOSSES

Washington County, 2025Q1:
302,600 Employment
\$1,723 Average Weekly Wage

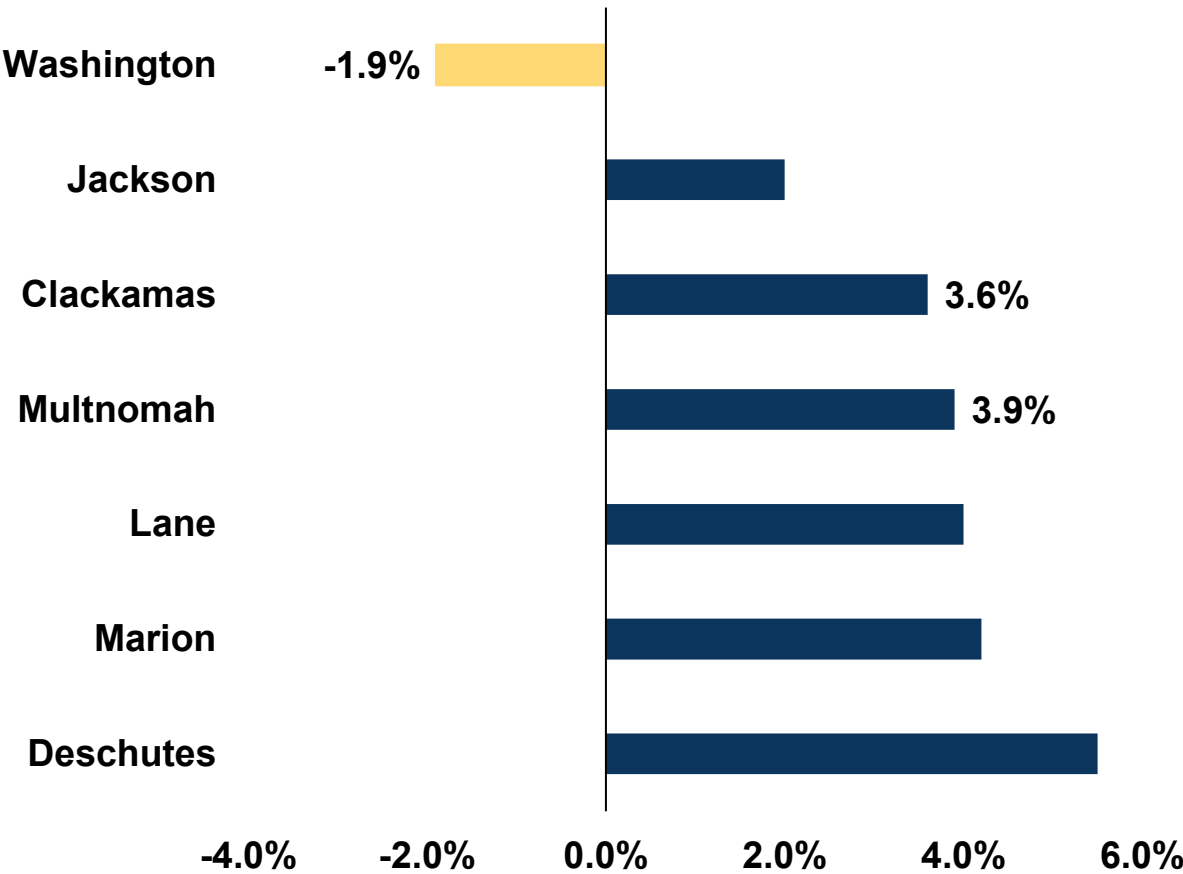
Employment Declining YoY

March 2024 - March 2025



Average Weekly Wages Declining YoY

2024Q1 - 2025Q2

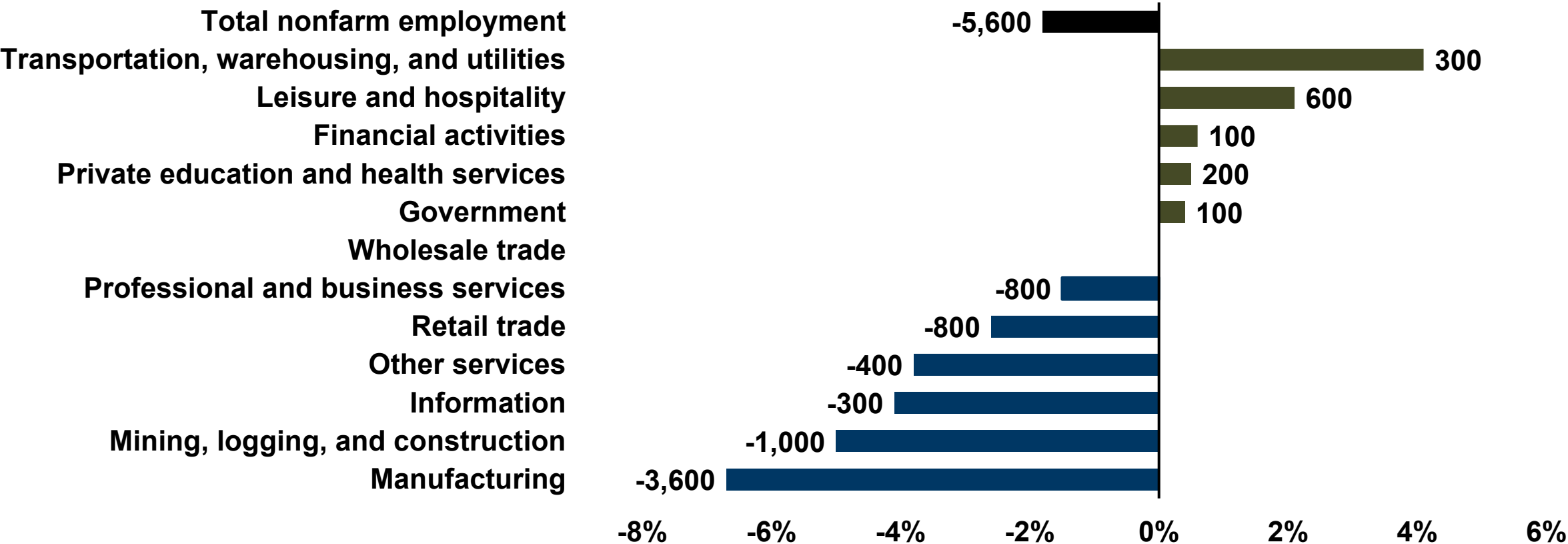


Source: Oregon Employment Department, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

LOSSES ARE BROAD, ESPECIALLY IN MANUFACTURING. STRONGER YEAR FOR L&H.

Washington County is Losing Jobs in Many Sectors

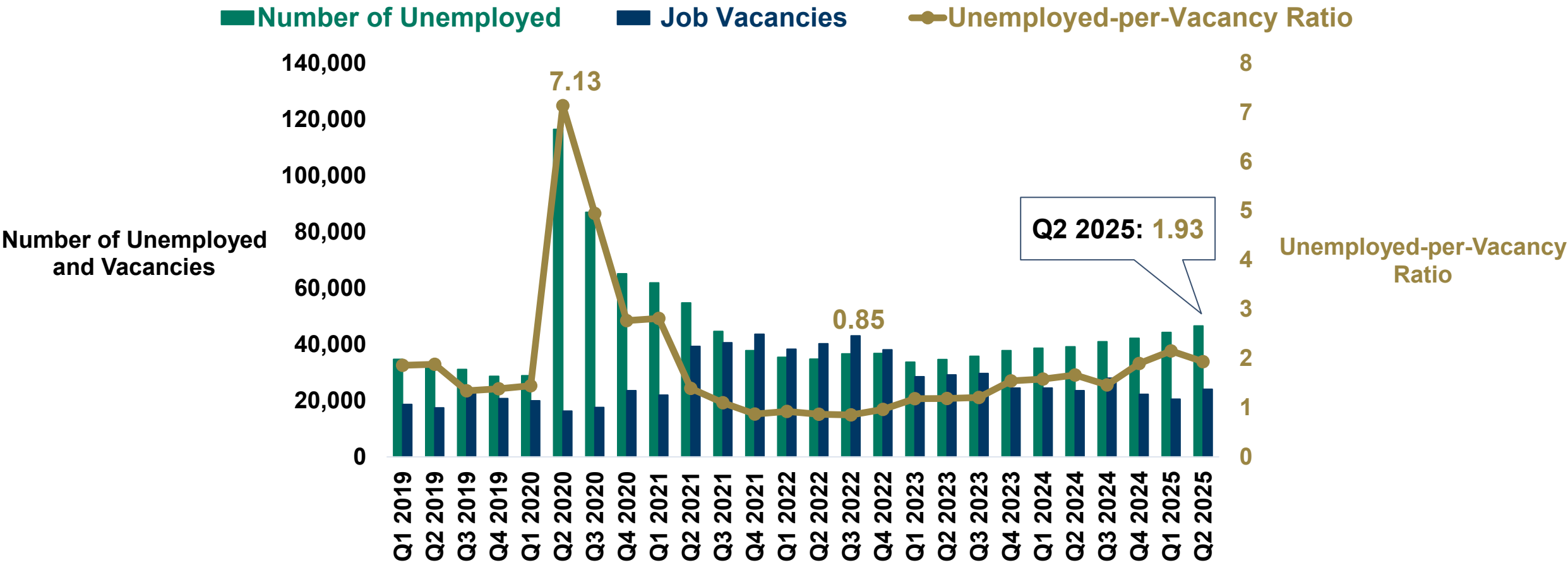
August 2024 to August 2025



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics, not seasonally adjusted (August 2025 preliminary estimate)

PUTTING IT TOGETHER: COOLING LABOR MARKET

Portland Tri-County Job Market is Loosening

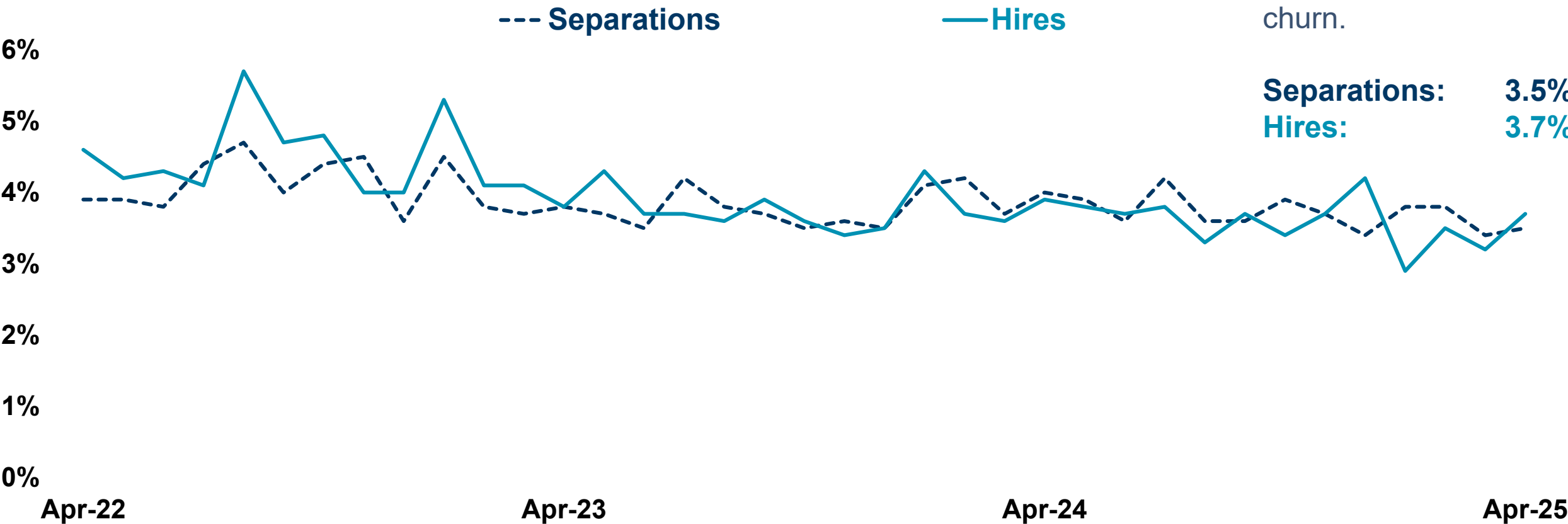


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Job Vacancy Survey (JVS) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed

Hiring and Separations Drift Lower

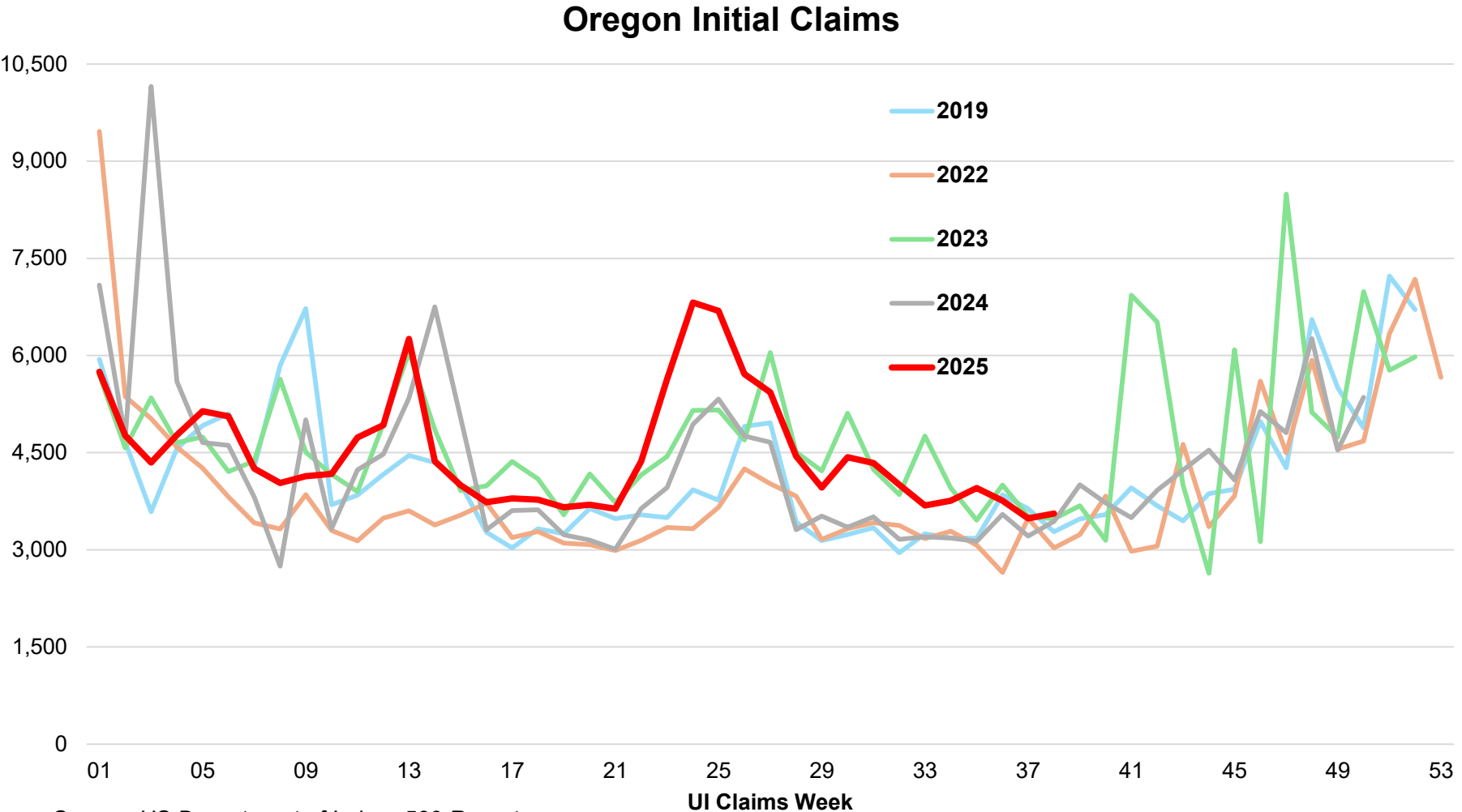
Oregon, Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

Oregon's labor market churn.

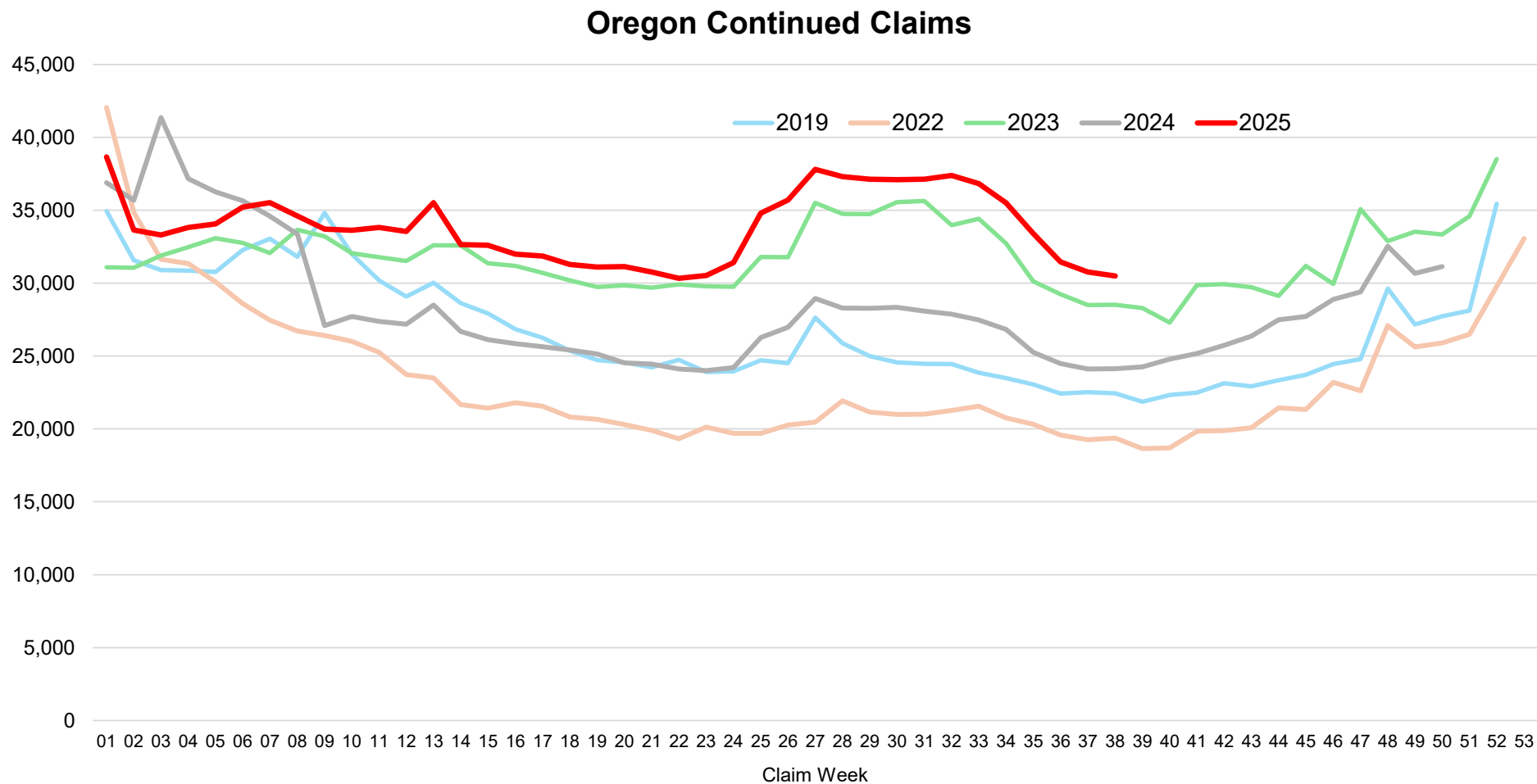


Source: Oregon Employment Department, Bureau Labor of Statistics, Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)

INITIAL CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS



CONTINUED CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS



Source: DOL, 539 Report

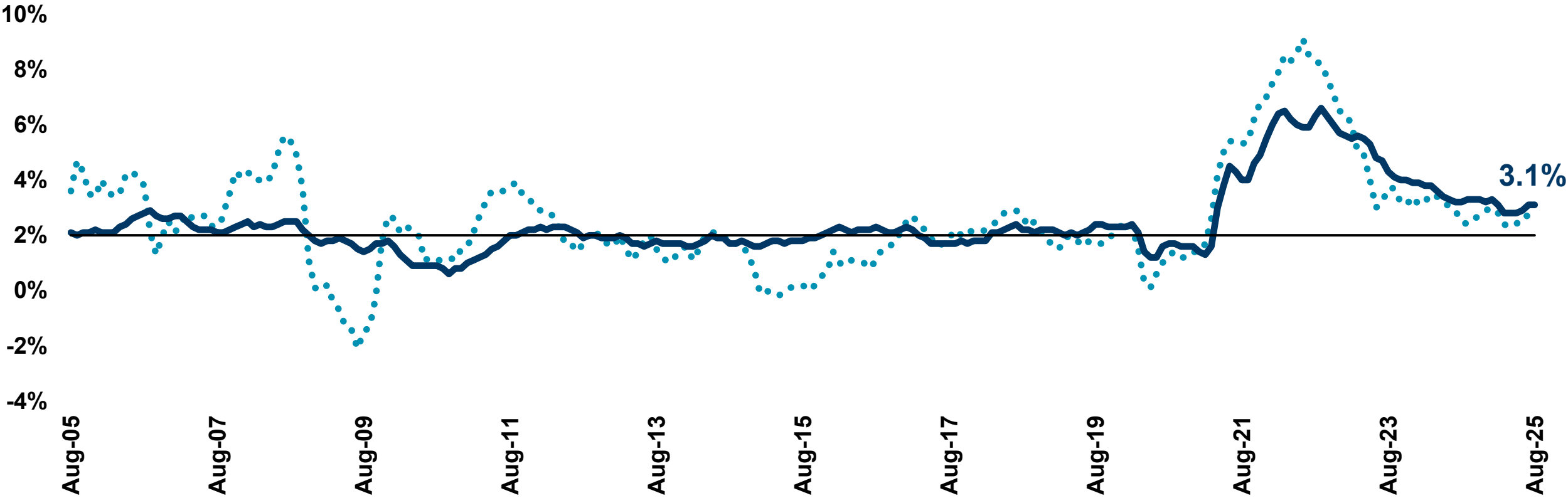
NOTES ON THE ECONOMY

Sticky inflation
driven by goods.

Consumer Price Index

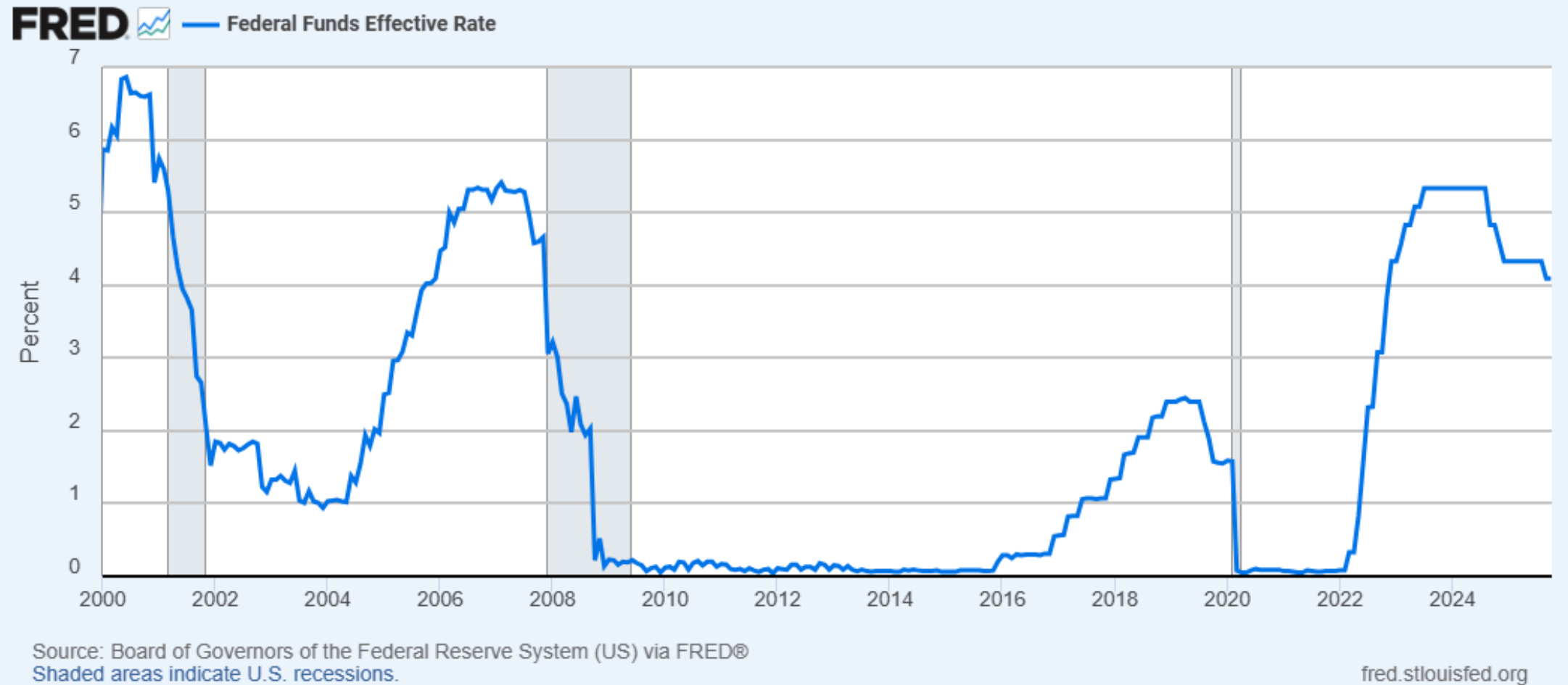
12-month percent change, not seasonally adjusted

.....All items —All items less food and energy (Core CPI)



Source: Oregon Employment Department, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics,
“Percent changes in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average”

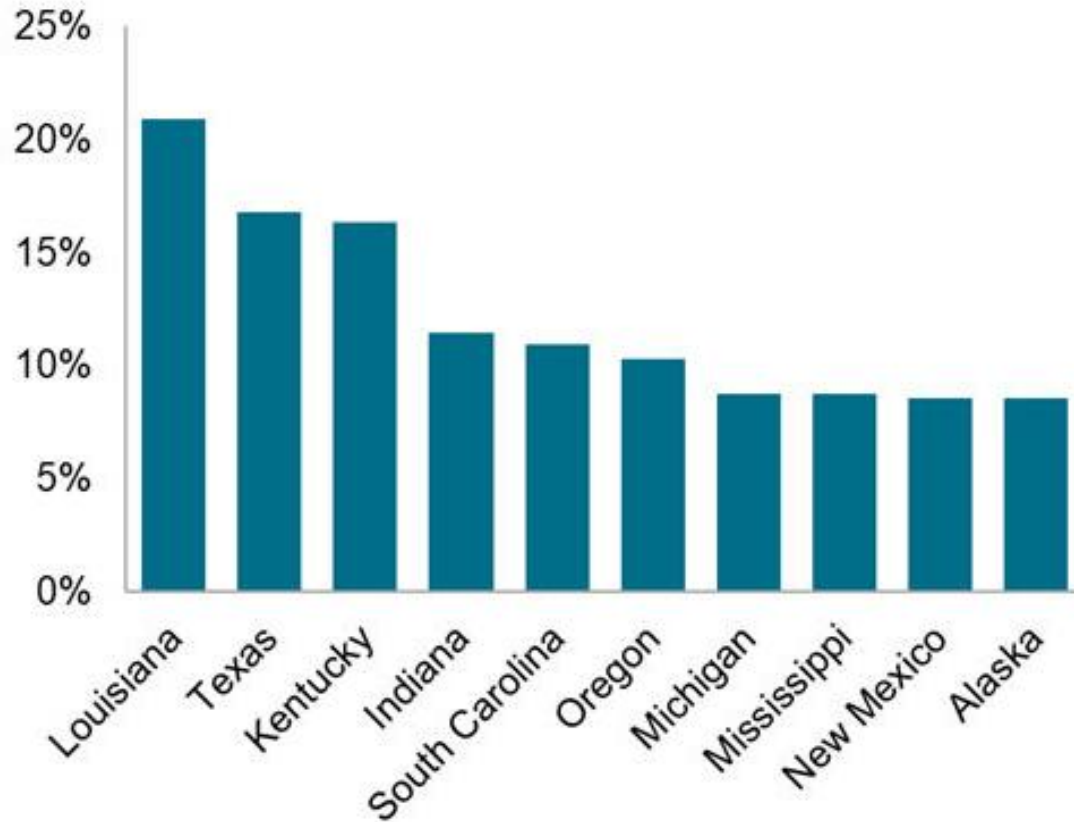
FED FUNDS RATE: THE DUAL MANDATE



**Despite inflation hovering slightly above target,
The Fed lowered its rate by 0.25 in September.**

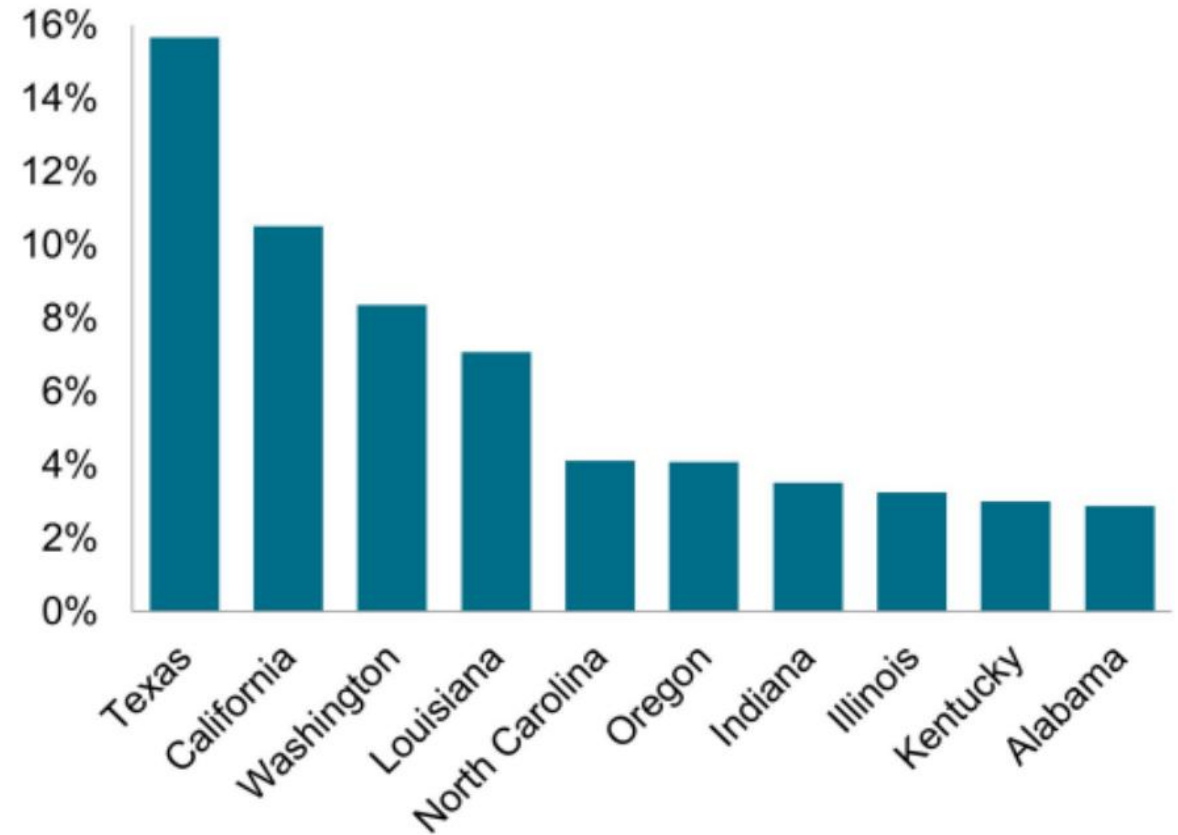
OUR COUNTY, AND STATE, ARE MORE EXPOSED TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Exports as a share of gross state product, 2024



Data compiled March 2025.
Excludes agricultural products in Louisiana.
Sources: US Census Bureau; S&P Global Market Intelligence.
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Share of US exports to mainland China, 2024

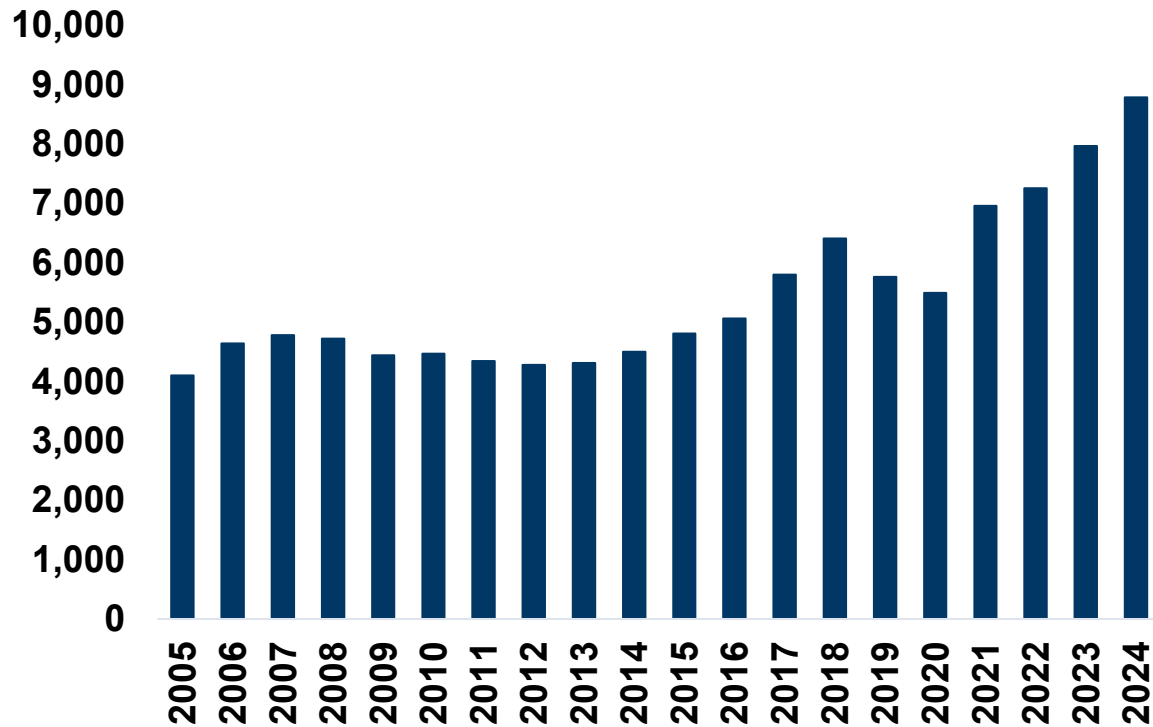


Data compiled April 2025.
Sources: US Census Bureau; S&P Global Market Intelligence.
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Economists theme of 2025: **uncertainty.**

New Business Applications

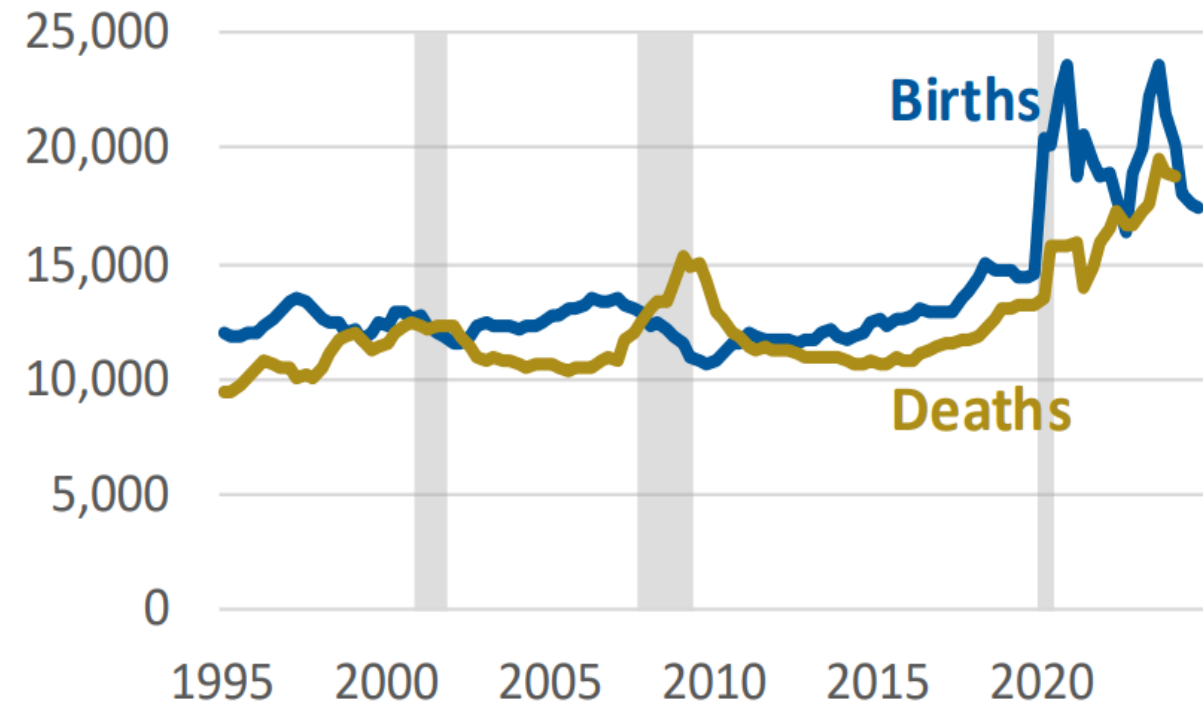
Washington County



Source: Oregon Employment Department, U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics

Oregon Economic Dynamism

Number of establishments

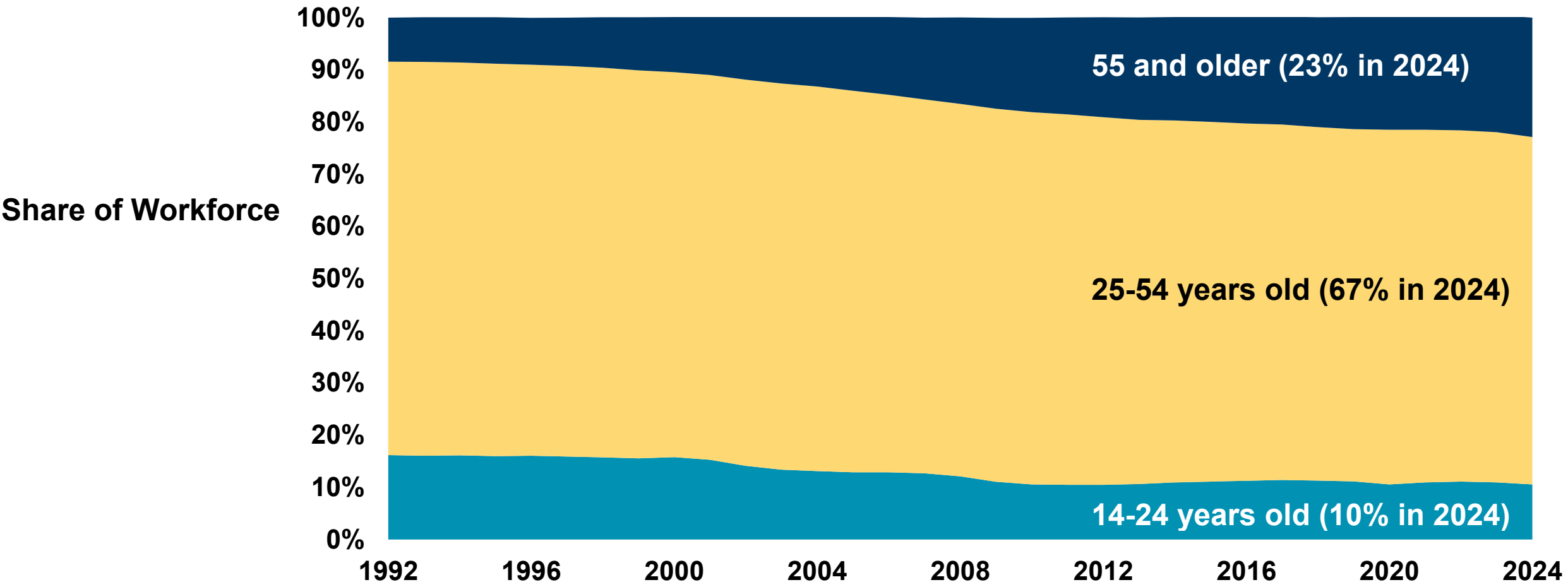


Data: 4 qtr sum

Source: BLS, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

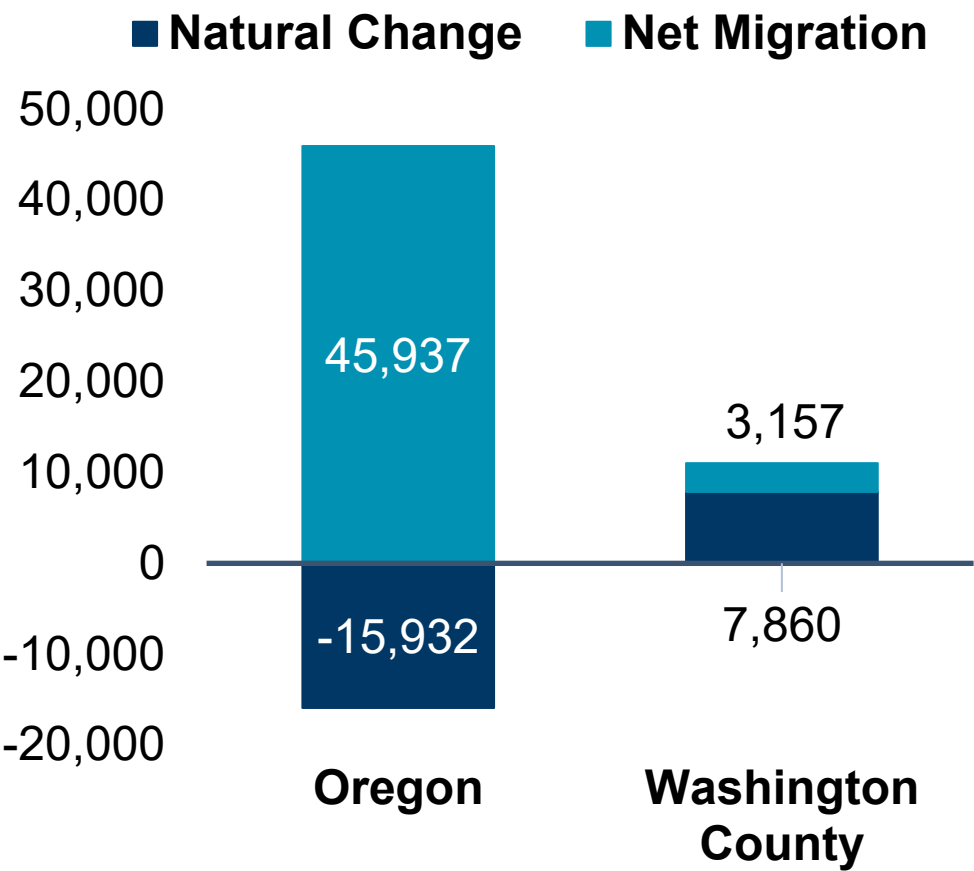
LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

Washington County Workforce Aging



Source: Oregon Employment Department, U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators, All Ownerships Annual Averages 1992-2024

Components of Population Change
2020-2024

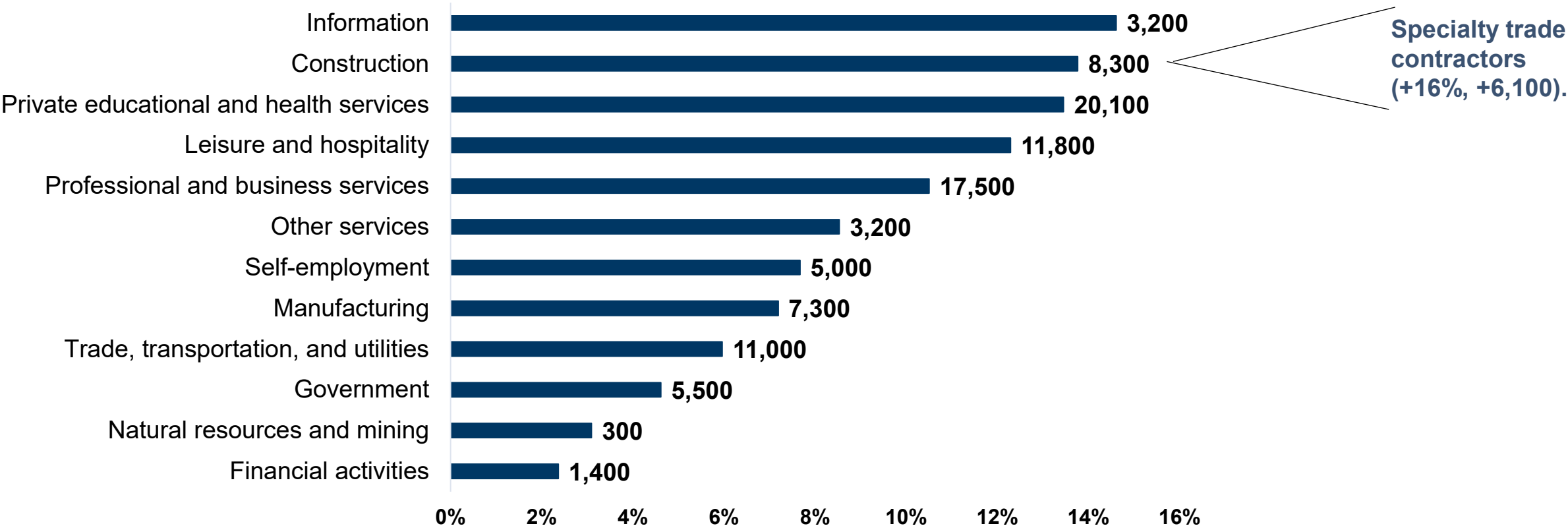


In Contrast with Statewide, Washington County still has a positive natural population change (i.e., more births than deaths).

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Portland State University Population Research Center

Total employment is projected to grow 9% (+94,600)

Portland Tri-County Industry Projections 2023-2033



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Occupational Projections 2023-2033

Portland Metro

OUR LATEST RESEARCH



Firm Size in Washington County, 2025: Most Employers Are Small

Brannigan Vogt Aug 8
In the first quarter of 2025, Washington County had nearly 19,000 private firms that were subject to paying unemployment insurance taxes. Almost 14,0...

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Employment in Washington County – Five-Year Changes Vary by Sector

Apr 8
Federal Employment in the Portland Metropolitan Area

Apr 7
Washington County's Highly Educated Workforce Earns a Wage Premium

Apr 7
Multnomah County's Aging Workforce by Industry in 2023

Apr 2
Most Popular Languages Spoken in Multnomah County: 2023

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Your local
workforce analyst.

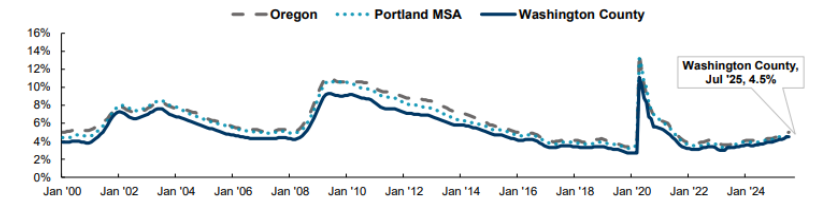
Washington County Economic Indicators August 2025 (July 2025 Data)

Graph of the Month: Nonemployers. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Nonemployer Statistics (NES), Washington County had more than **45,000** nonemployer establishments in 2023, a gain of about 1,900 (+4.3%) from 2022.

Washington County's nonemployer establishments generated about **\$2.52 billion** in revenue in 2023, up from \$2.46 billion in 2022 (+2.7%).

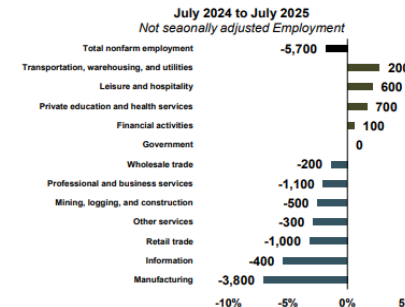
Despite having the third most establishments, "real estate, rental, and leasing" was the single largest contributor to nonemployer revenue in the county, accounting for more than \$604 million.

Unemployment is at its highest since August 2015 excluding the pandemic—up to 4.5% from 3.7% last year. January 2000 to July 2025, seasonally adjusted



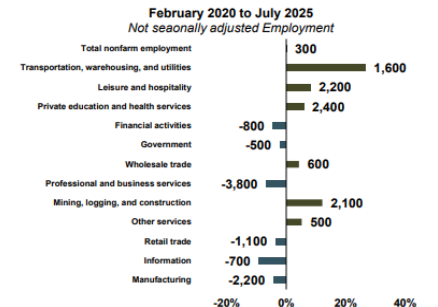
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Employment in Washington County reached 305,000 in July 2025, a –5,700 decrease from July 2024.



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

Total employment in Washington County is roughly even with pre-pandemic levels, varying by sector.



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics

Got questions?
Want to join the distribution list? Email me!

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Thank You!

Please scan the QR code for a short survey.



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