



# Lane County's Current Employment Situation and Forecast

Lane County League of Women Voters

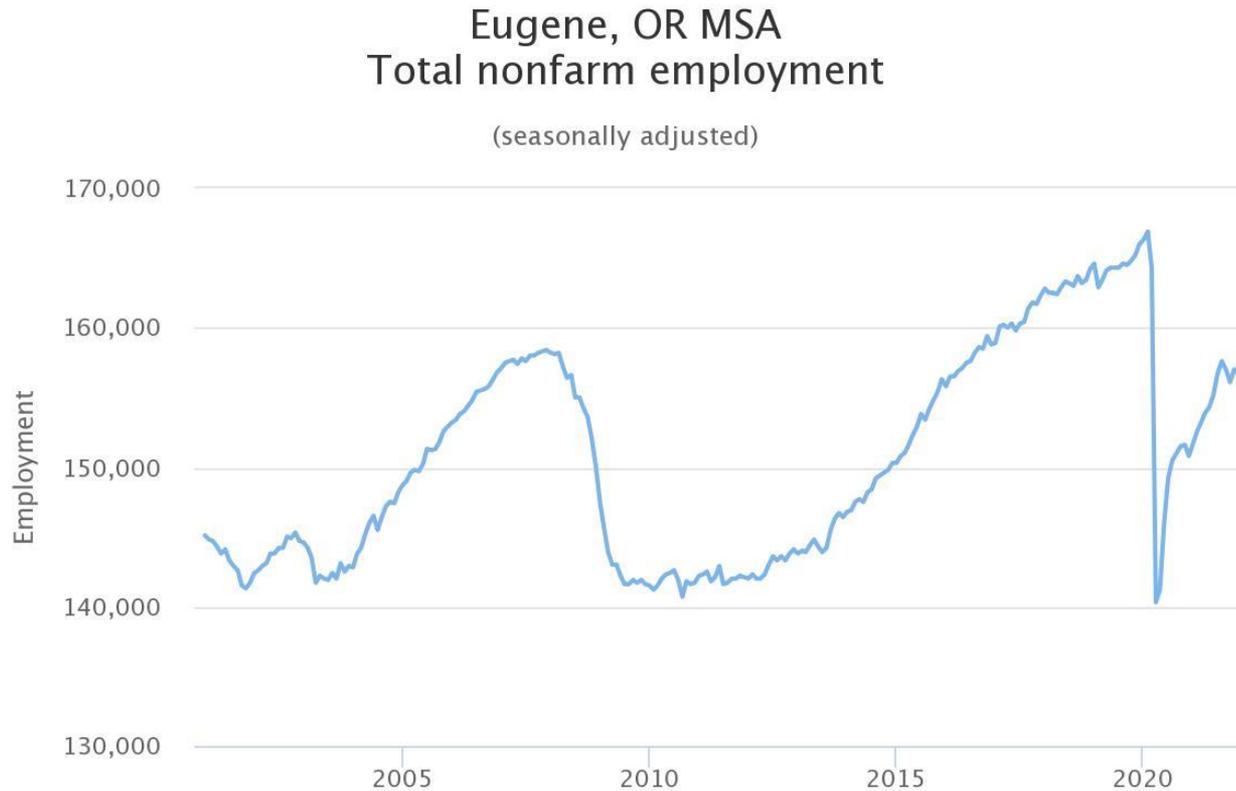
Brian Rooney  
March 17, 2022

## Today's agenda:

- Employment and unemployment trends.
- Labor shortage.
- New employment forecasts

# Employment and Unemployment During the Recovery From Pandemic Losses

# Lane County is approaching prepandemic employment levels.



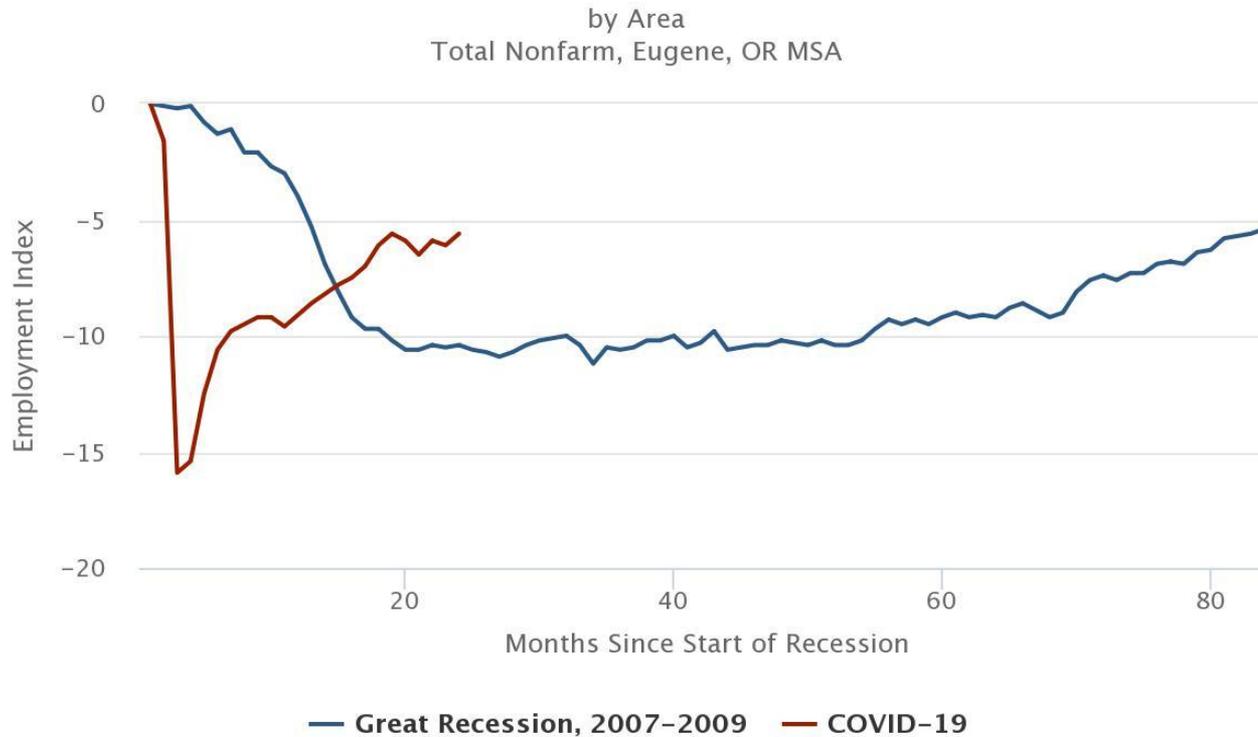
Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

- ✓ Lane County lost 26,600 jobs (16%) between February and April of 2020. It had gained back 18,800 (65%) of what was lost by January 2022.
- ✓ Statewide, Oregon lost 14% between February and April 2020. It had gained back 82% of what was lost by January 2022.
- ✓ Areas with a higher concentration of jobs in restaurants and hotels like the North Coast were the hardest hit.



# Relatively Fast Jobs Recovery

## COVID-19 Job Changes Compared to Great Recession Job Changes

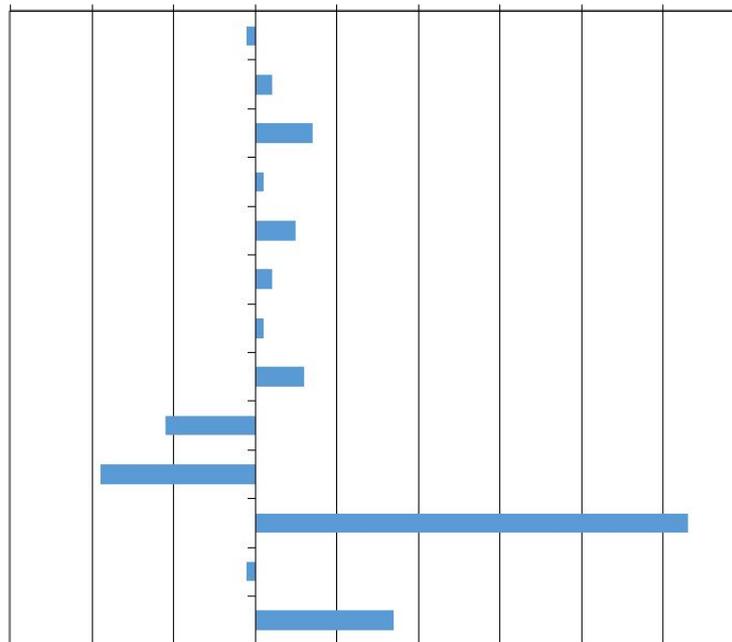


Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

During the Great Recession we were just hitting the bottom at 24 months.

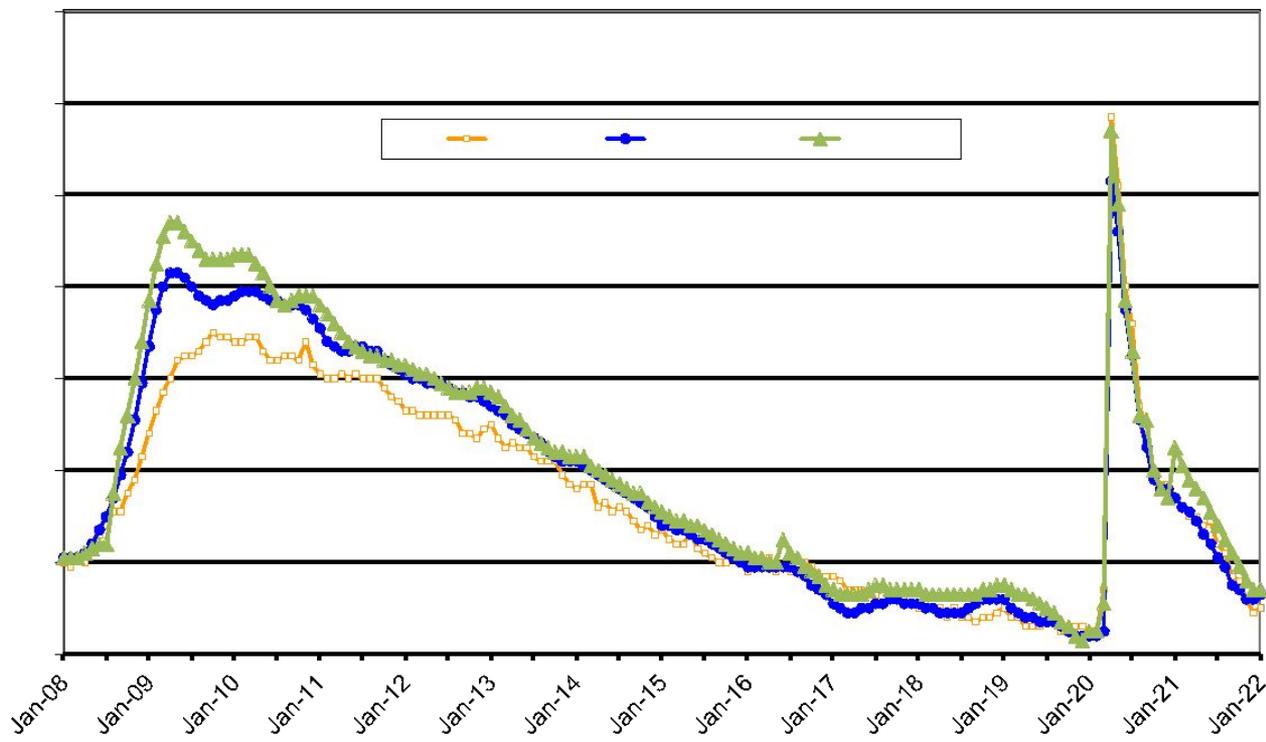
Lane County employers added **5,900 jobs in the 12 months leading up to January 2022**. That's as many jobs as they added in the 30 months leading up to the pandemic recession.

# Most industries continue to rebound from the pandemic recession.



*Total payroll employment is up 5,900 (3.9%) over the year.*

Lane County's January 2022 unemployment rate stood at 4.4 percent, down from 7.5 percent in January 2021 and a high of 14.4 percent in April 2020.



- ✓ Lane County reached a record low rate of 3.3% in December 2019.
- ✓ Oregon's statewide rate was 4.3% in January.
- ✓ U.S. unemployment rate was 4.0% in January.



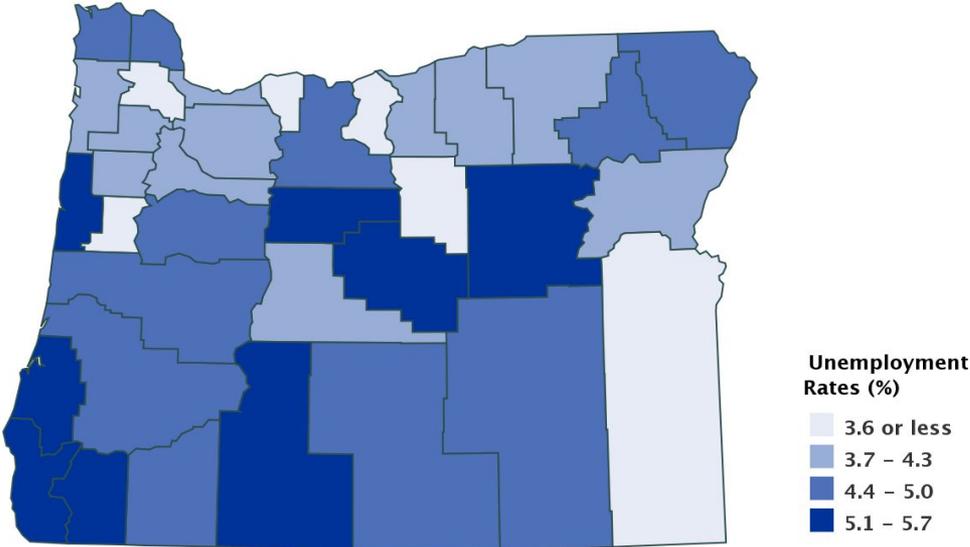
# Oregon Unemployment Rates by County

In January 2022, 25 of Oregon's 36 counties experienced over-the-month decreases in their unemployment rates.

Grant County had Oregon's highest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January at 5.7%.

Wheeler County registered the lowest unemployment rate for the month at 3.0%.

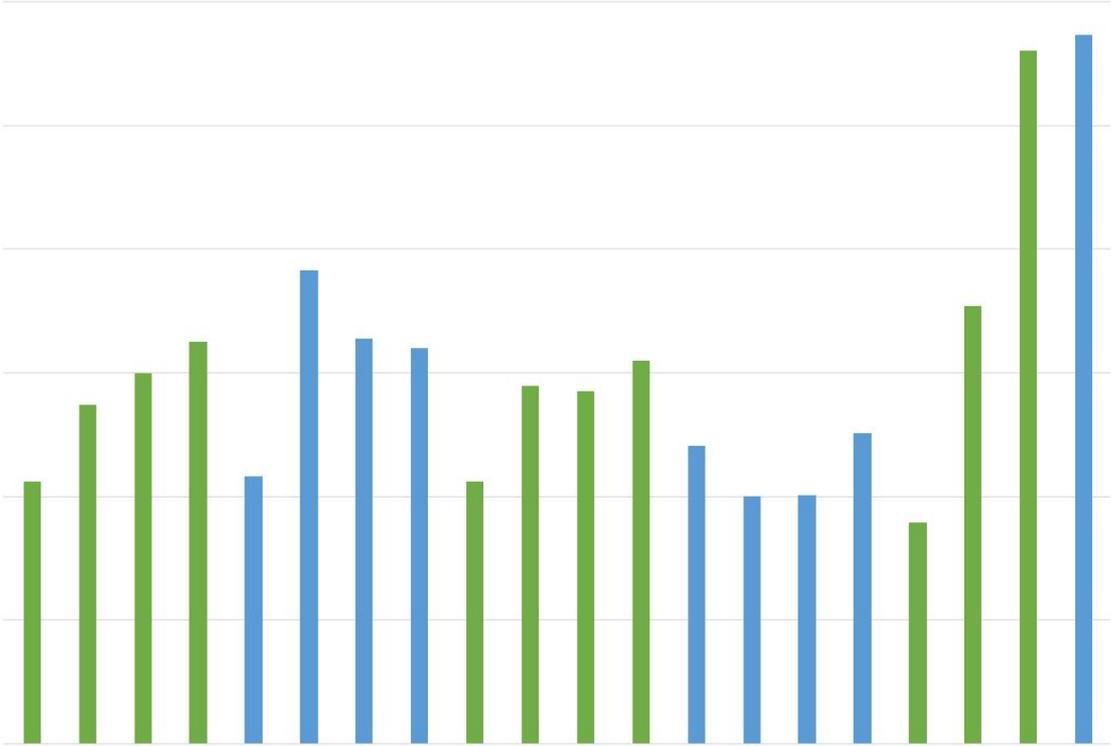
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate, January 2022



Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

# Labor Shortage

# Employers reported a record number of vacancies in the fall of 2021.

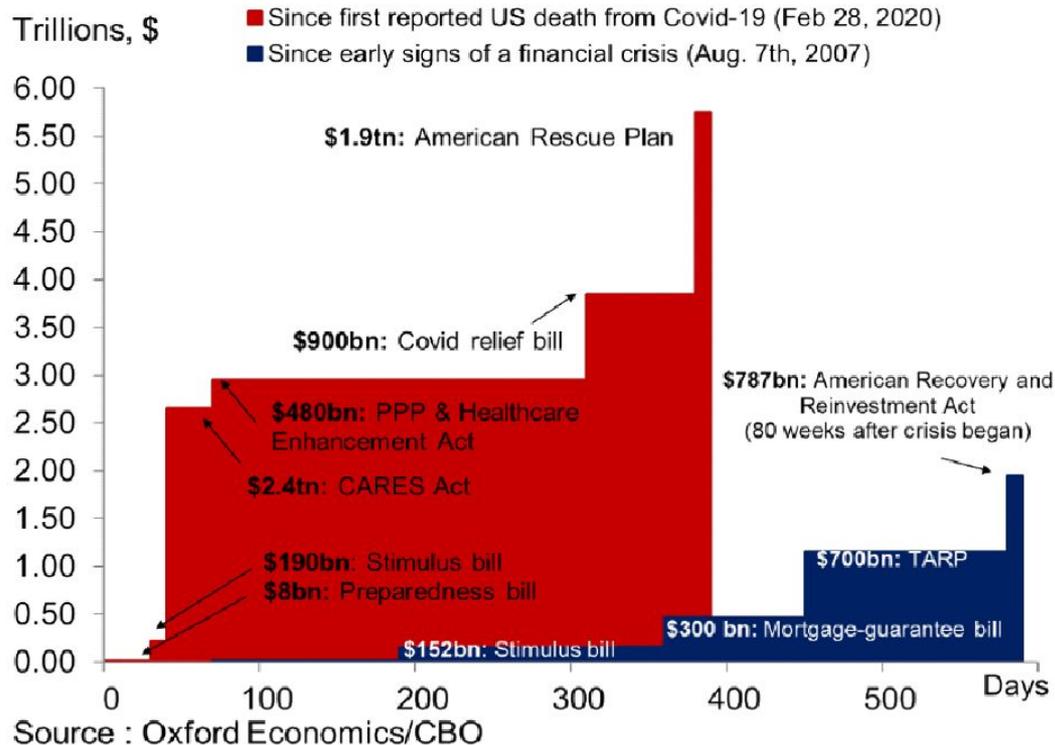


This only represents private job vacancies

So 11,460 is at least as many job openings as Lane County businesses have been trying to fill in recent months.

# What's fueling record levels of job vacancies?

## US: Funds authorized by Congress



The economy got much more stimulus – and much faster than during the Great Recession.

Higher household incomes and savings fuel more demand for goods and services (and jobs to make/provide them)

Record quits

Less In-migration

Retirements

# Why didn't the end of enhanced UI also end worker shortages?

**Federal Pandemic Unemployment Claims that Ended as Share of Job Vacancies**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Regular Claims Ended</b>	<b>Regular + PUA Claims Ended</b>	<b>2021 Summer Job Vacancies</b>	<b>Regular% Vacancies</b>	<b>All Pandemic Claims % of Vacancies</b>
Lane County	4,228	7,571	11,203	38%	68%
Oregon Statewide	46,454	77,931	106,951	43%	73%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Even if all the Oregonians whose regular benefits ended were able to match to a job vacancy in their area, it would still leave notable shortfalls.

There are still the 3,300 people in Lane County whose PUA benefits ended too. As the program drew to a close, four out of five of these workers were self-employed.

# Private health care and social assistance reported the most vacancies of any industry.

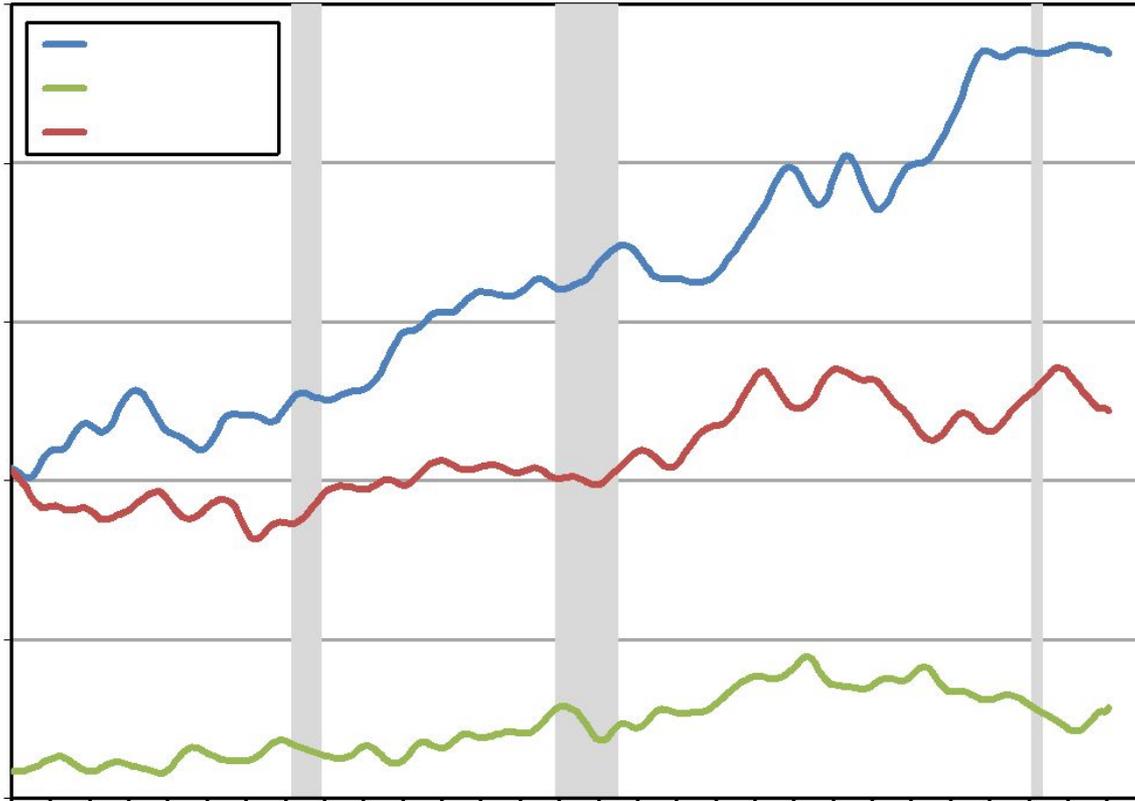
Lane County Job Vacancies by Industry, 2021

Industry	Vacancies	Average Wage
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>8,857</b>	<b>\$18.62</b>
Health care and social assistance	2,301	\$19.67
Construction	994	\$19.59
Manufacturing	964	\$18.35
Leisure and hospitality	913	\$13.93
Other services	754	\$19.07
Retail trade	711	\$14.70
Management, administrative, and waste services	706	\$21.29
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	487	\$19.58
Wholesale trade	336	\$18.16
Professional, scientific, and technical services	258	\$28.37
Financial activities	228	\$21.12
Natural resources and mining	103	\$15.13
Private educational services	102	\$19.66

*Note: While we've all seen evidence of local school districts hiring as in-person classes resume, those openings and other government hiring aren't captured in this survey of private-sector businesses.*



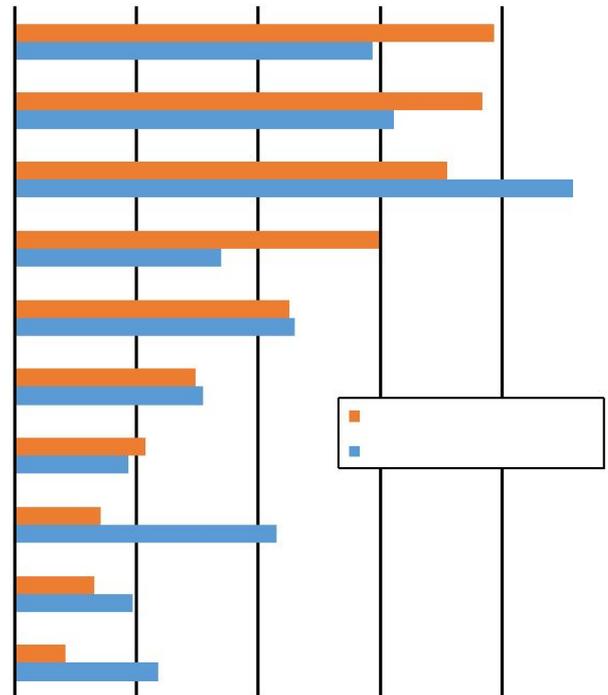
# Struggling Beyond the Pandemic: Retirements



*The number of people who were not in Oregon's labor force due to retirement grew by 21% between 2016 and 2019.*

*Lane County's share of workers 55+ = 25%, about the same as Oregon.*

# Some workers still have barriers to getting back to work.



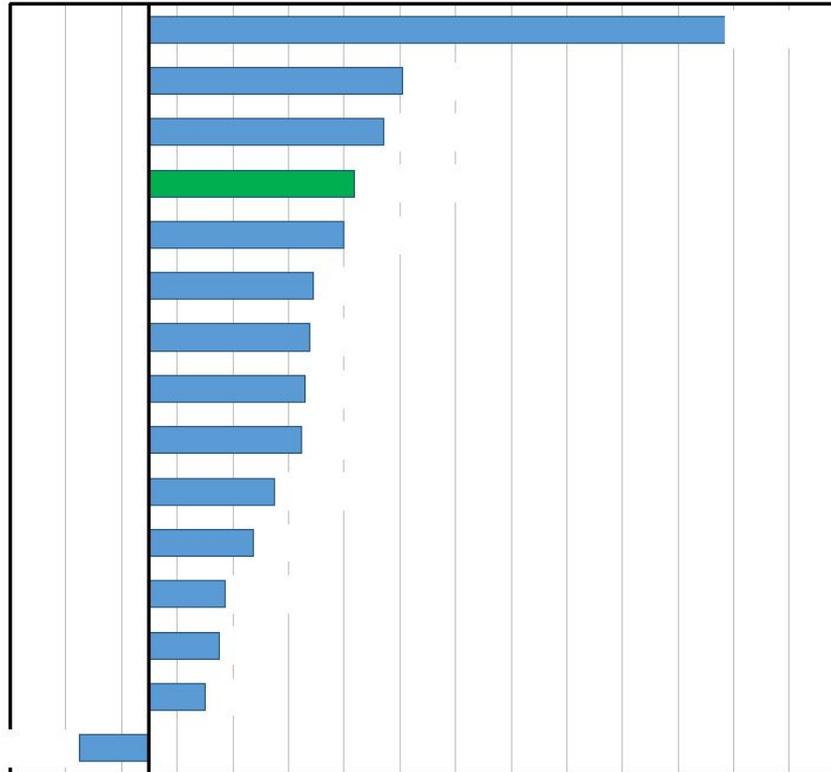
- Total not working dropped from 1.34 million to 1.30 million.

More workers should enter the labor force in the not so immediate future as:

- Schools reopen and child care shortages are addressed.
- Sickness from COVID abates.
- Concern for getting or spreading COVID lessens.
- Households run out of savings.
- In-migration increases as pandemic abates.

# Forecast

## Lane County Jobs are Projected to Increase 15% by 2030

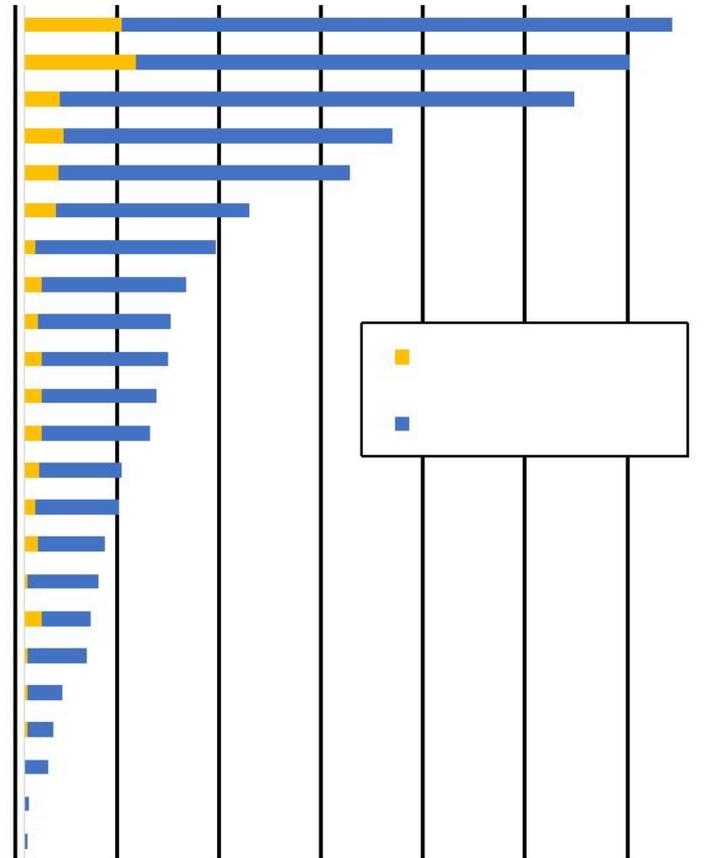


*Leisure and hospitality adds the most jobs due to recovery from the COVID-19 recession.*

*Oregon statewide is expected to increase 16% by 2030.*

*Other areas expected at fastest rate are Central Oregon (18%), Portland area (17%) and Northwest Oregon (16%).*

# All industry sectors provide opportunity through replacement openings.



# Thank you!

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