

OREGON BY THE NUMBERS

THE NUMBERS BEHIND STANDING OUT

Oregon Aspire Conference
October 2, 2026

THE STORY OF THE OREGON WE KNOW

- What is going on out there?
- What opportunities will be coming up in the future?
- How can I get this information to my students?

KEY FACTS FROM RECENT NEWS RELEASE

Oregon’s unemployment rate was little changed at 5.1% in August and 5.2% in July.

- It has been within the range of 5.0% and 5.3% for the past 18 months since March 2025.
- The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.1% in both July and August.

In August, Oregon’s seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 800 jobs, following a revised loss of 1,800 jobs in July.

- August’s losses were largest in professional and business services (-1,100 jobs).
- Gains were largest in construction (+700 jobs) and retail trade (+500).

OREGON ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Unemployment Rate - August 2026

5.1%

Seasonally Adjusted



0.1%

Total Unemployed - August 2026

112,968

Seasonally Adjusted



-1,111

Nonfarm Employment - August 2026

1,973,500

Seasonally Adjusted



-800

Job Vacancies - 2nd Quarter 2026

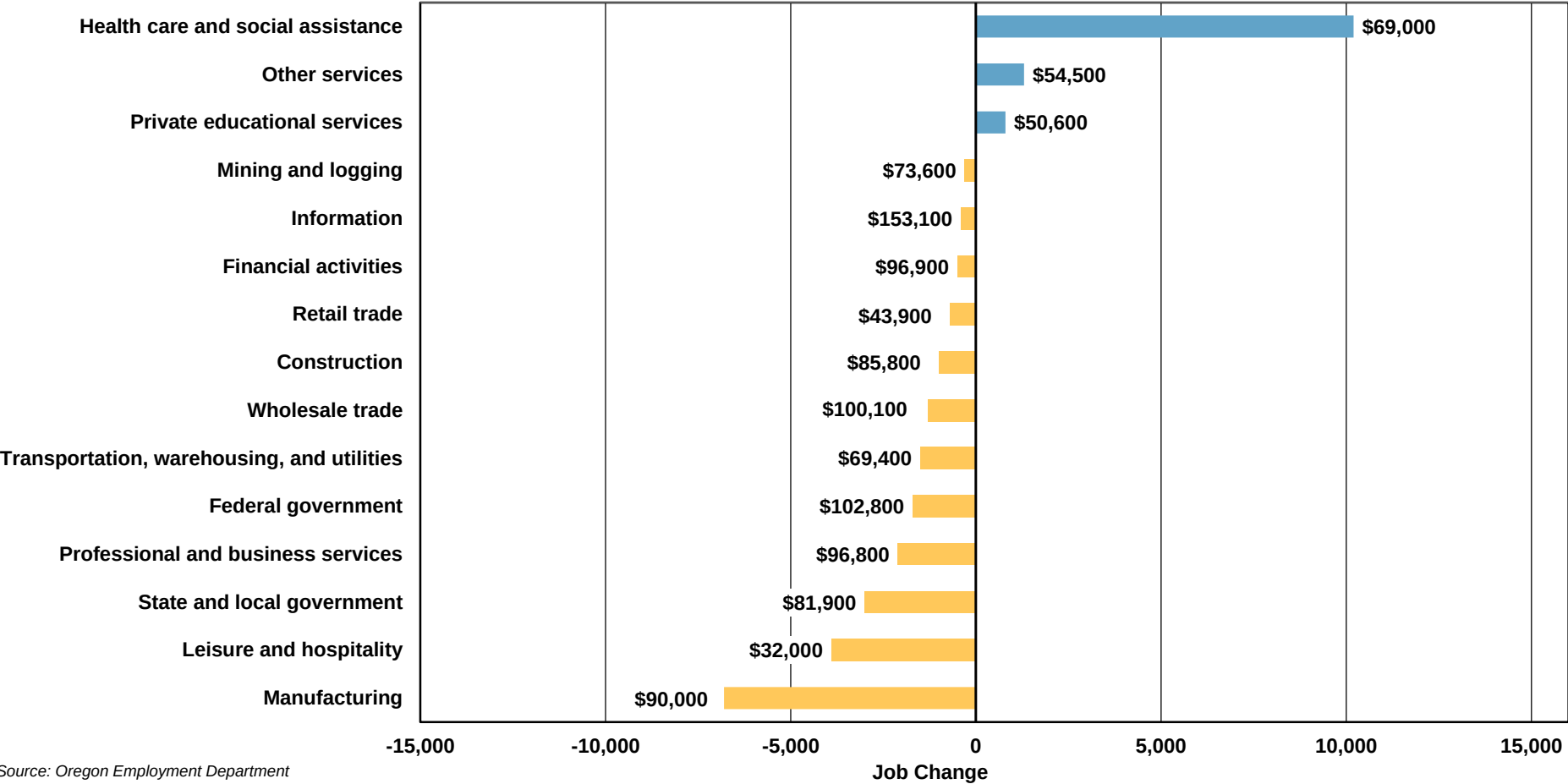
45,378



0.0%

OREGON'S JOB GAINS HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED IN HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE.

Oregon Job Change and Average Pay by Industry
August 2025 - August 2026 Job Change, 2025 Average Pay

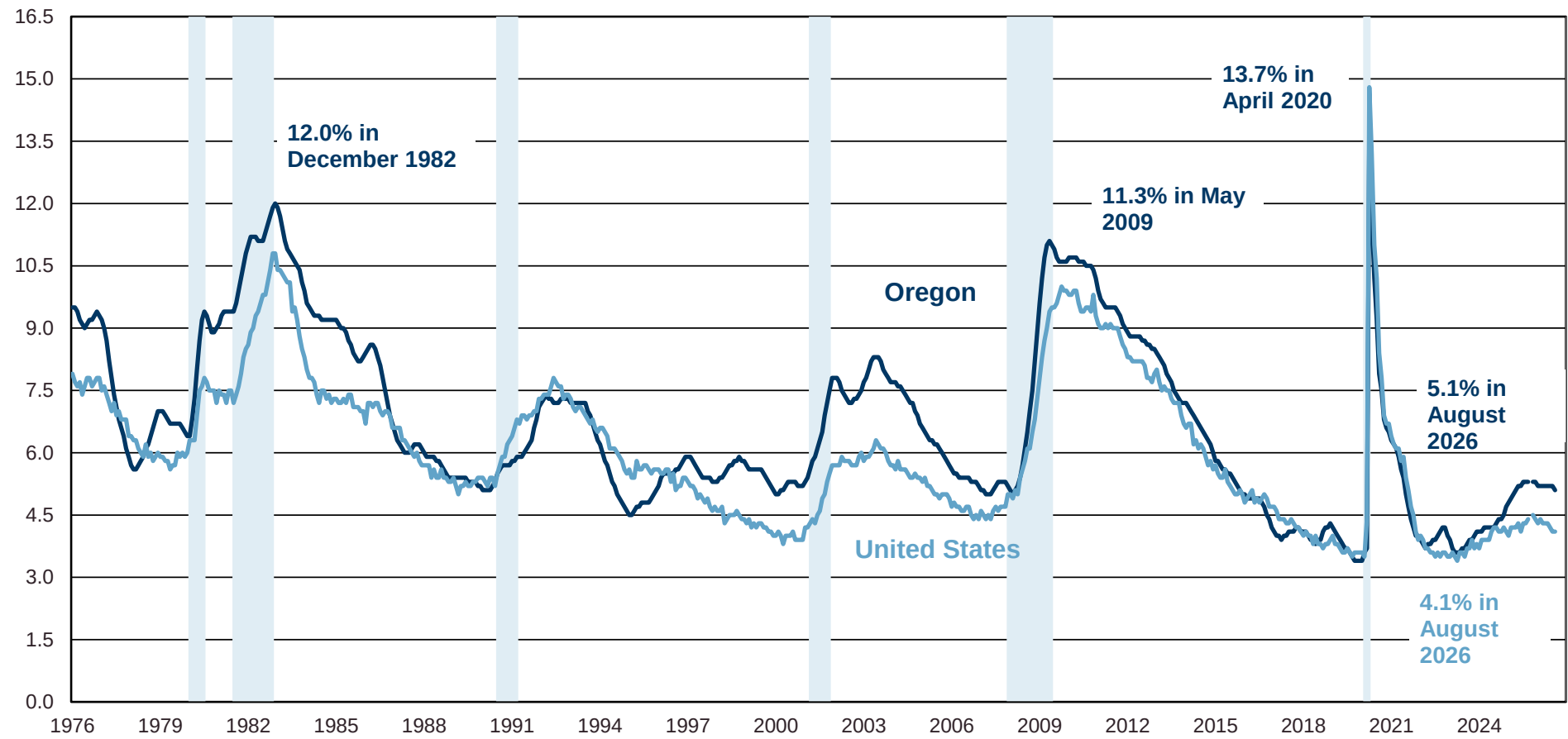


2025 All-Industry
Average = \$73,700

Source: Oregon Employment Department

OREGON'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 5.1% IN AUGUST.

Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 5.1% in August 2026
Unemployed % of Labor Force (Bars Represent Recessions)

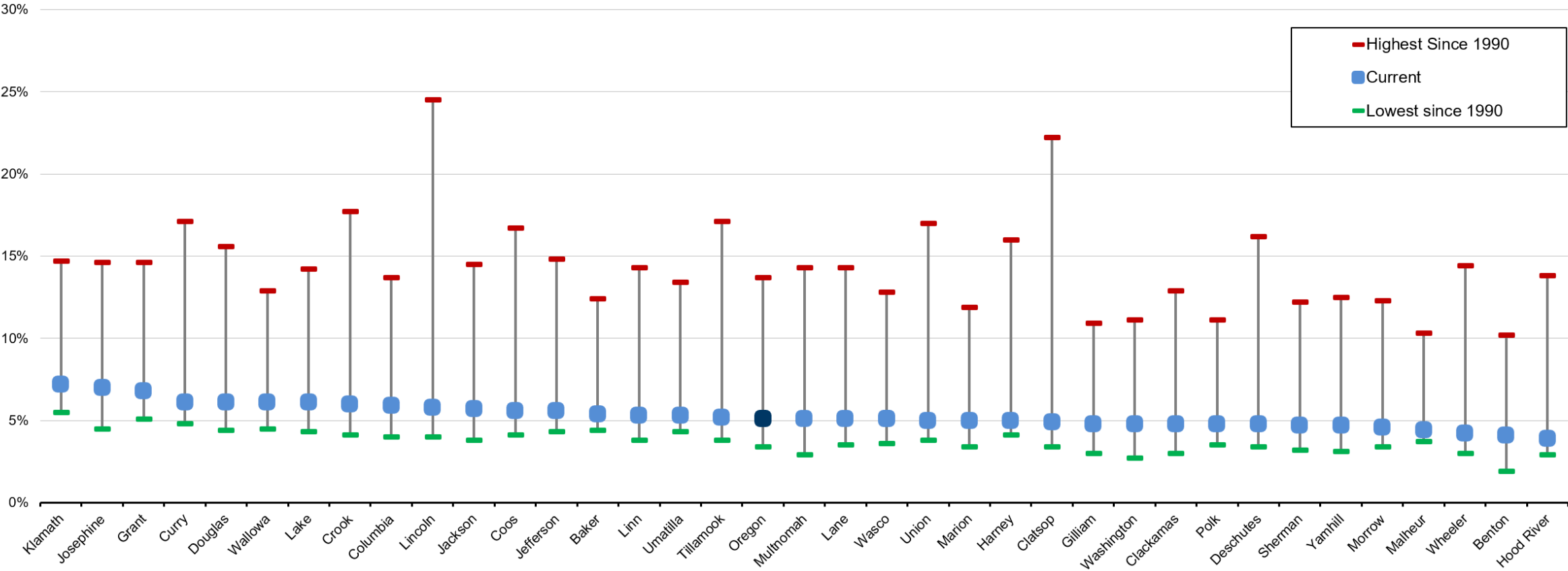


Source: Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Note: The October 2025 LAUS data is not available since underlying data was not collected due to the federal government shutdown that month.

Unemployment Rates in Oregon Counties

Current Rate (August 2026), Record High, and Record Low for Each County, Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

OREGON BUSINESSES REPORTED 45,300 VACANCIES IN SPRING 2026.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Spring 2026

Vacancies	45,378
Average Hourly Wage	\$26.77
Full-time Positions	76%
Permanent Positions	89%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	34%
Requiring Previous Experience	61%
Difficult to Fill	61%

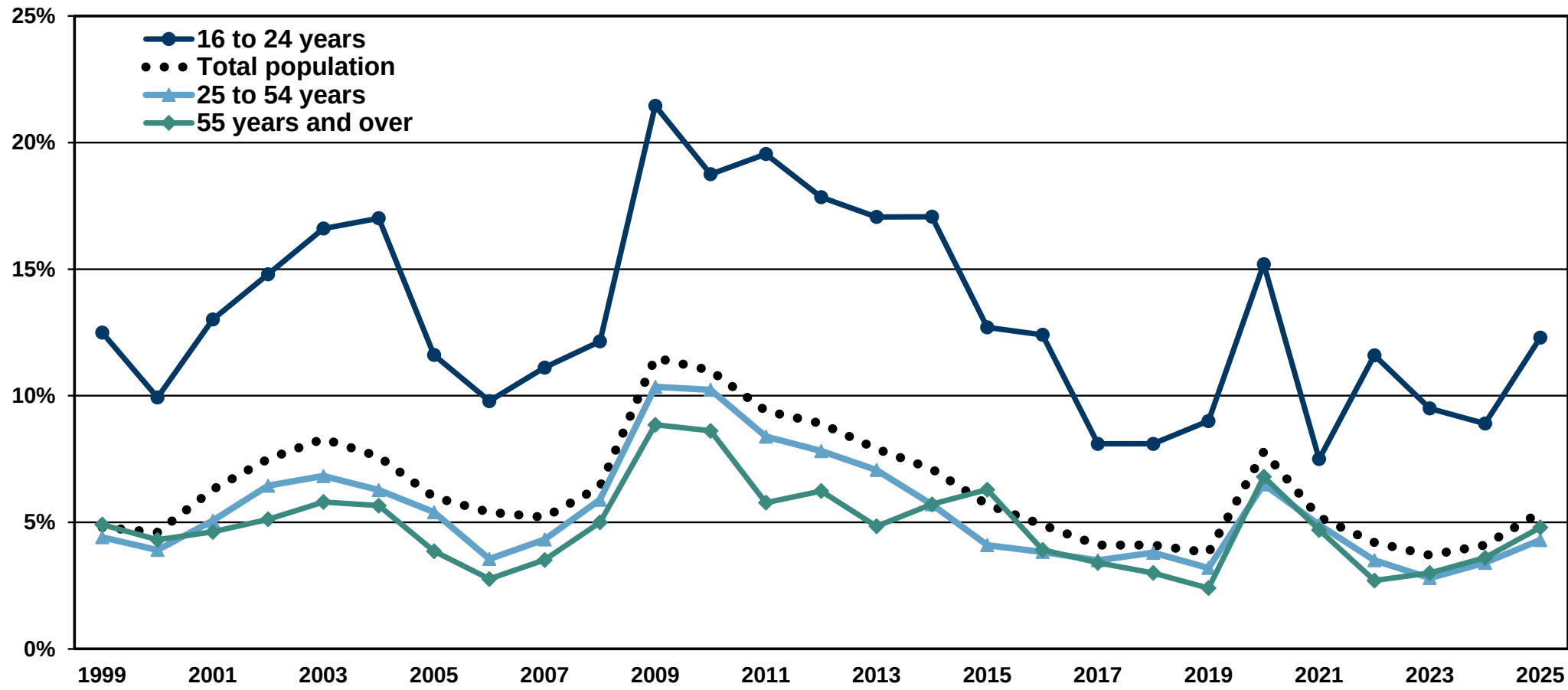
Oregon businesses reported 45,400 vacancies in spring 2026. Vacancies remained flat from the winter and decreased 11% from spring 2025. Employers reported difficulty filling 61% of spring 2026 vacancies.

Characteristics of Oregon job vacancies were consistent with prior quarters. A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position.

Source: Oregon Employment Department

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WERE RELATIVELY LOW FOR EACH AGE GROUP IN 2025.

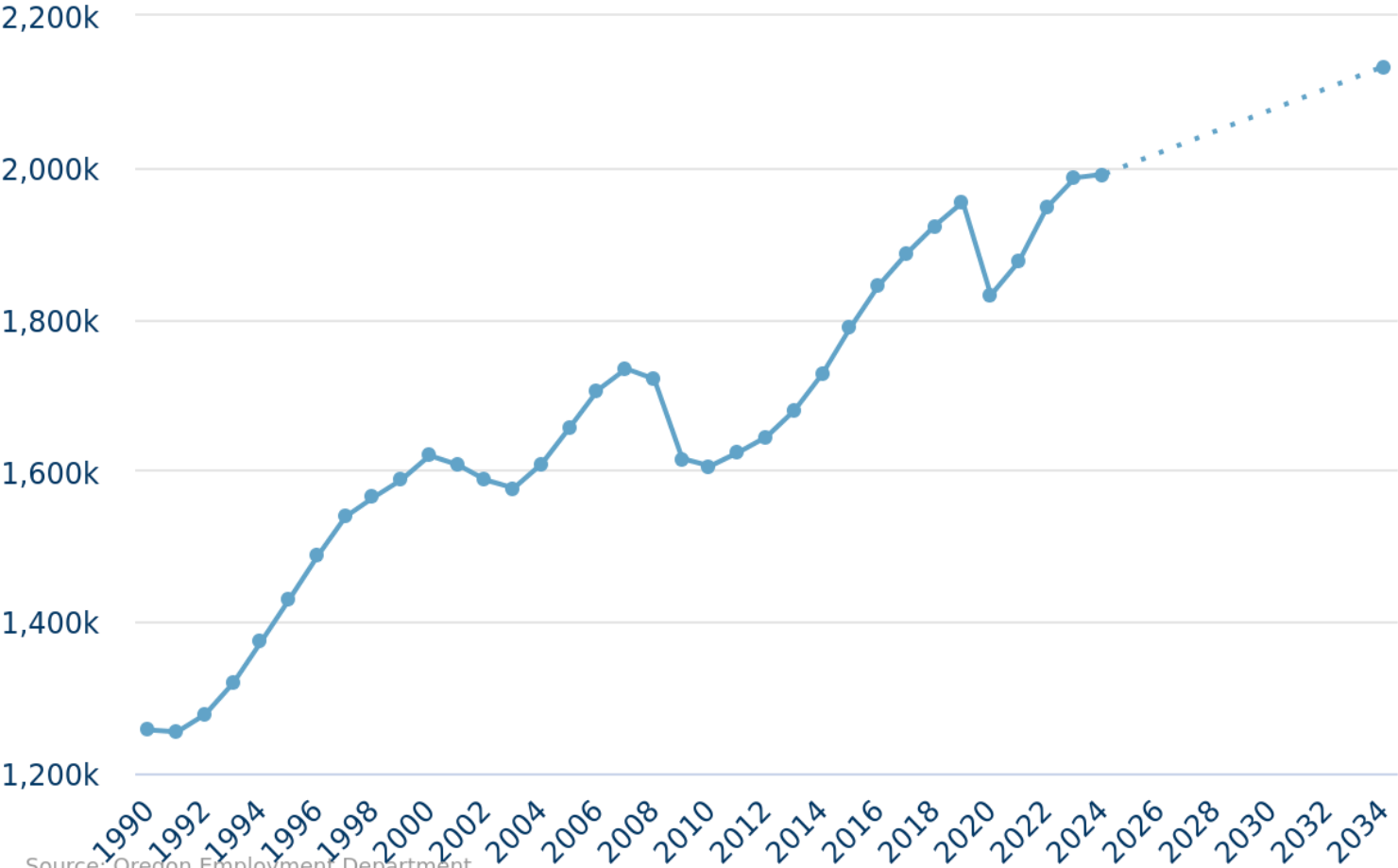
Average Annual Unemployment Rate by Age Category
Oregon, 1999-2025



Source: Current Population Survey, <http://www.bls.gov/lau>

OREGON JOBS PROJECTED TO GROW 6 PERCENT BETWEEN 2024 AND 2034

Oregon to Add 140,600 New Jobs by 2034



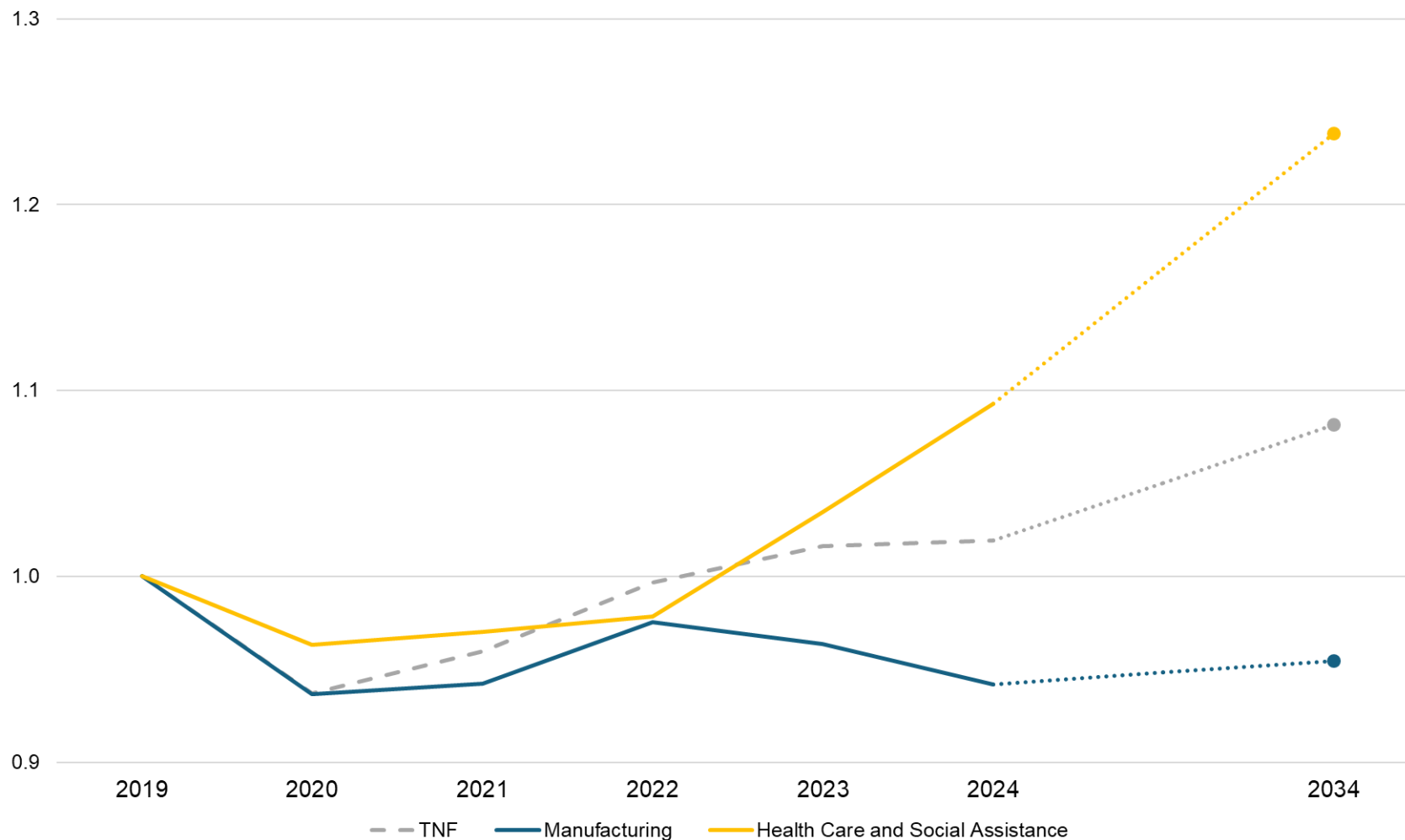
Oregon to Add 140,600 New Jobs by 2034

Oregon's job growth will total 6% between 2024 and 2034. Private payrolls are expected to grow by 125,500 (7%), while government employment will increase by 7,700 (2%), and self-employment will grow by 7,400 (5%).

For every new job added by growing and expanding businesses, Oregon employers will have another nine job openings requiring newly trained workers to replace those who leave the labor force or make a major occupational change.

THESE TRENDS ARE DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON INDUSTRY AND REGION

Employment Projections for Total Nonfarm, Manufacturing, and Healthcare and Social Assistance *Indexed to 2019*



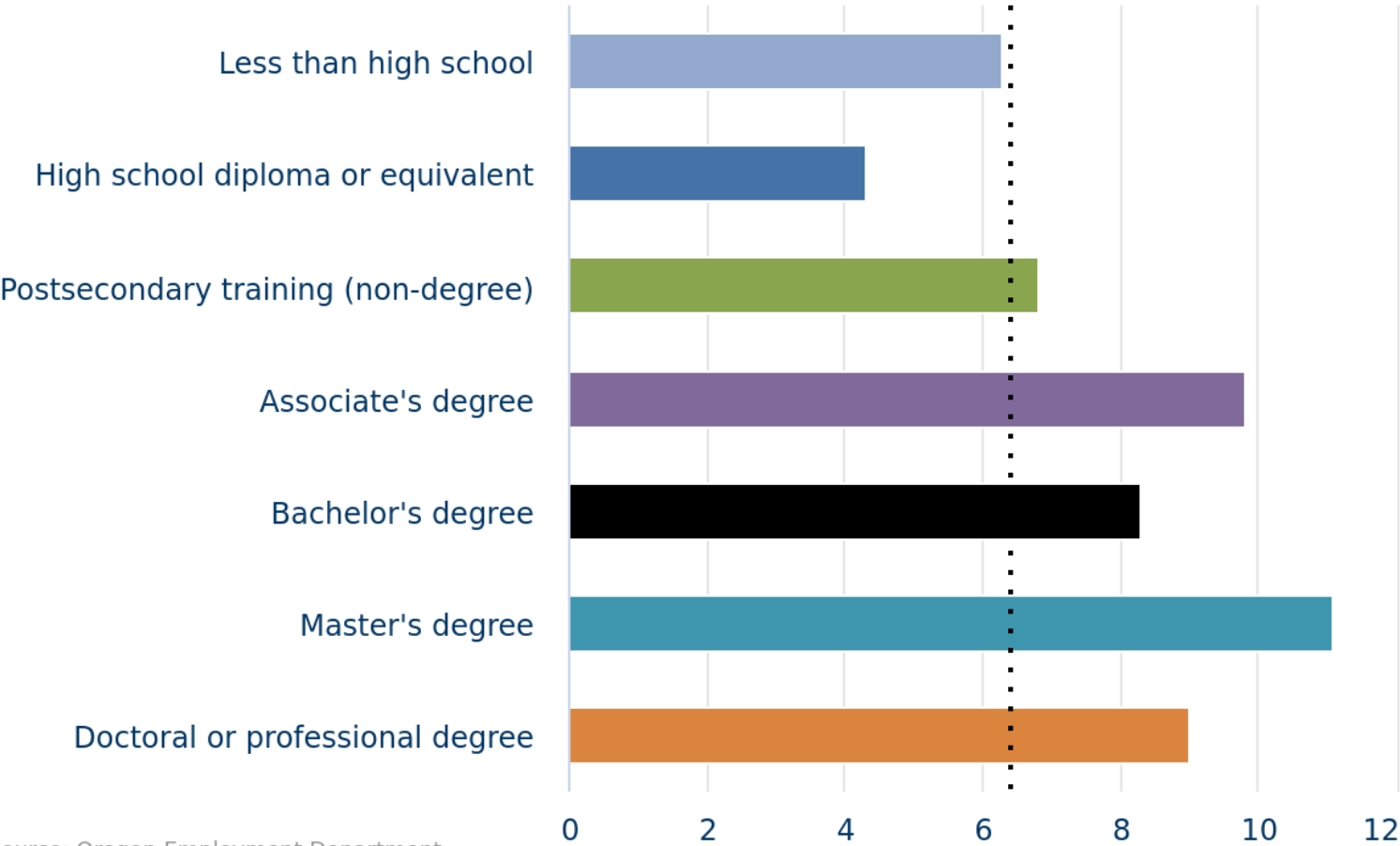
Healthcare and social assistance projected to grow strongly (13%)

Total employment growth set to regain momentum, but be slower (6%)

Manufacturing projected to grow slowly, but not return to previous peak (2%)

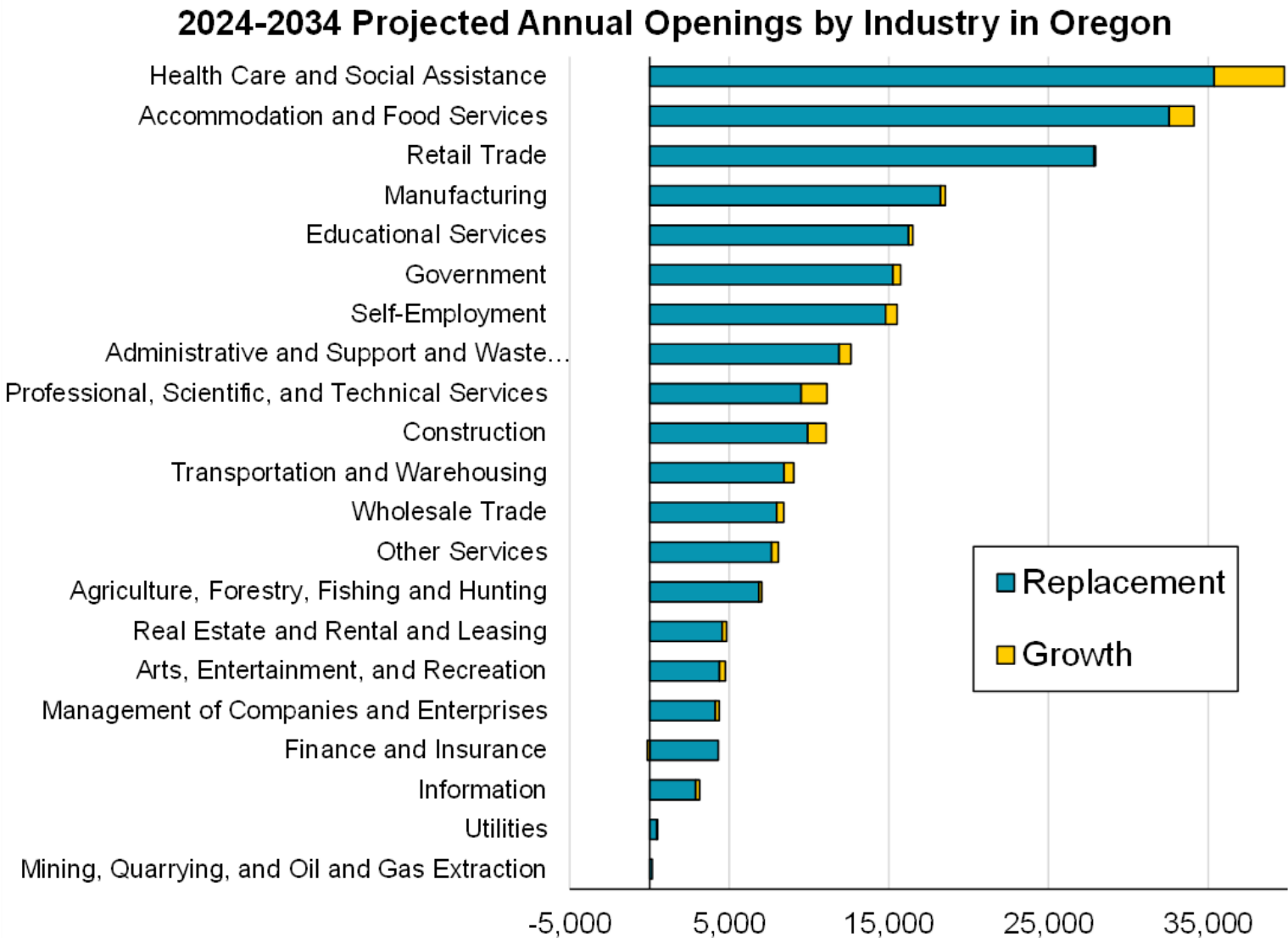
FASTER GROWTH PROJECTED ON CAREERS THAT REQUIRE SKILLING UP

Job Growth by Typical Entry-Level Education, 2024-2034
Overall Growth 6.4%



Source: Oregon Employment Department

HEALTH CARE WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD JOB OPENINGS IN OREGON.



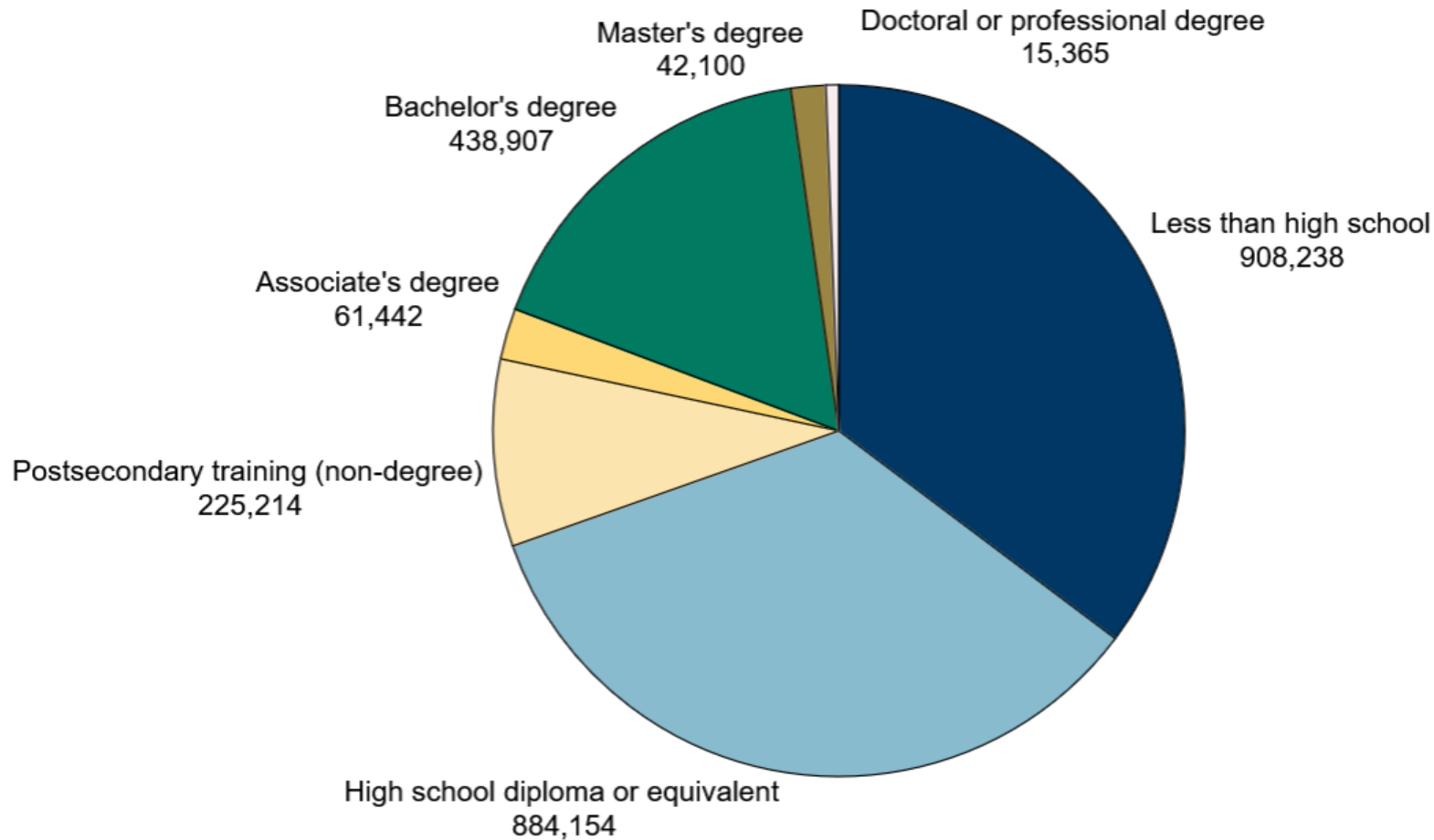
Nine out of every 10 job openings over the decade will be due to the need to replace retiring workers, or those who leave the labor force, or make major occupational changes.

In health care, there will be eight replacement openings for every one new job added by 2034.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Occupational Employment Projections 2024-2034

WHEN PLANNING STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE EXPECTING

2024 - 2034 Job Openings in Oregon, by Typical Entry-Level Education



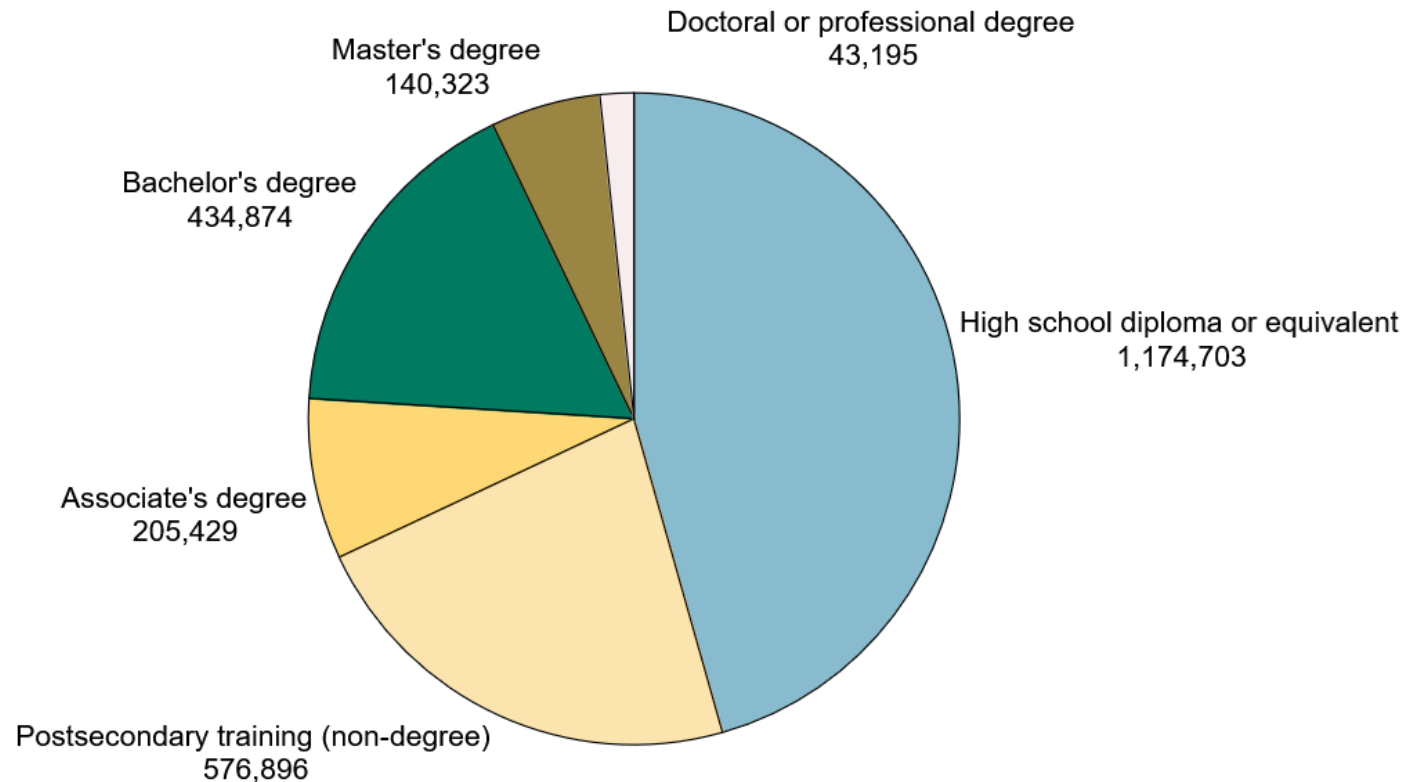
Typical entry-level education gives us a sense of what is required in order for a jobseeker to apply for a particular job.

The majority of projected job openings do not require postsecondary education.

They are also in occupations that generally have higher turnover, and lower wages.

THEY ALSO NEED TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE COMPETING WITH

2024 - 2034 Job Openings in Oregon, by Competitive Education Level



The labor market includes a wide range of jobseekers with different education and experience levels.

We've already seen how many job vacancies requires some form of experience.

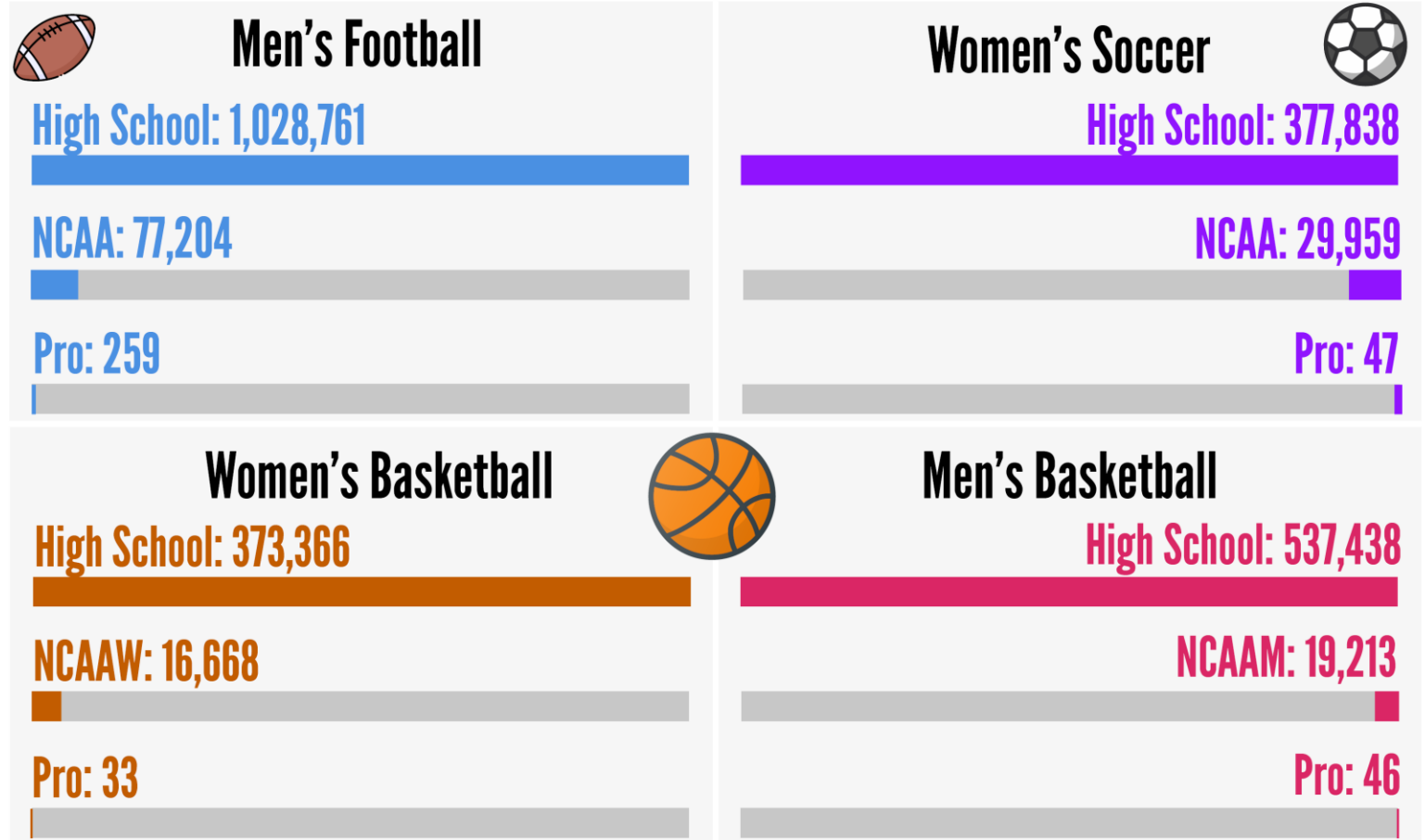
Jobseekers and students should be ready, not to just meet the minimum requirements, but compete against other workers already in a give career.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES BEGIN WITH SETTING THE EXPECTATION

Most high school students do not have accurate expectations of what they could earn in a given career, or whether or not they have a good chance of entering into a given career path. Helping a student who aspires to be a professional athlete is a great example of setting expectations.

It's great for students to have dreams. A successful outcome is preparing that student for both the eventuality of achieving that dream, and the possibility that another path is in their future.

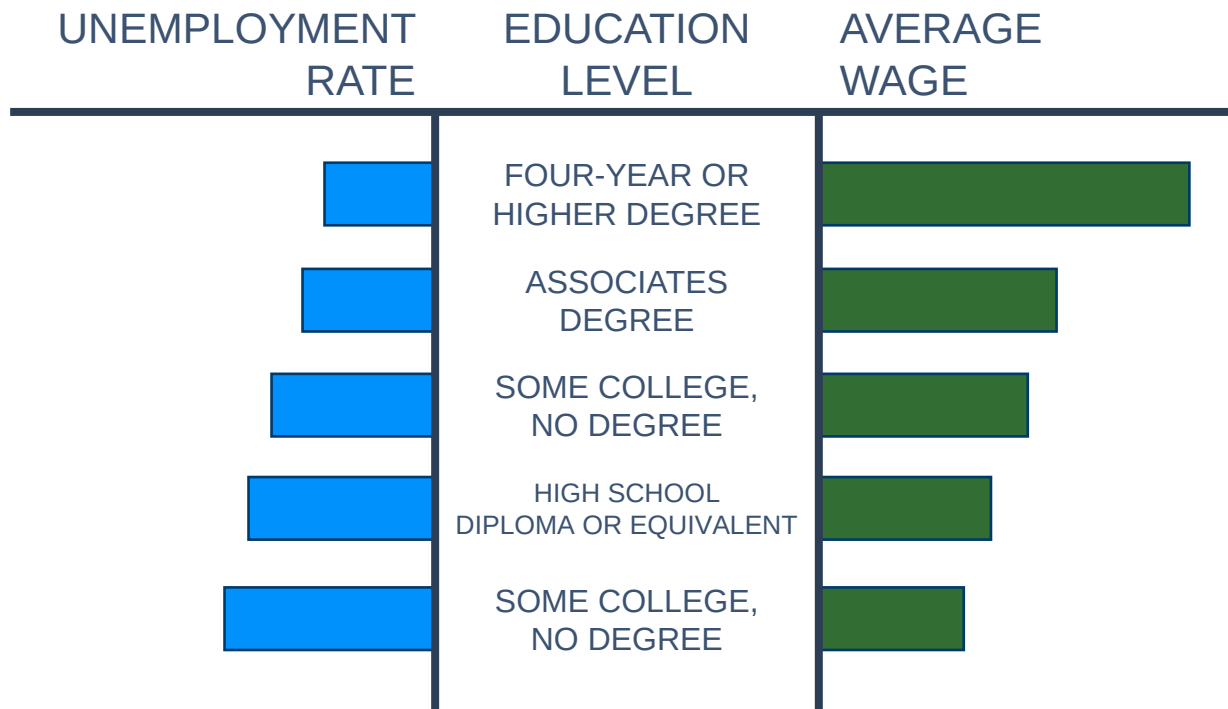
That same message is important for all kinds of careers.



Source: NCAA Research. Figures based on 2022-2023 school year.
Professional figures include only those drafted from NCAA.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU HEARD, “I HAVE THIS, I CAN JUST GET A JOB...”

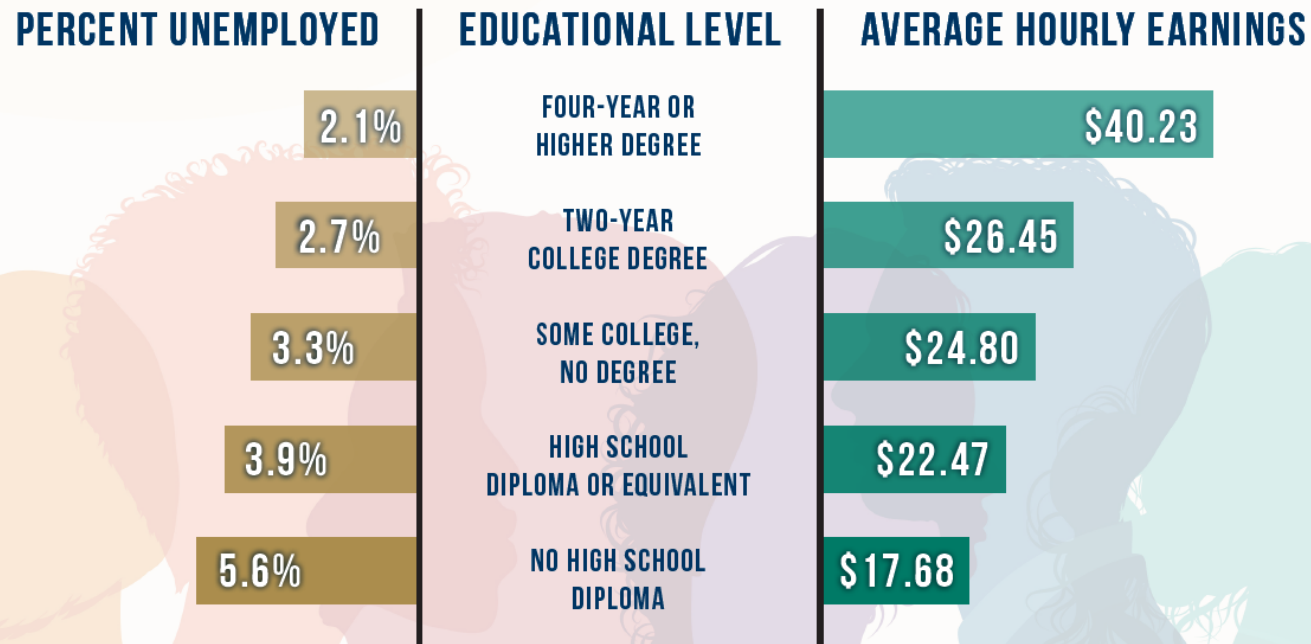
IT CAN BE HARD FOR A STUDENT TO PLAN PAST TODAY, LET ALONE NEXT MONTH, OR NEXT YEAR



Committing to a lifetime of skilling up leads to improved employment and wage outcomes.

There is a direct relationship between skilling up through apprenticeships, postsecondary education, and on-the-job experience to improved wages, and lower unemployment rates.

EDUCATION PAYS



WWW.QUALITYINFO.ORG

APPRENTICESHIP • CAREER SCHOOL • CERTIFICATION • COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY • COMMUNITY COLLEGE • GRADUATE SCHOOL

To help emphasize this message we produce education pays posters showing national estimates of average wages, unemployment, and education attainment.

Copies of Education Pays posters may be ordered at www.QualityInfo.org,

Or by contacting
OED_LMIPUBS@employ.oregon.gov

So how can I get this information into the hands of students?

QualityInfo.org

Printed Publications

- Magazines, brochures, and posters
- English and Spanish

Subscription Services

- Email delivery of articles and releases by topic and region
- Business News from Around-the-State (1,960 subscribers)



Oregon Careers Magazine

Is a compilation of careers exploration resources from Oregon Higher Ed, Oregon Career Information System (CIS), and the Oregon Employment Department.

Activity and Teacher guides for the magazine are available in case you walk a class through the material.

You can order free copies of Oregon Careers Magazine by going to our [Publication Order Page](#), or contacting OED_LMIPubs@employ.Oregon.gov

Oregon Careers Magazine are Still Available for 2026!



Occupations in Demand

Is a compact, and accelerated way of sharing the story of

- What occupations will have the most openings?
- What are the average wages for high-demand occupations?
- What is the typical entry-level education for a career?

Activity and Teacher guides for the magazine are available in case you walk a class through the material.

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Occupation Profile Tool

The screenshot shows the 'Occupation Profiles' page for 'Electricians (472111) Oregon (All Counties)'. The page features a navigation bar with links to Home, Tools, Regional Info, Data, Publications, and Press Release. Below the navigation bar, the title 'Occupation Profiles' is displayed. The main content area shows four key statistics: Median Hourly Wage (\$48.17), 2023 Employment (10,029), Job Openings per Year (1,162), and 10-Year Growth (19.8%). A description of the occupation is provided, followed by a list of expandable sections including Job Openings, State of Oregon Licenses & Certifications, Wage Range 2025, Employment Outlook, Area Employment Projections, and Industries of Employment. A video player titled 'Electricians Career Video' is also visible.

Tools Regional Info Data Publications Press Release

Occupation Profiles

Electricians (472111)
Oregon (All Counties)

Median Hourly Wage	2023 Employment	Job Openings per Year	10-Year Growth
\$48.17	10,029	1,162	19.8%

Description

Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems. Excludes Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers (49-2098).

- + Expand All
- + Job Openings Listed with the Oregon Employment Department
- + Job Openings from Other Websites
- + State of Oregon Licenses & Certifications
- + Wage Range 2025
- + Employment Outlook
- + Area Employment Projections
- + Industries of Employment

Electricians Career Video

If you have a student wanting to take a deeper dive in a particular career, we have profiles available for over 800 different careers in Oregon.

- Current job postings
- Education requirements
- Wage Ranges
- Knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Area employment levels

Profiles for hundreds of careers can be found at www.QualityInfo.org

QUESTIONS

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