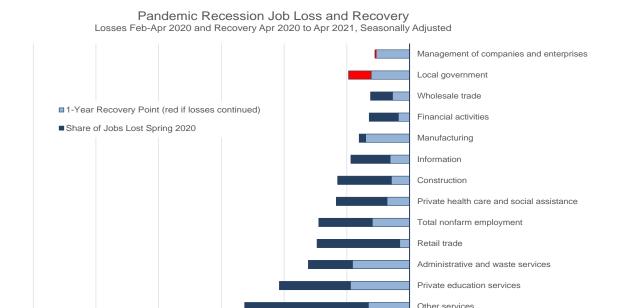


# Disparate Impacts of the Pandemic Recession in Oregon

Census LED Workshop April 6, 2022



# Oregon lost 282,000 (-14.3%) jobs during the initial economic shock in March and April 2020.



Leisure and hospitality, other services, and private education services accounted for nearly half (-48%) of all losses.

Restaurants, hotels, bars, and entertainment places lost more than half of all their jobs in two months.

Other services lost one-fourth of its jobs, and private education services shed one out of every five jobs.

Local government shed jobs from April 2020 to April 2021 (-9.6%).

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics, excludes professional and technical services, and transportation, warehousing, and utilities

-10%

-20%



-60%

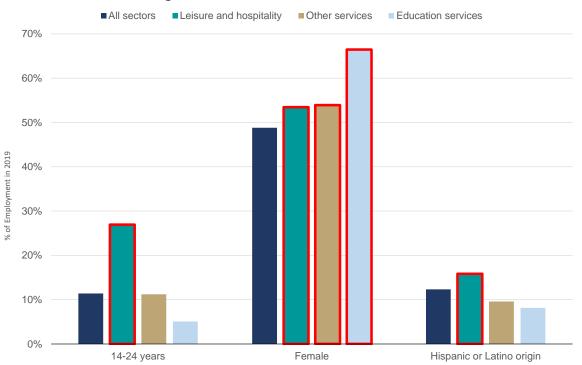
-50%

-40%

Leisure and hospitality

### **Quarterly Workforce Indicators as Part of Research Foundation**

Women, Youth, and Workers of Hispanic or Latino Origin Overrepresented in Oregon's Hardest-Hit Pandemic Recession Sectors



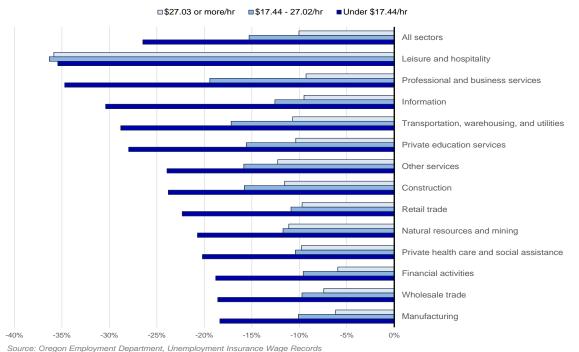
Employment by demographics and industry inform our expectations of who might be more likely to experience unemployment.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators



#### QWI Enhances the View from Our Own Wage Records

#### Share of All Stable Jobs Lost in Oregon by Wage Category, Second Quarter 2020

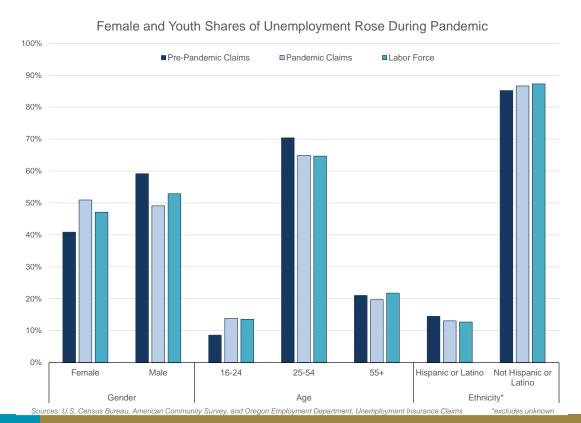


Stable jobs declined by 17.3% across all wage earners in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2020.

- -26.5% for the lowest one-third of earners.
- -15.3% for middle-wage earners
- -10.0% for high-wage earners

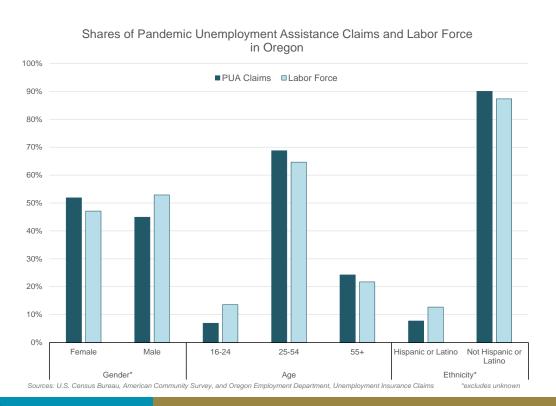


### Women and young workers overrepresented in regular unemployment insurance claims, while Hispanic workers were underrepresented in pandemic claims.





## Women also had an outsized share of pandemic unemployment assistance claims relative to their share of labor force.

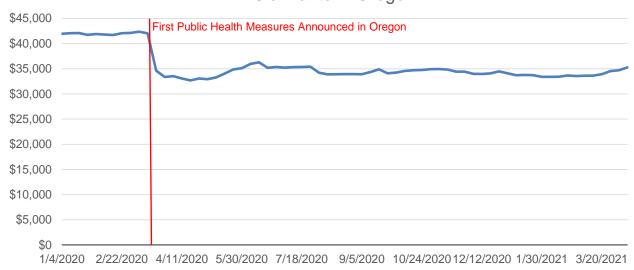


- Women made up 52% of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claimants but only 47% of the labor force.
- Younger workers' share of PUA claims (7%) was half the size of the share of the labor force (14%)
- Hispanic or Latino workers were also underrepresented among PUA claimants (8% of claims vs. 13% of the labor force)



# Unemployment benefits served as a safety net of support for lower-earning workers during the pandemic.





Week End Date

Nationally, 2 out of 5 workers in households with income below \$40,000 lost jobs in March 2020.

In Oregon, the average base year earnings for those receiving UI benefits dropped by 22% to \$32,700 in the months after the pandemic recession began.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Unemployment Insurance Benefits



### **Potential Barriers to Accessing Unemployment Insurance**

Overloaded phone lines

Oregon has long had language line assistance for claimants to get interpreters. Yet the Employment Department received **20 million inbound calls to unemployment claims lines** in April 2020 alone.

 Lack of in-person assistance during the pandemic due to social distancingrelated health measures

This impacts things like ability to access internet for claim activity at a job center or public library

• Timely information in languages other than English

Oregon translated unemployment information and applications into 15 languages, but it took time.



# Roughly 6% of people in Oregon's labor force had limited English proficiency in 2019.

#### Labor Force's Ability to Speak English by Race and Ethnicity in Oregon, 2019

Race/Ethnicity	All English Abilities	Speaks English but less than "very well"	Does Not Speak English	Limited English Proficiency	% With Limited English Proficiency
All	2,095,541	115,212	15,299	130,511	6.2%
Some Other Race	70,798	22,396	2,451	24,847	35.1%
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	108,283	28,316	1,726	30,042	27.7%
Black or African American	39,909	2,798	251	3,049	7.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	23,049	1,309	144	1,453	6.3%
Two or More Races	83,651	3,522	435	3,957	4.7%
White	1,769,851	56,871	10,292	67,163	3.8%
Hispanic or Latino	266,968	70,293	12,841	83,134	31.1%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	1,828,573	44,919	2,458	47,377	2.6%

Communities in Oregon who identified as Some Other Race (35.1%), Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander (27.7%), or Hispanic or Latino (31.1%) had higher shares of people with limited English proficiency in 2019.

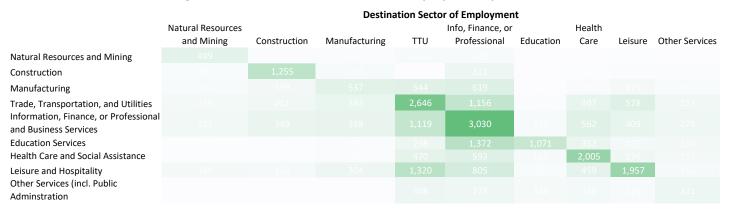
Source: Oregon Employment Department and IPUMS-USA, American Community Survey

Note: Limited English Proficiency is defined in this analysis as speaking English less than "very well"



### Where Did They Go? Next Steps in Research (*Draft/Concept*)

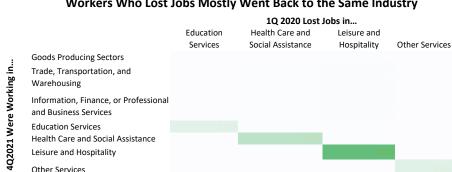
#### Oregon Workers Hired After a Brief Nonemployment Spell, 3Q2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Job-to-Job Flows, LEHD

Job-to-Job flows as baseline or comparison, following workers nonemployment spell.

#### Workers Who Lost Jobs Mostly Went Back to the Same Industry







### Gail Krumenauer, State Employment Economist

Gail.K.Krumenauer@employ.oregon.gov

Join the conversation:

Twitter @OED\_Research

