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
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
Stable jobs declined by 17.3% across all wage earners in 2nd 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.

Female and Youth Shares of Unemployment Rose During Pandemic

- Gender: Female and Male
- Age: 16-24, 25-54, 55+
- Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino, Not Hispanic or Latino

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, and Oregon Employment Department, Unemployment Insurance Claims
*excludes unknown
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).

**Shares of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Claims and Labor Force in Oregon**

**Sources:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, and Oregon Employment Department, Unemployment Insurance Claims  
*excludes unknown
Unemployment benefits served as a safety net of support for lower-earning workers during the pandemic.

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 distancing-related 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.

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

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"

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination Sector of Employment</th>
<th>Natural Resources and Mining</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
<th>TTU</th>
<th>Info, Finance, or Professional</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Health Care</th>
<th>Leisure</th>
<th>Other Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources and Mining</td>
<td>499</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>523</td>
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<td>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>383</td>
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<td>Information, Finance, or Professional and Business Services</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>1,119</td>
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<td>132</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>274</td>
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<td>Education Services</td>
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<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
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<td>Leisure and Hospitality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Services (incl. Public Administration)</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>1,320</td>
<td>805</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>1,957</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Job-to-Job Flows, LEHD

Workers Who Lost Jobs Mostly Went Back to the Same Industry

1Q 2020 Lost Jobs in... | Education Services | Health Care and Social Assistance | Leisure and Hospitality | Other Services
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Goods Producing Sectors | Trade, Transportation, and Warehousing | Information, Finance, or Professional and Business Services | Education Services | Health Care and Social Assistance | Leisure and Hospitality | Other Services
4Q2021 Were Working in... | Education Services | Health Care and Social Assistance | Leisure and Hospitality | Other Services

Support Business • Promote Employment
Gail Krumenauer, State Employment Economist
Gail.K.Krumenauer@employ.oregon.gov

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