



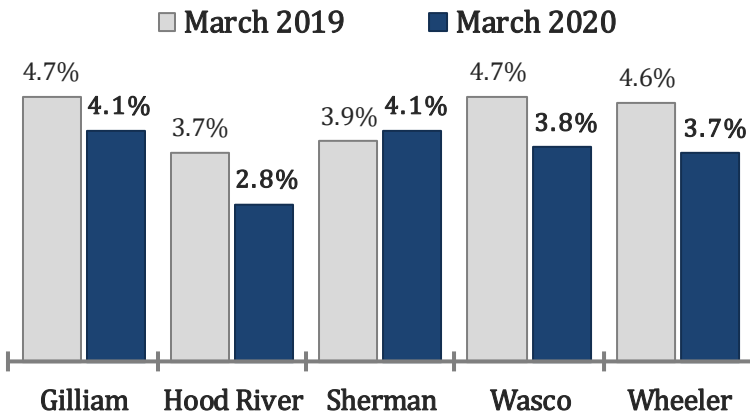
Columbia Gorge Economic Indicators

(March 2020 data)

April 2020 Edition

NOTE: March data was collected prior to major economic impacts related to COVID-19

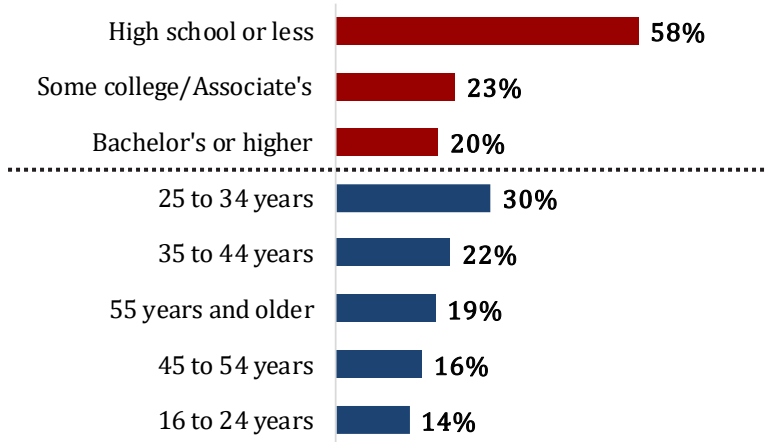
Local Area Unemployment Rates (Seasonally adjusted)



Graph of the Month

Characteristics of Oregon's UI Claimants—Last 5 Weeks

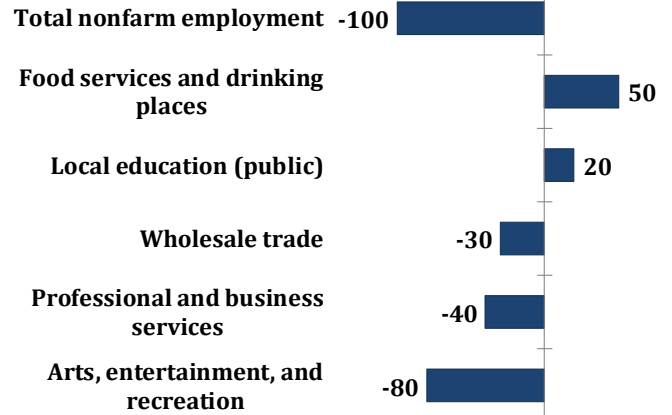
Source: Oregon Employment Department, Weeks ending 03/21 through 04/18



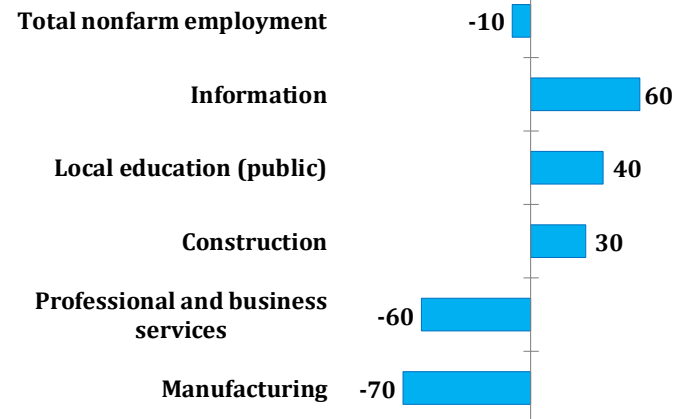
In the last five weeks there were 333,700 Oregonians who filed for unemployment insurance. Once a claim is processed, we have more detailed information about the claimant. Those with a high school diploma or less accounted for 58 percent of the initial unemployment insurance (UI) claims in the past five weeks, while only accounting for 28 percent of the labor force. Of those initial claims, 30 percent were filed by those age 25 to 34 years old - a cohort comprised by a large degree of Millennials (ages 24 to 39). Both of these data points are concerning because workers that fall in these categories typically have less savings built up, and are more likely to be cost-burdened (paying over 30 percent of their income on housing). It will be particularly difficult for these individuals to weather the weeks of financial turbulence of the "Great Lockdown" caused by COVID-19 and its restrictions.

Industry Gains and Losses (Over-the-year net employment change)

Hood River County



Wasco County



Largest Over-the-Year Changes

Gilliam

Total nonfarm employment (-125)
Professional and business services (+25)

Sherman

Total nonfarm employment (+65)
Trade, transportation, and utilities (+35)

Wheeler

Total nonfarm employment (+15)
Local government (+10)