# 2025

# STATE OF THE WORKFORCE

THE COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE WORKFORCE COLLABORATIVE
Working together to develop and support regional talent

Clackamas Workforce Partnership
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

work systems

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It's been nearly six years since COVID-19 sent its first shock waves through the regional economy. During that time, the region has experienced economic whiplash. Record levels of unemployment quickly gave way to worker shortages that crippled local industries.

Today, the regional economy is calmer, but it's clouded by uncertainty and stagnation. Employers are hesitant to invest. Unemployment rates are creeping up. Employers are slow to hire and workers who have jobs are staying put.

In the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area (PVMA), core industries are facing challenges including unpredictable federal policies around trade and immigration, interruptions in public funding, and high interest rates. Households are feeling the pinch. Wage growth has not held pace with the rapidly increasing cost of living.

The data in this report tells a story about the regional labor force, the factors shaping it, and how it informs our work as a collaborative.

## Regional Population

The PVMA includes nine counties in two states. In 2024, the area was home to more than 2.6M people spread across 8,200 square miles.

In recent years, the region's population has grown older, more racially diverse, and more suburban. Despite slowing population growth, there are more households than ever before, straining an already tight housing market. If trends hold, over the next decade the PVMA can expect fewer babies and fewer migrants—both domestic and international—which could result in a smaller labor force.

### SLOWING GROWTH

For more than a century, the PVMA enjoyed steady population growth. Even during periods of economic stagnation, including the recessions of the 1980s and the Great Recession of the early 2010s, the population increased. During the first two decades of the twenty-first century, the region's rate of growth outpaced the nation. That growth has slowed, however, and today we are looking toward a decade with little to no population growth.

There are two components of population change: natural increase and migration.

Natural increase is the total number of births minus the total number of deaths in a population. In the PVMA, the birth rate has been steadily decreasing since the late 1990s. We're not alone. Nationally, and in many parts of the world, the birth rate is following a similar pattern.

Lower birth rates mean fewer children now and fewer workers in the future. Between 2014 and 2023, the share of the regional population aged 0–14 years decreased from 21% to 16%. During the same period, the youth population aged 15–24 years decreased from 13% of the population to 11%. Both groups are projected to decline through 2034.

The one area bucking the trend is Washington County. Between 2020–2024, more than 24,488 babies were born in the county, leading to a natural increase of nearly 8,000 people.

### AN AGING POPULATION

As the birth rate drops, the population is aging. Between 2013 and 2023, the regional median age increased across the PVMA, Oregon, Washington, and the United States. Nationally, the median age increased by nearly two years from 37.3 to 39.2.

In 2023, the median age by county in the PVMA ranged from 38.6 years in Washington County to 54.8 years in Wahkiakum County. Of the nine counties, Washington was the only one with a median age lower than that of the U.S. (38.6 v. 39.2).

One advantage our region currently enjoys is a large population of prime working age. The prime working age population (25–54 years) in the PVMA hovers between 43% and 46% of the total population. This is an advantage because the working-age population typically pays the most taxes and supports non-working dependents. The more people who enter the labor force, the greater the regional economic benefit. As the population ages, however, there are more workers leaving the workforce than entering. Between 2004 and 2024, the share of the population aged 65 to 74 doubled from 5% to 10%.

### MIGRATION

The second piece of population change is domestic and international migration. For decades, the PVMA benefited from a steady stream of migrants, many of whom were younger and better educated then the population already here. More than half of adults aged 25 years and over who moved to the region had completed a bachelors or advanced degree, compared to the 46% of the total population. 31% of the total population is between the ages of 25 and 44, compared to nearly half (46%) of migrants.

Between 2019 and 2023, the majority of migration into the Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro MSA (Portland MSA) was domestic (87%). By county, international migration varied from 6% of total migration in Clark County to 21% in Washington County.

Since the pandemic, the numbers of migrants coming to the region is shrinking. The number of college-educated adults leaving the region now surpasses the number arriving.

### INCREASING DIVERSITY

Compared to the United States, the population of the PVMA is more likely to identify as white alone (61% v 70%). Even in Multnomah (70%) and Washington Counties (66%), which are home to the most racially diverse populations in the PVMA, the share of the population who identify as BIPOC is smaller than the national share nationally.

Compared to the nation, the population of the PVMA is less likely to identify as Hispanic or Latino (14% v 20%) but that is changing rapidly. Between 2004 and 2024, the Hispanic or Latino population increased 36%. Nationally, the rate of growth was 20%.

Between 2014 and 2024, the percentage of the population who identify as BIPOC grew at a significantly faster rate than the total population. Regionally, the total population grew 7%, the American Indian or Alaskan Native population grew 17%, and the Black or African American population grew by more than one third.

In the PVMA, 23% of the population under 30 and 26% of the population under 10 identify as BIPOC, compared to 18% of the total population.

### THE SUBURBAN SHIFT

Within the PVMA, the population is shifting. In 2010, Multnomah County was home to 32% of the region's total population. By 2030, Multnomah County is still projected to have the largest population of the nine counties, but the share is expected to drop to 27%.

At the same time, the share of the population living in neighboring Washington and Clark Counties is increasing. By 2030, 24% of the population is expected to live in Washington County, up from 23% in 2010. In 2030, Clark County is anticipated to be home to 21% of the region's population, up from 18% in 2010. The 3% increase represents nearly 158,000 people.

## Labor Force

Of the 2.6M people living in the PVMA in 2024, 1.4 million were part of the civilian labor force. The vast majority, 1.35M, were employed. The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR), the percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population that is either working of actively looking for work (62.7%) was in line with that of the United States (62.5%), Oregon (62.4%), and Washington (63%).

The LFPR varied across racial and ethnic groups. The populations with the highest rates were Hispanic of Latino (76.1%) and Some Other Race (76.3%).

### UNEMPLOYMENT

For the past year, the unemployment rate for the Portland MSA has been slowly increasing. After the highs of the early COVID-19 economic crisis, the regional unemployment rate bottomed out at 3.2% in April 2023. For the past 28 months, it has either held steady or increased each month. The only exception was a one month drop from 4.5% to 4.4% in April 2025. The last available data (August 2025) has the regional unemployment rate at 4.7%. While the rate itself is not alarming, the steady growth is concerning.

Broken down by race and ethnicity, the rates were lower for people who identify as white alone (4.5%) or Asian alone (3.1%). All other racial and ethnic groups have higher than average rates of unemployment. The populations with the highest rates of unemployment were Black or African American alone (6.9%) and American Indian and Alaskan Native (6.1%).

### POVERTY

In 2024, 10% of households (80,383) in the PVMA reported living below the Federal Poverty Line (FPL). The highest rates of poverty are on the periphery: Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties (14%) and Yamhill County (15%). Multnomah County has the highest number of households living below the poverty line (29,292).

In the Portland MSA, households headed by a married couple are the least likely to report experiencing poverty. Three times as many single-parent households headed by a male and nearly six times as many female-headed single parent households reported experiencing poverty. The presence of children under 18 increased the likelihood that a household would experience poverty.

Broken down by race and ethnicity, the poverty rates were lower for people who reported being white alone (7.3%) or Asian alone (7.3%). All other racial and ethnic groups have higher than average rates of poverty. The population most likely to have experienced poverty were Black of African American alone (18.3%).

## SELF SUFFICIENCY

In 2024, more than 30% of households (254,116) in the PVMA are not able to cover basic needs, such as housing, food, health care, and transportation. In addition to the 10% of households below the FPL, 16% of households (173,731), are above the poverty line but below the Self Sufficiency Standard (Standard). The Standard is a budget-based measure that defines the income necessary for families to meet their basic needs at a minimally adequate level. The Standard is designed to provide a realistic assessment of what families need to be self-sufficient, taking into account family size, ages of children, and county of residence. They are often ineligible for critical government benefits due to income thresholds, leaving them to cut essential expenses or accumulate debt to survive.

Families in the PVMA are experiencing financial strain due to rising costs of basic needs. Since the first calculation for Oregon in 2008, the Standard for a family of two adults, one preschooler, and one school-age child increased by an average of 122%, or 8% annually. In the PVMA, this rate varies widely by county, spanning from 98% to 185%.

Wage growth has not kept pace with increases in the cost of living. Just three of the ten largest occupations in the PVMA pay Self-Sufficiency wages for a family of two adults, one preschooler, and one school-aged child in Multnomah County. The Self-Sufficiency Standard assumes all adults in a household work, so both adults would need to earn at least $29.42/hr.

Based on Self-Sufficiency Standard and census data, an estimated 60% of single mother households in Oregon and 80% of single mother households in Washington do not earn enough to make ends meet, compared to one-third of all households. The rates are particularly high for single mothers of color. In Oregon 92% of Black and 65% of Latina headed households with children lack adequate income. In Washington, 81% of Latina and 80% of Black headed single mother households lack adequate income.

## INCOME AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Income is positively associated with education. Workers with some college or an associate degree earn 20% more than workers with a high school diploma. The difference between a bachelor's degree and a high school diploma is 74% or roughly $31,000 annually.

Rates of educational attainment in the Portland MSA are above the national average. Adults aged 25 years and over are more likely to have a bachelor's degree (26% v 22%) and an advanced degree (16% v 14%). However, half of adults in the Portland MSA, do not have an educational credential beyond high school.

## PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

In 2024, the Point-in-Time Homeless Count identified 9,977 persons who were experiencing homelessness in the Portland region. This includes both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

Between 2015 and 2020, the number of people experiencing homelessness remained fairly steady, ranging from 5,548 to 6,059. The COVID-19 pandemic initially reduced unsheltered homelessness with a dramatic decrease of 50% between 2020 and 2021. Unfortunately, the decrease didn't last. In 2022, the count increased significantly and has been increasing each year.

## LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

In 2024, 8% of the population 5 years and older and reported speaking English less than "very well." Spanish is the most commonly spoken language, followed by Russian, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

## POPULATION UNDER SUPERVISION

In 2024, more than 7,100 people were under supervision (local control, post-prison, and probation) in the Oregon portion of the PVMA.

Compared to their representation in the general population, Black and American Indian people were overrepresented in the population under supervision. White and Asian people were underrepresented.

## Youth

In 2024, approximately 309,672 youth (aged 15–24) lived in the PVMA. Multnomah and Washington Counties had the largest youth populations (87,718 and 72,217 respectively). Of the nine counties, Clackamas and Clark Counties had the highest percentage of youth (14% and 13%). Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties are home to the smallest youth populations (1,098 and 414 respectively). They are also the counties where youth represent the smallest share of the population (9%).

Over the past decade, the overall youth population in the PVMA decreased by 3%. However, of the nine counties, Multnomah was the only one which experienced a drop in the youth population (8%). The youth population in Clark and Wahkiakum Counties increased by more than a fifth (20% and 22%). The remaining six counties experienced an increase of 2% to 5%.

### YOUTH POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING INSECURITY

In the Portland MSA, youth are more likely to live in poverty than other broad age groups. In 2023, 13% of youth reported living below the poverty level during the past twelve months, compared to 9% of children, 9% of adults aged 25 to 64, and 11% of adults aged 65 and over.

In 2024, the Point-in-Time Homeless Count identified 1,897 persons aged 24 years and younger who were experiencing homelessness in Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington counties. This includes both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

The 2024 count represented a slight decrease from the previous year (-7%). Even with the decrease, the overall trend is concerning. Between 2016 and 2021, the region experienced a steady decrease in homeless youth and children. Between 2021 and 2024, the number of people aged 0–24 identified in the point-in-time homeless count nearly tripled.

Public schools provide a second and more expansive picture of homelessness and housing insecurity among children and youth. Schools track children living in the following situations: shelters, motels or campgrounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship, and lack of a fixed, regular, nighttime, adequate place of residence.

During the 2023–2024 academic year more than 10,000 children enrolled in public schools in the PVMA were housing insecure or homeless. The count has been largely consistent since the 2018–2019 school year with a slight decrease between 2020–2022.

### OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

In 2022, 11% (27,200) of 16-to-24-year-olds in the PVMA were Opportunity Youth, meaning they are neither in school nor working. Opportunity Youth are more likely to experience a range of challenges in adulthood, including being low income, and experiencing poor physical and mental health.

The number of Opportunity Youth in the region decreased 21% between 2020 and 2022. This decline is partially but not fully explained by a decrease in population. Between 2020 and 2022, the number of 16-to-24-year-olds in the region decreased by 15%.

Domestic responsibilities, including caring for children, can be difficult to balance with education and paid labor. Youth who become parents during their teen years face significant challenges when it comes to completing their education and finding career track employment.

For teens who do become parents, the chance of becoming an opportunity youth is high. 57% (2,200) of the female youth ages 16 to 24 who gave birth during the past year, were Opportunity Youth.

Parenting is just one example of familiar caregiving responsibilities youth carry. Caring for elderly or disabled relatives and younger siblings can also fall to a young person.

### YOUTH & EDUCATION

Ensuring that youth complete high school is imperative in preparing them for future success. A high school diploma or GED is a requirement for higher education, a registered apprenticeship, and nearly all jobs that pay a Self-Sufficiency Wage.

Adults without a high school diploma are nearly twice as likely to live in poverty as those with a diploma or equivalent (21% v 12%).

High school students in the PVMA are more likely to graduate in four years than they were a decade ago. Just 80% of students completed high school in four years in the 2014–2015 academic year. In the 2023–2024 academic year, more than 86% of students graduated in four years.

Participation in Career and Technical Education (CTE) increased the likelihood that a student would graduate high school in four years. In the 2023–2024 academic year, 92% of CTE Participants graduated high school within four years competed to 86% of all students.

The four-year graduation rate for English Learners in High School was less than 70%. However, English learners who exited the program prior to high school had a significantly higher graduation rate (81%).

Poverty, justice system involvement, and participation in the foster care system had a negative impact on students' ability to complete high school in four years. Currently or formerly incarcerated students had the lowest graduation rate, with just 37% of students graduating in four years.

### UNCERTAIN PATHWAYS

The five community colleges in the PVMA have seen a marked decline in enrollment. Overall, 36% fewer students enrolled in community colleges in 2023–2024 from the peak of enrollment in 2014–2015. Enrollment has stabilized over the past four years, albeit at a lower number.

Over the past decade, statistical trends reveal shifting demographics among regional community college students. While overall enrollment declined, the proportion of BIPOC students rose from 31% to 39%, despite a 12% drop in their absolute numbers. Similarly, students aged 24 and under saw a 30% decrease in enrollment, yet their share of the student body grew from 40% to 43%, indicating a relative increase compared to older students, whose numbers fell by 38%. Both male and female enrollment declined—by 39% and 37% respectively—though the gender ratio remained stable at 56% female to 44% male.

### YOUTH LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

Youth are less likely to participate in the labor force than other age groups. Older youth (aged 20 to 24 years) participate in the labor force at twice the rate of teens. In 2023, more than 80% of older youth participated in the labor force, competed to fewer than 40% of teens (aged 16–19 years).

In 2024, there were just 37,136 youth hires in the PVMA. 88% were new hires. The remaining 12% were returning hires, workers who were hired by a given employer and had worked for that employer within the past year, but not in the quarter before the hire.

The largest number of new youth hires were aged 20–24 (39%).

Roughly one quarter of the returning hires were teenagers (aged 14–19). The largest group of returning hires in 2024 were youth aged 19–21 (1,883 youth: 44% of returning hires).

Youth experience significantly higher unemployment rates than the overall working population. In 2023, 3.8% of all labor market participants in the Portland MSA were unemployed. The rate for youth aged 20 to 24 years was nearly double, 6.6%. The youngest group of youth, those aged 16 to 19 years, experienced an unemployment rate of 15.6%.

Youth are employed in every industry across the economy, but the distribution is not equal. Nearly half of all employed youth work in three industries: Accommodations and Food Services, Retail Trade, and Government.

## Target Sectors

In 2023, the CWWC identified four sectors with the highest concentrations of economic opportunity for participants in the public workforce system: Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy, Construction, and Healthcare and Social Assistance.

These Target Sectors have concentrations of quality jobs that pay a living wage, require two or fewer years of post-secondary education, have an established regional presence, and are expected to grow over the next ten years.

Target Sectors are areas for workforce investment. Sector strategies are partnerships within a critical industry that bring together employers, educators, labor, economic development, workforce systems, and community organizations to identify and collaboratively meet the workforce needs of that industry within a regional labor market.

### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

The Advanced Manufacturing Sector uses innovative technologies to build existing products and create new products. The sector includes high tech, metals, machinery, transportation equipment, and food processing. The PVMA is a national leader in semiconductor fabrication and other advanced manufacturing techniques. With more than 101,700 jobs and a payroll of nearly $13 billion, advanced manufacturing accounted for 7% of the PVMA's

private sector employment and 10% of payroll in 2024.

A broad array of occupations are in demand in advanced manufacturing, including engineers, machinists, managers, quality assurance techs, truck drivers, and software developers. Eleven of the largest advanced manufacturing occupations are considered target occupations. They do not require education beyond an associate degree and pay a median wage of $22 or more per hour. Collectively, more than 27,000 people are currently employed in the Advanced Manufacturing Sector in the PVMA.

Advanced manufacturing represents one of the most demographically diverse sectors in the PVMA. Age, however, remains a major concern for employers—nearly half of the sector's workforce is 45 or older. Looming retirements and career changes mean a steady stream of workers will be needed to fill available jobs.

Nearly half of the region's advanced manufacturing jobs are in Washington County. Multnomah County has a small concentration of manufacturing jobs relative to the overall size of its economy. Clackamas County, with 14,683 jobs, accounts for 14% of the region's manufacturing employment, and Southwest Washington adds 12,971 jobs (13%). Companies tend to be clustered along major road, water, and rail transportation corridors.

Between 2020 and 2024, the Advanced Manufacturing Sector added more than 4,300 jobs. The sector was hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic, losing nearly 6% of its employment base during 2020. Despite growth in 2021 and 2022, the sector is once again losing jobs across the region. There were 1,600 fewer advanced manufacturing jobs in 2024 than in 2023.

The regional Advanced Manufacturing Sector is closely tied to global markets. Products made from imported raw materials are used to produce a wide variety of products including semiconductors, streetcars, engine parts, electrical vehicle chargers, and oscilloscopes. Many of those products are then exported to global markets. Unpredictable and rising tariffs and weakened relationships with traditional trading partners are cause for concern.

Recent challenges in the industry have led to several large layoffs. More than 2,500 Intel workers in Washington County have been laid off during the past three months. This accounts for roughly 8% of all employment in the semiconductor and related manufacturing sector in the PVMA. Despite recent agreements with the Trump Administration and rival chip manufacturer NVIDIA, additional layoffs are anticipated for later this year.

Intel is not the only regional advanced manufacturing employer facing layoffs amid economic uncertainty. When Powin, a company specializing in grid-scale battery energy storage closed in August, 96 local workers were laid off. In May, ESS, a manufacturer of iron flow batteries for data centers, grids, and transport, laid off 195 workers.

## CLEAN ENERGY

The Clean Energy Sector includes all economic activity related to the transition away from fossil fuels as our primary source of energy, and the embrace and efficient use of clean, renewable, and sustainable sources of energy particularly wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, and renewable hydrogen.

Clean energy-related occupations are those that are critical to the clean energy transition such as building- and construction-related careers, forestry and regenerative agriculture, transportation and public transit careers, and careers related to the manufacture of products and components that support this transition.

It is helpful to think of this emerging sector as synonymous with efforts to transition our ways of living and doing business in the United States to those with lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Drought, heat events, wildfires, water, and air quality concerns, intensifying winter storms, flooding, and ice storms have catapulted the need to make this transition, while also hardening our infrastructure and communities against the impacts of such events, to the forefront of our collective consciousness in recent years.

The Clean Energy Sector includes subsectors from eight of the 20 primary economic sectors. Distribution across the sectors is uneven. 41% of clean energy jobs are in construction (94,300). Together, manufacturing and professional, scientific, and technical services account for another 42%. The remaining 17% of jobs are spread across agriculture, utilities, retail trade, transportation and warehousing, and administrative, support and waste management.

The Clean Energy Sector added nearly 51,700 jobs between 2014 and 2023 for a growth rate of 29%.

Growth in the Clean Energy Sector outpaced the overall economy which increased 13% during this period. 60% of Clean energy jobs were concentrated in Multnomah and Washington counties. Together, Clackamas and Clark Counties account for another 32% of jobs.

Fifty-five clean energy occupations are target occupations. Collectively, more than 125,025 people are currently employed in clean energy occupations in the PVMA.

## CONSTRUCTION

Since 2016, the Construction Sector has added more than 21,800 jobs – more than any other industry except healthcare and social assistance (+22,416 jobs). The only industry with a higher rate of growth was transportation and warehousing which added 16,000 jobs for an increase of 38%.

Despite experiencing a slight dip during the COVID-19 recession, construction is consistently a strong part of the regional economy. With over 97,800 jobs and a payroll of $10.3 billion, construction accounts for nearly 7% of the PVMA's private-sector employment and 7% of payroll. Multnomah, Clark, and Washington counties account for nearly three out of four construction workers in the PVMA.

The Construction Sector contributed approximately $13.2 billion to the PVMA's Gross Domestic Product in 2024, 6% of all output. The industry is expected to add more than 10,400 jobs over the next decade, a growth rate of 11%. These high-paying positions (averaging over $30/hr.) are crucial to fill, especially with a significant portion of the current workforce nearing retirement.

Twenty-seven construction occupations are considered target occupations. They do not require education beyond an associate degree and pay a regional median wage of $22 or more per hour. Collectively, more than 68,859 people are currently employed in these occupations.

One-fifth of the area's construction workforce is at, or nearing, retirement age. The region has seen apprenticeship program completers in common construction occupations (electricians, laborers, carpenters, etc.) decrease since 2018. The numbers remain well below what is needed to satisfy industry demand.

## HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Healthcare and Social Assistance Sector has long been a cornerstone of our regional economy. With more than 187,800 jobs and a payroll over $15.5B, healthcare and social assistance makes up approximately 13% of the region's private sector employment, 12% of payroll, and is projected to grow by 15% over the next ten years The Healthcare Sector includes hospitals, offices of physicians, dentists, and other healthcare providers, such as outpatient health clinics (ambulatory care), and nursing and residential facilities.

In 2023, the CWWC expanded the Healthcare Target Sector to include social assistance. This was spurred by a need for greater access to early childhood education, mental health, and substance abuse resources across the region. Local investments, most notably Multnomah County's Preschool for All, are providing more and better opportunities for workers in this sector.

Healthcare and social assistance employment is proportionately distributed across the region; each county's share of the region's sector employment roughly matches its share of total employment.

Healthcare and social assistance has many high paying job opportunities, with 70% of the jobs in theindustry paying $22 or more an hour. While 37% of jobs in this sector require a bachelors or advanced degree, many jobs require just a short vocational training for entry-level positions with opportunity for career advancement. With the increase in an aging population, retirements, and the number of people who need access to healthcare, the industry is hard at work to meet its capacity. Additionally, as the population in the region becomes more diverse, the number of diverse employees will also need to increase to reflect the demographics of the changing population.

During the past three years, the Healthcare and Social Assistance Sector in the PVMA has experienced worker shortages, mergers, and an increased demand for peer support and early childhood education workers.

## Our Response

To address these challenges and support the needs of regional jobseekers and businesses, the CWWC organizes its work around four strategic goals: Building a Better System, Creating Opportunity, Supporting Youth, and Strengthening Regional Industry.

### BUILDING A BETTER SYSTEM

A Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) are responsible for aligning, coordinating, and streamlining programs and resources that define the region's public workforce system. We bridge public and private workforce investments with tailored training and education programs designed to meet individuals at their point of need, making a tangible difference in their lives., This expanded access fosters individual prosperity and increase business competitiveness in our region.

By design, LWBDs do not deliver direct services to jobseekers or workers. We serve as program designers and strategic coordinator to maximize regional resources and promote the most efficient, accessible, and effective public workforce system. Delivered locally through WorkSource, these resources provide a foundational set of services to connect people to training, skills, and work, and help regional businesses find the qualified people they need to grow and thrive.

We pursue and manage resources and maximize our investments to build a workforce that meets the needs of key industry sectors and creates opportunity for people in our community who need it the most. This work requires broad partnerships, creative thinking, smart policies, and innovative solutions tailored to the specific needs of people and businesses.  We are especially focused on supporting community connections to ensure low-income and other unemployed and underemployed populations have the opportunities and skills to fill quality regional jobs.

By aligning services and resources we ensure that all employers, jobs seekers, workers, and education providers can easily access what they need to succeed, leading to long-term economic growth and stronger community partnerships.

### CREATING OPPORTUNITY

The CWWC ensures all job seekers are connected to the training and support necessary to enter quality jobs. Increasing resources for people who have struggled to engage in the workforce system – including people who are low income, in the housing and homeless continuum of care, disconnected youth, single parents with limited access to childcare and/or gaps in employment or education, and those with prior justice involvement – is a focus for our organizations and community. These populations were hit hardest by the pandemic's economic downturn and risk falling further behind in the post-pandemic economy.

### SUPPORTING YOUTH

The CWWC partners with community organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, labor unions, and employers to help young people gain the skills, experience, and support they need to succeed in the workforce. We research best practices, coordinate resources and services, and incorporate feedback from stakeholders and customers to inform our approach.

The CWWC is dedicated to supporting the youngest members of our community and facilitating their entry into the workforce or post-secondary education. Our long-standing commitment to youth workforce development equips us with historical insight, a strong infrastructure, and a collection of best practices that we apply to every project we undertake.

### STRENGTHENING REGIONAL INDUSTRY

To ensure employers can recruit and retain the talent they need to fill quality jobs through the public workforce system and to address employers' hiring, training, and retention needs, we deploy various strategies, including outreach and skill development through regional WorkSource centers, community-based career coaching, custom training cohorts, and on-the-job training programs.

## Report Structure

This data in this report is organized around these four strategic goals. Each section tells a story about the regional labor force and demonstrates how it connects to each specific goal. By understanding this connection, we are better equipped to work together to build long-term economic prosperity in our region.

Population Overview describes who lives in the PVMA, how the population has changed over time, and what changes can we expect to see in the future. Topics include population growth, share of population by county, population density, median age over time, components of change, geographic mobility, migration, and age and educational attainment of in-migrants.

Building a Better System tells the story of the civilian labor force and barriers people face to participating and thriving. Topics include unemployment rates broken out by age, county, race and ethnicity, unemployment over time, poverty and self-sufficiency, ability to speak English, high school graduation rates, and income by education level.

Creating Opportunity does a deeper dive into the barriers to opportunity, including for people who are low income, in the housing and homeless continuum of care, disconnected youth, and those with prior justice involvement Topics include population data by race and ethnicity, poverty status, and justice system involvement.

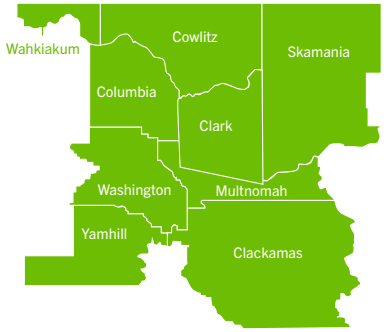
Supporting Youth tells the story of youth in our region, the barriers they face, and their ability to fully participate in the labor force. This section draws heavily on the Opportunity Youth report but also includes data about youth and high school graduation rates, community college enrollment, and youth hiring.

Strengthening Regional Industry tells the story of regional industry with a focus on change and opportunity in our target sectors.

## ABOUT THE COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE WORKFORCE COLLABORATIVE

The Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC) is a partnership between Clackamas Workforce Partnership, Workforce Southwest Washington and Worksystems: the three Workforce Development Boards covering the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area. The Collaborative delivers a unified approach to serving industry, supporting economic development, and guiding public workforce training investments to better address the needs of our combined labor shed. We know that people are willing to travel throughout the region for the best opportunities and that employers need the most qualified workers regardless of where they live. By working together, we can cultivate our regional talent pool and build the foundation for a strong economy.

## ABOUT THE GEOGRAPHIES




Throughout this report, data is often provided for all nine counties found on the map at left. These nine counties, when combined, are referred to as the Portland-Vancouver Metro Area (PVMA). The PVMA is a combination of the seven-county Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro Metropolitan Statistical Area (Portland MSA) and two additional counties served by the CWWC—Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties in Southwest Washington.

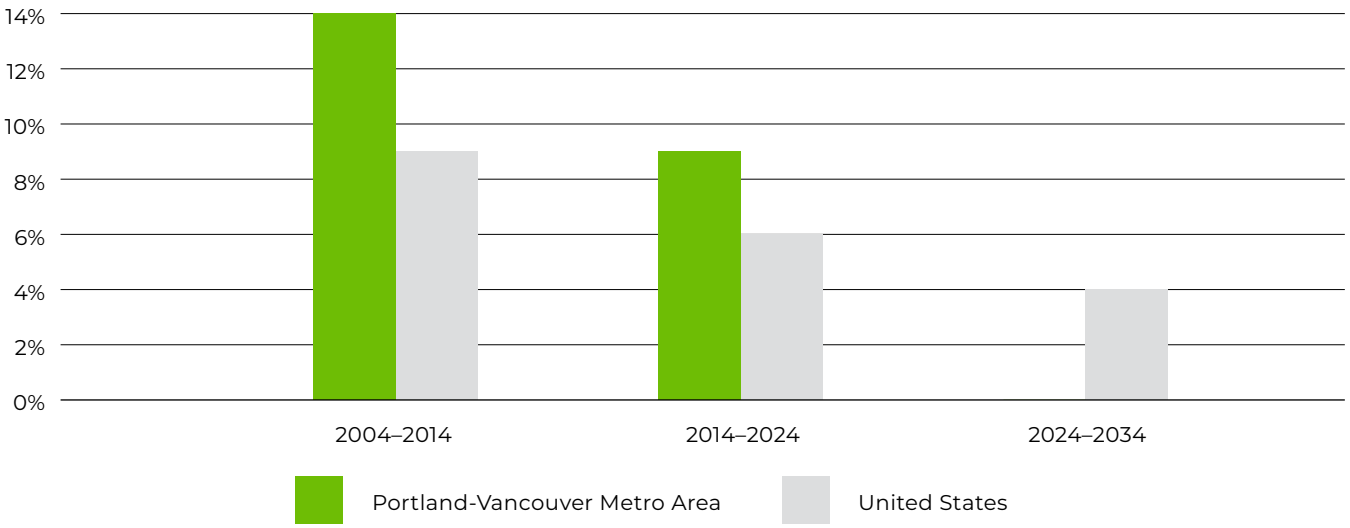
Columbia, Yamhill, and Skamania counties are not a part of the CWWC's geography, however, remain an important part of this report as they are included with the Portland MSA. In instances where data is not available for the nine-county region combined; data instead is provided for the seven-county MSA.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

The CWWC is focused on aligning and investing resources to support the workforce needs of four sectors: Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare and Social Assistance, Clean Energy, and Construction. Sectors are chosen based on factors such as their economic significance to the region, current number of openings and job growth projections, wages that support self-sufficiency, and career ladder opportunities across the skill continuum. By examining labor market intelligence (such as the data contained in this report) and vetting the information with business partners, we can better understand industry trends, identify current and emergent workforce needs, and develop customized solutions for each sector.

## FIGURE 1.1: POPULATION GROWTH, 2004–2034

*Source: Lightcast*

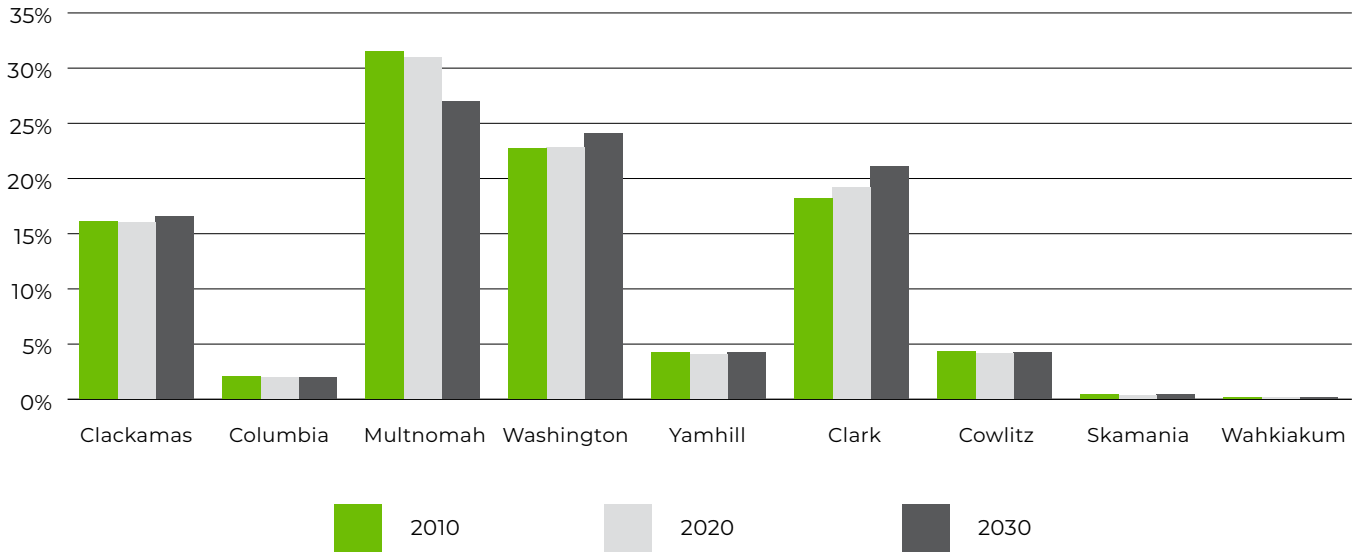



In the ten years between 2004 and 2014, the population of the PVMA increased at a rate significantly higher than the national population (14% v 9%). During the next ten years, 2014–2024, the rate of population growth decreased for both geographies. While the rate of growth in the PVMA continued to be higher than the national rate, the gap lessened (9% v 6%).

Looking ahead over the next ten years, the population of the United States is projected to continue a slow decrease in growth while continuing to add population. The population of the PVMA, however, is projected to remain flat.

## **FIGURE 1.2:** SHARE OF THE REGIONAL POPULATION, BY COUNTY, 2010 TO 2030

*Source: US Census, Oregon Population Research Center, Washington Office of Financial Management*

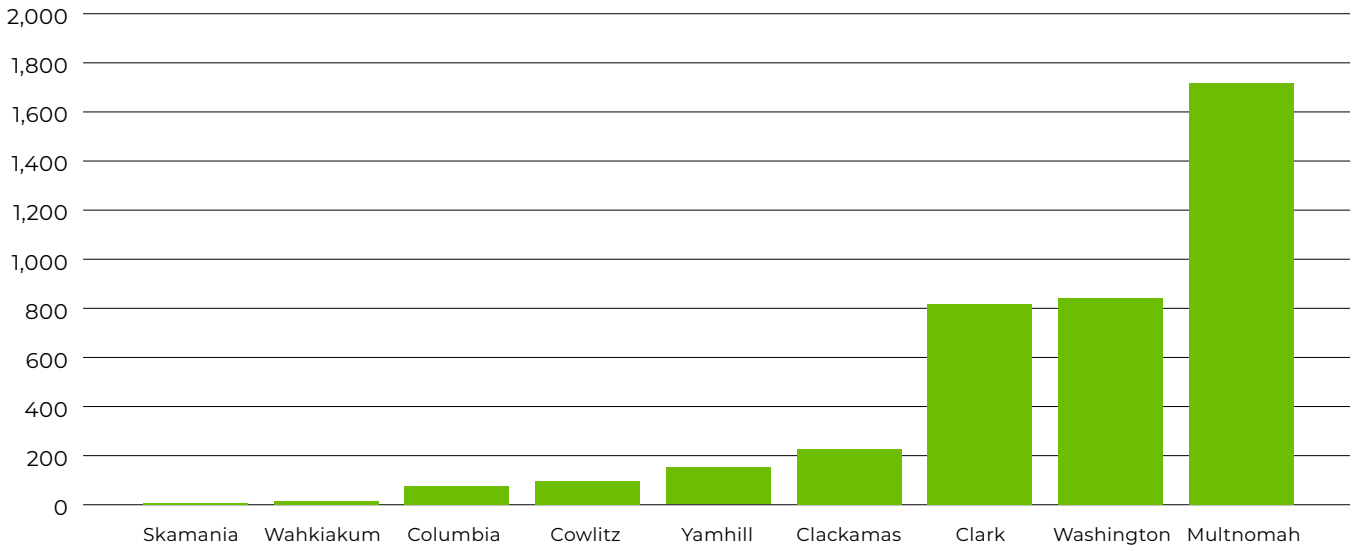



The population within the PVMA is shifting. Between 2010 and 2020, the population shifted outward. The trend is expected to continue. In 2010, Multnomah County was home to 32% of the region's total population. By 2030, Multnomah County is still projected to have the largest population of the nine counties, but the share of population is expected to drop to 27%.

As Multnomah County's share of the population is decreasing, the share of the population living in Washington and Clark Counties is increasing. By 2030, 24% of the population is expected to live in Washington County, up from 23% in 2010. Clark County is seeing the largest increase. In 2030, Clark County is anticipated to be home to 21% of the region's population, up from 18% in 2010. The 3% represents nearly 158,000 people.

## **FIGURE 1.3:** POPULATION PER SQUARE MILE, 2024

*Source: US Census, Oregon Population Research Center, Washington Office of Financial Management*



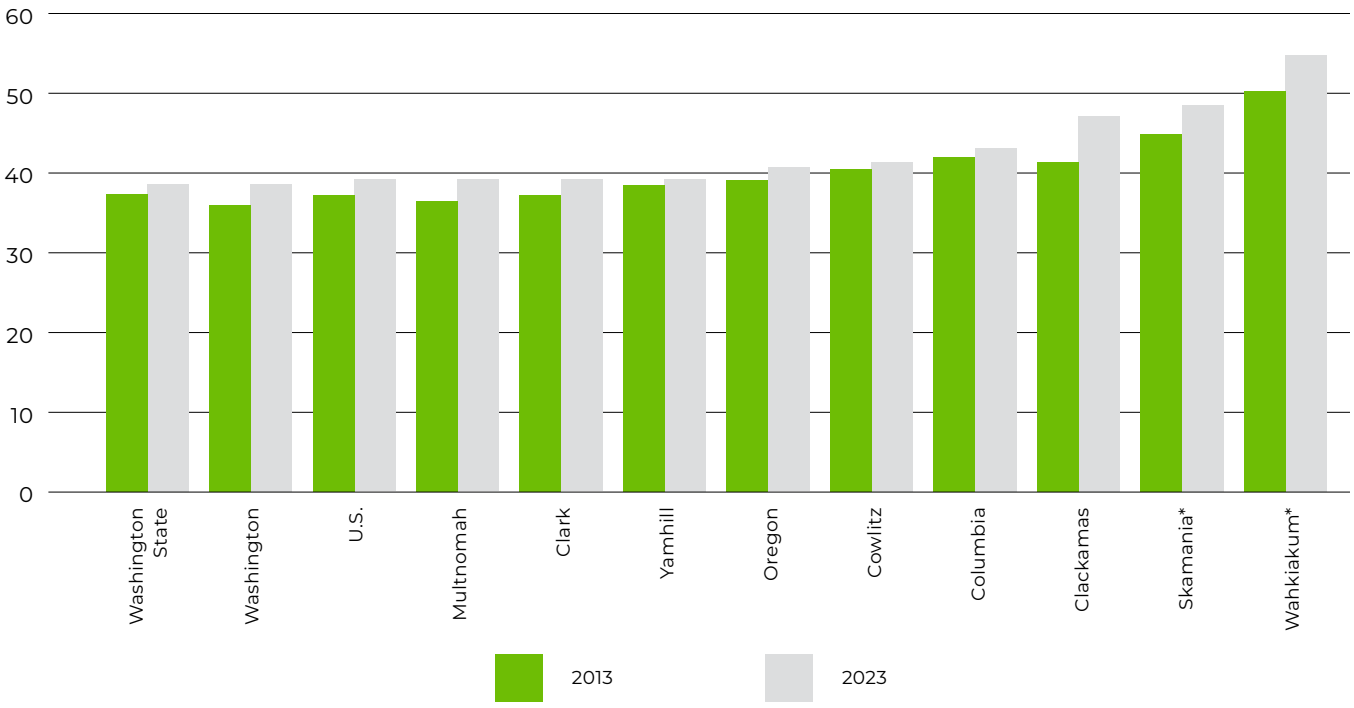

Of the nine counties, Multnomah has the highest population density. Despite having the largest population, Multnomah is the second smallest county by land area. In 2024, an estimated 801,557 people lived in Multnomah County's 466 square miles for a population density of 1,720.1 per $mi^2$.

Washington and Clark, the counties with the second and third largest populations, have the second and third population densities per square mile (842.1 and 817.2).

The remaining counties have significantly smaller population densities. They range from 266.8 persons per square mile in Clackamas County to just 7.2 persons per square mile in Skamania County.

## **FIGURE 1.4:** MEDIAN AGE OVER TIME, 2013 TO 2023

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table B01002*




Note: Due to small population sizes, one year estimates are not available for Columbia, Skamania, or Wahkiakum Counties.
* 5-year estimates

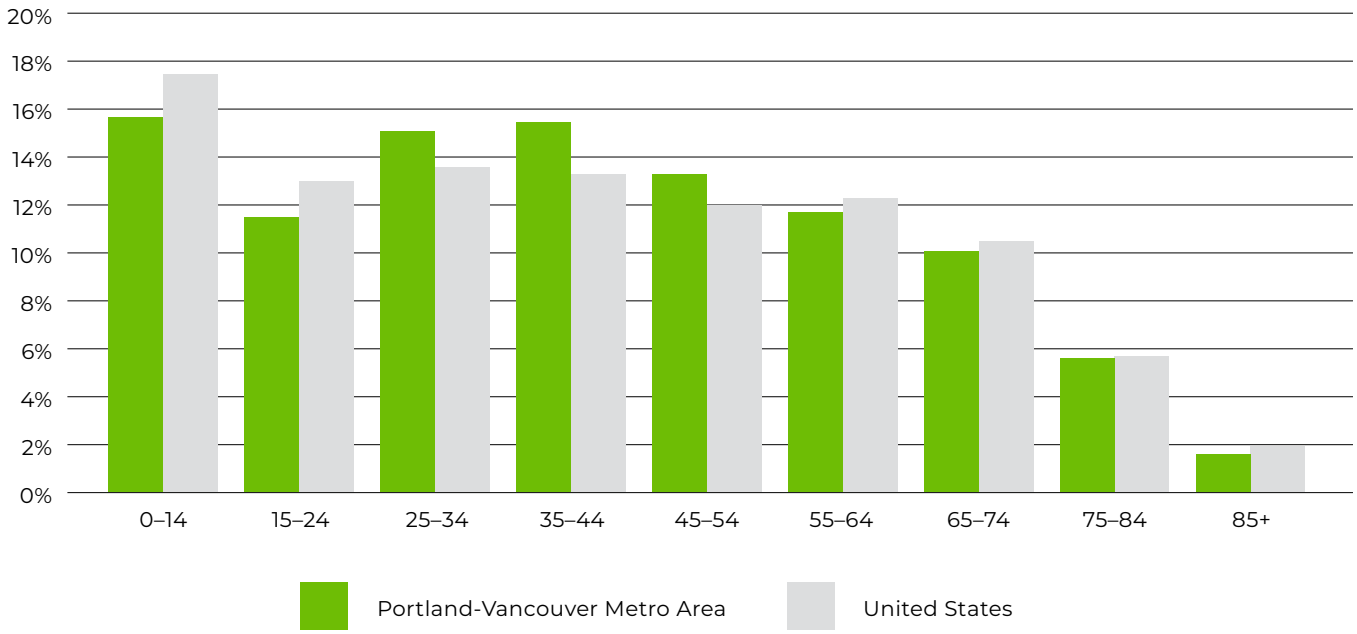
In 2023, the median age by county in the PVMA ranged from 38.6 years in Washington County to 54.8 years in Wahkiakum County. Of the nine counties, Washington was the only county with a median age lower than that of the United States (38.6 v 39.2).

Between 2013 and 2023, the median age increased across the PVMA, Oregon and Washington, and the United States. Nationally, the median age increase by nearly two years from 37.3 to 39.2 years.

Clackamas County experienced the largest change in median age, 5.8 years. Multnomah and Washington Counties experienced similar changes, 2.7 years in Multnomah County and 2.6 in Washington County. Yamhill experienced the smallest change in median age, an increase of less than one year.

## **FIGURE 1.5:** DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY AGE, 2024

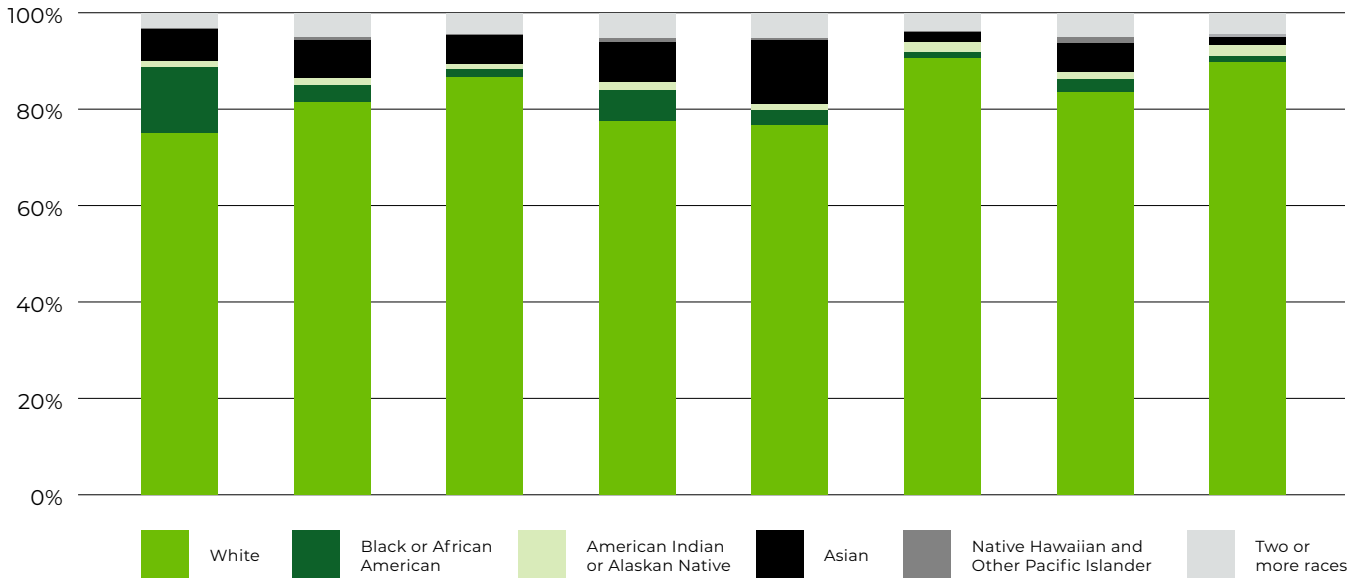
*Source: Oregon Population Research Center, Washington Office of Financial Management, Lightcast*




Compared to the nation, the population of the Portland MSA is more likely to be prime working age. In 2024, 44% of the population was aged 25 to 54, compared to 39% of the national population.

## **FIGURE 1.6:** POPULATION BY RACE, 2024

*Source: Oregon Population Research Center, Washington Office of Financial Management*




Note: Hispanic and Latino ethnicity is included in all racial categories. The population who identifies as white, for example, includes people who identify as White, Hispanic.

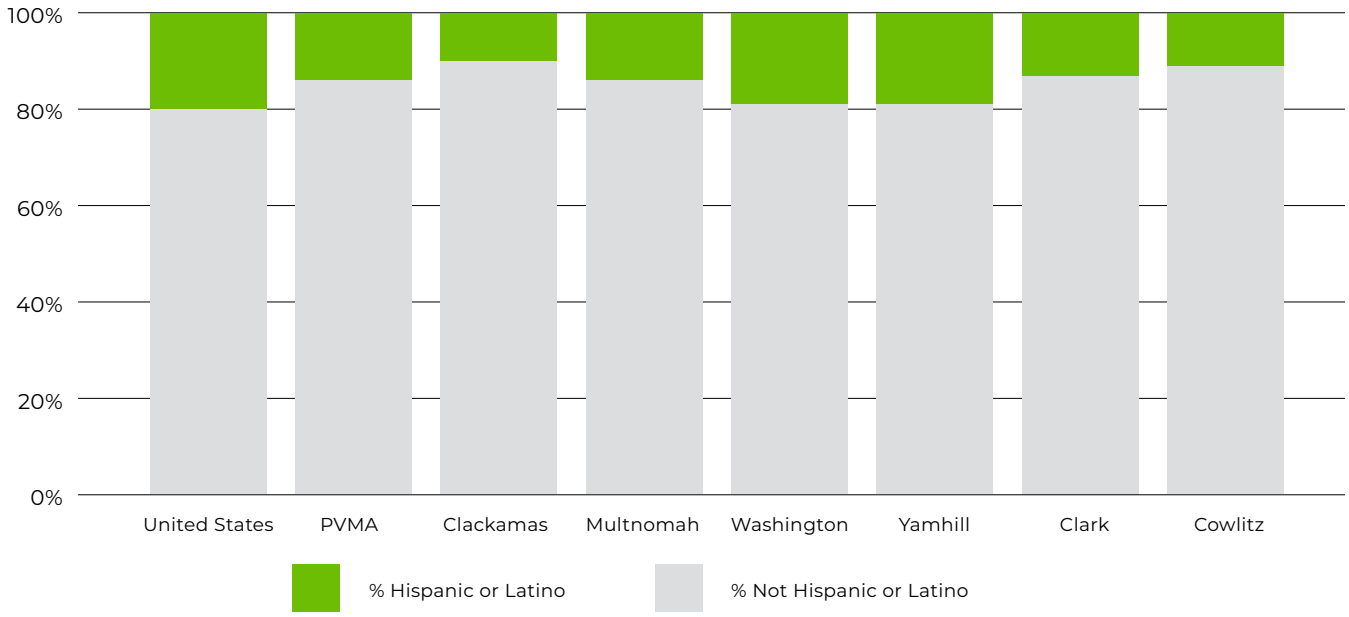
Compared to the United States, the population of the PVMA is more likely to identify as white (82% v 75%). While Multnomah and Washington Counties have the lowest white populations in the PVMA, they are still higher than the national population (78% and 77% v. 75%).

Asians make up the second largest population by race. 8% of the regional population is Asian, slightly higher than the share of the national population (6%).

Washington County is home to the largest number of people who identify as Asian. More than 79,000 Asians live in Washington County, representing 13% of the total population.

## FIGURE 1.7: HISPANIC POPULATION, 2024

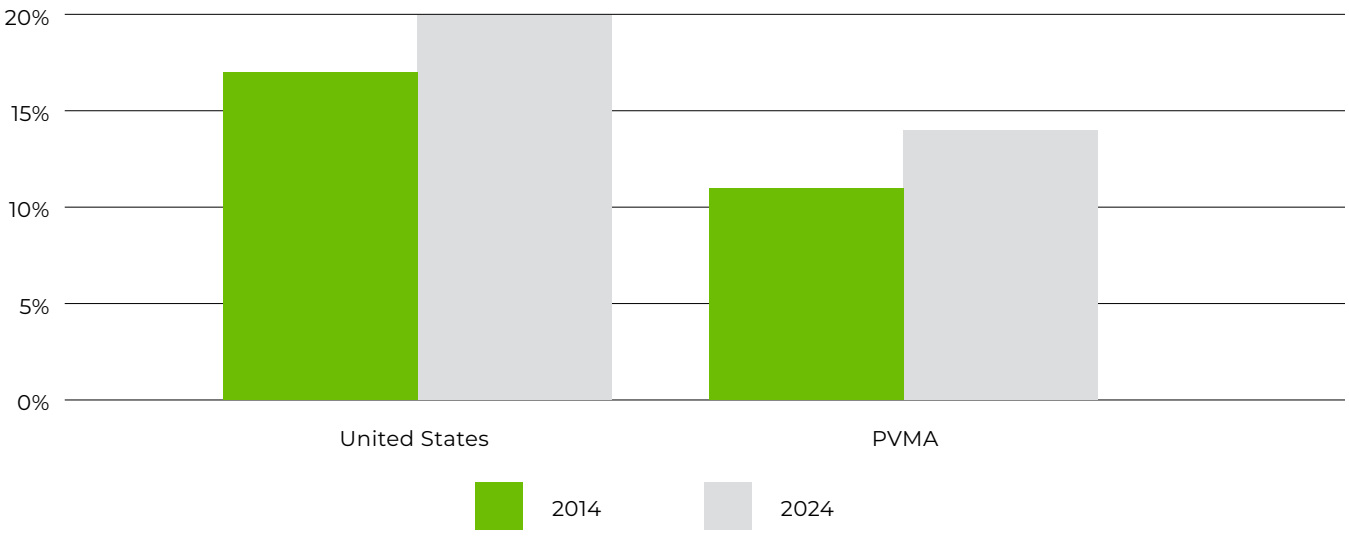
*Source: Lightcast*




Compared to the nation, the population of the PVMA is less likely to identify as Hispanic or Latino (14% v 20%). 60% of the total Hispanic or Latino population is the PVMA live in Multnomah and Washington Counties.

## FIGURE 1.8: HISPANIC OR LATINO POPULATION AS A % OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, 2014 AND 2024

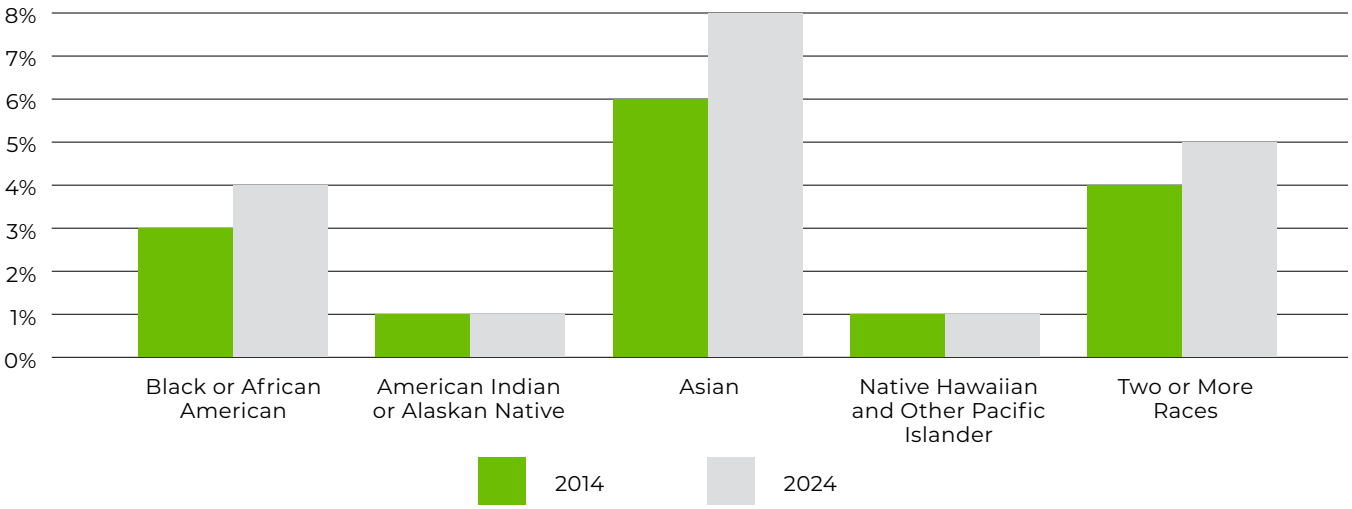
*Source: Lightcast*




Between 2014 and 2024, the Hispanic or Latino population of the PVMA increased 36%. Nationally, the rate of growth was 20%.

## FIGURE 1.9: SHARE OF POPULATION BY RACE, PVMA, 2014 AND 2024

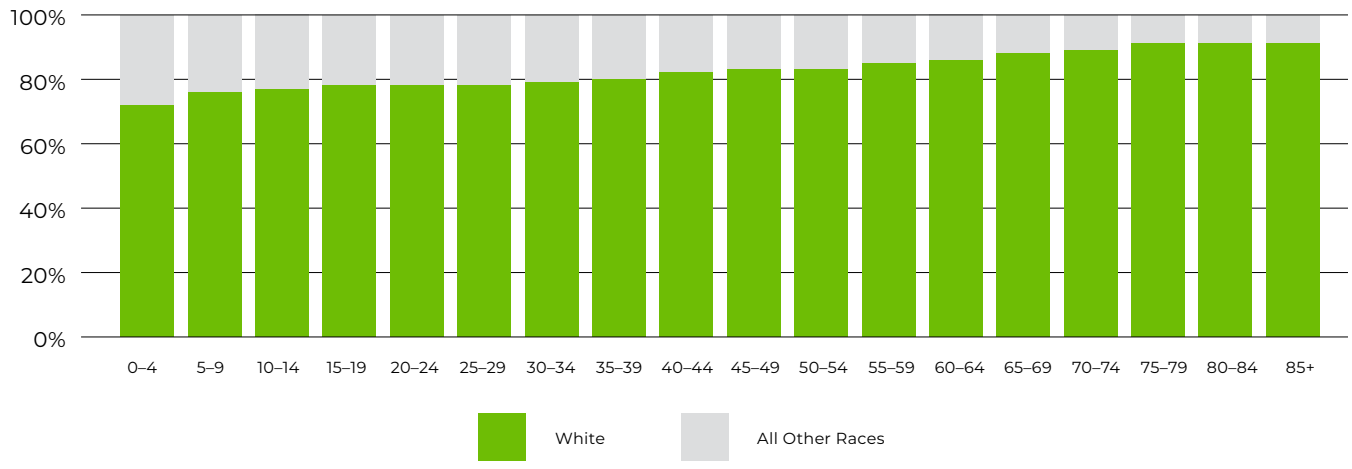
*Source: Lightcast*




Between 2014 and 2024, BIPOC populations grew at a signifigantly faster rate than the total population. Regionally, the population grew 7% during that period. The American Indian or Alaskan Native population grew 17%. The Black or African American population grew 8%. The Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and multi-racial population grew by more than a third.

## FIGURE 1.10: SHARE OF POPULATION BY AGE AND RACE, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2024

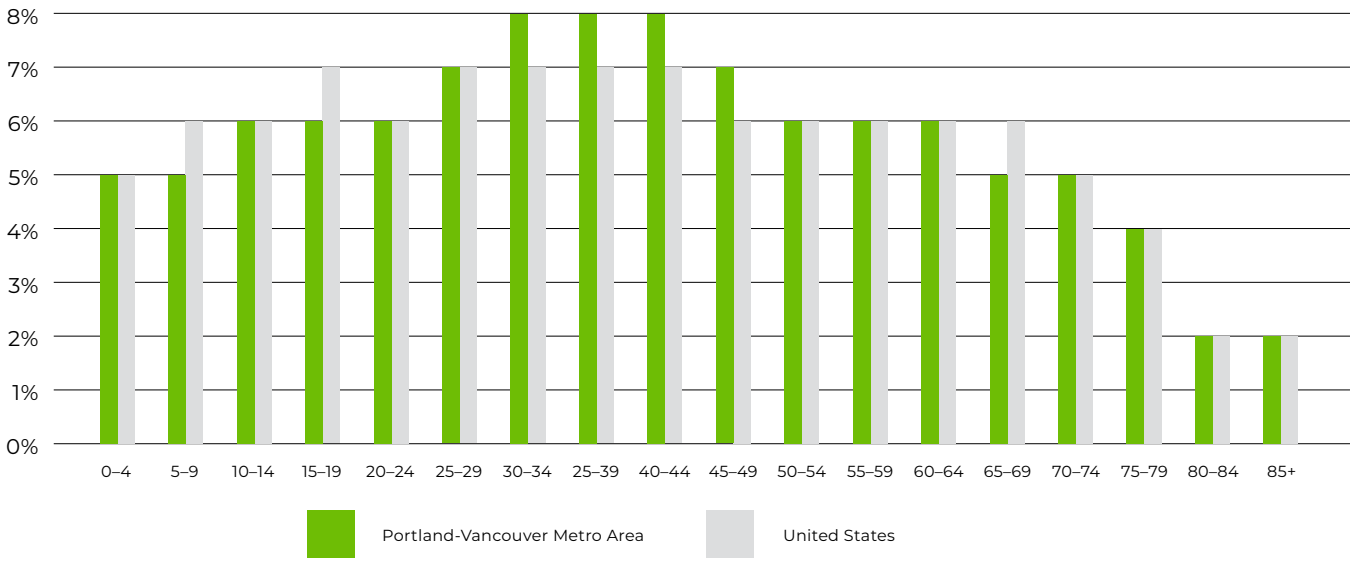
*Source: Lightcast*




In the PVMA, the youth population is less likely to identify as white than other age groups. 18% of the regional population identify as a population other than white, compared to 23% of the population under 30 and 26% of the population under 10 years old.

## FIGURE 1.11: SHARE OF POPULATION BY AGE, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2024

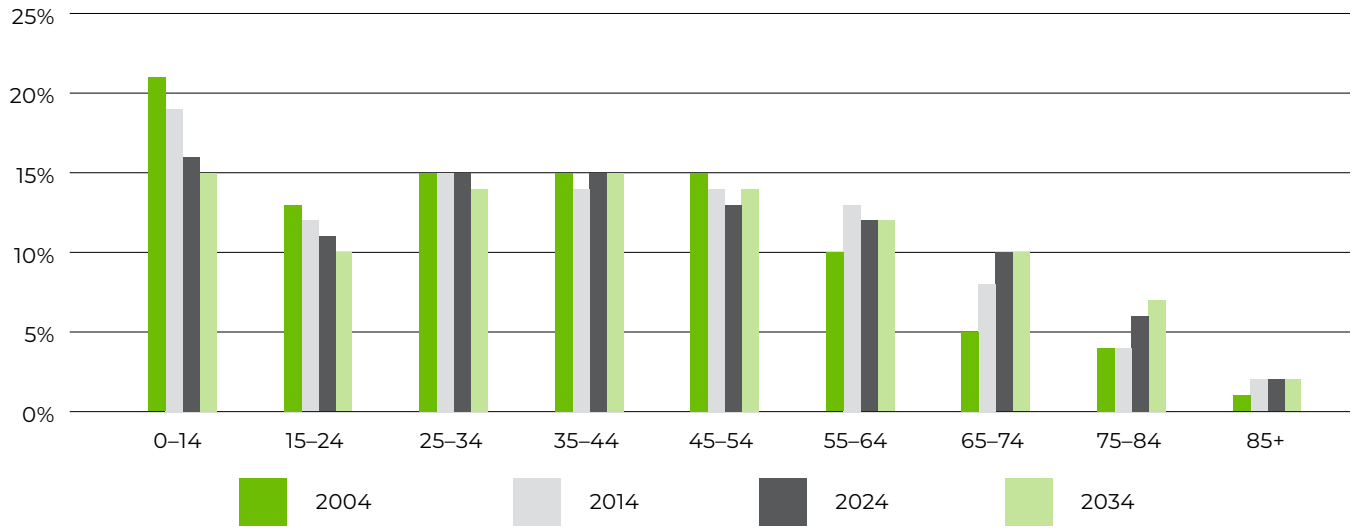
*Source: Lightcast*




Compared to the nation, the population of the PVMA is more likely is be aged 25 to 54 years old (43% v 39%).

## FIGURE 1.12: POPULATION BY AGE, PVMA, 2024–2034

*Source: Oregon Population Research Center, Washington Office of Financial Management, Lightcast*

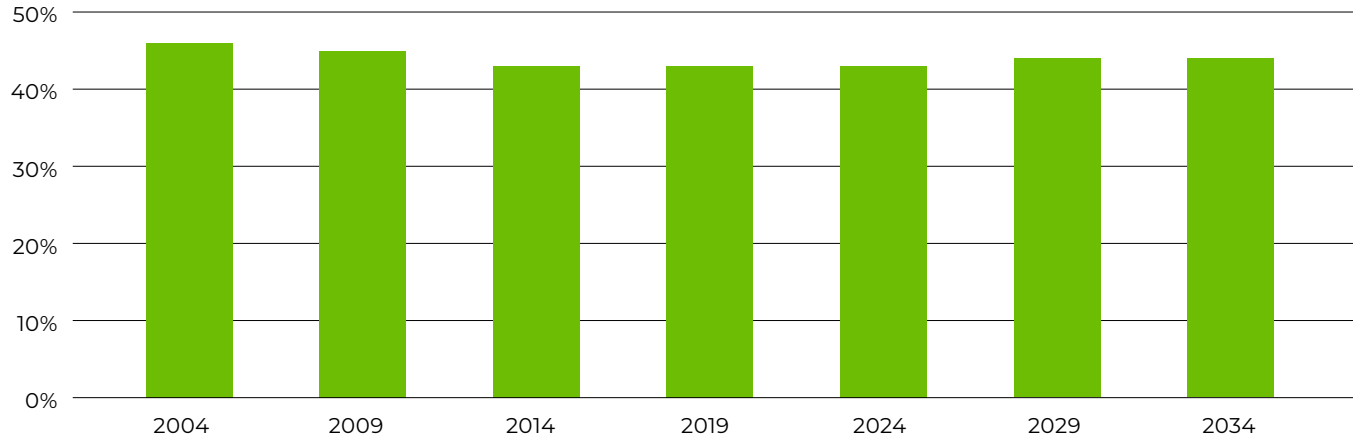



The clearest population trends are the decrease in the population of children and youth and the increase in the population ages 65 to 74 years. Between 2004 and 2023, the share of the regional population aged 0 to 14 years decreased from 21% to 16%. During the same period, the youth population (aged 15 to 24 years) decreased from 13% of the population to 11%. Both populations are projected to continue to decline through 2034.

Between 2004 and 2024, the share of the population aged 65 to 74 doubled from 5% to 10% of the population.

## FIGURE 1.13: PRIME WORKING-AGE POPULATION (AGES 25–54) SHARE OF POPULATION: CURRENT AND PROJECTED, 2004–2034

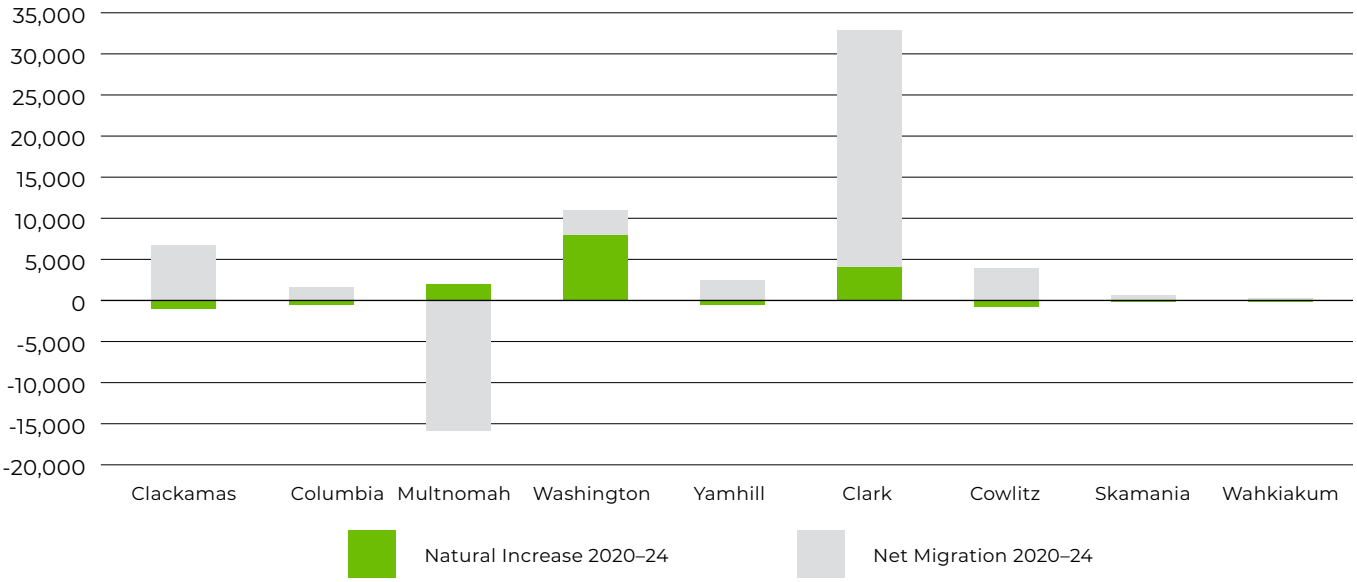
*Source: Lightcast*




The prime working age population (population 25 to 54 years) in the PVMA, hovers between 43% and 46% of the total population. The percentage decreased between 2004 and 2014 but is projected to increase over the next ten years.

## FIGURE 1.14: COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH, PVMA, 2020-2024

*Source: Oregon Population Research Center, Washington Office of Financial Management*



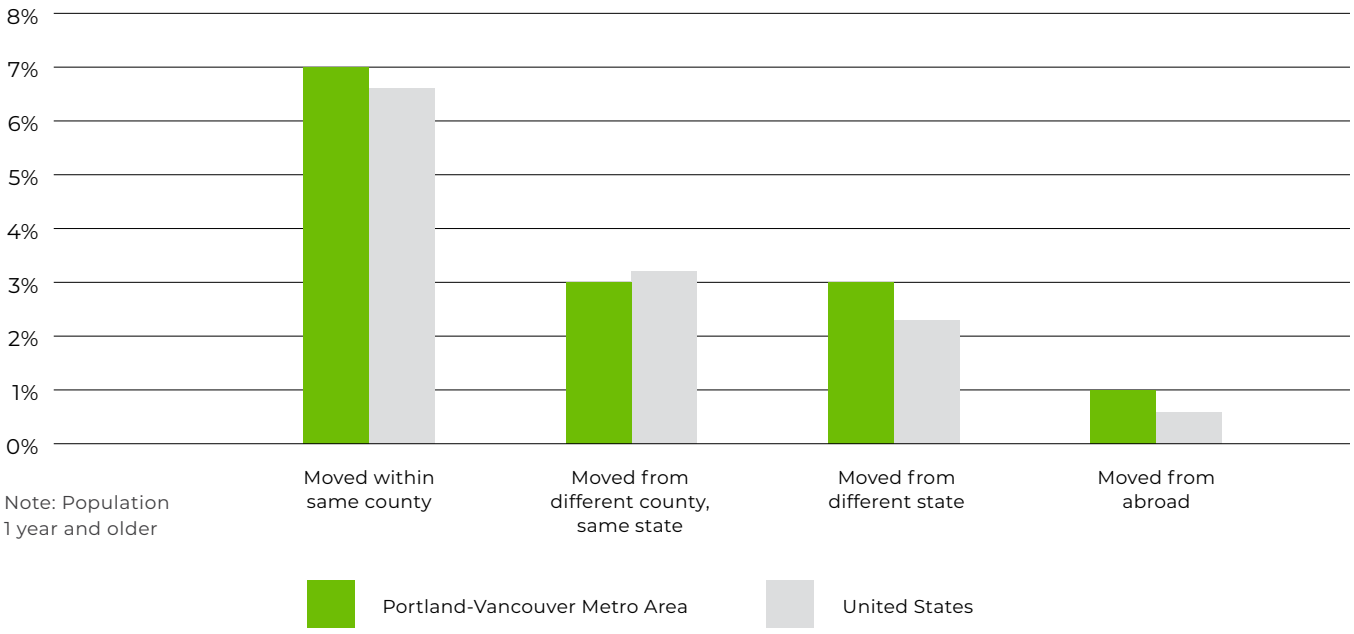

Population change is a combination of natural increase (births minus deaths) and migration. Between 2000 and 2024, net migration played a larger role in population change than the natural increase.

Natural increase was positive in three of the nine counties: Multnomah, Washington, and Clark. In the other six, deaths outpaced births.

During this period, net migration was positive in every county except Multnomah. Clark County experienced the largest increase due to net migration (+28,998).

## FIGURE 1.15: GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY IN THE PAST YEAR, SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION, 2018–2023

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, 5-year population estimate, Table S0701*

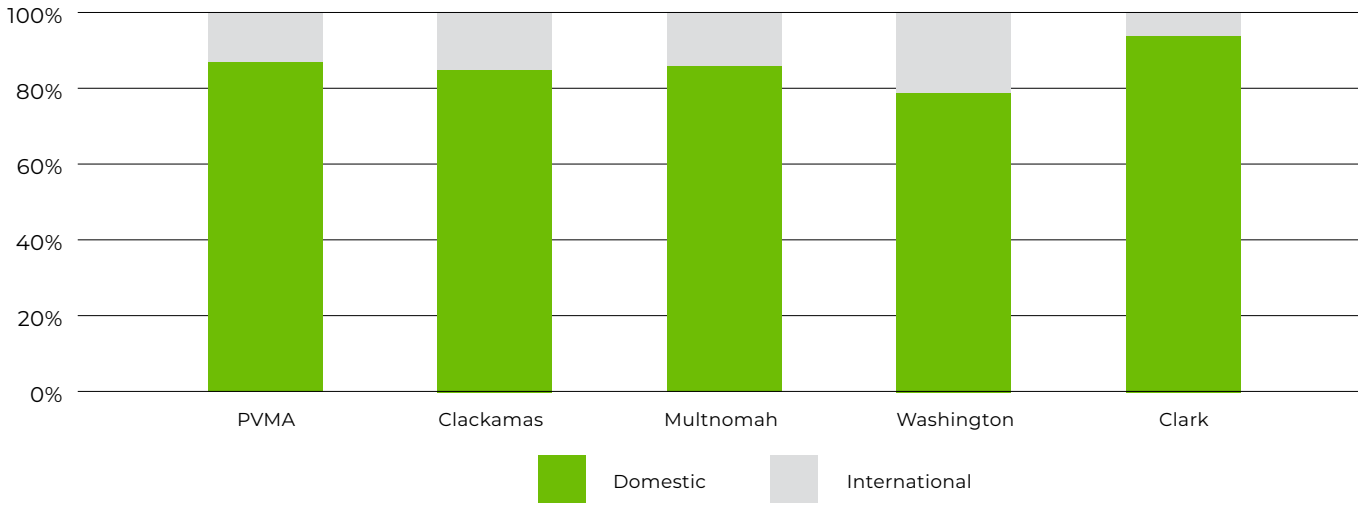



Note: Population 1 year and older

Between 2018 and 2023, geographic mobility for the population of the Portland MSA was consistent with that of the nation. During the last year, roughly 7% of the population moved to a new residence within the same county, 3% moved from a different county in the same state, and 1% moved from abroad. A slightly larger share of the regional population moved from a different state then the nation as a whole (3% v 2.3%).

## FIGURE 1.16: NET MIGRATION BY COMPONENT, 2019–2023

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, 5-year population estimate Table S0701*

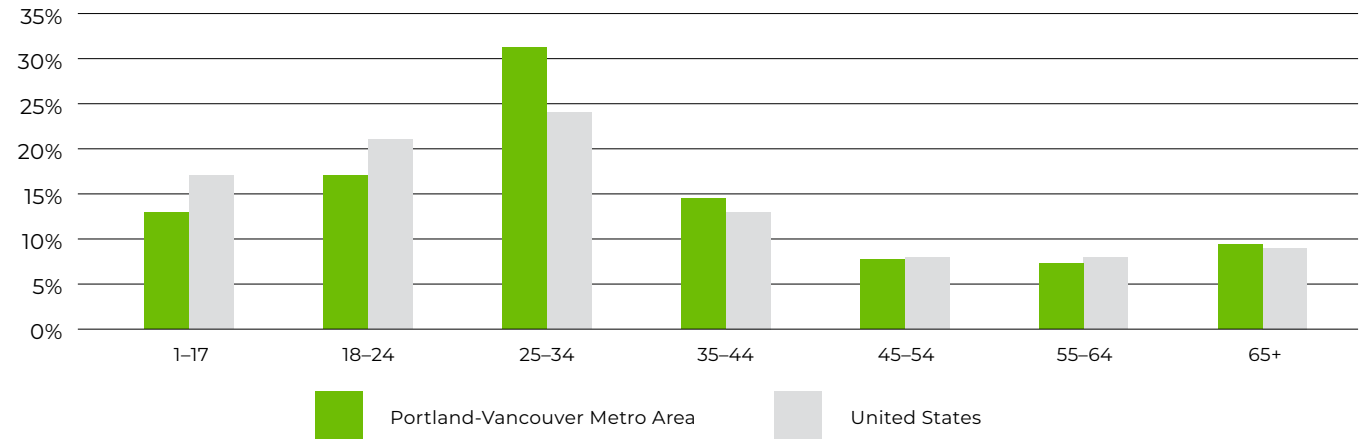



Note: Due to small populations, county level data is not available for Columbia or Yamhill Counties in Oregon or Cowlitz, Skamania, or Wahkiakum Counties in Washington.

Between 2019 and 2023, the majority of migration in the Portland MSA was domestic. 87% of migrants during this period were from other states within the United States. International migration varied from 6% of total migration in Clark County to 21% in Washington County.

## FIGURE 1.17: IN-MIGRATION BY AGE, PORTLAND MSA, MOVING FROM DIFFERENT STATE OR ABROAD IN THE PAST YEAR, 2019–2023

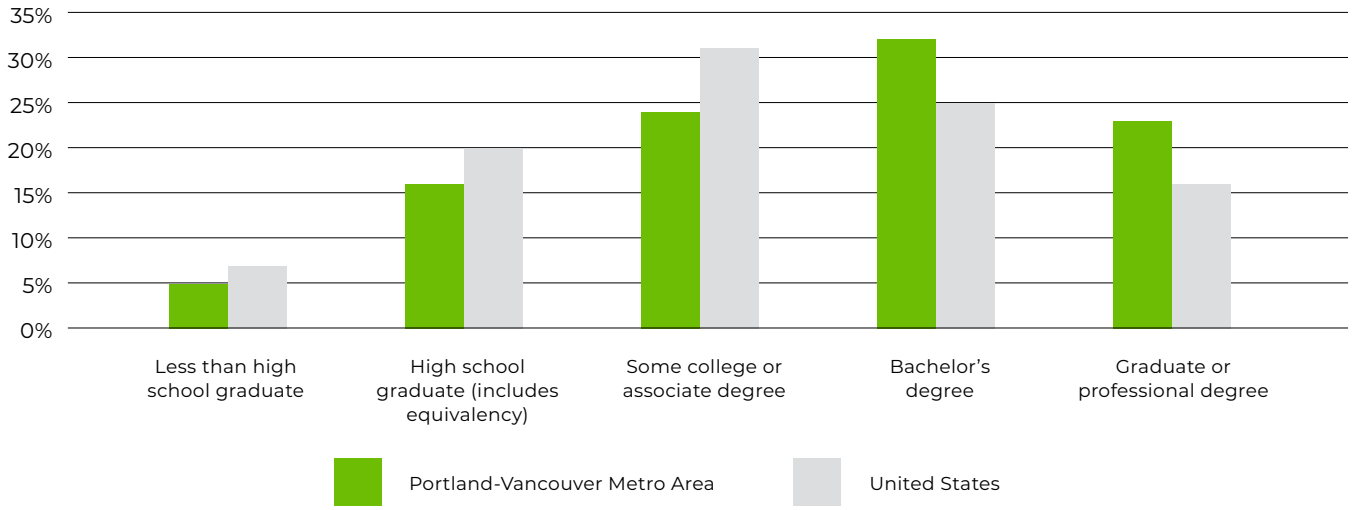
*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table S0701*




Compared to the nation, migrants to the Portland MSA are more likely to be young adults or retirees. Of the people who moved to the region between 2019 and 2023, 30% were children or youth, compared to 38% of national migrants. 45% of regional migrants were aged 25 to 44, compared to 37% nationally.

**FIGURE 1.18:** IN-MIGRATION BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT RECENT IN-MIGRANTS, MOVING FROM DIFFERENT STATE OR ABROAD IN PAST YEAR PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2019–2023

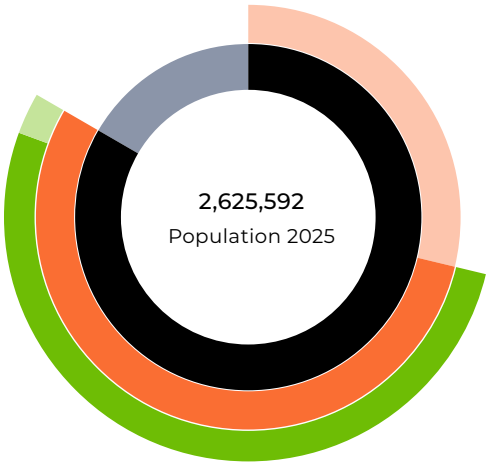
*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table S0701*




Migrants to the Portland MSA are more likely to have completed a bachelor's or advanced degree than the population as a whole. More than half of adults aged 25 years and over who moved to the region from another state or abroad had completed a bachelor's or advanced degree compared to 41% of the total population.

## FIGURE 2.1: POPULATION BY LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*




| | Population |
|---|---|
| 16+ Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population | 2,190,006 |
| Not in Labor Force (16+) | 752,293 |
| Labor Force | 1,437,713 |
| Employed | 1,364,140 |
| Unemployed | 73,573 |
| Under 16, Military, and Institutionalized Population | 435,586 |

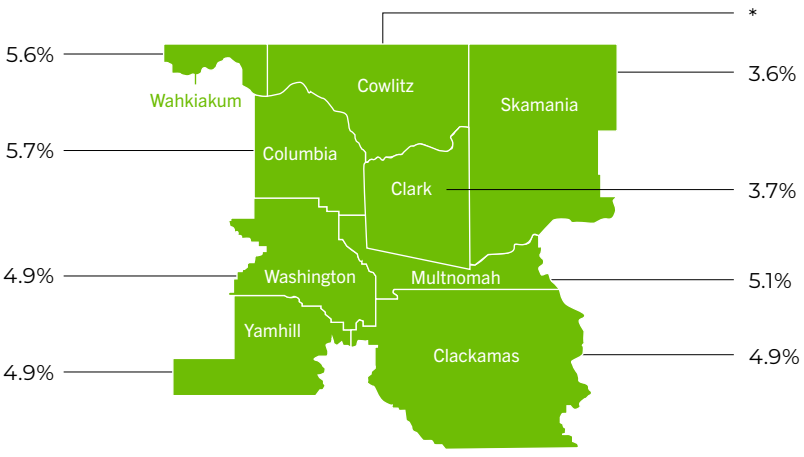
In 2024, more than 2.6 million people lived in the PVMA. Of those, 1.4 million were part of the civilian labor force. The vast majority, 1.35 million, were employed.

The labor force participations rate was 62.7%.This is in line with the LFPR for the United States (62.5%), Oregon (62.4%), and Washington (63%).

## FIGURE 2.2: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, BY COUNTY, PVMA, JUNE 2025

*Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Oregon Employment Department and Washington Office of Employment*

Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted. Data is not available for Cowlitz County, WA.

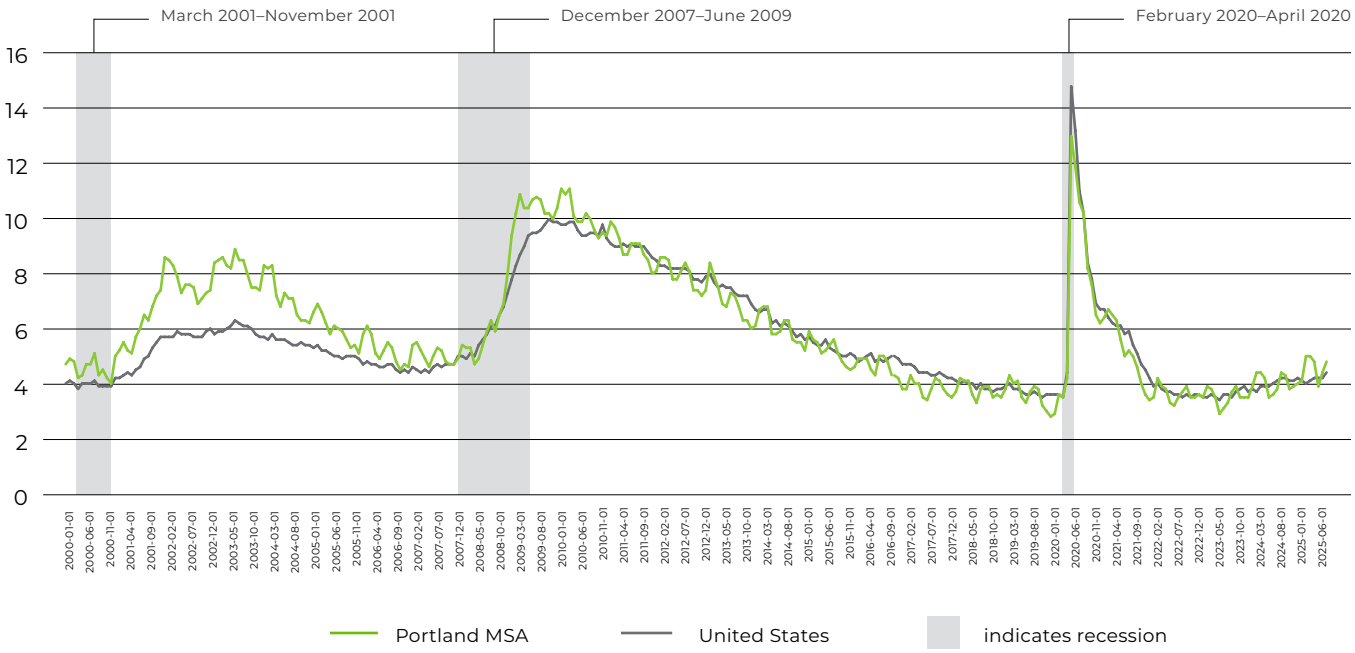



In June 2025, the unemployment rate for the PVMA was 5.2%. This represents an increase of 37% from June 2024 (3.8%).

The rate varies by county, from a low of 3.6 in Skamania County to a high of 5.7% in Columbia County. Year over year, the unemployment rate increased in every county except Wahkiakum.

## FIGURE 2.3: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2000–2025

*Source: Oregon Employment Department*




Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

For more than 15 years, the regional unemployment rate has followed national patterns. During the early 2000s and again during the Great Recession, the regional unemployment rate was significantly higher than the national rate.

## TABLE 2.1: HOUSEHOLDS LIVING BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE, PVMA, 2023 AND 2024

*Source: Overlooked & Undercounted: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Oregon; Overlooked and Undercounted: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Washington State*

| | HOUSEHOLDS BELOW THE OFFICIAL POVERTY MEASURE | |
|---|---|---|
| | # | % |
| Clackamas | 10,533 | 9% |
| Columbia | 1,526 | 11% |
| Multnomah | 29,292 | 10% |
| Washington | 14,932 | 8% |
| Yamhill | 4,305 | 15% |
| Clark | 15,171 | 10% |
| Cowlitz | 3,914 | 14% |
| Skamania | 521 | 13% |
| Wahkiakum | 189 | 14% |
| **PVMA** | **80,383** | **10%** |

10% of households (80,383) in the PVMA live below the Federal Poverty Line (FPL).

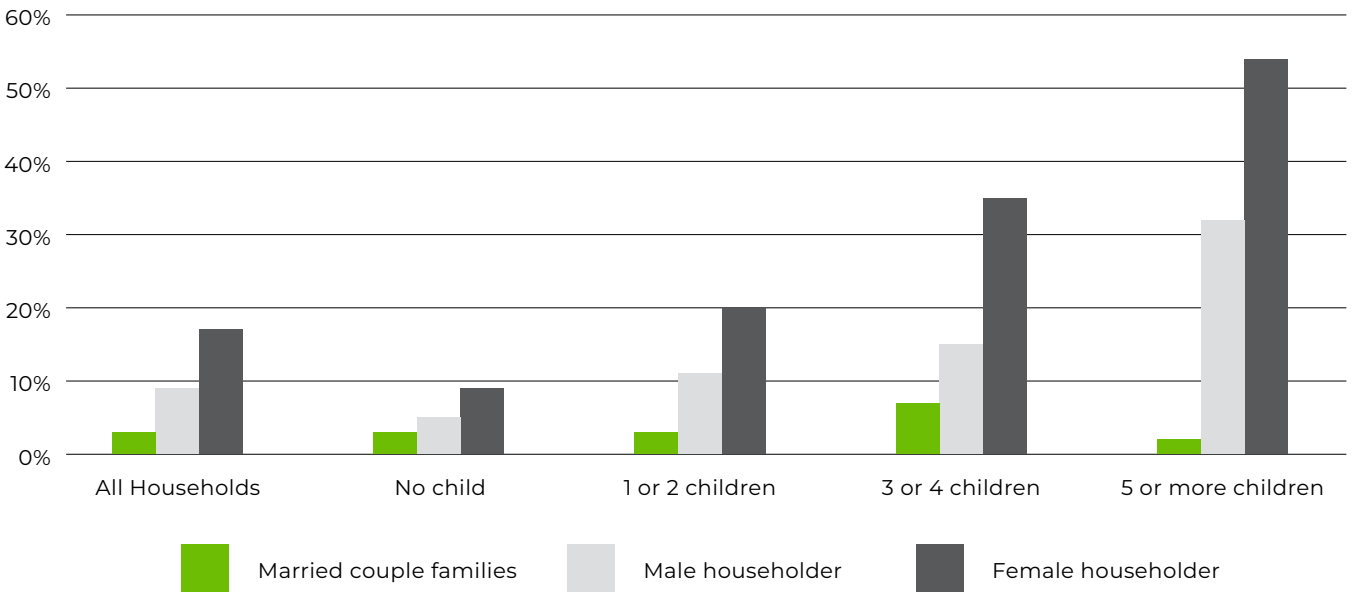
The percentage of households below the FPL varies from 8% in Washington County to 14% in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties.

The largest number of households that don't meet the FPL are in Multnomah County (29,292).

Note: The data for Oregon Counties is from 2024. The data for Washington Counties is from 2023.

**FIGURE 2.4:** POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS OF FAMILIES BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE AND NUMBER OF RELATED CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2023

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table B17012*

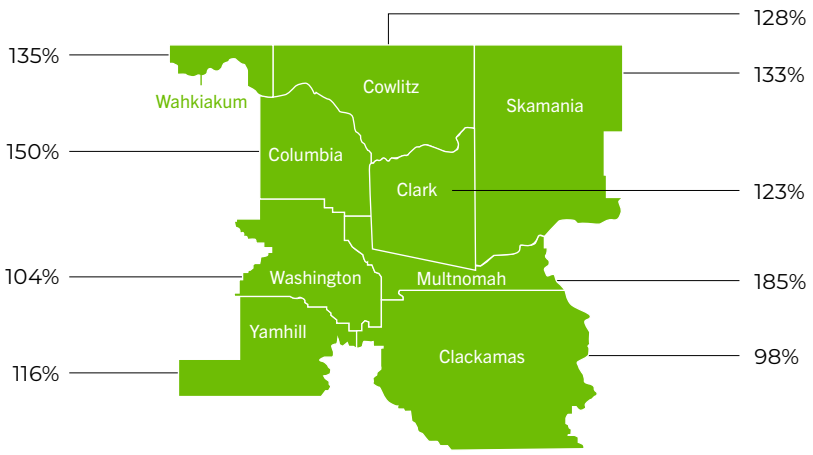



In the Portland MSA, married couple families are the least likely to report experiencing poverty. Of families with children headed by a single parent, male-headed households are three times as likely and female-headed households are six times as likely to report experiencing poverty compared to households headed by a married couple.

Female headed households are nearly twice as likely to report experiencing poverty as male headed households. The presence of children under 18 increased the likelihood that a household will experience poverty.

## **FIGURE 2.5:** PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD, BY COUNTY, PVMA

*Source: Oregon 2024 Self-Sufficiency Standard*




Note: The Standard used in this map is for a family of two adults with one preschooler and one school aged child.
Note: The data for Oregon Counties is from 2008–2024. The data for Washington Counties is from 2007–2023.

Families in the PVMA are experiencing financial strain due to rising costs of basic needs.

The CWWC uses the Self Sufficiency Standard (Standard) to measure the rising cost of living. The Standard defines the income working families need to meet their basic necessities without public or private assistance. Basic minimum needs include: housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, miscellaneous expenses (clothing, telephone, household items), and taxes (minus federal and state tax credits) plus an additional calculation for emergency savings. The Standard is calculated for 719 different family types for each county or area in a state.

Since the first calculation of the Standard for Oregon in 2008, the Standard for a family of two adults, one preschooler, and one school-age child increased by an average of 122%, or 8% annually over the last 16 years. In the PVMA, this rate varies widely by county, spanning from 98% to 185%.

## **TABLE 2.2:** THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD AND OFFICIAL POVERTY THRESHOLD

*Source: Overlooked & Undercounted: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Oregon; Overlooked and Undercounted: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Washington State*

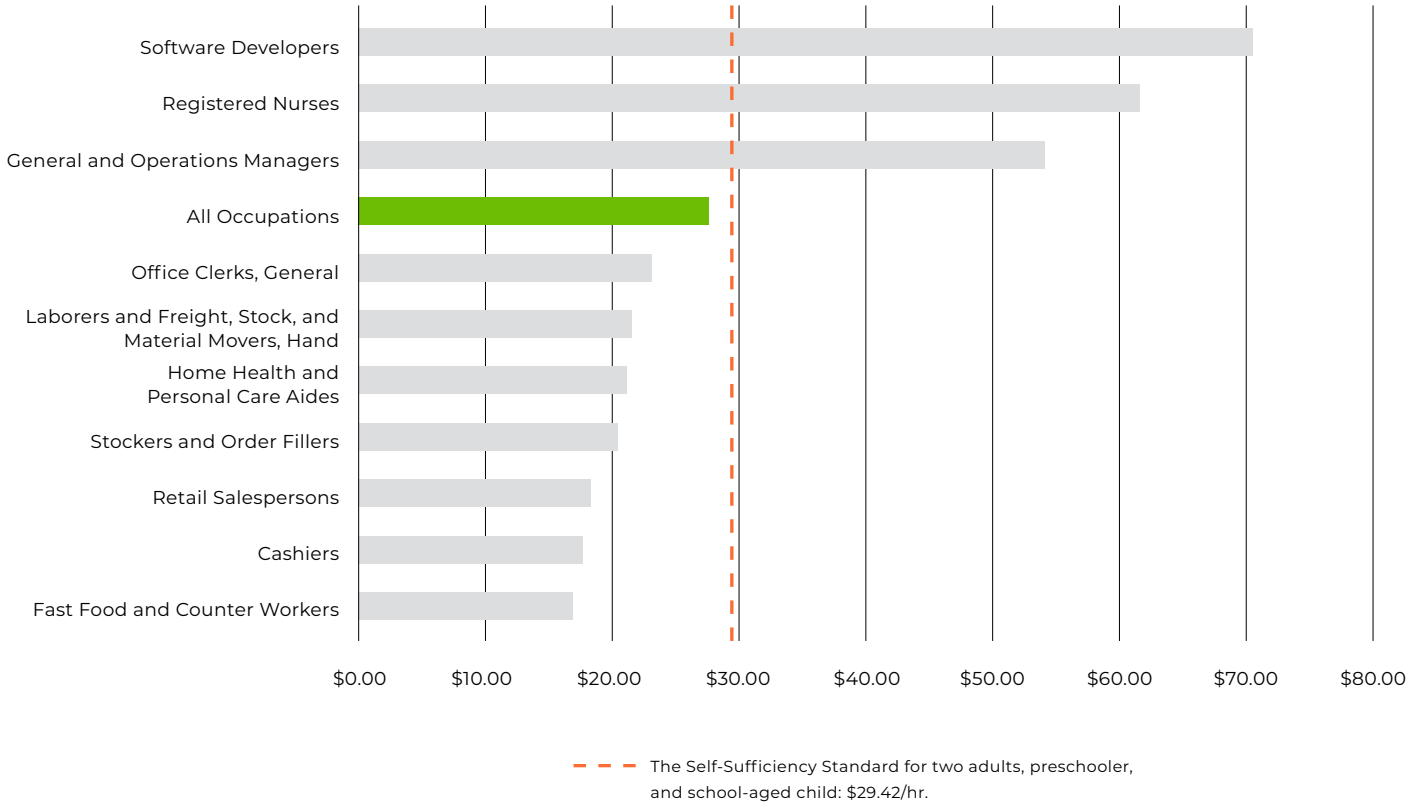
| | | BELOW THE SELF SUFFICIENCY STANDARD | | | | | | ABOVE STANDARD | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | BELOW STANDARD & BELOW POVERTY | | BELOW STANDARD & ABOVE POVERTY | | TOTAL BELOW STANDARD | | | |
| | TOTAL | NUMBER | % | NUMBER | % | NUMBER | % | NUMBER | % |
| Clackamas | 123,986 | 10,533 | 8.50% | 28,691 | 23.10% | 39,224 | 31.60% | 84,762 | 68.40% |
| Columbia | 13,451 | 1,526 | 11.30% | 3,798 | 28.20% | 5,325 | 39.60% | 8,127 | 60.40% |
| Multnomah | 284,796 | 29,292 | 10.30% | 58,243 | 20.50% | 87,535 | 30.70% | 197,261 | 69.30% |
| Washington | 191,796 | 14,932 | 7.80% | 38,967 | 20.30% | 53,899 | 28.10% | 137,897 | 71.90% |
| Yamhill | 29,145 | 4,305 | 14.80% | 6,181 | 21.20% | 10,486 | 36.00% | 18,659 | 64.00% |
| Clark | 151,270 | 15,171 | 10.00% | 32,466 | 21.50% | 47,637 | 31.50% | 103634 | 68.50% |
| Cowlitz | 27,950 | 3,914 | 14.00% | 4,483 | 16.00% | 8,398 | 30.00% | 19,552 | 70.00% |
| Skamania | 3,958 | 521 | 13.20% | 687 | 17.40% | 1208 | 30.50% | 2,749 | 69.50% |
| Wahkiakum | 1,344 | 189 | 14.00% | 215 | 16.00% | 404 | 30.00% | 940 | 70.00% |
| **PVMA** | **827,696** | **80,383** | **9.7%** | **173,731** | **21.0%** | **254,116** | **30.7%** | **573,581** | **69.3%** |

Note: The data for Oregon Counties is from 2024. The data for Washington Counties is from 2023.

More than 30% of households (254,116) in the PVMA are not able to cover basic needs, such as housing, food, health care, and transportation. 10% of households (80,383) are below the FPL. An addition 16% of households (173,731), are above the poverty line but below the Standard. These households are excluded from critical supports. The 16% of households that fall between the Standard and the FPL are often ineligible for critical government benefits due to income thresholds, leaving them to cut essential expenses or accumulate debt to survive.

## **FIGURE 2.6:** WAGES V. SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD, 2023

*Source: Oregon 2024 Self-Sufficiency Standard*

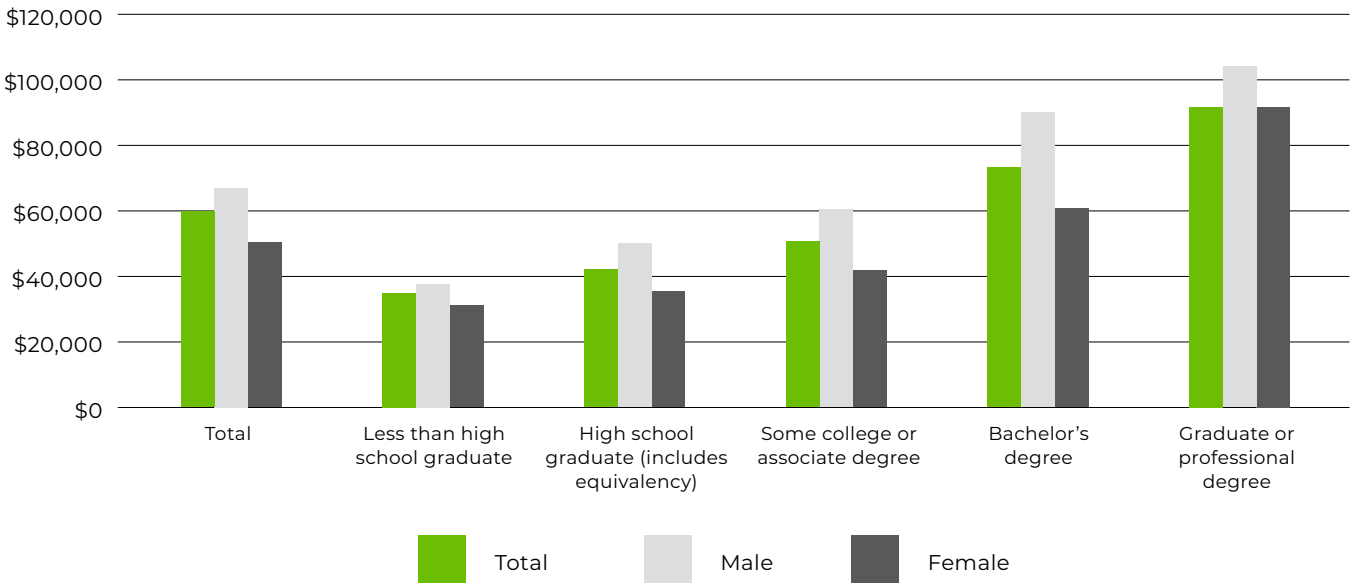



Note: Median hourly wages of the ten occupations employing the greatest number of workers in the Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA MSA, compared to the Self-Sufficiency Standard ($29.42) Two adults, preschooler, and school-aged: Multnomah County, OR 2024

Just three of the ten largest occupations in the PVMA pay Self-Sufficiency wages for a family of two adults, one preschooler, and one school-aged child in Multnomah County. The Standard assumes all adults in a household work, so both adults would need to earn the identified wage (in this case $29.42/hr.).

**FIGURE 2.7:** MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2023 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS) BY SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table S1501*

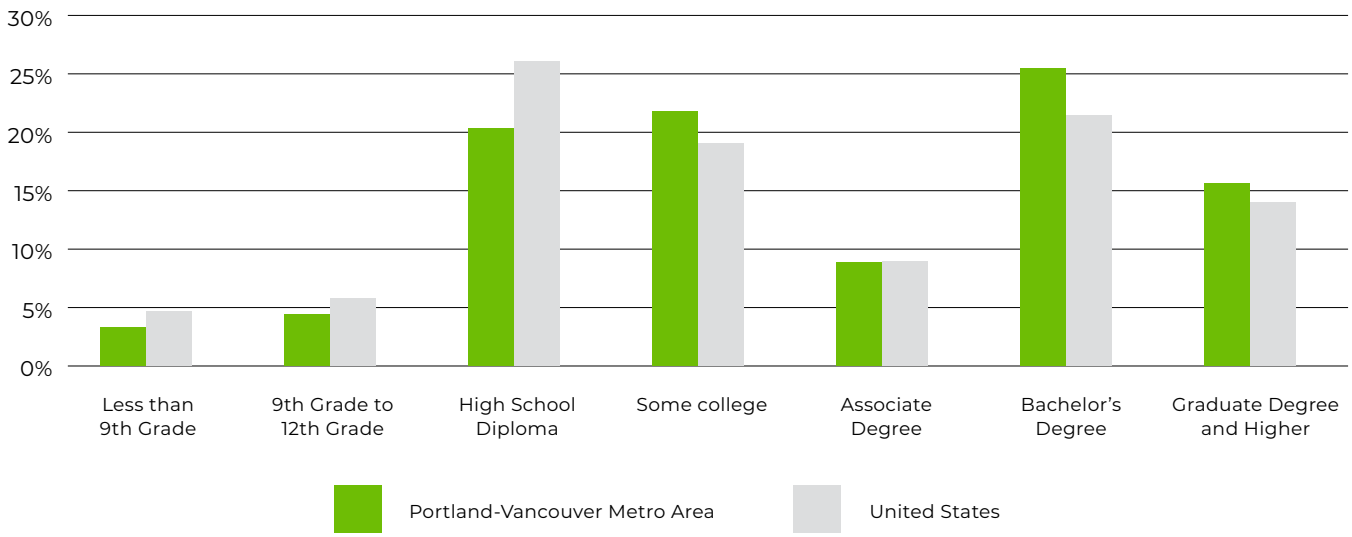



Income is positively correlated with education. Workers with some college or an associate degree earn on average 20% more than workers with a high school diploma. The average difference between a bachelor's degree and a high school diploma is 74%.

For each additional degree, male workers earn an additional $10,500 to $29,500. Female workers earn an additional $4,300 to $30,800.

## **FIGURE 2.8:** EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER, PORTLAND MSA, 2023

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table S1502*

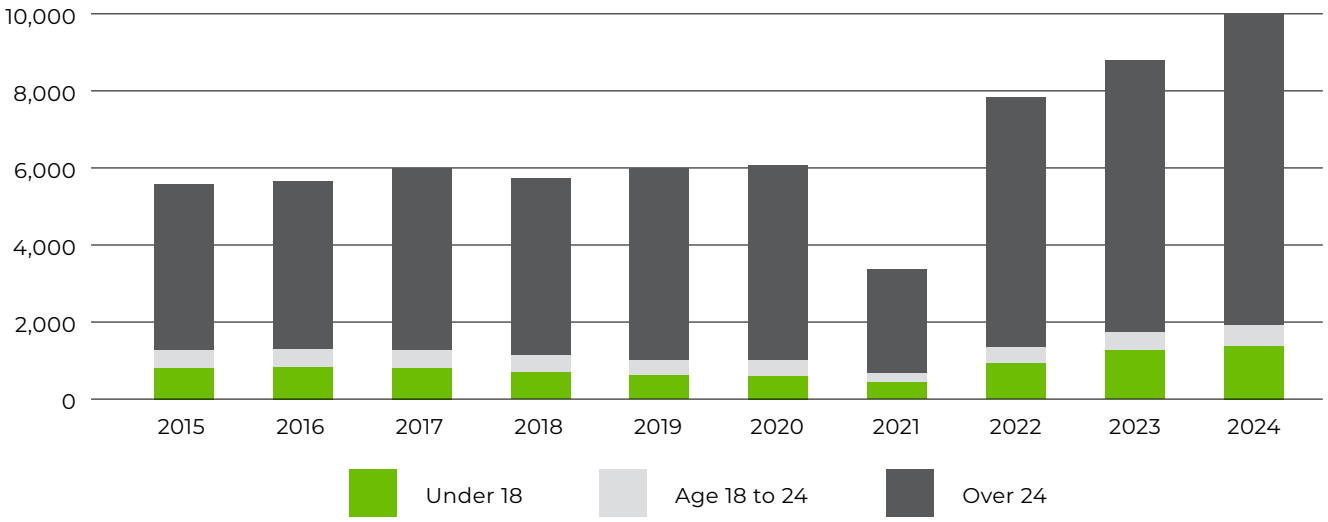



Rates of educational attainment in the Portland MSA are above the national average. Adults aged 25 years and over are more likely to have a bachelor's degree (26% v 22%) or an advanced degree (16% v 14%).

50% of adults in the Portland MSA, however, do not have an educational credential beyond high school.

## FIGURE 3.1: PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY AGE, 2015–2024

*Source: HUD Point in Time Homeless Counts*




Note: The geography for this data is Clark County, WA, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties in OR. Complete data for the region is not available.

In 2024, the Point-in-Time Homeless Count identified 9,977 persons who were experiencing homelessness in Clark, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. This includes both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

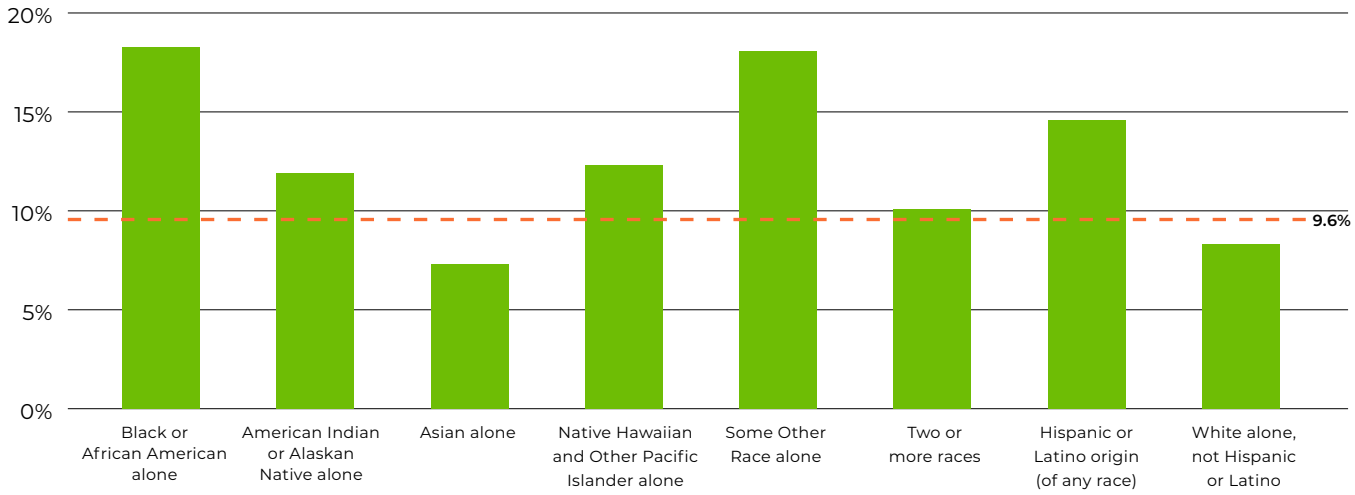
The 2024 count is in line with a steady increase in homelessness starting in 2022. Between 2015 and 2020, the number of persons experiencing homelessness remained fairly steady, ranging from 5,548 to 6,059.

The COVID-19 pandemic initially reduced unshelted homelessness with a dramatic decrease of 50% between 2020 and 2021. Unfortunatly, the decrease didn't last. In 2022, the count rose signifigantly and has been increasing each year.

The share of people age 18 to 24 experiencing homelessness decreased from 8% in 2015 to 5.2% in 2024. Adults over 24 now represents a larger share, 81% of all persons experiencing homelessness.

## FIGURE 3.2: POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, PORTLAND MSA, 2024

*Source: HUD Point in Time Homeless Counts*




Note: Data is not available for Cowlitz or Wahkiakum County

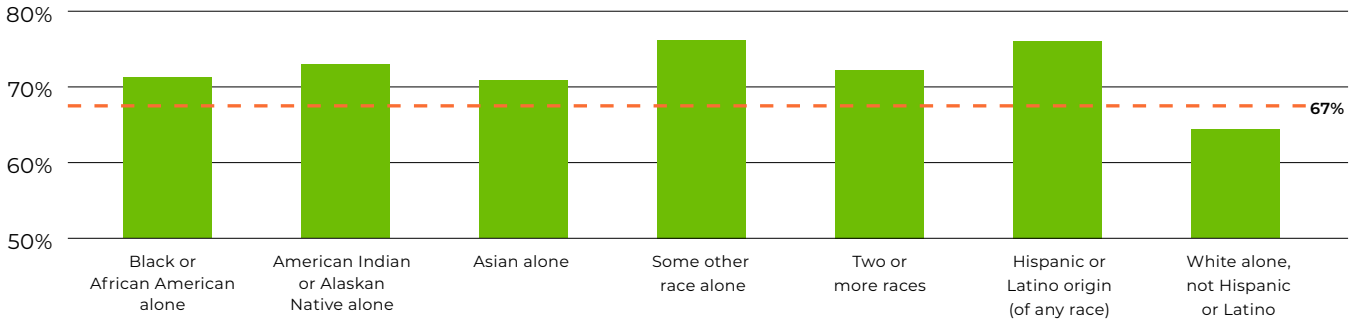
In 2024, more than 138,900 people in the Portland MSA (9.6%) reported living below FPL.

Broekn down by race and ethnicity, the rates were lower for people who identify as white alone (7.3%) or Asian alone (7.3%). All other racial and ethnic groups has higher than average rates of poverty.

The populations most likely to have experiences poverty were Black of African American alone (18.3%) and people who identified as Some Other Race alone (18.1%).

## FIGURE 3.3: LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE FOR THE POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER, BY RACE, PORTLAND MSA, 2024

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table S2301*

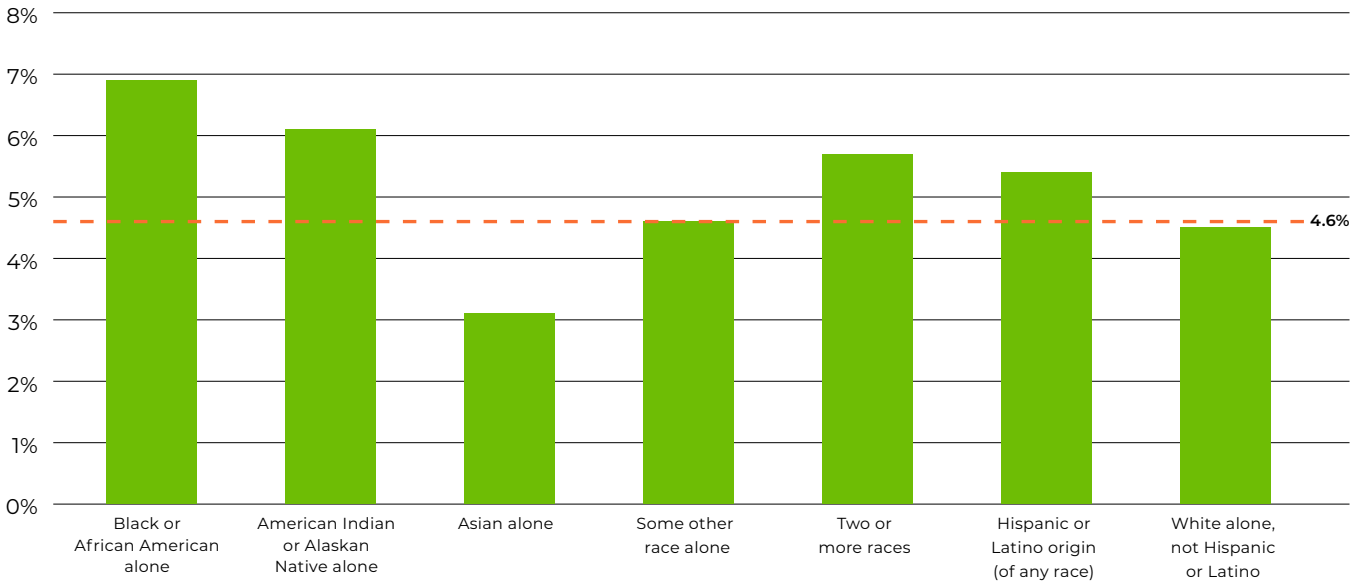



Note: Due to a small sample size, data is not available for Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders
Note: Data is not available for Cowlitz or Wahkiakum County

In 2024, the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for the Portland MSA was 76%. Broken out by race and ethnicity, the only population with a lower LFPR was White alone with a rate of 64%. The populations with the highest rates were Hispanic or Latino (76.1%) and Some other race (76.3%).

## **FIGURE 3.4:** UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER, BY RACE, PORTLAND MSA, 2024

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table S2301*




Note: Due to a small sample size, data is not available for Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders
Note: Data is not available for Cowlitz or Wahkiakum County

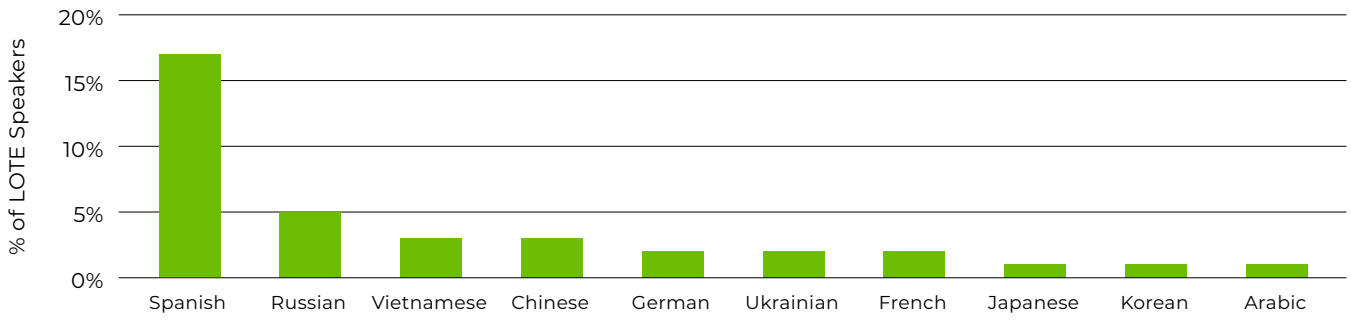
In 2024, the annual unemployment rate for the Portland MSA was 4.6%.

Broken down by race and ethnicity, the rates were lower for people who identify as white alone (4.5%) or Asian alone (3.1%). All other racial and ethnic groups has higher than average rates of poverty.

The populations with the highest unemployment rates were Black or African American alone (6.9%) and American Indian and Alaskan Native (6.1%).

## FIGURE 3.5: TEN MOST COMMONLY SPOKEN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH IN THE PORTLAND MSA, PVMA, 2024

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table B16001*




Note: Data is not available for Cowlitz or Wahkiakum County

In 2024, 8% of the population 5 years and over reported speaking English less than "very well."

Spanish is the most commonly spoken language, followed by Russian, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

## TABLE 3.1: POPULATION UNDER SUPERVISION, BY RACE, PVMA (OREGON PORTION), 2024 [INCLUDES LOCAL CONTROL, POST PRISON, AND PROBATION]

*Source: Oregon Department of Corrections*

| | PVMA (OREGON PORTION) | |
|---|---|---|
| | # | % |
| **Community Population** | **7,129** | **100%** |
| Asian | 203 | 3% |
| Black | 1,081 | 15% |
| Hispanic | 665 | 9% |
| American Indian | 135 | 2% |
| White | 4,962 | 70% |
| Pacific Islander | 42 | 1% |
| Unknown | 41 | 1% |

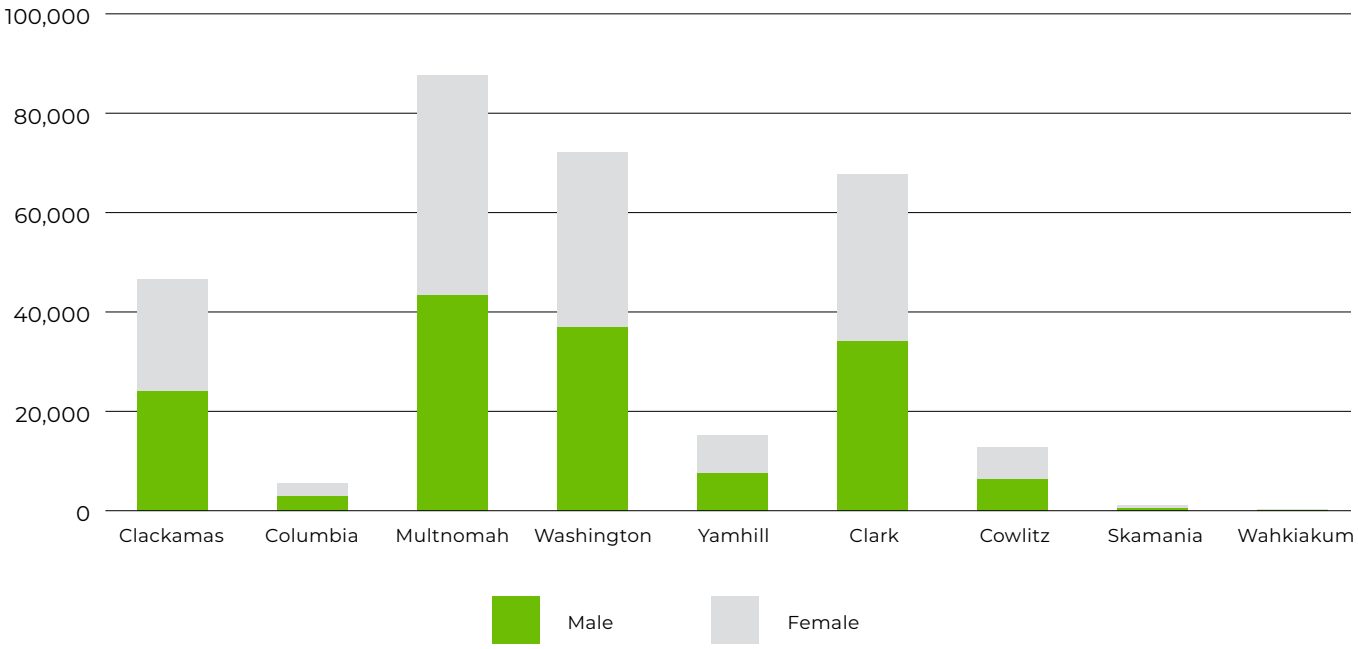
Note: Matching data is not available for the Washington Portion of the PVMA.

In 2024, more than 7,100 people were under under supervision (local control, post prison, an probation) in the Oregon portion of the PVMA.

Compared to their representation in the general population, Black and American Indian people were over represented in the population undersupervision. White and Asian people were underrepresentated.

## FIGURE 4.1: POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Oregon Population Research Center, Washington Office of Financial Management*




In 2024, approximately 309,672 youth (aged 15 to 24) lived in the PVMA. Male youth slightly outnumber female youth.

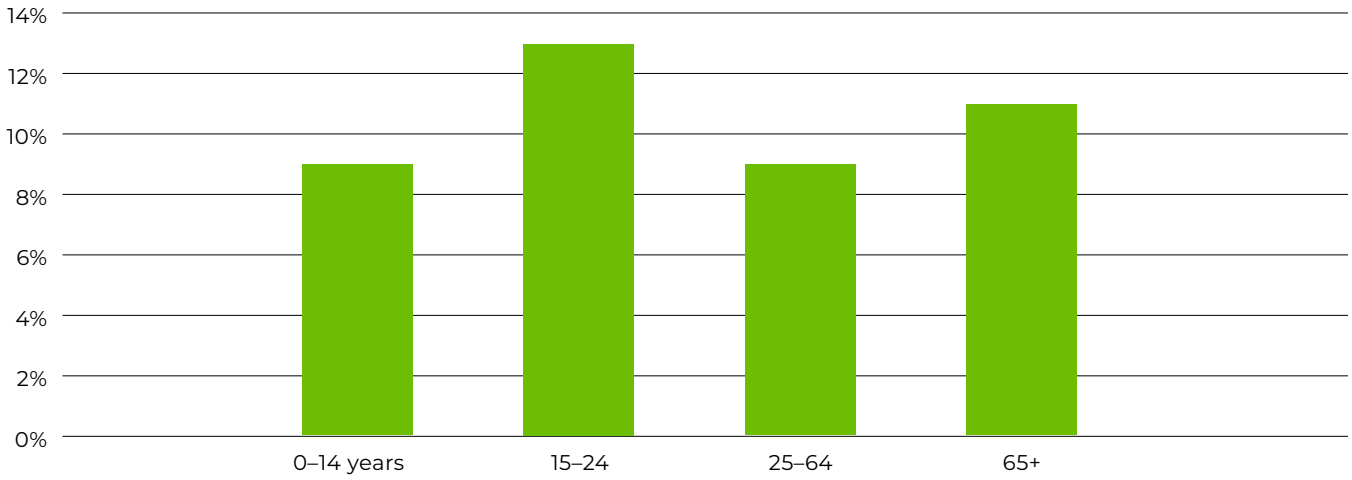
Multnomah and Washington Counties had the largest youth populations (87,718 and 72,217 respectively). Of the nine counties, Clackamas has the highest percentage of youth. In 2024, 14% of Clackamas County's population was aged 15 to 24 years. Clark County is second, with 13%.

Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties are home to the smallest youth populations (1,098 and 414 respectively). They are also the counties where youth represent the smallest share of the population (9%).

Over the past decade, the overall youth population in the PVMA decreased by 3%. However, of the nine counties, Multnomah was the only one which experienced a drop in the youth population (8%). The youth population in Clark and Wahkiakum Counties increased by more than a fifth (20% and 22%). The remaining six counties experienced an increase of 2% to 5% in the youth population.

**FIGURE 4.2:** POVERTY STATUS BY BROAD AGE GROUP, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2023

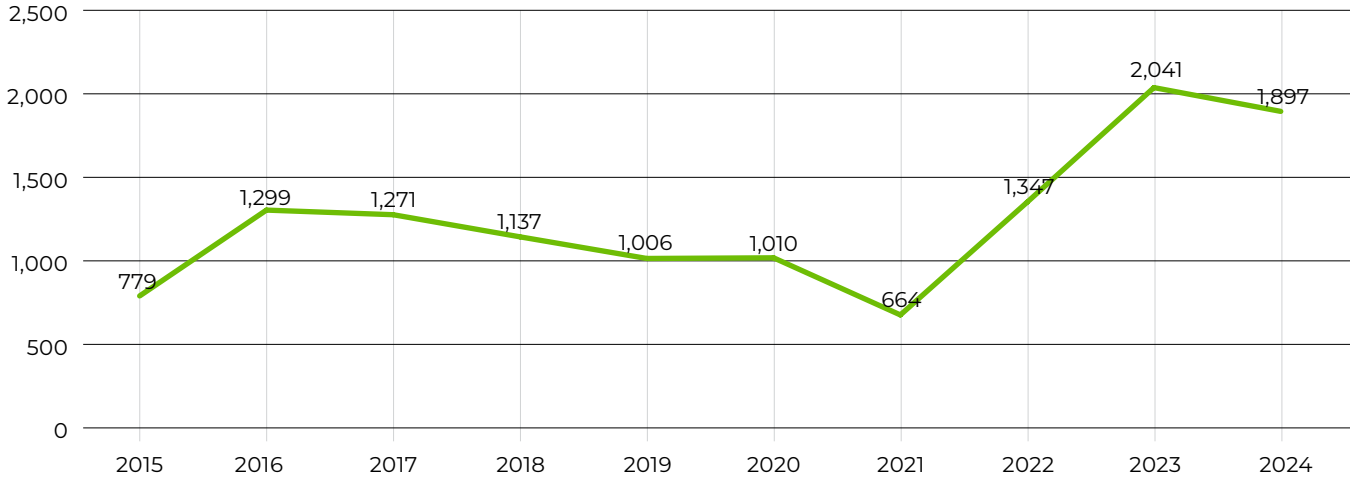
*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table B17001*




In the Portland MSA, youth are more likely to live in poverty than other broad age groups. In 2023, 13% of youth reported living below the poverty level during the past twelve months. Adults aged 65 years and older were slightly less likely to have experienced poverty during the past 12 months. 9% of children (ages 0 to 14) and working age adults (25 to 64 years) experienced poverty during the past 12 months.

## **FIGURE 4.3:** PERSONS AGED 0–24 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 2015–2024

*Source: HUD Point in Time Homeless Counts*

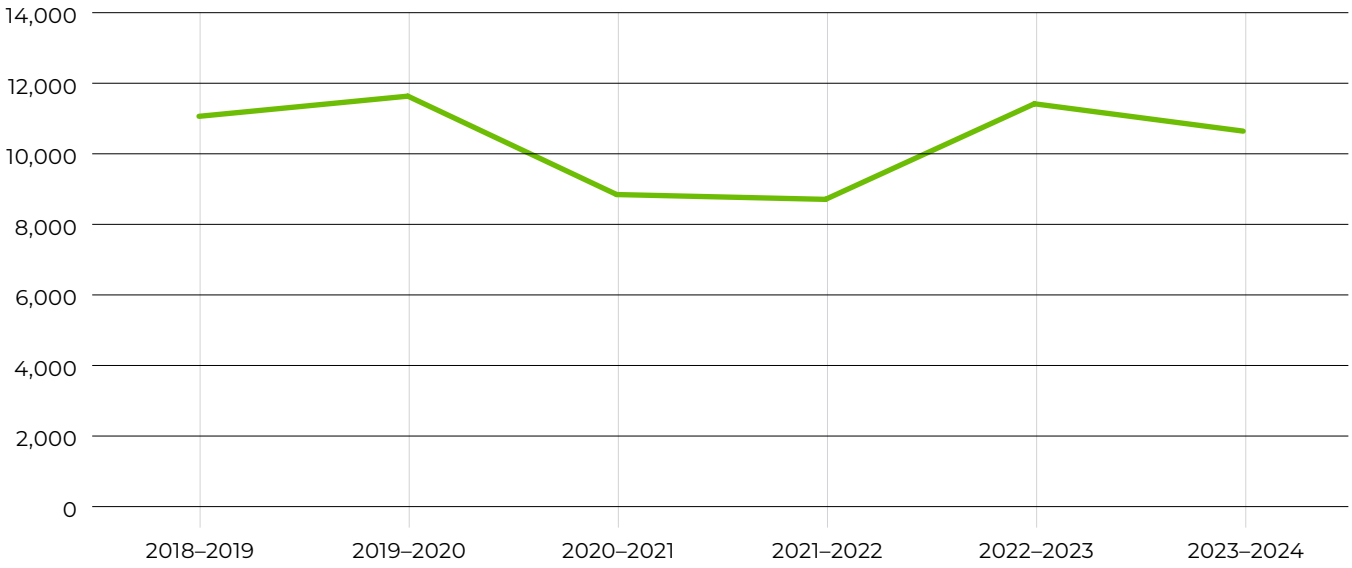



In 2024, the Point-in-Time Homeless Count identified 1,897 persons aged 24 years and younger who were experiencing homelessness in Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington counties. This includes both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

The 2024 count represented a slight decrease from the previous year (-7%). Even with the decrease, the overall trend is concerning. Between 2016 and 2021, the region experienced a steady decrease in homeless youth and children. Starting in 2022, the count increased significantly. Between 2021 and 2024, the number of persons aged 0 to 24 identified in the point-in-time homeless count nearly tripled.

## **FIGURE 4.4:** MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT: STUDENTS NAVIGATING HOUSELESSNESS, 2018–2024

*Source: Oregon Department of Education, Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Education*




Note: Because numbers are reported by district of enrollment, counties with distance learning programs show higher totals. Ins school districts with only 1–5 children experiencing homelessness, the total is not reported to avoid inadvertently disclosing their identity. This results in a lower overall total from the county-by-county data (22,572) than the reported statewide total (22,903)

Public schools provide a second and more expansive picture of homelessness among children and youth. The McKinney-Vento Act for the Education of Houseless Children and Youth was passed to ensure that houseless children and youth are provided a free, appropriate public education despite the lack of a fixed, regular, nighttime, adequate place of residence. Children living in the following situations are eligible for services under McKinney-Vento: In a shelter, in a motel or campground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations, in a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship, and lack of a fixed, regular, nighttime, adequate place of residence.

Data collected under the act, show more than 10,000 children enrolled in public schools in the PVMA who fall under the definition. The count has been largely consistent since the 2018–2019 school year with a slight decrease between 2020–2022.

## TABLE 4.1: OPPORTUNITY YOUTH SUMMARY, PVMA, 2022

*Source: US Census, American Community Census, PUMA, 1yr. Estimate*

| GROUP | TOTAL | POVERTY | | RACE/ETHNICITY | | EDUCATION | | GENDER | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | LIVING BELOW 200% OF FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL | LIVING ABOVE 200% OF THE POVERTY LEVEL | PEOPLE OF COLOR | WHITE | LESS THAN A HS DIPLOMA | HS DIPLOMA / EQUIVALENT OR MORE | FEMALE | MALE |
| **Age 16–19** | **7,137** | 2,240 | 4,818 | 3,234 | 3,903 | 1,489 | 5,648 | 2,827 | 4,310 |
| **Age 20–24** | **20,090** | 7,270 | 12,539 | 7,429 | 12,661 | 3,131 | 16,959 | 8,780 | 11,310 |
| **All OY** | **27,227** | 9,510 | 17,357 | 10,663 | 16,564 | 4,620 | 22,607 | 11,607 | 15,620 |
| **Share of OY** | **100%** | 35% | 64% | 39% | 61% | 17% | 83.0% | 43% | 57% |

Note: Income data is not available for 360 Opportunity Youth

An estimated 27,200 16-to-24-year-olds in the PVMA are neither in school nor working. These opportunity youth represent 11% of youth in the region.

The number of opportunity youth in the region decreased 21% between 2020 and 2022. The decline is related to, but not fully explained by, an overal drop in the youth population. Between 2020 and 2022, the number of 16-to-24-year-olds in the region decreased by 15%. This decrease is a combination of multiple factors, including a decrease in the birth rate, changes in regional migration and population patterns, and a decrease in international immigration during the COVID-19 pandemic.

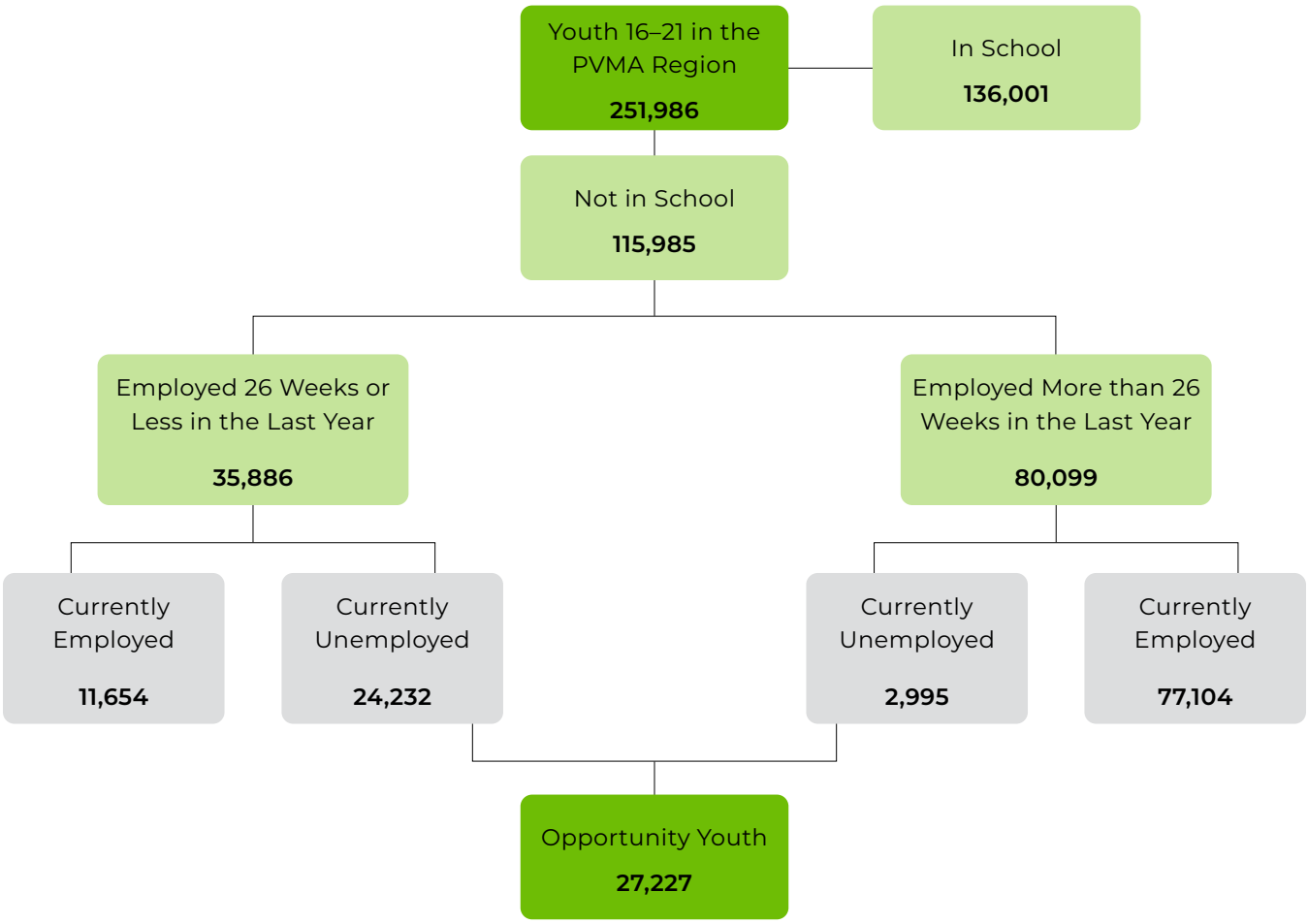
Opportunity youth are more likely to experience a range of challenges in adulthood, including having low incomes and experiencing poor physical and mental health.

Table 1 highlights the key summary statistics of opportunity youth found in the PVMA in 2022. Some of the most noticeable data points and changes in the opportunity youth population since 2020 include:

- Opportunity youth account for approximately 11% of all youth and 23% of all youth not enrolled in school throughout the region. Over 24,200 (89%) opportunity youth were employed for half or less of the last year (26 weeks) or were never employed. Of these 17,969 (66%) did not work at all in 2021.
- The share of male opportunity youth increased 7 percentage points between 2020 and 2022, while the share of female opportunity youth decreased by the same amount.
- 23% of female opportunity youth (2,700) lived with their own children in 2022. (Figure 4)The number of female opportunity youth living with their own child is virtually unchanged from 2020. However, they represent a larger share of all female opportunity youth in 2022.
- In 2022, just 86% of opportunity youth had health insurance coverage, down from 94% in 2020. This is nearly ten percentage points lower than for the total youth population.

## FIGURE 4.5: OPPORTUNITY YOUTH, PVMA, 2022

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, 1yr. Estimate*




Opportunity youth are individuals between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither working nor in school. Specifically, in the context of Census information, this means that:

1. Individuals who have not attended school in the last three months AND
2. Individuals who are not working, but are looking for work (unemployed) OR
3. Individuals who are not working, nor are they looking for work (not in the labor force)

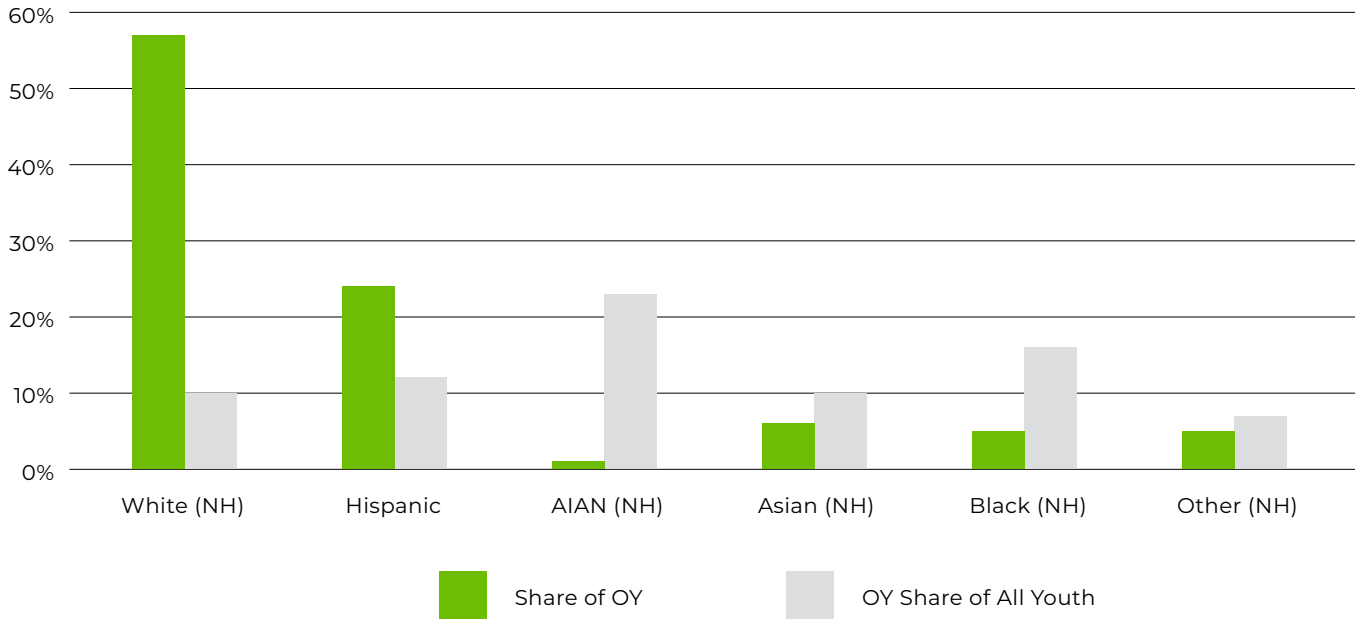
In 2022, there were more than 27,000 opportunity youth in the region (Table 1). This represents a decrease of 21% from 2020. The decline in the number of youths reflects a decrease in population. Between 2020 and 2022, the number of 16-to-24-year-olds in the region decreased by 15%. This decrease is a combination of multiple factors, including a decrease in the birth rate, changes in regional migration and population patterns, and a decrease in international immigration during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As seen in Table 1, opportunity youth have varying levels of education. Overall, 17% of opportunity youth in the region do not have a high school degree or equivalent, severely limiting their employment prospects. Many would benefit immensely from workforce development programs that propel them into the labor force or advance their education.

Opportunity youth account for approximately 11% of all youth in the region and 23% of all youth not enrolled in school throughout the region. Over 24,200 (89%) opportunity youth were employed for half or less of the last year (26 weeks) or were never employed. Of these 17,969 (66%) did not work at all in 2021. (Figure 6)

## **FIGURE 4.6:** OPPORTUNITY YOUTH, RACE AND ETHNICITY, PVMA, 2022

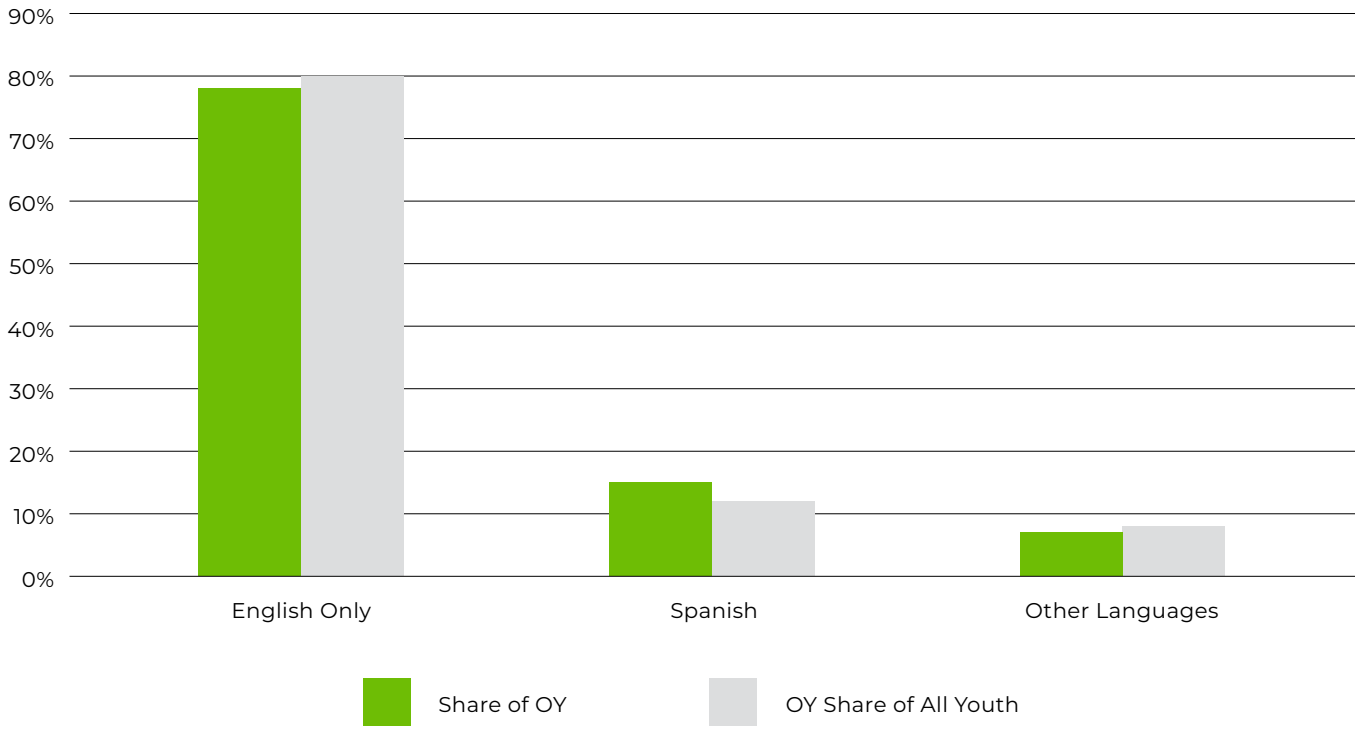
*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, PUMS 1yr. Estimate*




In past years, an opportunity youth in the region was more likely to be a person of color compared to the overall population of youth aged 16 to 24. The racial disparities are lessening. In 2022, 43% of opportunity youth identified as Hispanic or a race other than white. This is slightly higher than the total population in which 41% of youth identify as Hispanic or a race other than white.

## **FIGURE 4.7:** LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AMONG OPPORTUNITY YOUTH, PVMA, 2022

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, PUMS 1yr. Estimate*




Approximately 5,900 opportunity youth (22%) speak a language other than English at home. This is roughly the same as the percentage of all youth 16–24 who speak a language other than English at home (20%). (Figure 4)

More than 800 opportunity youth (3%) report speaking English "but not well."

8% of opportunity youth were born outside the United States. This is a significant drop from previous years: 15% (2014) and 22% (2016). This likely reflects a decrease in immigration caused by restrictive federal policies, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession. The largest groups of opportunity youth born outside the United States are from Mexico (36%), Russia (19%), and China (19%).

## **FIGURE 4.8:** OPPORTUNITY YOUTH FEMALES BY HOUSEHOLDS TYPE AND OWN CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD, PVMA, 2022

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, PUMS 1yr. Estimate*

Domestic responsibilities, including caring for children, can be difficult to balance with education and paid labor. Youth who become parents during their teen years face significant challenges when it comes to completing their education and finding career track employment.

23% of female opportunity youth (2,700) lived with their own children in 2022. The number of female opportunity youth living with their own child is virtually unchanged from 2020. However, they represent a larger share of all female opportunity youth in 2022.

Teen birth rates in the region are declining. In 2012, 5% of babies born in the PVMA were born to teen mothers ages 19 and younger. By 2022, just 3% of babies born in the region had mother younger than 19. This is consistent with a national drop-in teen birth rate.

Based on the Standard and Census data, an estimated 60% of single mother households in Oregon and 80% of single mother households in Washington do not earn enough to make ends meet, compared to one-third of all households. The rates are particularly high for single mothers of color. In Oregon 92% of Black and 65% of Latina headed households with children lack adequate income. In Washington, 81% of Latina headed and 80% of households headed by a Black single mother lack adequate income.

For teens who do become parents, the chance of becoming an opportunity youth is high. 57% (2,200) of the female youth ages 16 to 24 who gave birth during the past year, were opportunity youth.

## **TABLE 4.2:** SIGNIFICANT EMPLOYMENT BY EDUCATION LEVEL YOUTH AGE 16–24, NOT IN SCHOOL, PVMA, 2022

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, PUMS 1yr. Estimate*

| OPPORTUNITY YOUTH AGE 16–19 | COUNT OF OY | SHARE OF OY |
|---|---|---|
| Less than high school diploma | 1,489 | 21% |
| High school diploma/equivalent or more | 5,648 | 79% |
| **Total OY age 16–19** | **7,137** | **100%** |

| OPPORTUNITY YOUTH AGE 20–24 | COUNT OF OY | SHARE OF OY |
|---|---|---|
| Less than high school diploma | 3,131 | 16% |
| High school diploma/equivalent or more | 16,959 | 84% |
| **Total OY age 20–24** | **20,090** | **100%** |

Ensuring that youth complete high school is imperative in preparing them for future success. A high school diploma or GED is a requirement for higher education, a registered apprenticeship, and nearly all jobs that pay a family supporting wage.

Adults without a high school diploma are nearly twice as likely to live in poverty as those with a diploma or equivalent (21% v 12%).

Knowing the current level of education for opportunity youth can provide insight into what extent schooling will be the priority focus on re-engagement assistance. Among teenage opportunity youth, an estimated 1,500 have less than a high school diploma. This specific sub-population of opportunity youth likely meet the necessary qualifications to re-integrate into the K-12 education system. The other 79% of opportunity youth aged 16–19 have a high school degree or equivalent.

Older opportunity youth, those aged 20 to 24, are more likely to have at least a high school degree. Just 16% have less than a high school degree or equivalent. 35% of older opportunity youth have education beyond high school, a number that has been steadily decreasing since 2014. Roughly 4,000 older opportunity youth have some college education but have not formally completed an associate degree or higher. This is a decrease of 40% from 2016.

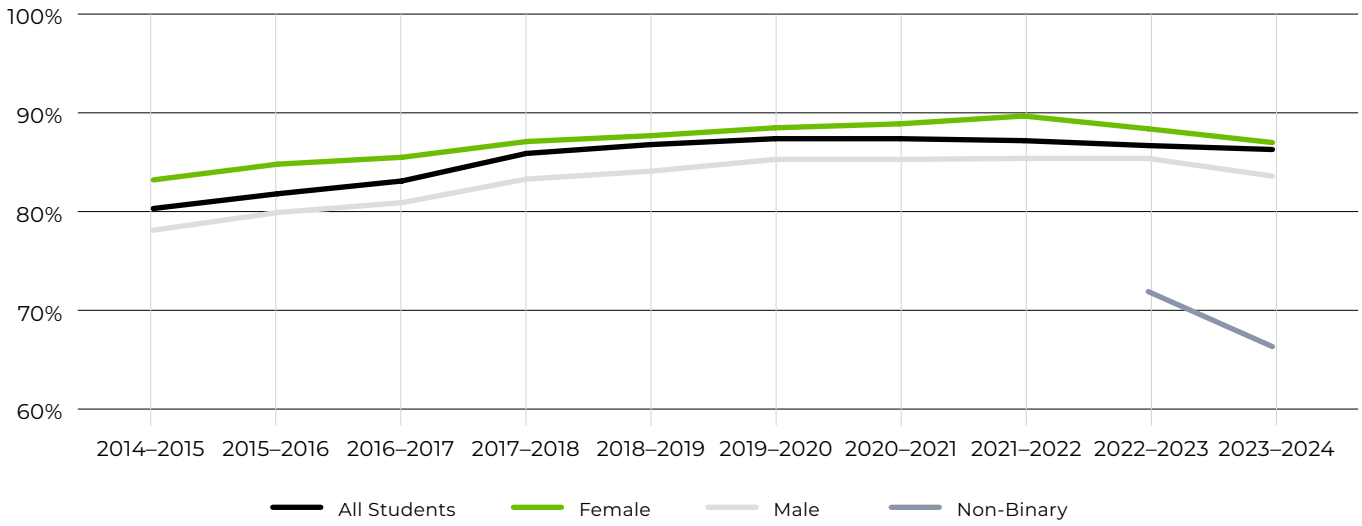
## **TABLE 4.3:** LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION AMONG OPPORTUNITY YOUTH, PVMA, 2022

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, PUMS 1yr. Estimate*

| PARTICIPATION | COUNT OF OY | SHARE OF OY |
|---|---|---|
| In the labor force | 7,789 | 29% |
| Not in the labor force | 19,438 | 71% |
| **All Opportunity Youth** | **27,227** | **100%** |

## FIGURE 4.9A: FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE, PVMA, 2014–2024

*Source: Oregon Department of Education, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Education*

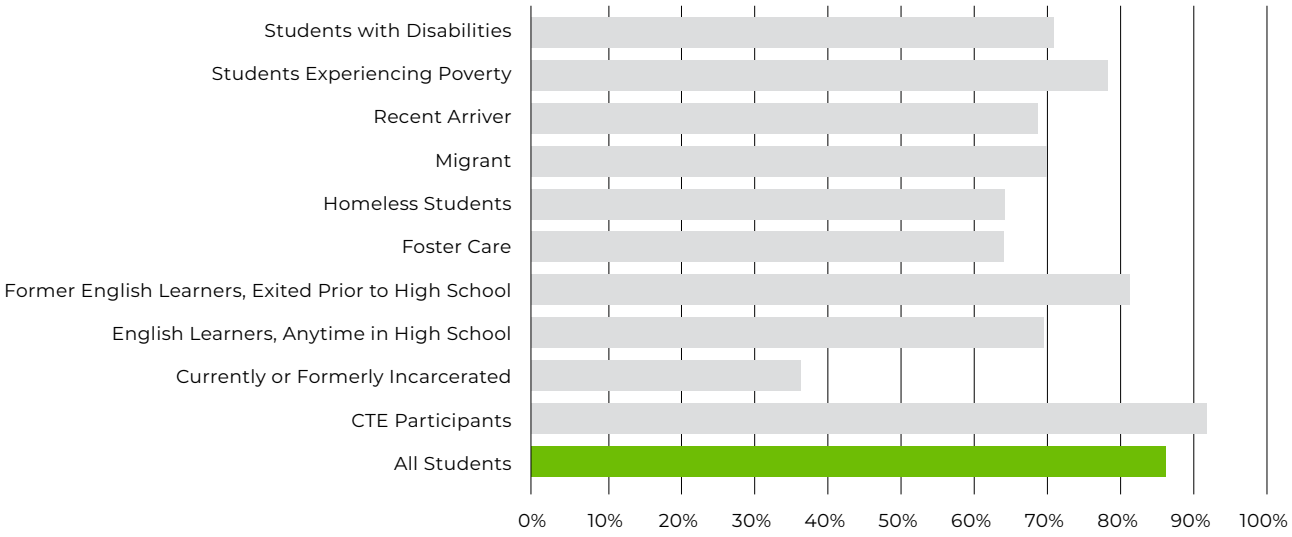



High school students in the PVMA are more likely to graduate in four years then they were a decade ago. Just 80% of students completed high school in four years in the 2014–2015 academic year. In the 2023–2024 academic year, more than 86% of students graduated in four years.

In the PVMA, female students graduate from high school at a higher rate than their male peers. The gap widened slightly during the last academic year, increasing from 1.2% in the 2022–2023 school year to 2.7% in the 2023–2024 school year. Data for non-binary students is available for just two years and indicates that these students graduate at a much lower rate than their peers.

## **FIGURE 4.9B:** FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE, BY SUBGROUP, PVMA, 2023–2024

*Source: Oregon Department of Education, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Education*



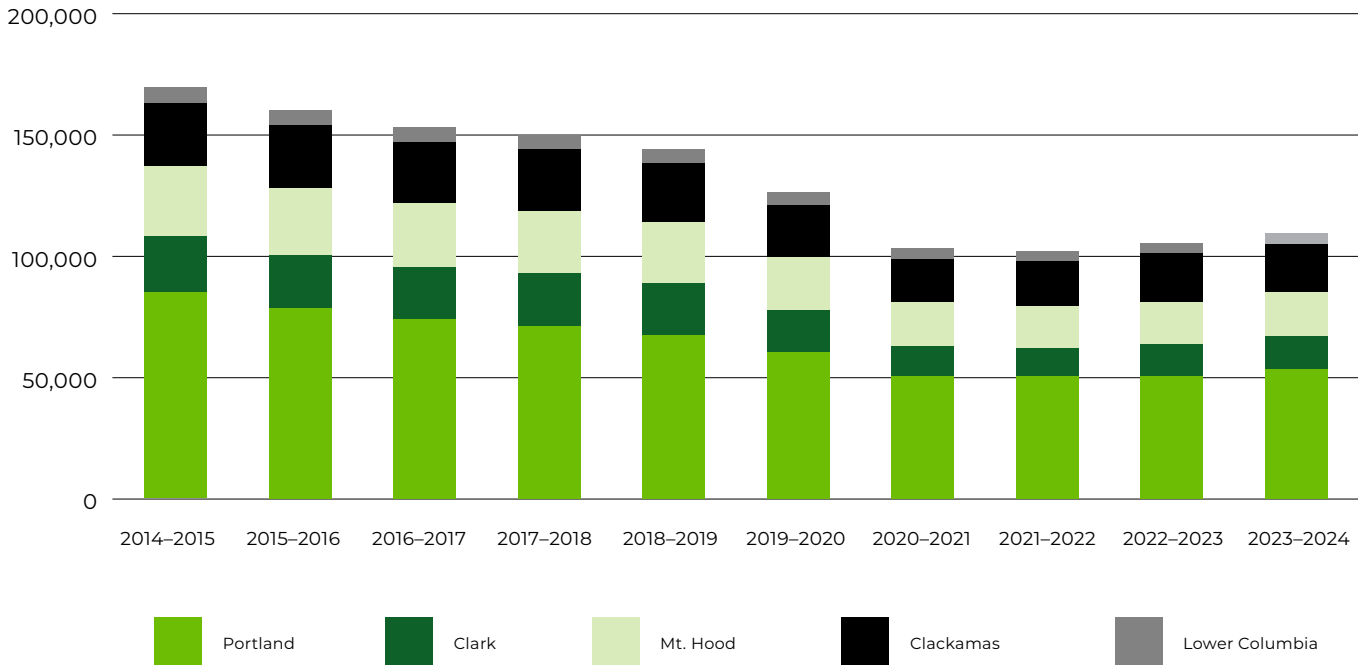

Participation in Career and Technical Education (CTE) increased the likelihood that a student would graduate high school in four years. In the 2023–2024 academic year, 91.8% of CTE Participants graduated high school within four years competed to 86.3% of all students.

The four-year graduation rate for English Learners in High School was less than 70%. However, English Learners who exited the program prior to high school had a significantly higher graduation rate (81.4%).

Poverty, justice system involvement, and participation in the foster care system had a negative impact on students' ability to complete high school in four years. Currently or formerly incarcerated students had the lowest graduation rate, with just 37% of students graduating in four years.

## FIGURE 4.10A: COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT, PVMA, 2014–2023A

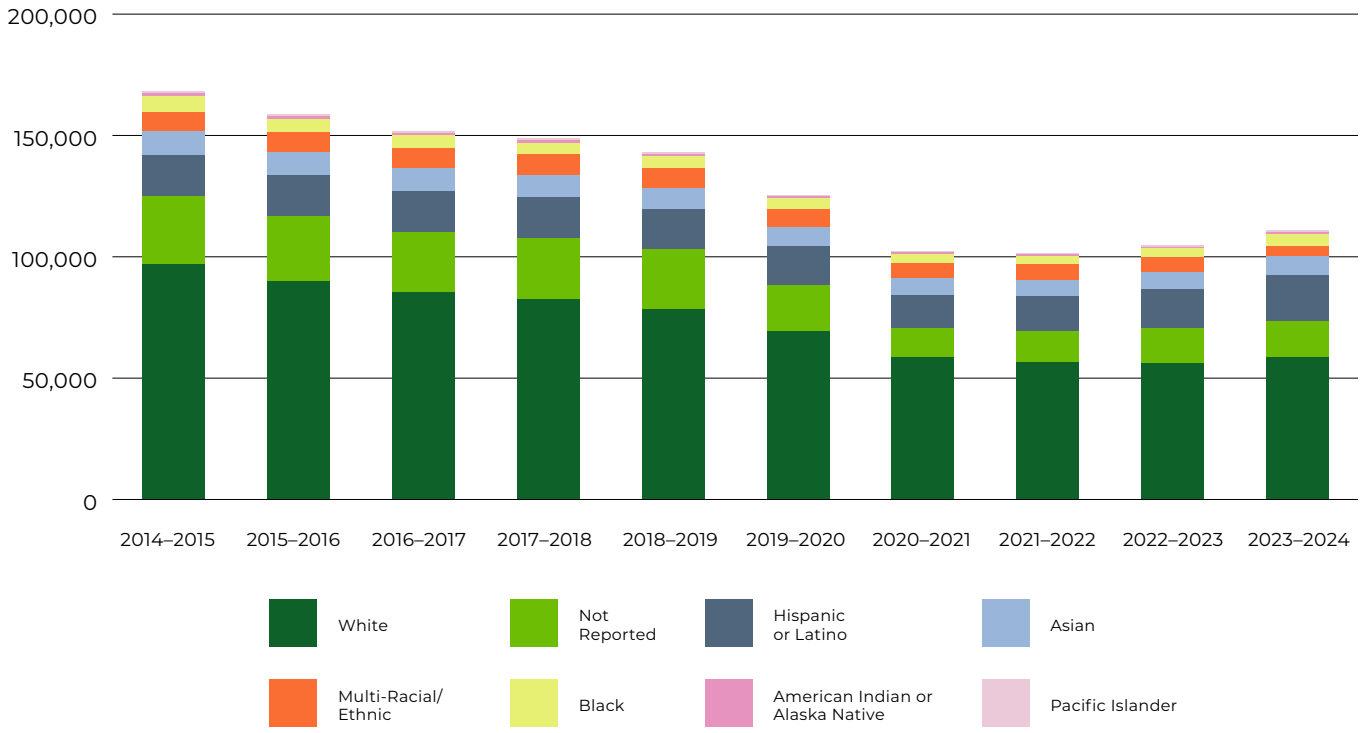
*Source: Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Council, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges*




The five community colleges in the PVMA have seen a marked decline in enrollment. Overall, 36% fewer students enrolled in community colleges in 2023–2024 from the peak of enrollment in 2014–2015. Clark College experienced the largest decline (41%). Enrollment has stabilized over the past four years.

## FIGURE 4.10B: COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT BY RACE, PVMA, 2014–2024

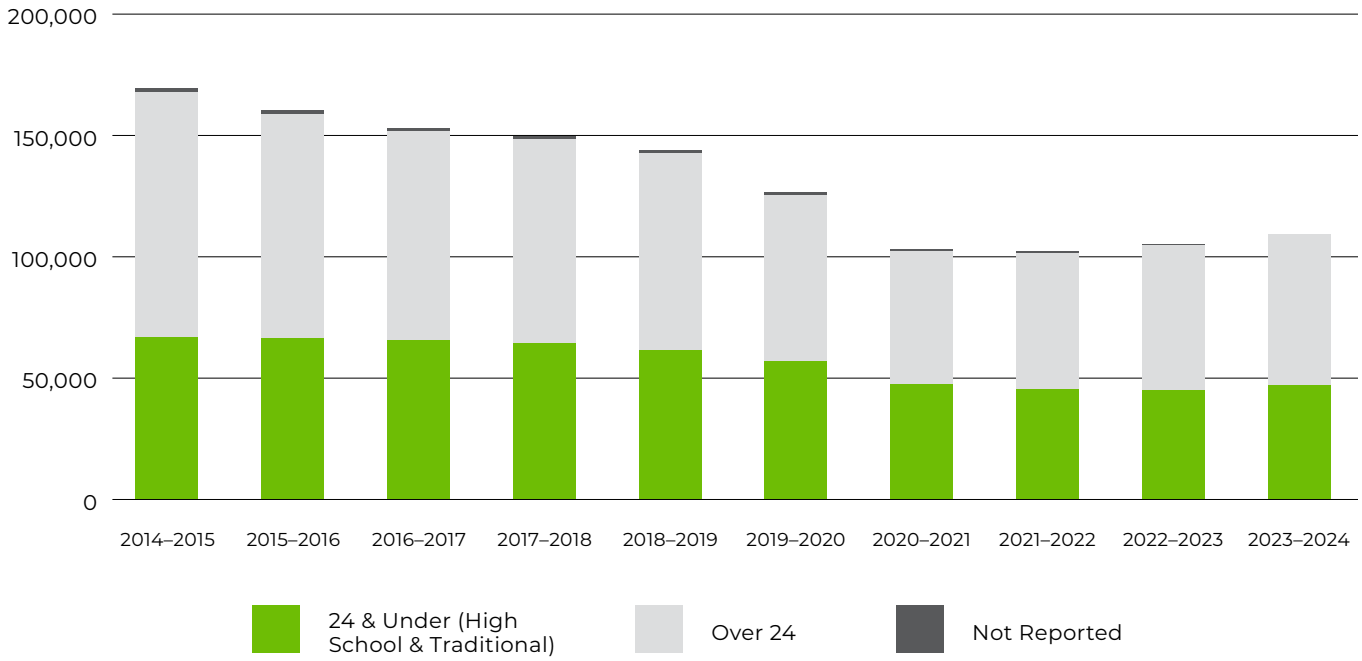
*Source: Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Council, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges*




The number of BIPOC students enrolled in regional community colleges decreased during the past ten year. During the 2015–2015 academic year, 43,109 BIPOC students enrolled in the region's five community colleges. By the 2023–2024 academic year, BIPOC enrollment had declined by 12% (5,249 students). During the same period, the share of BIPOC students steadily increased. 31% of enrolled students during the 2014–2015 academic year identified as BIPOC. By the 2023–2024 academic year, the share of students identifying as BIPOC has increased to 39%.

## FIGURE 4.10C: COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT BY AGE, PVMA, 2015–2023

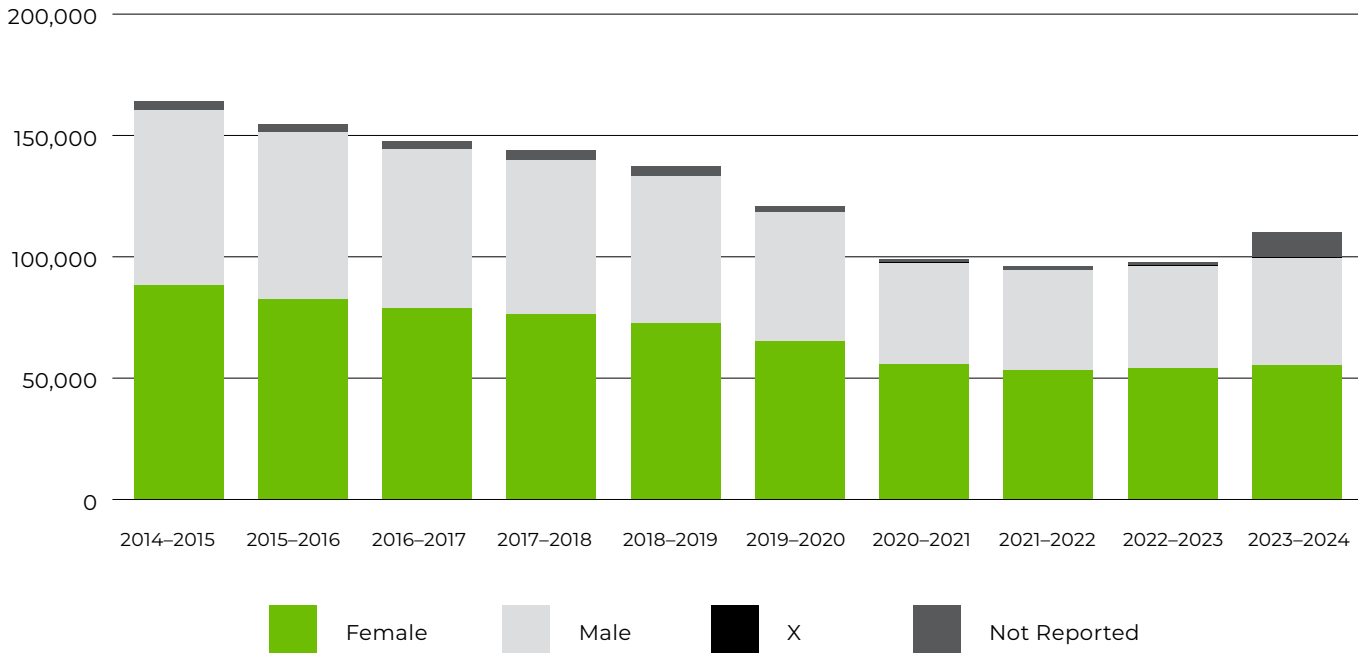
*Source: Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Council, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges*




The number of students 24 years or younger enrolled in regional community colleges declined 30% between the 2014–2015 academic year and the 2023–2024 academic year. This represents a smaller declined that the Over 24 (non-Traditional) age group which declined 38%. During this period, the share of younger students was increasing. During the 2014–2025 academic year, 40% of students enrolled in regional community colleges were 24 and under. By the 2023–2024 academic year, the share increased to 43%.

## FIGURE 4.10D: COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT BY SEX, PVMA, 2014–2024

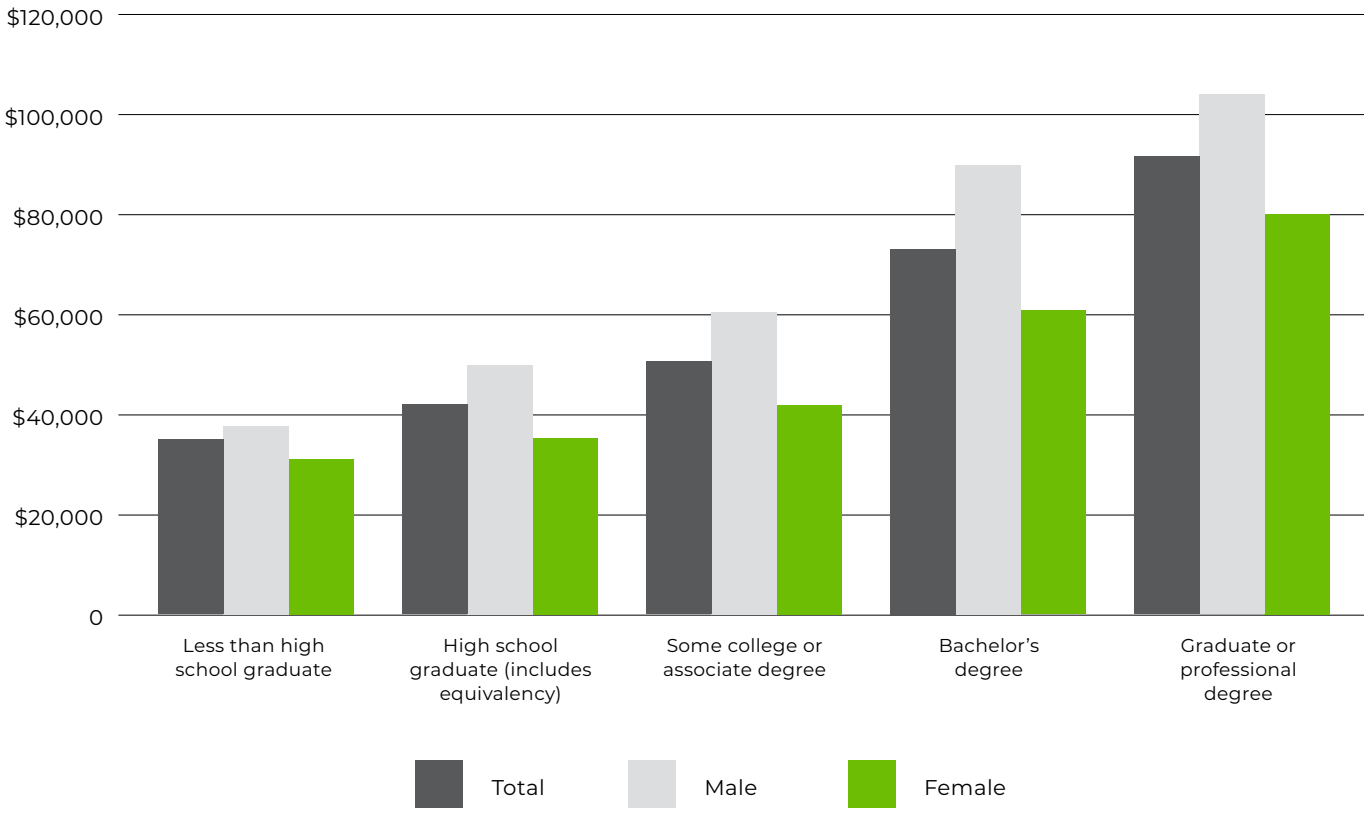
*Source: Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Council, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges*




Over the last decade, enrollment of both male and female students declined. Enrollment of female students was down by 37% (32,792 students) and enrollment of male students had declined by 39% (28,469 students). The ratio of male to female students has remained largely consistent at 56% female to 44% male.

**FIGURE 4.11:** MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2023 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS) BY SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table B20004*

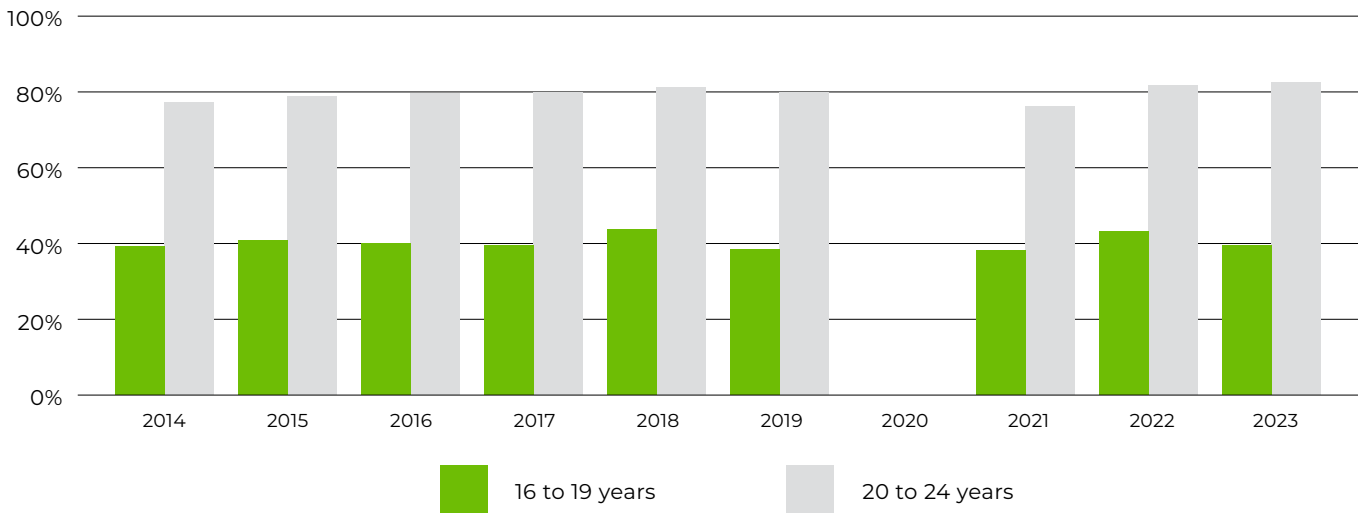



There is a positive correlation between post-secondary education and income. In the Portland MSA in 2023, adults aged 25 years or older who completed high school earned a median income of $42,037. Adults with a bachelor's degree earned an additional $31,000 for a median income of $73,204.

Male workers benefit more financially from higher levels of educational attainment. In every educational category, male workers have higher median earnings than their female peers. The gap widens as the educational level increases. For those without a high school diploma, male workers earn roughly $6,600 more than their female peers. The gap more than doubles for workers with a high school diploma or equivalent ($14,625). Male workers with a bachelor's degree earn nearly 150% for their female peers earnings, a gap of nearly $30,000.

**FIGURE 4.12:** LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, BY AGE, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2014–2023

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table S2301*

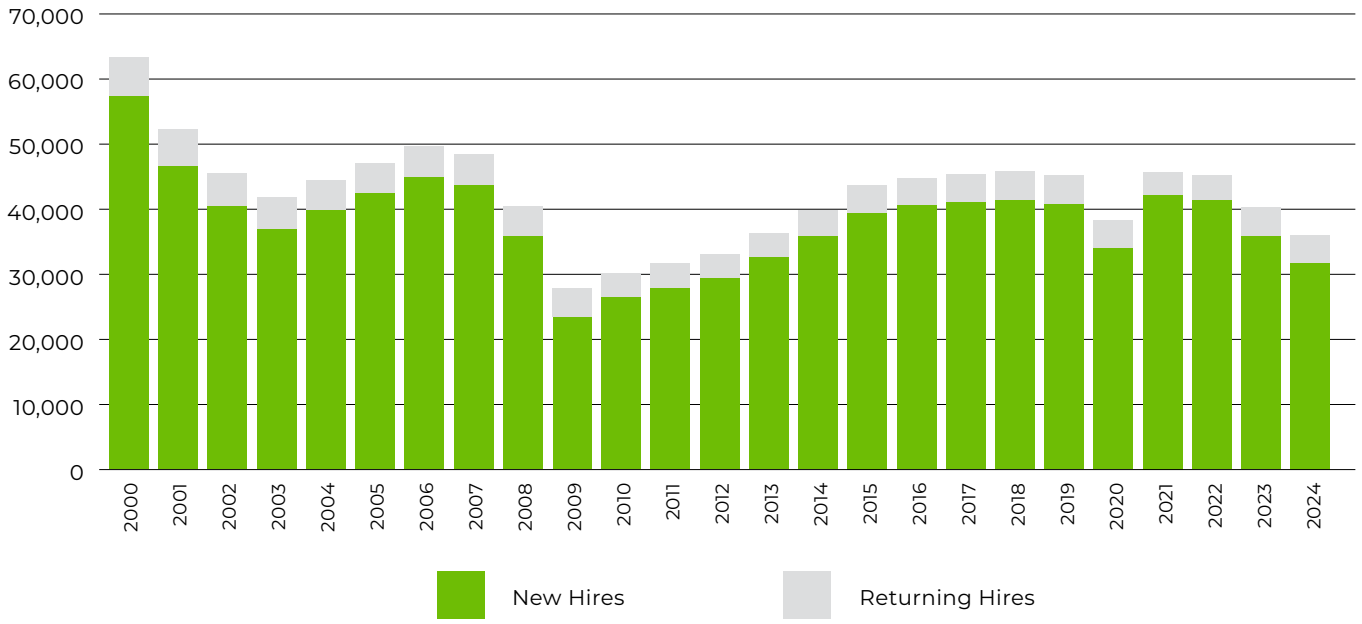



Note: 1yr estimates from 2020 are not available due to a data collection pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Older youth (aged 20 to 24 years) participate in the labor force at twice the rate of teens. In 2023, more than 80% of older youth participated in the labor force, competed to fewer than 40% of teens (aged 16 to 19 years).

**FIGURE 4.13:** YOUTH HIRING OVER TIME: 14–24 YEARS OLD, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2000–2024

*Source: U.S Census Bureau Local Employment Household Dynamics*



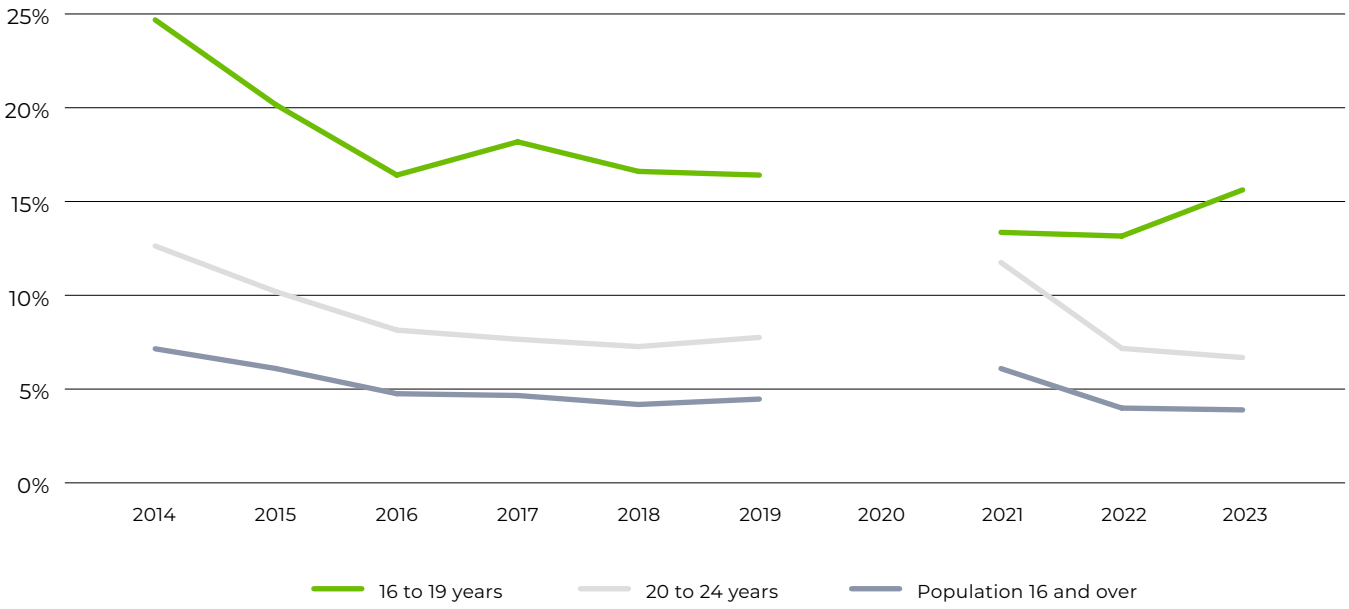

Youth are less likely to participate in the labor force than other age groups. In 2024, there were just 37,136 youth hires in the PVMA. The majority of the hires, 88%, were new hires. New hires are the total number of workers who were hired by a given employer and had not been employed by that employer within the past year. The remaining 12% were returning hires, workers who were hired by a given employer and had worked for that employer within the past year, but not in the quarter before the hire.

The largest number of new hires were youth aged 20 to 24 (39%).

Roughly one quarter of the returning hires were teenagers (aged 14 to 19). The largest group of returning hires in 2024 were of youth aged 19 to 21 (1,883 youth: 44% of returning hires).

**FIGURE 4.14:** UNEMPLOYMENT, BY AGE, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2014–2023

*Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table S2301*




Note: 1yr estimates from 2020 are not available due to a data collection pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Youth experience significantly higher rates of unemployment than the overall working population. Younger youth, those 16 to 19 years old, consistently experience the highest. In 2023, 3.8% of all labor market participants in the Portland MSA were unemployed. The rate for youth aged 20 to 24 years was nearly double, 6.6%. The youngest group of youth, those aged 16 to 19 years, experienced an unemployment rate of 15.6%.

For most of the past ten years, unemployment rates for youth have followed the same pattern as that of the total working age population. During the past two years, however, the unemployment rate for the youngest youth has deviated from the pattern and increased while other rates declined.

## TABLE 4.4: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

| DESCRIPTION | 2024 JOBS | CURRENT YEAR AGE 14–18 | CURRENT YEAR AGE 19–21 | CURRENT YEAR AGE 22–24 | YOUTH EMPLOYMENT | % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 107,757 | 11,126 | 10,496 | 8,771 | 30,393 | 28% |
| Retail Trade | 125,744 | 5,513 | 9,920 | 9,273 | 24,706 | 20% |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 24,976 | 1,538 | 1,354 | 1,681 | 4,574 | 18% |
| Government | 172,395 | 3,320 | 12,978 | 6,649 | 22,947 | 13% |
| Educational Services | 30,667 | 853 | 1,424 | 1,539 | 3,817 | 12% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 57,316 | 474 | 2,441 | 3,585 | 6,499 | 11% |
| Other Services (except Public Administration) | 74,827 | 1,258 | 2,830 | 4,174 | 8,262 | 11% |
| Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 76,959 | 792 | 2,847 | 4,446 | 8,085 | 11% |
| Construction | 97,903 | 1,145 | 3,503 | 4,980 | 9,628 | 10% |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 18,015 | 562 | 462 | 714 | 1,738 | 10% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 190,274 | 2,136 | 5,714 | 9,581 | 17,431 | 9% |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 27,098 | 225 | 607 | 1,055 | 1,888 | 7% |
| Manufacturing | 133,405 | 692 | 2,596 | 4,822 | 8,110 | 6% |
| Wholesale Trade | 58,636 | 261 | 1,132 | 2,143 | 3,535 | 6% |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 40,849 | 283 | 665 | 1,273 | 2,221 | 5% |
| Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 706 | <10 | 15 | 22 | 37 | 5% |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 100,027 | 263 | 1,041 | 3,305 | 4,608 | 5% |
| Information | 28,296 | 220 | 323 | 708 | 1,251 | 4% |
| Finance and Insurance | 43,294 | 71 | 379 | 1,225 | 1,674 | 4% |
| Utilities | 3,034 | <10 | 19 | 34 | 53 | 2% |

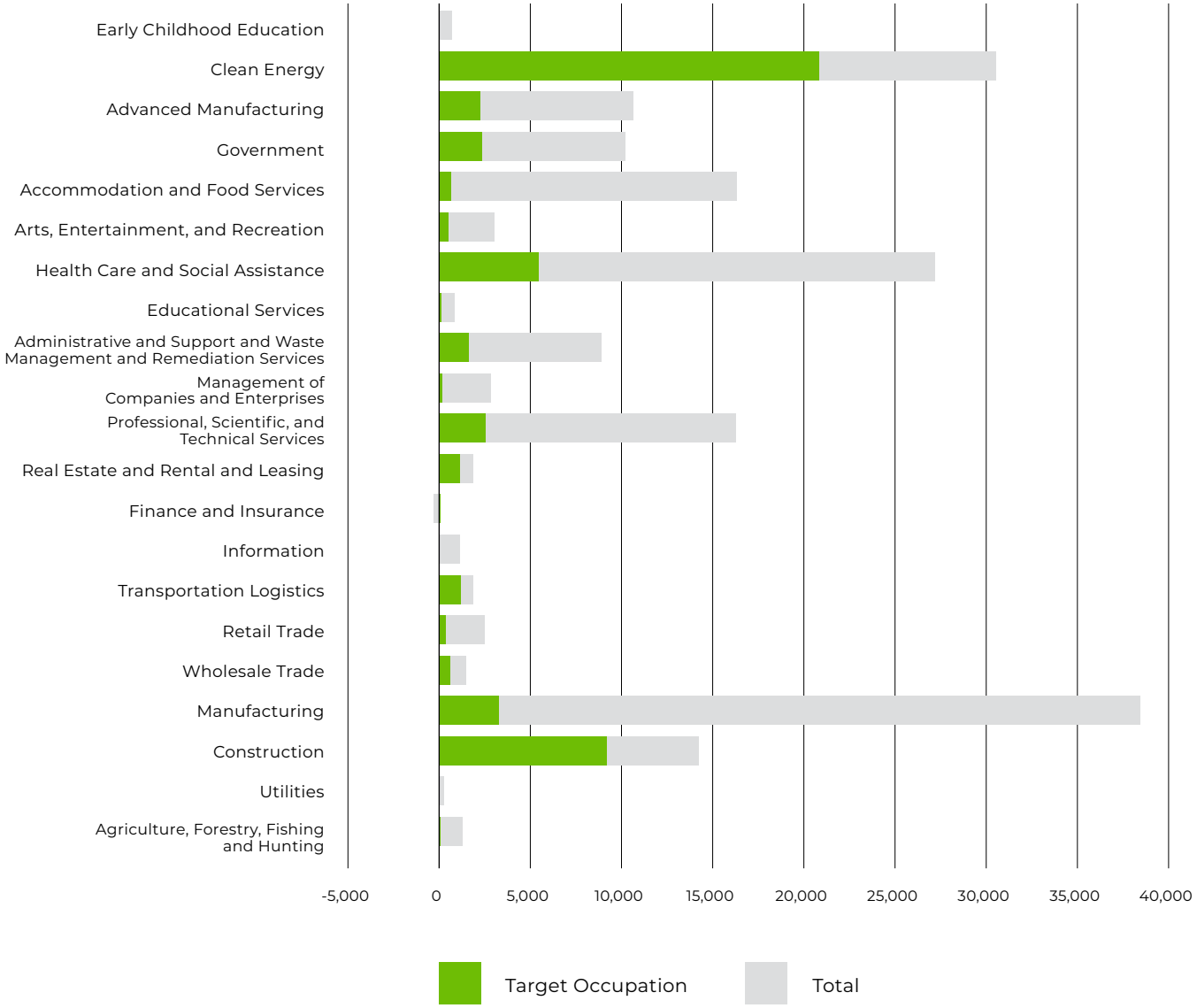
Youth are employed in every industry across the economy, but the distribution is not equal. Nearly half of all employed youth work in three industries: Accommodations and Food Services, Retail Trade, and Government.

Accommodations and Food Services employs both the highest number and highest concentration of youth. 18% of employed youth work in Accommodations and Food Service, representing 28% of all workers in the industry. Retail Trade employs nearly 25,000 youth workers, representing 20% of all employment in the industry.

Youth represent fewer than 10% of all workers in ten industries. The industries, which tend to have a higher prevalence of jobs that require a bachelor's or advanced degree, include Healthcare and Social Assistance, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Information, and Finance and Insurance.

## FIGURE 5.1: GROWTH PROJECTIONS, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

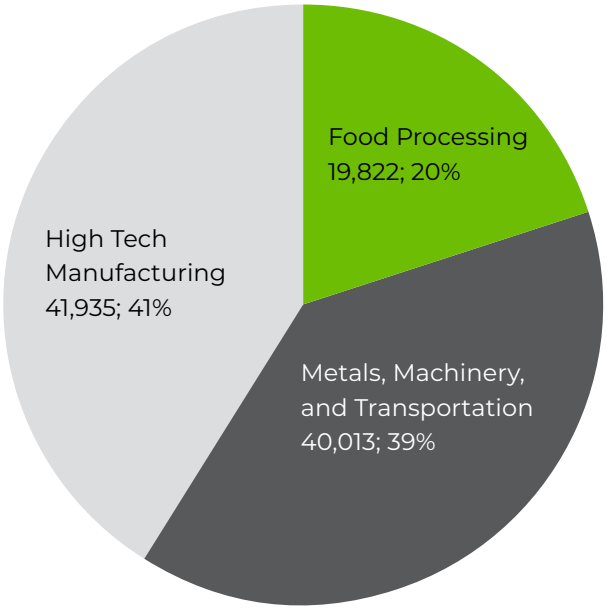



The CWWC identified four target sectors with high concentrations of economic opportunity for participants in the public workforce system: Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy, Construction, and Healthcare and Social Assistance.

Target Sectors have concentrations of quality jobs that pay a living wage, require two or fewer years of post secondary education, have an established regional presence, and are expected to grow over the next ten years.

## FIGURE 5.2: ADVANCED MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT BY COMPONENT, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

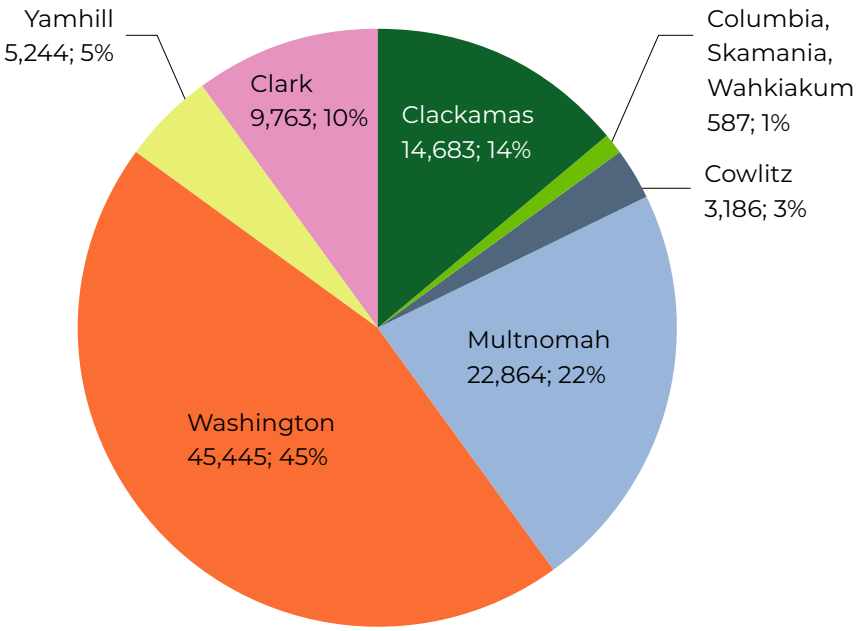



With more than 101,700 jobs and a payroll of nearly $13 billion, Advanced Manufacturing accounts for 7% of the PVMA private sector employment and 10% of payroll.

The Advanced Manufacturing uses innovative technologies to create existing products and the creation of new products. The sector includes high tech, metals, machinery, transportation equipment, and food processing.

## FIGURE 5.3: ADVANCED MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*




Nearly half of the region's Advanced Manufacturing jobs are in Washington County.

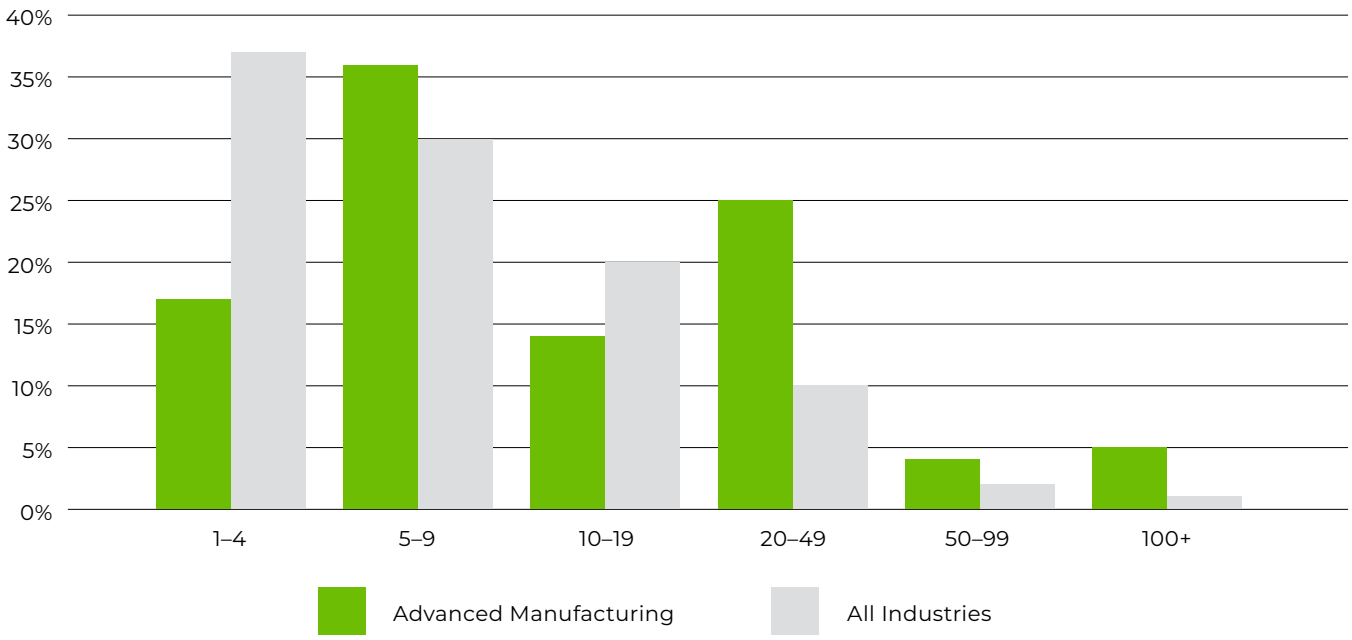
Multnomah County has a small concentration of jobs relative to the overall size of its economy.

Clackamas County, with 14,683 jobs, accounts for 14% of the region's employment, and Southwest Washington adds 12,971 jobs (13%).

Companies tend to be clustered along major road, water, and rail transportation corridors.

## FIGURE 5.4: ADVANCED MANUFACTURING FIRMS BY CLASS SIZE, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

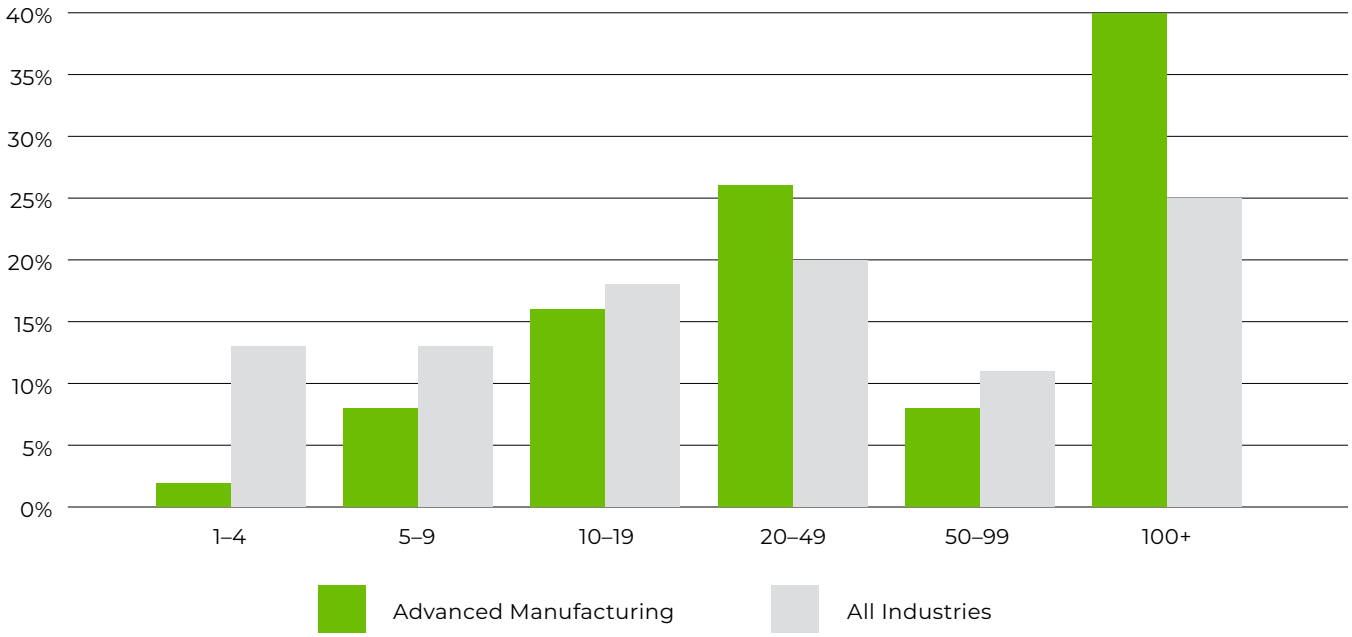



In 2024, there were more than 2,100 Advanced Manufacturing firms in the PVMA.

Advanced Manufacturing firms tend to be larger than firms in other sectors. 9% of Advanced Manufacturing firms have 50 or more employees, compared to 3% of all firms.

**FIGURE 5.4:** FIGURE 5.5: EMPLOYMENT BY SIZE CLASS, ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*




More than half of the region's Advanced Manufacturing workforce is employed by businesses with fewer than 50 workers.

## **TABLE 5.1:** LOCATION QUOTIENTS ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

| NAICS | | LQ |
|---|---|---|
| HIGH TECH MANUFACTURING | | |
| 334 | Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing | 4.59 |
| 335 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 0.75 |
| METALS, MACHINERY, AND TRANSPORTATION | | |
| 3311 | Iron and Steel Mills and Ferroalloy Manufacturing | 1.16 |
| 3312 | Steel Product Manufacturing from Purchased Steel | 0.98 |
| 3313 | Alumina and Aluminum Production and Processing | 0.42 |
| 3314 | Nonferrous Metal (except Aluminum) Production and Processing | 0.12 |
| 3315 | Foundries | 3.70 |
| 3321 | Forging and Stamping | 0.23 |
| 3322 | Cutlery and Handtool Manufacturing | 6.52 |
| 3323 | Architectural and Structural Metals Manufacturing | 0.83 |
| 3324 | Boiler, Tank, and Shipping Container Manufacturing | 0.92 |
| 3325 | Hardware Manufacturing | 0.23 |
| 3326 | Spring and Wire Product Manufacturing | 1.04 |
| 3327 | Machine Shops; Turned Product; and Screw, Nut, and Bolt Manufacturing | 1.21 |
| 3328 | Coating, Engraving, Heat Treating, and Allied Activities | 1.16 |
| 3329 | Other Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 0.75 |
| 3331 | Agriculture, Construction, and Mining Machinery Manufacturing | 0.12 |
| 3332 | Industrial Machinery Manufacturing | 4.44 |
| 3333 | Commercial and Service Industry Machinery Manufacturing | 1.65 |
| 3334 | Ventilation, Heating, Air-Conditioning, and Commercial Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturing | 0.75 |
| 3335 | Metalworking Machinery Manufacturing | 0.34 |
| 3336 | Engine, Turbine, and Power Transmission Equipment Manufacturing | 0.29 |
| 3339 | Other General Purpose Machinery Manufacturing | 0.97 |
| 3361 | Motor Vehicle Manufacturing | 0.30 |
| 3362 | Motor Vehicle Body and Trailer Manufacturing | 0.46 |
| 3363 | Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing | 0.30 |
| 3364 | Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing | 0.57 |
| 3365 | Railroad Rolling Stock Manufacturing | 1.33 |
| 3366 | Ship and Boat Building | 0.90 |
| 3369 | Other Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 0.47 |
| 3391 | Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing | 1.46 |
| 4235 | Metal and Mineral (except Petroleum) Merchant Wholesalers | 1.44 |
| FOOD PROCESSING | | |
| 3112 | Grain and Oilseed Milling | 1.33 |
| 3113 | Sugar and Confectionery Product Manufacturing | 0.78 |
| 3114 | Fruit and Vegetable Preserving and Specialty Food Manufacturing | 1.92 |
| 3115 | Dairy Product Manufacturing | 0.68 |
| 3116 | Animal Slaughtering and Processing | 0.45 |
| 3117 | Seafood Product Preparation and Packaging | 1.43 |
| 3118 | Bakeries and Tortilla Manufacturing | 1.61 |
| 3119 | Other Food Manufacturing | 1.52 |
| 3121 | Beverage Manufacturing | 1.53 |

Location quotients are used to measure a sector's employment concentration in an area. A figure greater than one indicates a higher concentration of employment relative to the nation.

Advanced Manufacturing comprises a larger share of employment in the PVMA compared to the U.S. due primarily to the high tech component, where employment is three times as concentrated as the nation.

The PVMA has a competitive advantage in Advanced Manufacturing and is a net exporter of goods, driven by computer and electronic products, and metals.

## TABLE 5.2: TARGET OCCUPATIONS IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

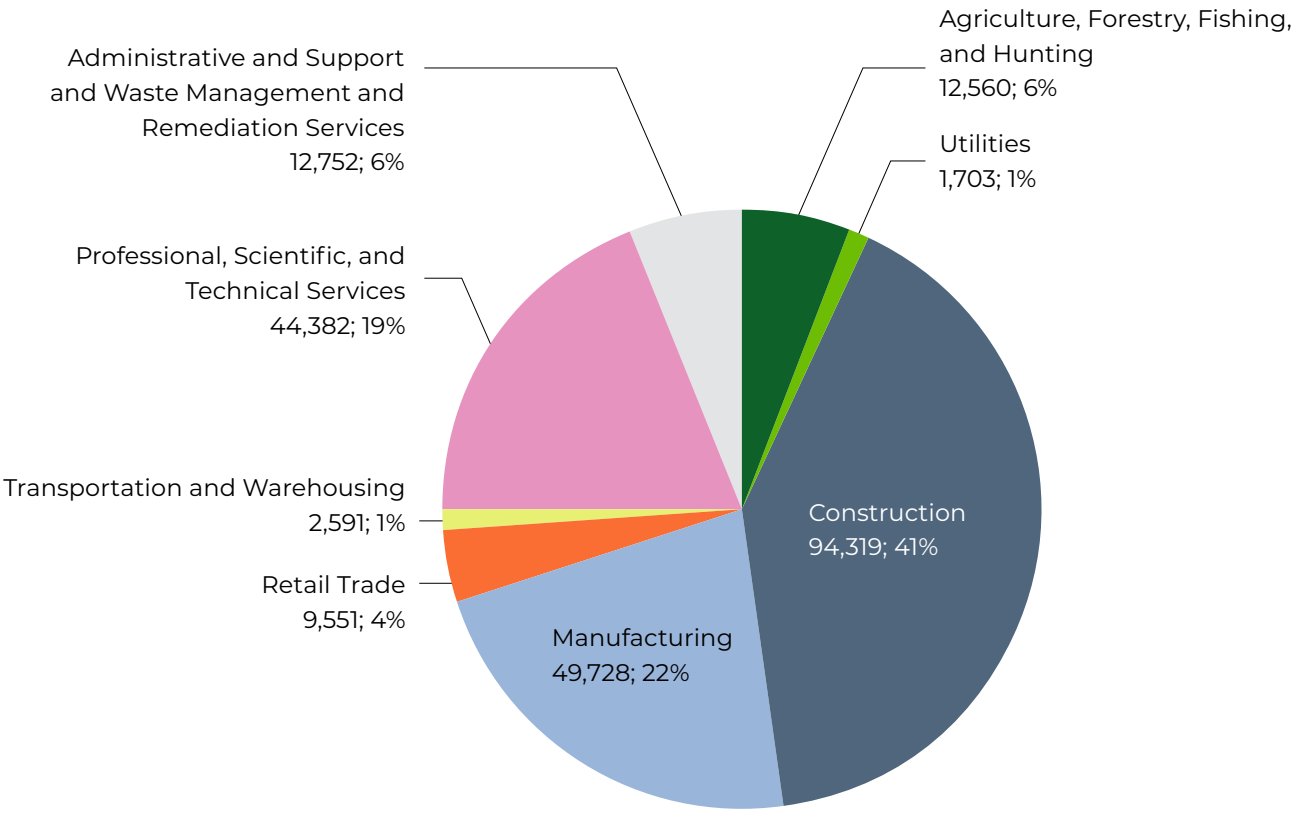
| DESCRIPTION | EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2024) | EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2034) | % CHANGE (2024–2034) | % OF TOTAL JOBS IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2024) | MEDIAN HOURLY EARNINGS | TYPICAL ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Semiconductor Processing Technicians | 5,359 | 6,028 | 12% | 5.30% | $27.82 | HSD |
| Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers | 3,292 | 3,835 | 16% | 3.20% | $22.49 | HSD |
| First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers | 3,223 | 3,484 | 8% | 3.20% | $33.52 | HSD |
| Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers | 2,315 | 2,563 | 11% | 2.30% | $24.66 | HSD |
| Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers | 2,186 | 2,238 | 2% | 2.10% | $27.58 | HSD |
| Machinists | 2,103 | 2,267 | 8% | 2.10% | $28.46 | HSD |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 1,899 | 2,072 | 9% | 1.90% | $20.19 | None |
| Industrial Machinery Mechanics | 1,898 | 2,341 | 23% | 1.90% | $33.77 | HSD |
| Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators | 1,785 | 1,752 | -2% | 1.80% | $24.03 | HSD |
| Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians | 1,722 | 1,895 | 10% | 1.70% | $32.21 | Associate |
| Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products | 1,560 | 1,686 | 8% | 1.50% | $33.25 | HSD |

Eleven of the largest Advanced Manufacturing occupations are considered Target Occupations. They do not require education beyond an Associate degree and pay a median wage of $22 or more per hour.

Collectively, more than 27,000 people are currently employed in these occupations in the PVMA.

**FIGURE 5.6:** CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION CRITICAL INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT BY COMPONENT, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

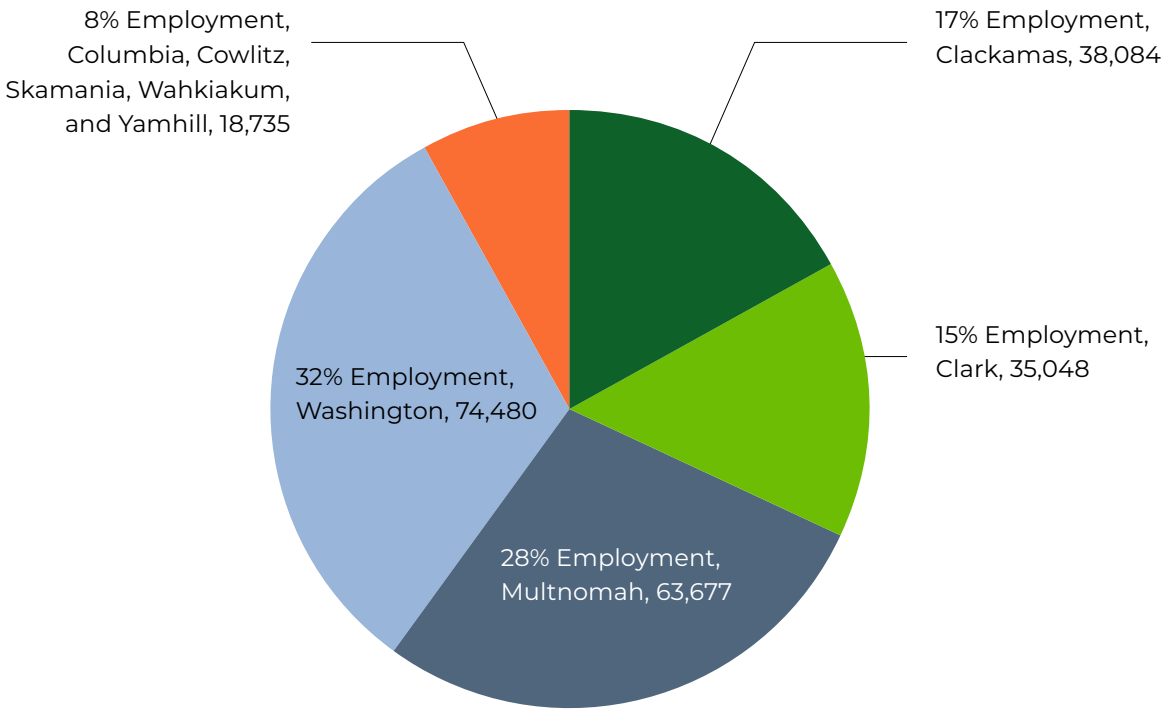



With over 230,012 jobs and a payroll of $27.4 billion, Clean Energy accounts for nearly 16% of the PVMA's private-sector employment and 21% of payroll.

The Clean Energy sector contributed approximately $29.3 billion to the PVMA's Gross Domestic Product in 2024; 20% of all output.

**FIGURE 5.7:** CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION CRITICAL INDUSTRIES JOBS BY COUNTY, PVMA, 2024

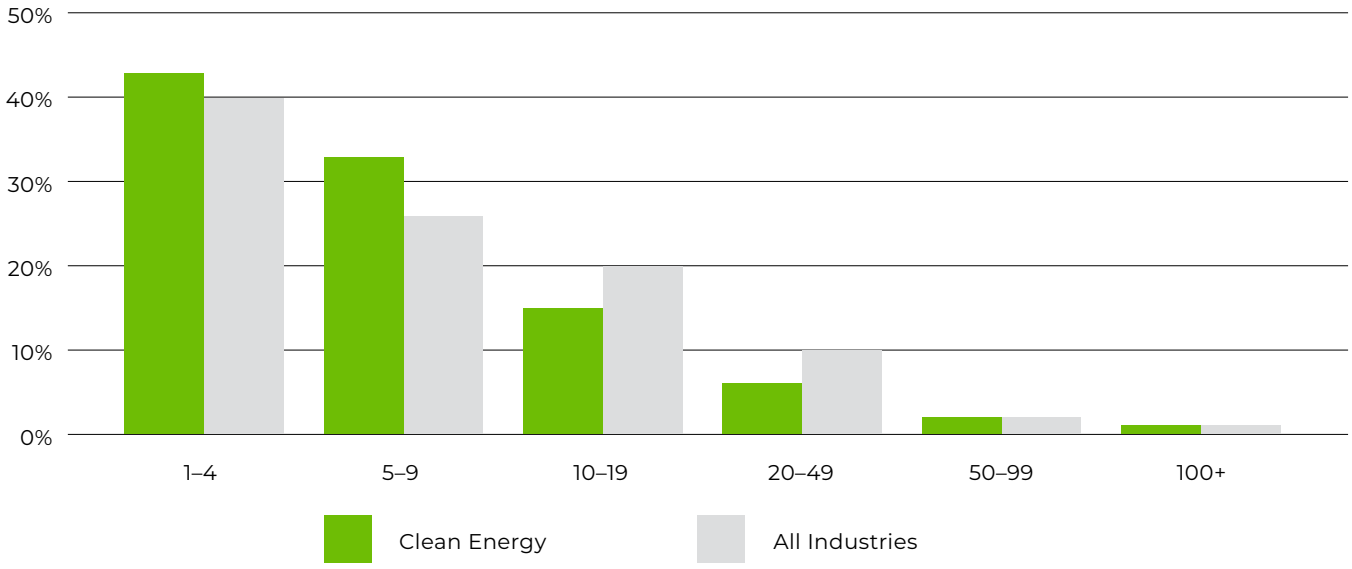
*Source: Lightcast*




60% of Clean Energy jobs were concentrated in Multnomah and Washington counties. Together, Clackamas and Clark Counties account for another 32% of jobs.

## FIGURE 5.8: CLEAN ENERGY FIRMS BY CLASS SIZE, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*



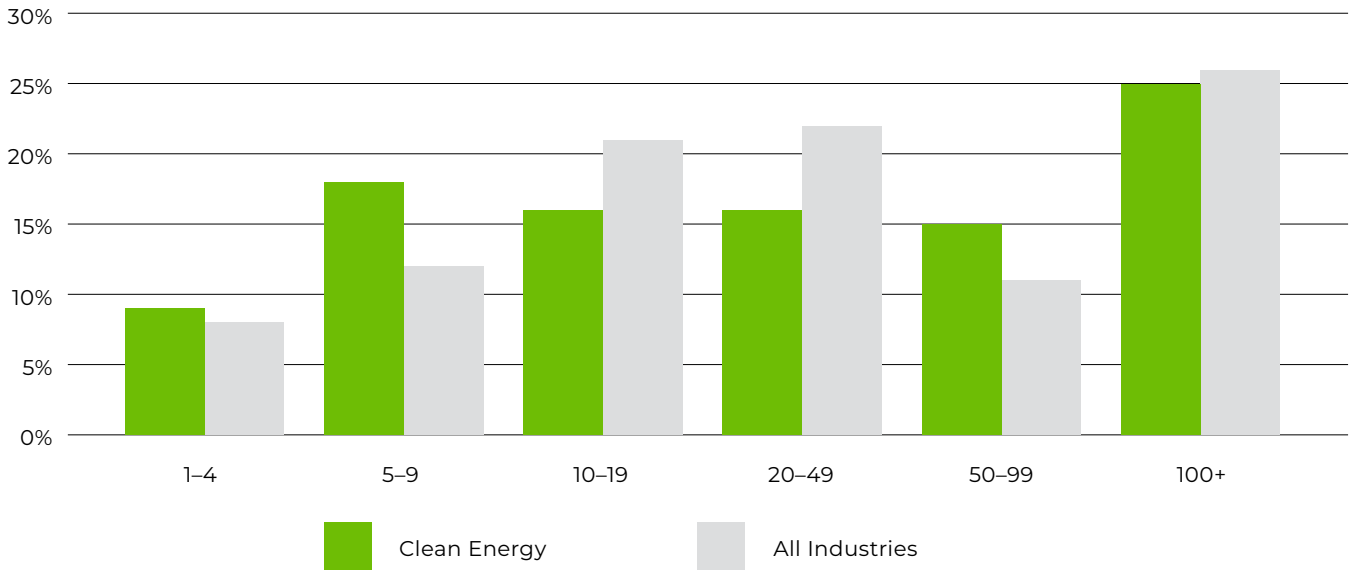

There are roughly 22,880 Clean Energy establishments in the region.

The average size of a Clean Energy firm is slightly smaller than that of all firms: 12 employees per company versus 14 overall.

91% of the region's Clean Energy employment is in firms employing fewer than 20 people.

## FIGURE 5.9: CLEAN ENERGY EMPLOYMENT BY CLASS SIZE, PVMA, 2024

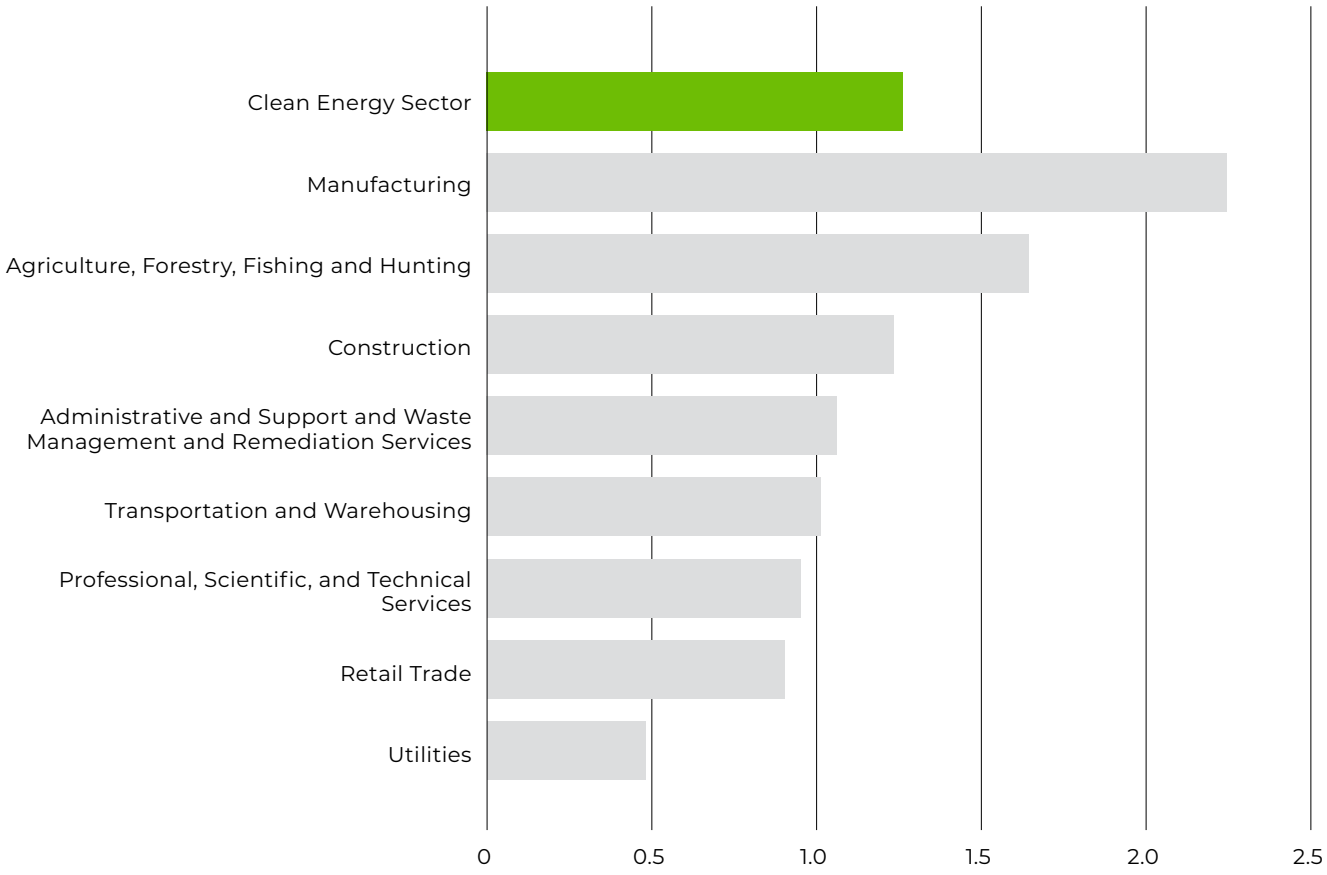
*Source: Lightcast*




63% of the region's Clean Energy workforce is employed by businesses with fewer than 50 workers.

**FIGURE 5.10:** LOCATION QUOTIENTS CLEAN ENERGY OCCUPATIONS, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*




The Clean Energy sector is heavily concentrated in the PVMA. This is largely due to the Manufacturing sector which has an LQ of 2.24.

## TABLE 5.3: TARGET OCCUPATIONS IN CLEAN ENERGY, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

| DESCRIPTION | 2024 JOBS | 2034 JOBS | 2024–2034 % CHANGE | MEDIAN HOURLY EARNINGS | TYPICAL ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Glaziers | 447 | 450 | 1% | $30.26 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders | 859 | 867 | 1% | $26.14 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers | 3,413 | 3,494 | 2% | $29.33 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other | 2,191 | 2,257 | 3% | $25.53 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Pipelayers | 374 | 385 | 3% | $33.04 | No formal educational credential |
| Sheet Metal Workers | 2,228 | 2,297 | 3% | $35.91 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Forest and Conservation Technicians | 298 | 308 | 3% | $29.91 | Associate degree |
| Engineering Technologists and Technicians, Except Drafters, All Other | 896 | 925 | 3% | $38.51 | Associate degree |
| Painters, Construction and Maintenance | 4,169 | 4,307 | 3% | $24.71 | No formal educational credential |
| Meter Readers, Utilities | 90 | 93 | 3% | $31.51 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Structural Iron and Steel Workers | 533 | 551 | 3% | $43.76 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Architectural and Civil Drafters | 1,112 | 1,151 | 4% | $34.09 | Associate degree |
| First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers | 6,031 | 6,260 | 4% | $35.83 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Power Plant Operators | 200 | 208 | 4% | $61.75 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians | 2,030 | 2,112 | 4% | $38.33 | Associate degree |
| Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers | 1,827 | 1,902 | 4% | $33.58 | No formal educational credential |
| Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers | 4,278 | 4,472 | 5% | $26.05 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Carpenters | 12,659 | 13,237 | 5% | $31.06 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers | 1,166 | 1,224 | 5% | $29.17 | No formal educational credential |
| Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators | 4,705 | 4,942 | 5% | $24.83 | No formal educational credential |
| Construction and Building Inspectors | 1,279 | 1,348 | 5% | $40.97 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Tile and Stone Setters | 736 | 779 | 6% | $28.81 | No formal educational credential |
| Power Distributors and Dispatchers | 149 | 158 | 6% | $62.61 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Tree Trimmers and Pruners | 914 | 970 | 6% | $36.40 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians | 572 | 612 | 7% | $43.18 | Associate degree |
| Electrical and Electronics Drafters | 288 | 310 | 8% | $38.56 | Associate degree |
| Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors | 1,456 | 1,571 | 8% | $30.68 | No formal educational credential |
| Miscellaneous Construction and Related Workers | 231 | 249 | 8% | $24.81 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Hazardous Materials Removal Workers | 995 | 1,077 | 8% | $24.97 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity | 2,250 | 2,441 | 9% | $34.67 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators | 491 | 533 | 9% | $36.76 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers | 1,890 | 2,052 | 9% | $50.35 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Bus Drivers, School | 2,695 | 2,931 | 9% | $28.32 | No formal educational credential |

*continued on next page*

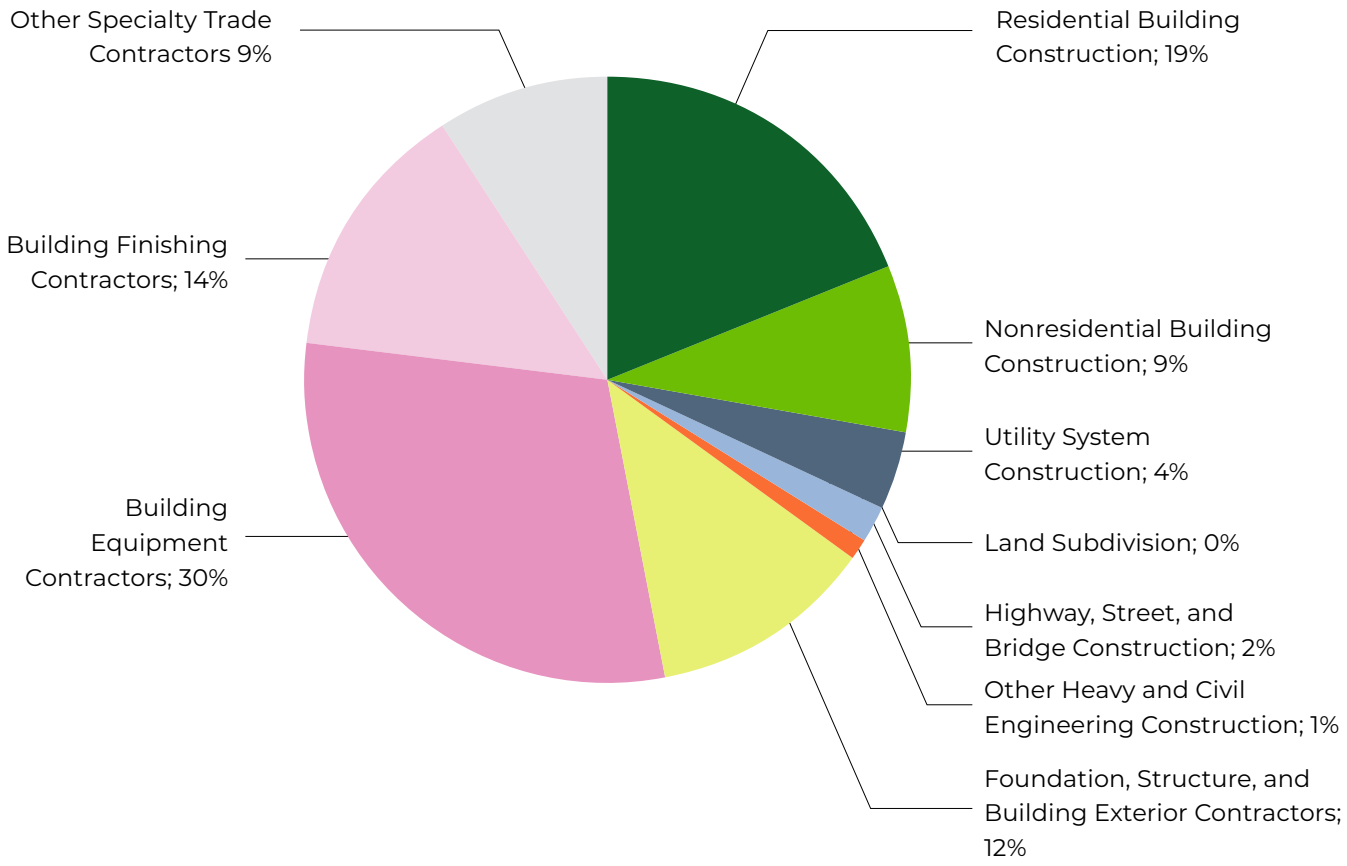
| DESCRIPTION | 2024 JOBS | 2034 JOBS | 2024–2034 % CHANGE | MEDIAN HOURLY EARNINGS | TYPICAL ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators | 3,283 | 3,601 | 10% | $35.58 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Insulation Workers, Floor, Ceiling, and Wall | 451 | 497 | 10% | $31.05 | No formal educational credential |
| Control and Valve Installers and Repairers, Except Mechanical Door | 258 | 284 | 10% | $46.07 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers | 8,198 | 9,038 | 10% | $51.00 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Construction Laborers | 10,763 | 11,978 | 11% | $25.38 | No formal educational credential |
| Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers | 392 | 436 | 11% | $36.23 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Roofers | 2,685 | 2,991 | 11% | $27.98 | No formal educational credential |
| Semiconductor Processing Technicians | 7,508 | 8,380 | 12% | $30.79 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Floor Layers, Except Carpet, Wood, and Hard Tiles | 271 | 305 | 12% | $29.17 | No formal educational credential |
| Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters | 5,603 | 6,388 | 14% | $45.99 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Elevator and Escalator Installers and Repairers | 345 | 396 | 15% | $59.51 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers | 863 | 994 | 15% | $38.31 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Helpers--Electricians | 490 | 568 | 16% | $23.71 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Insulation Workers, Mechanical | 172 | 201 | 17% | $57.43 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Industrial Machinery Mechanics | 4,951 | 5,813 | 17% | $35.94 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay | 134 | 159 | 18% | $57.40 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers | 779 | 923 | 19% | $57.11 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Electricians | 8,319 | 9,962 | 20% | $47.17 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers | 3,000 | 3,673 | 22% | $30.61 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers | 2,786 | 3,423 | 23% | $23.57 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Solar Photovoltaic Installers | 178 | 251 | 41% | $26.71 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Wind Turbine Service Technicians | 146 | 240 | 64% | $29.27 | Postsecondary nondegree award |

Fifty-five Clean Energy occupations meet the origional Target Occupation criteria. They do not require education beyond an Associate degree and pay a median wage of $22 or more per hour.

Collectively, more than 125,025 people are currently employed in these occupations in the PVMA.

**FIGURE 5.11:** CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT BY COMPONENT, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

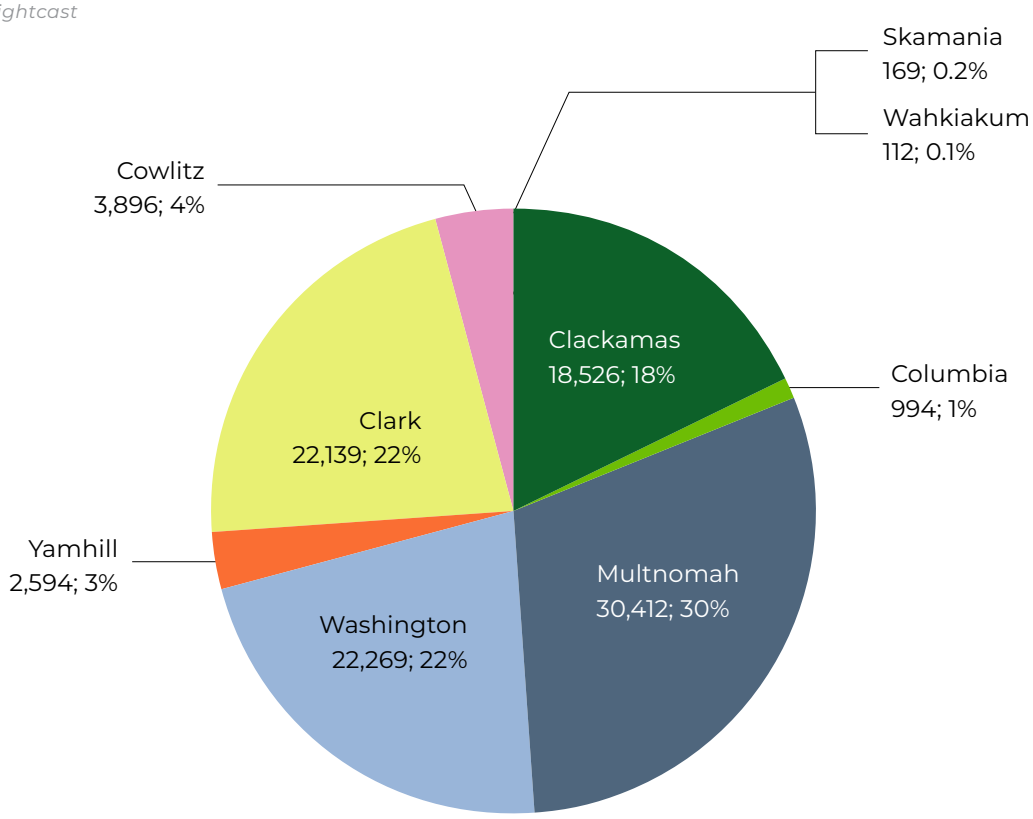



With over 97,800 jobs and a payroll of $10.3 billion, Construction accounts for nearly 7% of the PVMA's private-sector employment and 7% of payroll.

The Construction sector contributed approximately $13.2 billion to the PVMA's Gross Domestic Product in 2024; 6% of all output.

**FIGURE 5.12:** CONSTRUCTION JOBS BY COUNTY, PVMA, 2024

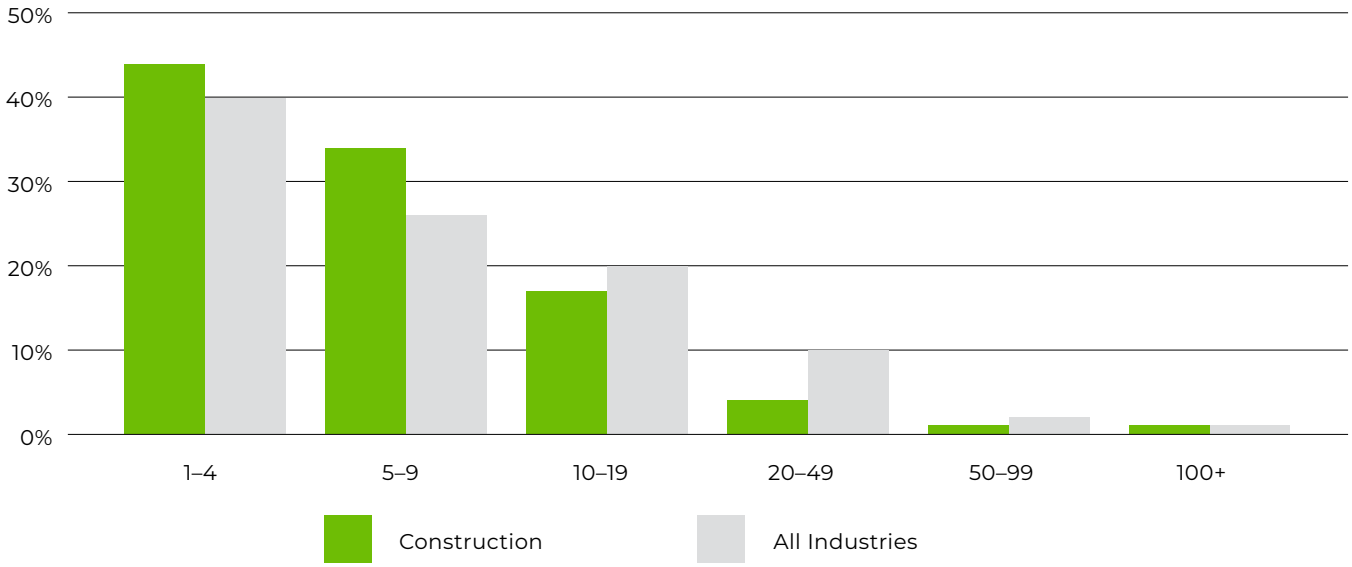
*Source: Lightcast*




Multnomah, Clark, and Washington counties account for nearly three out of four Construction workers in the PVMA.

## FIGURE 5.13: FIRMS BY SIZE CLASS, CONSTRUCTION, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*



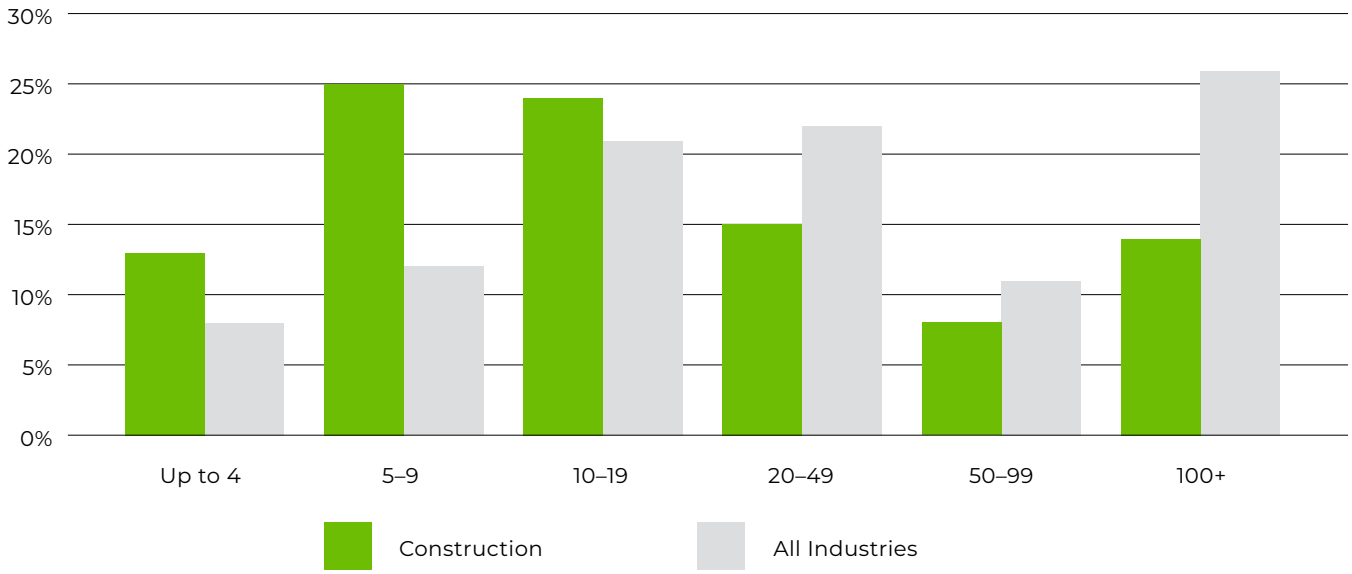

There are roughly 12,600 Construction establishments in the region.

The average size of a Construction firm is slightly smaller than that of all firms: 9 employees per company versus 14 overall.

94% of the region's Construction employment is in firms employing fewer than 20 people.

## FIGURE 5.9: CLEAN ENERGY EMPLOYMENT BY CLASS SIZE, PVMA, 2024

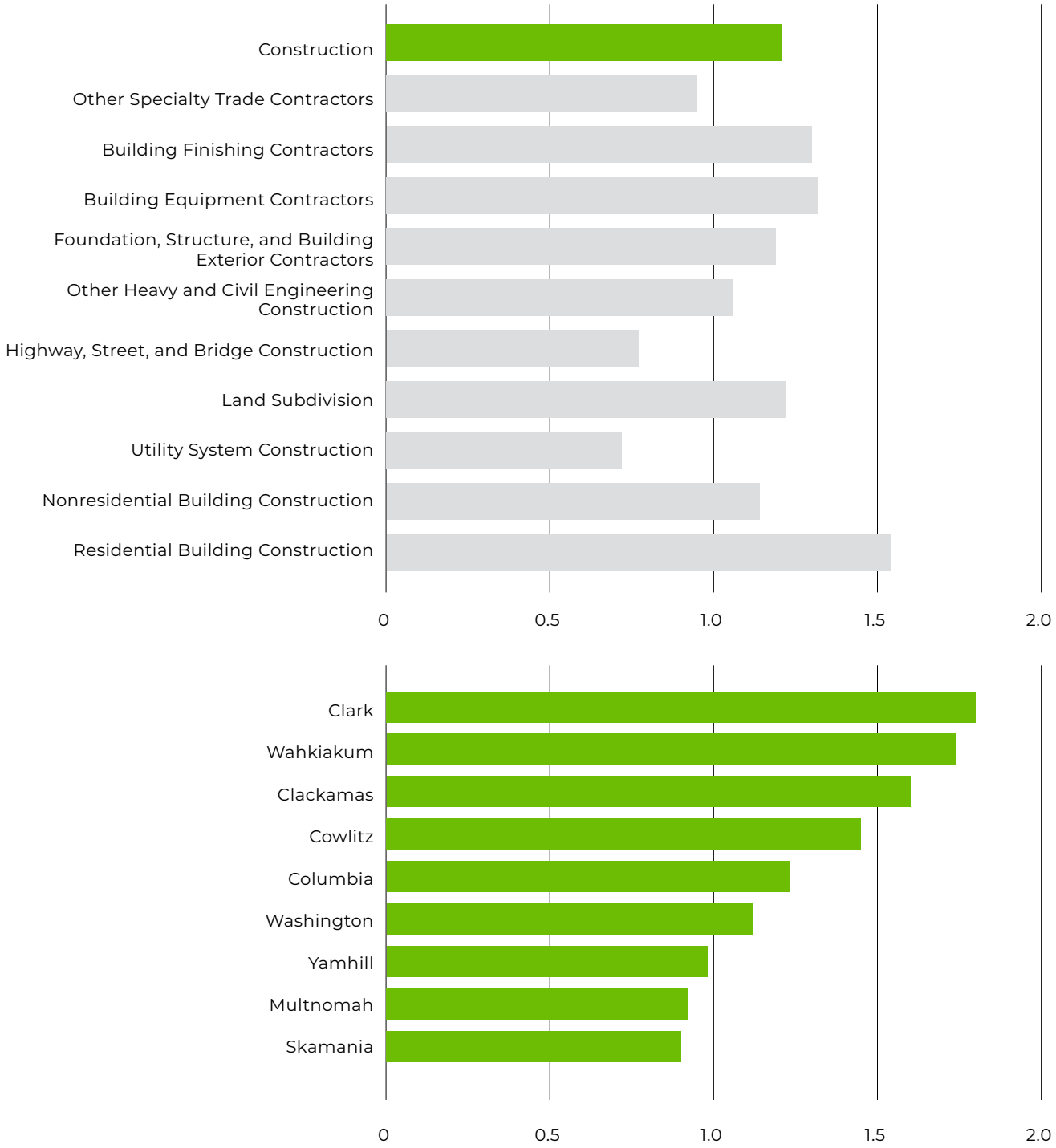
*Source: Lightcast*




Construction workers are more likely to be employed by small businesses. 63% of Construction workers are employed by businesses with fewer than 20 employees, compared to 41% of all workers in the region.

**FIGURE 5.15:** LOCATION QUOTIENTS, CONSTRUCTION AND COMPONENTS, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*




Despite the low LQ for Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction and Utility System Construction, these sub-sectors represent less than 7% of total employment in Construction. Construction jobs are found throughout the area, but are slightly less concentrated in Skamania County (0.9), Multnomah County (0.92), and Yamhill County (0.98) and more concentrated in Clackamas (1.6), Wahkiakum (1.74), and Clark counties (1.8).

## **TABLE 5.4:** TARGET OCCUPATIONS IN CONSTRUCTION, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

| DESCRIPTION | EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2024) | EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2034) | % CHANGE (2024–2034) | % OF TOTAL JOBS IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2024) | MEDIAN HOURLY EARNINGS | TYPICAL ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators, Surface Mining | 201 | 219 | 9% | 0.28% | $30.37 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Miscellaneous Construction and Related Workers | 231 | 249 | 8% | 0.32% | $24.81 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Fence Erectors | 256 | 270 | 6% | 0.35% | $24.18 | No formal educational credential |
| Floor Layers, Except Carpet, Wood, and Hard Tiles | 271 | 305 | 12% | 0.37% | $29.17 | No formal educational credential |
| Elevator and Escalator Installers and Repairers | 345 | 396 | 15% | 0.47% | $59.51 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Pipelayers | 374 | 385 | 3% | 0.51% | $33.04 | No formal educational credential |
| Helpers--Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters | 411 | 490 | 19% | 0.57% | $23.23 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners | 411 | 473 | 15% | 0.57% | $29.27 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Glaziers | 447 | 450 | 1% | 0.61% | $30.26 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Insulation Workers, Floor, Ceiling, and Wall | 451 | 497 | 10% | 0.62% | $31.05 | No formal educational credential |
| Helpers--Electricians | 490 | 568 | 16% | 0.67% | $23.71 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Highway Maintenance Workers | 529 | 608 | 15% | 0.73% | $31.72 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Structural Iron and Steel Workers | 533 | 551 | 3% | 0.73% | $43.76 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Tile and Stone Setters | 736 | 779 | 6% | 1.01% | $28.81 | No formal educational credential |
| Hazardous Materials Removal Workers | 995 | 1,077 | 8% | 1.37% | $24.97 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers | 1,166 | 1,224 | 5% | 1.60% | $29.17 | No formal educational credential |
| Construction and Building Inspectors | 1,279 | 1,348 | 5% | 1.76% | $40.97 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers | 1,827 | 1,902 | 4% | 2.51% | $33.58 | No formal educational credential |
| Sheet Metal Workers | 2,228 | 2,297 | 3% | 3.06% | $35.91 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Roofers | 2,685 | 2,991 | 11% | 3.69% | $27.98 | No formal educational credential |

*continued on next page*

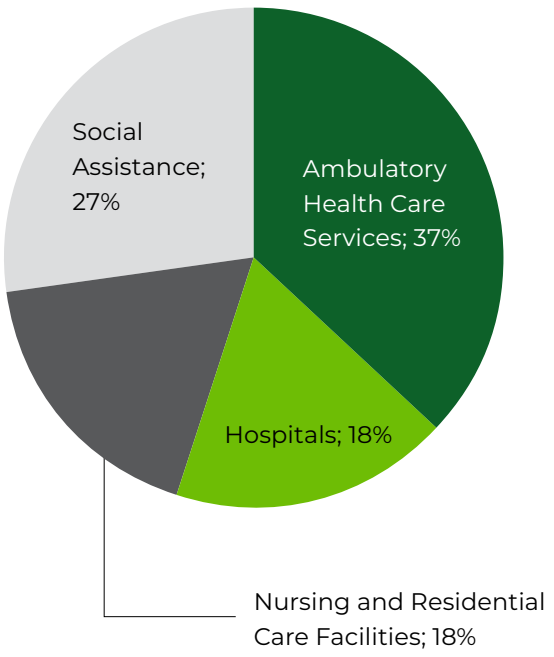
| DESCRIPTION | EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2024) | EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2034) | % CHANGE (2024–2034) | % OF TOTAL JOBS IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2024) | MEDIAN HOURLY EARNINGS | TYPICAL ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators | 3,283 | 3,601 | 10% | 4.52% | $35.58 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Painters, Construction and Maintenance | 4,169 | 4,307 | 3% | 5.73% | $24.71 | No formal educational credential |
| Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters | 5,603 | 6,388 | 14% | 7.71% | $45.99 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers | 8,198 | 9,038 | 10% | 11.28% | $51.00 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Electricians | 8,319 | 9,962 | 20% | 11.44% | $47.17 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Construction Laborers | 10,763 | 11,978 | 11% | 14.80% | $25.38 | No formal educational credential |
| Carpenters | 12,659 | 13,237 | 5% | 17.41% | $31.06 | High school diploma or equivalent |

Twenty-seven Construction occupations are considered Target Occupations. They do not require education beyond an Associate degree and pay a regional median wage of $22 or more per hour.

Collectively, more than 68,859 people are currently employed in these occupations in the PVMA.

## FIGURE 5.16: HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE EMPLOYMENT BY COMPONENT, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER METRO AREA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*




With more than 187,800 jobs and a payroll over $15.5B, healthcare and social assistance accounts for 13% of the PVMA's private-sector employment and 12% of payroll.

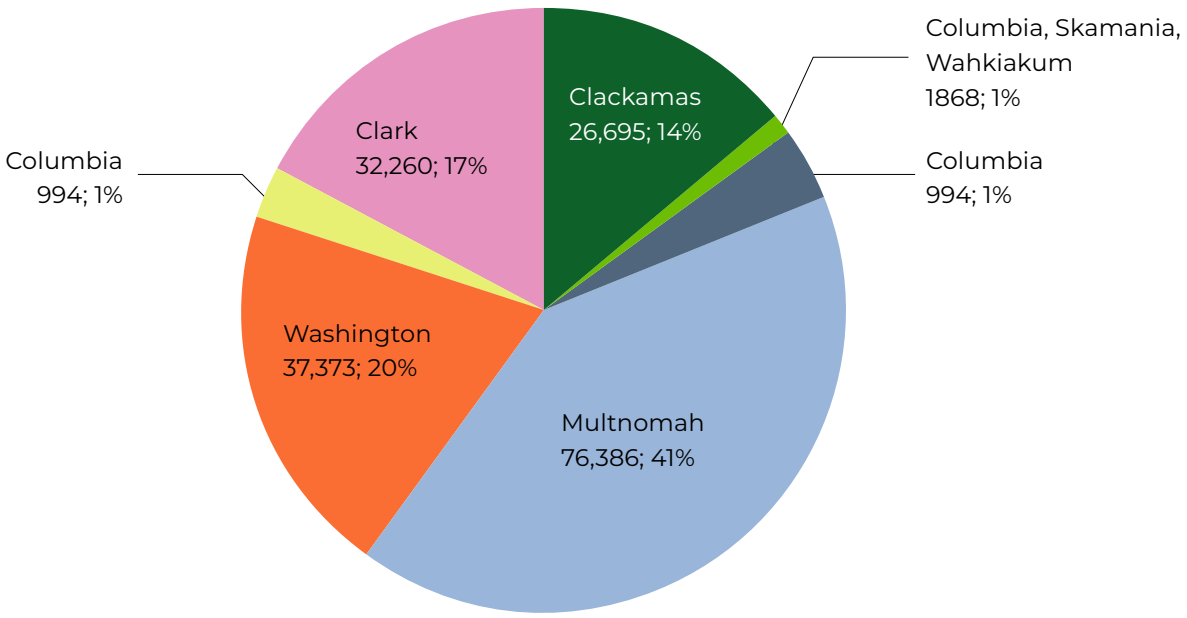
The Healthcare and Social Assistance sector contributed approximately $18.9B to the metro area's Gross Domestic Product in 2024; 9% of all output.

The healthcare sector includes hospitals, offices of physicians, dentists, and other healthcare providers, such as outpatient health clinics (ambulatory care), and nursing and residential facilities.

The social assistance subsector provides a wide variety of services director to clients. It includes four subsectors: individual and family services, community food and housing, and emergency and other relief services, vocational rehabilitation services, and child day care services.

**FIGURE 5.17:** HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE JOBS BY COUNTY, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER METRO AREA, 2024

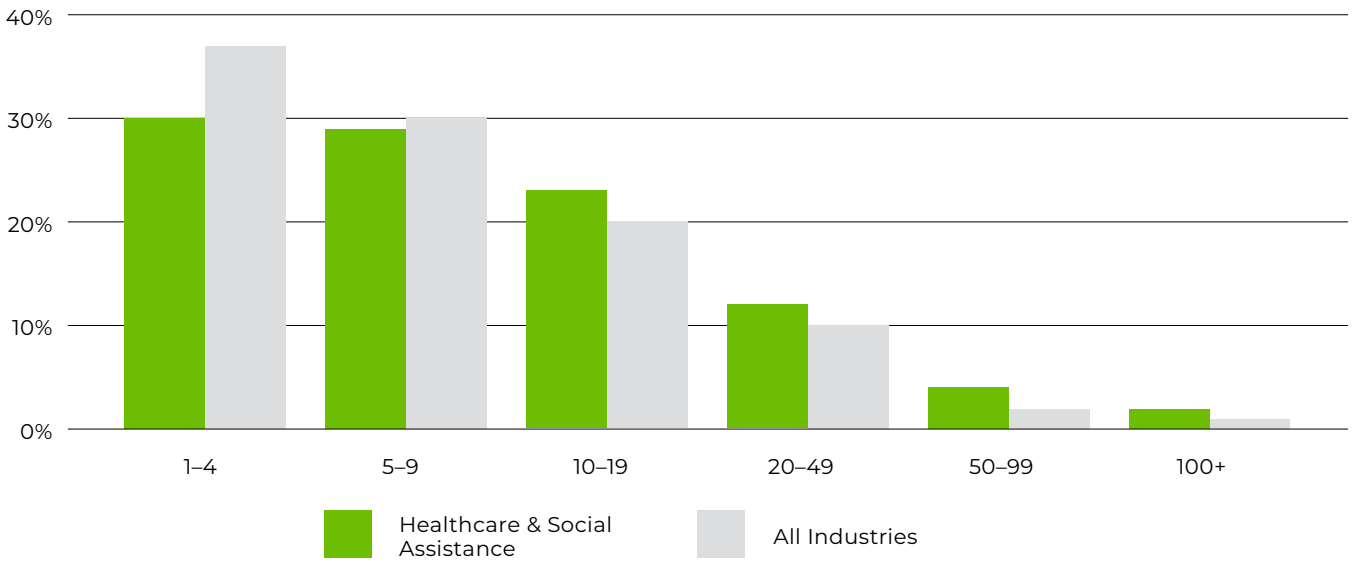
*Source: Lightcast*




Healthcare and Social Assistance employment is proportionately distributed across the region; each county's share of the region's sector employment roughly matches its share of total employment.

## FIGURE 5.18: FIRMS BY SIZE CLASS, HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER METRO AREA, 2024

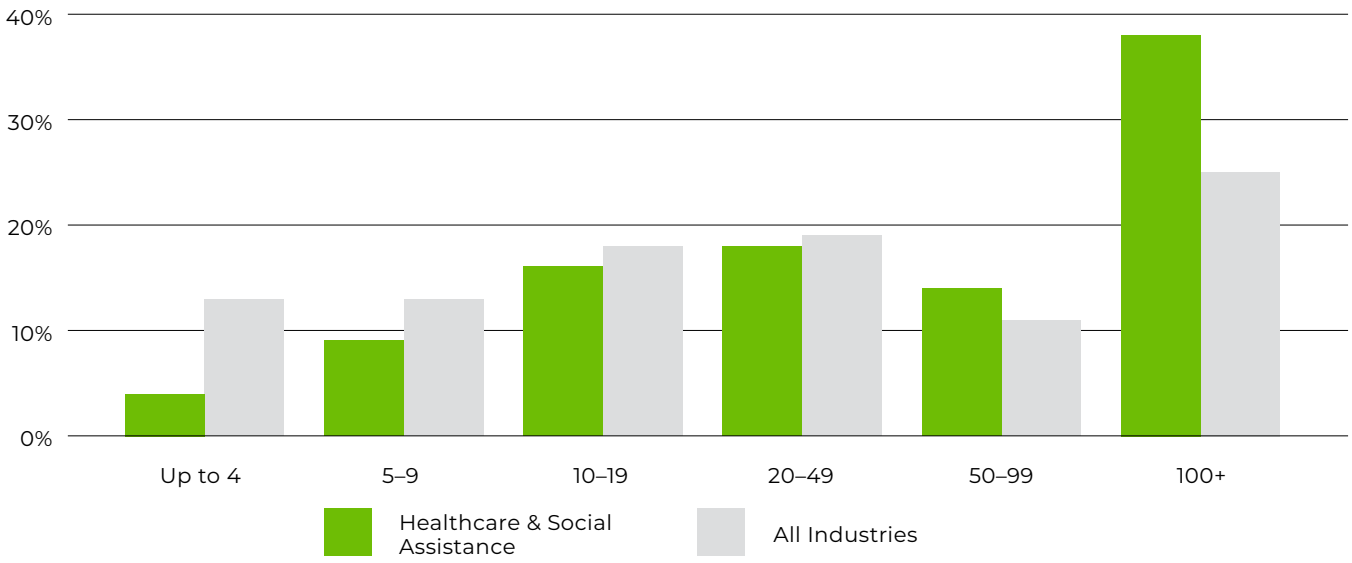
*Source: DatabaseUSA*




There are roughly 16,400 Healthcare and Social Assistance establishments in the region. Healthcare and Social Assistance firms skewed larger. 18% had 20 or more employees comparted to 13% across all industries.

## FIGURE 5.19: EMPLOYMENT BY SIZE CLASS, HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER METRO AREA, 2024

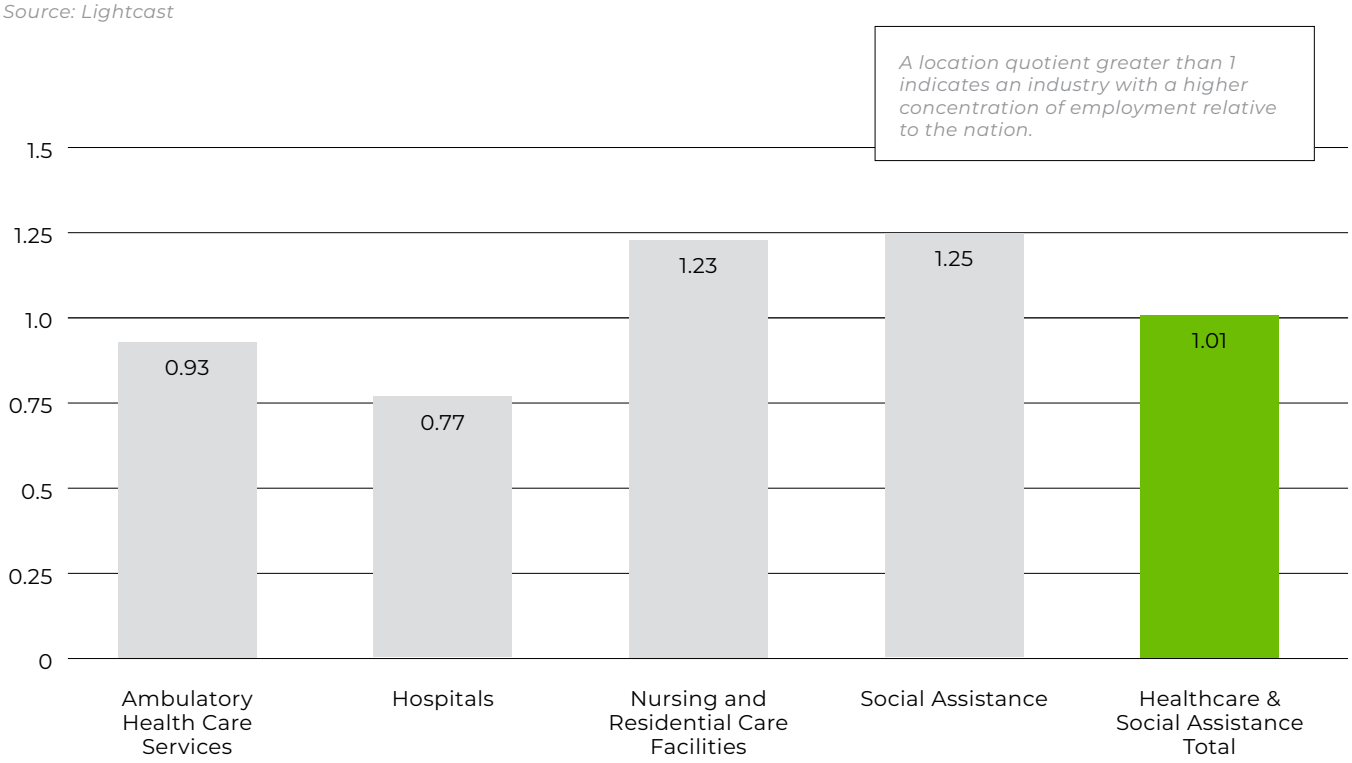
*Source: DatabaseUSA*




More than half of the region's Healthcare and Social Assistance employment is in establishments employing more than 100 people. The vast majority of healthcare establishments are smaller offices of healthcare professionals. However, more than one-quarter of employment is found in the region's major hospitals.

**FIGURE 5.20:** LOCATION QUOTIENTS, HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND COMPONENTS, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER METRO AREA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*




Healthcare and Social Assistance employment is slightly more concentrated in the PVMA region compared to the nation. This is largely due to nursing and residential care facilities and social assistance.

## **TABLE 5.4:** TARGET OCCUPATIONS IN HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, PVMA, 2024

*Source: Lightcast*

| DESCRIPTION | EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2024) | EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2034) | % CHANGE (2024–2034) | % OF TOTAL JOBS IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2024) | MEDIAN HOURLY EARNINGS | TYPICAL ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Surgical Assistants | 273 | 287 | 5% | 0.16% | $30.68 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Workers, All Other | 292 | 323 | 10% | 0.18% | $38.87 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists | 350 | 403 | 15% | 0.21% | $55.82 | Associate degree |
| Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars | 354 | 405 | 15% | 0.21% | $38.73 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians | 535 | 573 | 7% | 0.32% | $37.45 | Associate degree |
| Physical Therapist Assistants | 586 | 774 | 32% | 0.35% | $35.61 | Associate degree |
| Ophthalmic Medical Technicians | 692 | 800 | 16% | 0.42% | $28.19 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Psychiatric Technicians | 711 | 923 | 30% | 0.43% | $23.26 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Surgical Technologists | 726 | 795 | 10% | 0.44% | $39.51 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Opticians, Dispensing | 735 | 767 | 4% | 0.44% | $28.40 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Paramedics | 736 | 777 | 6% | 0.44% | $40.07 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Diagnostic Medical Sonographers | 755 | 884 | 17% | 0.45% | $57.32 | Associate degree |
| Respiratory Therapists | 854 | 971 | 14% | 0.51% | $49.23 | Associate degree |
| Emergency Medical Technicians | 931 | 1,005 | 8% | 0.56% | $25.24 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Community Health Workers | 979 | 1,122 | 15% | 0.59% | $27.86 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Medical Equipment Preparers | 999 | 1,058 | 6% | 0.60% | $25.25 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other | 1,047 | 1,144 | 9% | 0.63% | $30.15 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Veterinary Technologists and Technicians | 1,065 | 1,403 | 32% | 0.64% | $26.68 | Associate degree |
| Phlebotomists | 1,114 | 1,217 | 9% | 0.67% | $23.99 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Healthcare Support Workers, All Other | 1,309 | 1,396 | 7% | 0.79% | $22.87 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Radiologic Technologists and Technicians | 1,346 | 1,492 | 11% | 0.81% | $50.76 | Associate degree |
| Medical Records Specialists | 1,445 | 1,621 | 12% | 0.87% | $30.36 | Postsecondary nondegree award |

*continued on next page*

| DESCRIPTION | EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2024) | EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2034) | % CHANGE (2024–2034) | % OF TOTAL JOBS IN INDUSTRY GROUP (2024) | MEDIAN HOURLY EARNINGS | TYPICAL ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dental Hygienists | 2,248 | 2,411 | 7% | 1.35% | $60.75 | Associate degree |
| Massage Therapists | 2,645 | 3,104 | 17% | 1.59% | $37.07 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | 2,647 | 3,015 | 14% | 1.59% | $38.76 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Pharmacy Technicians | 2,883 | 3,065 | 6% | 1.74% | $27.21 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Dental Assistants | 4,025 | 4,317 | 7% | 2.42% | $28.19 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Social and Human Service Assistants | 5,708 | 6,479 | 14% | 3.44% | $23.78 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Medical Assistants | 6,695 | 7,850 | 17% | 4.03% | $25.49 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Nursing Assistants | 8,633 | 9,787 | 13% | 5.20% | $23.87 | Postsecondary nondegree award |

Thirty Healthcare and Social Assistance occupations are Target Occupations.

Collectively, more than 53,318 people are currently employed in these occupations in the PVMA.

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