

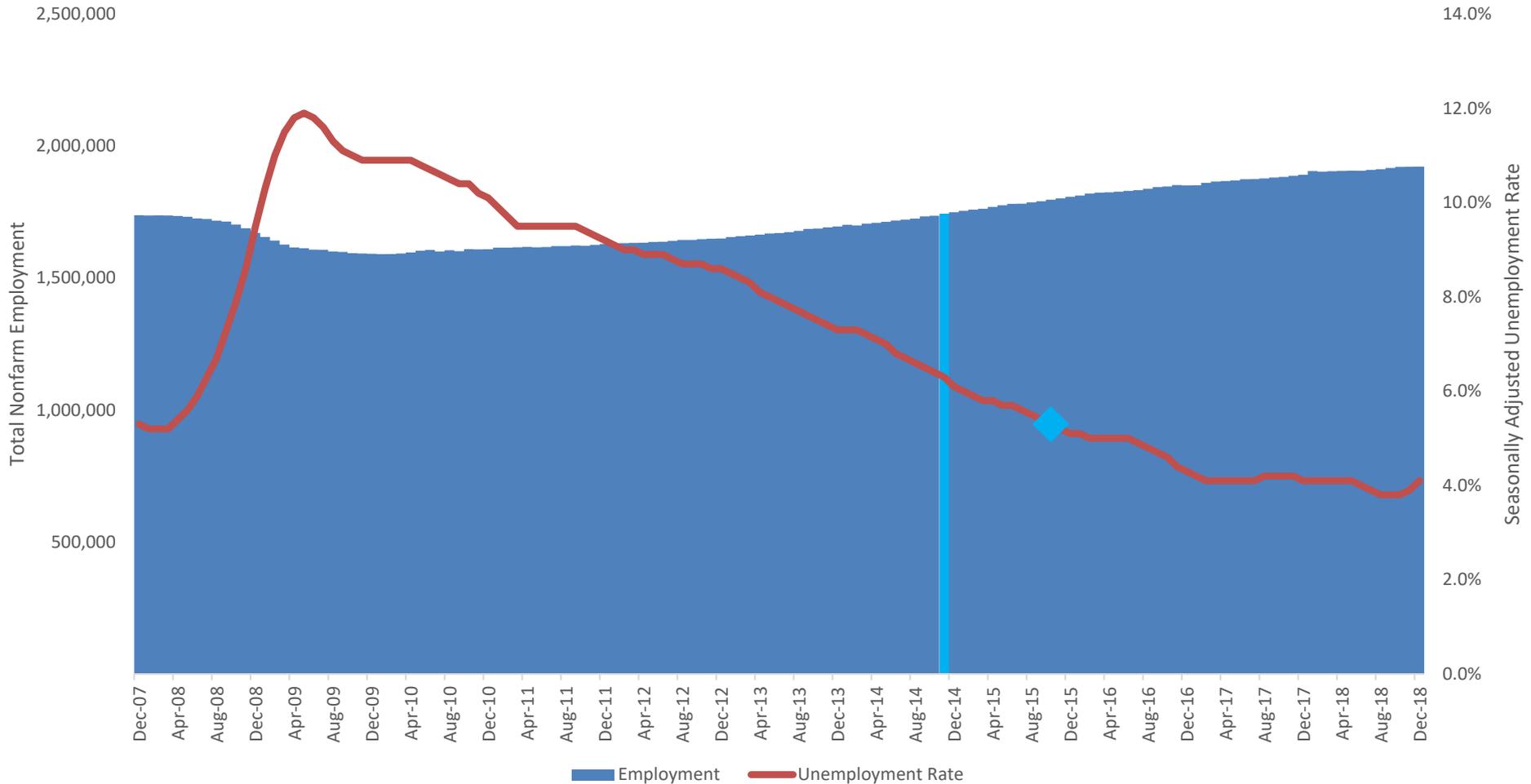


The Employment Landscape of Rural Oregon

A Report from the Oregon Employment Department

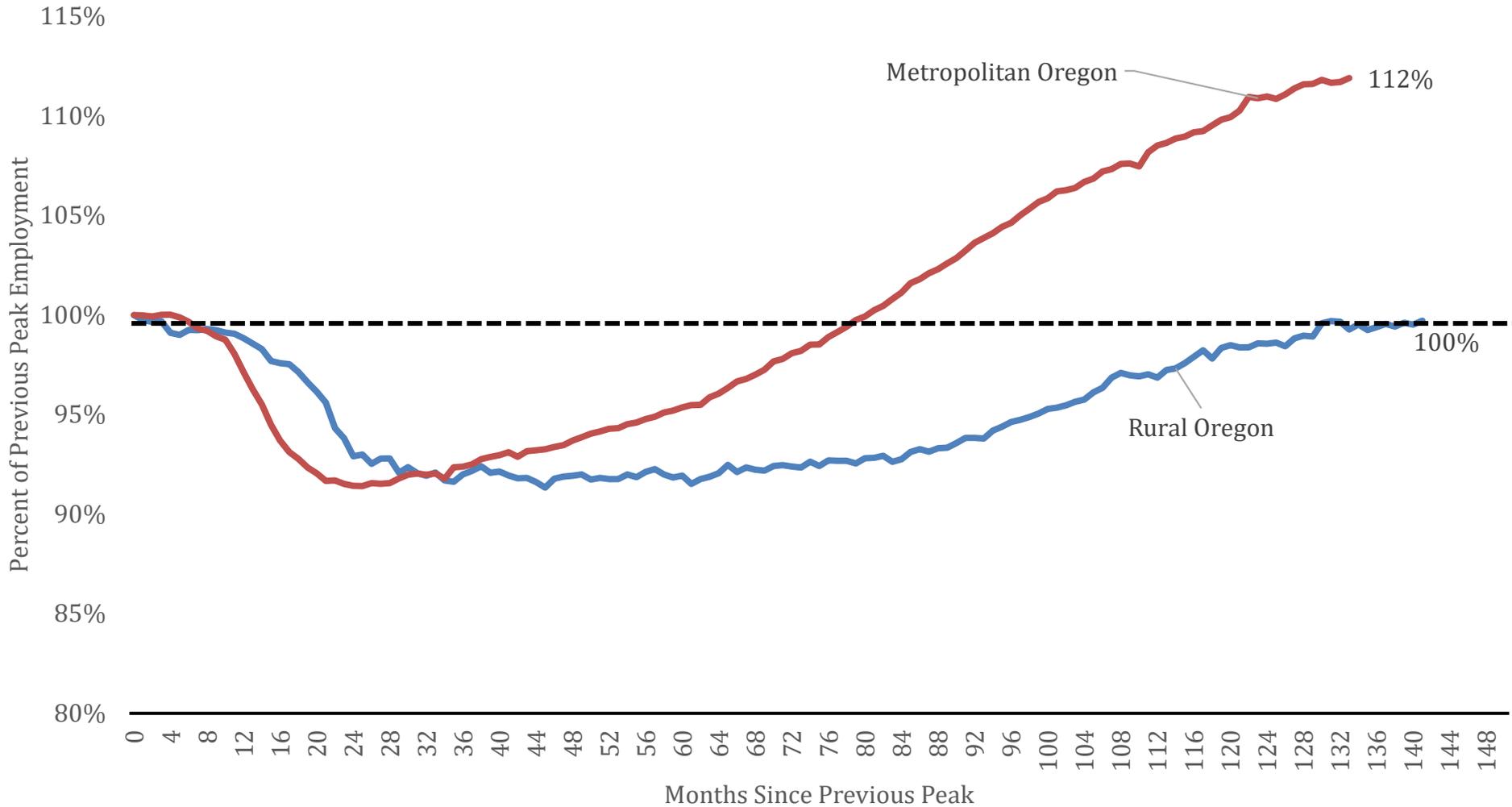
Damon Runberg, Regional Economist

Oregon's economy is currently near full employment after recovering from the recession over 4 years ago



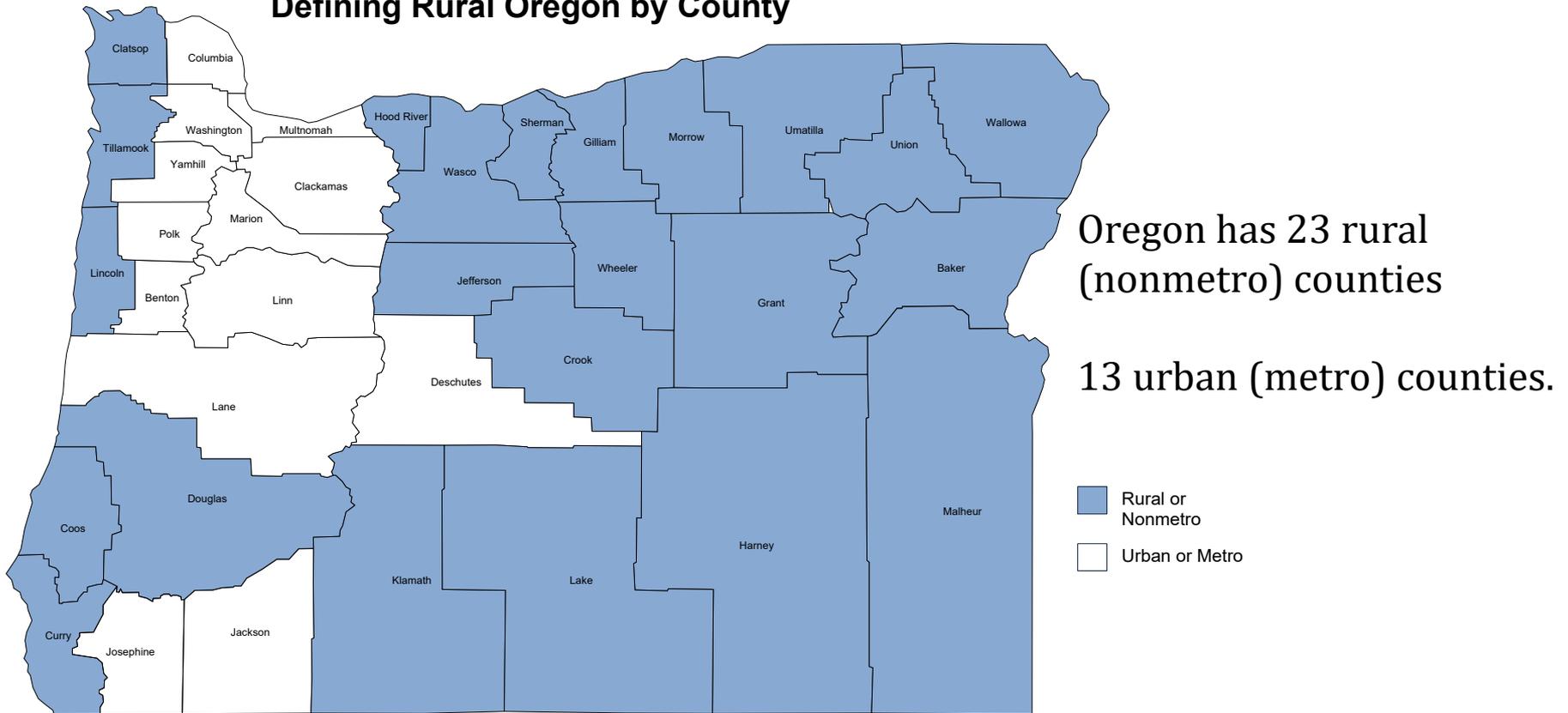
However, the recovery from the Great Recession has been uneven

15 of Oregon's 23 rural counties remain below peak.



Rural Oregon, for the purposes of our report, included any county characterized as “nonmetro” in federal data sources.

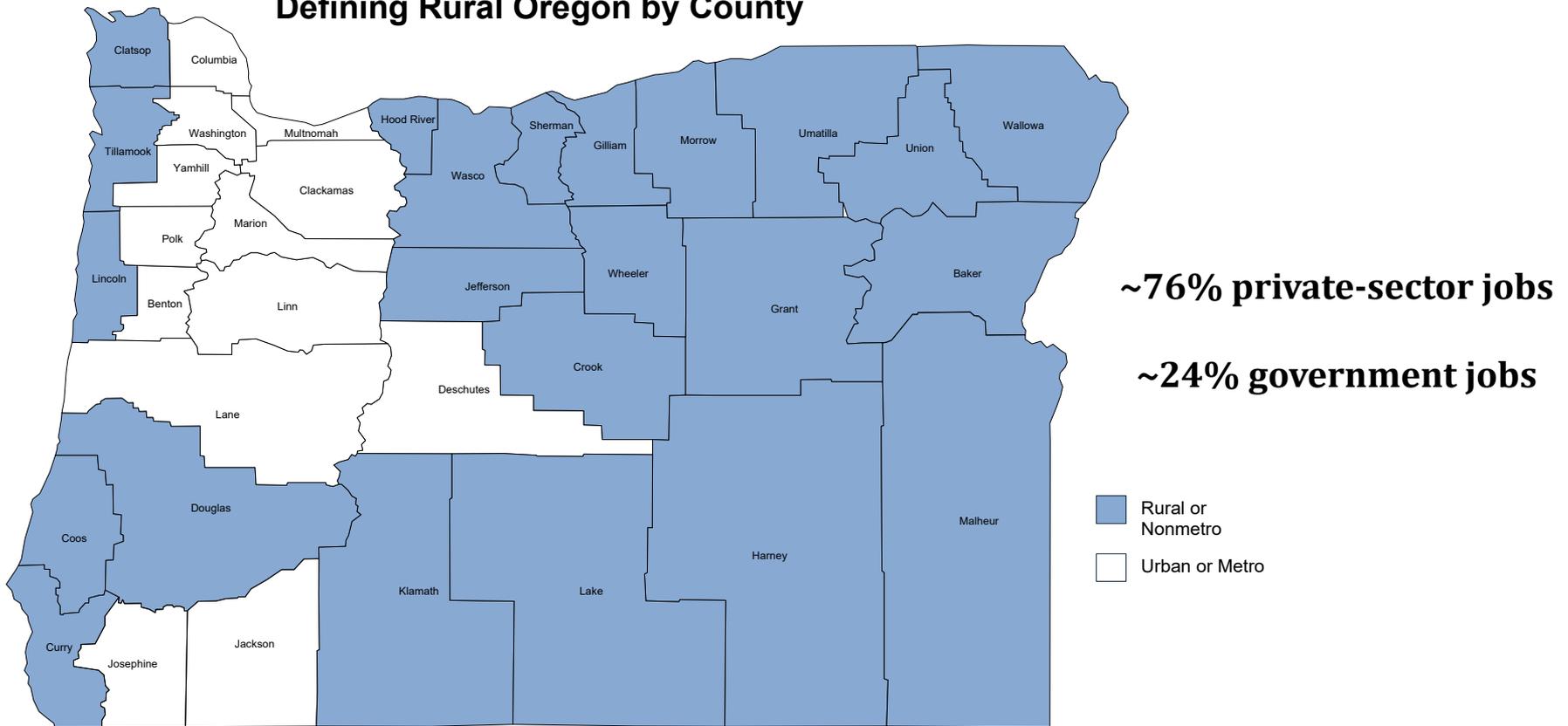
Defining Rural Oregon by County



Rural Oregon had 244,000 jobs in 2018

...about 13 percent of statewide employment.

Defining Rural Oregon by County

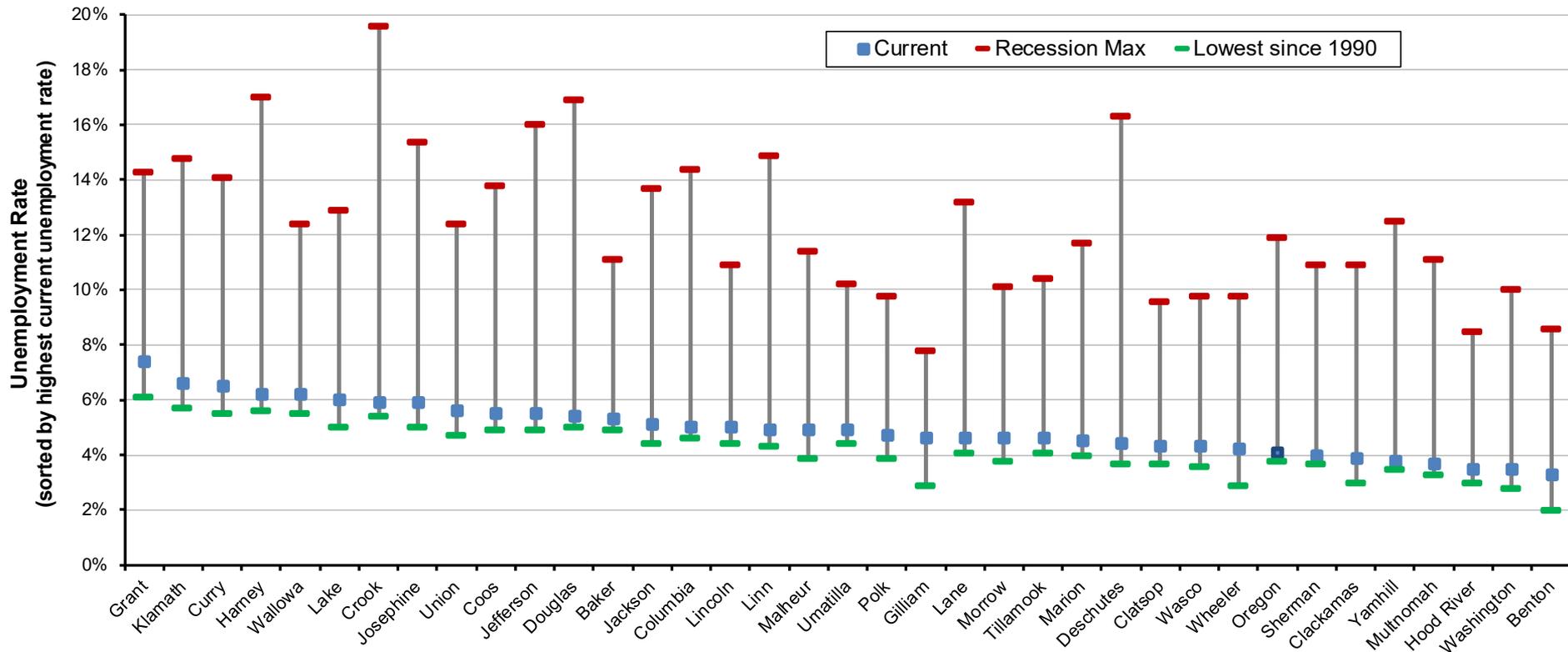


12 of the top 15 highest rates of unemployment are rural

But, levels of unemployment are at or near historically low levels

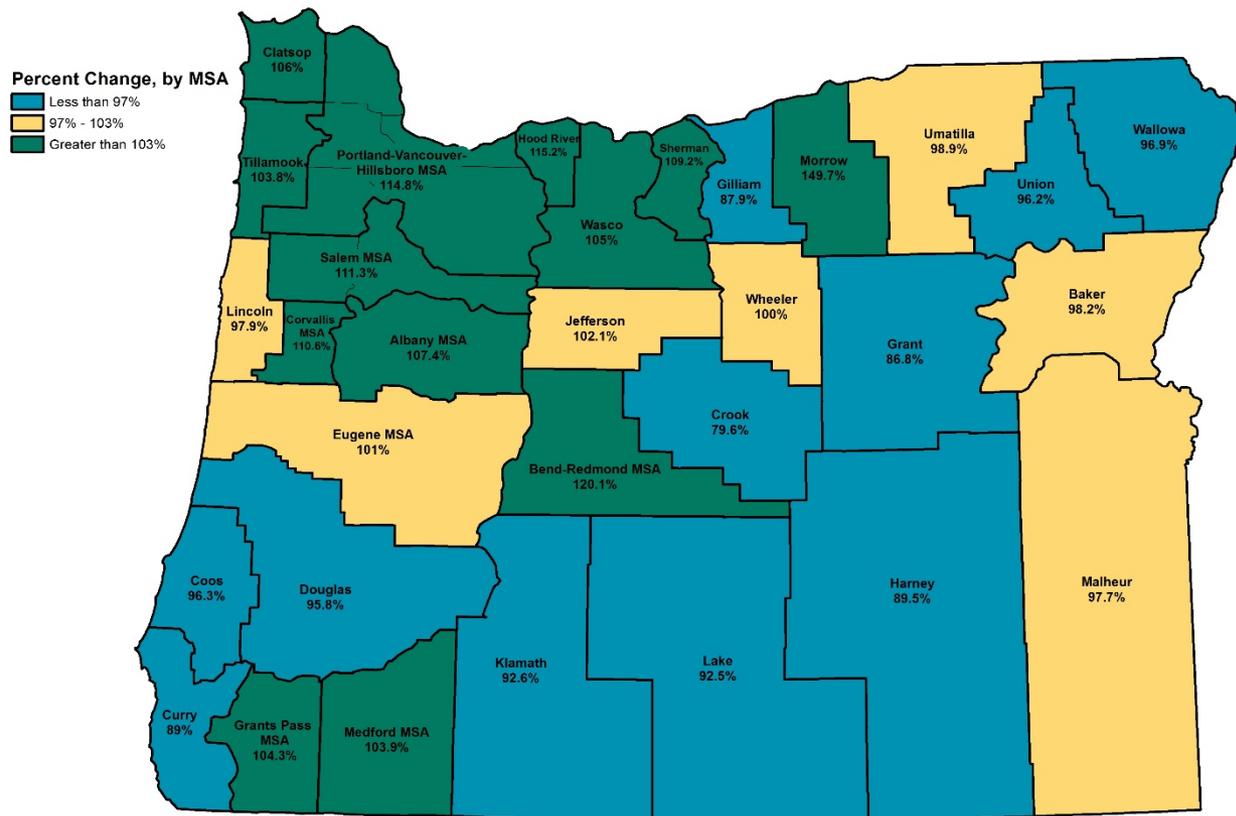
Unemployment Rates in Oregon Counties

Current Rate and Max for 2007-2009 Recession, Seasonally Adjusted



Job expansion most notable along the Columbia River, the Willamette Valley, and Deschutes County

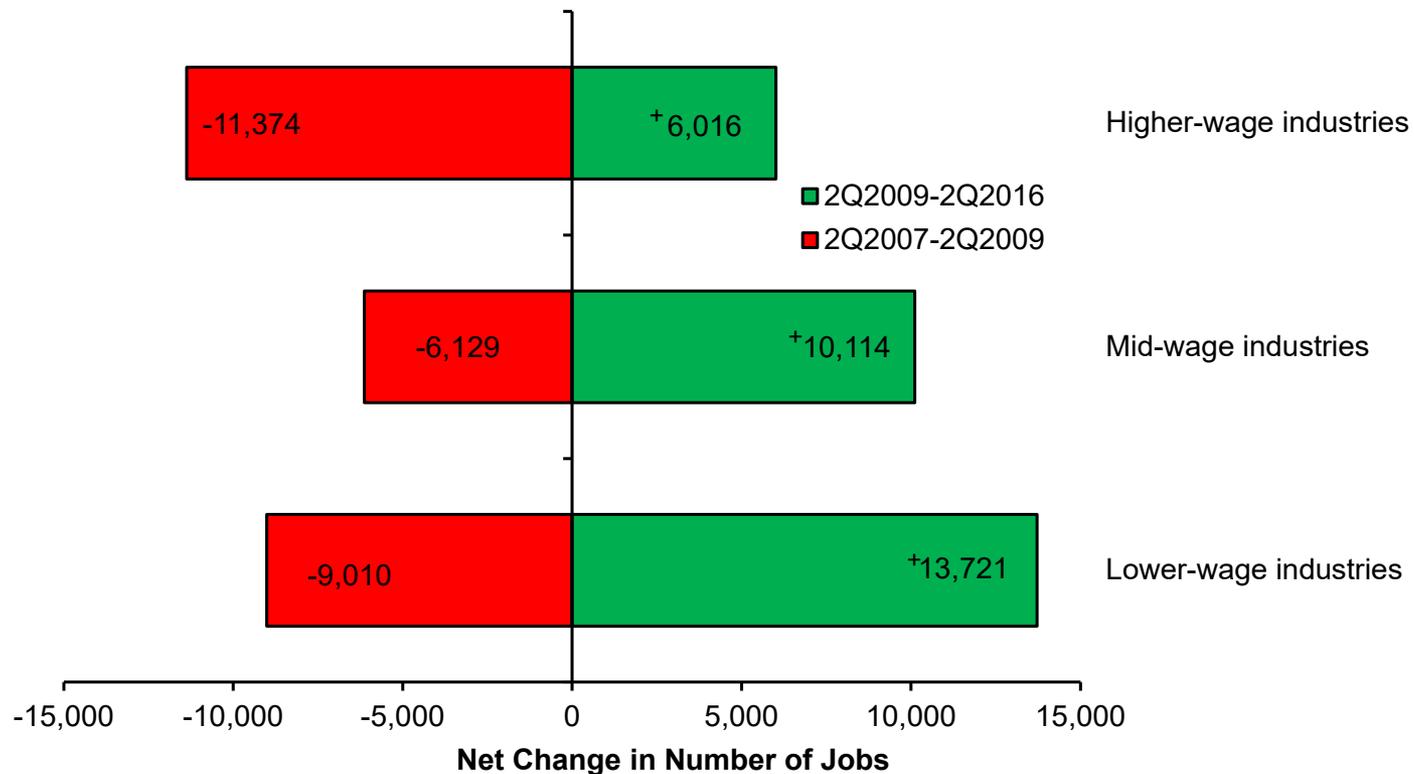
Job Change Since Pre-Recession Peak



Bulk of jobs lost were from high-wage industries, but early jobs gains were concentrated in lower-wage industries

Rural Oregon Lost Many High-Wage Jobs in Recession Nonmetro Counties Private-Sector Job Loss and Job Growth*

*after nearly seven years of recovery

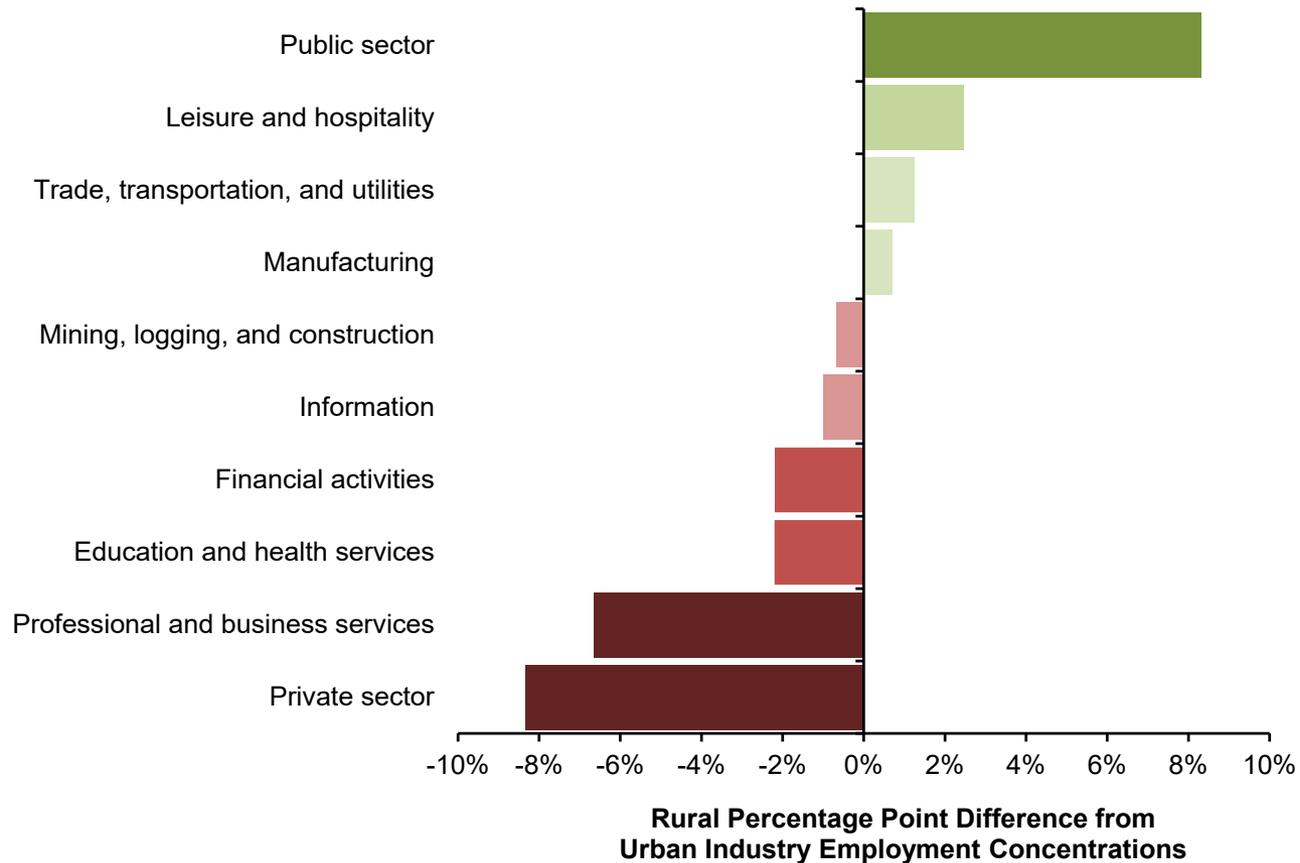


Source: Oregon unemployment insurance wage records



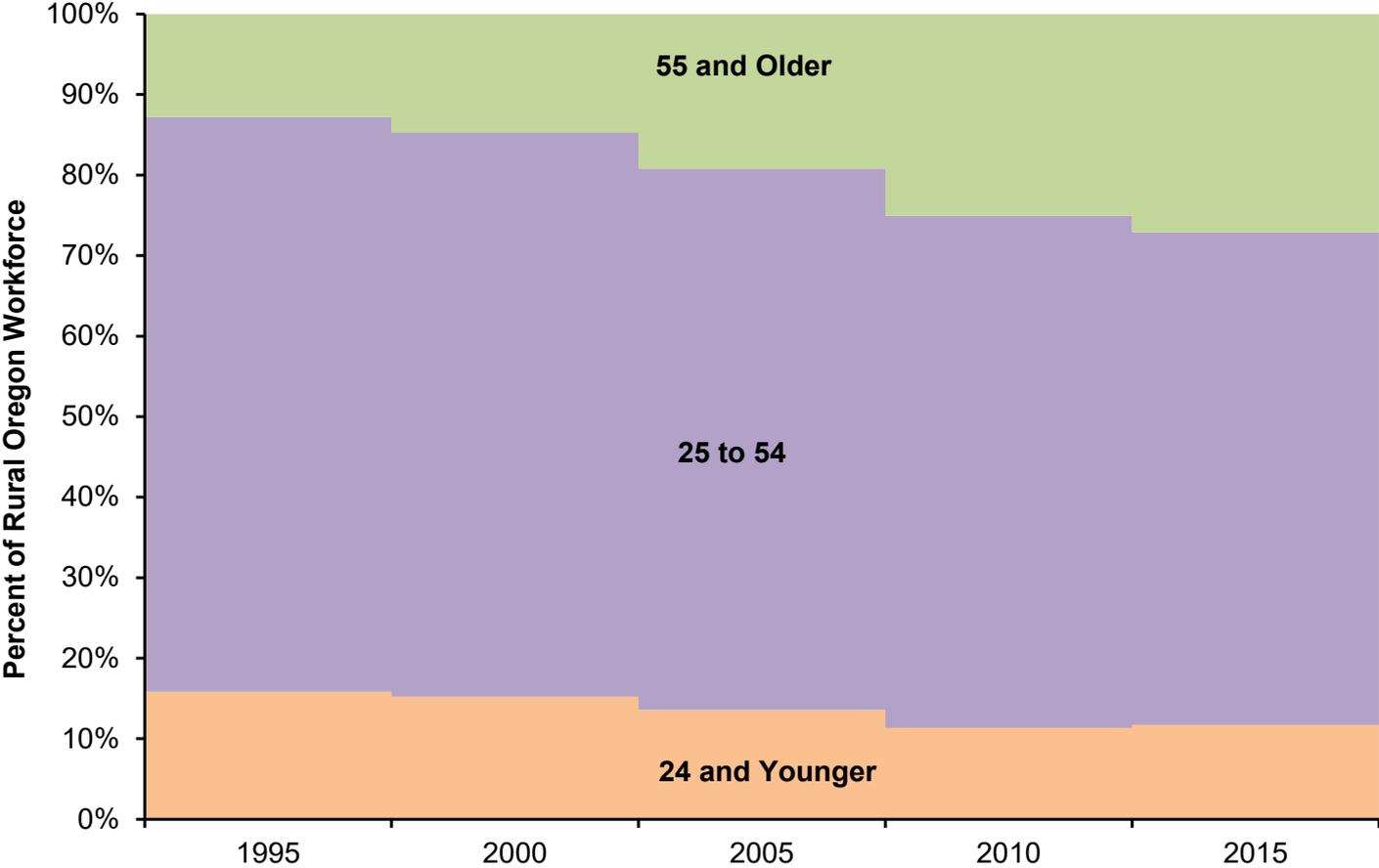
Job recovery in rural communities slower due to industry composition

How Does Rural Oregon Compare with Urban Oregon?



An aging workforce leading to more retirements and workforce challenges

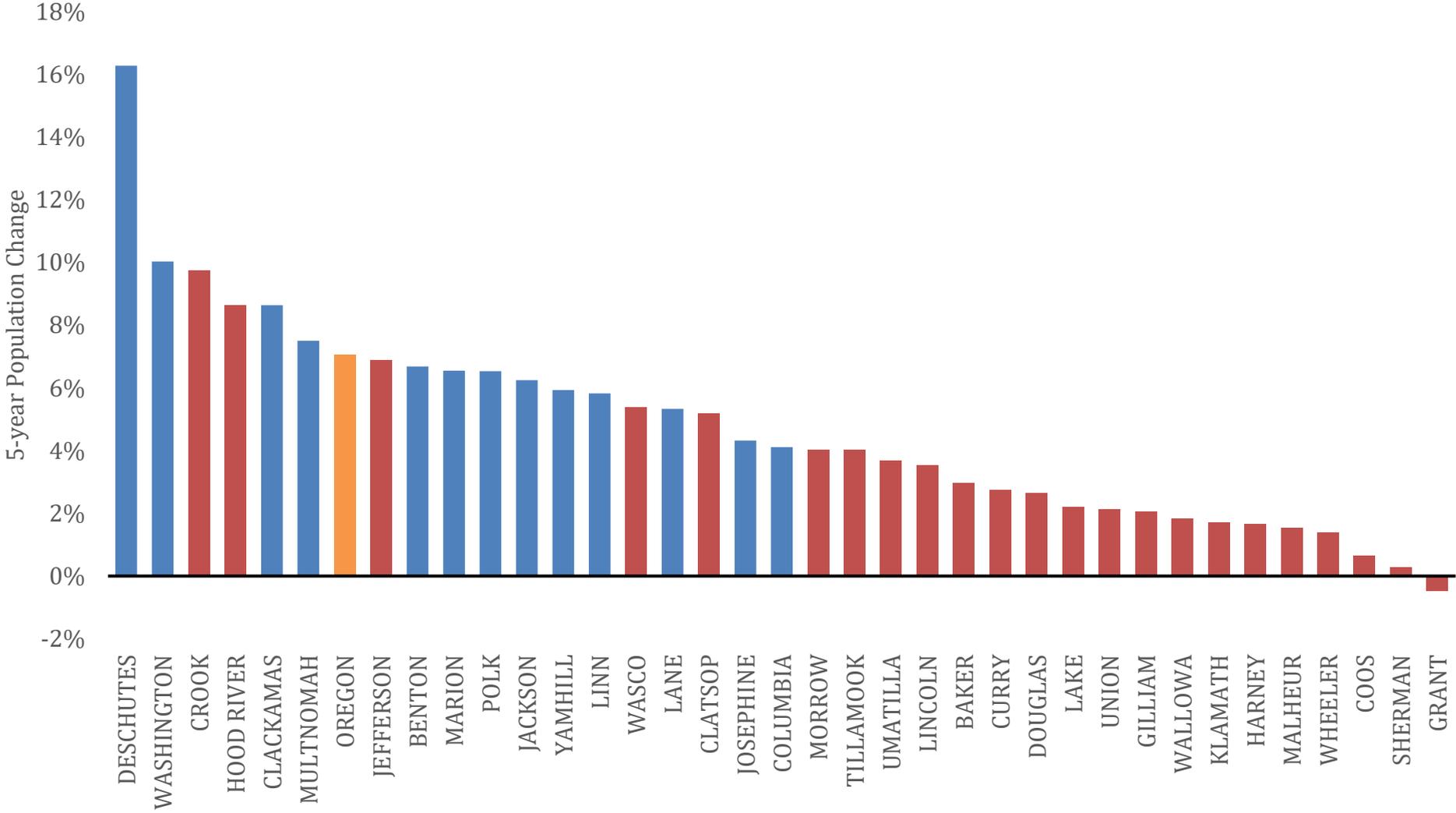
Rural Oregon's Workforce Much Older Today



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics

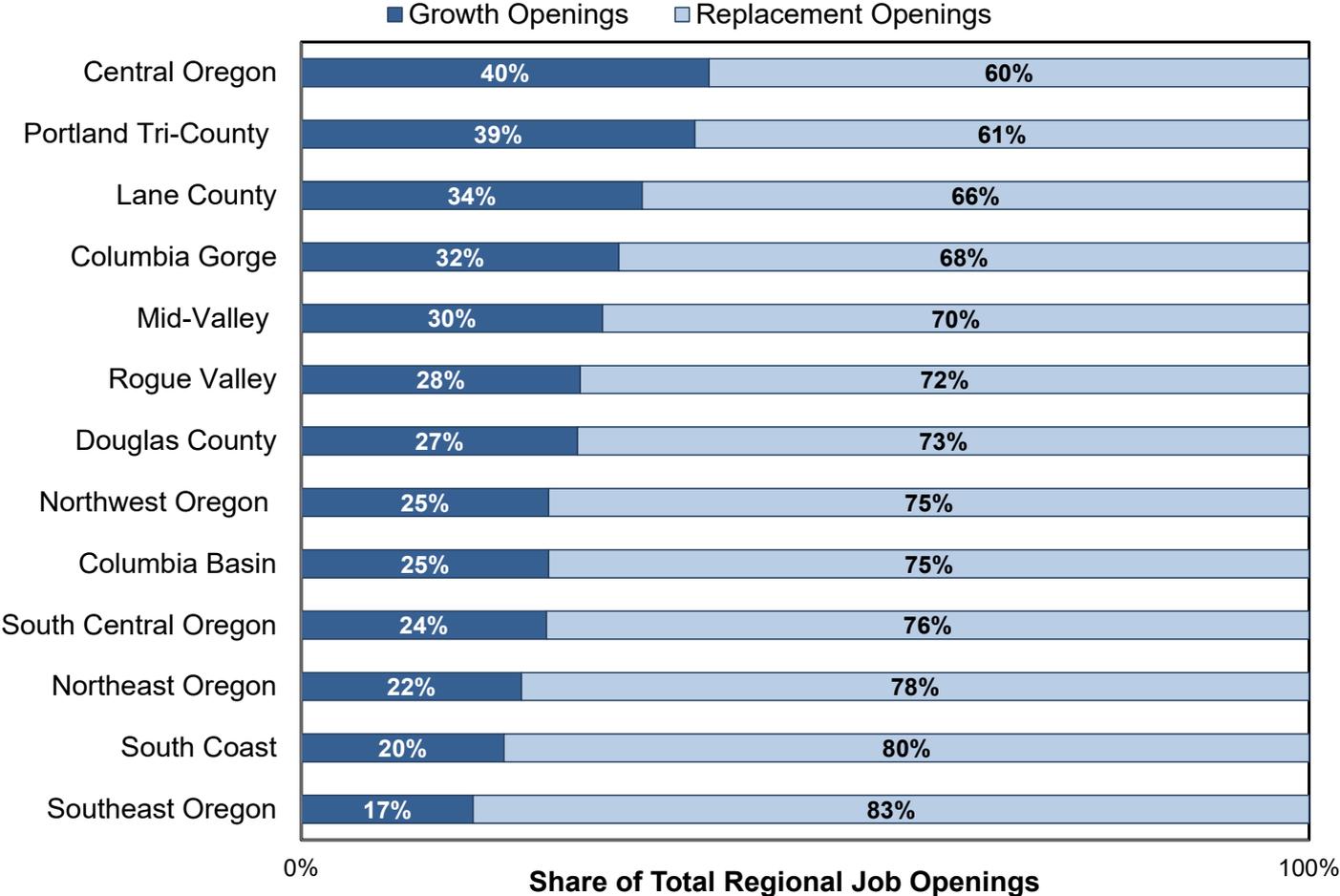


Replacing retiring workers a challenge with slower population growth



Slower projected job growth in rural communities, but opportunities will abound do to retirements and churn

Most Job Openings Occur Due to Replacement, 2014-2024



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