

Columbia Gorge Update

Scott Bailey, Regional Economist
scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov
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**Employment
Security
Department**
WASHINGTON STATE

Pre-COVID/COVID/Post-COVID

- **Compare 2005-2009 and 2010-2014 with 2015-2019**
 - **Note: ACS data has large margin of error**
- **February 2020 to current situation**
- **Speculation on the future**
 - **Like the lottery, this is for entertainment purposes only**

Population

- **“Demography is destiny”**
- **U.S. fertility rate: 1.781**
- **Replacement rate: 2.08**

Population in the Gorge

Area	2010	2020	Change
Hood River	22,346	25,640	14.7%
Klickitat	20,318	22,770	12.1%
Sherman	1,765	1,795	1.7%
Skamania	11,066	12,220	10.4%
Wasco	25,213	27,295	8.3%
Gorge Total	80,708	89,720	11.2%
Oregon	3,831,074	4,268,055	11.4%
Washington	6,724,540	7,656,200	13.9%
U.S.	309,191,211	330,575,402	6.9%

Source: Census, PSU, OFM

Growth disaggregated

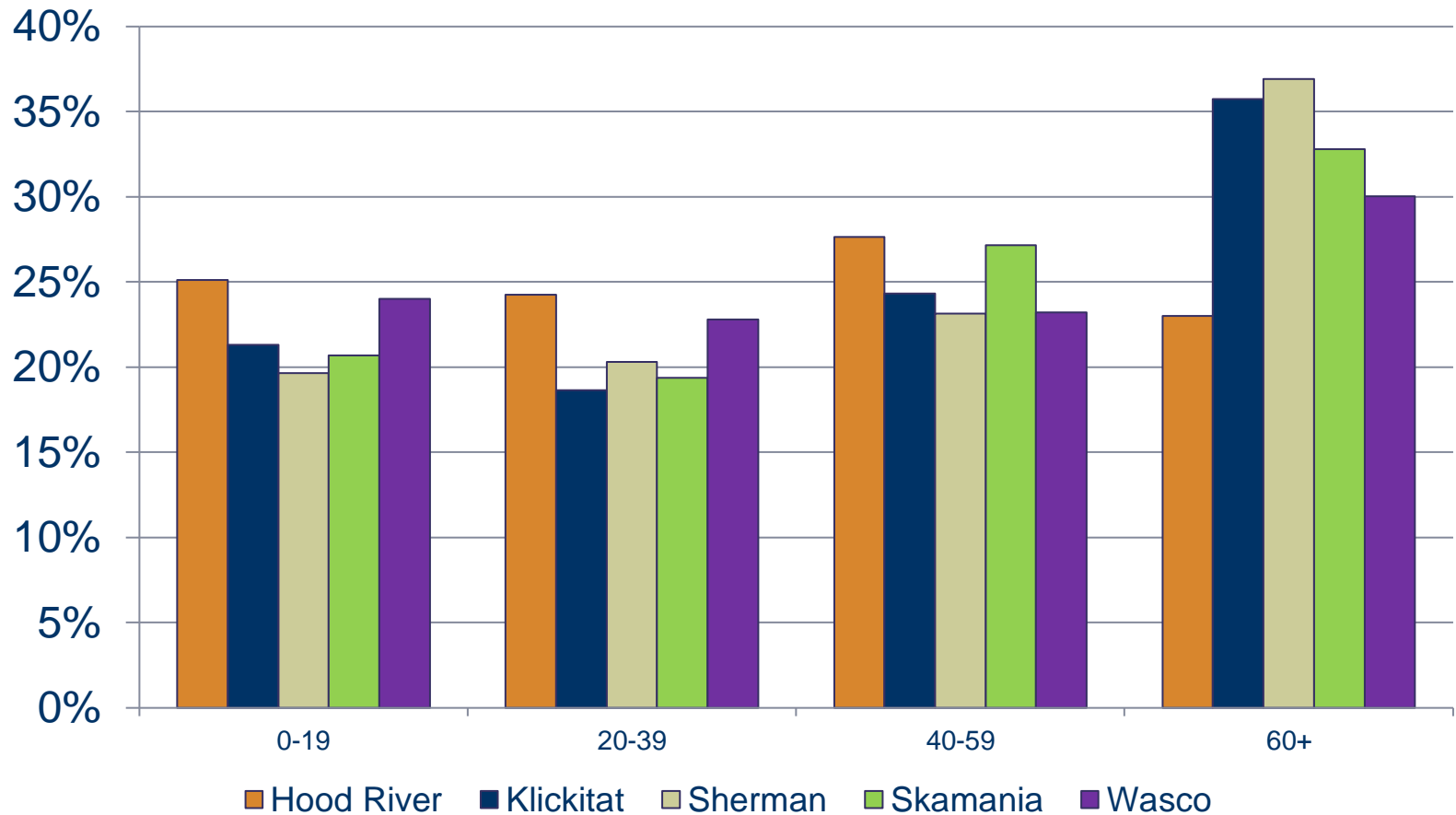
Area	2010-20	Births – Deaths	Net Migration
Hood River	3,294	925	2,369
Klickitat	2,452	214	2,238
Sherman	30	-7	37
Skamania	1,154	92	1,062
Wasco	2,082	-151	2,233
Gorge Total	9,012	1,073	7,939
Oregon	436,981	96,865	340,116
Washington	931,660	338,327	593,333
U.S. (9 years)	19,481,418	11,621,558	7,859,860

Source: Census, PSU, OFM

Migration push-pull factors

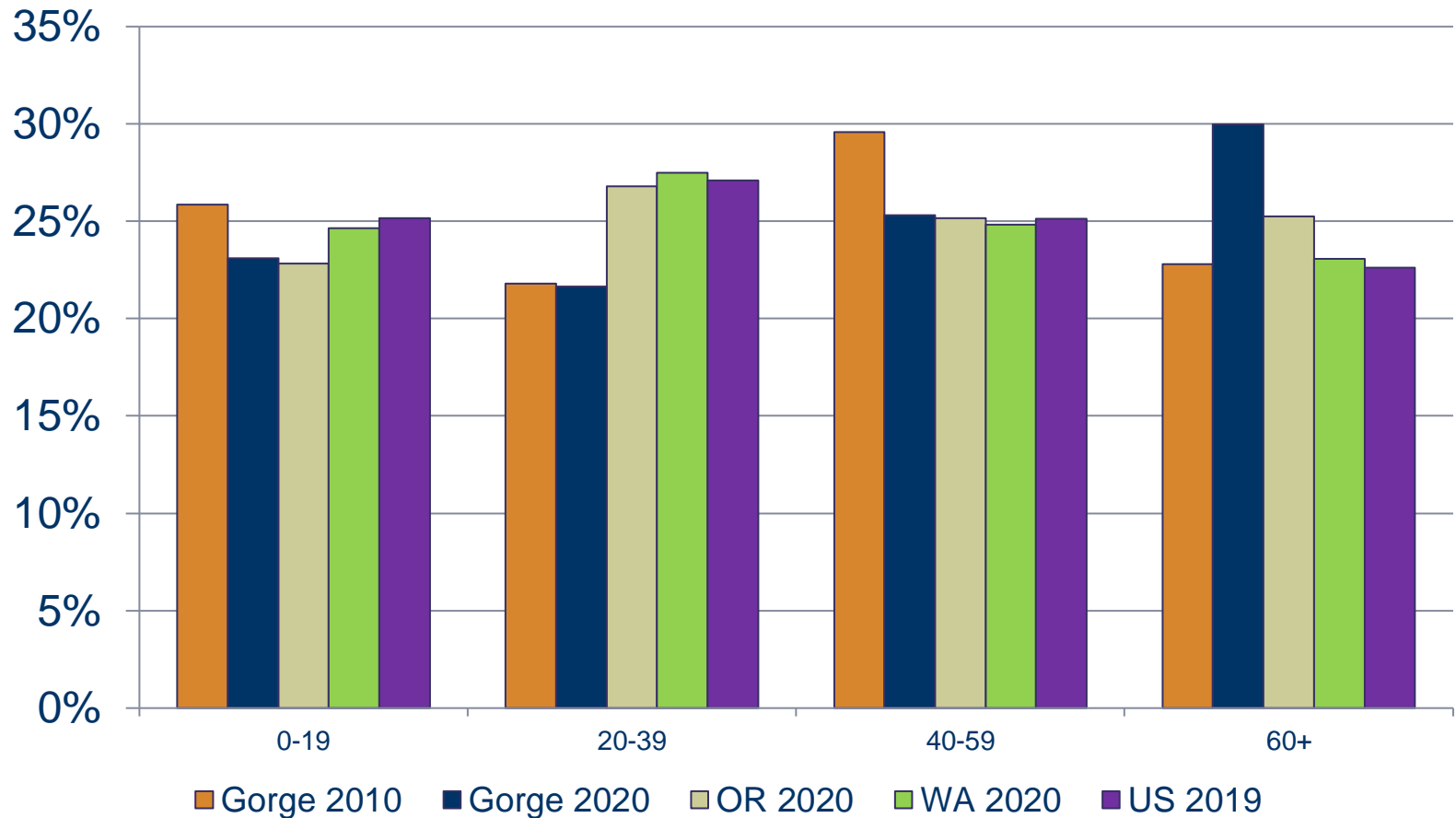
- **Pull factors—”hope”**
- **Push factors—”fear”**
- **Jobs**
- **Cost of living**
- **Quality of life**
- **Climate change**
- **War/gang violence**

Population by age: things look different in Hood River



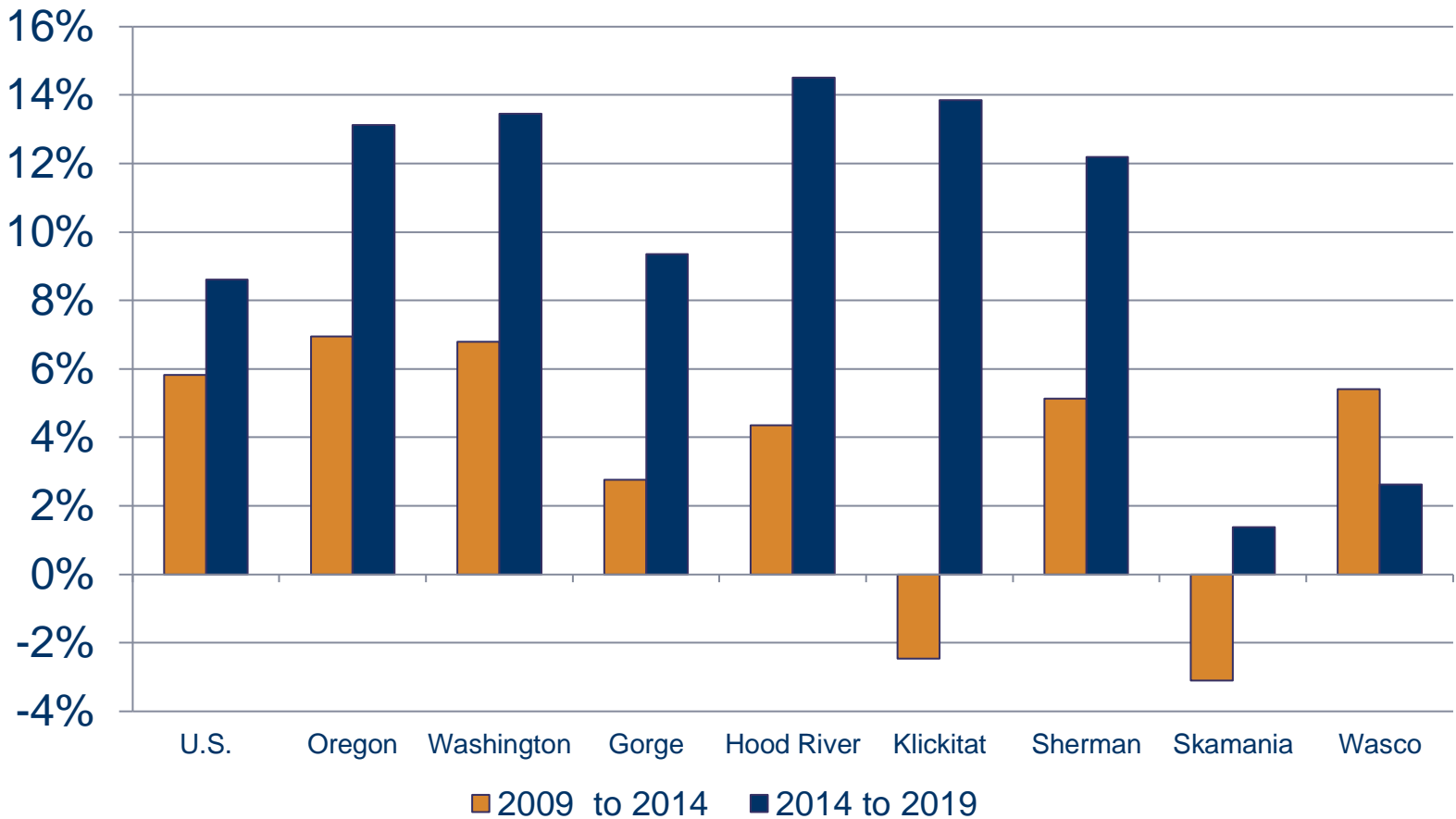
Source: PSU/OFM

Population by age: older in the Gorge



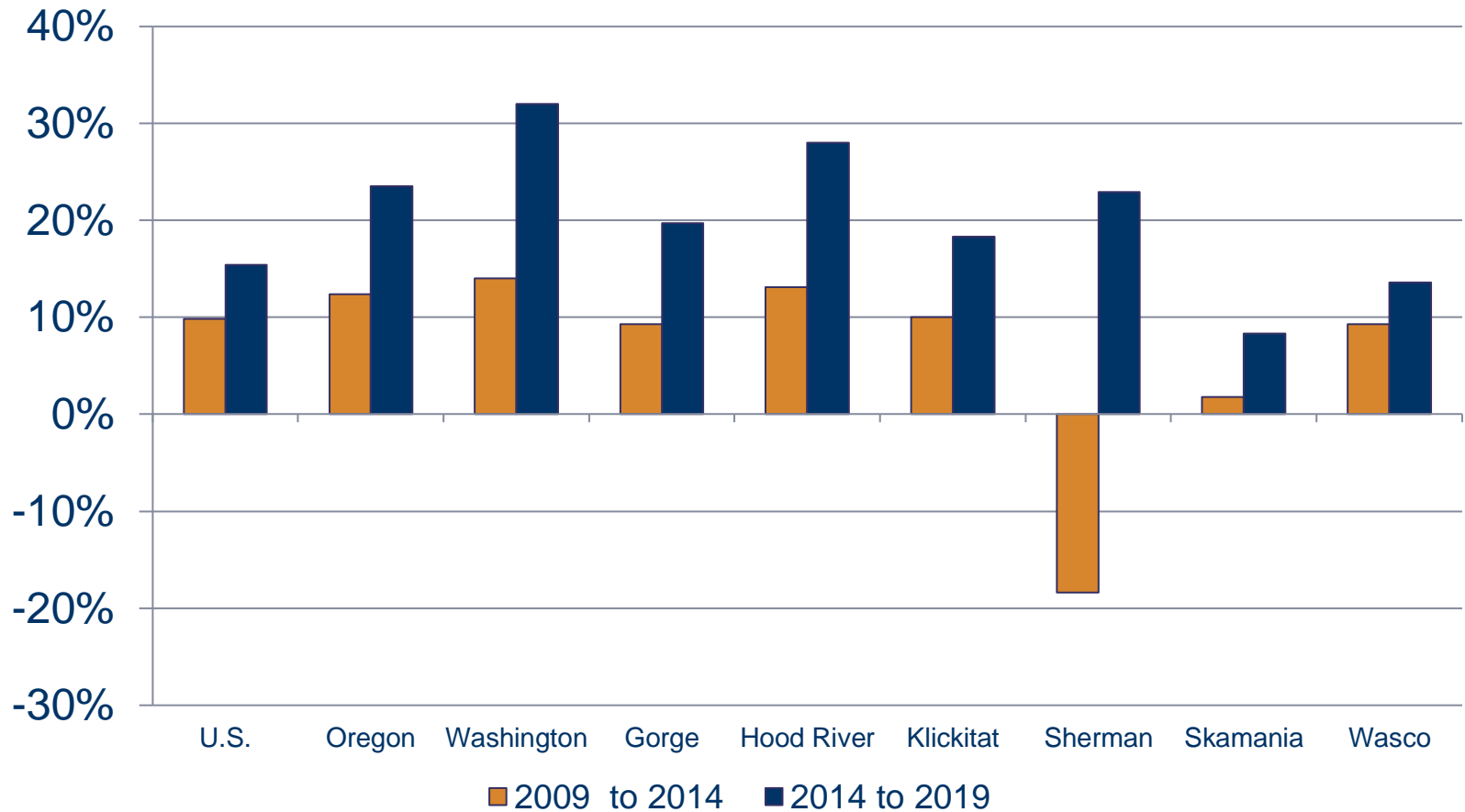
Source: PSU/OFM

Job growth more than triples



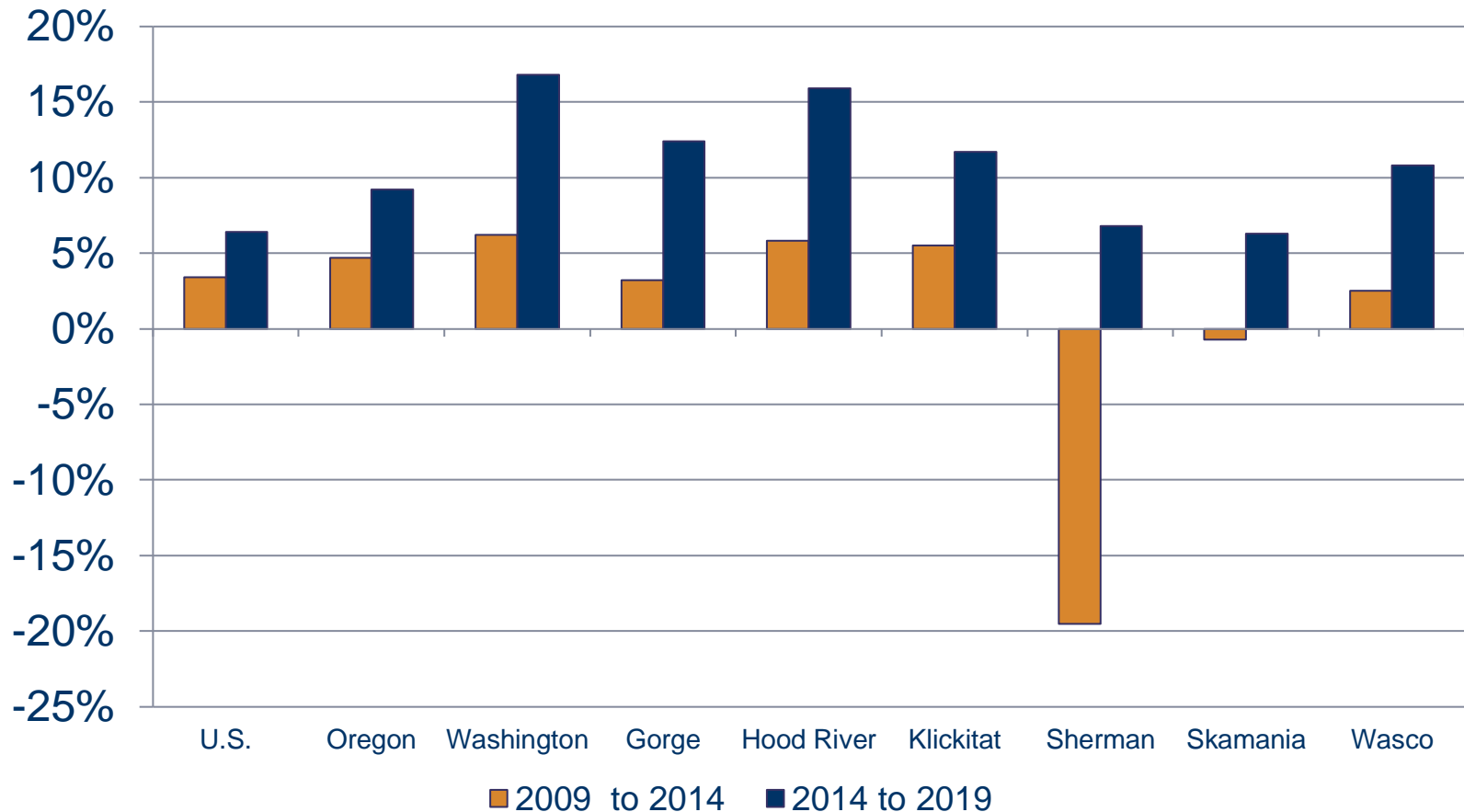
Source: BLS/OR and WA Employment Depts

Total Payroll



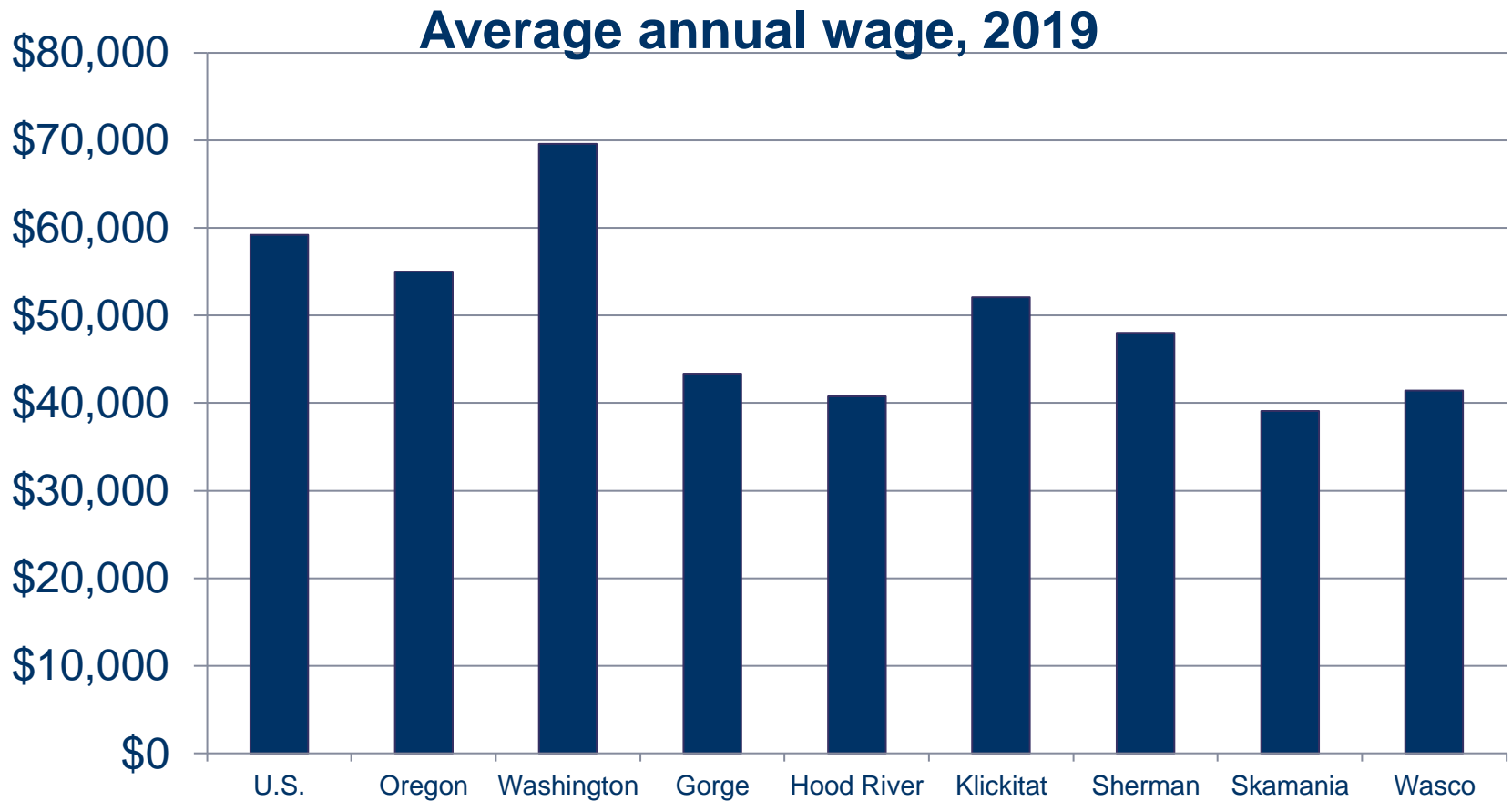
Source: BLS/OR and WA Employment Depts

Average wage rises faster than nation, Oregon...



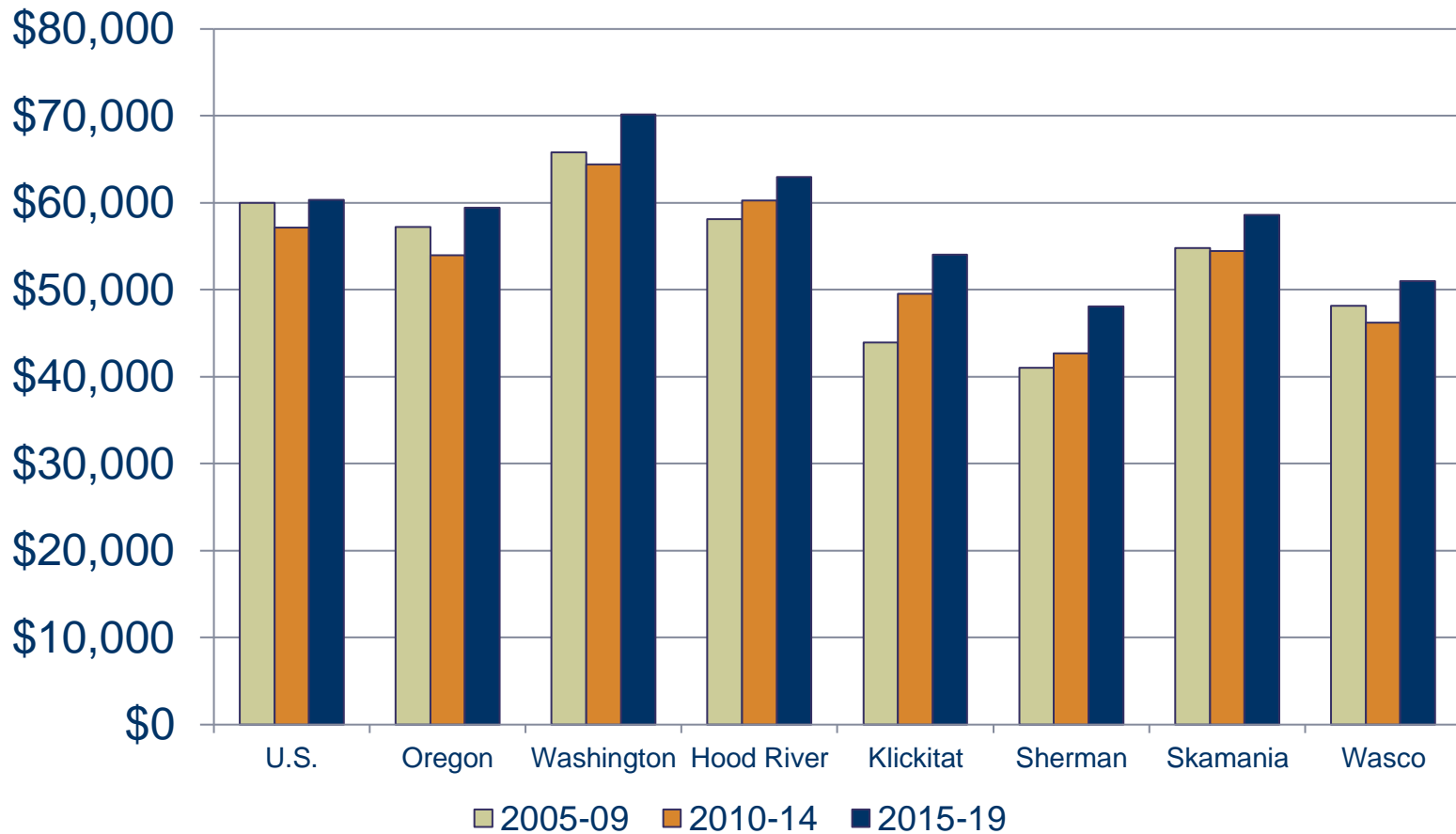
Source: Source: BLS/OR and WA Employment Depts

...but was still well below them in 2019



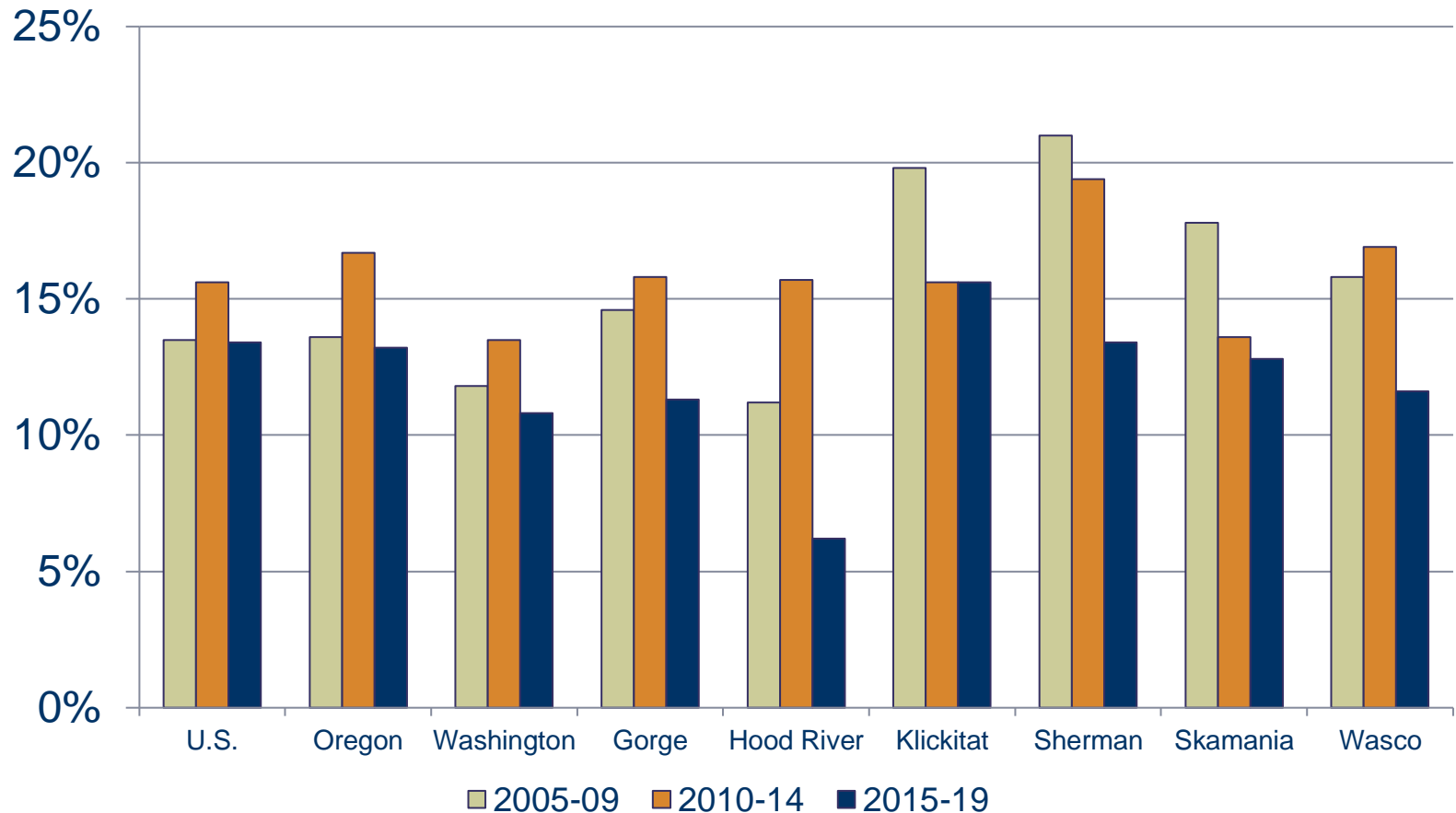
Source: Source: BLS/OR and WA Employment Depts

Median Household Income: Up Across the Board



Source: Census Bureau/American Community Survey
Table S1903

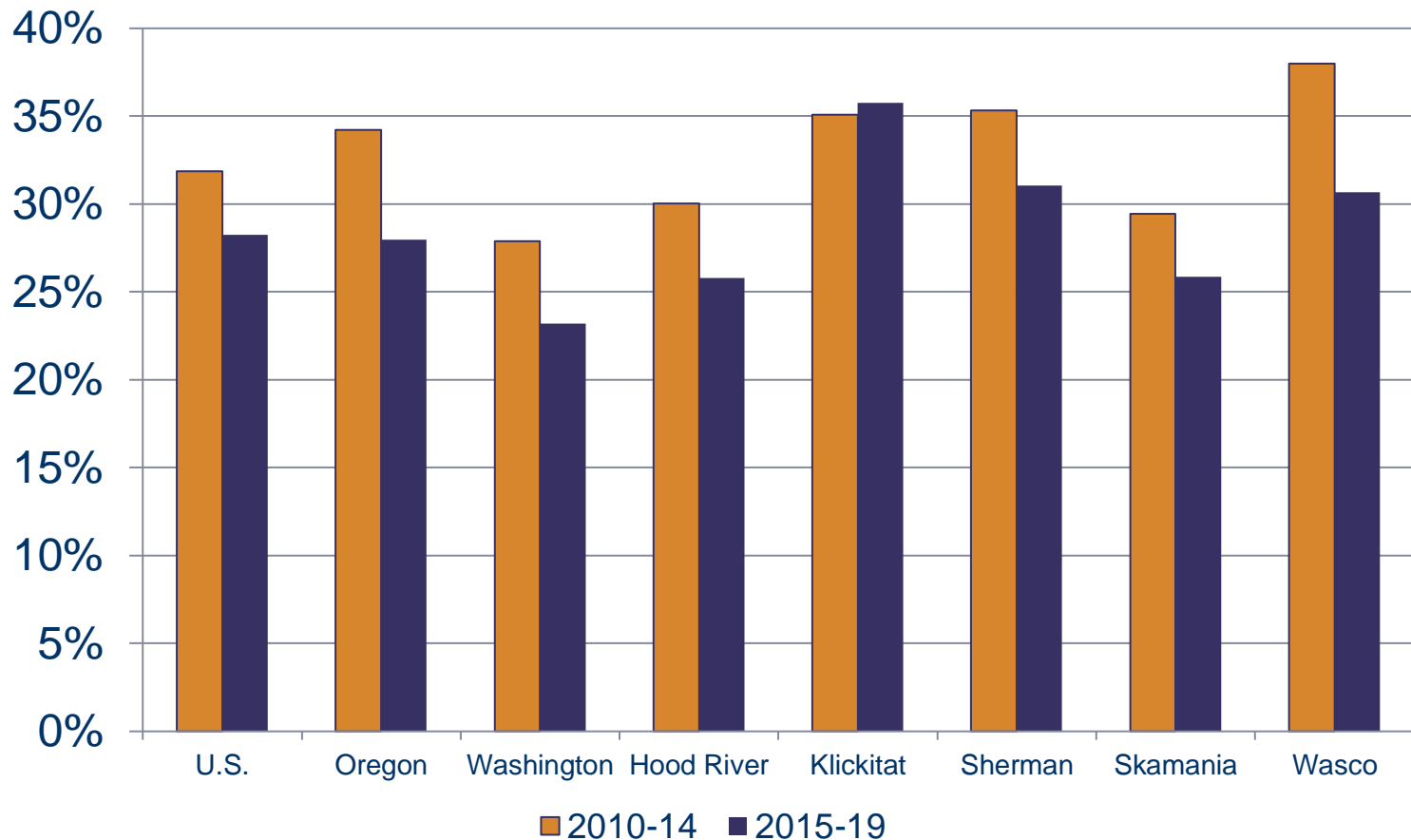
Poverty Rate: Down Across the Board



Source: Census Bureau/American Community Survey

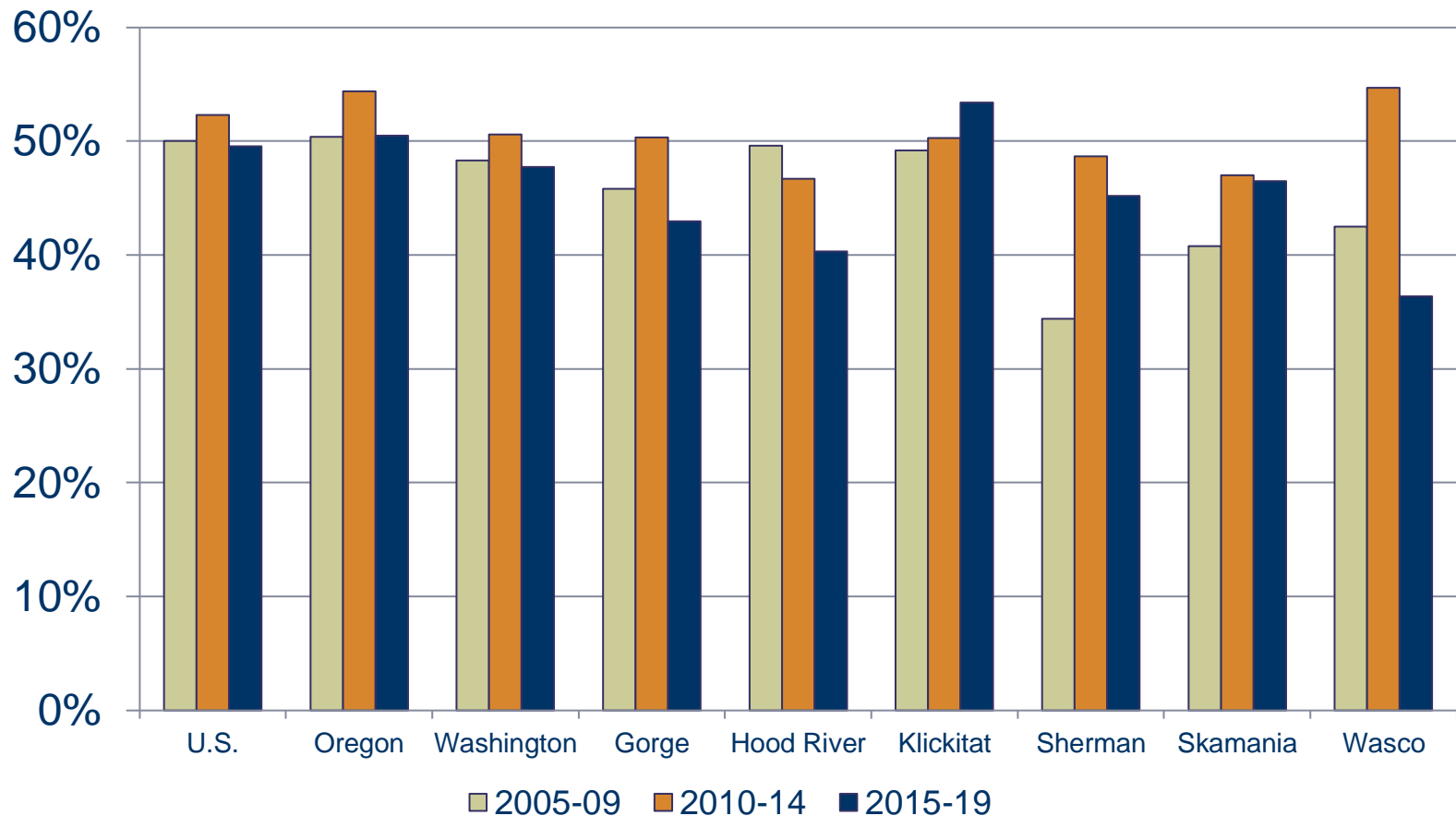
Table S1701

Low-income (< 185 percent of poverty): Down in most counties



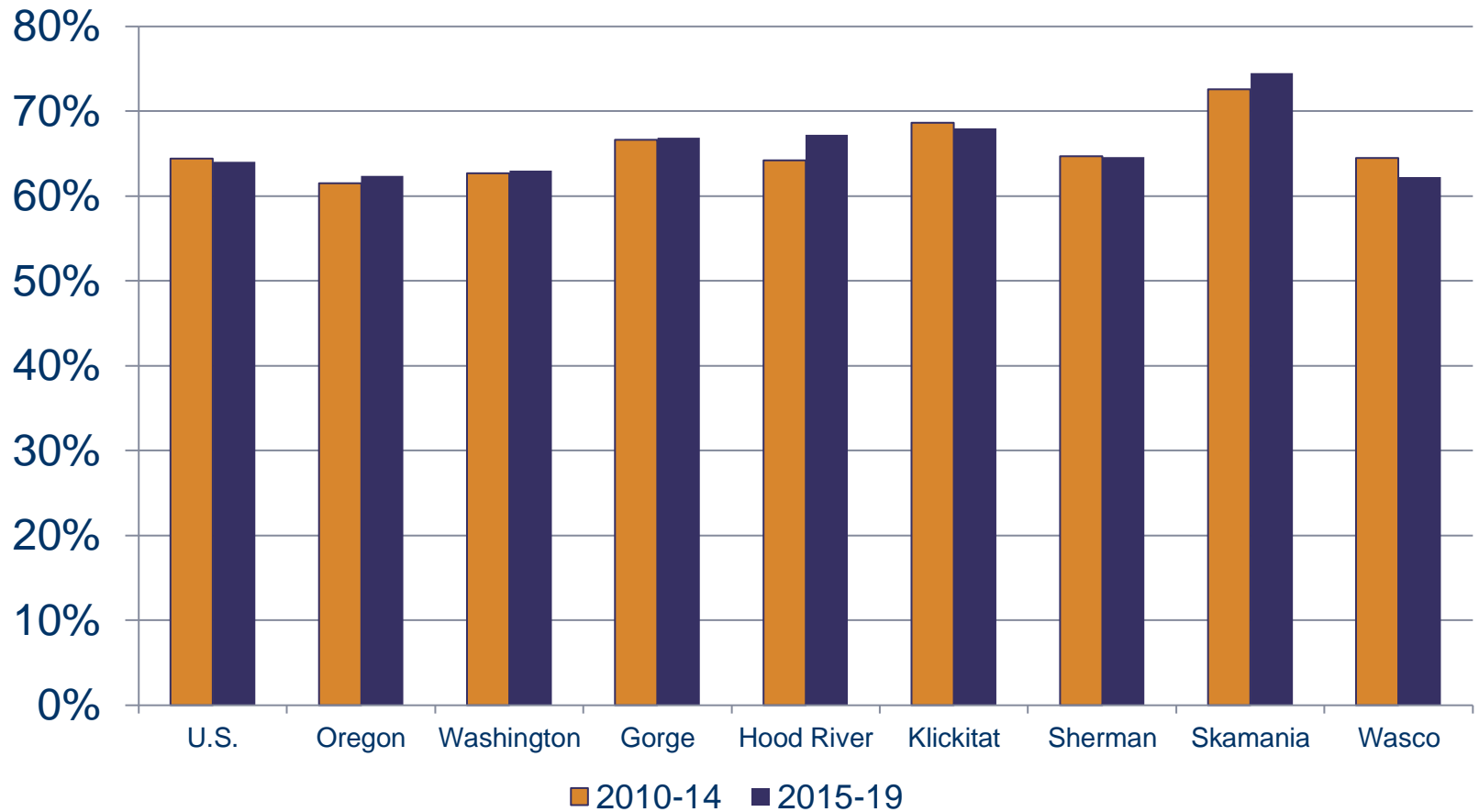
Source: Census Bureau/American Community Survey
Table S1701

Cost-Burdened Renters: Generally, Modest Improvement



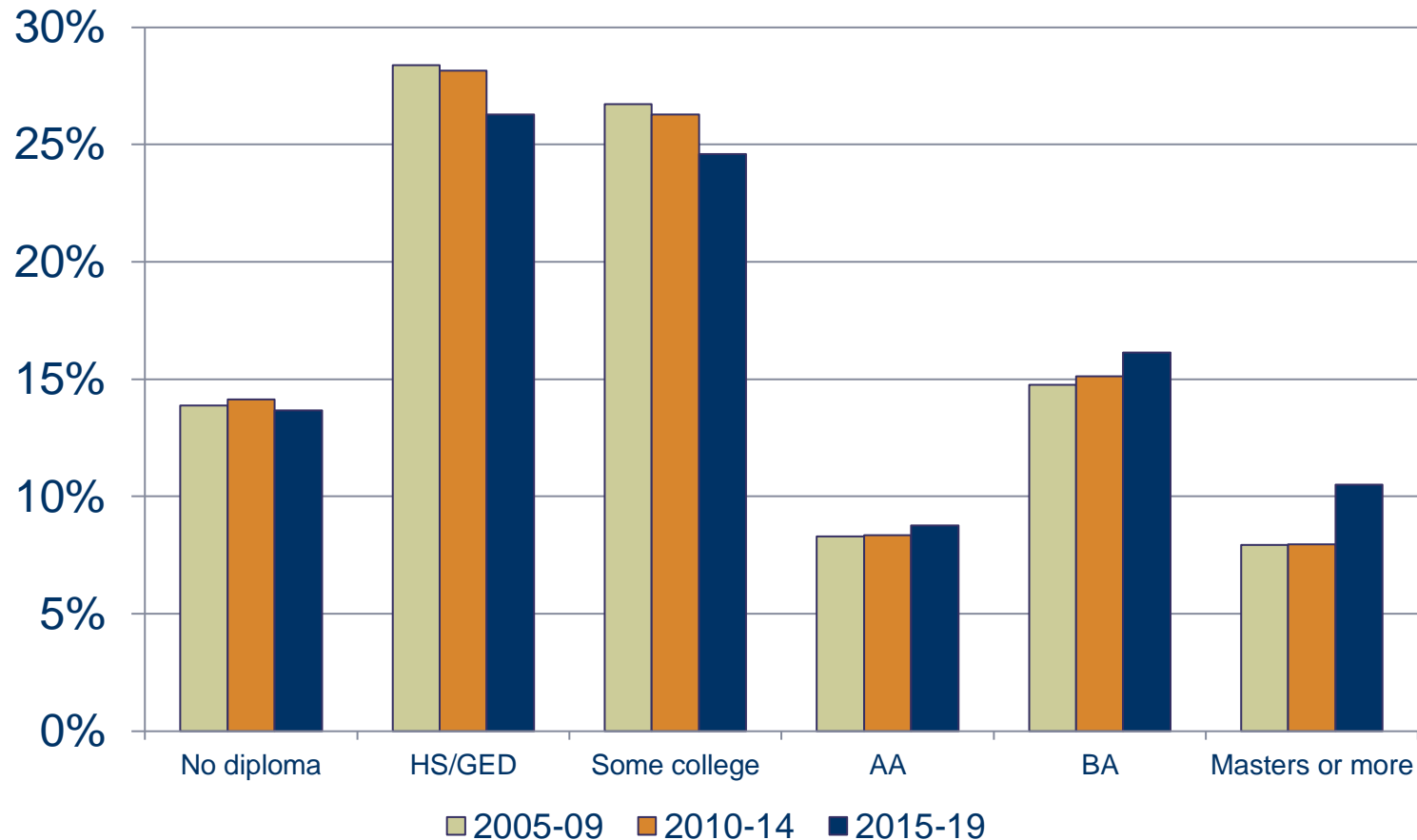
Source: Census Bureau/American Community Survey

Home ownership



Source: Census Bureau/American Community Survey
Table S1701

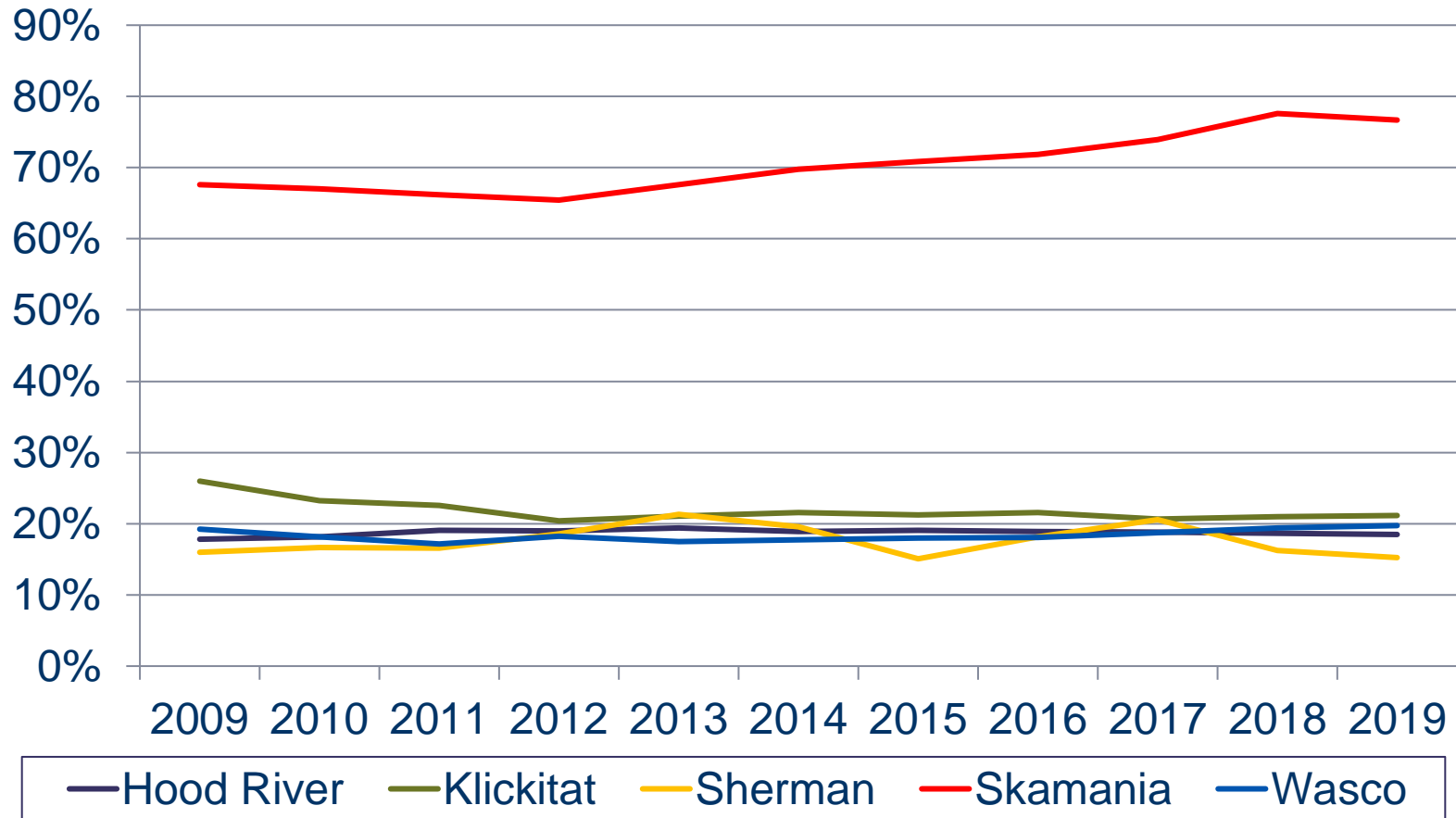
Formal Educational Attainment Generally Increasing



Source: Census Bureau/American Community Survey

Cross-county commuting

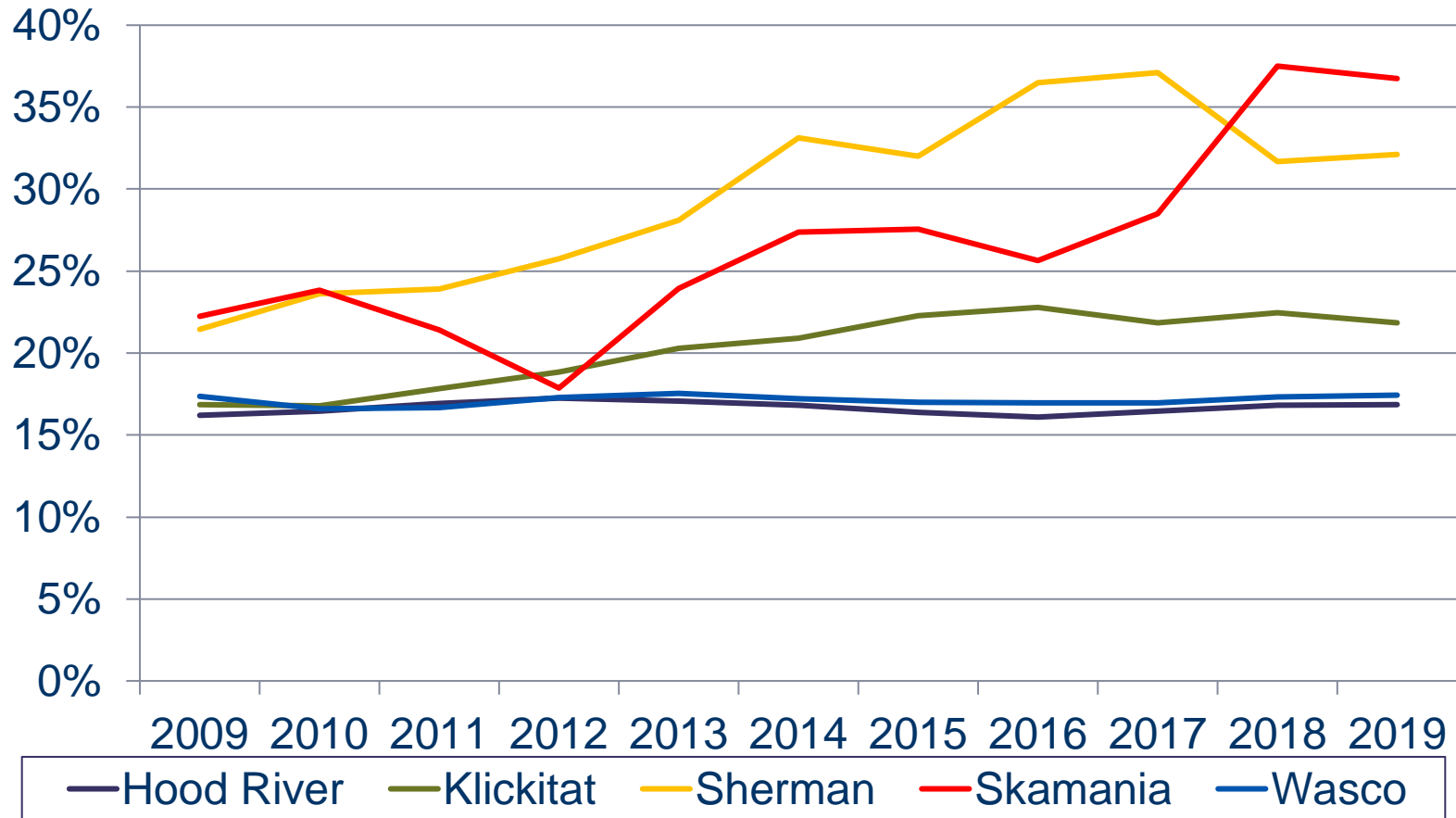
Percent of earned income of residents coming from outside the county



Source: BEA

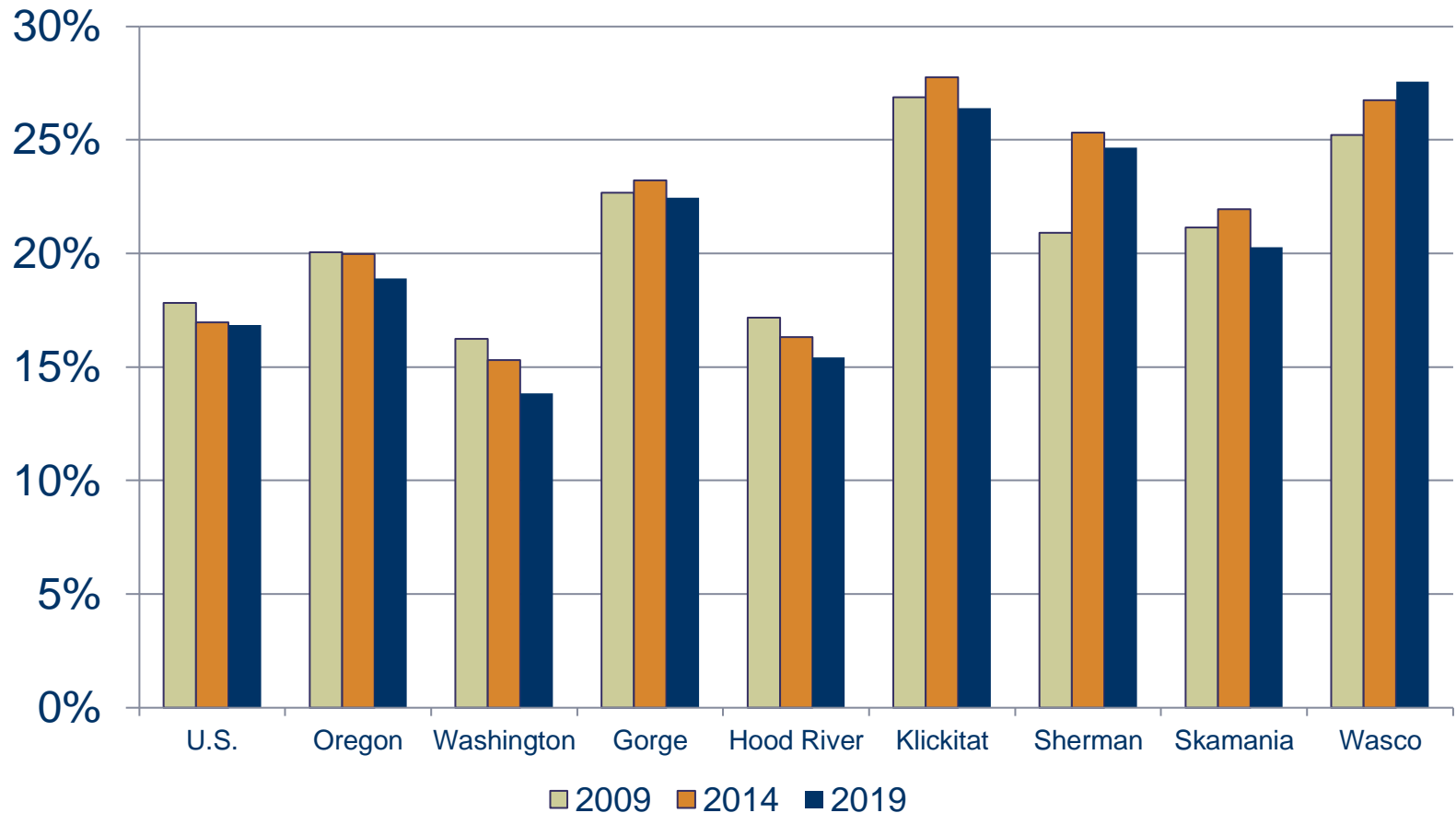
Cross-county commuting

Percent of earnings from jobs in the county leaving the county



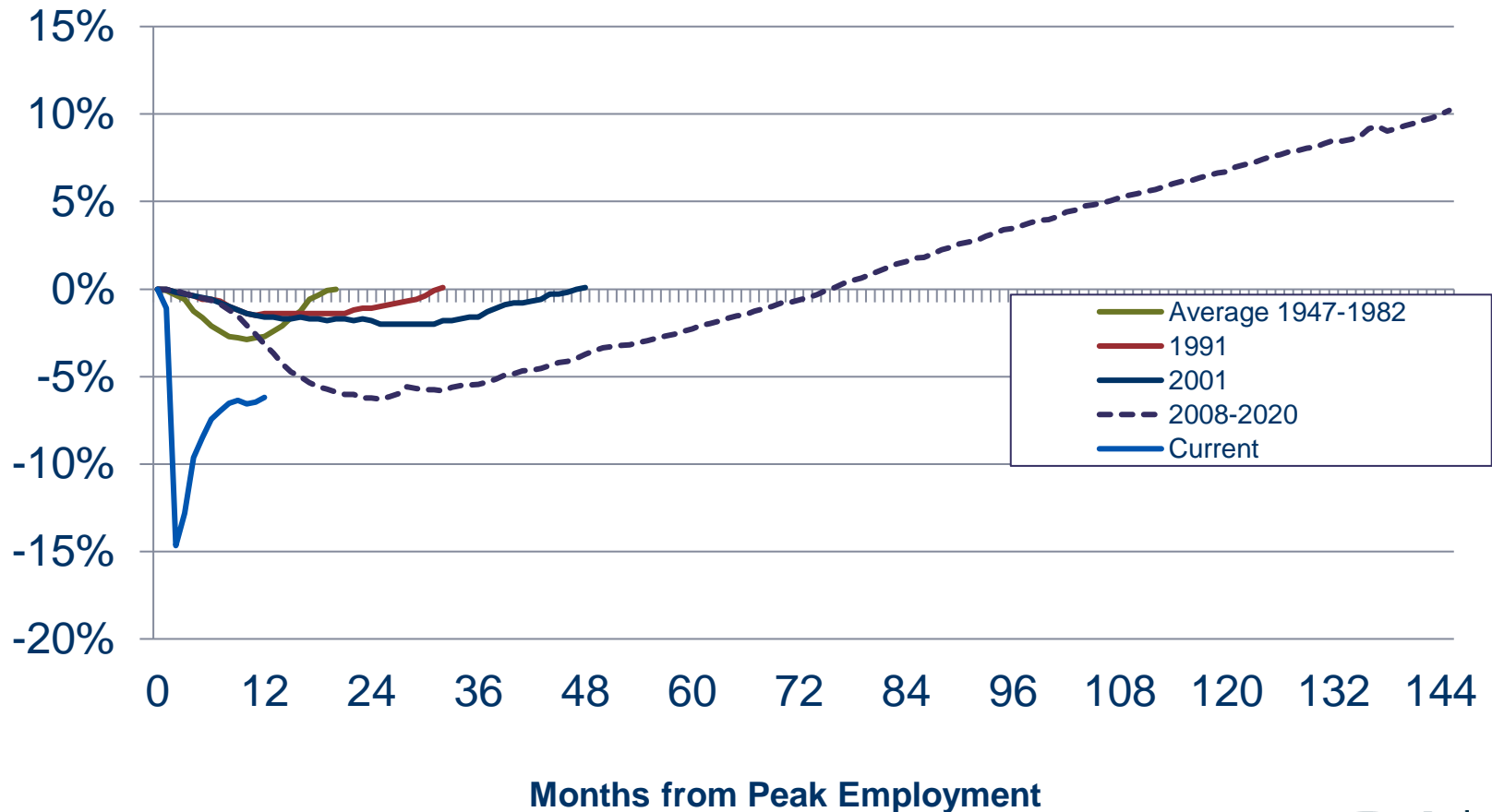
Source: BEA

Transfer payments as a percent of total personal income

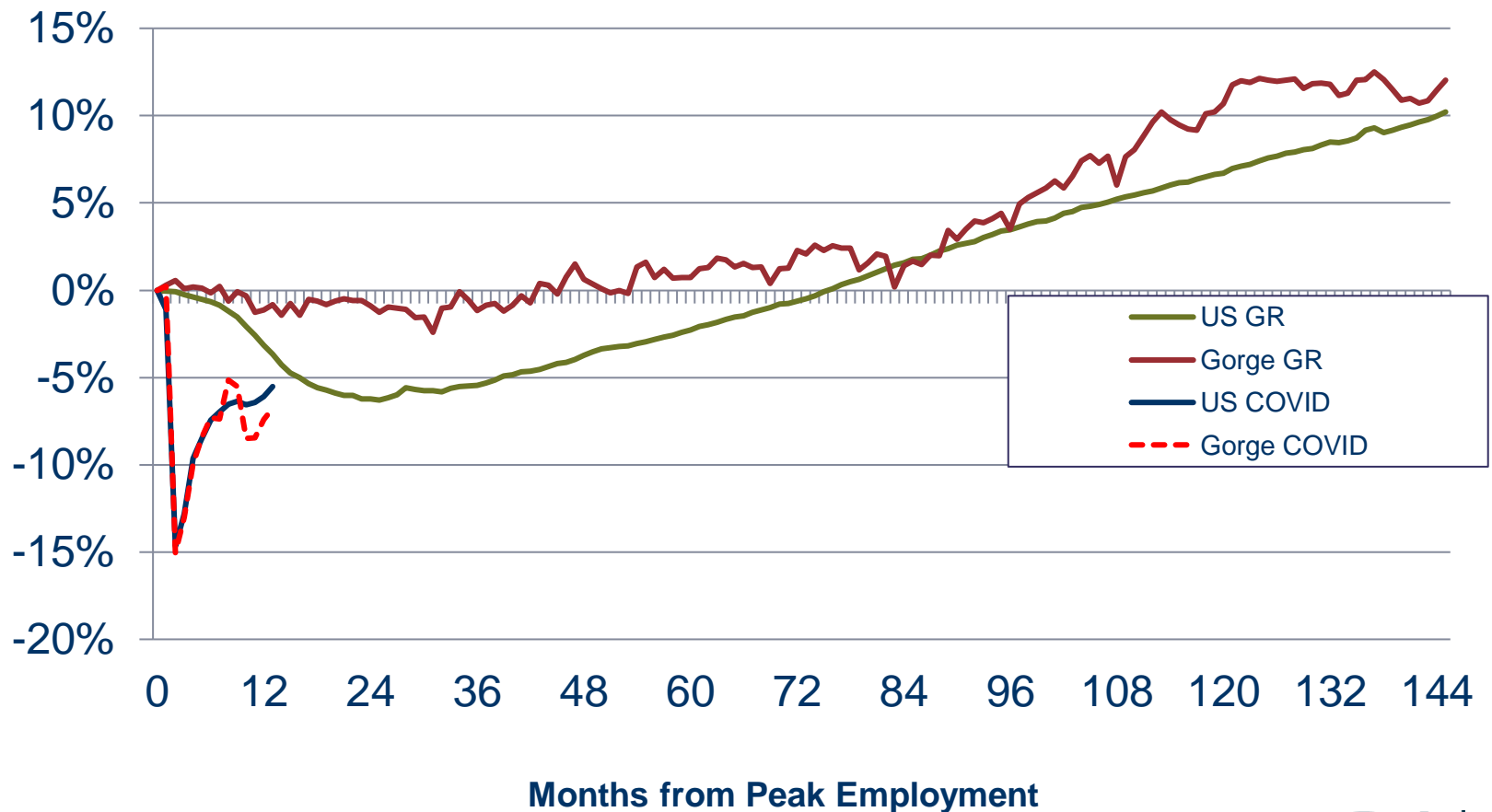


Source: Census Bureau/American Community Survey

U.S. Monthly Job Loss in and Recovery from Past Recessions

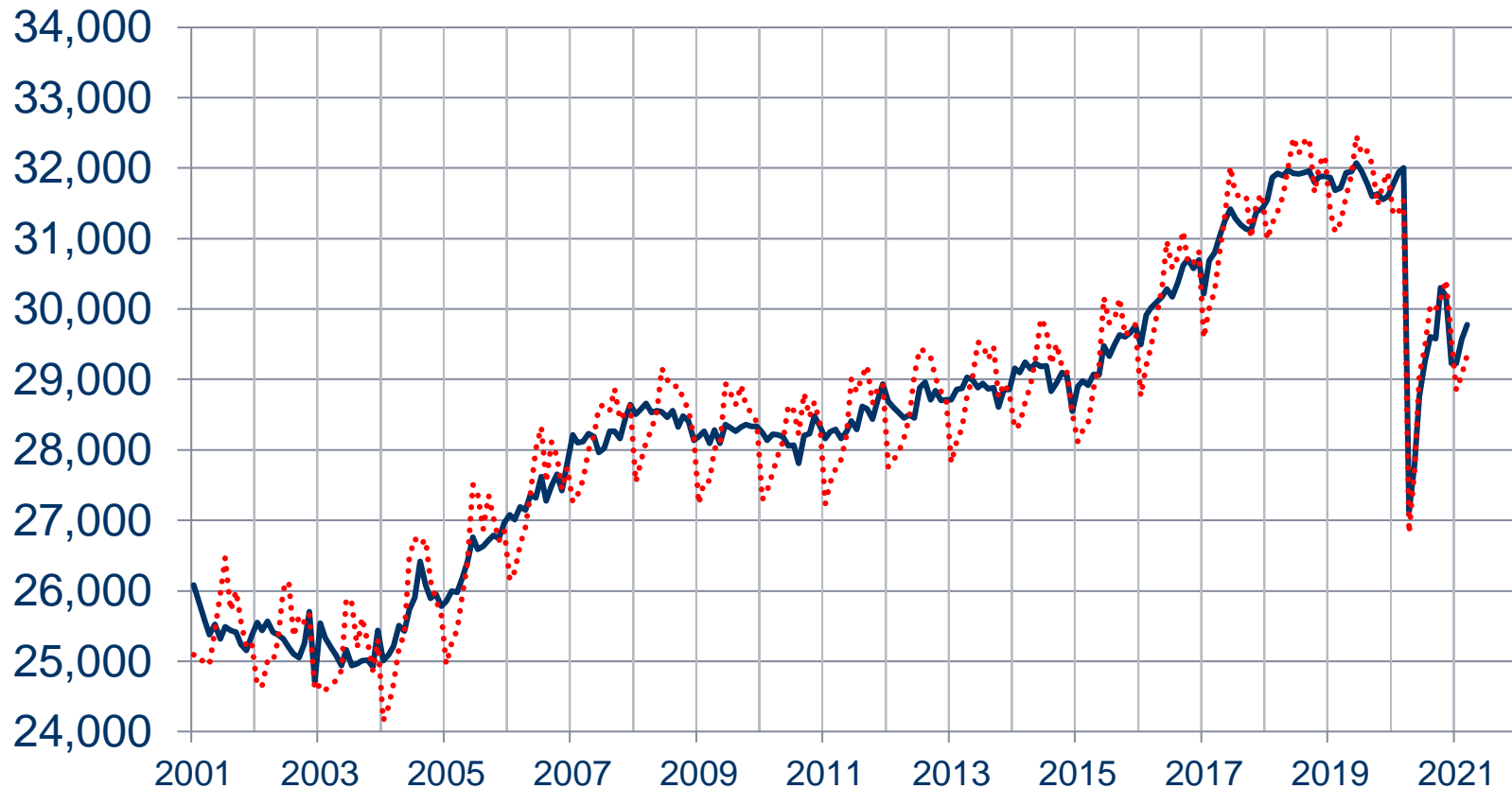


U.S. vs. The Gorge: Great Recession and COVID



Columbia Gorge: huge loss, partial comeback

Seasonally-Adjusted Nonfarm Employment



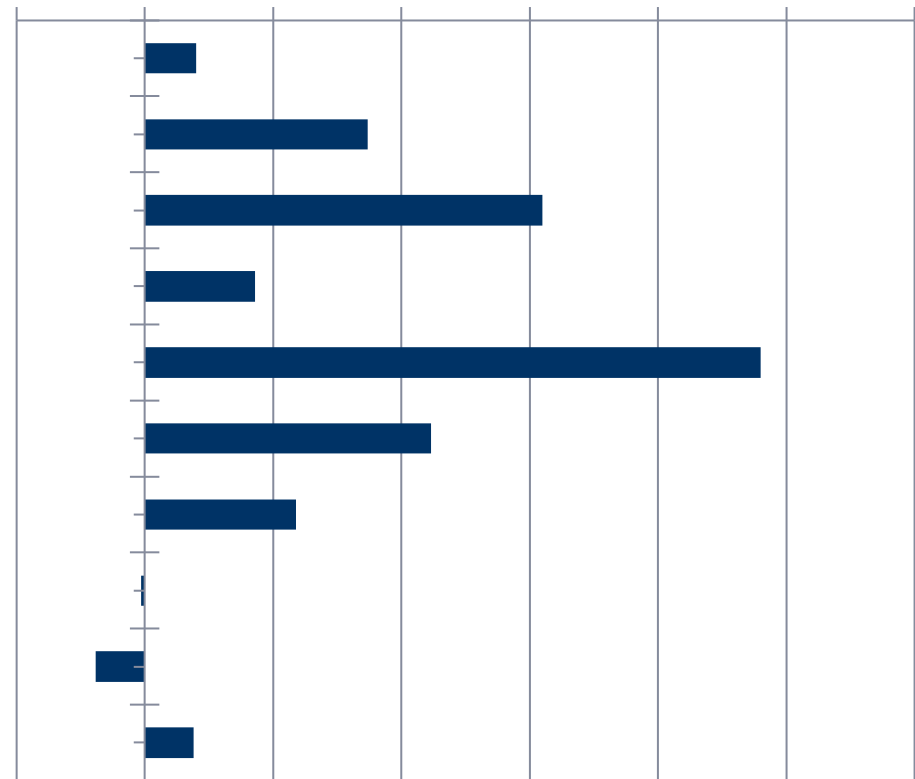
Source: Washington Employment Security Department/LMEA
Oregon Employment Department

Gorge jobs before COVID

Job Change, Columbia Gorge, Feb. 2015 to Feb. 2020

-500 0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 3,000

Mining, Logging and Construction
Manufacturing
Trade, transportation, and utilities
Professional & business services
Educational and health services
Leisure and hospitality
Other private sector
Federal government
State government
Local government

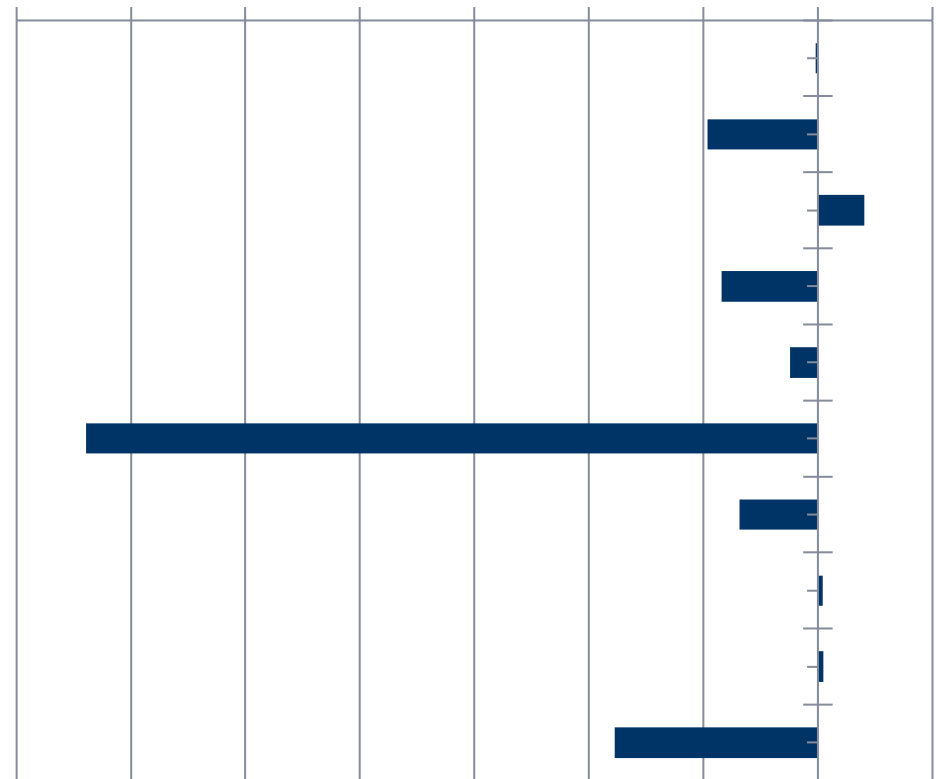


Gorge jobs in COVID

Job Change, Columbia Gorge, Feb. 2020 to Mar. 2021

-1,400 -1,200 -1,000 -800 -600 -400 -200 0 200

Mining, Logging and Construction
Manufacturing
Trade, transportation, and utilities
Professional & business services
Educational and health services
Leisure and hospitality
Other private sector
Federal government
State government
Local government

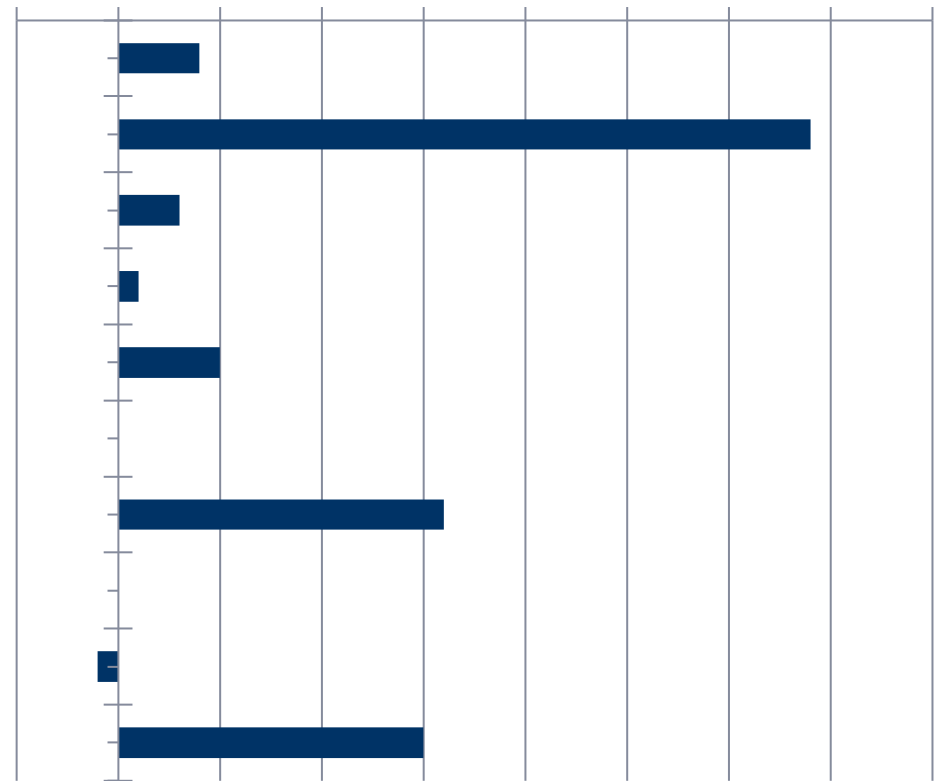


Klickitat jobs before COVID

Job Change, Klickitat County, Feb. 2015 to Feb. 2020

-50 0 50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400

Mining, Logging and Construction
Manufacturing
Trade, transportation, and utilities
Professional & business services
Educational and health services
Leisure and hospitality
Other private sector
Federal government
State government
Local government

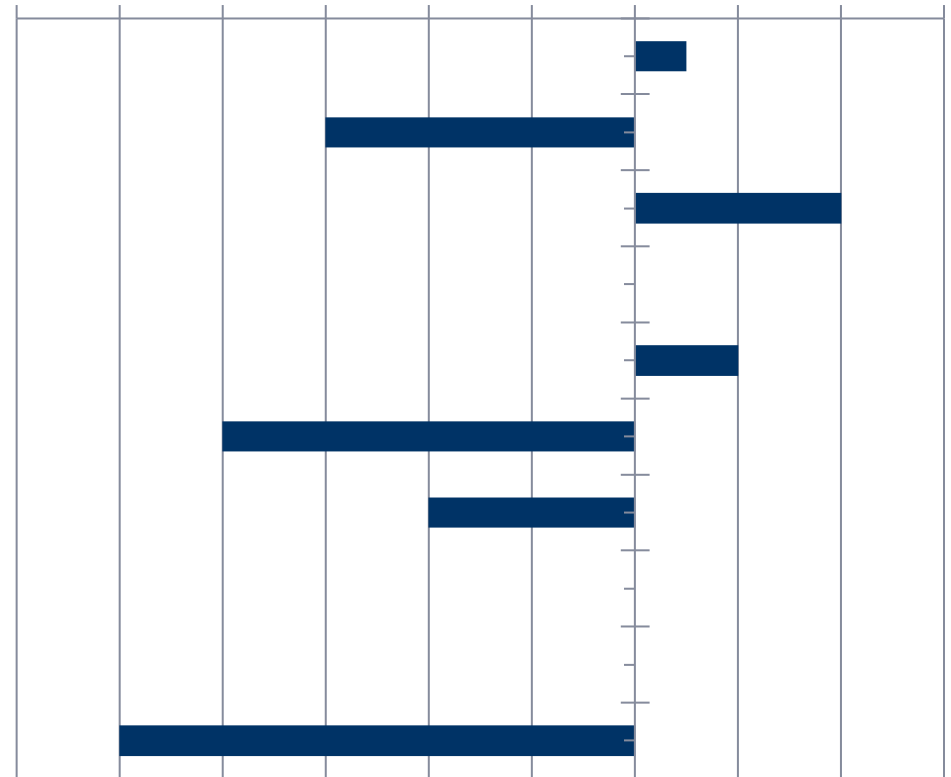


Klickitat jobs in COVID

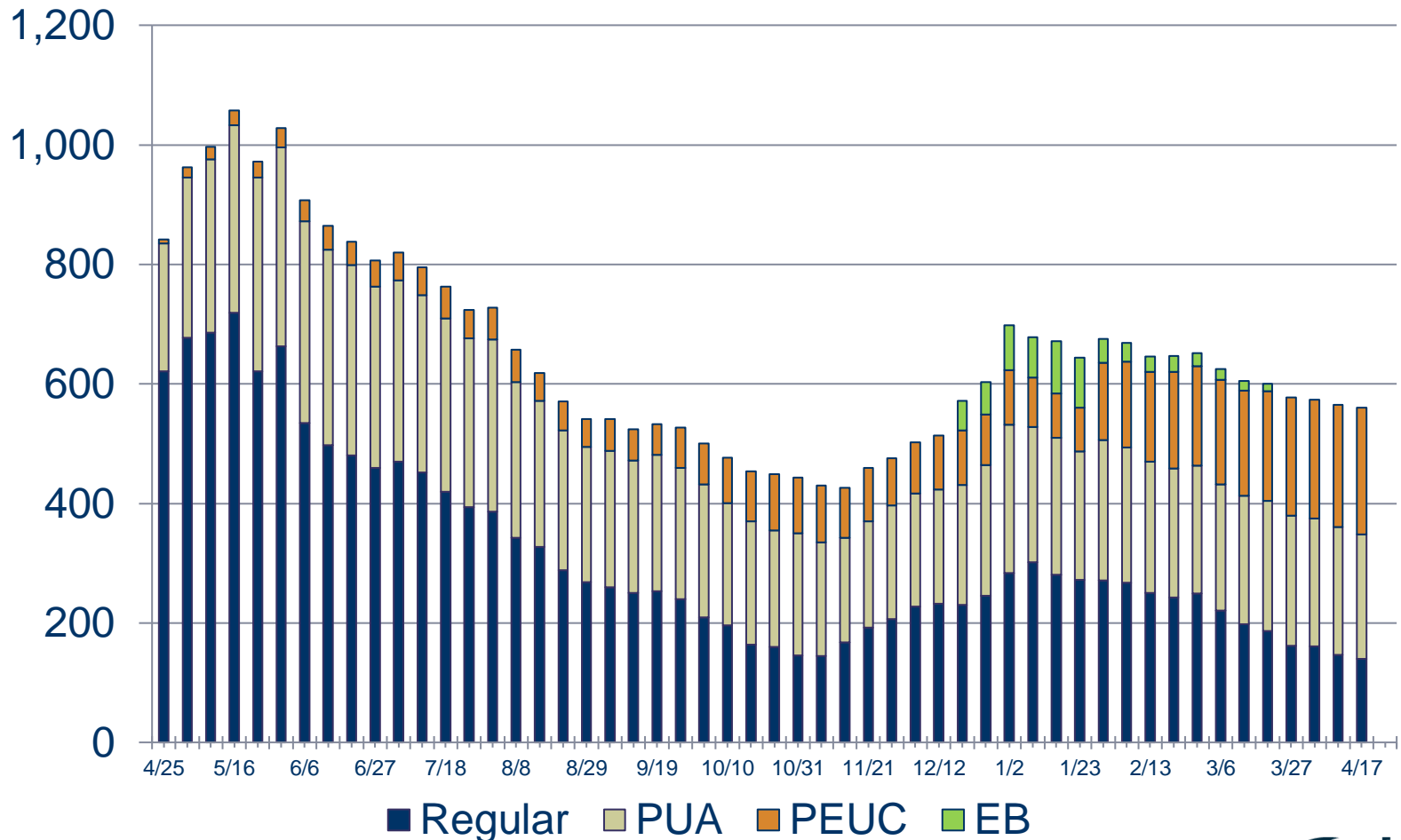
Job Change, Klickitat County, Feb. 2020 to Mar. 2021

-120 -100 -80 -60 -40 -20 0 20 40 60

Mining, Logging and Construction
Manufacturing
Trade, transportation, and utilities
Professional & business services
Educational and health services
Leisure and hospitality
Other private sector
Federal government
State government
Local government



Klickitat continued claims: fewer claims, more long-term unemployed

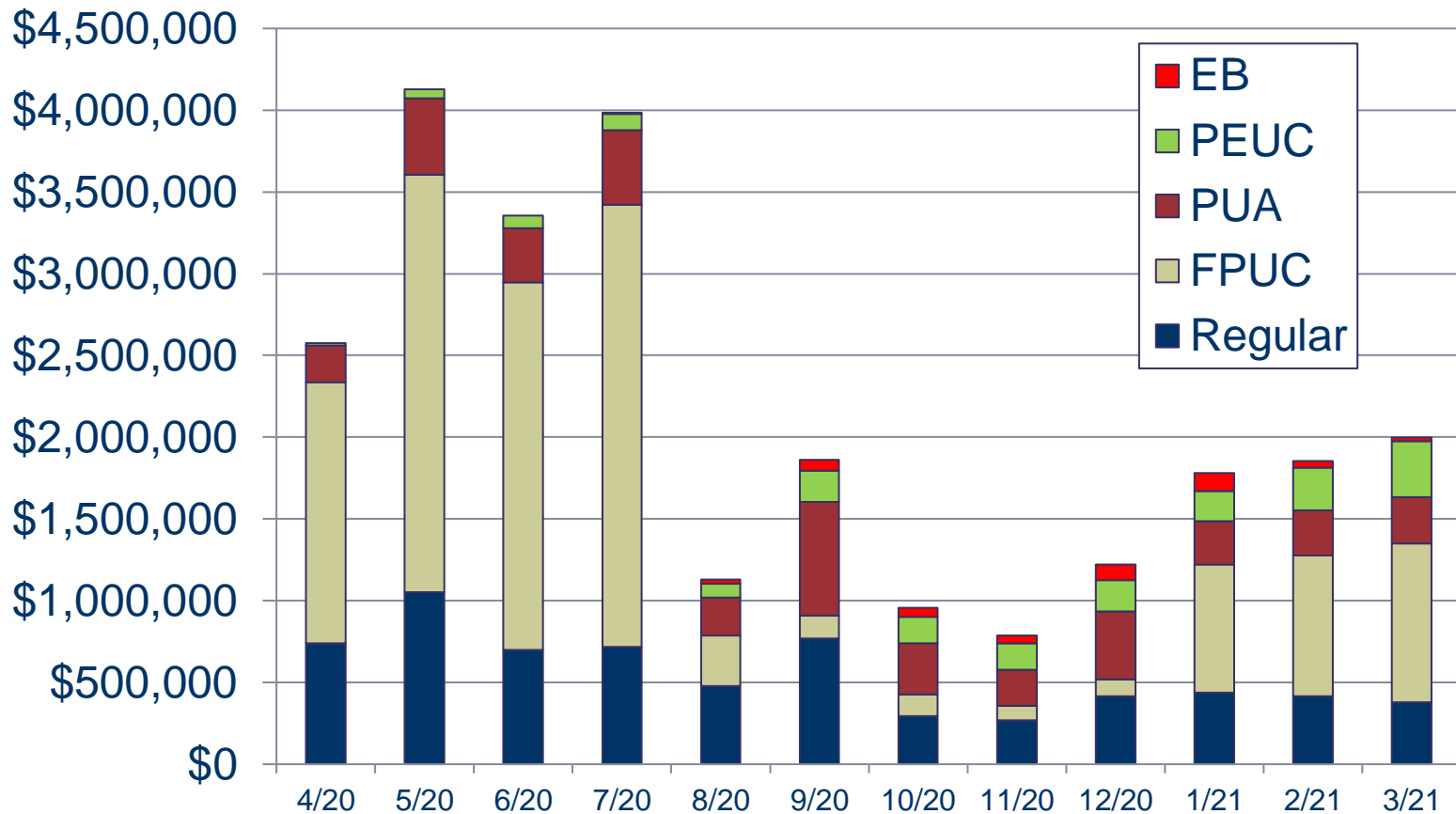


Source: Washington Employment Security Department/LMEA

Klickitat claimants

- **By industry: manufacturing, construction, leisure & hospitality**
- **Managers, construction trades, food service workers**
- **Disproportionately:**
 - **Female**
 - **High school education**
 - **Indigenous**

Unemployment benefits paid to Klickitat County residents drop, then rise



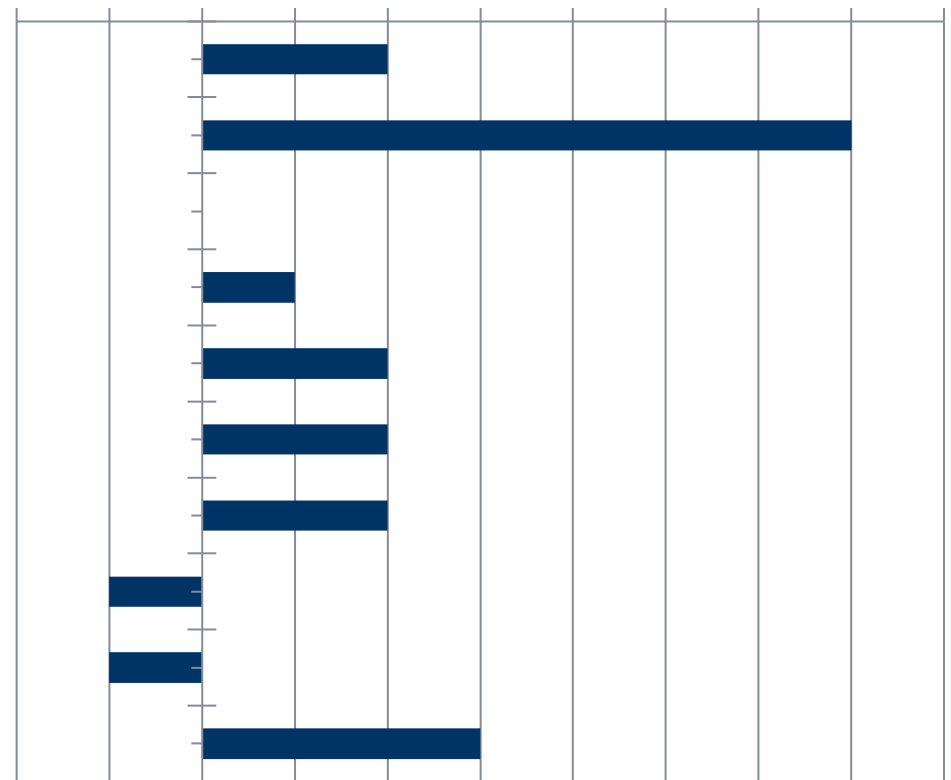
Note: LWA is included in September regular benefits

Skamania jobs before COVID

Job Change, Skamania County, Feb. 2015 to Feb. 2020

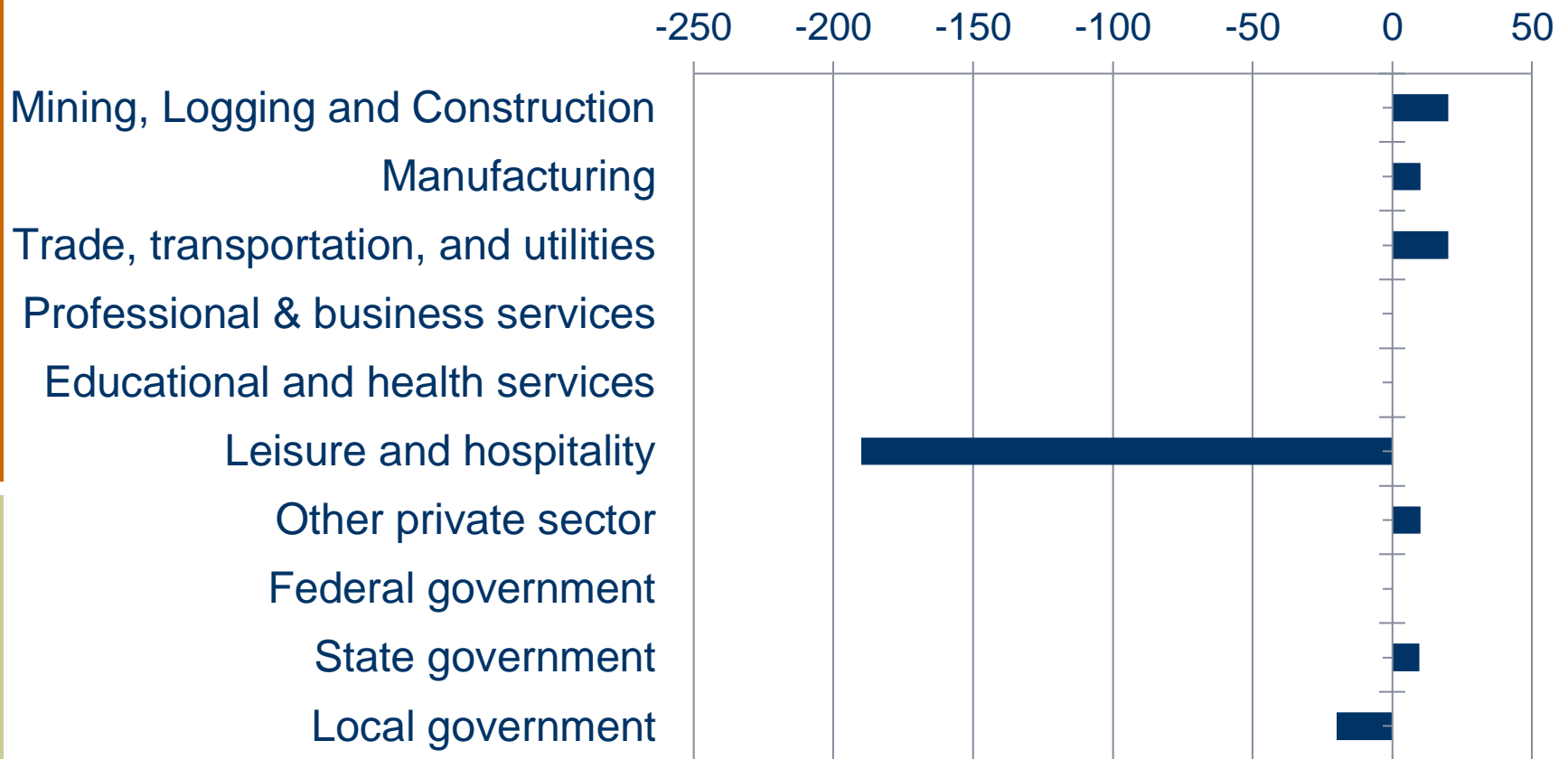
-20 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

Mining, Logging and Construction
Manufacturing
Trade, transportation, and utilities
Professional & business services
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Federal government
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Local government



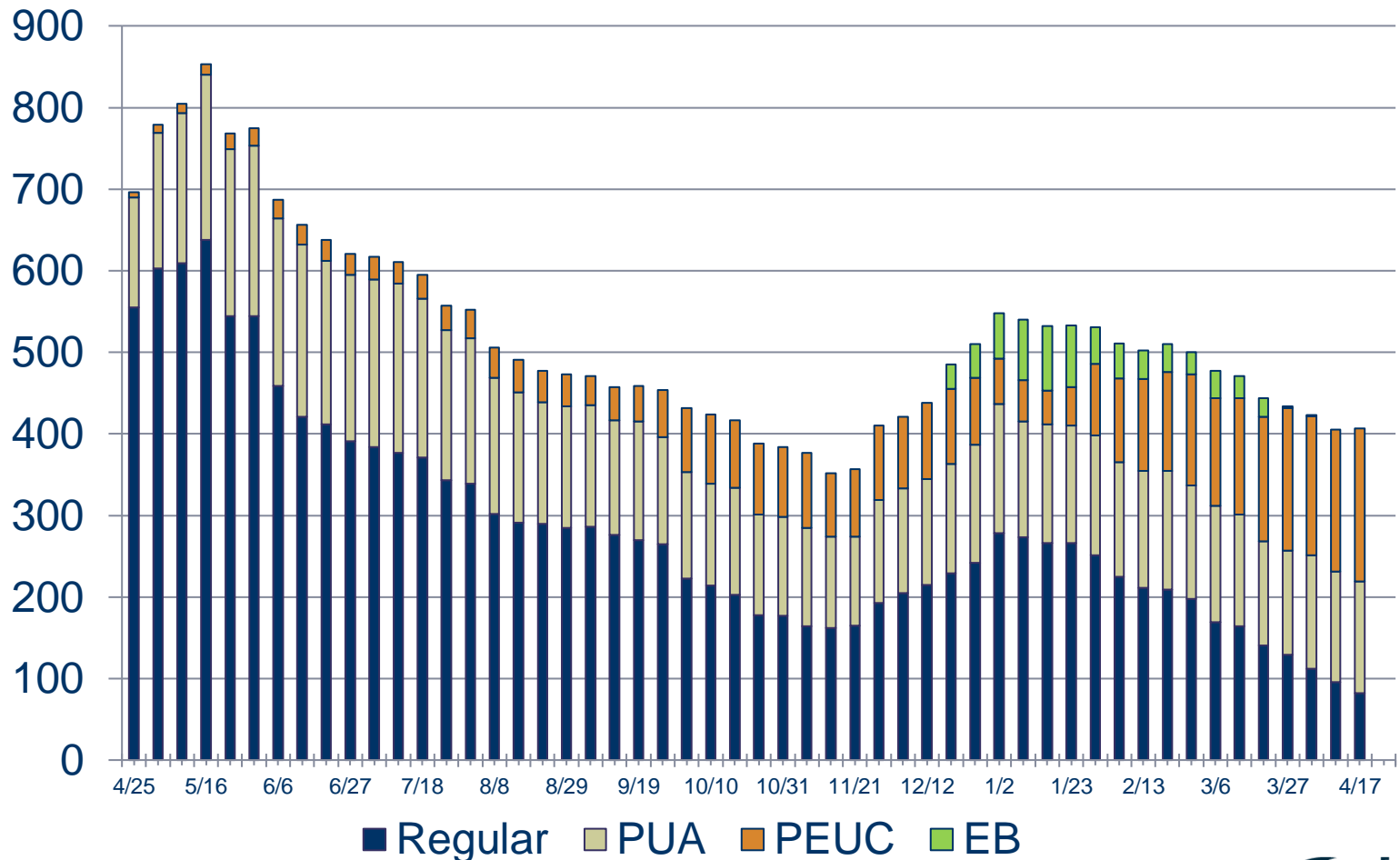
Skamania jobs in COVID

Job Change, Skamania County, Feb. 2020 to Mar. 2021



Source: Washington Employment Security Department/LMEA

Skamania continued claims: fewer claims, more long-term unemployed

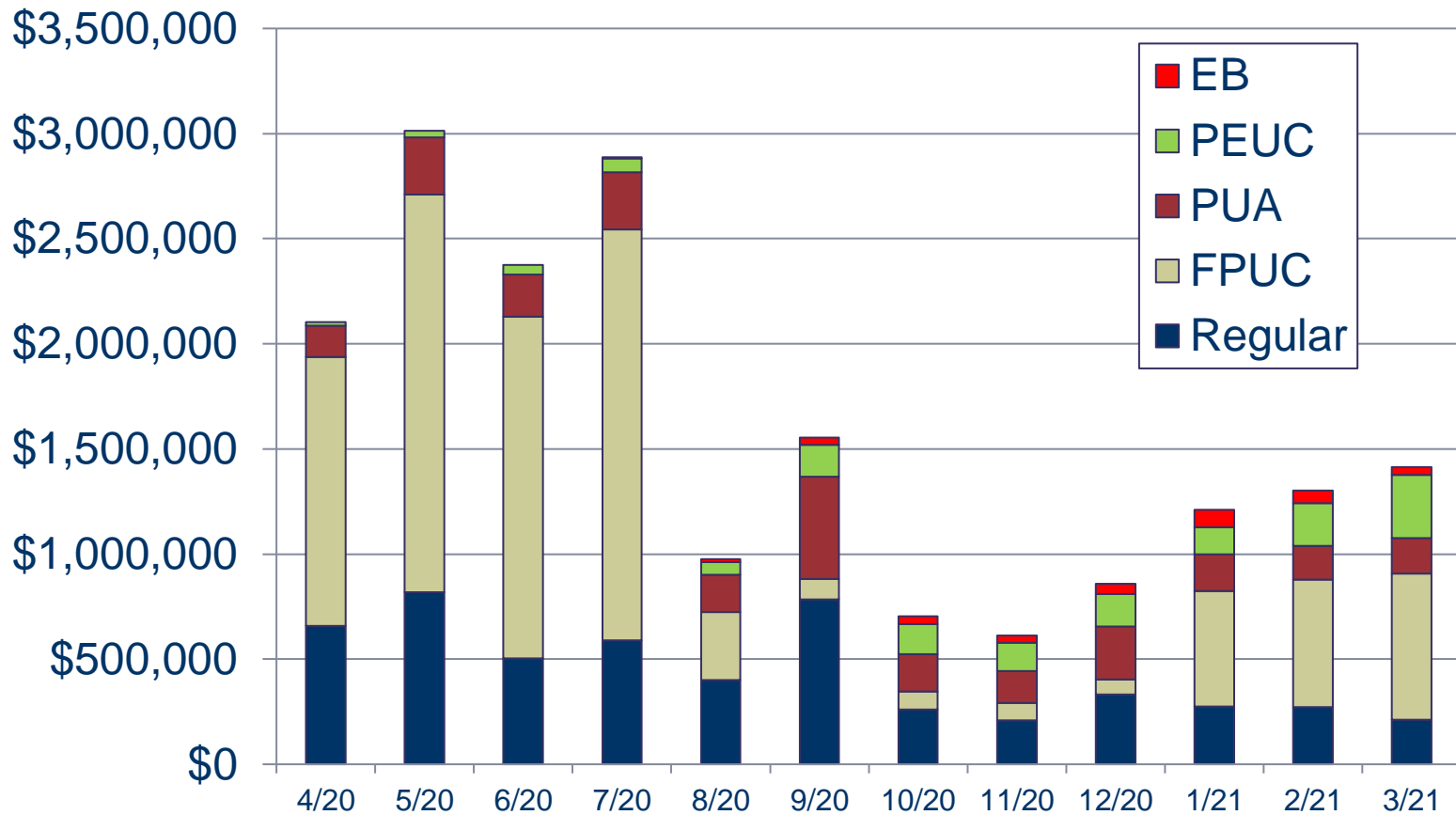


Source: Washington Employment Security Department/LMEA

Skamania claimants

- **By industry: accommodations & food services, manufacturing, education**
- **Food service workers, construction trades, managers**
- **Disproportionately:**
 - **Female**
 - **High school education**

Unemployment benefits paid to Skamania County residents drop, then rise



Note: LWA is included in September regular benefits

Contact Info

- scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov
- 360-810-0048