

Columbia Gorge Update

Scott Bailey, Regional Economist
scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov
November, 2021



It's all about COVID...

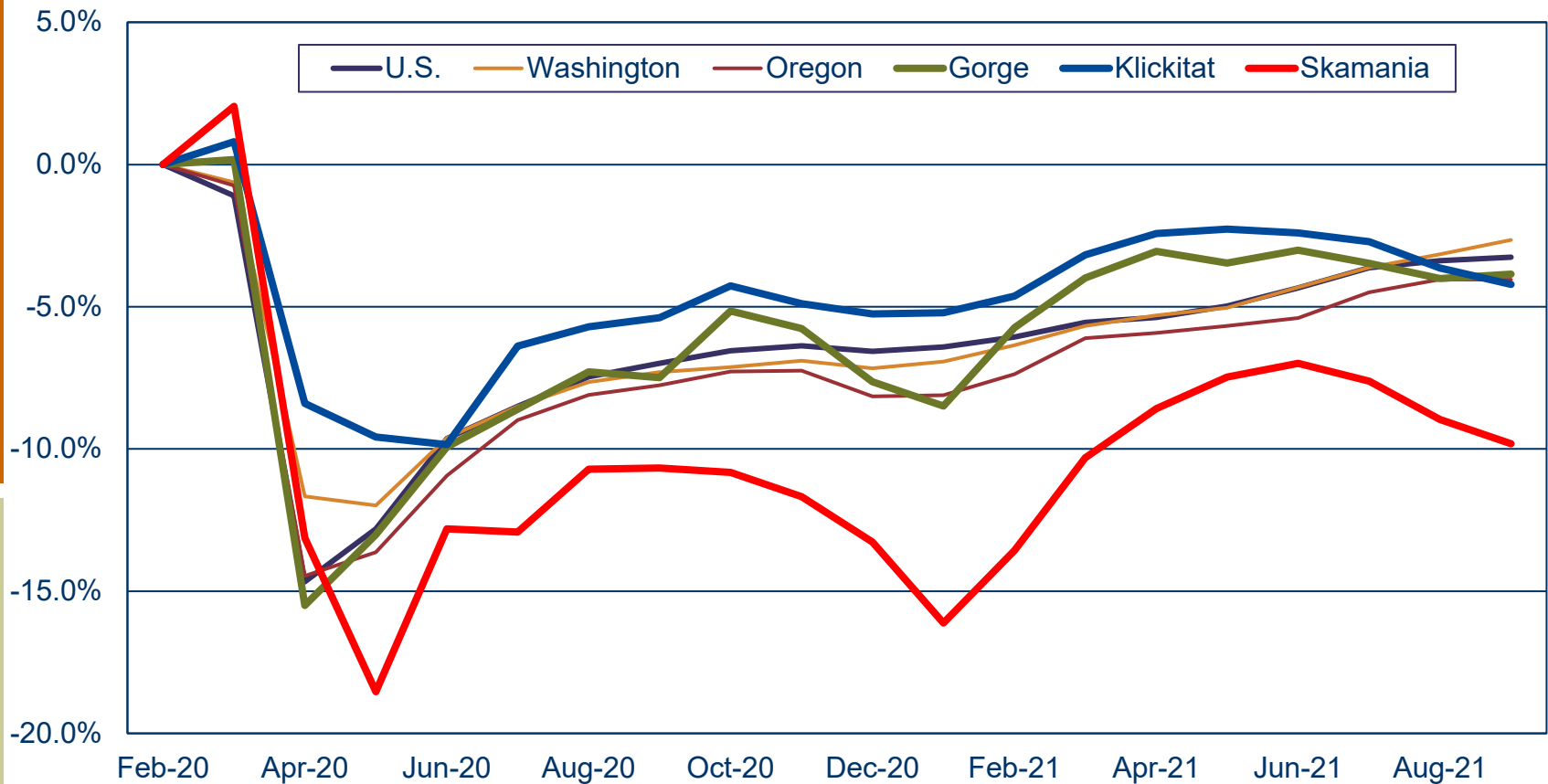
- **Columbia Gorge until recently was doing better than the U.S. and the states**
 - **Now matching Oregon**
- **Same story for Klickitat**
- **Skamania continues to lag**
- **Nationally, most indicators are back to “normal”**
- **Good news?**



3 Photo credit: Washington Post

Nonfarm jobs lagging

Change from February 2020



Source: BLS, state employment departments

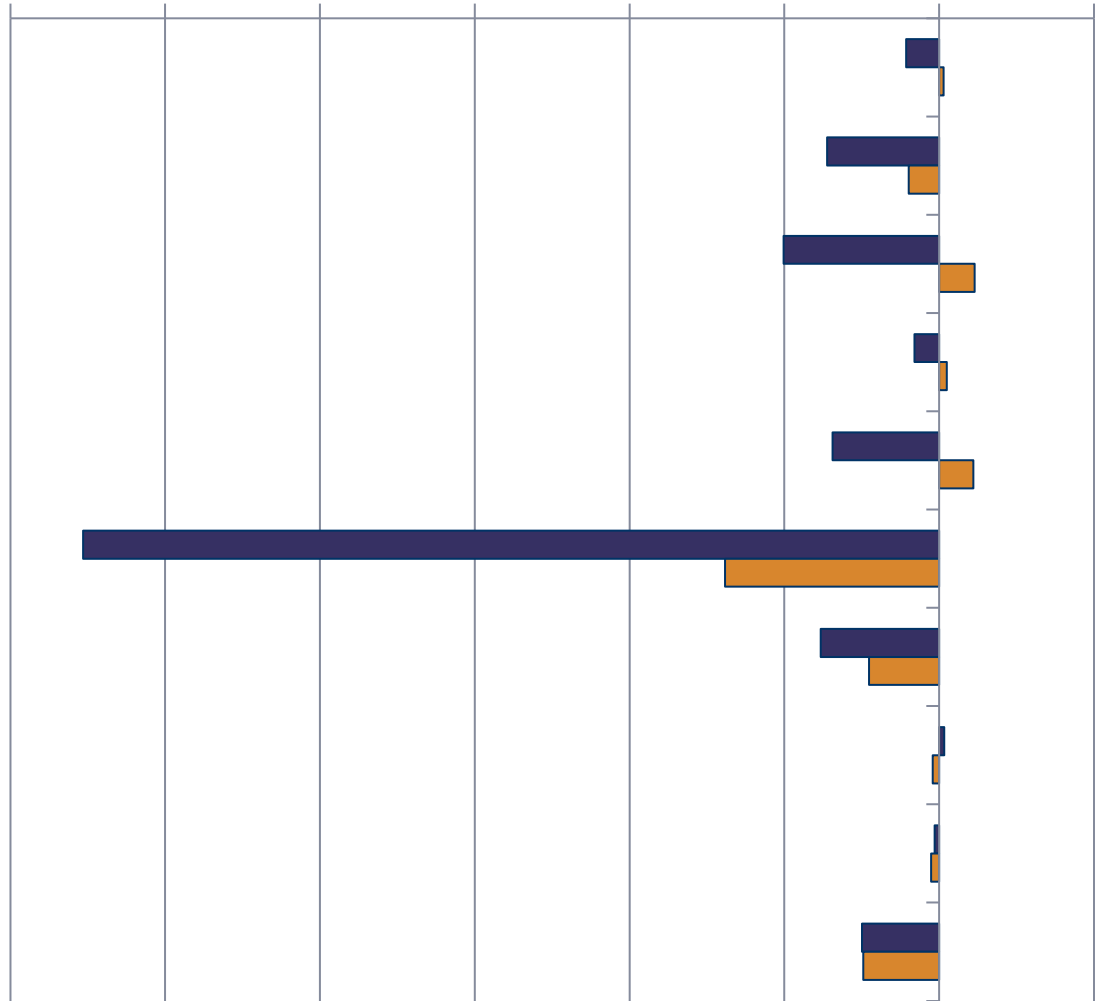
Change in jobs by industry since Feb. 2020, Columbia Gorge

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

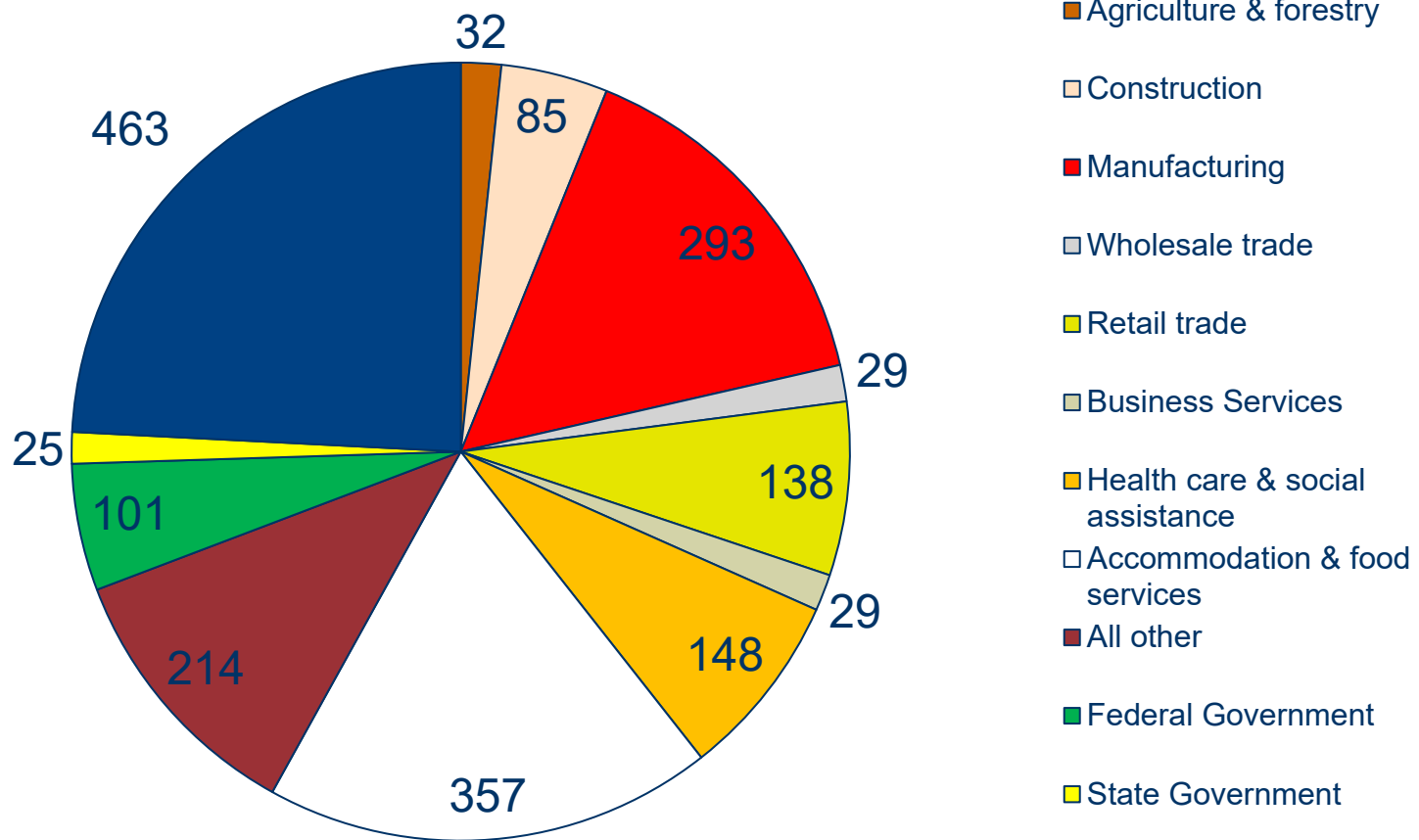
Construction, Logging & Mining
 Manufacturing
 Wholesale, Retail, Transportation
 Professional Services
 Private Education & Health Care
 Leisure & Hospitality
 All Other Services

■ Feb-20 to Apr-20
 ■ Feb-20 to Sep-21

Federal
 State
 Local

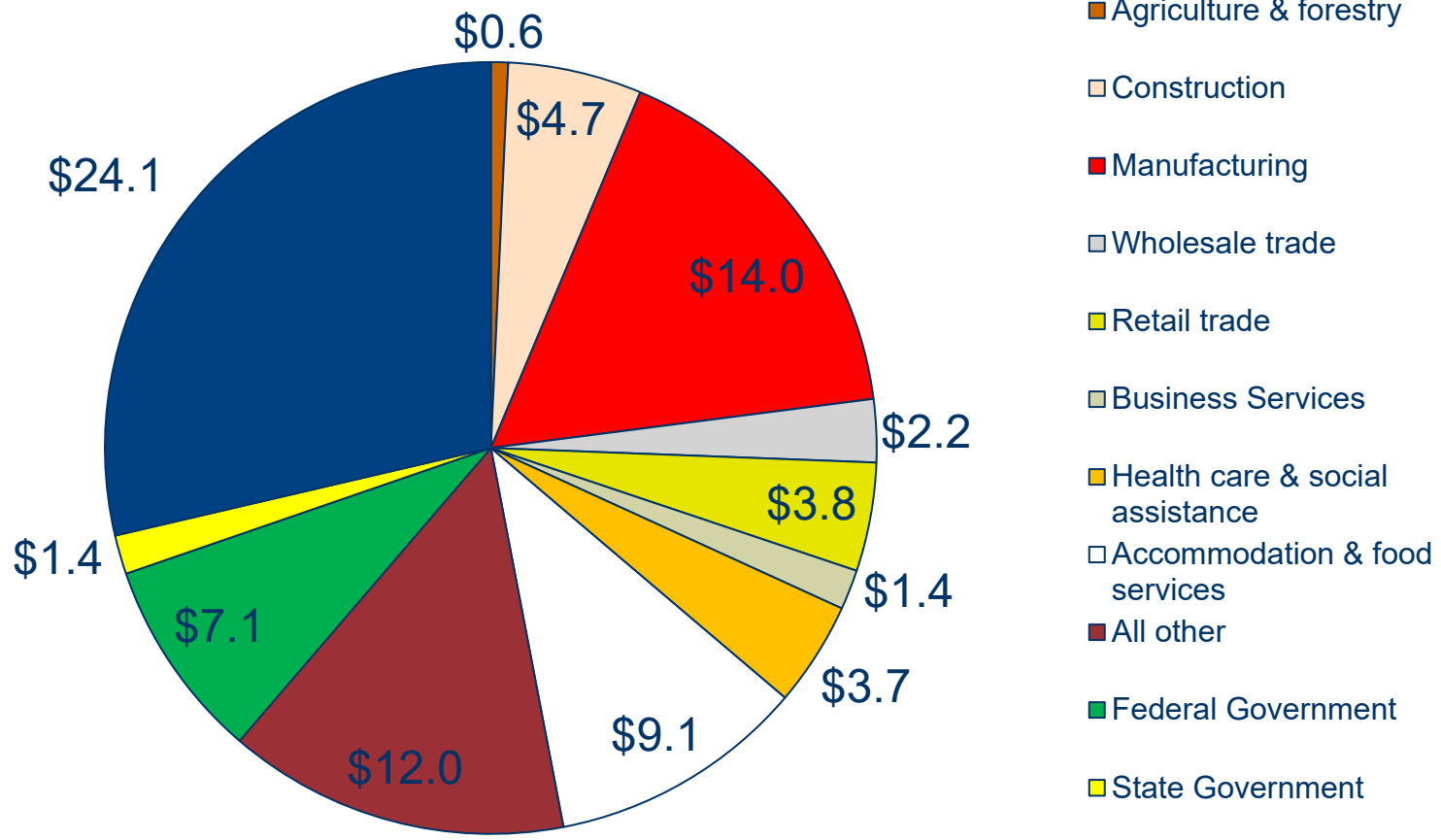


Skamania: three big industries for jobs in 2020



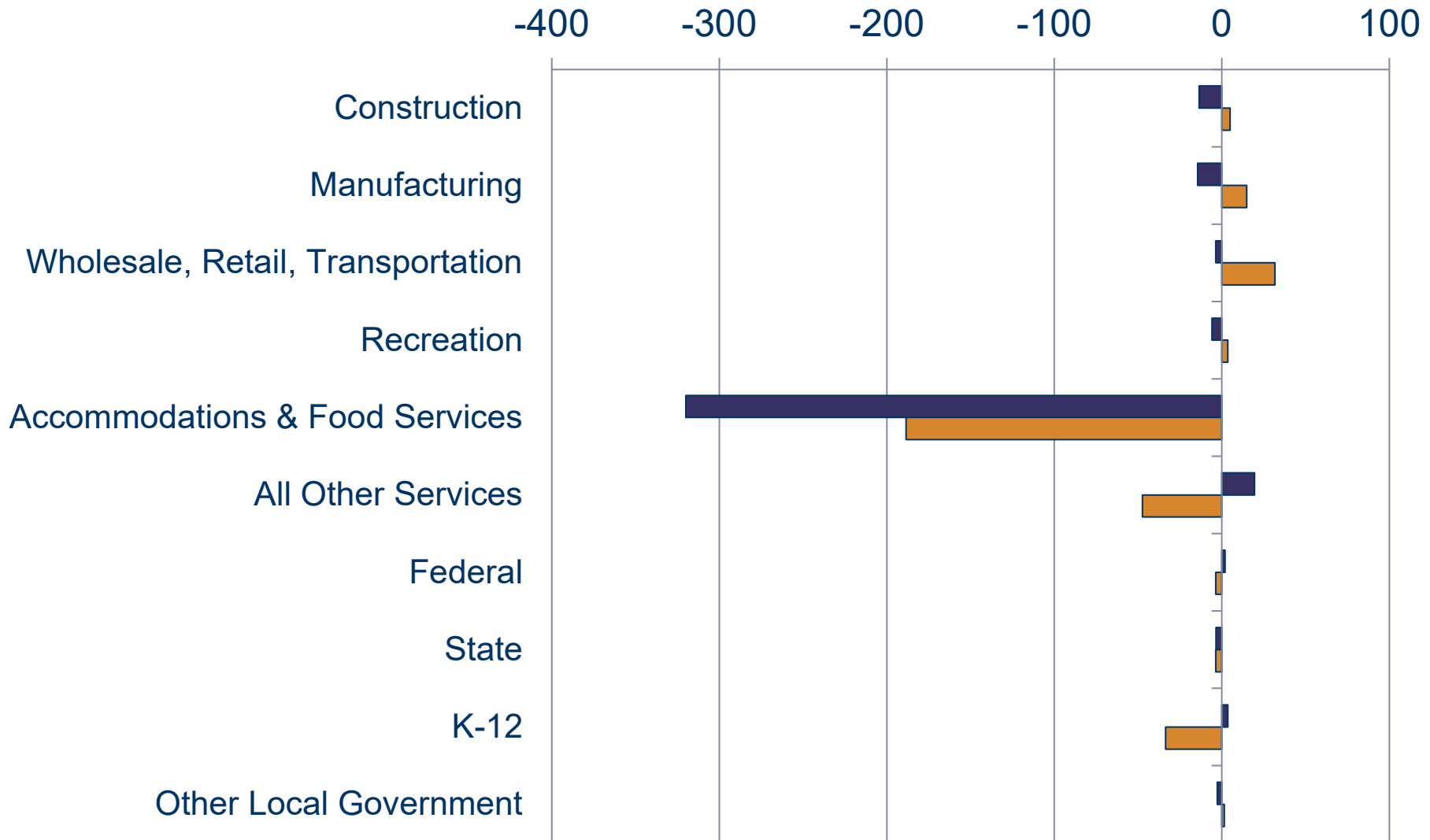
Total of 1,914 jobs, down from 2,140 in 2019

Somewhat different distribution for payroll



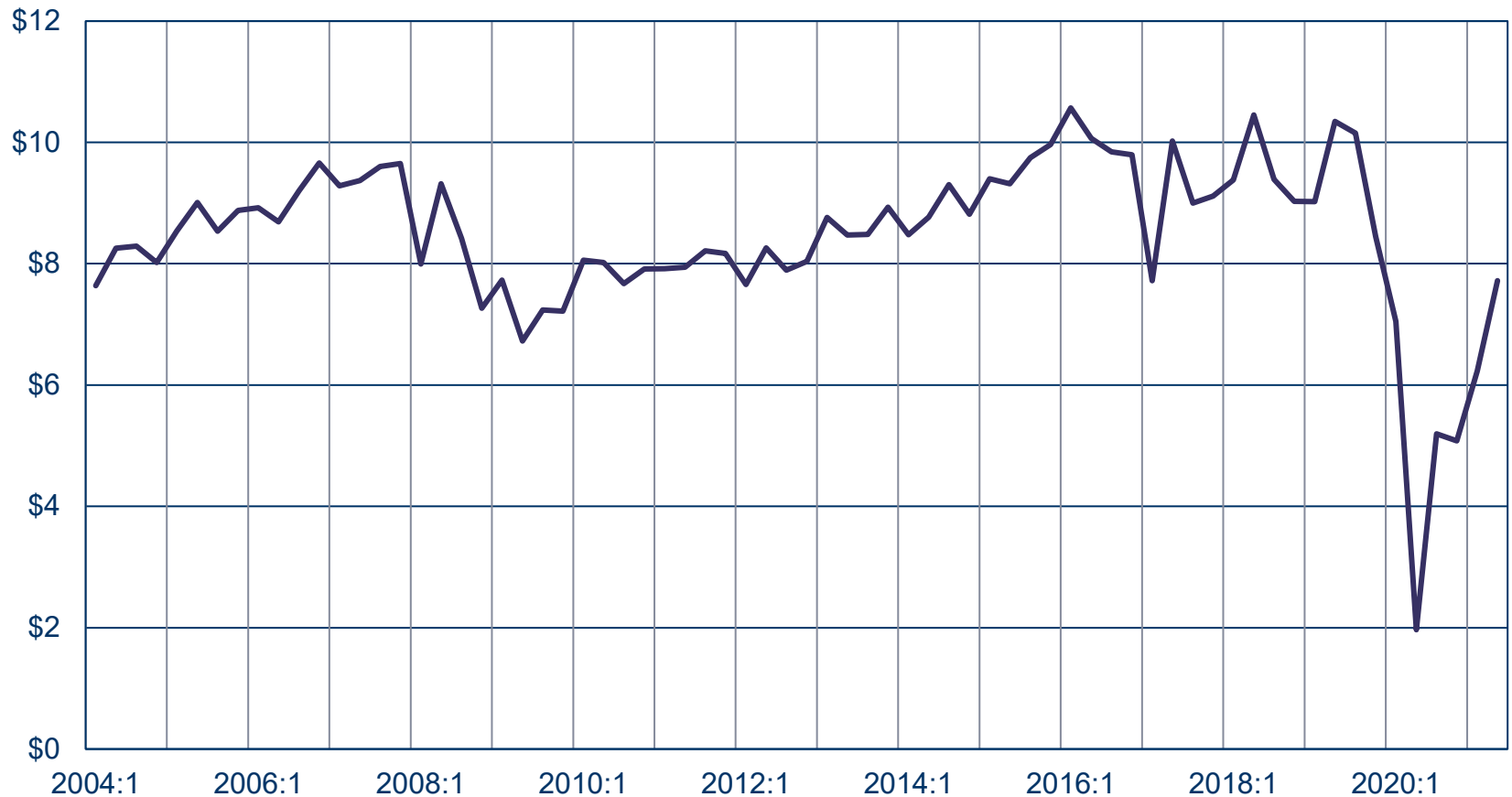
Total of \$84.2 M, up from \$83.7 M in 2019

Change in jobs by industry since Feb. 2020, Skamania County



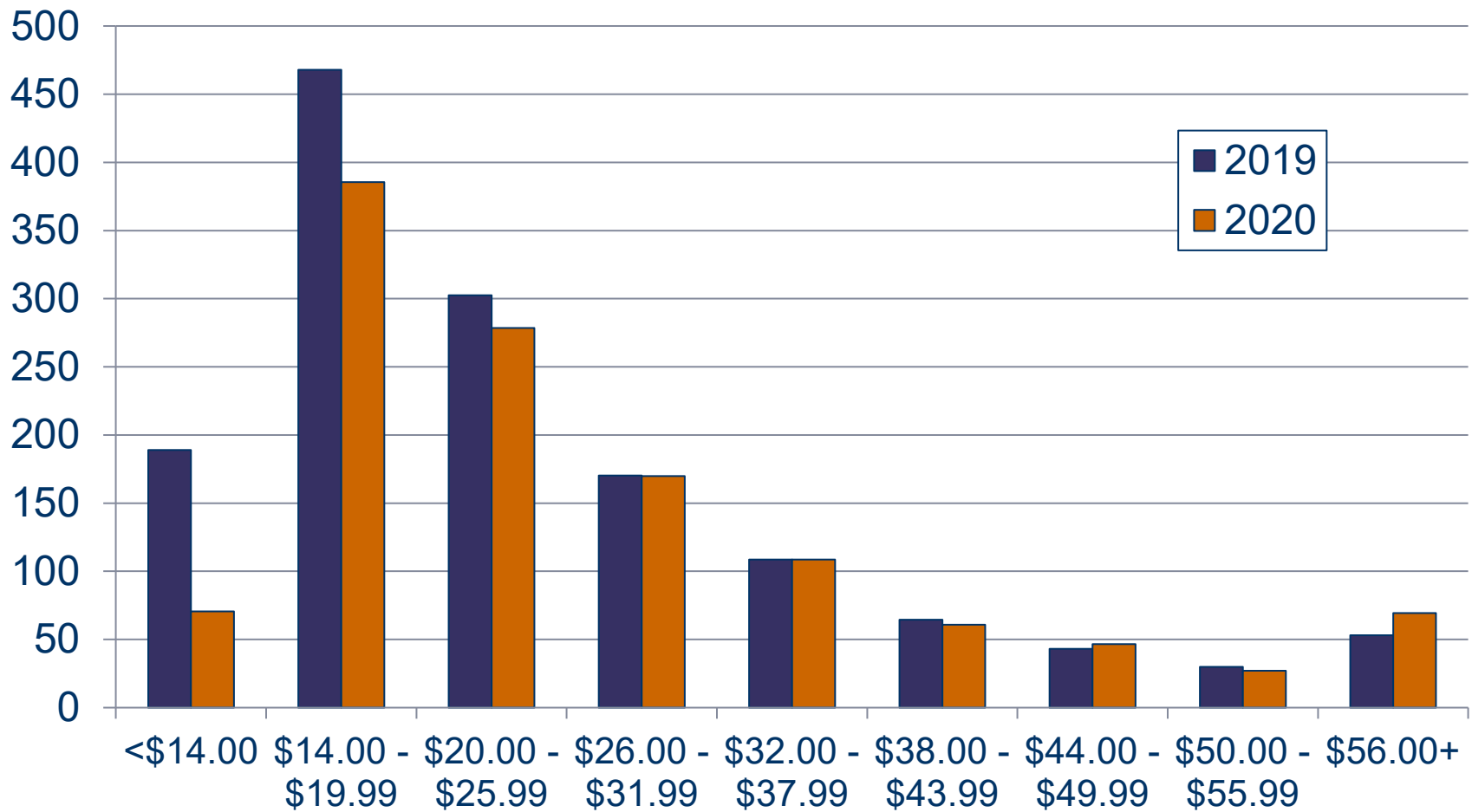
Skamania taxable retail sales, accommodations and food services

Millions of adjusted dollars



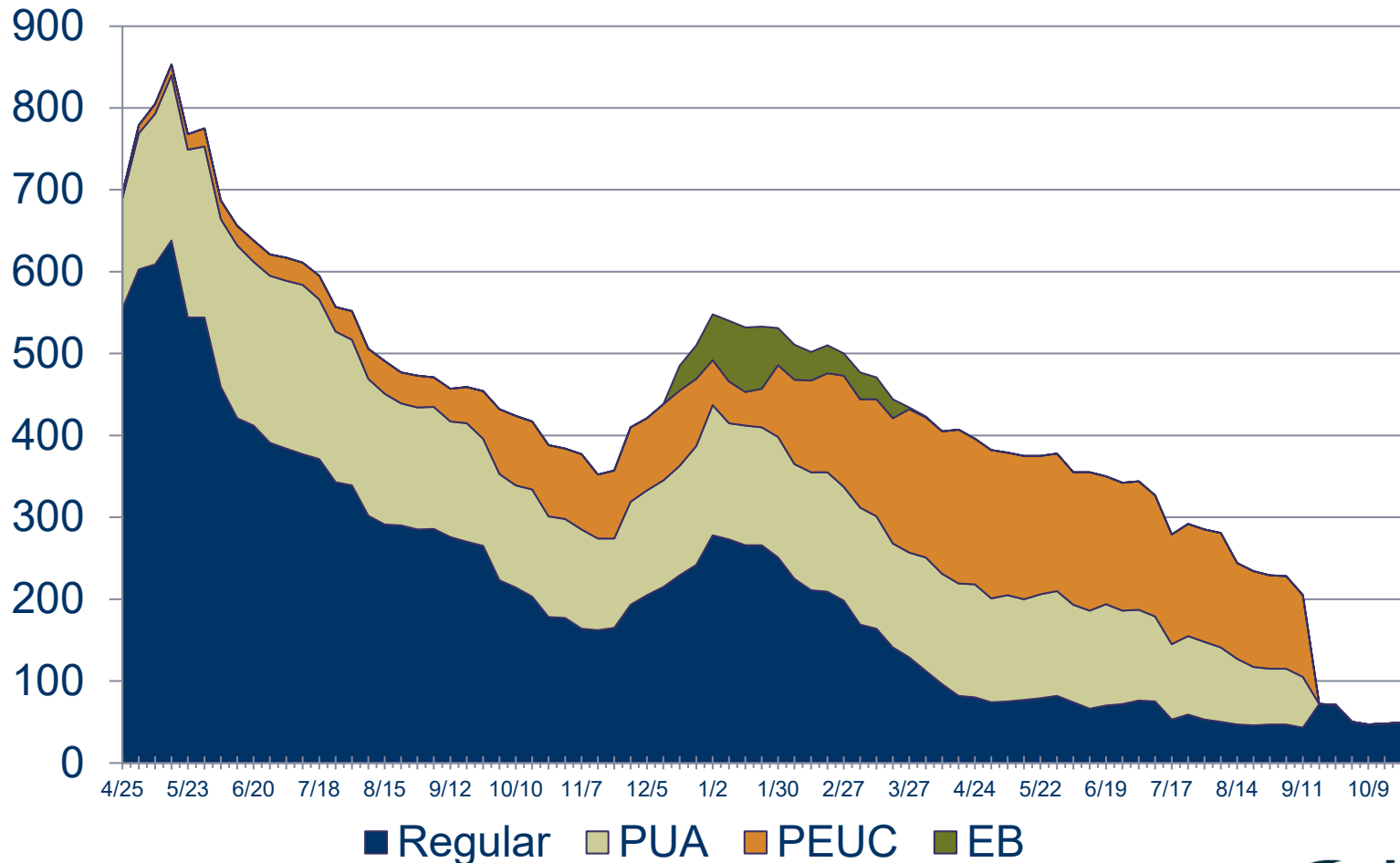
Source: DOR, adjusted by ESD

Skamania FTE Jobs: Loss Was Almost Entirely at the Lower End



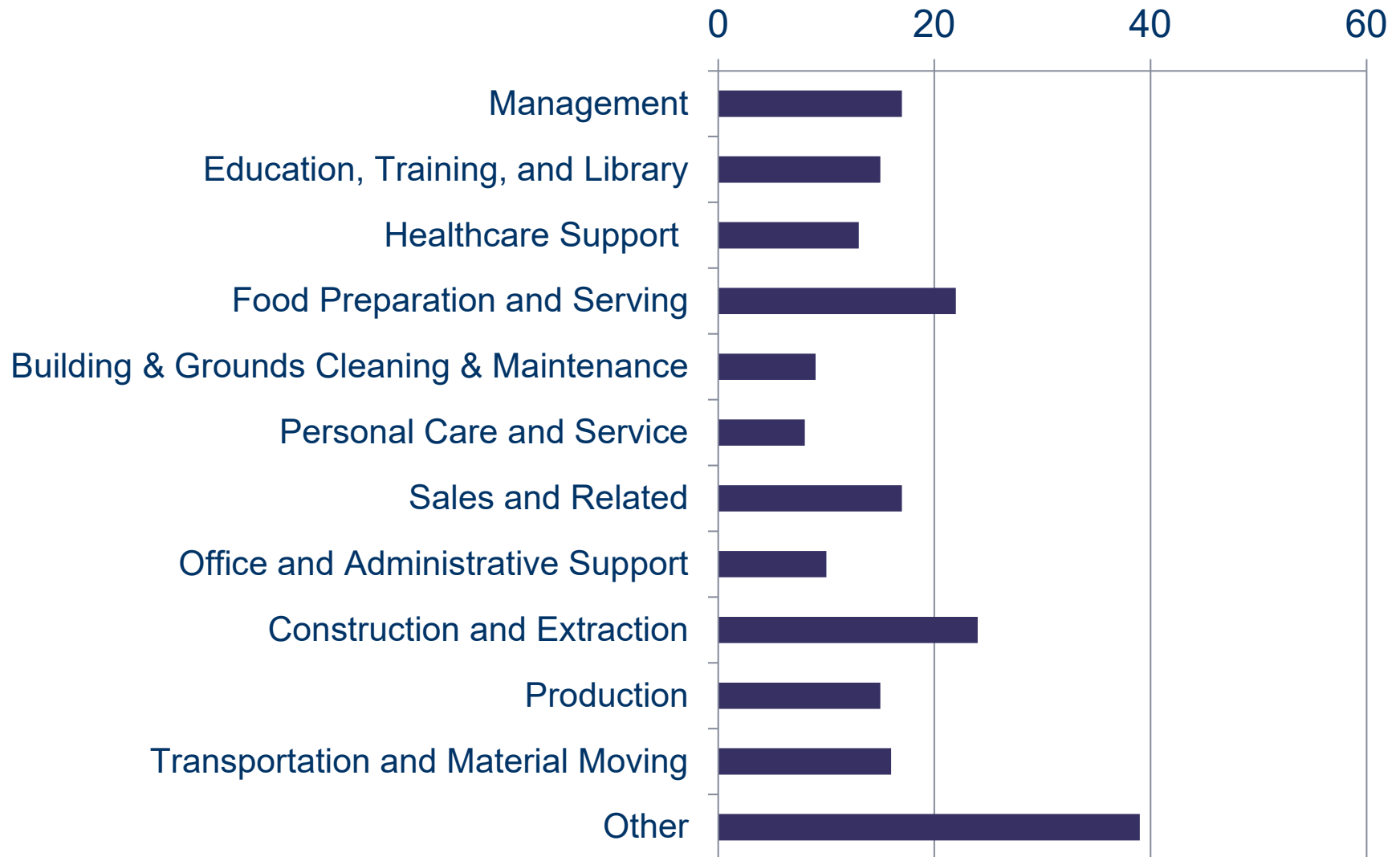
Source: Washington Employment Security Department/LMEA

Skamania Continued Claims

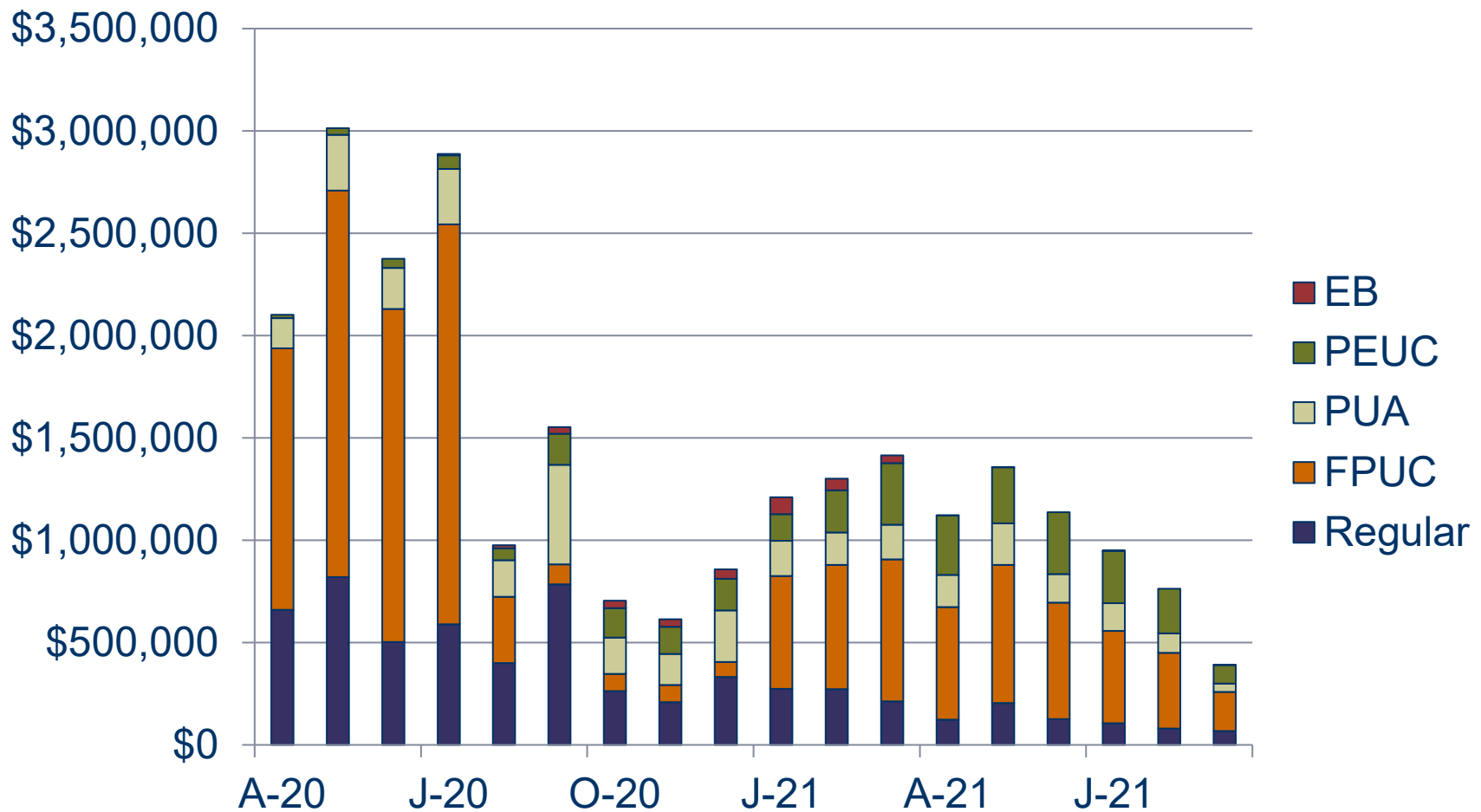


Source: Washington Employment Security Department/LMEA

Continued claims by occupation, Skamania County, week of 9/11



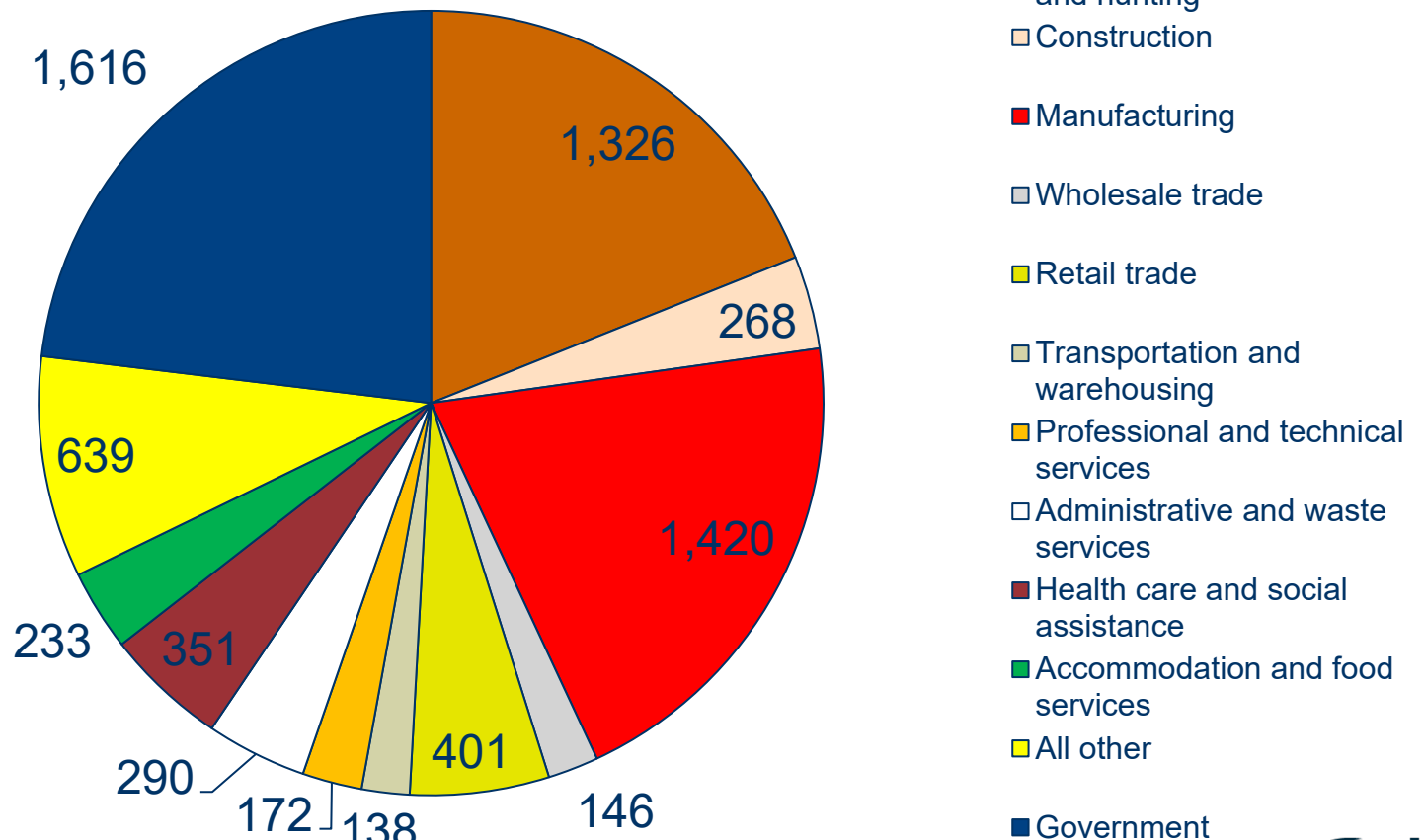
Skamania Benefit Payments: Almost \$25 million



Source: Washington Employment Security Department/LMEA

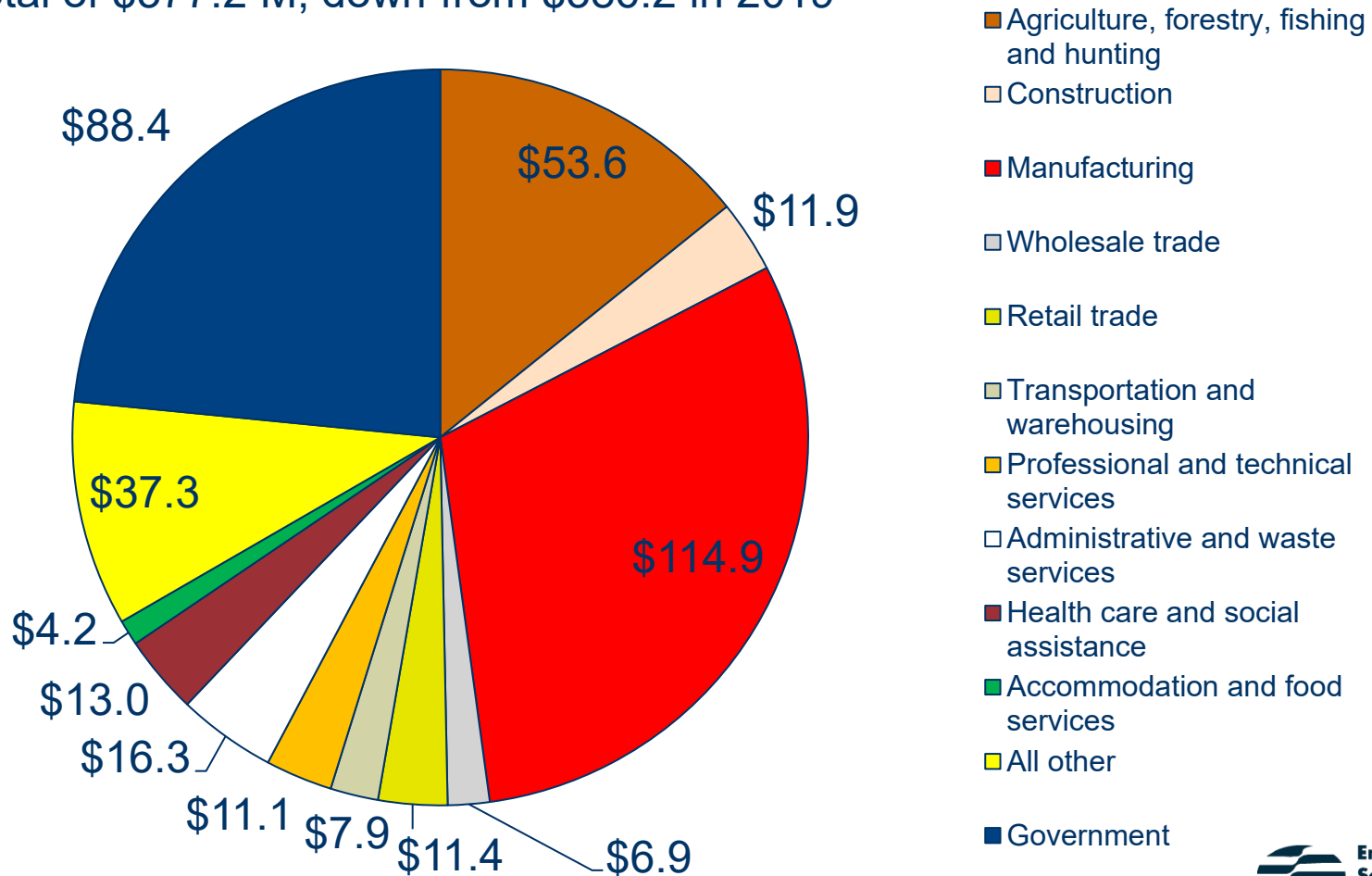
Three big industries for jobs in 2020

Total of 7,000 jobs, down from 7,416 in 2019

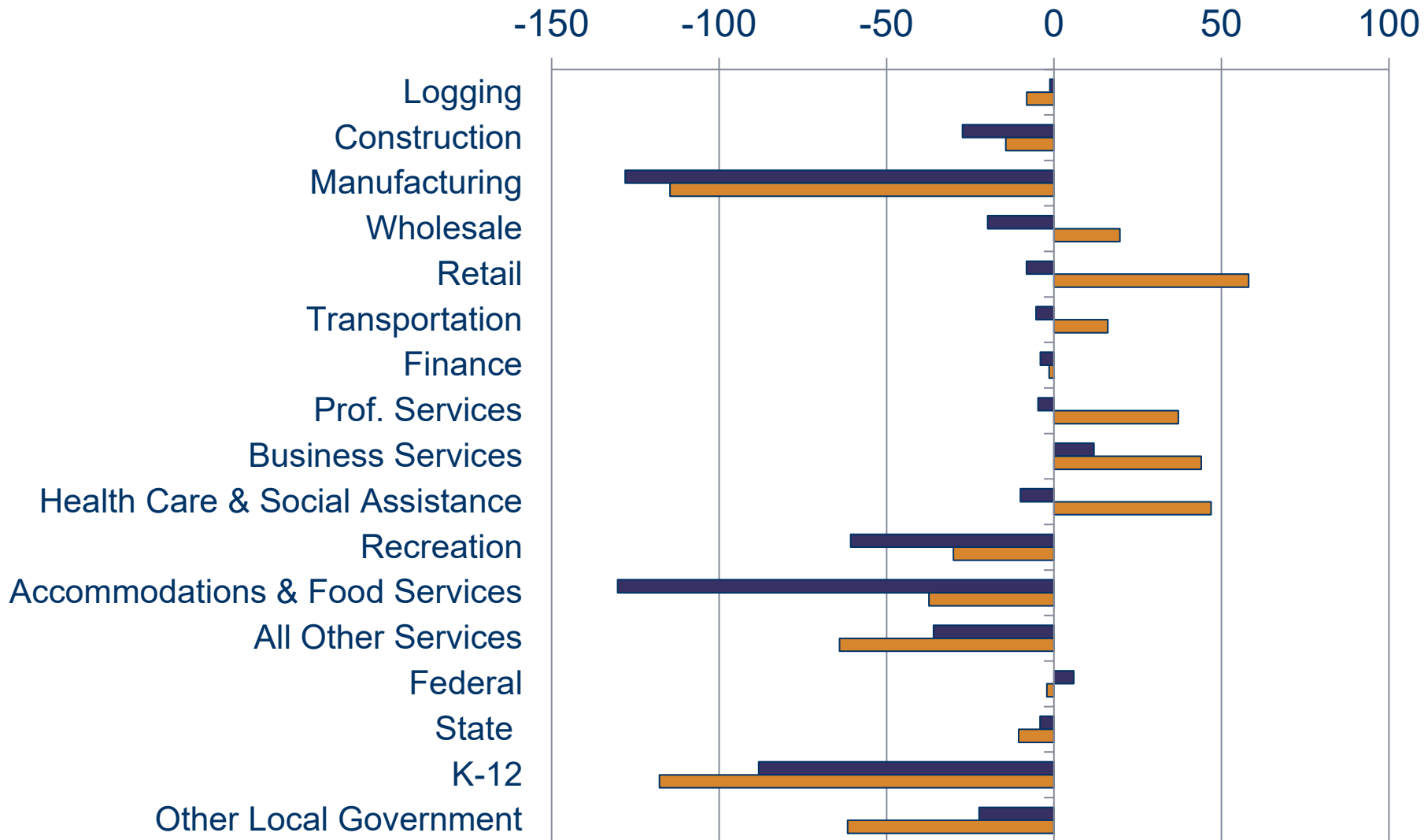


Somewhat different for payroll (total of \$377.2 million)

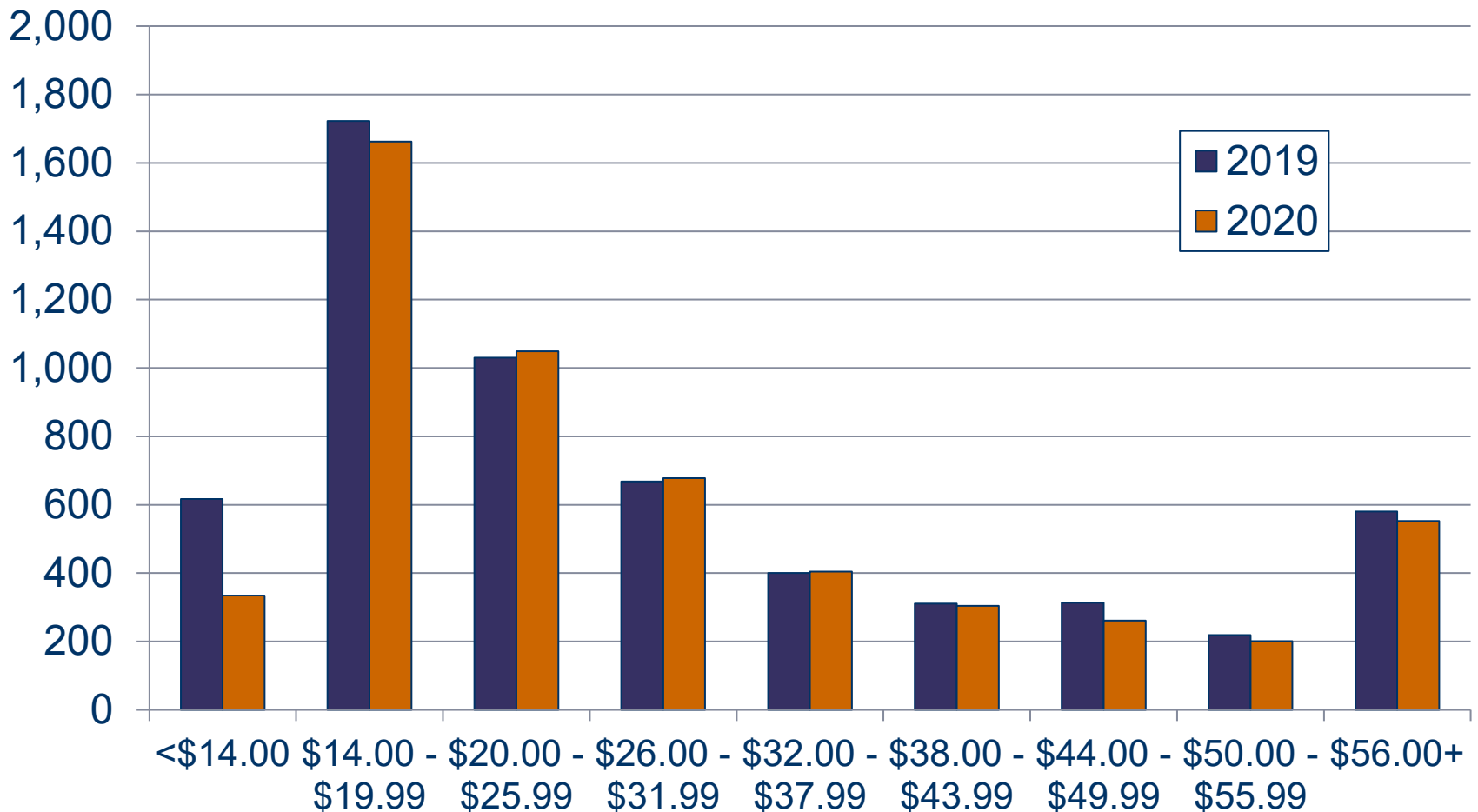
Total of \$377.2 M, down from \$386.2 in 2019



Change in jobs by industry since Feb. 2020, Klickitat County

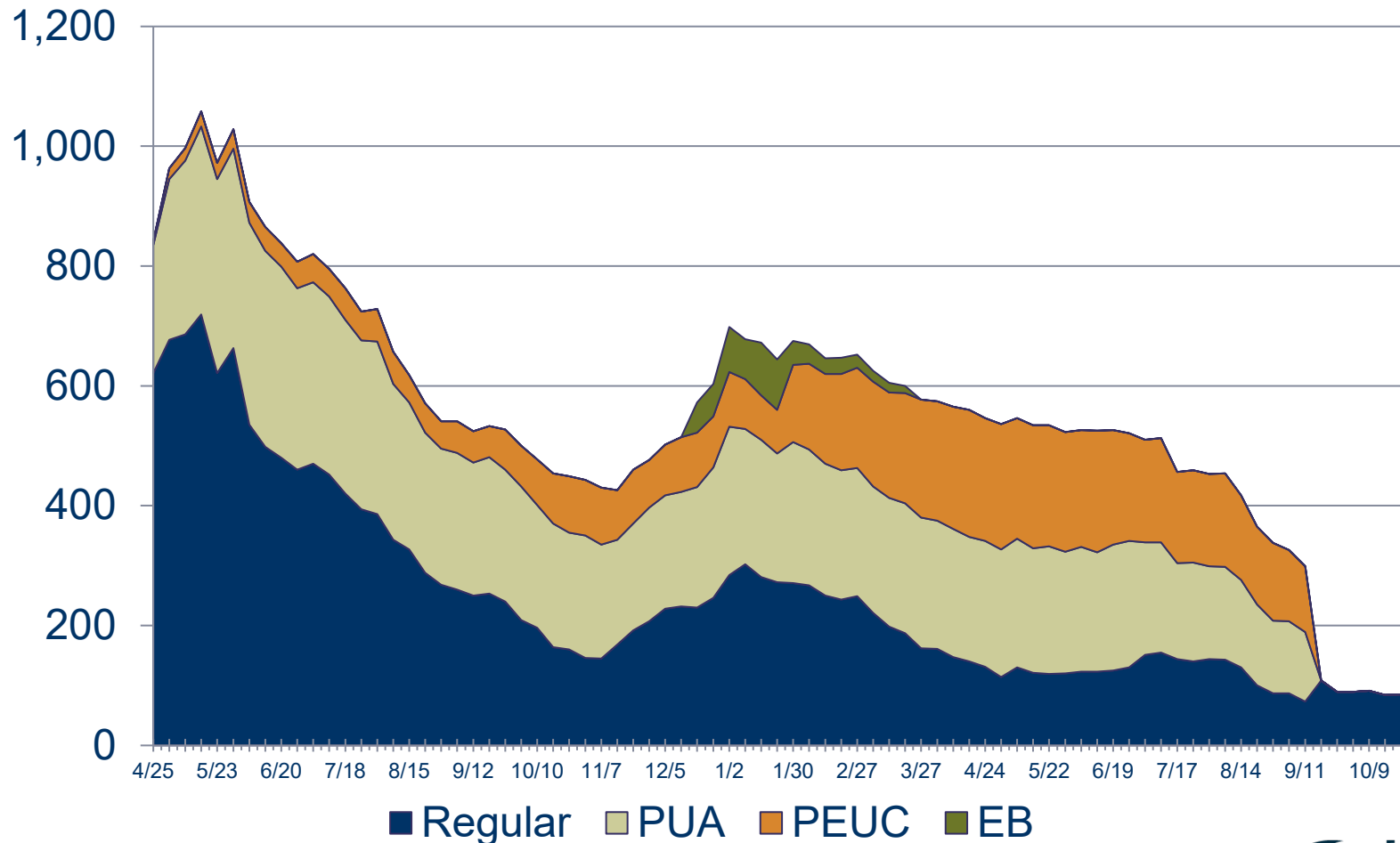


Klickitat FTE Jobs: Loss Was At Both Ends, Higher at the Bottom



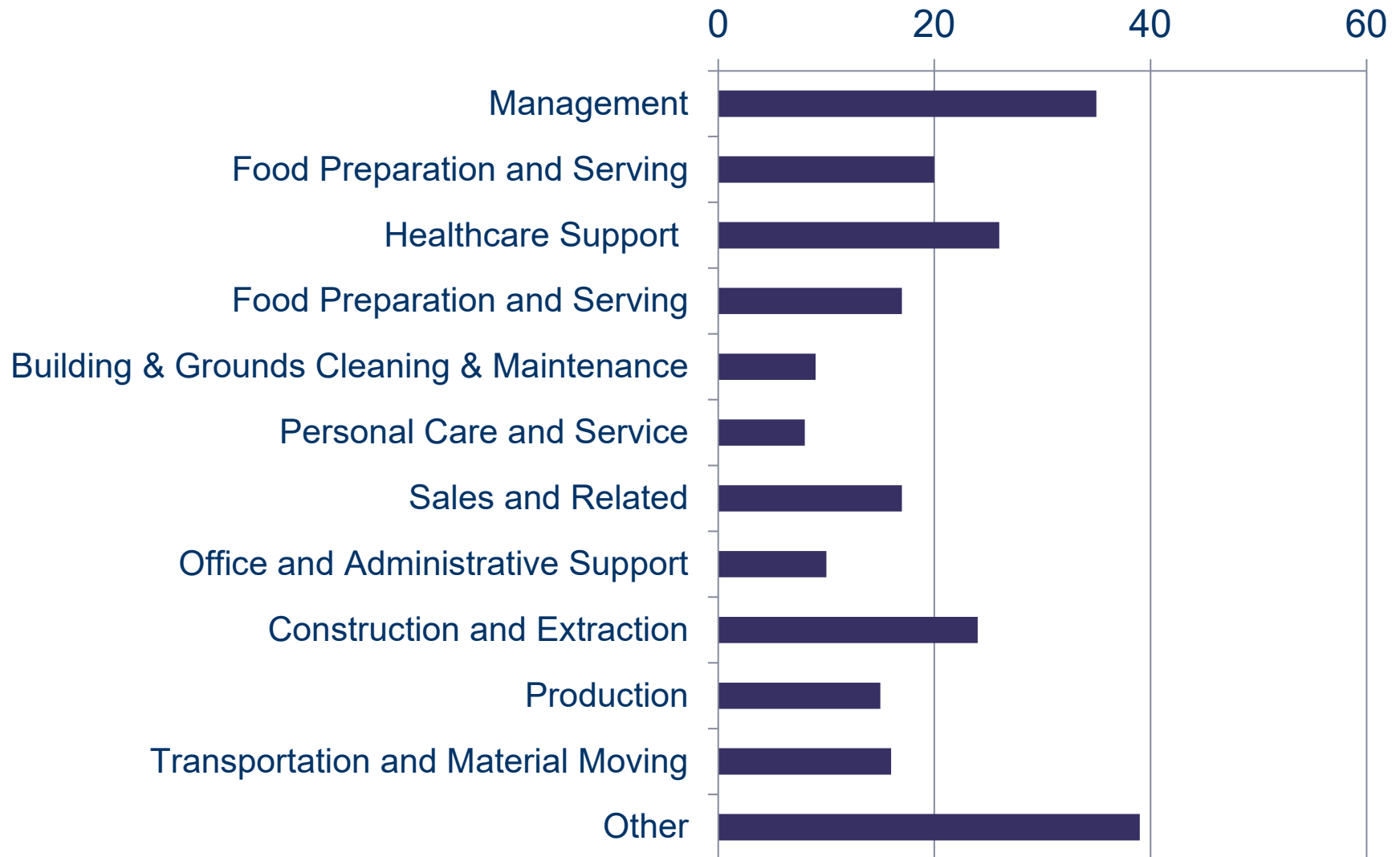
Source: Washington Employment Security Department/LMEA

Klickitat Continued Claims

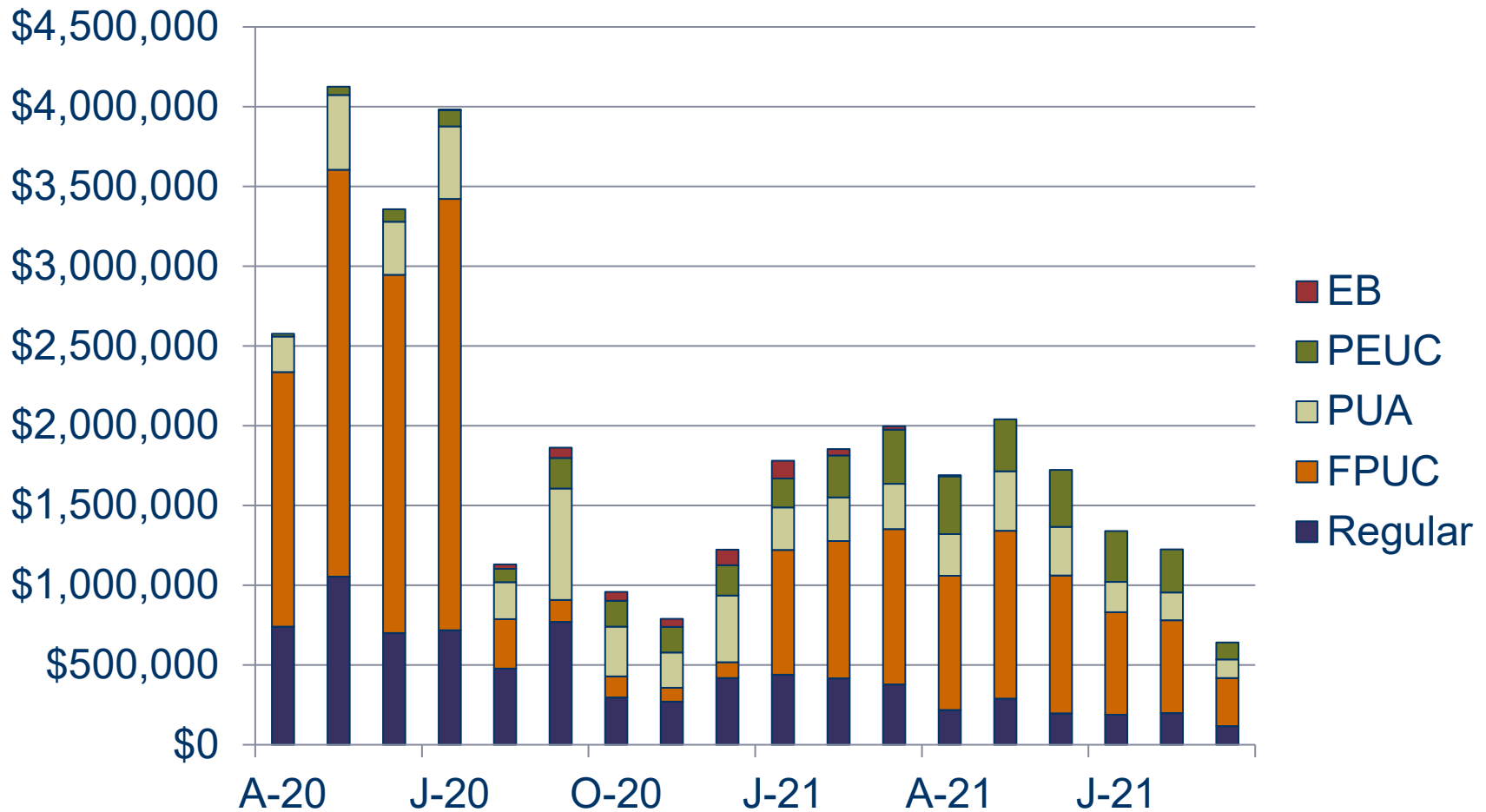


Source: Washington Employment Security Department/LMEA

Continued claims by occupation, Klickitat County, week of 9/11



Klickitat Benefit Payments: \$34 million



Source: Washington Employment Security Department/LMEA

The challenges ahead

- Climate change
- Public health
- Labor shortage
- Supply chain
- Racial inequities
- Evictions

Contact Info

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