

Columbia Gorge Economic Update

Scott Bailey, Regional Economist
scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov
September, 2022

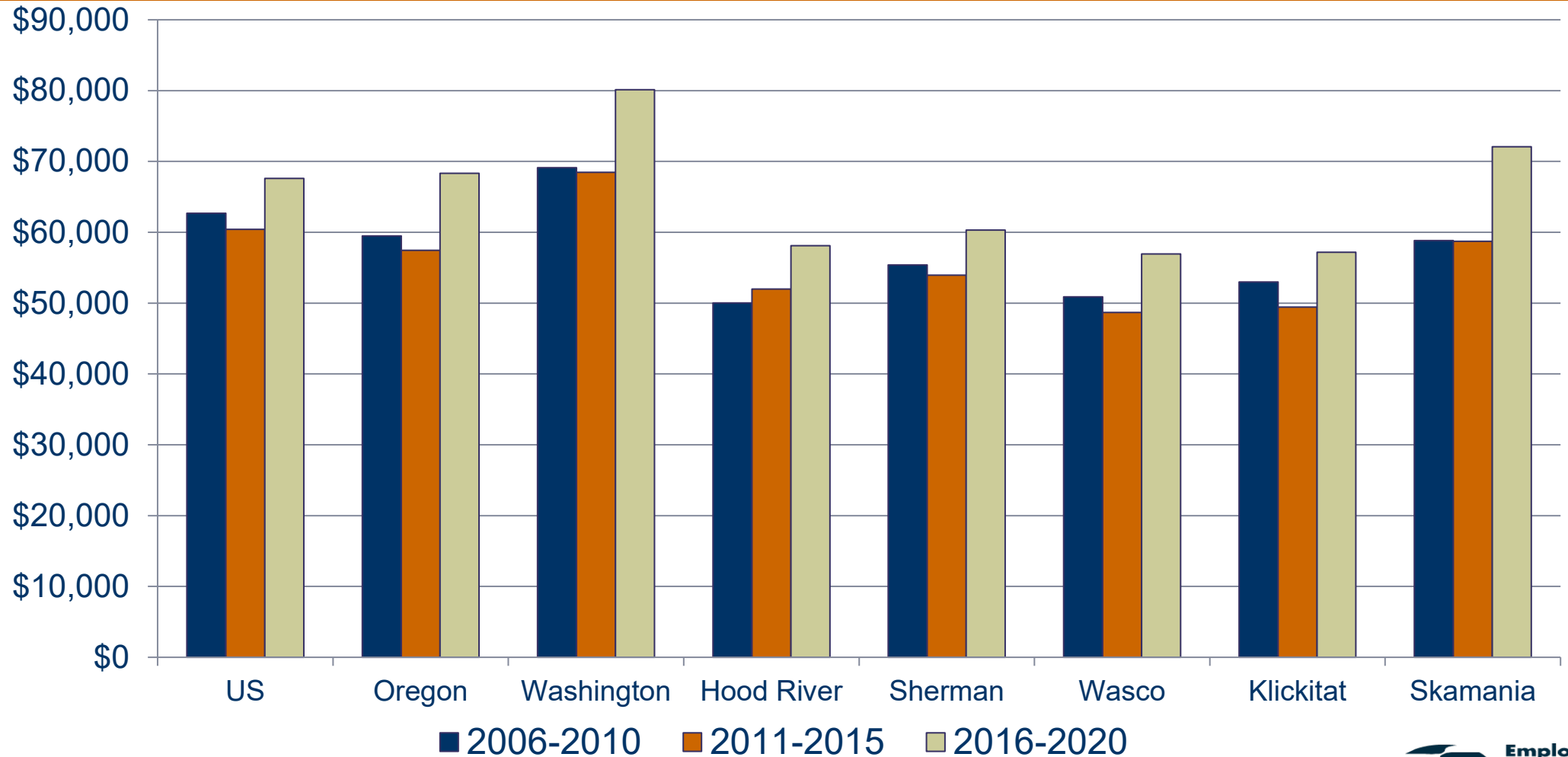


Land acknowledgement

Since time immemorial, what we now call the Columbia Gorge was part of a densely-settled region of indigenous people, primarily the Chinook but others as well, along the Columbia River, who created communities and summer encampments and a sophisticated cultural heritage. The area was rich in salmon, camas root, wapato, bitterroot, berries, deer, elk and waterfowl. Between 1820 and 1850 diseases brought by Europeans killed up to 90 percent of the native people, and from 1850 onwards U.S. troops enforced treaties under which natives gave up land rights and were forced to move to reservations. Fort Vancouver served as a holding center for natives captured in conflict before they were forcibly settled elsewhere. We take this moment to thank the original caretakers of this land and to reflect upon our shared history as a small step toward reconciliation and repair of our relationships.

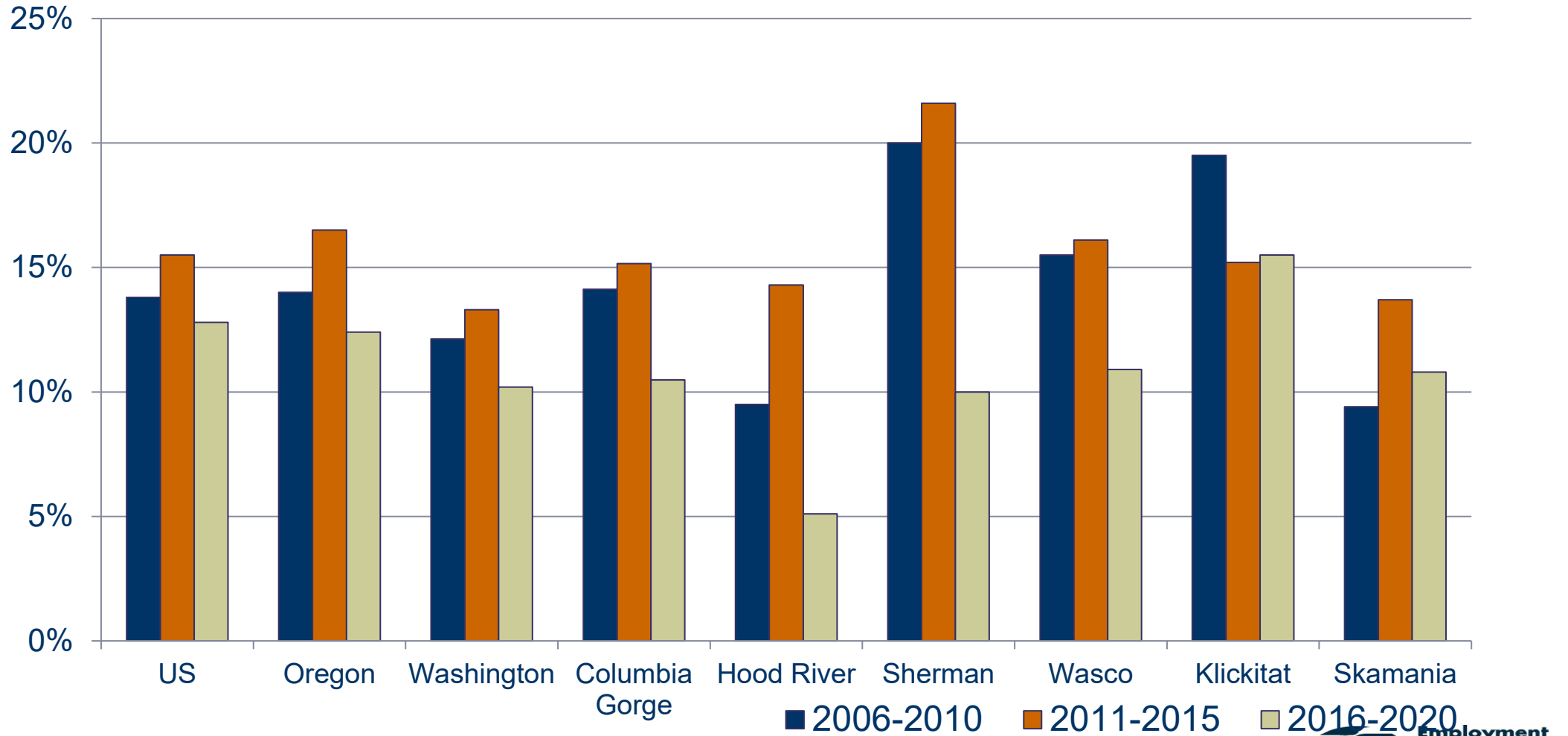
Median household income by area

Adjusted for inflation to 2021 dollars



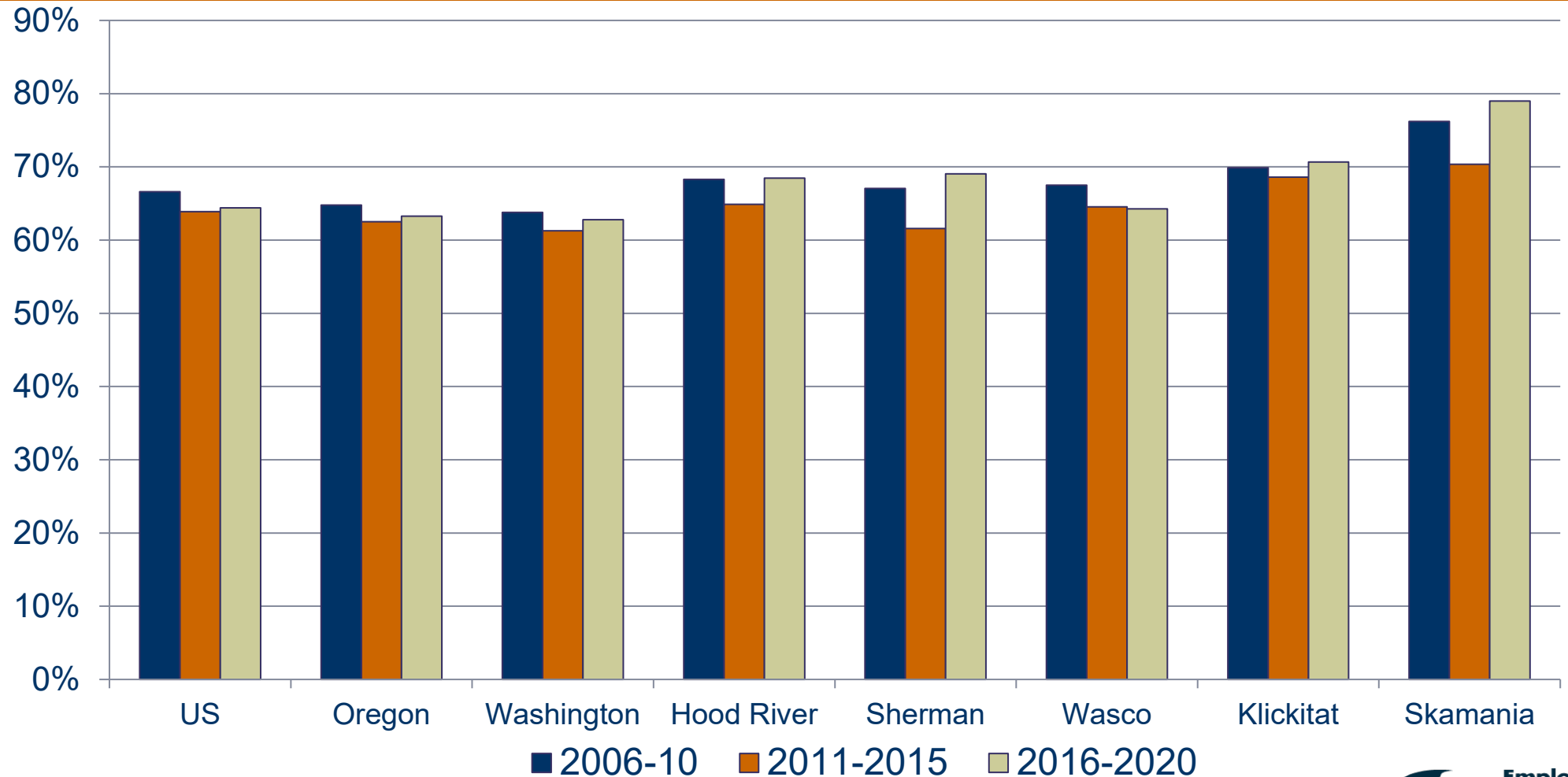
Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Poverty rate by area



Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey

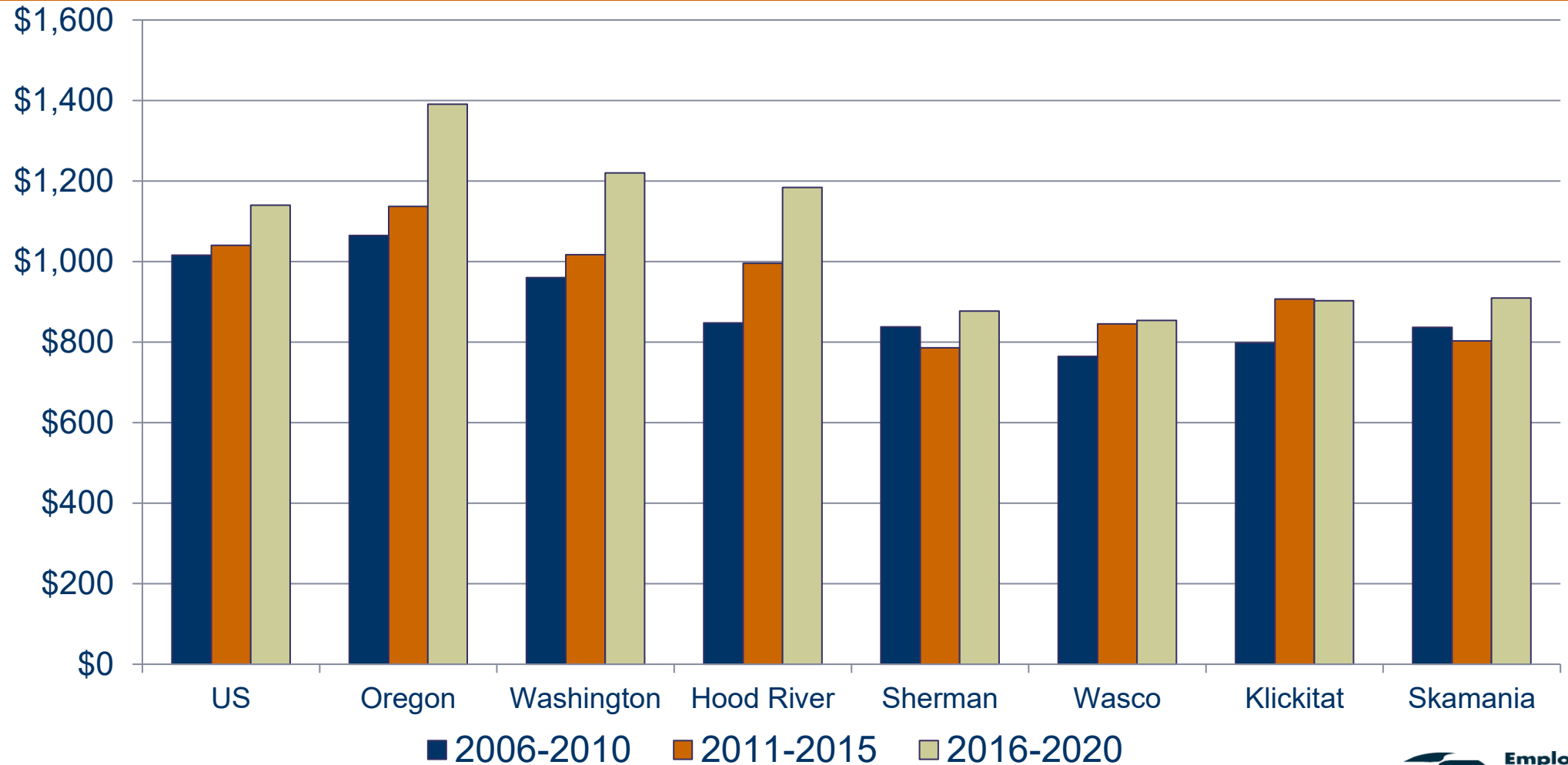
Home ownership by area



Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Median rent by area

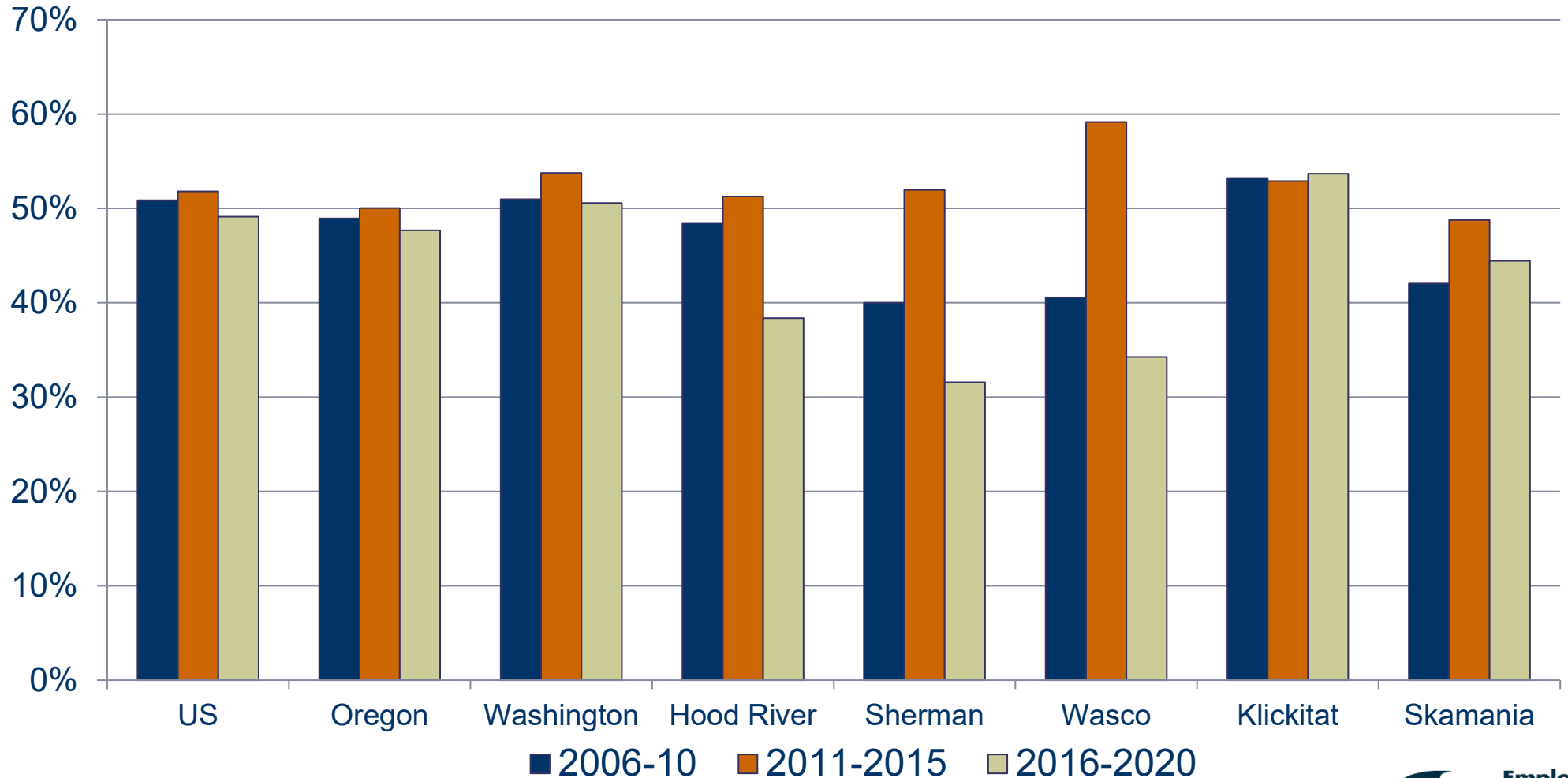
Adjusted for inflation to 2021 dollars



Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey

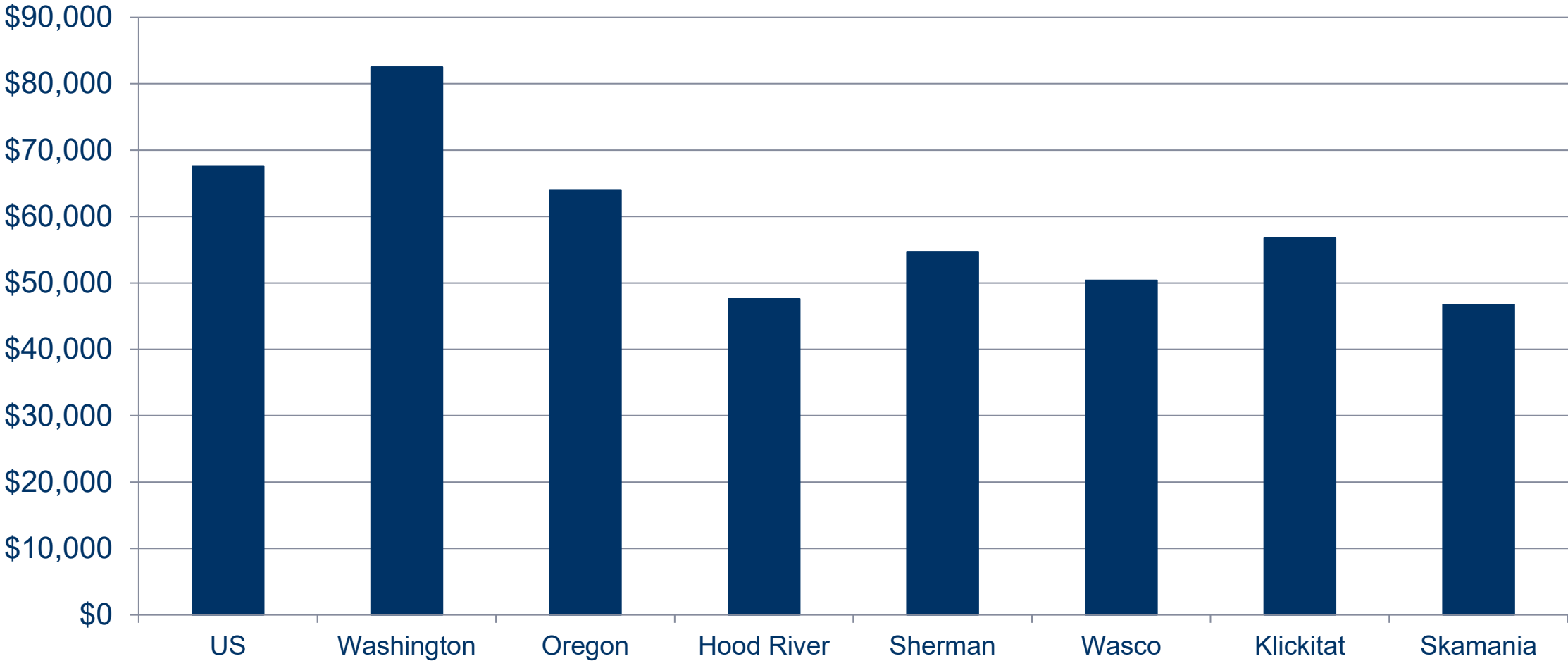
Income-distressed renters by area

More than 30 percent of income going to rent



Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey

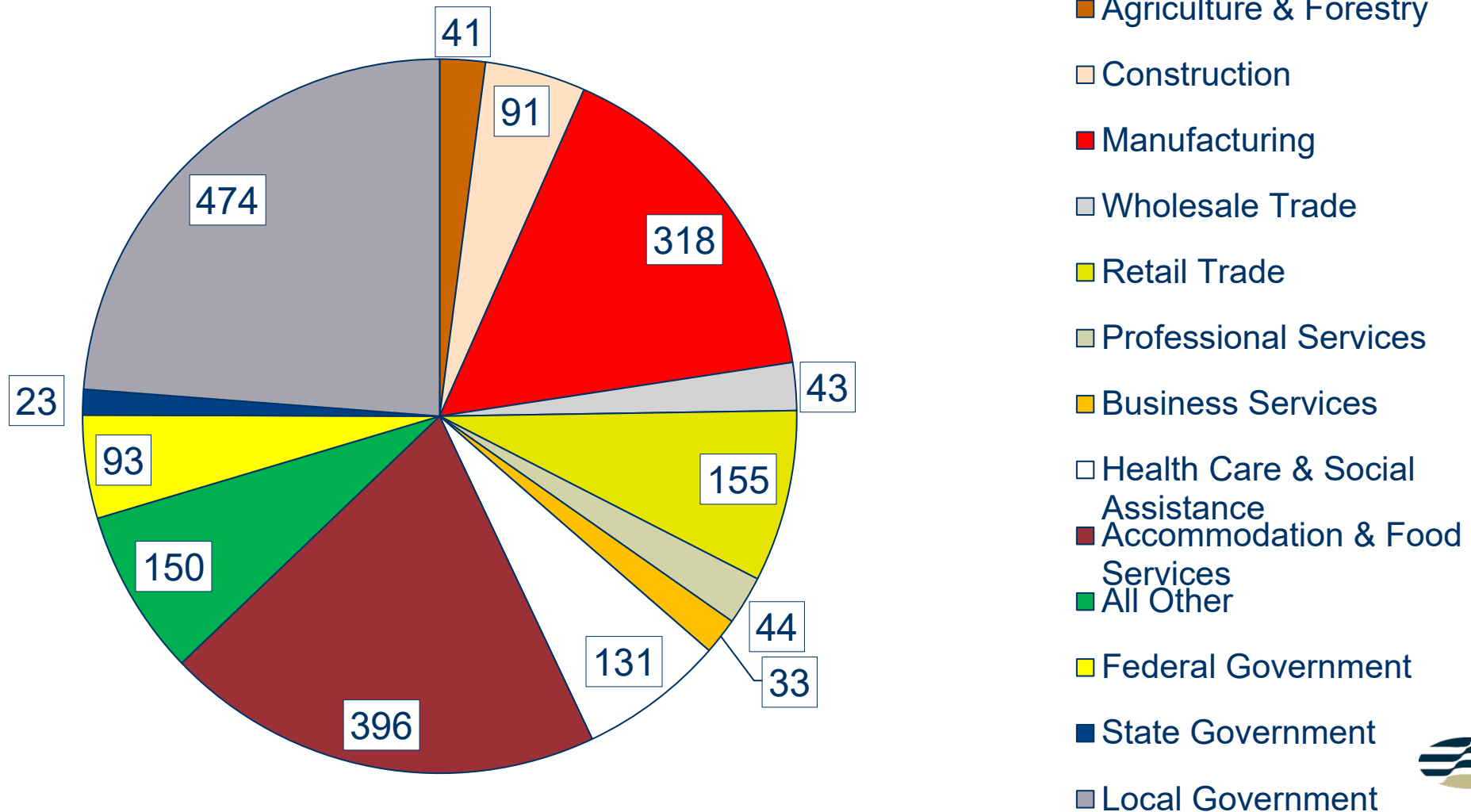
Average wage by area, 2021



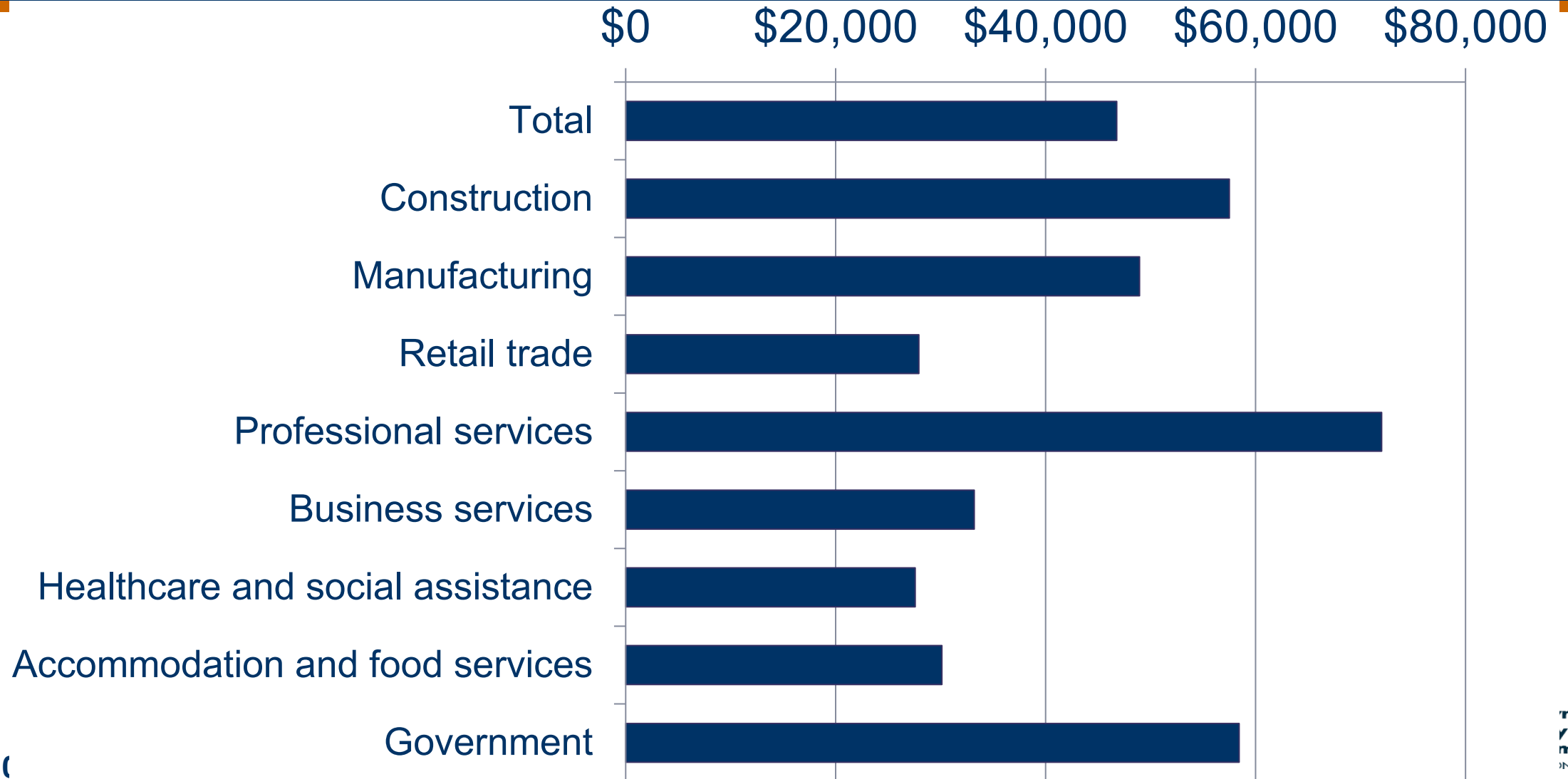
Source: BLS, employment departments



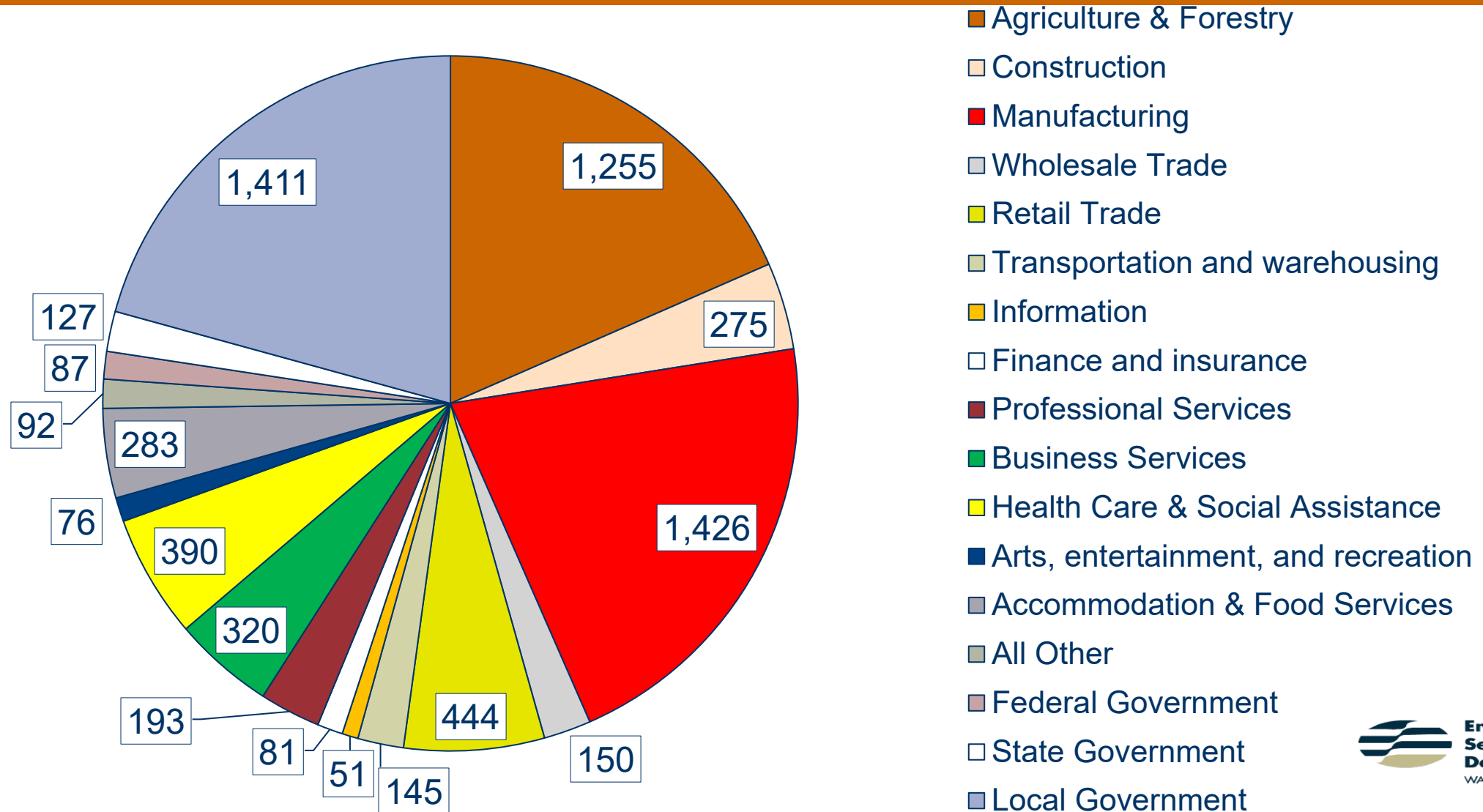
Skamania: three big industries for jobs in 2021 (1,992 jobs)



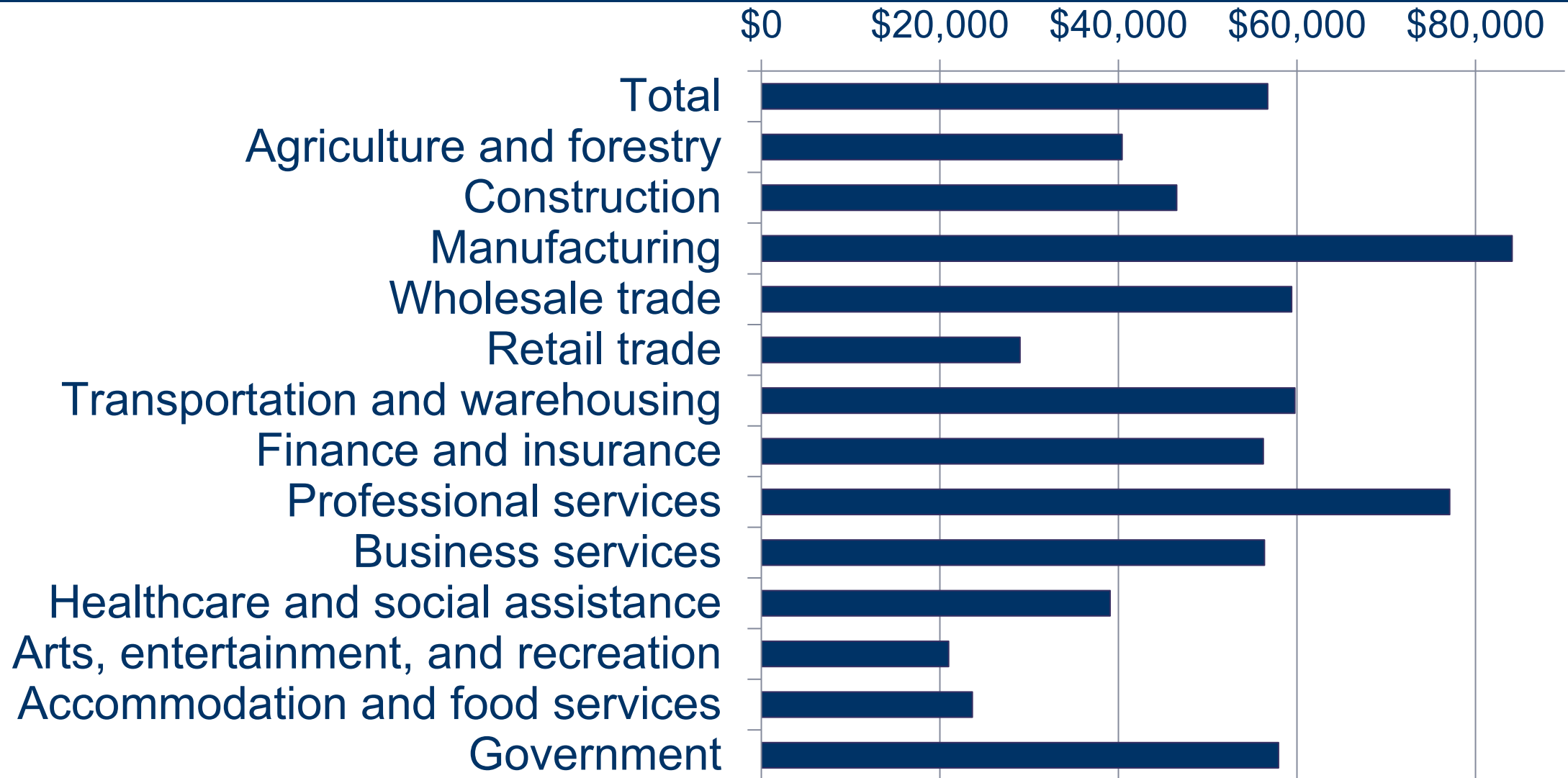
Average Annual Wage, Skamania County, 2021: \$46,763



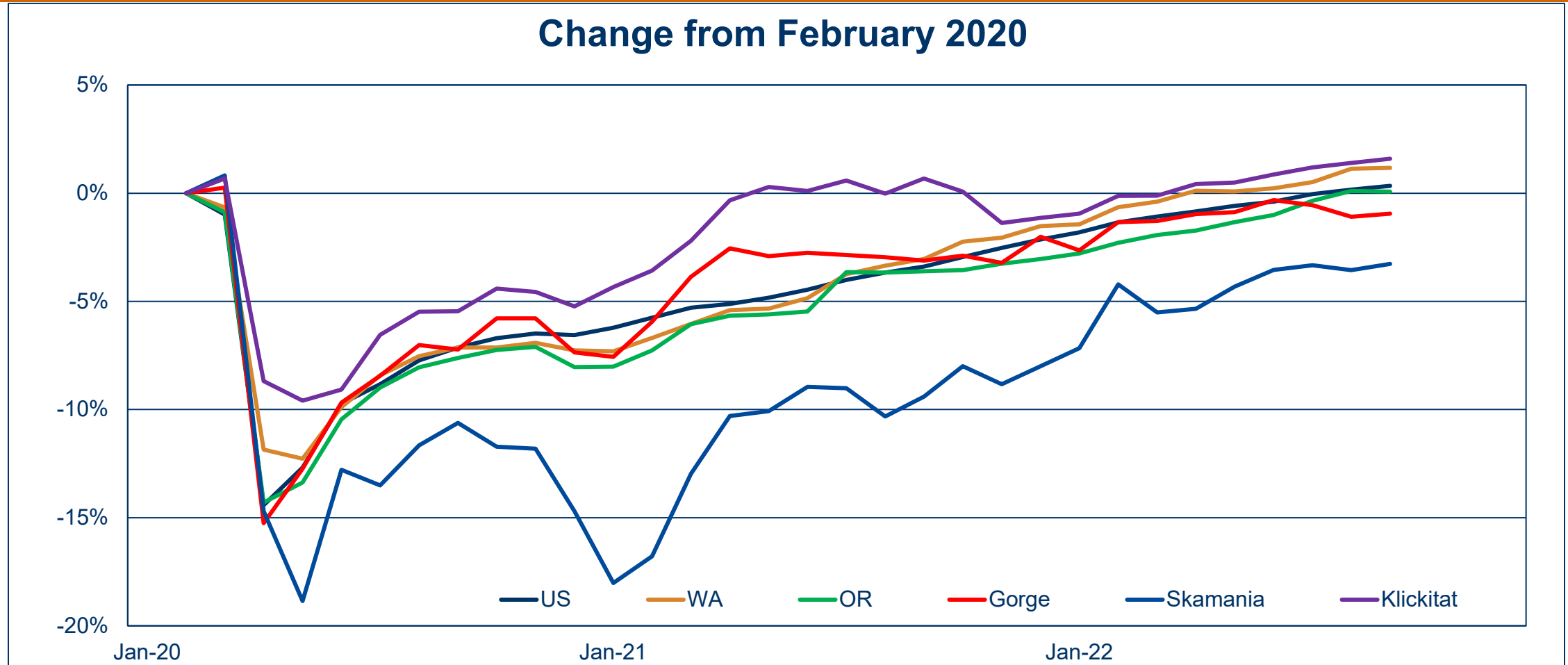
Klickitat: three big industries for jobs in 2021 (7,192 jobs)



Average Annual Wage, Klickitat County, 2021: \$56,726



Nonfarm employment closer to recovery



Source: BLS, state employment departments

Change in Skamania County nonfarm jobs *Sep. 2021 to Sep. 2022*

-40 -20 0 20 40 60

Total change:
+90 jobs
4.2 percent

Construction

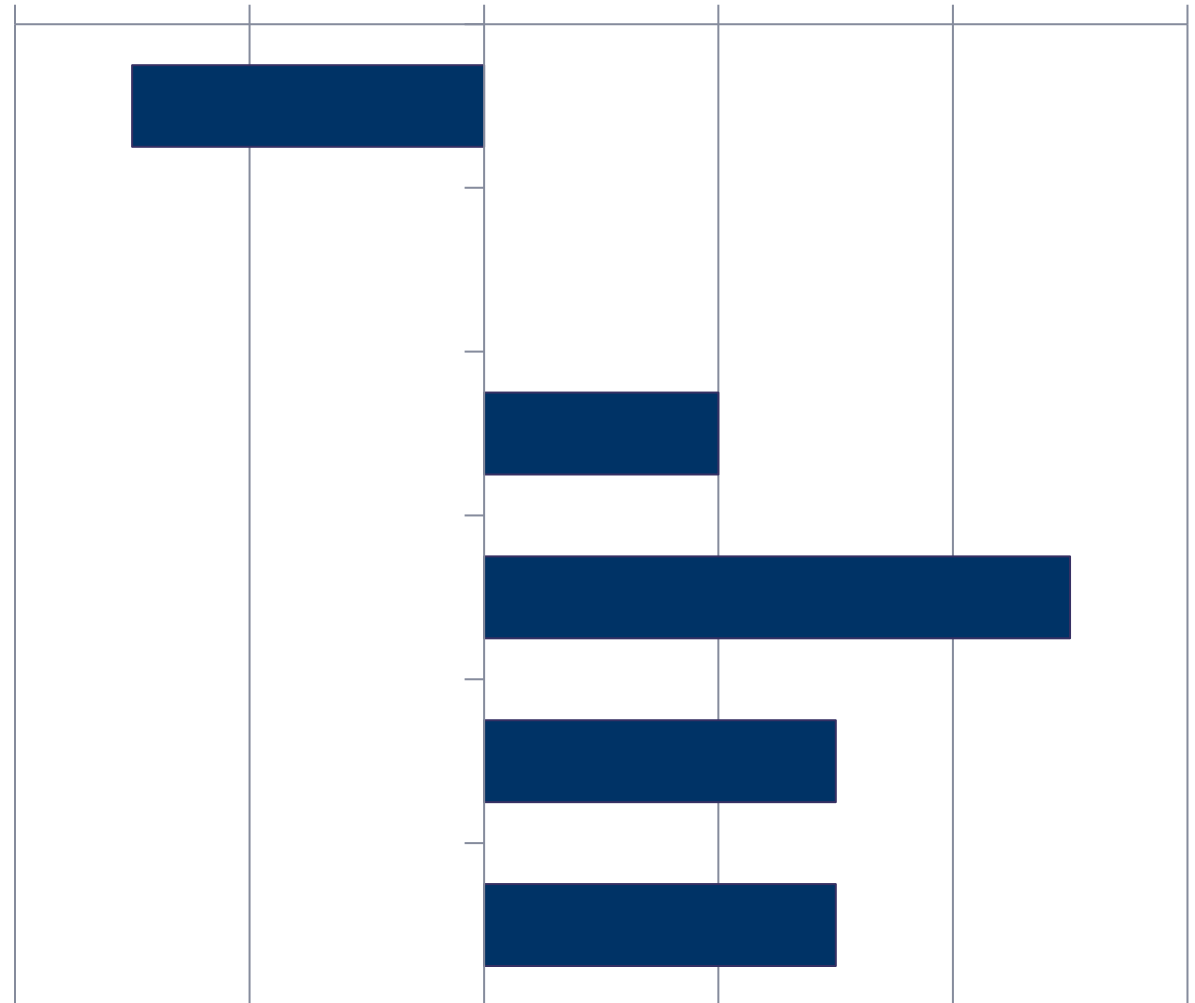
Manufacturing

Trade, transportation & utilities

Accommodation & Food Services

Other Services

Government

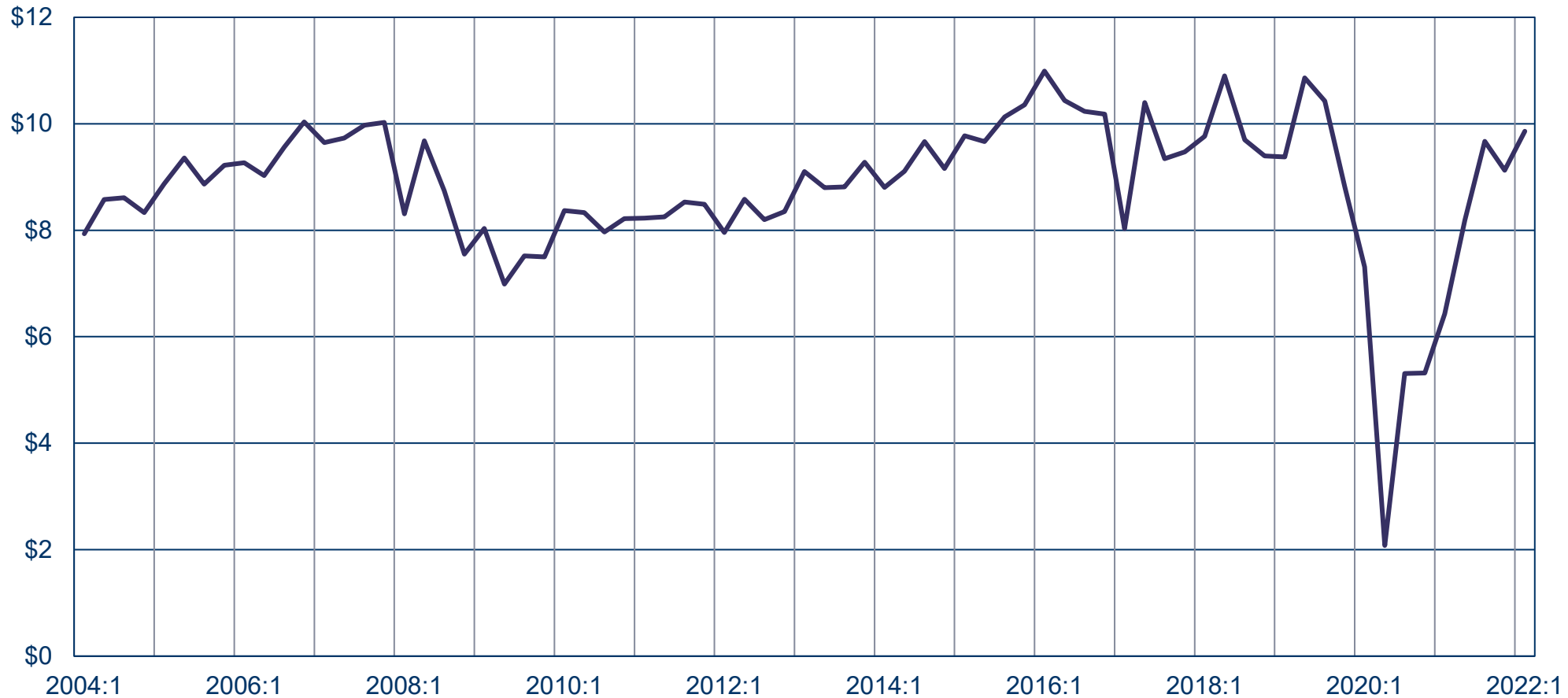


Skamania: 90 jobs short of pandemic recovery

- **By industry, since February 2020:**
 - **Construction, -30**
 - **Manufacturing, +30**
 - **Retail trade, +50**
 - **Lodging & food services, -110**
 - **K-12 education, -10**

Skamania taxable sales, accommodations and food services

Millions of adjusted dollars

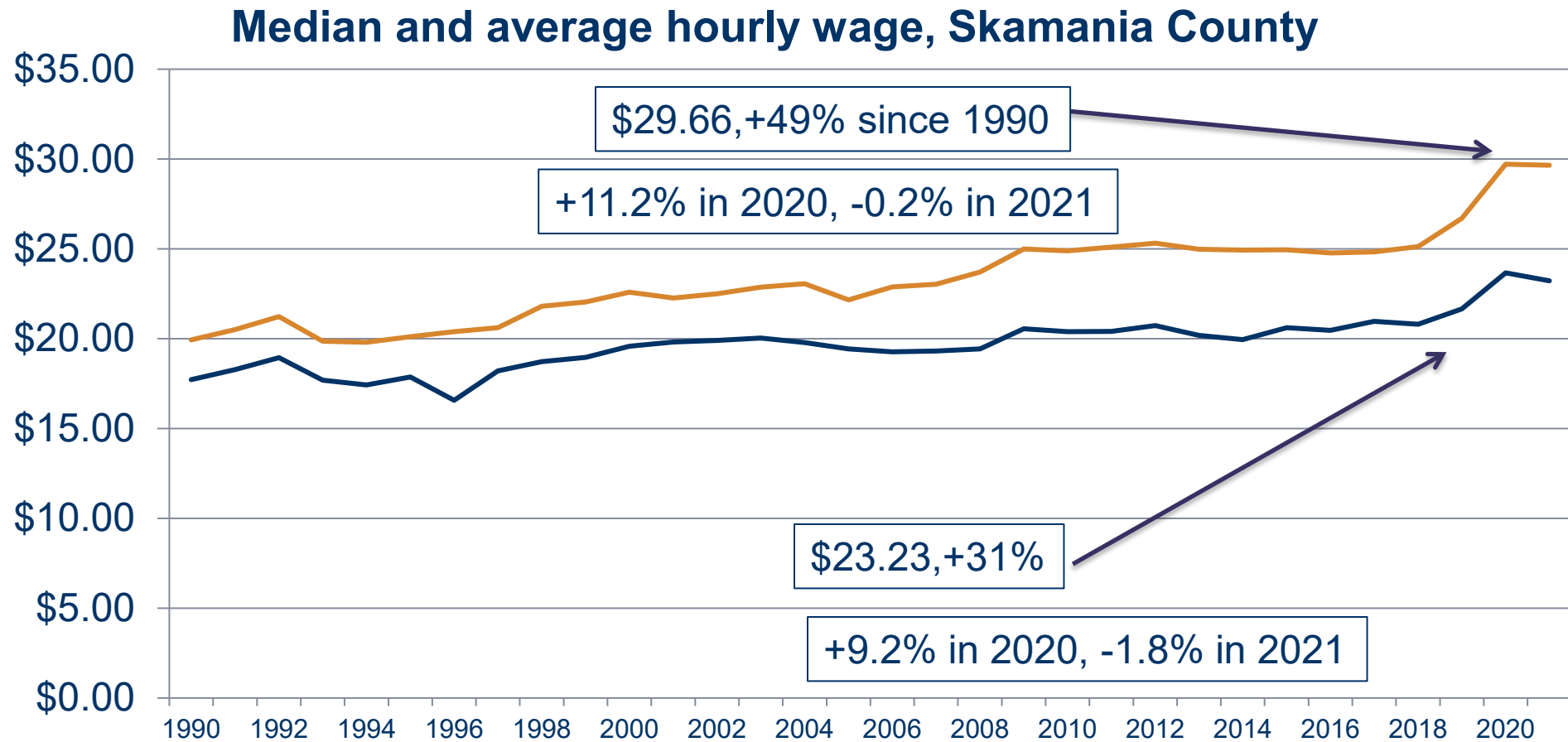


Source: DOR, adjusted by ESD

Skamania: where did the hospitality workers go?

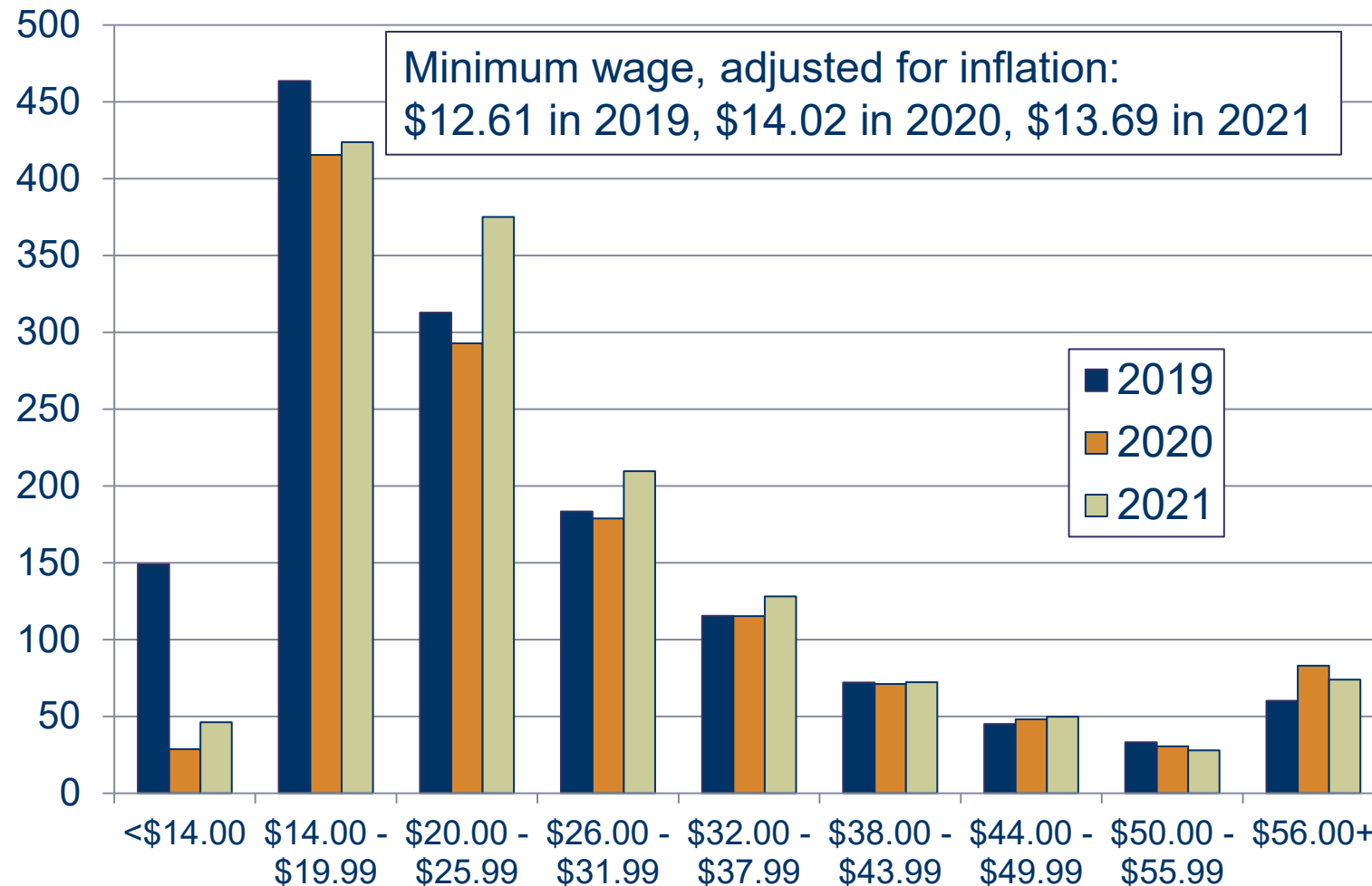
Two years later	2015 Q3 - 2017 Q3	2016 Q3 - 2018 Q3	2017 Q3 - 2019 Q3	2018 Q3 - 2020 Q3	2019 Q3 - 2021 Q3
Worked in base year	710	798	707	712	669
Still in industry	350	386	335	250	251
Still in the county	46	56	46	51	51
Some other county	77	99	79	75	84
Not in our database	237	257	245	330	283

Median and average wages increase



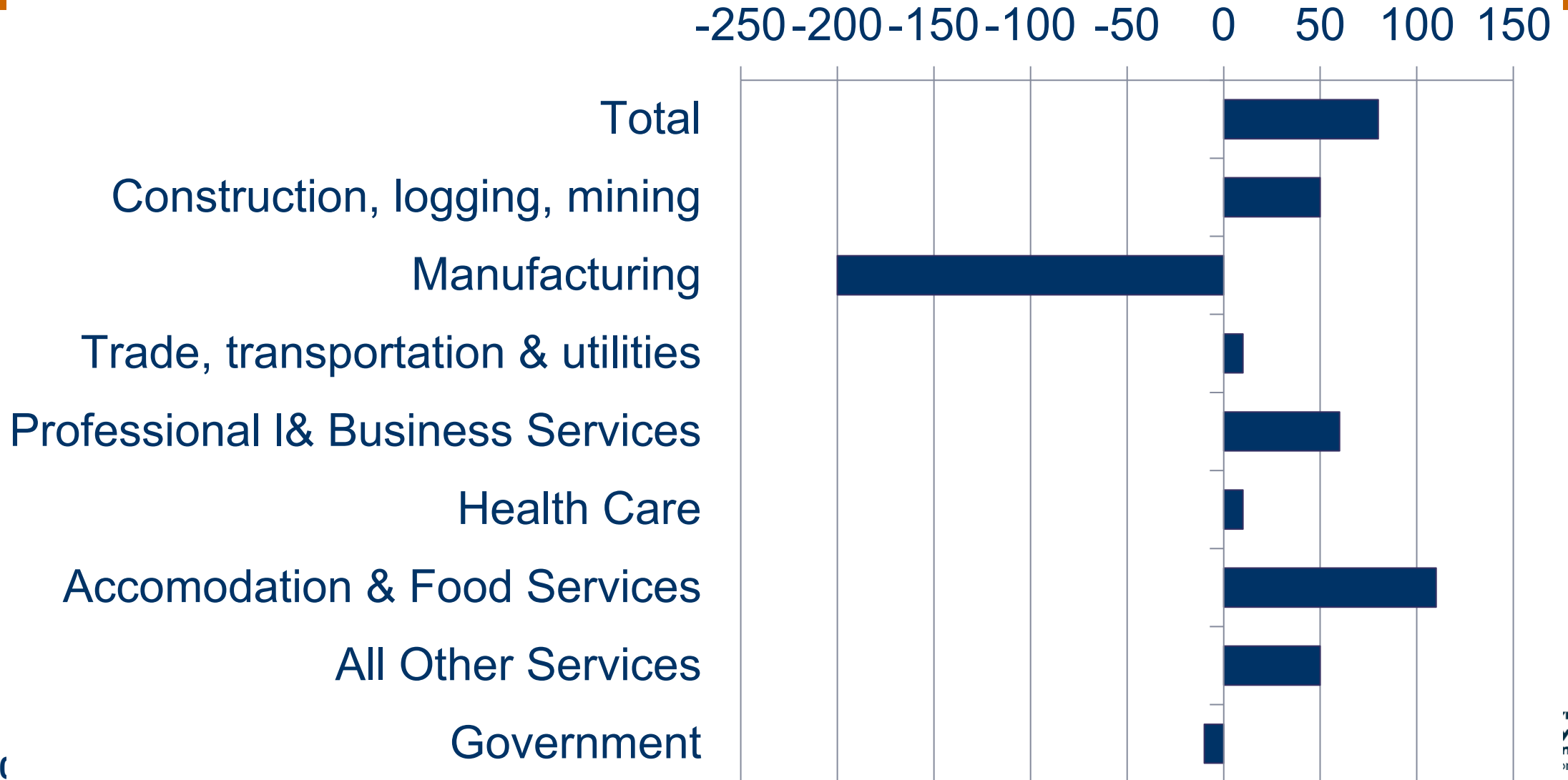
Source: Washington Employment Security Department/DATA Division

FTE jobs by hourly wage: hours worked down 1.9 percent from 2019



Source: Washington Employment Security Department/DATA Division

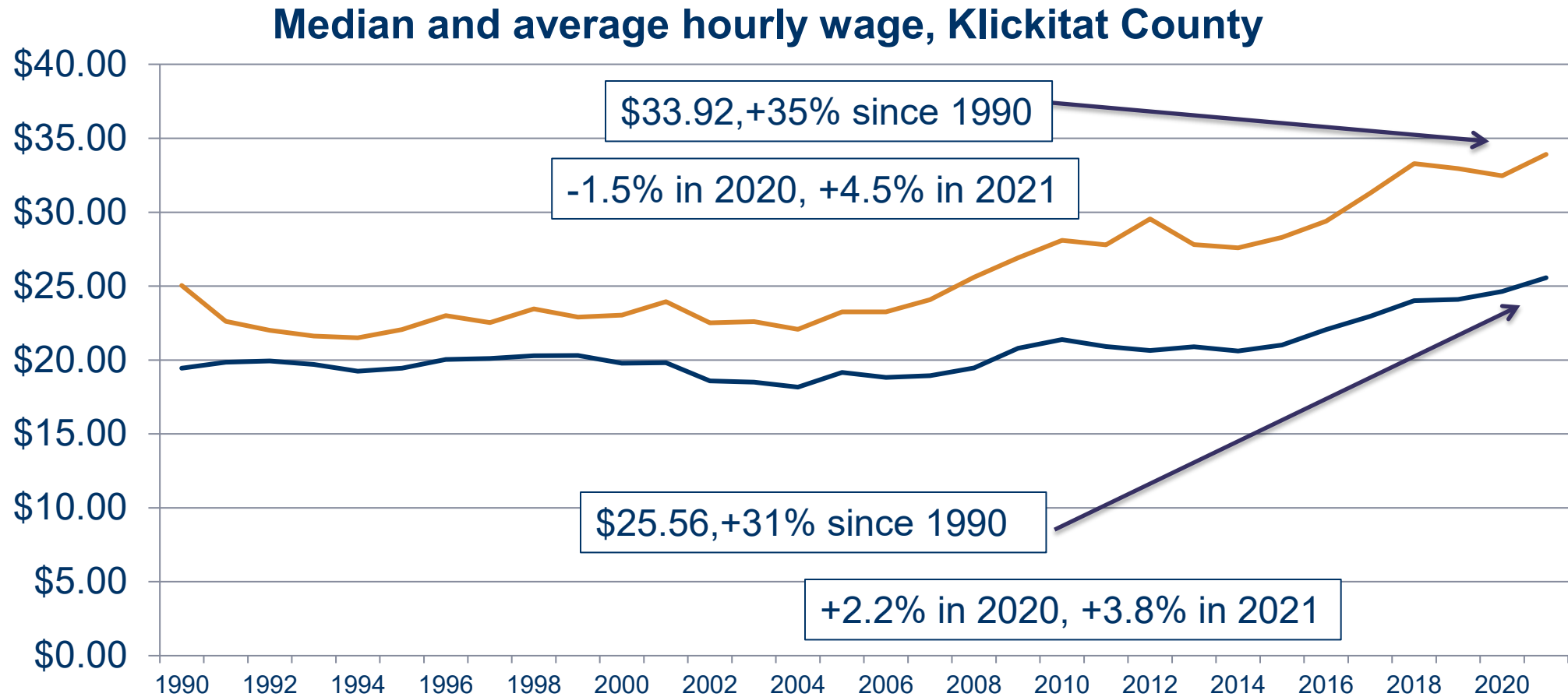
Change in Klickitat County nonfarm jobs Sep. 2021 to Sep. 2022



Klickitat: 90 jobs short of pandemic recovery

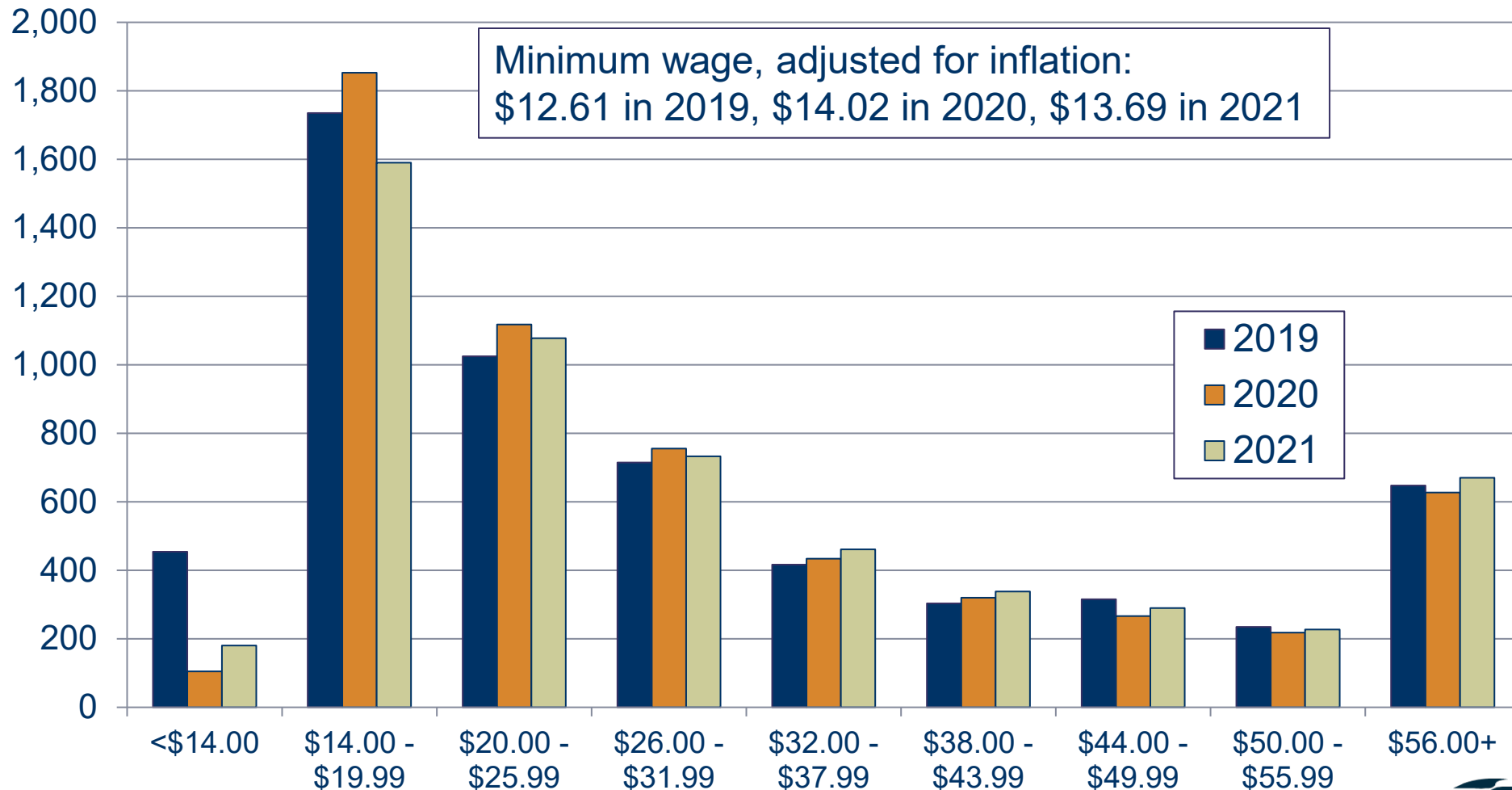
- **By industry, since February 2020:**
 - **Construction, +30**
 - **Manufacturing, -210**
 - **Wholesale, retail, transportation, +70**
 - **Professional & business services, +130**
 - **Health care, +50**
 - **Lodging & food services, +60**
 - **Government, -100**

Median and average wages increase



Source: Washington Employment Security Department/DATA Division

FTE jobs by hourly wage: hours worked down 4.8 percent from 2019



Source: Washington Employment Security Department/DATA Division

Corporate Profits Have Gone Up— About 50 Percent Above 2012-19

Nonfinancial corporate business: Profits before tax (without IVA and CCAAdj), billions of dollars



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Challenges ahead

- **Full recovery**
- **Housing**
- **Inflation**
- **Hood River Bridge**
- **Broadband access**
- **Climate change**

Contact Info

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