

# 2020 - 2025 Impact Timeline

2020

26,500 Mid-Valley jobs lost in two months as industry shutdowns are mandated due to COVID pandemic

K-12 schools close and move to online learning

Leisure and hospitality industry loses one third of employment

Healthcare employment in Ambulatory Care loses 14% of employment

Unemployment rate jumps from 3.5% to 12% or 13,000 individuals to 39,000 with a greater number of lower wage and part-time workers, and more women due to the loss of childcare

April 2020; **WWP began** managing and distributing \$6,806,122 of COVID business support funds for financial relief to business

20,000 jobs return to the region and some businesses re-open

Unemployment declines by 5 percentage points

Wildfires and smoke over Labor Day affect residents, workers, and businesses

Unemployment falls below 6%

Region gains 11% of it's jobs back from the low of April 2020, but still short 10,000 jobs from pre-COVID

Employment recovered to pre-COVID levels

Unemployment rate 4%

Pandemic revealed low wages and few or no benefits in industries employing "essential" workers and the scarcity of affordable childcare

2021

2022

The mid-valley has recovered better than other areas of the state, especially Portland and Eugene

Unemployment below 4%, employers struggling to hire

Unemployment rate for people with disabilities at historic low of 7.3%

Healthcare and leisure and hospitality sector still struggling to hire

Oregon's population declined for the first time in 40 years due to fewer people moving to the state

Total employment up nearly 2%

September 2022; **WWP creates** a Behavioral Health Consortium using funds from a HOWTO grant in response to increased awareness of mental health struggles as a result of the pandemic isolation

This consortium has engaged over 100 members and resulted in countless successful initiatives

July 2022; **WWP launches** the Youth Recovery Engagement Initiative in response to increased COVID dropout rates

This initiative reduced the average time youth are disconnected from education from 761 days to 563 and increased their rate of GED attainment by a 60% faster rate than before

March 2022; **WWP receives** \$4,476,714 to swiftly distribute funds to individuals disconnected from the WorkSource Oregon Center most impacted by the pandemic

**WWP creates** 19 new projects and enrolls 673 individuals, 60% of whom had not been connected to WorkSource Oregon

Future Ready Oregon/ Prosperity 10,000 passes the Oregon Legislature

Inflation hits 8% for the first time since the '80s, food inflation is at 11%

Unemployment is at historic lows, below 4%, causing hiring difficulties for employers

Employment was up 2.6% over the year

Wages increased, largest gains went to workers at the lower end of the pay scale

2025

July 2024; **WWP receives** \$1,000,000 in Benefits Navigator funding and distributes it to four local organizations to support Community Career Coaches throughout the region

August 2024; **WWP enters** into a contract to support Adults in Custody reentering the workforce through a grant with the Oregon Workforce Partnership to reduce recidivism

WWP launches LUCAS a workforce tool to assist workers with connection, communication, and access to regional resources

In the final quarter of 2024, unemployment rates started to increase slightly but are still historically low

Employment gains slowed; total jobs up 1.5% over the year

Unemployment increases to 5%

Employment decreases 1% January through June



Between March 2020 and July 2025, Willamette Workforce Partnership invested and managed **\$33,595,536**, which supported the community workforce needs and economic recovery initiatives

Of this, \$565,042 was invested in 30 different businesses throughout the region to train up their existing workforce