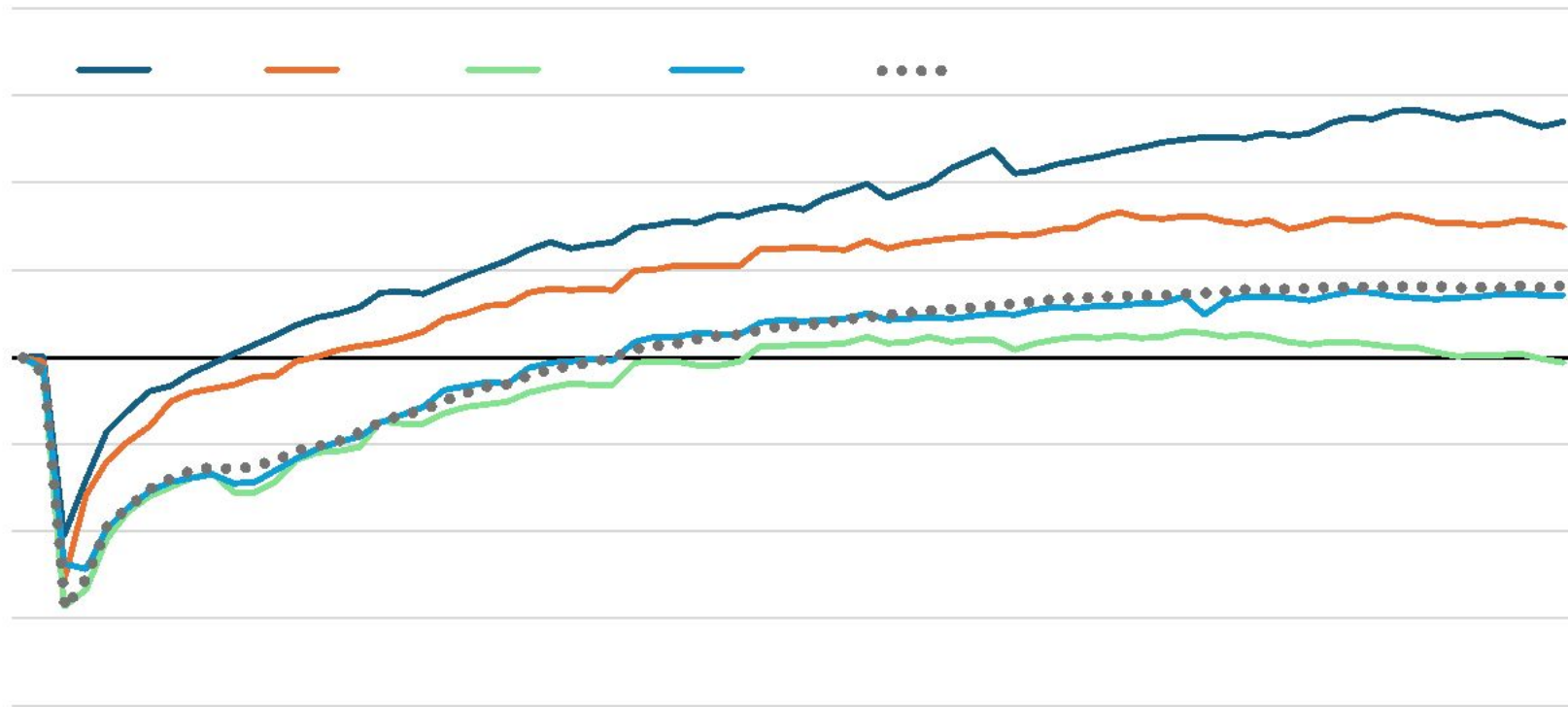


Labor Markets in the Pacific NW

Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference
May 2026

Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

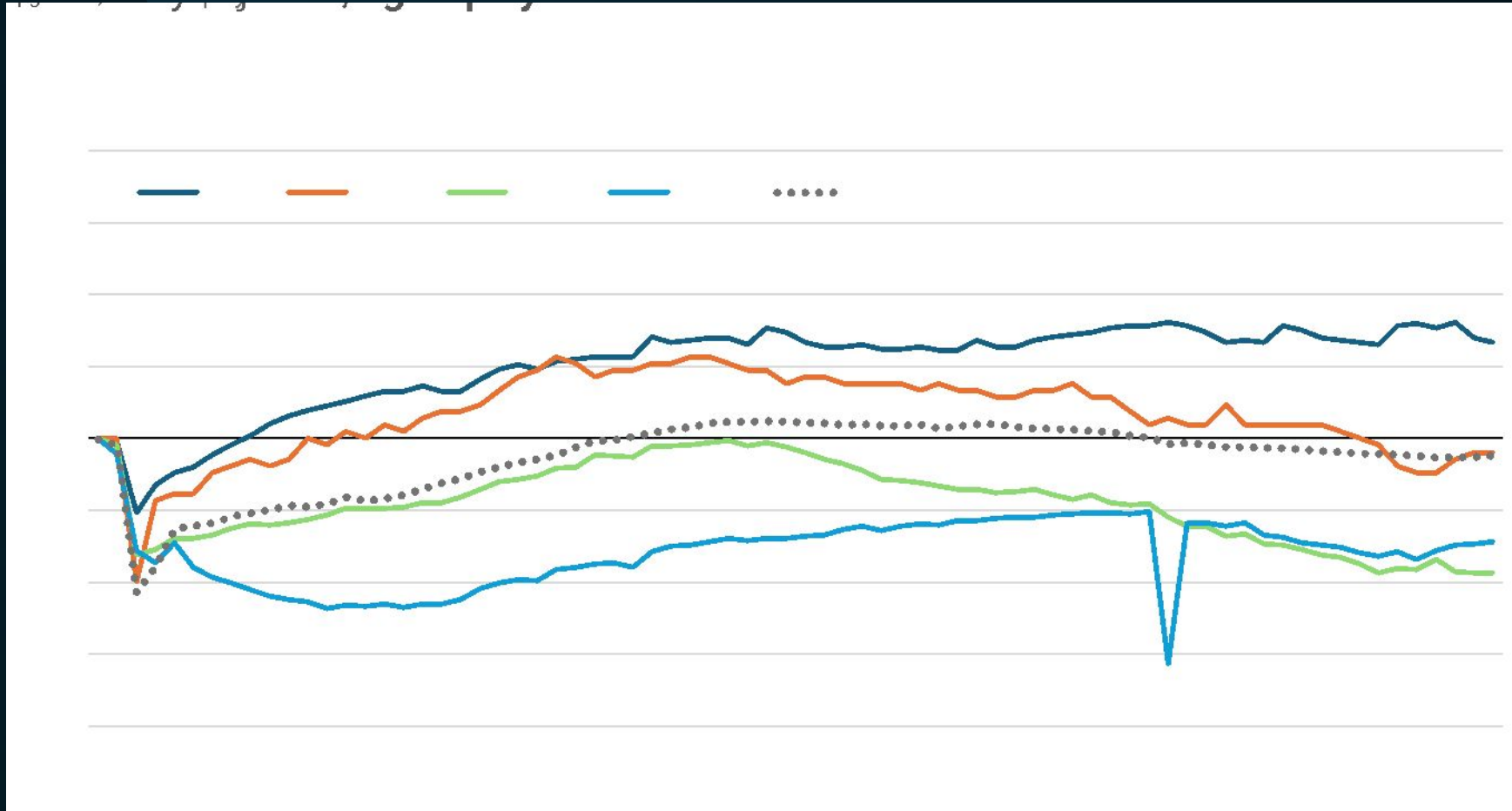


Idaho and Montana are trending stronger than the U.S.

Washington is tracking along with the U.S.

Oregon's employment last peaked in late 2024.

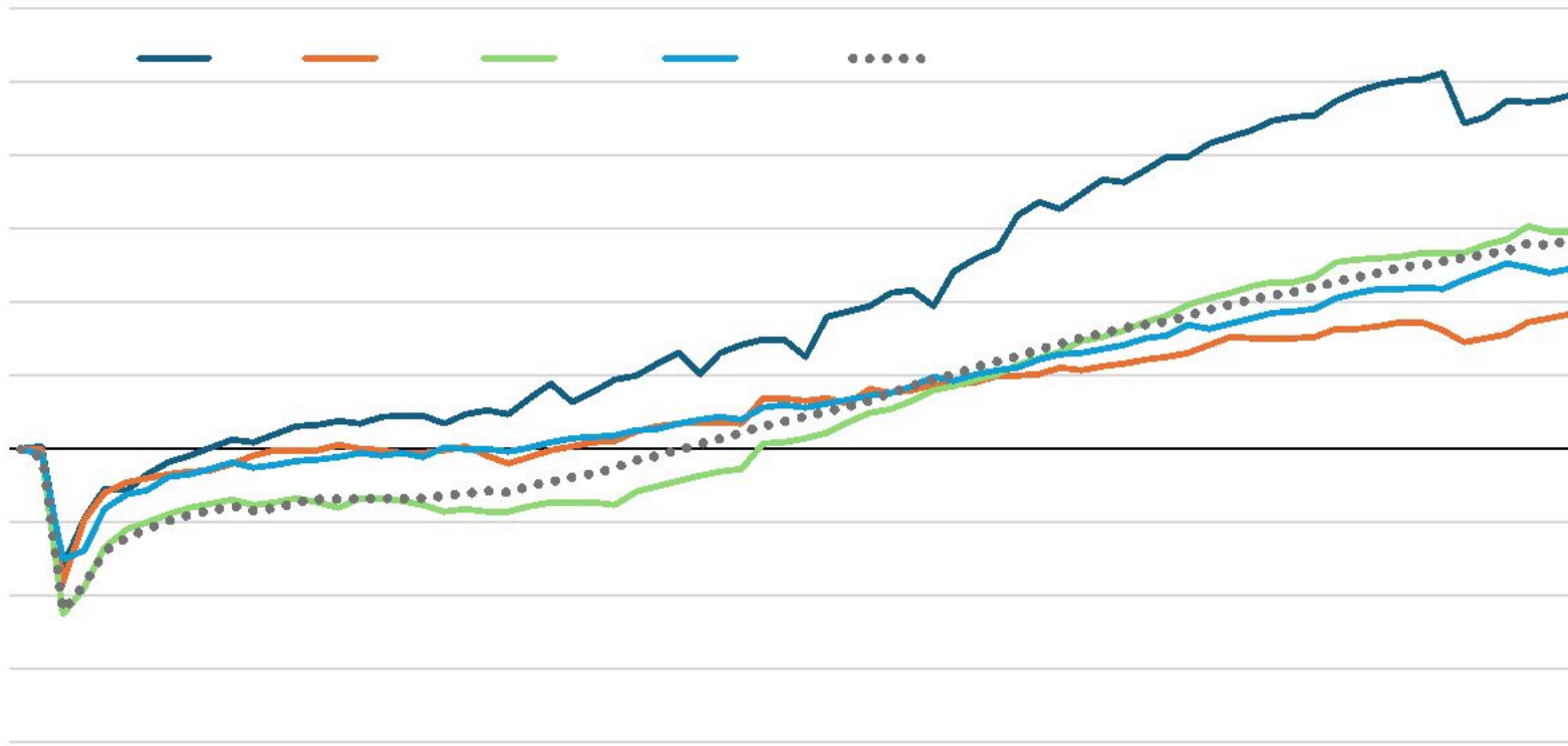
Manufacturing Jobs



Three out of the four states (and the U.S.) have fewer manufacturing jobs now than they did six years ago.

Washington never fully recovered jobs from the pandemic recession.

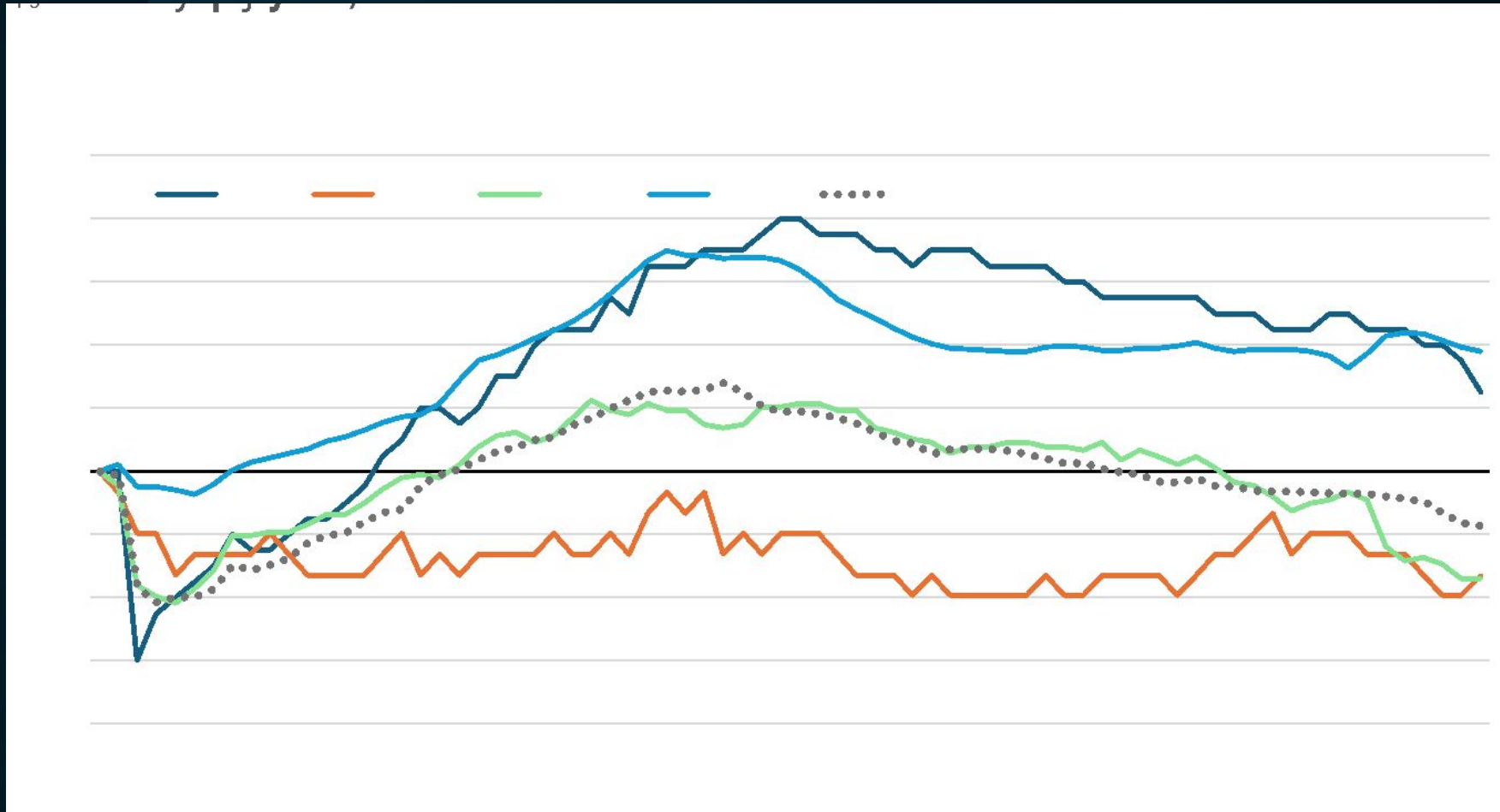
Health Care and Social Assistance



A bright spot across the board in states' labor markets, and the U.S.

Demographics are a contributor to growth in health care and social assistance.

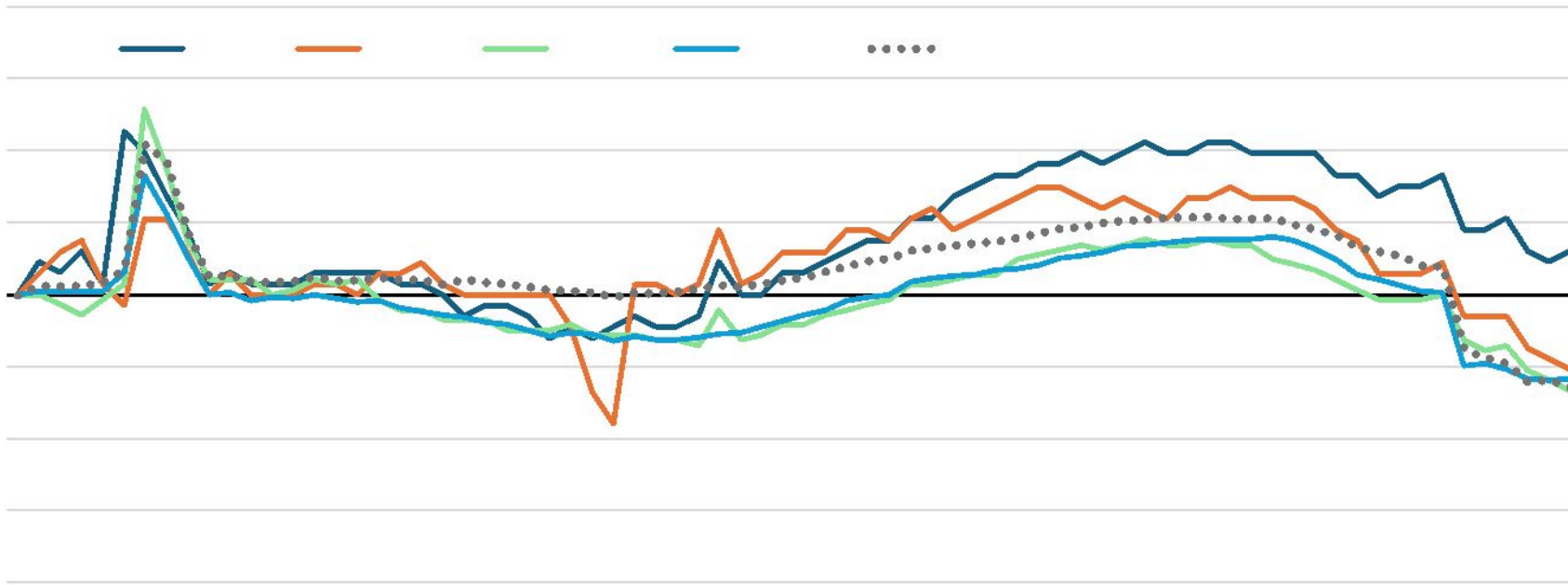
Information



Washington has a much larger employment total in this sector.

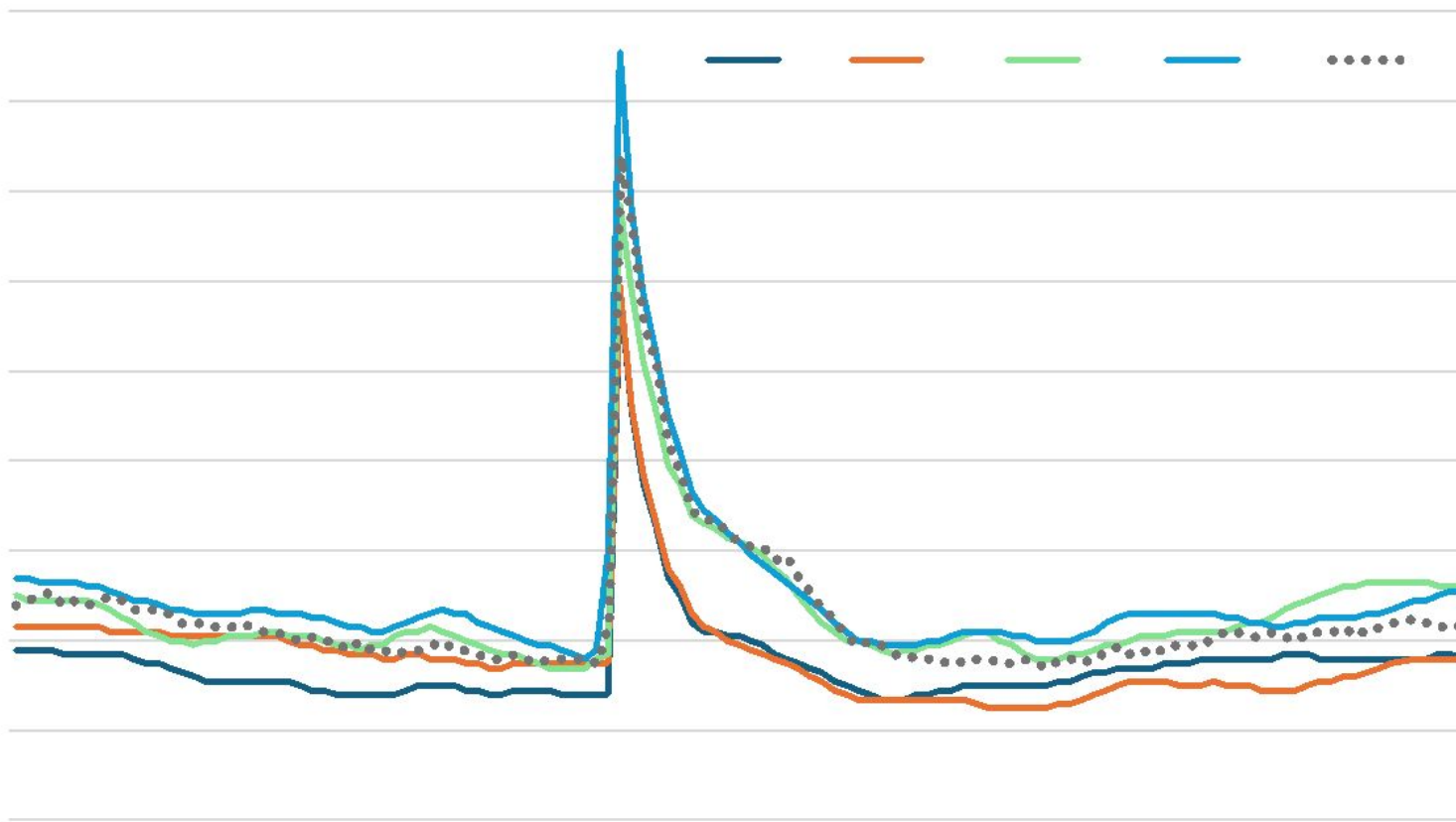
All states and the U.S. are off their most recent peaks in this sector.

Federal Government



Nationally, federal government employment has dropped by 11% since its last peak in October 2024.

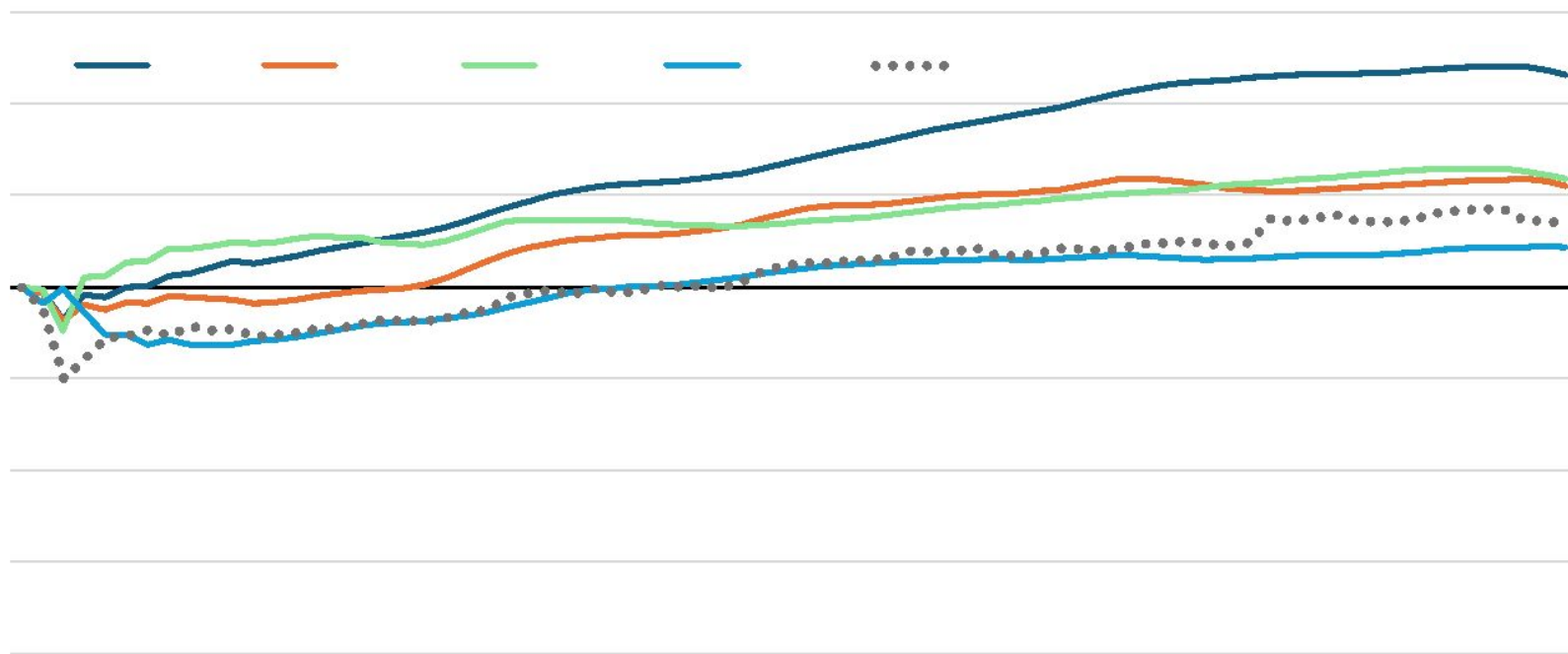
Unemployment Rates



Oregon and Washington have higher unemployment rates than the U.S.

Idaho and Montana have lower rates.

Labor Force Growth



Gains have leveled off over the past couple of years.

Washington's labor force growth has been slower than the U.S.

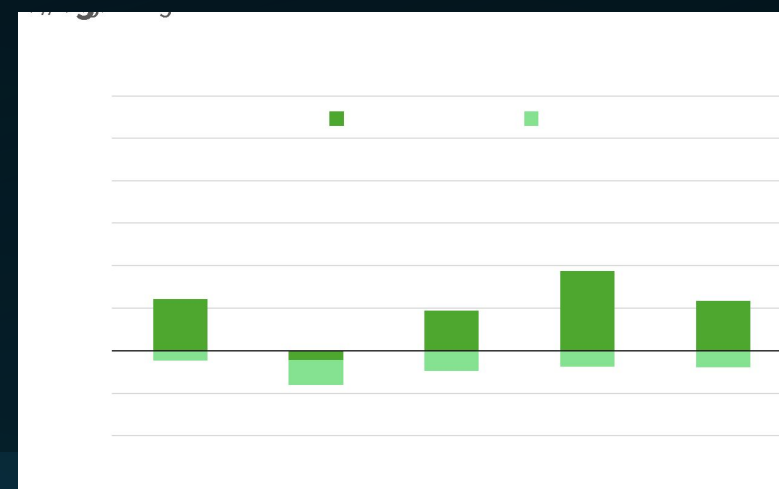
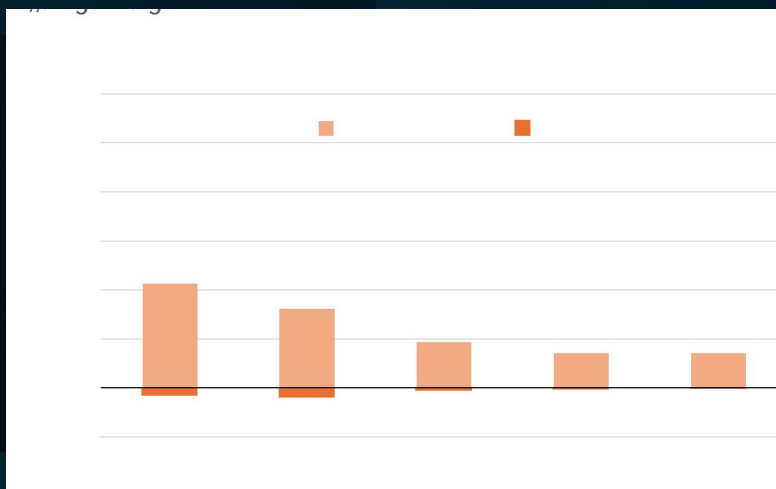
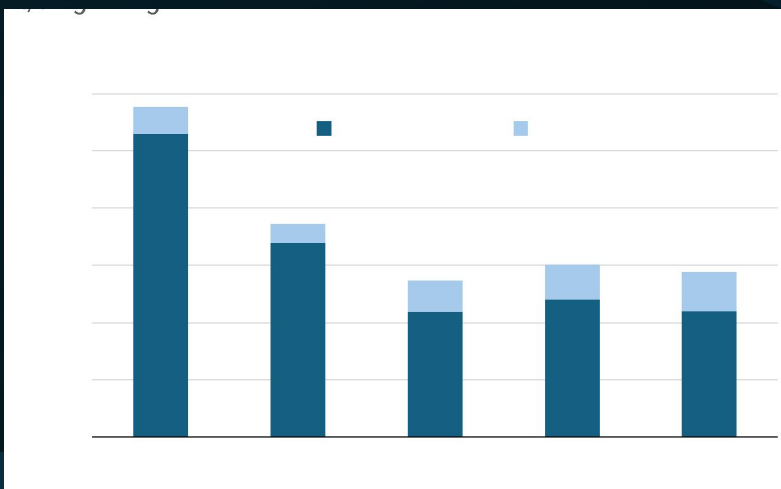
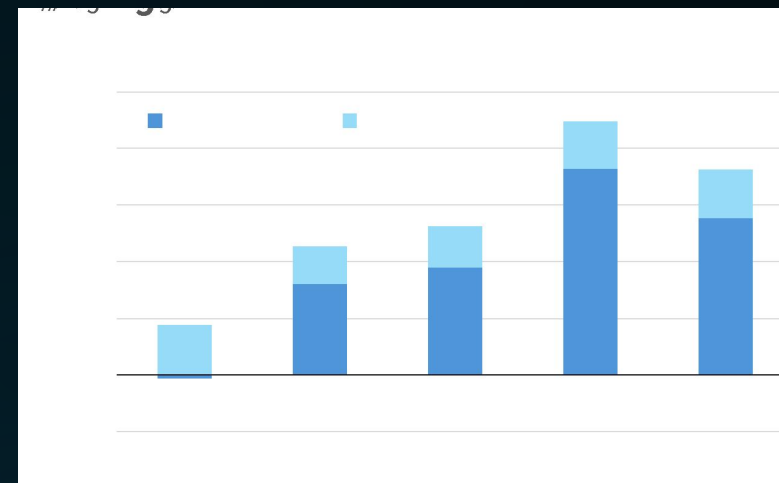
Population Growth

Annual Population Estimates 2020 - 2025

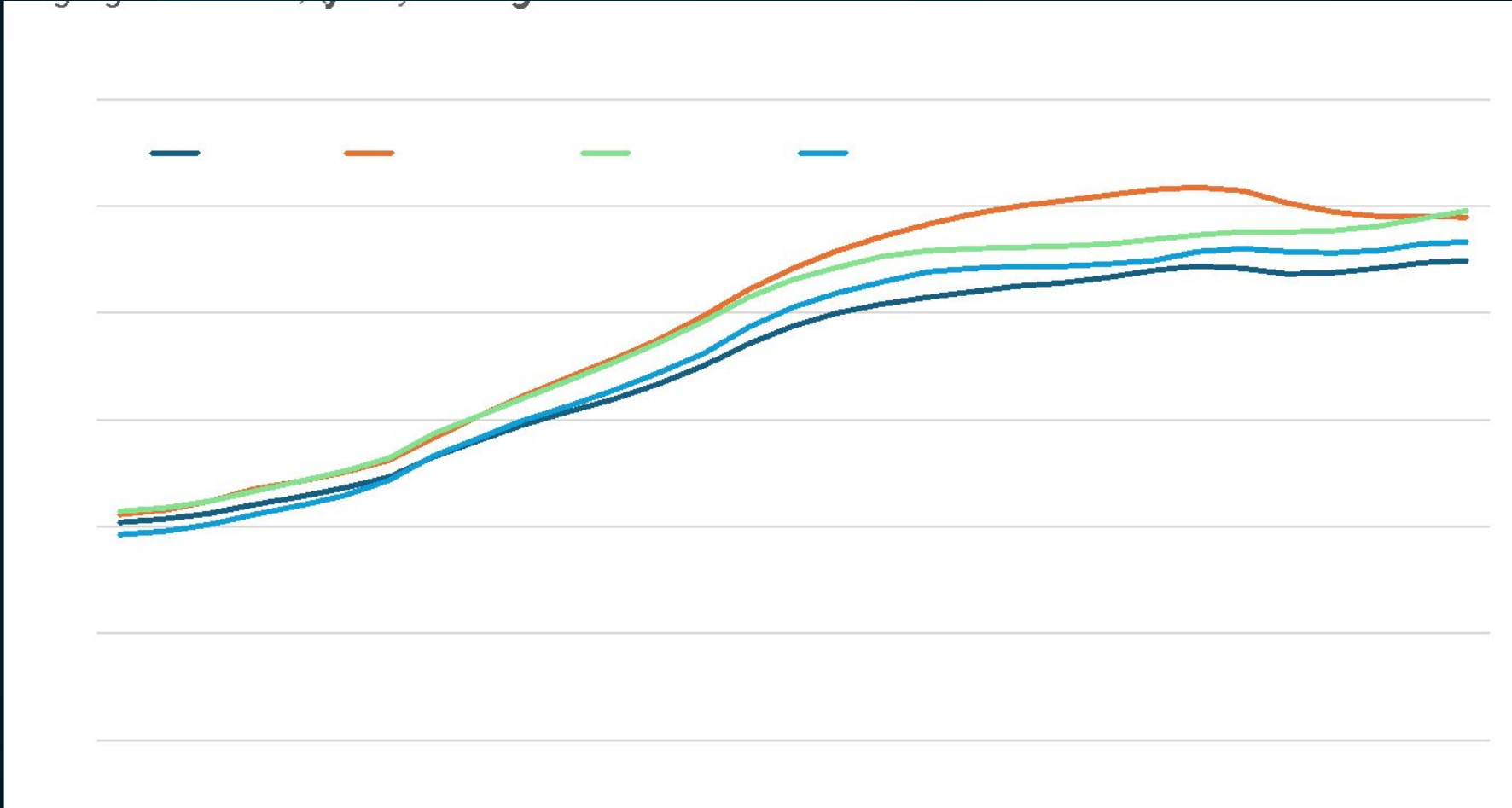
| Area | 2020 | 2025 | Change | Growth Rate | Rank |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|------|
| Idaho | 1,849,328 | 2,029,733 | 180,405 | 9.8% | 1 |
| Montana | 1,087,156 | 1,144,694 | 57,538 | 5.3% | 13 |
| Oregon | 4,243,544 | 4,273,586 | 30,042 | 0.7% | 39 |
| Washington | 7,726,812 | 8,001,020 | 274,208 | 3.5% | 17 |
| United States | 331,578,104 | 341,784,857 | 10,206,753 | 3.1% | - |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Population growth – and particularly net in-migration – tends to be a boost to labor force gains in our states.



Workers Likely Heading Towards Retirement

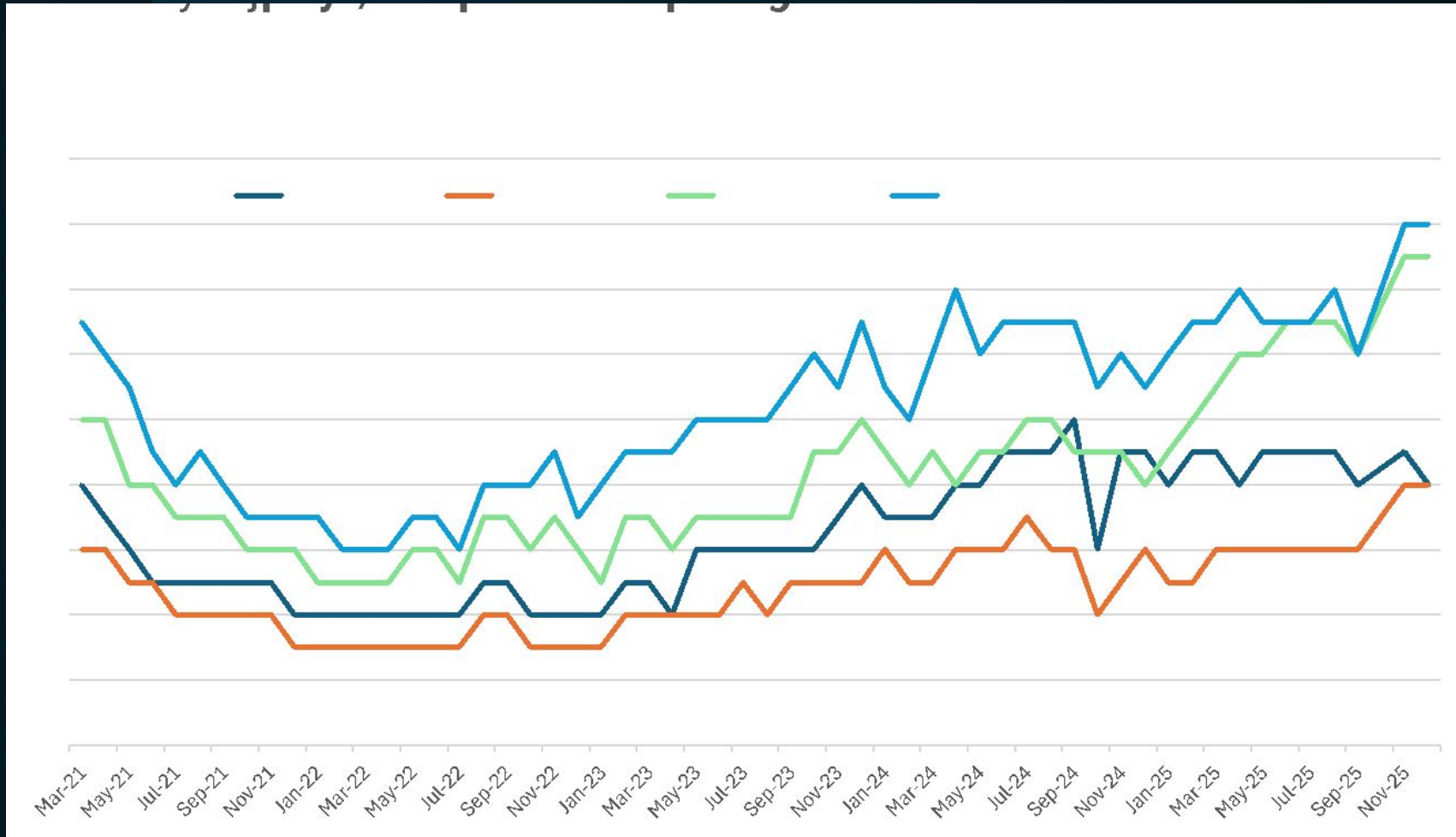


In the early 1990s, one out of every 10 jobs in the U.S. was held by a worker age 55+.

Now, it's one out of four workers.

This can also impact future job growth potential.

Unemployment vs Job Openings



States with higher unemployment and slower job growth have higher unemployment-to-vacancy ratios.

Contacts for Additional Information

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