

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Lane County 10.4%
Oregon 9.2%
National 7.6%

INSTRUMENTS & RELATED PRODUCTS -1,000
GOVERNMENT -7,800
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE -1,400

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF OREGON EMPLOYEES SINCE MAY 1980

CONSTRUCTION -7,700
TRADE -3,000
LOGGING & SAWMILLS -700

THE EMPLOYMENT LIFELINE

BASIC DATA: State of Oregon Employment Division, Dept. of Human Resources, Research and Statistics

Graphic by Max DeRungs

Job supply remains low

By HEIDI SWILLINGER
Of the Emerald

"Employment prospects for students are roughly the same as for everyone else — pretty poor," says Ken Masterson, supervisor of the University branch employment division.

A random check with several Eugene-Springfield employment agencies confirms Masterson's assessment.

"I've never seen it like this," says Meri Burton, manager of Emerald Employment Agency. "We're turning people away at the door if we can't place them."

"It's a disaster," says Sheila Smith, manager of Willamette Personnel Agency. "There's nothing in wood or construction or related fields. Even secretarial and clerical jobs are down. It is a very bad and deep recession that Eugene is in right now."

Smith says there is normally a high turnover in jobs that require unskilled labor. But, "If somebody has a job, they're hanging on for dear life, even if

it's only paying minimum wage."

Three employment agencies listed in the 1980-81 phone book have gone out of business, says Smith, adding that "I think the job market is one of the reasons. If we were running at a peak, I think they'd still be in

business."

According to employment agency managers, some secretarial and clerical jobs are open, but construction-related jobs are non-existent.

"Nothing's going to improve in Eugene until the prime rate

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