# Student Loans in Oregon

Prepared for:

House Interim Committee on Education September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

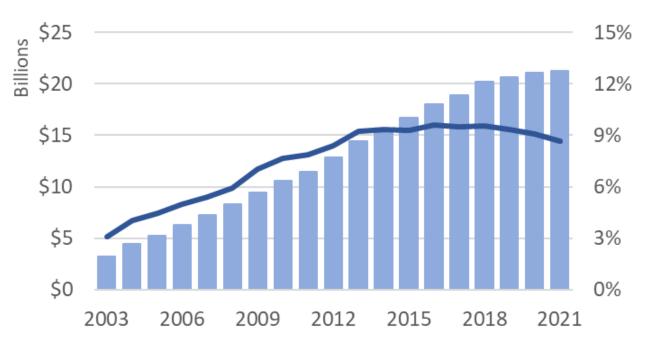
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### Oregon's Student Debt Burden

#### **Oregon Student Loan Debt**

Debt amount, left axis | Share of Income, right axis



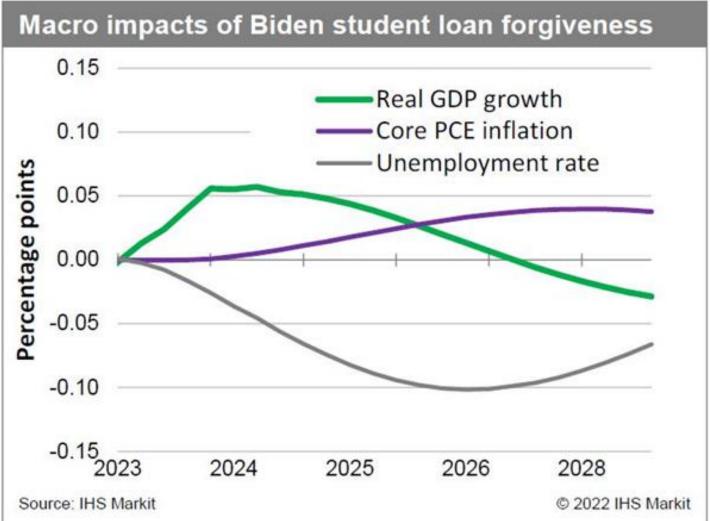
Source: BEA, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

- Measured as a share of income, student debt has remained steady since Oregon emerged from the Great Recession
  - Strong income and job gains have supported borrowers' ability to pay
  - Flat/declining enrollments have led to less new debt entering the system
- Debt per student has been rising at roughly the rate of inflation over the past decade





## Economic Impact of Forgiveness



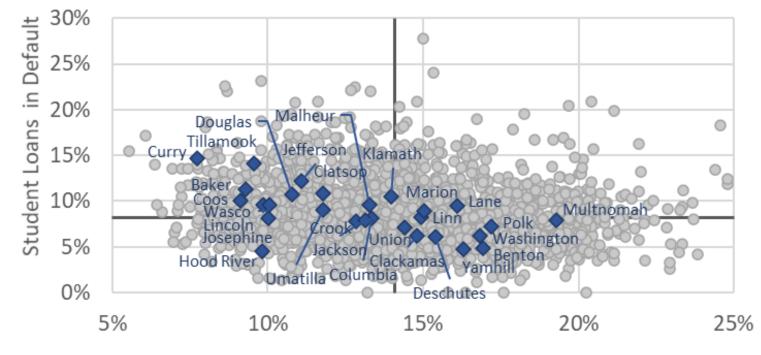
- White House: 499,000 Oregonians overall, 332,000 with Pell Grants
- Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget: \$525 billion cancelled nationwide (around \$7.1 billion or 3.3% of total debt in Oregon)
- Given the likelihood of legal challenges, only the extension of forbearance is currently included in the economic and revenue outlook
- According to our vendor, even the full program would only lead to small changes in the economic outlook
- The boost to consumer spending is estimated to result in increased output through 2026
- Longer term, increased government debt and higher interest rates are expected to weigh on growth
- With forgiven debt not taxable, Oregon's tax revenues would only be impacted indirectly through the federal interest deduction



### Student Debt Across Regions

#### Student Loan Debt in America

February 2022 for All Counties in U.S., Oregon Counties



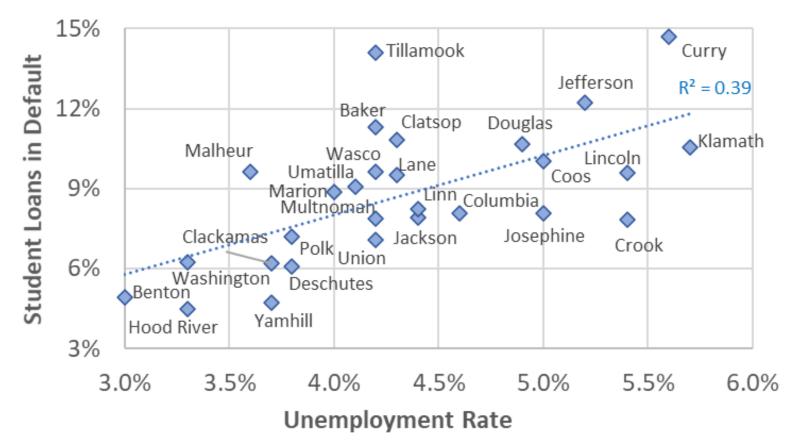
- Most of Oregon's counties fall in the middle of the pack in terms of the share of residents with student loans and the share of those loans in collections
- Largest outliers include Curry, Tillamook and Hood River counties
- Not surprisingly, there is a strong correlation between urban counties and the share of residents with student loans
- Student debt is largest in the counties surrounding the Portland metropolitan area, followed by those home to college towns
- The midsized metropolitan areas of Salem and Bend are above average as well

Share with Student Loans



### Regional Opportunities Matter

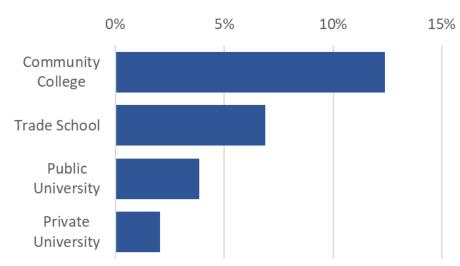
#### Oregon Distressed Student Loans by County



 Even in good times, student loan default rates are closely tied to regional job opportunities

#### Oregon Student Loan Default Rates

Federal Fiscal Year 2018, by type of Oregon-based institution



Source: U.S. Dept of Education, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis



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