Thousands of businesses throughout the state responded to a short survey issued by Business Oregon, Travel Oregon, and the Oregon Small Business Development Center Network to understand the impacts COVID-19 has had on the business community. The survey was open for two weeks in April and available in English and Spanish. More than 5,000 responses were submitted, with over 69% of responses completed by small businesses with fewer than 10 employees.

As Oregon officials begin to execute recovery plans to begin rebuilding the economy, this data will help inform policy decisions, and the development of business guidelines, eventually moving toward easing restrictions on non-essential travel and reopening affected businesses.

Key takeaways from the report:

• Uncertainty, and the inability to plan, is the biggest challenge facing Oregon businesses during COVID-19, followed closely by decline in sales.

• 40% of Oregon businesses have temporarily closed during COVID-19, while another 2% permanently closed their businesses. The situation is worse in rural counties, with 45% temporarily closed and 3% permanently closed.

• Decreased sales was the top reported impact, with 72% of responses citing lower sales, followed by decreased hours for workers, and temporary business closures.

• 27% of Oregon businesses have laid off employees, and 44% have decreased hours for employees.

• 70% of businesses report they have either closed or laid off employees or will have to do so by July if economic conditions do not improve.

• 28% of businesses saw revenue drop by 90% or more in April 2020 (compared to April of last year).

• Revenue declined more for women and minority-owned businesses.

• 50% of tourism businesses* saw revenue decline by 90% or more in April.

• Only 33% of businesses have workforces that can work remotely. Only 12% of tourism jobs can be done remotely.

• Accommodation, arts, entertainment, and recreation sectors faced the largest revenue declines.

*Tourism businesses include accommodations, restaurants & bars, entertainment & recreation, and parts of other industries.

Access the report at: industry.traveloregon.com/covid-19toolkit