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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 5.2% in September

Today, the Oregon Employment Department released monthly employment and unemployment data for September 2025, after a significant delay due to the federal government shutdown.

Oregon's unemployment rate was 5.2% in September and 5.0% in August, after increasing for much of the past two years from the recent low of 3.6% during spring 2023. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.3% in August and 4.4% in September.

In September, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 3,300 jobs, following a revised gain of 3,500 jobs in August. September's gains were largest in **health care and social assistance** (+1,300 jobs); **construction** (+700); and **professional and business services** (+700). Losses were largest in **financial activities** (-700 jobs).

Health care and social assistance continued its rapid expansion of the past several years, adding 11,400 jobs, or 3.7%, between September 2024 and September 2025.

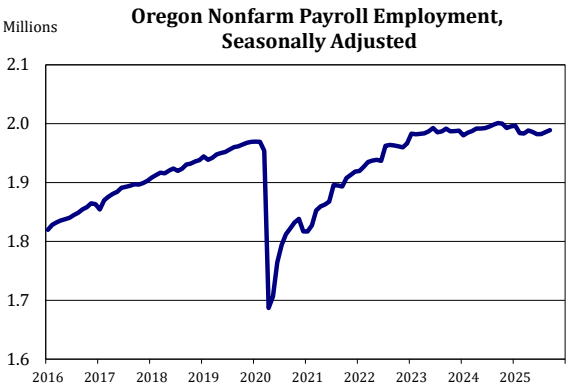
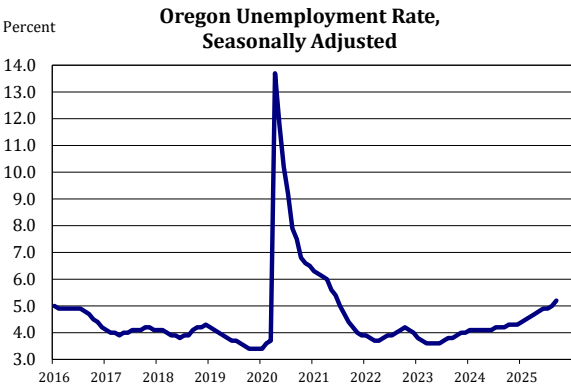
Construction employment was down slightly this summer compared with the two prior summers. September employment totaled 116,100 jobs, which was 1,600 jobs, or 1.4%, below its level in September 2024.

Professional and business services added 700 in September but lost jobs since early 2023. Since its peak of 268,900 jobs in March 2023, it has declined to 253,700 jobs in September (-15,200 jobs, or 5.7%). Each of the three component industries trended downward since early 2023. Over the last 12 months, cutbacks were as follows: **administrative and waste services** (-4,900 jobs or -4.8%); **professional and technical services** (-2,300 jobs, or -2.1%); and **management of companies and enterprises** (-1,000 jobs, or -2.0%).

Manufacturing slipped by 200 jobs in September and is down 9,600 jobs, or 5.1%, since September 2024, with both **durable goods manufacturing** and **nondurable goods manufacturing** each down close to 5%.

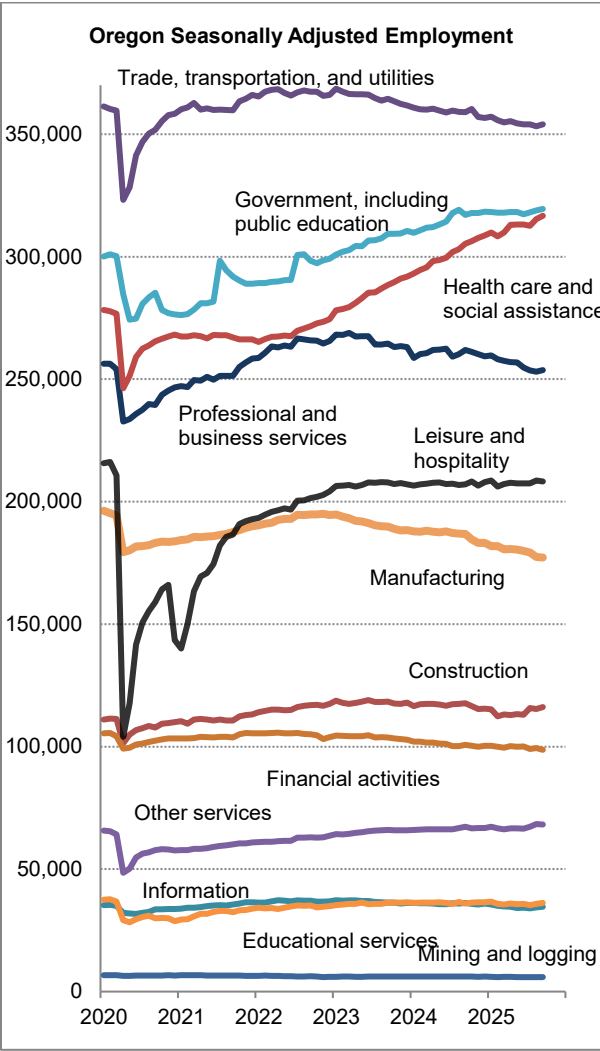
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Dec. 16, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October and November on Wednesday, Jan. 7.



**Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes
August to September 2025**

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	4,700	8,000	3,300
Total private	-8,000	-5,300	2,700
Mining and logging	-100	-100	0
Construction	-2,600	-1,900	700
Manufacturing	-400	-600	-200
Wholesale trade	-700	-300	400
Retail trade	-300	-200	100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	500	800	300
Information	-700	-500	200
Financial activities	-700	-1,400	-700
Professional and business services	300	1,000	700
Private educational services	3,100	3,500	400
Health care and social assistance	-100	1,200	1,300
Leisure and hospitality	-5,600	-5,900	-300
Other services	-700	-900	-200
Government	12,700	13,300	600



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted.

The Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly Oregon payroll employment and labor force data. The estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. The estimates of unemployment are based on a survey of households and other sources.

The Oregon Employment Department publishes payroll employment estimates that are revised quarterly by using employment counts from employer unemployment insurance tax records. All department publications use this Official Oregon Series data unless noted otherwise. This month's release incorporates the April, May, and June 2025 tax records data. The department continues to make the original nonfarm payroll employment series available; these data are produced by the BLS.

The PDF version of the news release can be found at [QualityInfo.org/press-release](https://qualityinfo.org/press-release). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [QualityInfo.org](https://qualityinfo.org), select *Tools*, then choose *LAUS* or *CES* under the *Economy* header. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

To file a claim for unemployment benefits or get more information about unemployment programs, visit unemployment.oregon.gov.

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Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	Change From August 2025	Change From September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,236,232	2,241,369	2,208,600	-5,137	27,632
Unemployed	117,482	122,903	87,075	-5,421	30,407
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.5	3.9	-0.2	1.4
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	5.2	5.0	4.2	0.2	1.0
Employed	2,118,750	2,118,466	2,121,525	284	-2,775
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.9	62.9	62.7	0.0	0.2
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	9.2	9.2	7.7	0.0	1.5
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,992,900	1,984,900	2,001,800	8,000	-8,900
Total private	1,681,000	1,686,300	1,692,900	-5,300	-11,900
Mining and logging	6,000	6,100	6,200	-100	-200
Logging	4,100	4,100	4,200	0	-100
Construction	118,800	120,700	119,700	-1,900	-900
Construction of buildings	34,100	34,900	32,700	-800	1,400
Residential building construction	22,100	22,600	20,800	-500	1,300
Nonresidential building construction	12,000	12,300	11,900	-300	100
Heavy and civil engineering construction	12,500	12,700	12,100	-200	400
Specialty trade contractors	72,200	73,100	74,900	-900	-2,700
Building foundation and exterior contractors	13,400	13,600	13,700	-200	-300
Building equipment contractors	33,600	33,800	35,200	-200	-1,600
Building finishing contractors	14,700	15,100	15,600	-400	-900
Other specialty trade contractors	10,500	10,600	10,400	-100	100
Manufacturing	179,400	180,000	188,100	-600	-8,700
Durable goods	124,500	125,000	131,200	-500	-6,700
Wood product manufacturing	22,300	22,300	22,500	0	-200
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,000	6,000	6,200	0	-200
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,700	8,700	8,500	0	200
Other wood product manufacturing	7,600	7,600	7,800	0	-200
Primary metal manufacturing	7,400	7,400	7,400	0	0
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,300	15,300	15,500	0	-200
Machinery manufacturing	14,000	14,000	13,800	0	200
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	34,900	35,200	39,700	-300	-4,800
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	28,600	28,800	33,100	-200	-4,500
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,900	10,900	11,000	0	-100
Nondurable goods	54,900	55,000	56,900	-100	-2,000
Food manufacturing	28,600	28,200	28,900	400	-300
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	9,500	9,500	9,700	0	-200
Paper manufacturing	3,900	3,800	4,000	100	-100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	355,100	354,800	358,800	300	-3,700
Wholesale trade	74,800	75,100	77,600	-300	-2,800
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	39,200	39,400	40,200	-200	-1,000
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	29,500	29,600	30,500	-100	-1,000
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	6,100	6,100	6,900	0	-800
Retail trade	200,300	200,500	203,600	-200	-3,300
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,200	26,400	26,300	-200	-100
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	17,200	17,400	17,400	-200	-200
Food and beverage retailers	46,800	46,800	47,200	0	-400
General merchandise retailers	39,900	39,600	39,300	300	600
Clothing, clothing accessories, shoe, and jewelry retailers	14,900	15,000	15,000	-100	-100
Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, book, and miscellaneous	27,100	27,000	29,700	100	-2,600

	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	Change From August 2025	Change From September 2024
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	80,000	79,200	77,600	800	2,400
Utilities	5,300	5,300	5,200	0	100
Transportation and warehousing	74,700	73,900	72,400	800	2,300
Truck transportation	18,400	18,300	18,800	100	-400
Couriers and messengers	13,700	13,700	13,800	0	-100
Warehousing and storage	18,600	18,400	17,300	200	1,300
Information	33,700	34,200	35,800	-500	-2,100
Publishing industries	14,900	15,200	15,900	-300	-1,000
Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100
Software publishers	12,800	13,100	13,700	-300	-900
Telecommunications	4,000	4,000	3,900	0	100
Financial activities	98,400	99,800	101,100	-1,400	-2,700
Finance and insurance	52,200	52,700	53,200	-500	-1,000
Credit intermediation and related activities	20,700	21,000	21,200	-300	-500
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,400	24,700	25,200	-300	-800
Real estate and rental and leasing	46,200	47,100	47,900	-900	-1,700
Real estate	40,500	41,200	41,800	-700	-1,300
Professional and business services	256,100	255,100	262,400	1,000	-6,300
Professional and technical services	109,100	109,600	111,200	-500	-2,100
Legal services	12,400	12,400	12,300	0	100
Architectural and engineering services	19,200	19,300	19,500	-100	-300
Computer systems design and related services	17,800	18,000	17,800	-200	0
Management of companies and enterprises	48,000	48,000	48,900	0	-900
Administrative and waste services	99,000	97,500	102,300	1,500	-3,300
Administrative and support services	91,600	90,200	95,200	1,400	-3,600
Employment services	35,900	34,300	39,300	1,600	-3,400
Business support services	6,000	6,000	6,500	0	-500
Services to buildings and dwellings	29,000	29,300	28,400	-300	600
Private education and health services	352,700	348,000	340,900	4,700	11,800
Private educational services	36,000	32,500	36,400	3,500	-400
Health care and social assistance	316,700	315,500	304,500	1,200	12,200
Ambulatory health care services	108,100	108,100	104,800	0	3,300
Hospitals	64,300	64,800	63,000	-500	1,300
Nursing and residential care facilities	61,200	61,100	57,300	100	3,900
Social assistance	83,100	81,500	79,400	1,600	3,700
Leisure and hospitality	212,500	218,400	212,600	-5,900	-100
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	30,400	31,800	29,200	-1,400	1,200
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	21,600	22,900	20,400	-1,300	1,200
Accommodation and food services	182,100	186,600	183,400	-4,500	-1,300
Accommodation	25,900	27,100	25,800	-1,200	100
Food services and drinking places	156,200	159,500	157,600	-3,300	-1,400
Full-service restaurants	62,000	64,600	64,400	-2,600	-2,400
Limited-service eating places	74,300	75,900	75,000	-1,600	-700
Other services	68,300	69,200	67,300	-900	1,000
Repair and maintenance	20,600	20,600	20,900	0	-300
Personal and laundry services	16,300	16,400	15,800	-100	500
Membership associations and organizations	31,400	32,200	30,600	-800	800
Religious organizations	15,100	15,000	14,700	100	400
Government	311,900	298,600	308,900	13,300	3,000
Federal government	29,600	29,700	30,300	-100	-700
State government	49,000	49,100	48,500	-100	500
State education	1,400	1,400	1,300	0	100
Local government	233,300	219,800	230,100	13,500	3,200
Indian tribal	8,900	9,000	8,700	-100	200
Local education	125,700	111,000	126,500	14,700	-800
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor Force Status: Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Employed includes nonfarm payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture and labor disputants. Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

U-6 is the total unemployed plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force plus total employed part-time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics. These survey-based estimates are revised quarterly, based on more complete information from employer tax records.