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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was Unchanged at 5.2% in March

Oregon's unemployment rate was 5.2% in both March and February. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.3% in March and 4.4% in February.

In March, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 4,800 jobs, following a loss of 6,900 jobs, as revised, in February. March's gains were largest in **retail trade** (+900 jobs). Losses were largest in **professional and business services** (-2,400 jobs) and **government** (-800).

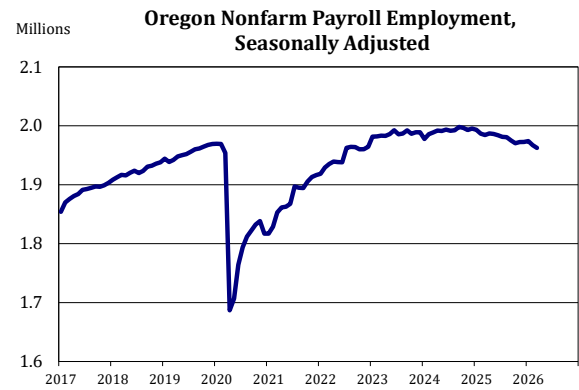
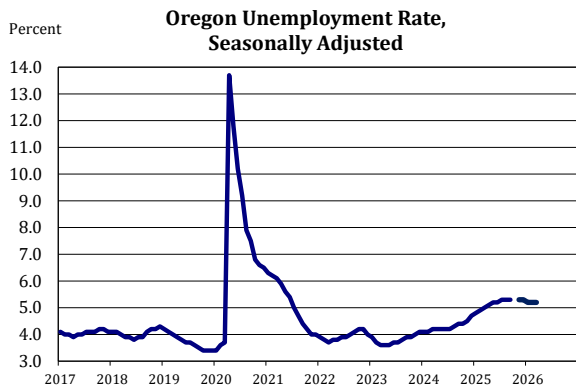
Retail trade rebounded somewhat from weak performance last year. It added 800 jobs in February and 900 jobs in March. However, it was still 1,900 jobs, or 0.9%, below its March 2025 level. Since March 2025, **motor vehicle and parts dealers** cut the most jobs of the published retail component industries. It employed 24,500 in March, which was a drop of 1,100 jobs over the past 12 months.

Government employment has declined over the past six months. Peaking at an all-time high of 318,700 jobs in September, it is now down to 313,200 by March. This was a loss of 5,500 jobs. Federal government continued to drop jobs. At 26,700 jobs in March, it is down 3,000 jobs from its recent high point of 29,700 jobs in October 2024. Local government, which employed 237,200 in March, has been trending downward over the past several months and is down 1,000 jobs, or 0.4%, in the past 12 months.

Professional and business services continued a three-year downtrend, cutting 2,400 jobs in March after a loss of 1,800 jobs in February. In the most recent 12 months, it cut 10,600 jobs, or 4.1%.

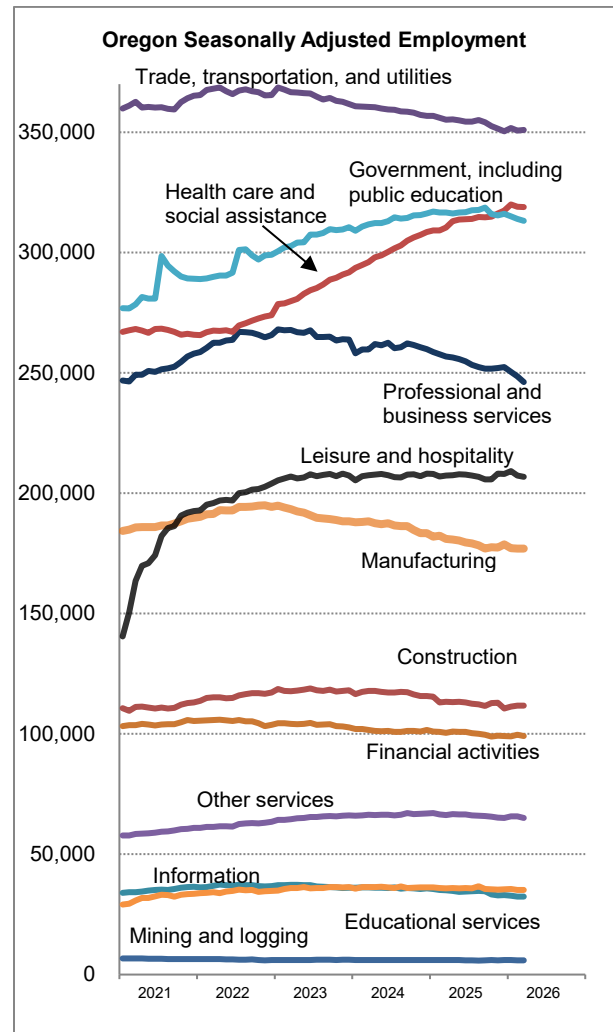
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, May 5, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 20.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes February to March 2026

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



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted, except for the retail trade component industry.

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 PDF version of the news release can be found at QualityInfo.org/press-release. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit 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

	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	Change From February 2026	Change From March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,194,724	2,195,225	2,205,233	-501	-10,509
Unemployed	116,923	124,545	116,510	-7,622	413
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.7	5.3	-0.4	0.0
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	5.2	5.2	5.0	0.0	0.2
Employed	2,077,801	2,070,680	2,088,723	7,121	-10,922
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.6	62.8	62.8	-0.2	-0.2
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	9.0	9.0	9.0	0.0	0.0
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,951,400	1,950,500	1,977,300	900	-25,900
Total private	1,632,200	1,631,800	1,653,500	400	-21,300
Mining and logging	5,800	5,700	5,800	100	0
Logging	4,000	3,900	3,900	100	100
Construction	108,700	108,100	110,600	600	-1,900
Construction of buildings	29,600	29,700	30,200	-100	-600
Residential building construction	18,900	18,900	19,200	0	-300
Nonresidential building construction	10,700	10,800	11,000	-100	-300
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,400	11,300	11,300	100	100
Specialty trade contractors	67,700	67,100	69,100	600	-1,400
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,000	12,000	12,300	0	-300
Building equipment contractors	33,800	33,400	33,500	400	300
Building finishing contractors	12,400	12,300	13,900	100	-1,500
Other specialty trade contractors	9,500	9,400	9,400	100	100
Manufacturing	174,700	174,400	179,400	300	-4,700
Durable goods	120,900	120,900	126,000	0	-5,100
Wood product manufacturing	21,400	21,500	22,300	-100	-900
Sawmills and wood preservation	5,800	5,800	5,900	0	-100
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,300	8,400	8,600	-100	-300
Other wood product manufacturing	7,300	7,300	7,800	0	-500
Primary metal manufacturing	7,300	7,300	7,400	0	-100
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	14,800	14,800	15,300	0	-500
Machinery manufacturing	13,400	13,400	13,900	0	-500
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	31,500	31,600	35,800	-100	-4,300
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	25,400	25,500	29,200	-100	-3,800
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,300	4,300	4,500	0	-200
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,600	10,600	10,600	0	0
Nondurable goods	53,800	53,500	53,400	300	400
Food manufacturing	27,700	27,700	27,200	0	500
Trade, transportation, and utilities	347,100	348,100	351,200	-1,000	-4,100
Wholesale trade	73,400	73,500	75,900	-100	-2,500
Retail trade	196,900	196,700	198,600	200	-1,700
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	24,500	24,900	25,600	-400	-1,100
Food and beverage retailers	45,900	45,800	46,100	100	-200
General merchandise retailers	39,400	39,100	39,300	300	100

	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	Change From February 2026	Change From March 2025
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	76,800	77,900	76,700	-1,100	100
Utilities	5,200	5,200	5,200	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	71,600	72,700	71,500	-1,100	100
Truck transportation	17,000	17,000	17,700	0	-700
Couriers and messengers	15,800	16,200	16,500	-400	-700
Warehousing and storage	17,700	18,000	14,600	-300	3,100
Information	31,900	31,900	34,900	0	-3,000
Software publishers	12,300	12,300	13,200	0	-900
Financial activities	97,700	98,600	99,400	-900	-1,700
Finance and insurance	51,100	51,600	52,900	-500	-1,800
Credit intermediation and related activities	20,600	20,800	21,100	-200	-500
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,300	24,200	25,100	100	-800
Real estate and rental and leasing	46,600	47,000	46,500	-400	100
Real estate	41,000	41,300	40,900	-300	100
Professional and business services	244,800	246,200	256,100	-1,400	-11,300
Professional and technical services	105,400	107,000	110,400	-1,600	-5,000
Architectural and engineering services	18,500	18,600	19,000	-100	-500
Computer systems design and related services	15,900	16,400	17,500	-500	-1,600
Management of companies and enterprises	46,900	47,000	48,400	-100	-1,500
Administrative and waste services	92,500	92,200	97,300	300	-4,800
Employment services	32,600	32,700	37,100	-100	-4,500
Private education and health services	356,600	356,000	348,500	600	8,100
Private educational services	36,700	36,600	38,000	100	-1,300
Health care and social assistance	319,900	319,400	310,500	500	9,400
Ambulatory health care services	105,400	105,500	105,000	-100	400
Hospitals	65,300	65,500	64,100	-200	1,200
Nursing and residential care facilities	61,700	61,500	59,000	200	2,700
Social assistance	87,500	86,900	82,400	600	5,100
Leisure and hospitality	200,000	197,600	201,800	2,400	-1,800
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	27,000	26,700	29,500	300	-2,500
Accommodation and food services	173,000	170,900	172,300	2,100	700
Accommodation	23,000	23,000	23,100	0	-100
Food services and drinking places	150,000	147,900	149,200	2,100	800
Restaurants and other eating places	134,300	132,700	132,200	1,600	2,100
Other services	64,900	65,200	65,800	-300	-900
Repair and maintenance	19,700	19,900	20,200	-200	-500
Personal and laundry services	15,900	16,000	15,600	-100	300
Membership associations and organizations	29,300	29,300	30,000	0	-700
Government	319,200	318,700	323,800	500	-4,600
Federal government	26,200	25,900	28,500	300	-2,300
State government	49,100	49,200	49,200	-100	-100
State education	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
Local government	243,900	243,600	246,100	300	-2,200
Indian tribal	9,100	9,100	8,800	0	300
Local education	137,900	138,000	141,800	-100	-3,900
Labor-management disputes	0	0	200	0	-200

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.