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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 5.1% in August

Oregon's unemployment rate was little changed at 5.1% in August and 5.2% in July. It has been within a tight range between 5.0% and 5.3% for the past 18 months, since March 2025 when it was 5.0%. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.1% in both July and August.

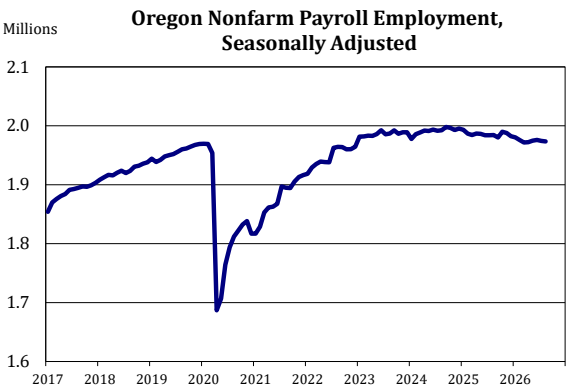
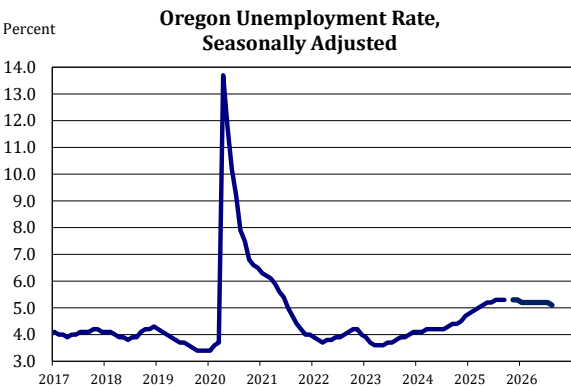
In August, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 800 jobs, following a revised loss of 1,800 jobs in July. August's losses were largest in **professional and business services** (-1,100 jobs). Gains were largest in **construction** (+700 jobs) and **retail trade** (+500).

In the past 12 months, payroll employment dropped by 10,900 jobs, or 0.5%. **Health care and social assistance** continued its rapid growth of the past four years by adding 10,200 jobs, or 3.2%, in the past 12 months. **Private education** (+800, or 2.2%) and **other services** (+1,300 jobs, or 2.0%) were the only other major industries that added jobs since August 2025. **Manufacturing** (-6,800 jobs, or -3.8%) cut the most jobs in that time. Most of the other major industries cut jobs by less than 2%.

However, there were signs of stabilization over the past five months, as total nonfarm payroll employment inched upward by 1,800 jobs, or 0.1%. The gains since March were largest in health care and social assistance (+3,800 jobs); construction (+2,200); other services (+1,700); retail trade (+1,400); and private education (+1,400). These gains were partially offset by losses in manufacturing (-3,100 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-2,600); and government (-2,000).

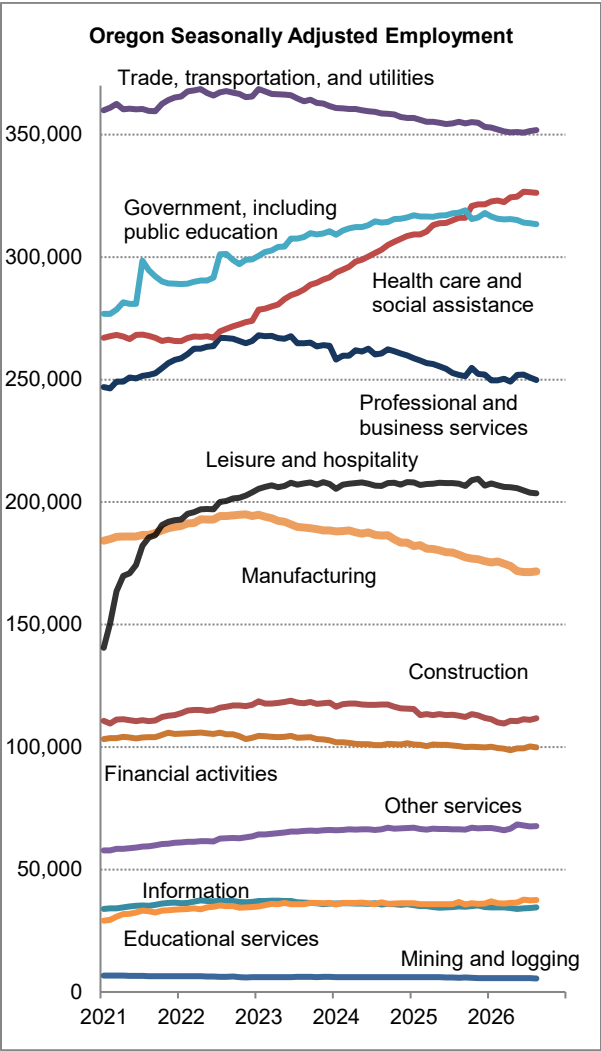
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Sept. 22, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Wednesday, Oct. 14.



**Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes
July to August 2026**

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



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 January, February, and March 2026 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

	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	Change From July 2026	Change From August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,234,362	2,219,038	2,233,608	15,324	754
Unemployed	113,792	117,487	122,862	-3,695	-9,070
Unemployment rate	5.1	5.3	5.5	-0.2	-0.4
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	5.1	5.2	5.3	-0.1	-0.2
Employed	2,120,570	2,101,551	2,110,746	19,019	9,824
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.5	62.4	63.0	0.1	-0.5
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	9.0	9.0	9.2	0.0	-0.2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,975,800	1,971,200	1,977,600	4,600	-1,800
Total private	1,681,600	1,679,100	1,681,600	2,500	0
Mining and logging	5,600	5,700	6,100	-100	-500
Logging	3,700	3,800	4,200	-100	-500
Construction	117,400	115,200	116,900	2,200	500
Construction of buildings	32,300	31,600	32,000	700	300
Residential building construction	20,600	20,200	20,500	400	100
Nonresidential building construction	11,700	11,400	11,500	300	200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	12,600	12,300	12,500	300	100
Specialty trade contractors	72,500	71,300	72,400	1,200	100
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,700	12,400	13,300	300	-600
Building equipment contractors	33,400	33,200	33,700	200	-300
Building finishing contractors	16,000	15,600	15,200	400	800
Other specialty trade contractors	10,400	10,100	10,200	300	200
Manufacturing	174,700	175,000	181,400	-300	-6,700
Durable goods	121,200	120,800	124,800	400	-3,600
Wood product manufacturing	21,600	21,800	22,000	-200	-400
Sawmills and wood preservation	5,800	5,900	5,900	-100	-100
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,400	8,500	8,600	-100	-200
Other wood product manufacturing	7,400	7,400	7,500	0	-100
Primary metal manufacturing	7,700	7,600	7,400	100	300
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,000	15,000	15,300	0	-300
Machinery manufacturing	13,800	13,800	13,800	0	0
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	31,500	31,700	35,000	-200	-3,500
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	25,600	25,600	28,500	0	-2,900
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,500	4,500	4,400	0	100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	11,400	11,400	10,600	0	800
Nondurable goods	53,500	54,200	56,600	-700	-3,100
Food manufacturing	28,500	28,900	29,800	-400	-1,300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	351,500	350,200	355,500	1,300	-4,000
Wholesale trade	74,000	73,700	75,300	300	-1,300
Retail trade	199,000	198,800	200,800	200	-1,800
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	25,200	25,500	25,900	-300	-700
Food and beverage retailers	45,400	45,500	46,900	-100	-1,500
General merchandise retailers	39,600	39,300	38,900	300	700

	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	Change From July 2026	Change From August 2025
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	78,500	77,700	79,400	800	-900
Utilities	5,300	5,300	5,300	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	73,200	72,400	74,100	800	-900
Truck transportation	16,800	16,800	17,800	0	-1,000
Couriers and messengers	16,400	15,900	16,000	500	400
Warehousing and storage	17,500	17,400	18,000	100	-500
Information	35,100	35,300	35,100	-200	0
Software publishers	12,800	12,900	13,100	-100	-300
Financial activities	101,000	102,100	101,500	-1,100	-500
Finance and insurance	52,100	52,600	52,900	-500	-800
Credit intermediation and related activities	21,400	21,500	21,100	-100	300
Insurance carriers and related activities	25,100	25,300	25,000	-200	100
Real estate and rental and leasing	48,900	49,500	48,600	-600	300
Real estate	43,100	43,500	42,400	-400	700
Professional and business services	251,400	251,300	251,300	100	100
Professional and technical services	108,900	109,500	108,600	-600	300
Architectural and engineering services	18,900	19,000	19,300	-100	-400
Computer systems design and related services	16,900	17,000	17,500	-100	-600
Management of companies and enterprises	46,500	46,500	47,000	0	-500
Administrative and waste services	96,000	95,300	95,700	700	300
Employment services	35,300	34,200	33,000	1,100	2,300
Private education and health services	360,800	359,700	348,300	1,100	12,500
Private educational services	35,400	34,300	32,400	1,100	3,000
Health care and social assistance	325,400	325,400	315,900	0	9,500
Ambulatory health care services	109,400	109,500	107,900	-100	1,500
Hospitals	64,700	64,700	63,900	0	800
Nursing and residential care facilities	63,300	63,700	60,900	-400	2,400
Social assistance	88,000	87,500	83,200	500	4,800
Leisure and hospitality	216,100	217,200	218,300	-1,100	-2,200
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	35,100	34,800	32,100	300	3,000
Accommodation and food services	181,000	182,400	186,200	-1,400	-5,200
Accommodation	25,200	25,700	26,700	-500	-1,500
Food services and drinking places	155,800	156,700	159,500	-900	-3,700
Other services	68,000	67,400	67,200	600	800
Repair and maintenance	20,600	21,000	20,600	-400	0
Personal and laundry services	16,200	15,900	16,100	300	100
Membership associations and organizations	31,200	30,500	30,500	700	700
Government	294,200	292,100	296,000	2,100	-1,800
Federal government	27,400	27,600	28,900	-200	-1,500
State government	49,700	49,600	49,400	100	300
State education	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
Local government	217,100	214,900	217,700	2,200	-600
Indian tribal	9,300	9,200	9,200	100	100
Local education	108,200	105,900	110,600	2,300	-2,400
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.