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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 5.0% in September

Oregon's unemployment rate was little changed at 5.0% in September and 5.1% in August. It has held to a tight range between 5.0% and 5.3% for the past 19 months, since March 2025 when it was 5.0%. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.2% in September and 4.1% in August.

In September, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 5,800 jobs, following a revised gain of 2,600 jobs in August. September's gains were largest in **construction** (+2,000 jobs); **health care and social assistance** (+1,700); and **leisure and hospitality** (+1,300). Losses were largest in **retail trade** (-1,500 jobs).

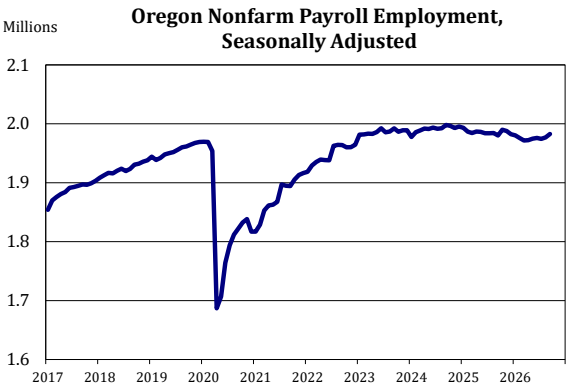
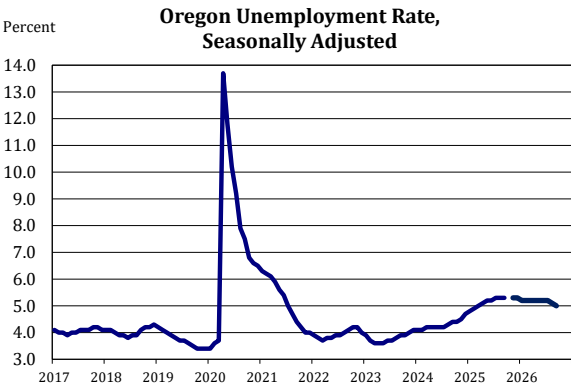
In the past 12 months, payroll employment rose by 2,600 jobs, or 0.1%. **Health care and social assistance** continued its rapid growth during the past four years by adding 12,100 jobs, or 3.8%, in the past 12 months. **Other services** (+1,600 jobs, or 2.4%) and **private education** (+1,300, or 3.6%) were the other major industries that added the most jobs since September 2025. **Manufacturing** (-4,300 jobs, or -2.4%) cut the most jobs in that time, followed by **government** (-4,000 jobs, or -1.3%).

Construction employment drifted upward during April through August, then jumped higher by 2,000 jobs in September. In the past 12 months, each of the three component industries expanded: **construction of buildings** (+900 jobs); **specialty trade contractors** (+500); and **heavy and civil engineering construction** (+100).

Several industries rebounded over the most recent two months. Government added 1,300 jobs since July, following losses in prior months. Nonetheless, it has cut 4,000 jobs in the past 12 months. Manufacturing added 1,700 jobs since July, partially reversing steady declines during the past three years. Leisure and hospitality's September gain reversed losses in June and July.

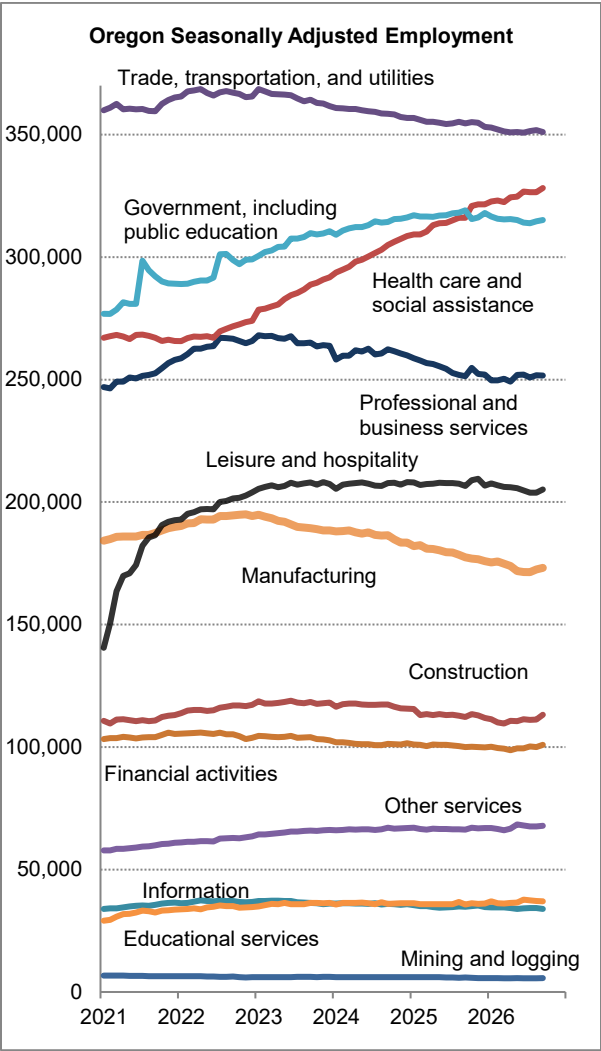
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Oct. 20, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October on Wednesday, Nov. 18.



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

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	7,900	13,700	5,800
Total private	-5,800	-500	5,300
Mining and logging	-100	0	100
Construction	-1,800	200	2,000
Manufacturing	-300	300	600
Wholesale trade	100	600	500
Retail trade	-200	-1,700	-1,500
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	900	1,000	100
Information	-200	-600	-400
Financial activities	-100	800	900
Professional and business services	200	0	-200
Private educational services	2,600	2,500	-100
Health care and social assistance	0	1,700	1,700
Leisure and hospitality	-6,400	-5,100	1,300
Other services	-500	-200	300
Government	13,700	14,200	500



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the component industries within construction.

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

	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	Change From August 2026	Change From September 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,230,311	2,234,614	2,227,806	-4,303	2,505
Unemployed	94,836	113,376	117,300	-18,540	-22,464
Unemployment rate	4.3	5.1	5.3	-0.8	-1.0
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	5.0	5.1	5.3	-0.1	-0.3
Employed	2,135,475	2,121,238	2,110,506	14,237	24,969
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.6	62.5	63.0	0.1	-0.5
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	8.9	9.0	9.1	0.0	-0.2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,991,600	1,977,900	1,981,600	13,700	10,000
Total private	1,682,100	1,682,600	1,670,200	-500	11,900
Mining and logging	5,700	5,700	6,100	0	-400
Logging	3,700	3,800	4,200	-100	-500
Construction	116,500	116,300	115,000	200	1,500
Construction of buildings	32,300	32,100	31,400	200	900
Residential building construction	20,700	20,500	20,100	200	600
Nonresidential building construction	11,600	11,600	11,300	0	300
Heavy and civil engineering construction	12,600	12,500	12,500	100	100
Specialty trade contractors	71,600	71,700	71,100	-100	500
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,700	12,600	13,000	100	-300
Building equipment contractors	33,100	32,900	33,200	200	-100
Building finishing contractors	15,400	15,900	14,800	-500	600
Other specialty trade contractors	10,400	10,300	10,100	100	300
Manufacturing	175,600	175,300	179,200	300	-3,600
Durable goods	121,300	121,500	122,900	-200	-1,600
Wood product manufacturing	21,600	21,600	21,900	0	-300
Sawmills and wood preservation	5,800	5,800	5,900	0	-100
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,400	8,400	8,600	0	-200
Other wood product manufacturing	7,400	7,400	7,400	0	0
Primary metal manufacturing	7,500	7,700	7,500	-200	0
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	14,900	15,000	15,100	-100	-200
Machinery manufacturing	13,800	13,800	13,800	0	0
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	31,300	31,600	33,300	-300	-2,000
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	25,300	25,500	26,900	-200	-1,600
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,400	4,500	4,400	-100	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	11,300	11,400	10,800	-100	500
Nondurable goods	54,300	53,800	56,300	500	-2,000
Food manufacturing	28,700	28,800	29,400	-100	-700
Trade, transportation, and utilities	351,200	351,300	354,600	-100	-3,400
Wholesale trade	74,300	73,700	74,900	600	-600
Retail trade	197,600	199,300	199,700	-1,700	-2,100
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	24,900	25,200	25,700	-300	-800
Food and beverage retailers	45,600	45,600	46,600	0	-1,000
General merchandise retailers	40,100	39,500	39,100	600	1,000

	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	Change From August 2026	Change From September 2025
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	79,300	78,300	80,000	1,000	-700
Utilities	5,400	5,300	5,300	100	100
Transportation and warehousing	73,900	73,000	74,700	900	-800
Truck transportation	17,100	16,800	17,700	300	-600
Couriers and messengers	16,800	16,400	16,400	400	400
Warehousing and storage	18,000	17,500	17,800	500	200
Information	34,400	35,000	34,600	-600	-200
Software publishers	12,600	12,800	13,000	-200	-400
Financial activities	101,700	100,900	100,400	800	1,300
Finance and insurance	52,700	52,000	52,500	700	200
Credit intermediation and related activities	21,600	21,400	21,000	200	600
Insurance carriers and related activities	25,200	25,100	24,900	100	300
Real estate and rental and leasing	49,000	48,900	47,900	100	1,100
Real estate	43,200	43,000	41,900	200	1,300
Professional and business services	253,900	253,900	251,300	0	2,600
Professional and technical services	109,500	109,400	107,300	100	2,200
Architectural and engineering services	18,900	18,900	19,100	0	-200
Computer systems design and related services	16,900	17,000	17,400	-100	-500
Management of companies and enterprises	46,500	46,700	46,800	-200	-300
Administrative and waste services	97,900	97,800	97,200	100	700
Employment services	36,000	36,500	35,300	-500	700
Private education and health services	364,700	360,500	351,400	4,200	13,300
Private educational services	37,600	35,100	35,900	2,500	1,700
Health care and social assistance	327,100	325,400	315,500	1,700	11,600
Ambulatory health care services	109,900	109,800	107,600	100	2,300
Hospitals	64,900	64,800	64,200	100	700
Nursing and residential care facilities	62,800	63,300	60,700	-500	2,100
Social assistance	89,500	87,500	83,000	2,000	6,500
Leisure and hospitality	210,800	215,900	211,200	-5,100	-400
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	31,800	35,000	29,200	-3,200	2,600
Accommodation and food services	179,000	180,900	182,000	-1,900	-3,000
Accommodation	25,400	25,300	25,700	100	-300
Food services and drinking places	153,600	155,600	156,300	-2,000	-2,700
Other services	67,600	67,800	66,400	-200	1,200
Repair and maintenance	20,600	20,700	20,300	-100	300
Personal and laundry services	15,900	16,100	15,900	-200	0
Membership associations and organizations	31,100	31,000	30,200	100	900
Government	309,500	295,300	311,400	14,200	-1,900
Federal government	27,300	27,400	29,000	-100	-1,700
State government	49,500	49,700	49,300	-200	200
State education	1,200	1,300	1,300	-100	-100
Local government	232,700	218,200	233,100	14,500	-400
Indian tribal	9,300	9,400	9,000	-100	300
Local education	125,200	109,300	127,100	15,900	-1,900
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.