State of Oregon
Employment Department

NEWS

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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 4.9% in October

Oregon's unemployment rate was little changed at 4.9% in October from 5.0% in September. It has held to a range between 4.9% and 5.3% for the past 21 months, since February 2025 when it was 4.9%. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.1% in October and 4.2% in September.

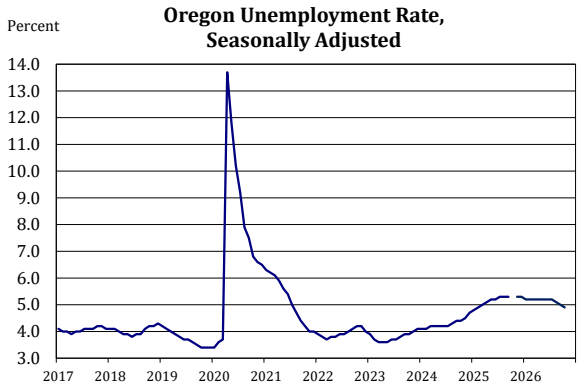
In October, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 300 jobs, following a revised gain of 4,700 jobs in September. October's gains were largest in **professional and business services** (+2,200 jobs); **health care and social assistance** (+1,300); and **leisure and hospitality** (+900). Losses were largest in **construction** (-1,800 jobs); **retail trade** (-1,500); and **wholesale trade** (-1,400).

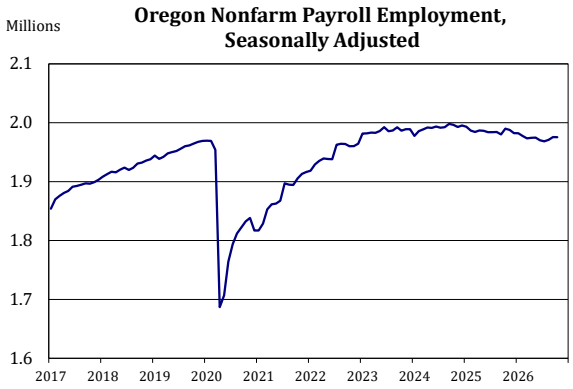
Several industries rebounded over the past three months. Professional and business services added 3,200 jobs since July. Manufacturing added 2,600 jobs since July, partially reversing steady declines during the past three years. Leisure and hospitality added 2,400 jobs in the past three months, following a flat employment trend during the prior three years. Government added 2,300 jobs since July, following losses in prior months.

Health care and social assistance was the fastest growing industry in the past 12 months, adding 6,700 jobs, or 2.1% in that time. While the health care industries have seen slower growth, social assistance continued its very rapid growth of the past four years, adding 3,900 jobs, or 4.6%, in the past 12 months.

Construction employment continued its decline of the past three years. At 108,200 jobs in October, it was down 5,300 jobs, or 4.7%, in the past 12 months. Losses during that time were most pronounced in building equipment contractors (-2,700 jobs, or -8.1%) and building finishing contractors (-1,200 jobs, or -8.2%). Since reaching a record high of 118,900 jobs in June 2023, construction declined by 10,700 jobs, or 9.0%.

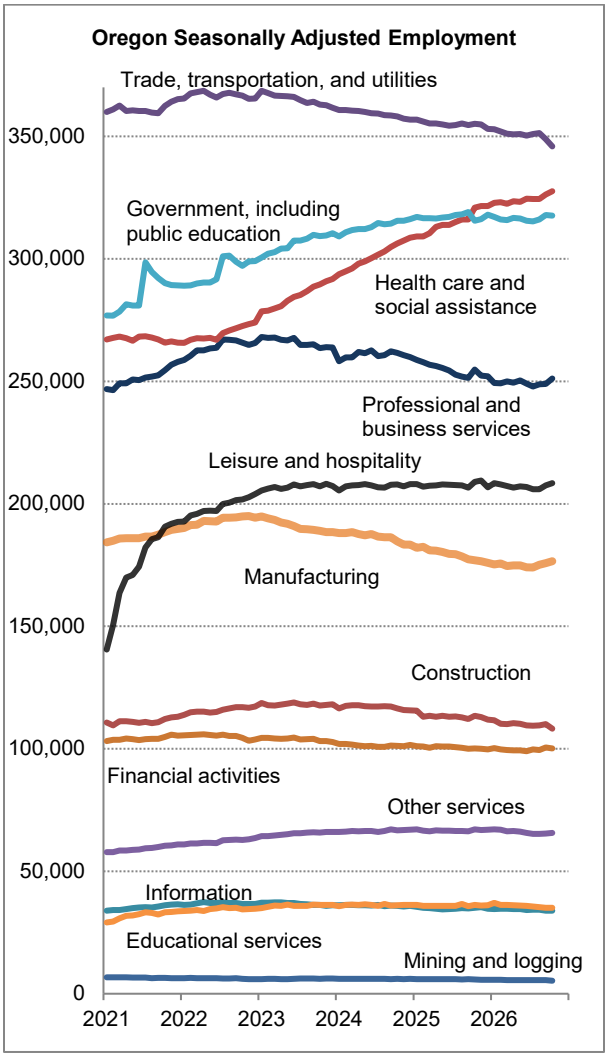
Next Press Releases
The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Nov. 24, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Wednesday, Dec. 16.





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

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	8,000	7,700	-300
Total private	-2,300	-2,300	0
Mining and logging	-100	-300	-200
Construction	-500	-2,300	-1,800
Manufacturing	-1,100	-300	800
Wholesale trade	-400	-1,800	-1,400
Retail trade	1,500	0	-1,500
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	300	-100
Information	0	0	0
Financial activities	-600	-1,000	-400
Professional and business services	400	2,600	2,200
Private educational services	900	900	0
Health care and social assistance	600	1,900	1,300
Leisure and hospitality	-3,500	-2,600	900
Other services	100	300	200
Government	10,300	10,000	-300



Notes:
All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the component industries within construction, health care, and social assistance.

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 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. 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.

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. OED provides free help so you can use our services. Some examples are sign language and spoken-language interpreters, written materials in other languages, large print, audio, and other formats. To get help, please call 503-947-1444. TTY users call 711. You can also send an email to communications@employ.oregon.gov.

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