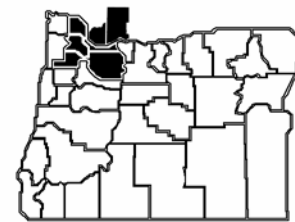




Portland Metro LABOR TRENDS

Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington,
Yamhill, Clark (WA) & Skamania (WA) Counties



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April 2006

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rates

Portland MSA	Seasonally	
	Raw	Adjusted
Feb 2006	6.0%	NA
Jan 2006	5.3%	NA
Feb 2005	6.9%	NA
Oregon		
Feb 2006	6.5%	5.6%
Jan 2006	6.0%	5.3%
Feb 2005	7.5%	6.4%
United States		
Feb 2006	5.1%	4.8%
Jan 2006	5.1%	4.7%
Feb 2005	5.8%	5.4%

Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	February	
	2006	2005
Total	992,100	963,000
Manufacturing	124,800	121,700
Construction	58,600	53,500
Trade, Trans., & Utilities	197,500	193,000
Information	22,800	22,600
Financial Activities	68,300	66,400
Professional & Bus. Svc.	129,000	123,500
Educ. & Health Services	123,700	119,500
Leisure & Hospitality	89,100	86,400
Government	142,400	140,700
High Tech	51,000	49,000
(manufacturing and nonmanufacturing)		

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

All Urban Consumers

United States	Feb '06	2005
Yearly Change	3.6%	3.4%

Next release: April 19, 2006

Portland-Salem	2nd Half '05	1st Half '05
Yearly Change	2.5%	2.6%

Next release: August 16, 2006

CPI Hotline: (503) 326-2081
www.bls.gov/cpi

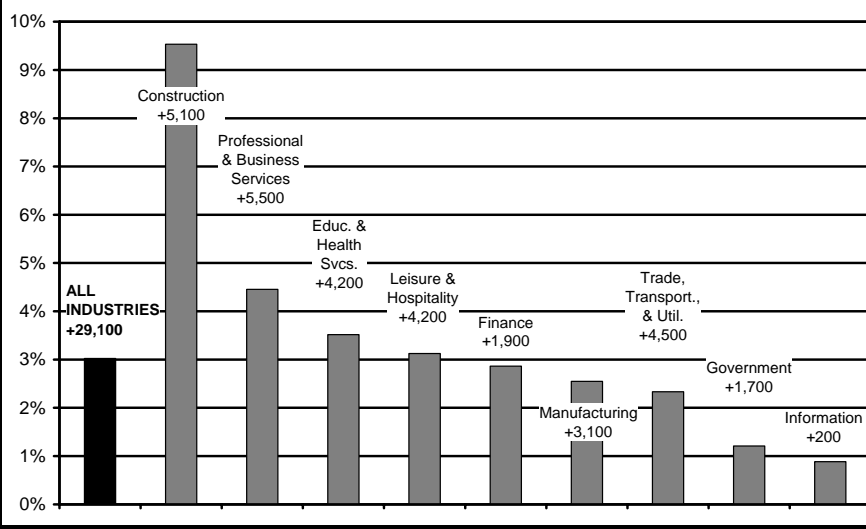
Employment Trends: Local

The Portland metro area's February unemployment rate was 6.0 percent, up from January's 5.3 percent. The rate, which is not adjusted for seasonality, typically peaks each February or March. Approximately 66,500 area residents were unemployed in February. That's 9,400 fewer than a year before, when the jobless rate was 6.9 percent.

Area employers added 7,500 nonfarm jobs to their payrolls over the month. Gains are typical for this time of year as staff and students return to school following the winter break. Private education added 2,700 jobs to bring employment 1,200 (+5.4%) above year-ago levels. Public schools added 1,800 jobs in February for a year-over-year gain of 1,600 (+2.5%).

Professional and business services was the other large gainer in February. It added 1,900 jobs as tax preparation agencies geared up for their busiest time of the year. Leisure and hospitality added 800 jobs and was up 2,700 (+3.1%) over the year.

**Year-Over-Year Nonfarm Job Growth
Portland Metro Area: February 2006**



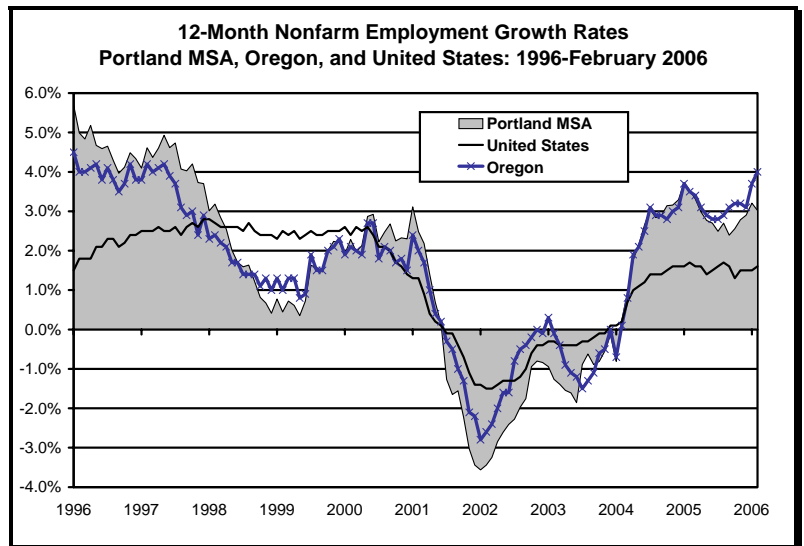
Trade, transportation, and utilities was the lone major industry to post a loss. It shed 1,100 jobs as general merchandise and clothing stores finished their post-holiday layoffs. Losses were tempered somewhat by a new Wal-Mart in Clark County. Total sector employment added 4,500 jobs (+2.3%) over the year due largely to strength in retail (+3,500; +3.5%).

February job levels in the metro area reached 992,100. They grew by 29,100 (+3.0%) over the year, and were 18,800 (+1.9%) above prerecession February peak employment in 2001.

Employment Trends: State

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 5.6 percent in February compared with 5.3 percent in January. Despite the uptick, the rate was in line with a declining trend over the past two years – and well below the year-ago rate of 6.4 percent. This February, 122,171 Oregonians were unemployed, compared with 137,416 one year earlier.

Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment saw strong growth of 4,200 in February. The January figure was revised up substantially to show a gain of 8,100 jobs for the month.



Oregon has seen rapid employment growth since economic expansion began in late 2003. Since the end of the economic downturn in July 2003, seasonally adjusted payroll employment has grown by 132,300 jobs or 8.4 percent. Recently, job gains have accelerated. Over the past four months, the

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economy has added an average of 6,100 jobs a month. This job growth is faster than the average monthly gain of 3,800 during the first half of last year.

In February, job gains of 1,000 or more above seasonal expectations showed up in three major industries: construction (+1,000), financial activities (+1,900), and educational and health services (+3,500). Conversely, only one major industry – trade, transportation, and utilities (-1,400) – saw a job decline of that magnitude.

Oregon's National Ranking

Oregon's February unemployment rate of 5.6 percent was sixth highest in the nation. Mississippi (8.4%), Alaska (7.0%), and Michigan (6.6%) occupied the top three spots. Hawaii (2.5%), Virginia (3.0%), and Florida (3.2%) registered the lowest rates.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Top Areas in February 2006		
Rank	State or District	February 2006
1	Mississippi	8.4
2	Alaska	7.0
3	Michigan	6.6
4	South Carolina	6.4
5	Kentucky	6.3
6	Oregon	5.6
7	Ohio	5.3
7	Tennessee	5.2
11	California	5.0
16	Washington	4.8

Nonfarm Employment (not seasonally adjusted) Over-the-Year Percentage Change Top Areas in February 2006		
Rank	State	% Change
1	Nevada	6.3
2	Arizona	5.4
3	Idaho	5.2
4	Utah	4.4
5	Oregon	4.0
6	Florida	3.8
7	Hawaii	3.7
8	Washington	3.5
9	Wyoming	3.5
19	California	2.0

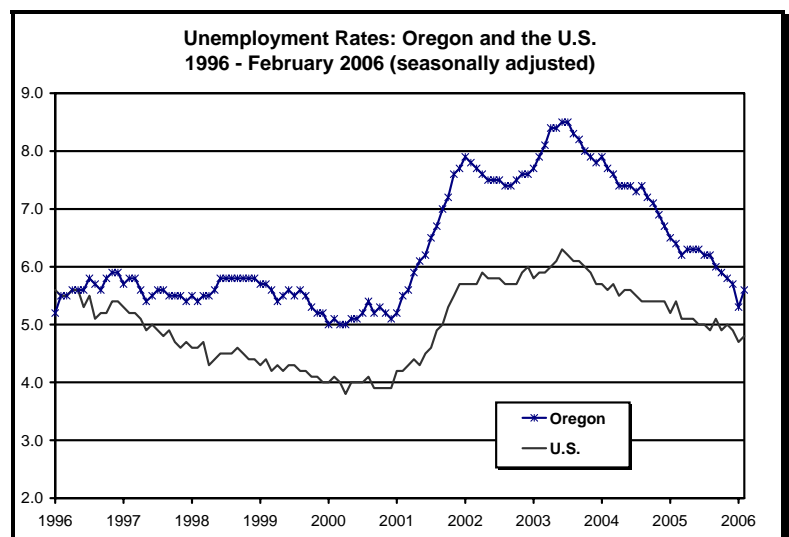
Oregon had one of the largest over-the-year unemployment rate declines of any state in the nation. One year earlier, the rate was 6.5 percent. The 1.2-percentage point decline tied with Florida's and Missouri's for the second-largest over-the-year decline of all states.

Oregon's total number of nonfarm payroll jobs was 4.0 percent higher in February 2006 than it was one year earlier. That percentage gain was the fifth fastest of all states.

Employment Trends: Nation

Both the number of unemployed persons, 7.2 million, and the unemployment rate, 4.8 percent, were little changed in February. A year earlier, the number of unemployed was 8.0 million, and the jobless rate was 5.4 percent.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose



by 243,000 in February to 134.8 million, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, payroll employment grew by 2.1 million. Construction, mining, and several service-providing industries added jobs.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, sales of new homes in the nation had the biggest drop since April 1997, falling 10.5 percent. The 1.08-million annual rate in February was the lowest since May 2003. The number of homes for sale rose to a record 548,000 from January's 525,000. The median selling price of a new home last month was \$230,400 – a decline of 2.9 percent from a year earlier.

Hard-to-Fill Jobs in the Portland Area

By Patti Curry

What jobs are hardest to fill in the Portland metro area? A quick look at results of the WorkSource Oregon Employment Department's spring 2006 hard-to-fill survey reveals area employers are struggling to fill positions in the health care, transportation, and construction industries.

Many businesses are working with educators and Employment Department staff toward solutions – mostly in the form of developing and implementing training. Some employers sponsor college courses, for example; others offer in-house instruction.

While employers may classify many jobs as “hard to fill,” those listed here are among positions reported as such by employment staff of the Oregon Employment Department (OED) earlier this year. Employment experts at these sites throughout the metro area have identified positions in health care, truck driving, and construction-related trades as being among the most difficult to fill.

What makes it so difficult to find qualified workers for certain occupations? Staff most often cited the reasons as wages below applicant expectations, irregular or undesirable hours, and a lack of candidates with necessary training and certification.

Nursing and truck-driving jobs were equally hard to fill in this region, according to information provided by OED staff. Qualified truck drivers are difficult to find throughout the area. Reasons for the difficulty include a lack of candidates who have the required experience, clean driving records, and are able to pass drug tests. It's evident from the survey responses that the promise of long stretches on the open road keeps those who may be qualified from applying for jobs that require such extensive travel.

Several kinds of medical positions have been hard to fill here. These include nurses, aides, and technicians. A lack of local training opportunities seems to be the main reason there are more jobs than qualified applicants. In an effort to fill this workforce void, Clackamas Community College now offers a two-year nursing program.

Other jobs that were hard to fill in the Portland area included any that required bilingual skills. Call center customer service representatives were hard to come by in Washington County. The relatively high cost of living in this county raises expectations of higher wages. Pay has increased slightly as several large call centers have settled here in the past year. However, wages aren't high enough to attract workers, according to staff in the Beaverton office of OED. In the Oregon City area, candidates for construction and production utility work lack transportation to job sites, and shift-work requirements likely keep applicants away.

For a summary of hard-to-fill occupations in other regions of the state, see the complete article at www.QualityInfo.org/olmisj/ArticleReader?itemid=00004840.

Oregon Employee Benefits 2005

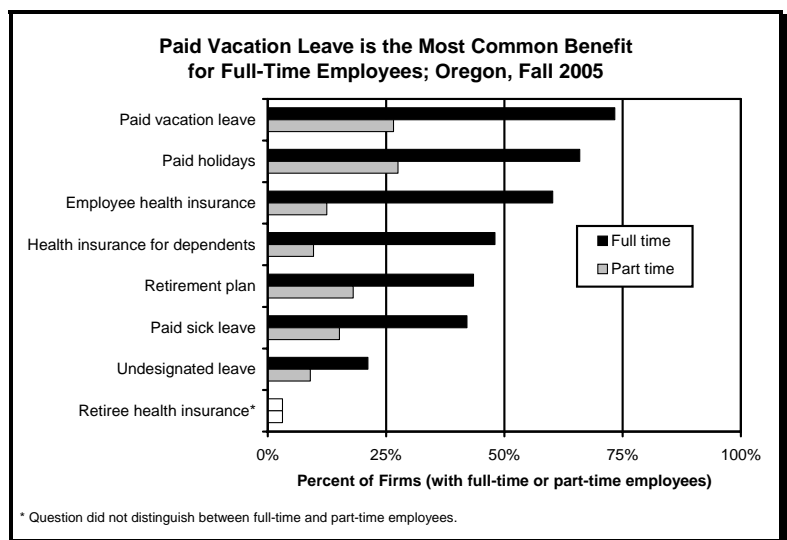
Based on an article by Guy Tauer, Regional Economist

For many years, the Oregon Employment Department has compiled and published occupational wage data at the state and local level. Information regarding benefits has been relatively unavailable; we used national data as a proxy. Yet many of our customers asked for Oregon data – and we listened. In the fall of 2005, we surveyed 7,000 businesses on the benefits offered to their employees, the results can be found in the *Oregon Employee Benefits 2005* report on our Web site. www.QualityInfo.org/olmisj/PubReader?itemid=00004799.

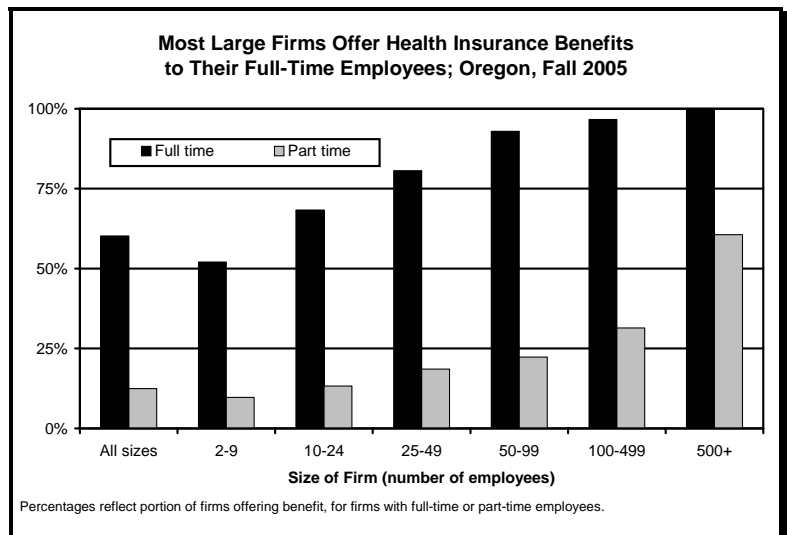
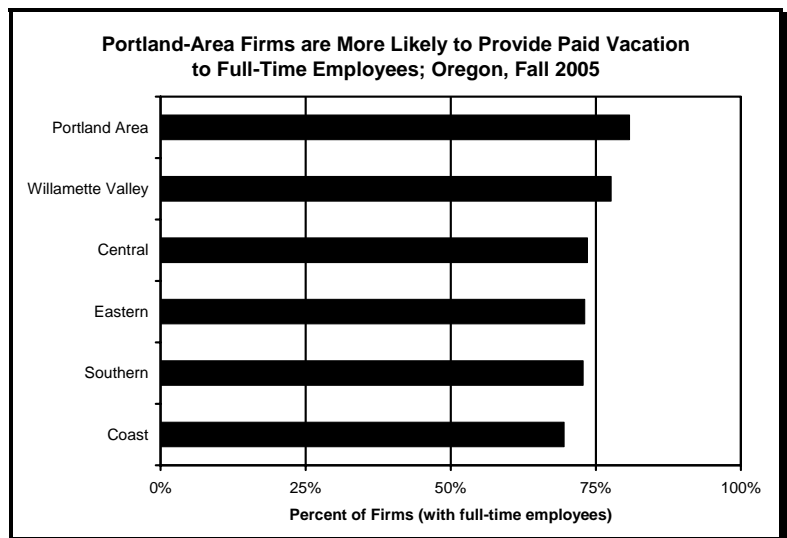
This report provides the results of a fall 2005 survey of Oregon private-sector employers. It presents information on benefits employers most commonly offer to their employees, such as vacation leave, holiday leave, and health care insurance. Information is available for Oregon and its six geographic regions. It is also broken down by industry sectors and firm-size groups.

Key Findings

- Paid vacation leave is the most common benefit offered by Oregon private-sector employers to their full-time employees. Other common benefits include paid holidays and employee health insurance.
- Portland-area firms are somewhat more likely to offer the most common type of employee benefits.
- Paid sick and vacation leave remain more common than undesignated leave.
- Very few companies offer retiree health insurance.
- Firms are most likely to offer benefits to employees working full time, in large firms, and in the manufacturing, wholesale trade, information, professional services, and health services industries. Portland is home to many employers in these categories, which helps explain why the area has the largest share of firms offering benefits in the state.
- Four-fifths of full-time workers and one-fifth of part-time workers are offered health insurance from their employers.



- Not all employees enroll in health insurance plans when offered, even though most employers pay the full cost of such plans for full-time workers and many pay full costs for part-time workers.
- The average cost of health insurance plans for employer and employee combined was about \$350 per month.
- About two-thirds of Oregon's employers have changed the health insurance plans they offer their employees in the past year due primarily to increasing costs.
- Defined contribution retirement plans, such as 401(k)s, are more common than are defined benefit retirement plans, such as pensions.
- Findings from Oregon's 2005 benefits survey were similar to findings from recent surveys in Washington, Minnesota, North Dakota, and the United States.



Web Site of the Month: Just the Facts, Ma'am

Have you ever wanted the facts – and just the facts – when it comes to the demographics of a county, state, or the nation? If so, the U.S. Census Bureau has what you're looking for. Its "QuickFacts" section displays the latest data on population, race, housing, and income. It's also pulled information from its most recent economic census, so sales and firm statistics are included. An added bonus: the site now includes data for cities and towns with more than 25,000 people. Visit the site at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>.

Fast Facts, a monthly snapshot of key workforce trend indicators, is now available by e-mail. To see a recent issue, turn to the end of this newsletter.

To receive the electronic version of *Fast Facts*, contact Kathi Riddell at Kathi.R.Riddell@state.or.us.

Around the Region

A listing of employment-related events making news in February and March

- The **Alumni Café** has opened in **Dayton**. *News-Register – Feb. 25, 2006*
- **Intel Corp.**'s Oregon workforce stands at 16,740 and is above its prerecession peak. That's 193 more than its previous high in April 2001. Intel has added more than 1,000 Oregon jobs in each of the past two years and it plans to continue hiring. *The Oregonian – Feb. 23, 2006*
- **Floor Coverings International** in **Vancouver** will add more design associates and create an alliance with product manufacturers. The company offers retail sales of tile, stone, wood, laminate, carpet, vinyl, and specialty flooring. *The Columbian – Feb. 27, 2006*
- **Port Westward LNG**'s financial backers have withdrawn support to establish a liquefied natural gas terminal at **Port Westward near Clatskanie**. The Port of St. Helens, which owns Port Westward, is pursuing other developments for the facility. *The Chronicle – Feb. 18, 2006*
- **Portland Public Schools** is facing budget cuts of \$50 million as the three-year Multnomah County income tax comes to an end. School closures are expected to narrow the funding gap. Last spring, the district cut 245 of its 2,700 teaching positions and closed a handful of schools. Those closures saved \$16 million. Portland Public Schools' highest enrollment was in 1963, when it had 80,000 students compared with today's 47,000. *The Oregonian – Mar. 3, 2006*
- The Shell station on Portland Road in **Newberg** will be razed. A drive-through **Dutch Bros. Coffee** stand will replace it. *The Newberg Graphic – Mar. 9, 2006*
- **Wellness Matters** fitness centers in **Hillsboro** and **Forest Grove** have closed. It is unclear how many employees worked for the centers and how many members attended. *The Oregonian – Mar. 3, 2006*
- **Hillsboro-based Norm Thompson Outfitters** has been sold to Catalog Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of San Francisco investment firm Golden Gate Capital, for an undisclosed amount of money. The catalog and Web sales company employs 300 workers in Oregon and 500 nationwide. *KGW.com – Mar. 14, 2006*
- Minnesota-based **Xiotech Corp.** has opened an office in **Vancouver, Wash.** It will employ 15 people to start, but that number may grow to 50. Workers will develop the company's next generation of products, aimed at retrieving lost or deleted data. *The Columbian – Mar. 8, 2006*
- **Beaverton-based Enuclia Semiconductor Inc.** will move to larger quarters and hire more workers. It will add engineering, sales, marketing, and operations personnel. *The Oregonian – Mar. 10, 2006*
- **US Airways** added a daily nonstop flight between Portland and Philadelphia. The service will begin in June and will be the city's fourth nonstop connection to the East Coast. The flight will be operated by America West Airlines. *The Oregonian – Mar. 21, 2006*

- After being closed for more than 30 years, the **Academy Theater** in **Portland** has reopened. *The Oregonian* – Mar. 9, 2006
- **Bay Bank**, a subsidiary of Longview-based Cowlitz Bank, opened its first branch at Vancouvercenter in **Vancouver, Wash.** It employs seven people. *The Columbian* – Mar. 17, 2006
- Wisconsin-based retail chain **Kohl's Department Stores** will open stores in **Beaverton, Hillsboro, Wood Village, and Vancouver, Wash.** The stores will be the chain's first in Oregon and Washington and will create about 600 jobs. *The Oregonian* – Mar. 28, 2006
- **Umpqua Bank** will add six **Portland** branches in the next 12 months, expanding on its new neighborhood store concept. The branches look like small, café-like stores. *Portland Business Journal* – Mar. 17, 2006
- **Genentech Inc.**, one of the largest drug-development companies in the nation, will invest \$250 million to build a facility in **Hillsboro** to package drugs for commercial use. It should be operational by 2010 and will employ between 200 and 300. *Portland Business Journal* – Mar. 24, 2006
- **RadioShack Corp.** will close three underperforming stores in the **Portland** area. *Portland Business Journal* – Mar. 27, 2006
- **Mr. Joe's Coffee Café** has opened in **St. Helens**. *Chronicle* – Mar. 22, 2006



Announcing the Fortieth Annual
Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference

***Economic and Policy Issues on the Pacific
Northwest's Horizon***

Portland, Oregon
May 11-12, 2006

The theme for this year's conference reflects the changes of our region's economic landscape, driven by increased competing uses of our natural resources, increased international opportunities and challenges, and limited public budgets.

Registration materials and additional information can be found at
<http://www.pnrec.org/index.htm>

Resident Labor Force and Unemployment for Regions Within the Portland-Beaverton-Vancouver MSA

	February 2006	January 2006	February 2005	-Change From-	
				January 2006	February 2005
Portland-Beaverton-Vancouver MSA					
Civilian Labor Force	1,117,100	1,105,100	1,093,800	12,000	23,300
Unemployed	66,500	58,900	75,900	7,600	-9,400
Percent of Labor Force	6.0	5.3	6.9		-0.9
Total Employed	1,050,600	1,046,200	1,017,900	4,400	32,700
Oregon portion of the MSA					
Civilian Labor Force	905,000	895,700	885,700	9,300	19,300
Unemployed	52,000	46,900	60,300	5,100	-8,300
Percent of Labor Force	5.7	5.2	6.8		-1.1
Total Employed	853,000	848,900	825,400	4,100	27,600
Clackamas County					
Civilian Labor Force	193,900	191,800	189,300	2,100	4,600
Unemployed	10,900	9,600	12,200	1,300	-1,300
Percent of Labor Force	5.6	5.0	6.5		-0.9
Total Employed	183,000	182,200	177,100	800	5,900
Columbia County					
Civilian Labor Force	23,220	23,040	23,270	180	-50
Unemployed	1,510	1,430	2,260	80	-750
Percent of Labor Force	6.5	6.2	9.7		-3.2
Total Employed	21,710	21,610	21,010	100	700
Multnomah County					
Civilian Labor Force	372,200	368,200	364,800	4,000	7,400
Unemployed	22,900	20,500	26,800	2,400	-3,900
Percent of Labor Force	6.1	5.6	7.3		-1.2
Total Employed	349,300	347,600	338,000	1,700	11,300
Washington County					
Civilian Labor Force	270,800	268,300	264,500	2,500	6,300
Unemployed	14,000	12,700	15,900	1,300	-1,900
Percent of Labor Force	5.2	4.7	6.0		-0.8
Total Employed	256,800	255,600	248,500	1,200	8,300
Yamhill County					
Civilian Labor Force	44,830	44,480	43,760	350	1,070
Unemployed	2,780	2,630	3,070	150	-290
Percent of Labor Force	6.2	5.9	7.0		-0.8
Total Employed	42,050	41,850	40,690	200	1,360
Washington portion of the MSA (Clark and Skamania counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	212,100	209,300	208,100	2,800	4,000
Unemployed	14,500	12,100	15,600	2,400	-1,100
Percent of Labor Force	6.8	5.8	7.5		-0.7
Total Employed	197,600	197,300	192,500	300	5,100

Components may not sum exactly to totals due to rounding.

Estimates of labor force and unemployment for MSA components are based in part on the most recent population estimates and Unemployment Insurance claims data.

Portland-Beaverton-Vancouver MSA Labor Force and Industry Employment

	Preliminary February 2006	Revised January 2006	February 2005	---Change from--- January 2006 February 2005	
LABOR FORCE STATUS					
Civilian Labor Force	1,117,100	1,105,400	1,093,800	11,700	23,300
Unemployed	66,500	58,900	75,900	7,600	-9,400
Percent of Labor Force	6.0%	5.3%	6.9%		
Total Employed	1,050,600	1,046,500	1,017,900	4,100	32,700
NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT					
Total nonfarm	992,100	984,600	963,000	7,500	29,100
Total private	849,700	844,200	822,300	5,500	27,400
Natural resources and mining	1,400	1,400	1,600	0	-200
Construction	58,600	58,400	53,500	200	5,100
Construction of buildings	13,500	13,600	12,400	-100	1,100
Residential building construction	7,700	7,900	7,000	-200	700
Nonresidential building construction	5,800	5,700	5,400	100	400
Heavy and civil engineering construction	5,800	5,600	5,500	200	300
Specialty trade contractors	39,300	39,200	35,600	100	3,700
Manufacturing	124,800	124,700	121,700	100	3,100
Durable goods	95,700	95,500	92,400	200	3,300
Wood product manufacturing	6,100	6,100	5,700	0	400
Primary metal manufacturing	6,300	6,300	6,000	0	300
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	12,300	12,500	12,200	-200	100
Machinery manufacturing	8,400	8,400	8,200	0	200
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,000	37,800	36,500	200	1,500
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	28,100	27,900	26,900	200	1,200
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,200	5,200	5,000	0	200
Transportation equipment manufacturing	9,200	9,200	8,800	0	400
Nondurable goods	29,100	29,200	29,300	-100	-200
Food manufacturing	8,200	8,200	8,300	0	-100
Paper manufacturing	5,000	5,000	4,900	0	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	197,500	198,600	193,000	-1,100	4,500
Wholesale trade	56,600	56,400	55,800	200	800
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	27,100	27,000	26,500	100	600
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	21,700	21,500	21,600	200	100
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,800	7,900	7,700	-100	100
Retail trade	104,100	105,300	100,600	-1,200	3,500
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	14,200	14,100	13,900	100	300
Food and beverage stores	18,400	18,600	18,100	-200	300
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	11,400	12,000	10,600	-600	800
General merchandise stores	19,400	20,100	18,500	-700	900
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	36,800	36,900	36,600	-100	200
Air transportation	3,600	3,600	3,800	0	-200
Truck transportation	10,700	10,800	10,800	-100	-100
Couriers and messengers	4,900	5,000	4,800	-100	100
Warehousing and storage	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	-100
Information	22,800	22,800	22,600	0	200
Publishing industries, except internet	9,100	9,100	8,900	0	200
Software publishers	5,500	5,500	5,300	0	200
Telecommunications	6,700	6,800	6,600	-100	100
Wired telecommunications carriers	2,900	3,000	2,900	-100	0
Financial activities	68,300	68,300	66,400	0	1,900
Finance and insurance	44,300	44,100	42,900	200	1,400
Credit intermediation and related activities	22,400	22,200	21,200	200	1,200
Insurance carriers and related activities	18,500	18,600	18,200	-100	300
Real estate and rental and leasing	24,000	24,200	23,500	-200	500
Real estate	19,600	19,700	18,800	-100	800

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)

	February 2006	January 2006	February 2005	---Change from---	
				January 2006	February 2005
Professional and business services	129,000	127,100	123,500	1,900	5,500
Professional and technical services	50,000	49,100	48,800	900	1,200
Architectural and engineering services	10,800	10,700	10,100	100	700
Computer systems design and related services	7,500	7,400	7,200	100	300
Management of companies and enterprises	19,900	19,700	19,600	200	300
Administrative and waste services	59,100	58,300	55,100	800	4,000
Administrative and support services	56,900	56,000	52,600	900	4,300
Employment services	25,700	25,100	23,000	600	2,700
Business support services	7,900	7,900	7,900	0	0
Services to buildings and dwellings	13,700	13,600	12,700	100	1,000
Educational and health services	123,700	120,500	119,500	3,200	4,200
Educational services	23,500	20,800	22,300	2,700	1,200
Colleges and universities	12,300	10,200	11,800	2,100	500
Health care and social assistance	100,200	99,700	97,200	500	3,000
Ambulatory health care services	37,700	37,300	36,300	400	1,400
Hospitals	27,400	27,300	25,900	100	1,500
Nursing and residential care facilities	19,500	19,700	19,500	-200	0
Social assistance	15,600	15,400	15,500	200	100
Leisure and hospitality	89,100	88,300	86,400	800	2,700
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	12,600	12,300	12,300	300	300
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	9,200	9,100	8,700	100	500
Accommodation and food services	76,500	76,000	74,100	500	2,400
Accommodation	8,500	8,400	8,500	100	0
Food services and drinking places	68,000	67,600	65,600	400	2,400
Full-service restaurants	33,500	33,000	32,300	500	1,200
Limited-service eating places	27,600	27,600	26,700	0	900
Other services	34,500	34,100	34,100	400	400
Membership associations and organizations	15,100	14,800	15,000	300	100
Government	142,400	140,400	140,700	2,000	1,700
Federal government	18,100	18,300	18,500	-200	-400
State government	21,700	21,400	21,500	300	200
State education	7,300	7,100	7,100	200	200
Local government	102,600	100,700	100,700	1,900	1,900
Local education	59,200	57,600	57,800	1,600	1,400
Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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.

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. The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised.



Oregon Labor Force and Unemployment by Area (1)

	February 2006			January 2006			February 2005		
	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployment Rate	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployment Rate	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployment Rate
United States	149,686,000	141,994,000	7.82	149,090,000	141,481,000	7.60	147,849,000	139,100,000	8.54
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted	1,869,646	1,747,475	6.5	1,851,252	1,739,477	6.0	1,838,192	1,700,776	7.5
State of Oregon			5.6			5.3			6.4
Oregon Seasonally Adjusted									
Metropolitan Statistical Areas:									
Bend (Deschutes County)	74,706	70,136	6.1	74,166	69,934	6.2	72,176	66,929	7.3
Corvallis (Benton County)	42,044	39,582	5.9	41,527	39,354	5.2	41,967	39,752	5.3
Eugene-Springfield (Lane County)	175,665	164,001	6.6	173,566	163,148	6.0	174,328	161,663	7.3
Medford (Jackson County)	100,396	93,438	6.9	99,952	93,550	6.4	97,773	90,264	7.7
Portland-Beaverton-Vancouver (2)	1,117,054	1,050,583	6.0	1,105,088	1,046,158	5.3	1,093,782	1,017,863	6.9
Salem (Marion and Polk counties)	181,433	169,180	6.8	178,895	167,892	6.2	180,152	166,286	7.7
Countries:									
Baker	7,067	6,388	9.6	6,997	6,356	9.0	7,136	6,418	10.1
Benton	42,044	39,582	5.9	41,527	39,354	5.2	41,967	39,752	5.3
Clackamas	183,931	183,046	0.8	191,808	182,168	5.0	188,345	177,130	6.5
Clatsop (3)	18,847	17,636	6.4	18,851	17,721	6.0	18,308	17,009	7.1
Columbia	23,221	21,712	6.5	23,037	21,608	6.2	23,269	21,011	9.7
Coos (3)	29,725	27,467	7.6	29,232	27,108	7.3	29,144	26,609	8.7
Cook (3)	9,200	8,479	7.2	9,228	8,516	7.7	9,071	8,289	8.6
Curry (3)	9,631	8,883	7.8	9,571	8,821	7.8	9,547	8,816	7.7
Deschutes	74,706	70,136	6.1	74,166	69,934	6.2	72,176	66,929	7.3
Deschutes (3)	47,821	43,538	9.0	47,288	43,325	8.4	47,359	42,884	9.4
Gilliam	1,057	987	6.6	1,015	952	6.2	1,017	942	7.4
Grant	3,469	3,045	12.7	3,445	3,024	12.2	3,126	2,751	14.2
Harmey	3,363	2,951	12.3	3,348	2,965	11.4	3,371	2,955	12.3
Hood River (3)	12,231	11,373	7.0	11,931	11,167	6.4	11,949	10,993	8.0
Jackson	100,396	93,438	6.9	99,952	93,550	6.4	97,773	90,264	7.7
Jefferson	8,997	8,231	9.5	8,865	8,166	7.9	8,875	8,170	7.9
Josephine (3)	35,699	33,035	7.5	35,331	32,808	7.1	34,484	31,573	8.4
Klamath (3)	30,563	27,809	9.0	30,324	27,775	8.4	29,990	26,988	10.0
Lake	3,604	3,224	10.5	3,635	3,245	10.7	3,471	3,059	11.9
Lane	175,665	164,001	6.6	173,566	163,148	6.0	174,328	161,663	7.3
Lincoln	22,352	20,771	7.1	22,096	20,565	6.9	21,963	20,214	8.0
Linn (3)	52,220	48,038	8.0	52,110	48,233	7.4	51,885	47,100	9.2
Malheur (3)	12,692	11,610	8.5	12,690	11,663	8.1	12,853	11,561	12.1
Marion	147,111	136,880	7.0	144,857	135,596	6.4	146,101	134,523	7.9
Morrow (3)	5,400	4,905	9.2	5,398	4,906	9.1	5,464	4,929	9.8
Multnomah	372,168	349,318	6.1	368,151	347,642	5.6	364,845	338,029	7.3
Polk	34,322	32,300	6.1	33,838	31,996	5.4	34,051	31,743	6.8
Sherman	921	832	9.7	906	831	8.3	869	787	9.4
Tillamook	12,314	11,485	6.7	12,342	11,560	6.3	12,168	11,253	7.5
Umatilla (3)	35,627	32,216	9.6	35,651	32,221	9.6	36,198	32,374	10.6
Union (3)	11,939	10,943	8.3	11,835	10,807	7.8	11,777	10,759	8.6
Wallowa	3,339	3,003	10.1	3,413	3,071	10.0	3,378	3,021	10.6
Wasco (3)	11,651	10,706	8.1	11,475	10,522	8.3	11,529	10,338	10.0
Washington	270,835	256,844	5.2	268,265	255,612	4.7	264,475	248,544	6.3
Wheeler	666	611	8.3	651	595	8.6	652	599	8.1
Yamhill	44,832	42,051	6.2	44,481	41,849	5.9	43,761	40,692	7.0

(1) 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, domestic, agriculture, and labor disputants. Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force. Data are not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise noted.
 (2) Portland-Beaverton-Vancouver MSA includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in Oregon, and Clark and Skamania counties in Washington.
 (3) This county is in a micropolitan statistical area. Malheur County is part of the Ontario micropolitan statistical area, which also includes Payette County, Idaho. Morrow and Umatilla counties combine to form the Pendleton-Hermiston micropolitan statistical area. All of Oregon's other micropolitan statistical areas stand alone as single counties.

Next release: April 20, 2006

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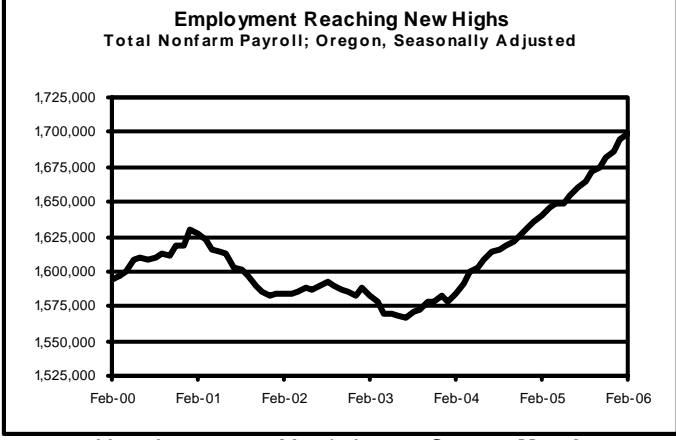


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Workforce & Economic Research Fast Facts – March 2006

- Oregon's unemployment rate in February was the sixth highest in the nation at 5.6 percent, up slightly from January's 5.3 percent.
- Local unemployment rates in February ranged from a 12.7 percent high in Grant County to a low of 5.2 percent in Washington County.
- Oregon has added 64,000 jobs since February 2005, growth of 4.0 percent, and the fifth fastest job growth in the nation.
- Construction is growing fastest of all Oregon industries, adding 13.9 percent since February 2005, the second fastest construction growth in the nation.



Year Ago	Month Ago	Current Month
February 2005	January 2006	February 2006

U.S. Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)	5.4	4.7	4.8
Oregon Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)	6.4	5.3	5.6
Rank Among 50 States and D.C.	6th	7th	6th
Oregon Unemployment Rates			
Highest: Grant County	14.2	12.2	12.7
Harney County	12.3	11.4	12.3
Lowest: Washington County	6.0	4.7	5.2
Benton County	6.5	5.0	5.6

Oregon Total Unemployed	137,416	111,775	122,171
Change From Previous Year	-17,661	-18,724	-15,245
Percent Change From Previous Year	-11.4%	-14.3%	-11.1%
Oregon Nonfarm Payroll Employment	1,614,900	1,664,000	1,678,900
Change From Previous Year	55,000	63,800	64,000
Percent Change From Previous Year	3.5%	4.0%	4.0%
Rank Among 50 States and D.C.	6th	5th	5th

Change from February 2005 to February 2006

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Rank Among 50 States*</u>
February's Top Percent Growth Sectors in Oregon			
Construction	11,400	13.9%	2nd
Financial Activities	5,900	6.0%	4th
February's Bottom Percent Growth Sectors in Oregon			
Natural Resources and Mining	-900	-9.6%	46th
Government	700	0.2%	38th

*Data are not available for all industry sectors in some states; rankings are based on all states and Washington, D.C. wherever data allow.

	<u>1st Half 2004</u>	<u>2nd Half 2004</u>	<u>1st Half 2005</u>
Average Covered Pay Per Worker	\$17,475	\$18,139	\$17,820
Percent Change From Previous Year	3.2%	3.5%	2.0%
Portland-Salem Consumer Price Index	189.8	192.5	194.5
Percent Change From Previous Year	2.0%	3.2%	2.5%