



News

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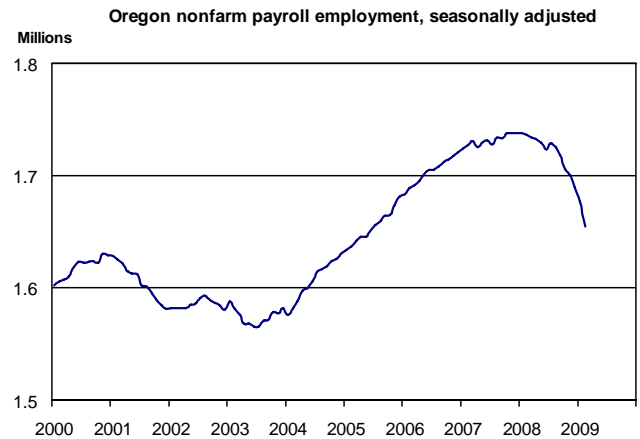
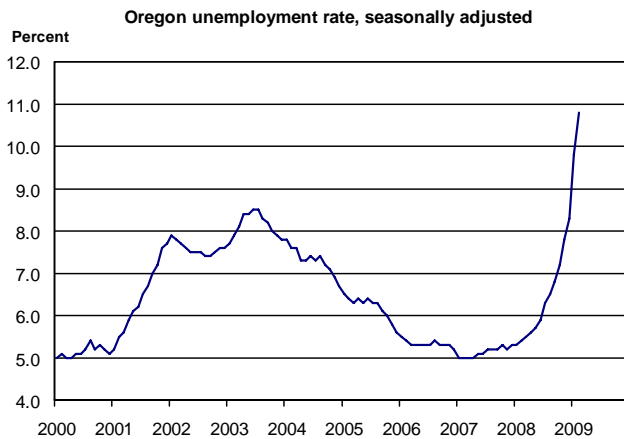
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Oregon's Employment Situation: February 2009

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 10.8 percent in February from 9.8 percent (as revised) in January. The state's unemployment rate has risen rapidly and substantially over the past eight months, from a rate of 5.9 percent in June 2008. The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 8.1 percent in February, from 7.6 percent in January.

In February, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 21,700 jobs, following a drop of 13,000 (as revised) in January.



Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Since February 2008, seasonally adjusted payroll employment is down 81,800 jobs or 4.7 percent. Over that 12-month period, construction is down 17,200 jobs or 17.3 percent, while manufacturing has lost 25,000 jobs or 12.4 percent. In addition, three other major industries have shrunk by about seven percent: financial activities (-7,300 jobs); professional and business services (-13,000 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-23,600 jobs). Over the year, only two major industries have produced significant job gains: government (+6,200 jobs or 2.1%) and private educational and health services (+6,700 jobs or 3.1%).

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In February, all seven of Oregon's largest private-sector industries recorded substantial seasonally adjusted job declines. The losses were widespread with manufacturing down 4,900 jobs and the other six major industries each down between 2,300 to 3,500 jobs.

Manufacturing dropped by 4,200 jobs at a time of year when a gain of 700 is the normal seasonal movement. Durable goods manufacturing cut 3,600 jobs in February, sinking to 123,800, its lowest level since comparable records began in 1990. Durable goods manufacturing has dropped by 23,300 or nearly 16 percent since February 2008. It is well below its recent high of 156,900 in August 2006.

In February, each of the primary components of durable goods dropped substantially. Wood products cut 900 jobs, primary metals was down 200, fabricated metals cut 400, machinery dropped 600, computer and electronic products shed 500, and transportation equipment manufacturing shed 1,300.

Nondurable goods sank to near its low point of the winter, cutting 600 jobs in February. This part of manufacturing, at 49,400 jobs, was close to the typical seasonal lows seen from 2003 through 2006. Food manufacturing seems to be one of the brighter industries in an otherwise gloomy economy. It employed 23,200 in February, which was a gain of 1,400 jobs since February 2008. The industry has been on a gradually expanding trend over the past four years. Conversely, paper manufacturing was down to 5,800 jobs, continuing its trend of slow and steady employment decline over the past two decades, having employed close to 7,500 at the turn of the millennium.

Construction job losses accelerated in February as job totals declined by 3,000 for the month at a time of year when a gain of 500 would have been the normal seasonal movement. Weather was not the culprit, as precipitation in the Willamette Valley was light during most of the month and temperatures were only slightly below normal. Rather, the industry is being hit hard by the falloff in demand for new housing and commercial space. In February, construction of buildings was down by 1,300 jobs and specialty trade contractors cut 1,600.

During the past 12 months the industry shed jobs at a faster pace than it added them during the rapid buildup of 2004 through 2006. Job losses since February 2008 totaled 16,300 or 17.3 percent.

Seasonally adjusted employment in construction is now at 82,500, which is very close to its level during the boom times of 1997 through 2000. Nonetheless, February's reading was still well below its all-time high of close to 104,000 during most of 2007, a period that encompassed the national housing bubble's peak.

Professional and business services suffered another loss, cutting 900 jobs during a month that was expected to show a gain of 2,500 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis. Employment services accounted for half of this job loss, as it cut 500 jobs in February. It has dropped rapidly, from a recent peak of 43,200 in August 2007 to 25,600 in February.

Professional and business services experienced a rapid decline that started in September 2008. Since then, the industry has lost 10,500 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis, equaling a decline of 5.4 percent over that five month period.

After having added employment at a rapid pace from 2004 through 2007, the component industry called "professional and technical services" has trended slightly upward throughout the last 12 months, showing a gain of 400 jobs or 0.5 percent over that period. Computer systems design and related services accounted for 300 of that over-the-year increase.

Trade, transportation, and utilities cut 6,500 jobs when a loss of 3,200 is the typical seasonal pattern in February. Wholesale trade dropped 1,100 jobs, retail cut 4,000, and transportation and warehousing cut 1,400. The trucking industry has been hit particularly hard by the economic downturn. Its employment level dropped from 18,800 in February 2008 to 15,300 this February.

Financial activities continued to trend downward rapidly in February, with a loss of 1,800 jobs at a time of year when a gain of 700 is the normal seasonal pattern. Declines started in early 2007 and have accelerated in recent months. The industry is down 7,000 jobs over the past 12 months, a decline of 6.8 percent. Job losses in that time have been concentrated in real estate (-3,500 jobs) and credit intermediation and related activities (-2,500 jobs).

Leisure and hospitality also experienced acceleration in its recent employment declines as it shed 1,100 jobs during a month that normally sees an increase of 1,300 jobs due to seasonal changes. Most of the drop for the month occurred in food services and drinking places, which shed 1,700 jobs. During this economic downturn many people are shunning restaurants, saving their money by stocking up at the grocery store and eating more of their meals at home. Full-service restaurants were hit especially hard, having cut 900 jobs in February and 4,700 in the past 12 months.

On the plus side, arts, entertainment and recreation added 500 jobs in February and is up 1,000 since February 2008.

Educational and health services added only 1,700 jobs in February, when a gain of 4,000 is the normal seasonal movement for the month. Private-sector educational services added 1,700 in February, but this was well below the typical February movement. The January employment total for this industry was unusually high (by about 2,500 jobs) and is now back to its former trend line. It has added 1,700 jobs since February 2008, as a larger share of the labor force finds going back to school an attractive alternative to the job market during these tough economic times. Health care and social assistance employment was flat in February, but up 5,200 jobs in the past 12 months.

Government was the only major industry to add jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis. It added 5,400 jobs during a month where typical job gains number 4,600. Federal government added 300 and is up 600 over the year. State government added 1,800 in February, while local government added 3,300. Look for federal government to rise this year as workers are hired in preparation for the decennial census.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

In February, Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 10.8 percent from 9.8 percent in January. The last time Oregon's unemployment rate was in double digits was in January 1984, when the rate was 10.0 percent. The last time Oregon's rate was 10.8 percent or higher was in July 1983 when the rate was 10.8 percent.

Oregon's unemployment rate has now risen in each of the last 13 months, dating back to January 2008, when the rate was 5.3 percent.

The increases in Oregon's unemployment rate have been particularly rapid during the most recent four-month period. In October 2008, Oregon's unemployment rate was 7.2 percent. This means that over the past four months, the average increase in Oregon's unemployment rate was nine-tenths of a point per month.

The number of unemployed Oregonians jumped to 236,286 in February from 211,979 in January. In February 2008, 115,714 Oregonians were unemployed. Thus, the number of unemployed more than doubled over the past 12 months.

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March 2009 on Monday, April 13, 2009.

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For the complete version of the news release, including tables and graphs, visit: www.QualityInfo.org/pressrelease.

For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	February 2009	January 2009	February 2008	Change From January 2009	Change From February 2008
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,990,337	1,975,599	1,925,348	14,738	64,989
Unemployed	236,286	211,979	115,714	24,307	120,572
Unemployment rate	11.9	10.7	6.0	1.2	5.9
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	10.8	9.8	5.4	1.0	5.4
Employed	1,754,051	1,763,620	1,809,634	-9,569	-55,583
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,636,400	1,646,300	1,714,800	-9,900	-78,400
Total private	1,329,300	1,344,600	1,414,700	-15,300	-85,400
Mining and logging	7,600	7,600	8,400	0	-800
Logging	5,700	5,700	6,500	0	-800
Construction	78,000	81,000	94,300	-3,000	-16,300
Construction of buildings	18,400	19,700	23,400	-1,300	-5,000
Residential building construction	10,800	11,500	14,000	-700	-3,200
Nonresidential building construction	7,600	8,200	9,400	-600	-1,800
Heavy and civil engineering construction	9,000	9,100	10,900	-100	-1,900
Specialty trade contractors	50,600	52,200	60,000	-1,600	-9,400
Building foundation and exterior contractors	10,200	10,500	12,200	-300	-2,000
Building equipment contractors	19,900	21,200	25,000	-1,300	-5,100
Building finishing contractors	13,100	13,500	14,600	-400	-1,500
Other specialty trade contractors	7,400	7,000	8,200	400	-800
Manufacturing	173,200	177,400	198,000	-4,200	-24,800
Durable goods	123,800	127,400	147,100	-3,600	-23,300
Wood product manufacturing	23,100	24,000	28,100	-900	-5,000
Sawmills and wood preservation	7,000	7,100	7,600	-100	-600
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	7,400	7,700	9,500	-300	-2,100
Other wood product manufacturing	8,700	9,200	11,000	-500	-2,300
Primary metal manufacturing	9,100	9,300	9,500	-200	-400
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,800	16,200	17,200	-400	-1,400
Machinery manufacturing	10,100	10,700	12,100	-600	-2,000
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	35,800	36,300	39,900	-500	-4,100
Computer and peripheral equipment mfg.	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	26,000	26,400	28,600	-400	-2,600
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,400	5,400	6,100	0	-700
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,900	12,200	16,500	-1,300	-5,600
Nondurable goods	49,400	50,000	50,900	-600	-1,500
Food manufacturing	23,200	23,000	21,800	200	1,400
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	9,400	9,200	8,700	200	700
Paper manufacturing	5,800	5,900	6,100	-100	-300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310,300	316,800	334,600	-6,500	-24,300
Wholesale trade	75,300	76,400	80,600	-1,100	-5,300
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	33,700	33,500	36,500	200	-2,800
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	28,800	29,900	31,300	-1,100	-2,500
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	12,800	13,000	12,800	-200	0
Retail trade	181,800	185,800	195,200	-4,000	-13,400
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	22,200	22,300	26,400	-100	-4,200
Building material and garden supply stores	14,100	13,900	14,500	200	-400
Food and beverage stores	38,500	38,800	38,000	-300	500
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	14,400	15,100	16,900	-700	-2,500
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	8,400	9,100	10,200	-700	-1,800
General merchandise stores	37,300	38,000	37,900	-700	-600
Miscellaneous store retailers	9,900	9,900	11,200	0	-1,300
Nonstore retailers	5,400	5,700	6,500	-300	-1,100

	February 2009	January 2009	February 2008	Change From January 2009	Change From February 2008
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	53,200	54,600	58,800	-1,400	-5,600
Utilities	4,800	4,800	4,700	0	100
Transportation and warehousing	48,400	49,800	54,100	-1,400	-5,700
Air transportation	4,300	4,300	4,800	0	-500
Truck transportation	15,300	16,200	18,800	-900	-3,500
Couriers and messengers	6,200	6,200	6,600	0	-400
Warehousing and storage	7,300	7,400	8,000	-100	-700
Information	34,500	34,500	36,300	0	-1,800
Publishing industries, except internet	15,000	15,000	15,800	0	-800
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	6,000	6,000	6,600	0	-600
Software publishers	9,000	9,000	9,200	0	-200
Telecommunications	8,200	8,200	8,100	0	100
Financial activities	95,800	97,600	102,800	-1,800	-7,000
Finance and insurance	59,800	60,300	62,100	-500	-2,300
Credit intermediation and related activities	27,400	27,500	29,900	-100	-2,500
Insurance carriers and related activities	27,300	27,700	26,900	-400	400
Real estate and rental and leasing	36,000	37,300	40,700	-1,300	-4,700
Real estate	29,800	31,000	33,300	-1,200	-3,500
Professional and business services	181,300	182,200	193,900	-900	-12,600
Professional and technical services	74,100	72,400	73,700	1,700	400
Legal services	12,300	12,300	12,300	0	0
Architectural and engineering services	14,200	14,300	15,100	-100	-900
Computer systems design and related services	9,800	9,800	9,500	0	300
Management of companies and enterprises	29,800	30,200	30,500	-400	-700
Administrative and waste services	77,400	79,600	89,700	-2,200	-12,300
Administrative and support services	71,500	73,100	84,400	-1,600	-12,900
Employment services	25,600	26,100	35,900	-500	-10,300
Business support services	14,100	13,800	15,200	300	-1,100
Services to buildings and dwellings	18,700	19,000	19,400	-300	-700
Educational and health services	225,700	224,000	218,800	1,700	6,900
Educational services	33,700	32,000	32,000	1,700	1,700
Health care and social assistance	192,000	192,000	186,800	0	5,200
Ambulatory health care services	67,300	67,900	66,600	-600	700
Hospitals	54,000	53,900	51,900	100	2,100
Nursing and residential care facilities	40,200	40,100	39,100	100	1,100
Social assistance	30,500	30,100	29,200	400	1,300
Leisure and hospitality	162,300	163,400	167,200	-1,100	-4,900
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	23,700	23,200	22,700	500	1,000
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	17,500	17,300	17,300	200	200
Accommodation and food services	138,600	140,200	144,500	-1,600	-5,900
Accommodation	19,000	18,900	19,900	100	-900
Food services and drinking places	119,600	121,300	124,600	-1,700	-5,000
Full-service restaurants	56,400	57,300	61,100	-900	-4,700
Limited-service eating places	50,500	51,300	53,100	-800	-2,600
Other services	60,600	60,100	60,400	500	200
Repair and maintenance	16,700	16,500	17,500	200	-800
Personal and laundry services	13,200	13,200	13,200	0	0
Membership associations and organizations	30,700	30,400	29,700	300	1,000
Religious organizations	17,300	17,200	17,300	100	0
Government	307,100	301,700	300,100	5,400	7,000
Federal government	29,000	28,700	28,400	300	600
State government	79,600	77,800	76,800	1,800	2,800
State education	30,700	29,300	29,600	1,400	1,100
Local government	198,500	195,200	194,900	3,300	3,600
Indian tribal	8,100	8,200	8,300	-100	-200
Local education	109,300	106,000	106,300	3,300	3,000
Labor-management disputes	200	200	0	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.

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. "Natural resources" includes only Logging (NAICS 1133).



**Seasonal Expectations and
 Over-the-Month Employment Changes**

January 2009 to February 2009

INDUSTRY	OVER THE MONTH		
	Normal Seasonal Movements	Unadjusted OTM Change	Seasonally Adjusted OTM Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	11,800	-9,900	-21,700
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Construction	500	-3,000	-3,500
Manufacturing	700	-4,200	-4,900
Trade, transportation, and utilities	-3,200	-6,500	-3,300
Information	0	0	0
Financial activities	700	-1,800	-2,500
Professional and business services	2,500	-900	-3,400
Educational and health services	4,000	1,700	-2,300
Leisure and hospitality	1,300	-1,100	-2,400
Other services	700	500	-200
Government	4,600	5,400	800

Oregon Seasonally Adjusted Employment

(Most recent 13 months)

Industry	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008	Jun 2008	Jul 2008	Aug 2008	Sep 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009
Total nonfarm--monthly change	-1,100	-2,900	-1,400	-3,200	-5,700	5,400	-3,800	-6,900	-12,600	-5,600	-10,400	-13,000	-21,700
Total nonfarm	1,736,700	1,733,800	1,732,400	1,729,200	1,723,500	1,728,900	1,725,100	1,718,200	1,705,600	1,700,000	1,689,600	1,676,600	1,654,900
Mining and logging	8,800	8,800	8,700	8,600	8,500	8,600	8,700	8,700	8,400	8,500	8,500	8,100	8,100
Construction	99,700	98,600	97,500	96,500	95,400	94,600	93,500	92,600	89,800	88,600	88,000	86,000	82,500
Manufacturing	200,900	199,800	199,100	198,200	196,100	194,100	193,700	192,600	188,900	189,300	186,400	180,800	175,900
Trade, transportation, and utilities	341,100	340,400	339,900	338,600	337,200	337,100	335,600	334,200	331,500	328,300	324,500	320,800	317,500
Information	36,300	36,300	36,000	36,300	36,600	36,100	36,200	36,100	35,900	36,000	35,700	34,500	34,500
Financial activities	104,000	103,600	103,400	102,900	102,100	101,800	101,500	100,900	99,600	99,600	99,900	99,200	96,700
Professional and business services	198,400	198,200	198,400	198,100	196,300	197,400	196,900	195,900	192,900	191,900	190,600	188,800	185,400
Educational and health services	216,900	217,300	218,000	218,200	219,800	221,000	221,500	222,100	223,000	223,200	223,700	225,900	223,600
Leisure and hospitality	174,400	174,500	174,100	174,200	173,900	173,800	173,300	173,600	174,500	172,500	171,100	170,600	168,200
Other services	61,000	60,900	61,000	61,100	61,000	61,200	61,200	61,300	60,600	60,600	60,400	61,300	61,100
Government	295,200	295,400	296,300	296,500	296,600	303,200	303,000	300,200	300,500	301,500	300,800	300,600	301,400

Notes: The most recent month is a preliminary figure.

