

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 22, 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Patrick O'Connor, Regional Economist  
[Patrick.s.Oconnor@oregon.gov](mailto:Patrick.s.Oconnor@oregon.gov)  
(503) 400-4374

## **Employment in Corvallis MSA (Benton County): August 2020**

### **Benton County's Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.7 Percent**

Benton County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in August, down from its revised rate of 7.7 percent in July. Oregon's statewide unemployment rate in August was 7.7 percent, down from its revised July rate of 10.4 percent.

Benton County's employment losses in August were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment decreased 500 jobs, when an employment increase of 80 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment decreased 580 jobs, or 1.5 percent, between July and August. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment remains 12.9 percent below the level in February, down 5,670 jobs after sharp job losses in the spring.

All industries in the private sector, with the exception of manufacturing and education and health services, showed employment gains in August. Manufacturing shed 100 jobs for a 3.6 percent decline over the month. Education and health services employment dropped 30 in August, a monthly loss of 0.4 percent.

Employment gains occurred in construction and professional and business services, which added 60 jobs and 70 jobs, respectively, in August.

Leisure and hospitality has shown the largest employment decline in recent months. Despite adding 80 jobs in August the sector's employment is down 1,890 jobs, or 44 percent, compared with August 2019.

The public sector dropped 670 jobs in August, with about half of that loss in local government education, which includes both local school districts and OSU.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, October 20 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Tuesday, October 13.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

September 22, 2020

### Corvallis MSA (Benton County) Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	July 2020	August 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	44,251	44,767	46,439	-516	-2,188
Unemployed	2,729	3,795	1,627	-1,066	1,102
Unemployment rate	6.2%	8.5%	3.5%	-2.3	2.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.7%	7.7%	2.9%	-2.0	2.8
Employed	41,522	40,972	44,812	550	-3,290
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	36,330	36,830	40,990	-500	-4,660
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	38,330	38,910	43,540	-580	-5,210
Total private	25,250	25,080	28,510	170	-3,260
Mining, logging, and construction	1,480	1,420	1,630	60	-150
Manufacturing	2,650	2,750	3,090	-100	-440
Durable goods	2,460	2,440	2,690	20	-230
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,400	4,340	4,530	60	-130
Information	590	580	610	10	-20
Financial activities	1,470	1,470	1,570	0	-100
Professional and business services	4,170	4,100	4,390	70	-220
Education and health services	6,850	6,880	7,010	-30	-160
Health care and social assistance	6,400	6,420	6,550	-20	-150
Leisure and hospitality	2,420	2,340	4,310	80	-1,890
Other services	1,220	1,200	1,370	20	-150
Government	11,080	11,750	12,480	-670	-1,400
Federal government	510	520	520	-10	-10
State government	250	250	250	0	0
State education	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	10,320	10,980	11,710	-660	-1,390
Local education	9,120	9,500	10,290	-380	-1,170

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.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes 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: Official Oregon Series. 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 Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly payroll employment and labor force data for Oregon's metropolitan areas and counties. 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 payroll employment estimates are revised quarterly using information from unemployment insurance tax records. All department publications use data from this *official Oregon series* unless noted.

The department also makes the BLS-produced nonfarm payroll employment series for metropolitan areas available. These are revised annually by BLS.

The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at [www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org), select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org). To subscribe, go to [www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm](http://www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm), enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you would like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your selected preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

To file an Unemployment Insurance claim, visit our online claims system or call our contact centers, where Employment Department staff are ready to help by phone, at 1-877-FILE-4-UI (1-877-345-3484). For coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit [https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment\\_COVID19](https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.