

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 21, 2021

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Employment in Central Oregon: August 2021

Central Oregon’s employment situation improved in August with hiring exceeding normal seasonal expectation by a modest amount. There was more robust improvement to the unemployment rate with all three counties posting a statistically significant decline from July.

Crook County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8% in August, down significantly from 7.1% in July. The unemployment rate remains higher than before the first impacts from COVID-19 in February 2020 when it was 4.4%.

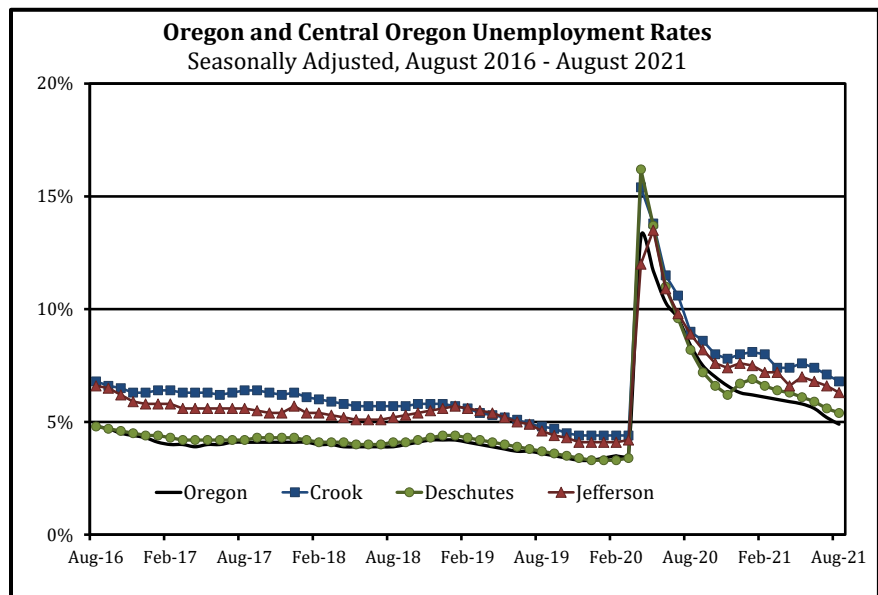
Crook County added 70 jobs in August, stronger job gains than what is typical for this time of year. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment in August was roughly 1.9% (+130 jobs) above the pre-COVID peak in February 2020.

The strong monthly hiring in August was concentrated in local government (+30 jobs). No major industry sector added more than 10 jobs in August. The fastest growing industry

over the past year was in construction, where employment grew by 16.0% from last August. There was also fast growth from this time last year in manufacturing (+11.5%) and professional and business services (+10.7%).

Deschutes County (Bend-Redmond MSA): The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 5.4% in August from 5.6% in July. The unemployment rate remains higher than before the first impacts from COVID-19 in February 2020 when it was 3.3%.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that Deschutes County lost 270 jobs in August, fairly typical losses for this time of year. According to these estimates total nonfarm employment remains down by 3,850 jobs from the pre-COVID peak (-4.3%). However, it is important to note that employment levels



were only around 2.6% below the pre-COVID peak in March 2021 (our most recent benchmarked month). Revisions to recent Bend-Redmond MSA data will be released later this fall.

Employment gains over the last year are widespread with significant gains in financial activities, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, transportation, and local government. However, these estimates show a decline in employment for professional and business services and leisure and hospitality over the past year. Both those losses, particularly losses in leisure and hospitality, are questionable as the industry has posted record hiring demand this summer.

Jefferson County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3% in August, down from 6.8% in July. The unemployment rate remains higher than before the first impacts from COVID-19 in February 2020 when it was 4.1%.

Total nonfarm employment was unchanged in August. There are typically modest job losses this time of year. As of August employment levels remain down only 2.2% (-150 jobs) from the pre-COVID peak in February 2020.

Construction has been the fastest growing major industry sector over the past year, adding 40 jobs (+28.6%). The retail sector (+70 jobs) and manufacturing (+90 jobs) also posted strong gains from this time last year.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Oct. 26 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, Oct. 19.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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September 21, 2021

Crook County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021	August 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,077	11,083	10,520	-6	557
Unemployed	613	666	875	-53	-262
Unemployment rate	5.5%	6.0%	8.3%	-0.5	-2.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.8%	7.1%	9.0%	-0.3	-2.2
Employed	10,464	10,417	9,645	47	819
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	6,990	6,920	6,580	70	410
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6,780	6,740	6,390	40	390
Total private	5,700	5,660	5,320	40	380
Mining, logging, and construction	990	980	840	10	150
Mining and logging	60	60	40	0	20
Construction	930	920	800	10	130
Manufacturing	680	680	610	0	70
Wood product manufacturing	370	370	320	0	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,100	1,090	1,110	10	-10
Wholesale trade	300	300	290	0	10
Retail trade	580	580	600	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	220	210	220	10	0
Information	300	300	290	0	10
Financial activities	230	220	220	10	10
Professional and business services	620	620	560	0	60
Education and health services	740	740	720	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	750	750	720	0	30
Other services	290	280	250	10	40
Government	1,290	1,260	1,260	30	30
Federal government	350	350	360	0	-10
State government	150	150	150	0	0
Local government	790	760	750	30	40

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: 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.



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Bend-Redmond MSA (Deschutes County) Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021	August 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	100,779	101,596	98,894	-817	1,885
Unemployed	4,402	4,768	7,655	-366	-3,253
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.7%	7.7%	-0.3	-3.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.4%	5.6%	8.2%	-0.2	-2.8
Employed	96,377	96,828	91,239	-451	5,138
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	86,290	86,560	84,040	-270	2,250
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	85,500	85,600	83,100	-100	2,400
Total private	78,010	78,290	76,180	-280	1,830
Mining, logging, and construction	7,980	7,910	7,720	70	260
Manufacturing	5,750	5,590	5,360	160	390
Durable goods	3,420	3,410	3,180	10	240
Trade, transportation, and utilities	16,400	16,700	16,070	-300	330
Wholesale trade	2,400	2,370	2,260	30	140
Retail trade	11,640	11,980	11,630	-340	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,360	2,350	2,180	10	180
Information	1,700	1,700	1,670	0	30
Financial activities	5,550	5,530	5,060	20	490
Professional and business services	10,270	10,480	10,400	-210	-130
Education and health services	14,830	14,810	14,530	20	300
Leisure and hospitality	12,290	12,340	12,520	-50	-230
Accommodation and food services	10,590	10,440	10,550	150	40
Other services	3,240	3,230	2,850	10	390
Government	8,280	8,270	7,860	10	420
Federal government	1,040	1,080	1,220	-40	-180
State government	980	990	910	-10	70
Local government	6,260	6,200	5,730	60	530
Local education	3,030	2,950	2,820	80	210

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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.



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Jefferson County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021	August 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	10,712	10,817	10,361	-105	351
Unemployed	576	610	879	-34	-303
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.6%	8.5%	-0.2	-3.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.3%	6.6%	8.9%	-0.3	-2.6
Employed	10,136	10,207	9,482	-71	654
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	6,630	6,630	6,300	0	330
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6,600	6,490	6,270	110	330
Total private	4,450	4,460	4,220	-10	230
Mining, logging, and construction	200	200	160	0	40
Mining and logging	20	20	20	0	0
Construction	180	180	140	0	40
Manufacturing	1,230	1,240	1,140	-10	90
Wood product manufacturing	890	900	780	-10	110
Trade, transportation, and utilities	970	970	890	0	80
Wholesale trade	180	180	180	0	0
Retail trade	680	680	610	0	70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	110	110	100	0	10
Information	40	40	30	0	10
Financial activities	160	160	150	0	10
Professional and business services	230	230	240	0	-10
Education and health services	680	690	700	-10	-20
Leisure and hospitality	680	680	690	0	-10
Other services	260	250	220	10	40
Government	2,180	2,170	2,080	10	100
Federal government	120	120	150	0	-30
State government	300	300	310	0	-10
Local government	1,760	1,750	1,620	10	140
Indian tribal	1,000	980	870	20	130

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.

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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: 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/. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit 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.

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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.