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Employment in Columbia County: March 2020

Employment changes significantly in March

Although Columbia County employment fell only modestly in mid-March on a seasonally adjusted basis, it appeared to fall dramatically in late March due to business closures and layoffs from the COVID-19 restrictions. Data that better reflect the economic impact from COVID-19 restrictions will be released May 27th.

COVID-19 closures have caused a spike in unemployment insurance claims. During the four-week period ending April 15, 2020 the Oregon Employment Department processed nearly 1,800 new claims for unemployment insurance from Columbia County residents. That was nine times the average of the preceding four weeks. Additionally, not all claims filed by Columbia County residents have been processed yet.

The Employment Department has rapidly redeployed its staff, opened additional phone lines, and hired new staff in an attempt to address this unprecedented surge in claims. The department is still offering job seeker and employer services with additional, socially distanced options. We are present to help Oregonians who have experienced tremendous disruptions, while also doing our part to follow health and safety guidelines for our communities.

More information on Unemployment Insurance benefits can be found here:

https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19

Data and analysis related to COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.qualityinfo.org/covid-19>

March Employment

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment fell by 40 in March to 11,720 jobs. Seasonally adjusted figures compare expected changes with actual changes. A gain of 120 jobs is normal for the month, but the county's employment climbed by only 80. These gains almost certainly happened before COVID-19 restrictions began. The private sector grew by 70 jobs, and government added 10. Professional and business services added 30 jobs for the month. Other industries had smaller changes.

Total nonfarm employment in March was 70 more than one year before, a gain of 0.6 percent. Local government education was up 60 jobs over the year. Retail trade and paper manufacturing each added 40 jobs. Professional and business services shed 70 jobs over the year, and construction cut 40 jobs. Other industries had smaller changes.

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in March, essentially unchanged from the previous month (4.4%) but lower than the year before (5.1%). The rate was higher than the statewide rate (3.3%) but essentially the same as the national rate (4.4%).

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Wednesday, May 27, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Tuesday, May 19.

Columbia County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2020	February 2020	March 2019	February 2020	March 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	24,578	24,589	24,456	-11	122
Unemployed	1,105	1,121	1,220	-16	-115
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.6%	5.0%	-0.1	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.4%	5.1%	-0.1	-0.8
Employed	23,473	23,468	23,236	5	237
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,730	11,650	11,660	80	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,720	11,760	11,650	-40	70
Total private	9,470	9,400	9,500	70	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	840	830	890	10	-50
Mining and logging	210	210	220	0	-10
Construction	630	620	670	10	-40
Manufacturing	1,630	1,630	1,590	0	40
Durable goods	1,090	1,090	1,090	0	0
Wood product manufacturing	270	270	260	0	10
Nondurable goods	540	540	500	0	40
Paper manufacturing	180	170	140	10	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,280	2,270	2,260	10	20
Retail trade	1,500	1,490	1,460	10	40
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	560	570	550	-10	10
Professional and business services	830	800	900	30	-70
Education and health services	1,470	1,460	1,470	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,400	1,390	1,370	10	30
Other services	410	400	420	10	-10
Government	2,260	2,250	2,160	10	100
Federal government	70	70	70	0	0
State government	180	190	160	-10	20
Local government	2,010	1,990	1,930	20	80
Local education	1,310	1,300	1,250	10	60
Local government excluding educational services	700	690	680	10	20

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.

Oregon Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates by Area (1)

	<u>March 2020</u>	<u>February 2020</u>	<u>March 2019</u>
United States	4.4	3.5	3.8
State of Oregon	3.3	3.3	4.1
<u>Metropolitan Statistical Areas:</u>			
Albany (Linn County)	3.9	3.9	4.9
Bend-Redmond (Deschutes County)	3.4	3.4	4.5
Corvallis (Benton County)	2.6	2.7	3.3
Eugene (Lane County)	3.6	3.7	4.6
Grants Pass (Josephine County)	4.3	4.4	5.7
Medford (Jackson County)	3.9	3.9	5.0
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro (2)	3.2	3.3	3.9
Salem (Marion and Polk counties)	3.6	3.7	4.4
<u>Counties (1):</u>			
Baker	4.3	4.4	5.4
Benton	2.6	2.7	3.3
Clackamas	3.1	3.2	3.9
Clatsop	3.5	3.5	4.3
Columbia	4.3	4.4	5.1
Coos	4.3	4.4	5.7
Crook	4.9	5.0	6.1
Curry	4.7	4.8	6.4
Deschutes	3.4	3.4	4.5
Douglas	4.5	4.6	5.6
Gilliam	4.1	4.0	4.7
Grant	6.0	6.1	8.0
Harney	4.5	4.5	6.6
Hood River	2.8	2.9	3.7
Jackson	3.9	3.9	5.0
Jefferson	4.4	4.5	5.8
Josephine	4.3	4.4	5.7
Klamath	6.0	6.1	7.0
Lake	4.2	4.4	6.5
Lane	3.6	3.7	4.6
Lincoln	4.0	4.0	5.0
Linn	3.9	3.9	4.9
Malheur	3.6	3.7	4.8
Marion	3.6	3.7	4.5
Morrow	3.7	3.8	4.7
Multnomah	3.0	3.0	3.8
Polk	3.7	3.8	4.6
Sherman	4.1	4.0	3.9
Tillamook	3.6	3.6	4.6
Umatilla	4.1	4.2	5.3
Union	4.3	4.3	5.8
Wallowa	5.1	5.3	6.4
Wasco	3.8	3.9	4.7
Washington	2.8	2.9	3.6
Wheeler	3.7	4.0	4.6
Yamhill	3.1	3.1	3.8

(1) Seasonally adjusted rates for the United States and Oregon are official Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) series. Source of Metro data is BLS and LAUS. Source of county data is OED.

(2) Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro MSA includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in Oregon and Clark and Skamania counties in Washington.

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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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. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.