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Douglas County's Unemployment Claims Continue at Record High Levels in April After Hitting a Record Low Unemployment Rate in March

The Oregon Employment Department is releasing employment and labor force data for the month of March today. These numbers will not capture any of the economic impacts of COVID-19. This is because the data used for today's report was collected prior to public health measures related to social distancing began on March 17th. Our employment and labor force data will capture current COVID-19 events in the April data to be released in May. The most current labor force data we are able to publish are initial claims for unemployment data.

Record Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in Oregon

For the week ending April 11, 2020, the Oregon Employment Department received 53,800 initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits, down from the previous week's 78,100 claims and down from the all-time high weekly initial claim count of 88,600 the week ending March 28. There were 4,900 claims for the week ending March 15 before businesses began curtailing operations in response to COVID-19.

Since March 15, there have been about 52,900 initial claims filed in the leisure and hospitality sector statewide. Health care and social assistance (25,800) and retail trade (19,700) are other sectors with large totals of initial weekly claims in the past four weeks, but every sector has seen additional claims activity.

For the week ending April 11, Douglas County had the ninth highest county level of processed claims with 1,201. Since March 15, accommodation and food services (1,121), health care and social assistance (608), and manufacturing (399) have had the most processed claims in Douglas County.

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 and Unemployment Rate

Douglas County’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 4.5 percent in March, the lowest rate going back to 1990 when comparable statistics began.

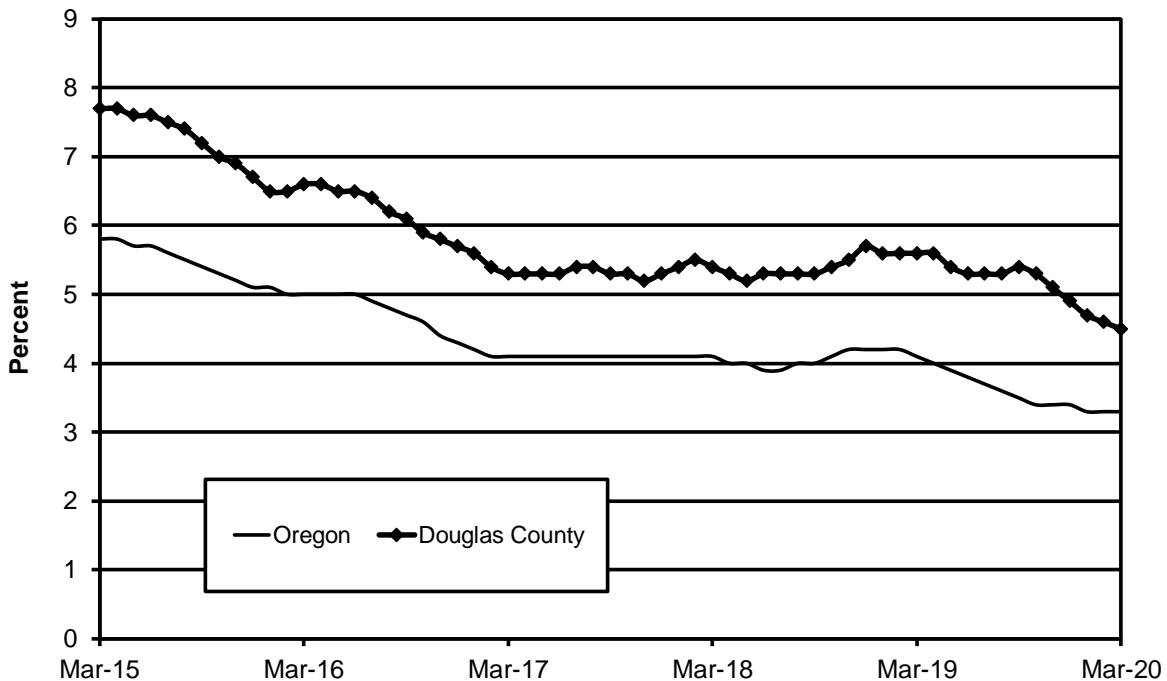
Not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment rose by 80 between February and March when it normally increases by 50. Increases in leisure and hospitality (+60), retail trade (+40), and construction (+30) were countered by losses in professional and business services (-50) and government (-30).

Total nonfarm employment rose 250 jobs or 0.7 percent since March 2019 with large gains in mining, logging, and construction (+140); leisure and hospitality (+140); and retail trade (+120). Those gains were countered by losses in wood product manufacturing (-250) and government (-60). Statewide, the over-the-year growth rate was 0.8 percent in March.

Next Press Releases

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

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates





Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

April 21, 2020

Douglas 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	46,272	46,142	46,237	130	35
Unemployed	2,303	2,252	2,740	51	-437
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.9%	5.9%	0.1	-0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.6%	5.6%	-0.1	-1.1
Employed	43,969	43,890	43,497	79	472
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	38,210	38,130	37,960	80	250
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	38,620	38,590	38,370	30	250
Total private	30,470	30,360	30,160	110	310
Mining, logging, and construction	2,790	2,750	2,650	40	140
Mining and logging	1,030	1,020	960	10	70
Construction	1,760	1,730	1,690	30	70
Manufacturing	4,690	4,700	4,890	-10	-200
Durable goods	4,190	4,200	4,460	-10	-270
Wood product manufacturing	2,900	2,890	3,150	10	-250
Nondurable goods	500	500	430	0	70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	6,950	6,900	6,820	50	130
Wholesale trade	620	610	630	10	-10
Retail trade	4,760	4,720	4,640	40	120
Food and beverage stores	1,050	1,050	1,020	0	30
General merchandise stores	1,110	1,110	1,080	0	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	1,570	1,570	1,550	0	20
Information	270	270	280	0	-10
Financial activities	1,440	1,440	1,460	0	-20
Professional and business services	3,600	3,650	3,560	-50	40
Education and health services	5,910	5,890	5,850	20	60
Leisure and hospitality	3,470	3,410	3,330	60	140
Food services and drinking places	2,720	2,710	2,620	10	100
Other services	1,350	1,350	1,320	0	30
Government	7,740	7,770	7,800	-30	-60
Federal government	1,430	1,430	1,480	0	-50
State government	670	680	690	-10	-20
Local government	5,640	5,660	5,630	-20	10
Indian tribal	1,060	1,060	1,050	0	10
Local education	3,140	3,150	3,110	-10	30
Local government excluding education and tribal	1,440	1,450	1,470	-10	-30

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.

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.

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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 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 [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment COVID19](http://Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, 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.