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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.4% in October

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 4.4% in October, down from 4.7% in September. This is an unusually low unemployment rate for Oregon. Since 1976, when comparable records began, through October 2016, Oregon's unemployment rate was never as low as 4.4%. However, during the economic expansion just prior to the pandemic recession, Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.4% or lower for the 41 consecutive months from November 2016 through March 2020. Oregon's unemployment rate reached a record low of 3.3% in November and December 2019.

In Oregon, nonfarm payroll employment rose by 4,700 in October, following a revised gain of 700 jobs in September. In October, the private sector grew rapidly by adding 10,300 jobs, but that gain was diminished by a loss of 5,600 jobs in government. October's total nonfarm employment gain was less than the average of 6,800 jobs added per month during the prior six months.

Among the major industries, **leisure and hospitality** and **professional and business services** each added close to 3,000 jobs in October. Three other industries added more than 1,000 jobs: **construction** (+1,500 jobs), **manufacturing** (+1,400), and **wholesale trade** (+1,100). Government dropped by 5,600 jobs as schools still had low employment levels in October compared with two years prior.

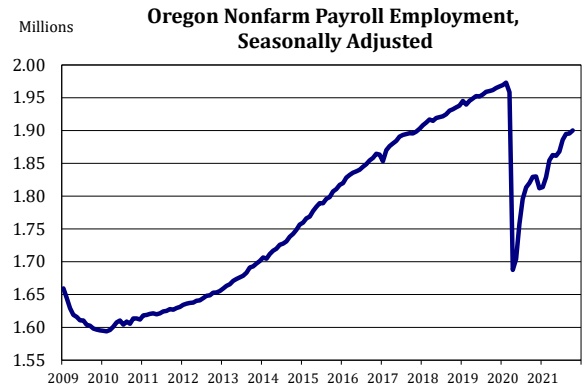
During the past two months, hiring in **local government** fell well below seasonal norms, with losses totaling 8,000 jobs during September and October. This left job numbers below pre-pandemic figures. **Local government education** employed 129,800 in October, which was 8,900 jobs below the October 2019 number. Similarly, **local government excluding education** employed 93,800 in October, which was 2,000 jobs fewer than two years prior.

Leisure and hospitality added 3,100 jobs in October, following a gain of 2,200 in September. Despite these gains, leisure and hospitality still accounts for the bulk of Oregon's jobs not recovered since early 2020, with 30,000 jobs left to recover to reach the prior peak month of February 2020. The industry has regained 73% of jobs lost early in the pandemic.

Professional and technical services has grown rapidly throughout 2021, and the industry is now well above its pre-recession peak. This industry added 4,200 jobs during the past three months and 13,100 jobs since the low point in April 2020.

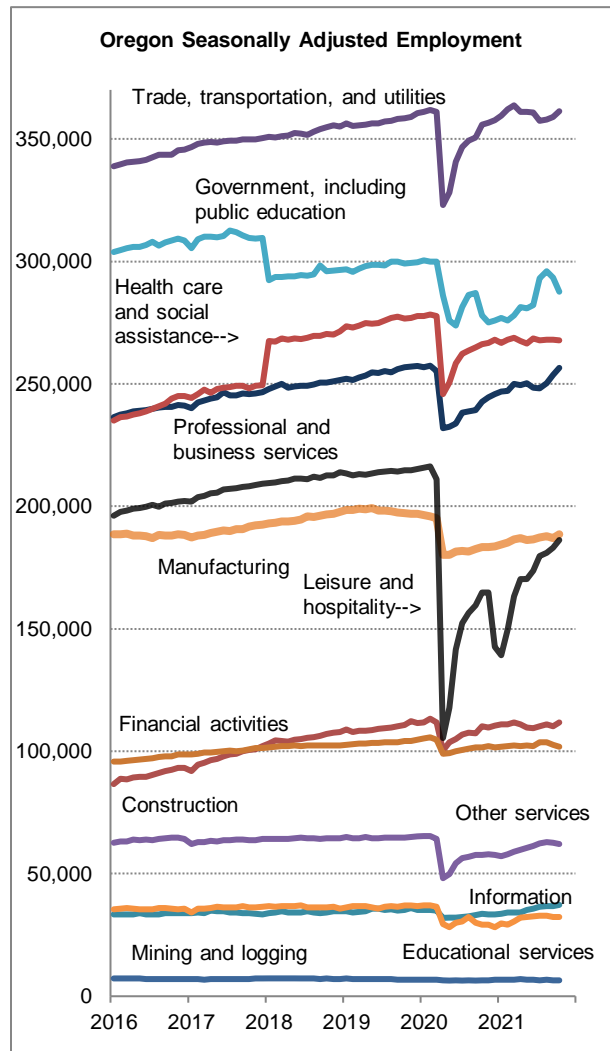
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Nov. 23, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Tuesday, Dec. 14.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes September to October 2021

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	16,700	21,400	4,700
Total private	2,000	12,300	10,300
Mining and logging	-100	-100	0
Construction	-300	1,200	1,500
Manufacturing	-1,000	400	1,400
Wholesale trade	-100	1,000	1,100
Retail trade	3,100	3,900	800
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	800	1,400	600
Information	200	600	400
Financial activities	-600	-1,500	-900
Professional and business services	1,900	4,800	2,900
Private educational services	1,400	1,500	100
Health care and social assistance	400	300	-100
Leisure and hospitality	-3,800	-700	3,100
Other services	100	-500	-600
Government	14,700	9,100	-5,600



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the components of local government.

The Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly Oregon payroll employment and labor force data. 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 publishes payroll employment estimates that are revised quarterly by using employment counts from employer unemployment insurance tax records. All department publications use this *Official Oregon Series* data unless noted otherwise. This month's release incorporates the April, May, and June 2021 tax records data. The department continues to make the original nonfarm payroll employment series available; these data are produced by the BLS.

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

To file a claim for unemployment benefits or get more information about unemployment programs, visit unemployment.oregon.gov.

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

Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	October 2021	September 2021	October 2020	Change From September 2021	Change From October 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,171,416	2,174,392	2,128,309	-2,976	43,107
Unemployed	74,443	90,411	137,983	-15,968	-63,540
Unemployment rate	3.4	4.2	6.5	-0.8	-3.1
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.4	4.7	7.0	-0.3	-2.6
Employed	2,096,973	2,083,981	1,990,326	12,992	106,647
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.3	62.4	61.5	-0.1	0.8
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	8.8	9.3	12.3	-0.5	-3.5
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,914,900	1,893,500	1,844,100	21,400	70,800
Total private	1,620,300	1,608,000	1,561,400	12,300	58,900
Mining and logging	6,600	6,700	6,700	-100	-100
Logging	4,800	4,900	4,900	-100	-100
Construction	115,200	114,000	112,100	1,200	3,100
Construction of buildings	33,200	32,100	32,400	1,100	800
Residential building construction	20,800	19,800	20,300	1,000	500
Nonresidential building construction	12,400	12,300	12,100	100	300
Heavy and civil engineering construction	10,600	10,500	10,700	100	-100
Specialty trade contractors	71,400	71,400	69,000	0	2,400
Building foundation and exterior contractors	13,800	14,400	13,200	-600	600
Building equipment contractors	31,700	30,800	30,900	900	800
Building finishing contractors	15,900	16,200	15,200	-300	700
Other specialty trade contractors	10,000	10,000	9,700	0	300
Manufacturing	188,100	187,700	184,100	400	4,000
Durable goods	130,500	130,000	126,100	500	4,400
Wood product manufacturing	22,700	22,900	21,900	-200	800
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,200	6,300	6,100	-100	100
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,400	8,500	8,200	-100	200
Other wood product manufacturing	8,100	8,100	7,600	0	500
Primary metal manufacturing	6,300	6,400	6,700	-100	-400
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,900	15,900	15,300	0	600
Machinery manufacturing	13,500	13,600	13,200	-100	300
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,500	38,300	37,500	200	1,000
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	31,300	31,000	30,100	300	1,200
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,900	4,900	5,000	0	-100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,700	10,700	10,700	0	0
Nondurable goods	57,600	57,700	58,000	-100	-400
Food manufacturing	28,200	28,500	28,400	-300	-200
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	10,100	10,500	10,300	-400	-200
Paper manufacturing	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	364,400	358,100	357,200	6,300	7,200
Wholesale trade	77,300	76,300	74,000	1,000	3,300
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	37,600	37,800	36,700	-200	900
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	32,200	31,100	30,200	1,100	2,000
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,500	7,400	7,100	100	400
Retail trade	209,700	205,800	206,100	3,900	3,600
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	25,700	25,700	25,000	0	700
Building material and garden supply stores	17,600	18,000	17,900	-400	-300
Food and beverage stores	45,800	45,300	45,500	500	300
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	13,400	13,100	12,800	300	600
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,300	9,400	8,700	-100	600
General merchandise stores	43,500	41,600	41,800	1,900	1,700
Miscellaneous store retailers	16,600	16,100	15,800	500	800
Nonstore retailers	8,100	7,800	8,200	300	-100

	October 2021	September 2021	October 2020	Change From September 2021	Change From October 2020
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	77,400	76,000	77,100	1,400	300
Utilities	4,900	4,900	4,700	0	200
Transportation and warehousing	72,500	71,100	72,400	1,400	100
Truck transportation	19,900	19,800	19,100	100	800
Couriers and messengers	14,500	14,200	14,100	300	400
Warehousing and storage	19,800	19,400	20,300	400	-500
Information	36,800	36,200	33,600	600	3,200
Publishing industries, except internet	16,100	16,300	15,400	-200	700
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,600	2,700	2,500	-100	100
Software publishers	13,500	13,600	12,900	-100	600
Telecommunications	4,700	4,700	4,800	0	-100
Financial activities	101,200	102,700	102,300	-1,500	-1,100
Finance and insurance	54,800	55,400	57,300	-600	-2,500
Credit intermediation and related activities	25,700	26,300	26,500	-600	-800
Insurance carriers and related activities	23,700	23,600	24,600	100	-900
Real estate and rental and leasing	46,400	47,300	45,000	-900	1,400
Real estate	41,500	41,800	40,200	-300	1,300
Professional and business services	259,100	254,300	244,700	4,800	14,400
Professional and technical services	108,100	106,100	99,600	2,000	8,500
Legal services	12,000	11,900	11,700	100	300
Architectural and engineering services	18,800	18,500	17,500	300	1,300
Computer systems design and related services	17,600	17,600	16,700	0	900
Management of companies and enterprises	47,700	48,000	48,300	-300	-600
Administrative and waste services	103,300	100,200	96,800	3,100	6,500
Administrative and support services	97,900	94,800	90,900	3,100	7,000
Employment services	46,000	41,600	37,100	4,400	8,900
Business support services	10,100	10,200	11,400	-100	-1,300
Services to buildings and dwellings	25,400	25,500	25,200	-100	200
Education and health services	300,800	299,000	298,900	1,800	1,900
Educational services	32,900	31,400	32,200	1,500	700
Health care and social assistance	267,900	267,600	266,700	300	1,200
Ambulatory health care services	95,500	94,900	92,600	600	2,900
Hospitals	57,600	57,900	58,600	-300	-1,000
Nursing and residential care facilities	47,200	47,100	51,800	100	-4,600
Social assistance	67,600	67,700	63,700	-100	3,900
Leisure and hospitality	186,200	186,900	164,000	-700	22,200
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	21,200	21,200	17,600	0	3,600
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	15,400	15,600	13,000	-200	2,400
Accommodation and food services	165,000	165,700	146,400	-700	18,600
Accommodation	21,000	22,000	18,900	-1,000	2,100
Food services and drinking places	144,000	143,700	127,500	300	16,500
Full-service restaurants	60,900	61,000	52,700	-100	8,200
Limited-service eating places	70,200	70,000	63,900	200	6,300
Other services	61,900	62,400	57,800	-500	4,100
Repair and maintenance	19,600	19,700	18,200	-100	1,400
Personal and laundry services	14,100	14,000	13,300	100	800
Membership associations and organizations	28,200	28,700	26,300	-500	1,900
Religious organizations	13,400	13,800	14,100	-400	-700
Government	294,600	285,500	282,700	9,100	11,900
Federal government	28,400	29,000	30,100	-600	-1,700
State government	42,600	42,800	42,000	-200	600
State education	900	900	900	0	0
Local government	223,600	213,700	210,600	9,900	13,000
Indian tribal	7,700	7,800	7,500	-100	200
Local education	129,800	121,000	118,900	8,800	10,900
Labor-management disputes	0	200	0	-200	0

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.

U-6 is the total unemployed plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force plus total employed part-time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all persons marginally attached to the 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. These survey-based estimates are revised quarterly, based on more complete information from employer tax records.