

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 14, 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Nick Beleiciks](#), State Employment Economist
(503) 947-1267 [Video](#) and [Audio](#) available at 10:00 AM

[David Cooke](#), Economist (503) 947-1272

Lowest on Record: Oregon Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.9 Percent in July

Oregon's unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in July, which was Oregon's lowest unemployment rate since comparable records began in 1976. Oregon's June unemployment rate was 4.0 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate exactly matched Oregon's rate in both months: 3.9 percent in July and 4.0 percent in June.

During the past two years, Oregon's unemployment rate has been remarkably low and steady. The rate was either 4.1 percent or 4.2 percent each month stretching from January 2017 to May 2018. The most recent two months are still close to that level, but have edged down to 4.0 percent in June and 3.9 percent in July.

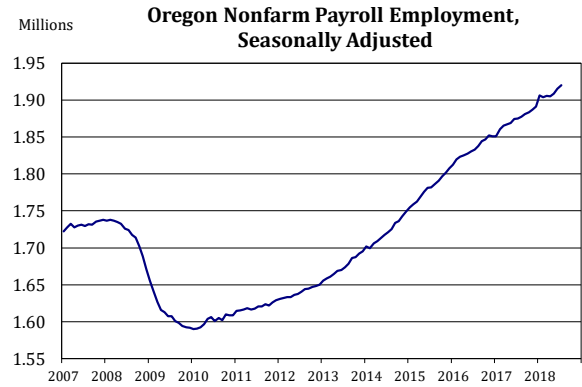
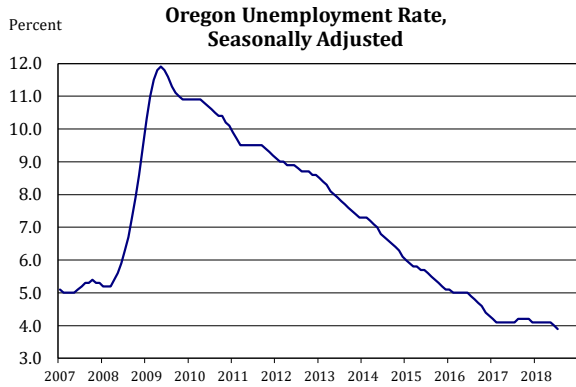
Oregon's economy is growing faster than previously thought. Payroll employment figures covering the spring and early summer show bigger job gains than the numbers released four weeks ago indicated. In July, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 5,400 jobs, following a revised over-the-month gain of 6,600 jobs in June.

Monthly job gains in July were concentrated in **retail trade** (+1,900 jobs), **construction** (+1,700), and **health care and social assistance** (+1,400). The only major industry performing below seasonal expectations was **government**, which cut 2,200 jobs.

Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 45,300 jobs, or 2.4 percent, since July 2017. This growth was substantially more rapid than was previously indicated in the jobs estimates released last month. Oregon's gains over the past 12 months were largest, by far, in **construction**, which added 11,000 jobs, expanding by 11.2 percent. Over the year, several other major industries each added more than 6,000 jobs, while growing faster than 3 percent: **leisure and hospitality** (+8,100 jobs, or 3.9%); **manufacturing** (+6,300 jobs, or 3.3%); **professional and business services** (+7,900 jobs, or 3.2%); and **health care and social assistance** (+7,600 jobs, or 3.2%). Some industries remained close to their year-ago job totals, including **information** (+200 jobs, or 0.6%); **retail trade** (+600 jobs, or 0.3%); **government** (-800 jobs, or -0.3%); and **wholesale trade** (-600 jobs, or -0.8%).

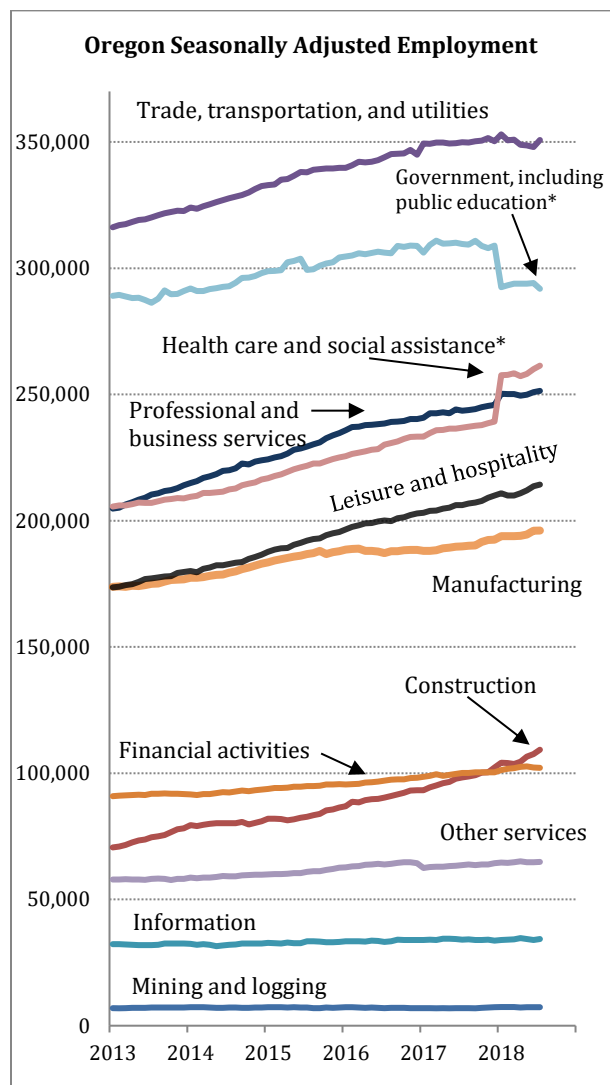
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the July county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, August 21st, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for August on Tuesday, September 18th.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes June to July 2018

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	-22,000	-16,600	5,400
Total private	9,300	16,900	7,600
Mining and logging	200	200	0
Construction	2,200	3,900	1,700
Manufacturing	2,400	2,500	100
Wholesale trade	700	1,100	400
Retail trade	1,200	3,100	1,900
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	-100	400	500
Information	500	900	400
Financial activities	300	100	-200
Professional and business services	1,300	1,800	500
Private educational services	-2,600	-2,500	100
Health care and social assistance	-500	900	1,400
Leisure and hospitality	4,200	4,900	700
Other services	-500	-400	100
Government	-31,300	-33,500	-2,200



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted.

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 January, February and March 2018 tax records data. The department continues to make the original nonfarm payroll employment series available; these data are produced by the BLS.

*Effective with the January 2018 data, employment of Oregon's approximately 17,000 home care workers are counted in private health care and social assistance instead of state government. The change was due to legislative action clarifying that for purposes of workforce and labor market information, home care workers are not employees of state government. The reclassification affects private sector and government monthly change figures for January 2018 and will affect over-the-year change figures through December 2018. It does not affect total payroll employment levels.

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, 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.

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.

Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	July 2018	June 2018	July 2017	Change From June 2018	Change From July 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,137,197	2,119,545	2,134,577	17,652	2,620
Unemployed	85,016	84,155	95,339	861	-10,323
Unemployment rate	4.0	4.0	4.5	0.0	-0.5
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	3.9	4.0	4.1	-0.1	-0.2
Employed	2,052,181	2,035,390	2,039,238	16,791	12,943
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.6	62.8	63.3	-0.2	-0.7
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	7.7	7.9	8.4	-0.2	-0.7
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,919,700	1,936,300	1,867,900	-16,600	51,800
Total private	1,648,800	1,631,900	1,580,600	16,900	68,200
Mining and logging	7,500	7,300	7,300	200	200
Logging	5,500	5,300	5,400	200	100
Construction	113,500	109,600	101,800	3,900	11,700
Construction of buildings	30,500	29,700	27,800	800	2,700
Residential building construction	18,500	18,200	17,000	300	1,500
Nonresidential building construction	12,000	11,500	10,800	500	1,200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,100	10,800	10,500	300	600
Specialty trade contractors	71,900	69,100	63,500	2,800	8,400
Building foundation and exterior contractors	14,000	13,500	12,800	500	1,200
Building equipment contractors	30,800	29,600	26,900	1,200	3,900
Building finishing contractors	17,300	16,400	14,900	900	2,400
Other specialty trade contractors	9,800	9,600	8,900	200	900
Manufacturing	199,800	197,300	193,300	2,500	6,500
Durable goods	136,500	135,800	132,500	700	4,000
Wood product manufacturing	23,600	23,600	23,000	0	600
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,600	6,500	6,400	100	200
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	9,100	9,100	8,800	0	300
Other wood product manufacturing	7,900	8,000	7,800	-100	100
Primary metal manufacturing	8,600	8,500	8,200	100	400
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	16,600	16,500	16,100	100	500
Machinery manufacturing	14,300	14,100	13,200	200	1,100
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,900	38,400	37,000	500	1,900
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,200	29,900	28,800	300	1,400
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,500	5,400	5,200	100	300
Transportation equipment manufacturing	12,100	12,100	12,100	0	0
Nondurable goods	63,300	61,500	60,800	1,800	2,500
Food manufacturing	33,300	31,900	31,700	1,400	1,600
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	13,200	11,600	12,900	1,600	300
Paper manufacturing	4,000	3,900	4,200	100	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	352,800	348,200	349,900	4,600	2,900
Wholesale trade	76,400	75,300	76,200	1,100	200
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	37,200	36,800	34,800	400	2,400
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	31,200	30,900	29,300	300	1,900
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	8,000	7,600	12,100	400	-4,100
Retail trade	212,500	209,400	211,600	3,100	900
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	28,100	27,300	26,800	800	1,300
Building material and garden supply stores	18,000	18,200	17,300	-200	700
Food and beverage stores	43,000	42,100	44,400	900	-1,400
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16,600	16,000	17,200	600	-600
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,600	9,800	9,900	-200	-300
General merchandise stores	41,600	40,500	41,000	1,100	600
Miscellaneous store retailers	15,900	15,700	15,300	200	600
Nonstore retailers	6,800	6,700	7,000	100	-200

	July 2018	June 2018	July 2017	Change From June 2018	Change From July 2017
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	63,900	63,500	62,100	400	1,800
Utilities	4,900	4,800	4,800	100	100
Transportation and warehousing	59,000	58,700	57,300	300	1,700
Truck transportation	18,600	18,600	19,000	0	-400
Couriers and messengers	8,500	8,600	8,200	-100	300
Warehousing and storage	9,000	8,800	8,600	200	400
Information	35,100	34,200	34,100	900	1,000
Publishing industries, except internet	14,600	14,500	14,800	100	-200
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	3,300	3,300	3,600	0	-300
Software publishers	11,300	11,200	11,200	100	100
Telecommunications	5,400	5,500	5,700	-100	-300
Financial activities	101,500	101,400	101,500	100	0
Finance and insurance	57,000	57,600	57,800	-600	-800
Credit intermediation and related activities	27,200	27,600	27,200	-400	0
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,000	24,100	24,700	-100	-700
Real estate and rental and leasing	44,500	43,800	43,700	700	800
Real estate	39,700	39,000	37,900	700	1,800
Professional and business services	254,900	253,100	247,000	1,800	7,900
Professional and technical services	99,500	99,200	95,200	300	4,300
Legal services	12,600	12,300	12,000	300	600
Architectural and engineering services	17,300	16,900	16,200	400	1,100
Computer systems design and related services	16,000	16,200	16,500	-200	-500
Management of companies and enterprises	49,900	49,000	48,000	900	1,900
Administrative and waste services	105,500	104,900	103,800	600	1,700
Administrative and support services	98,800	98,700	98,100	100	700
Employment services	42,500	41,700	41,700	800	800
Business support services	13,400	13,300	13,800	100	-400
Services to buildings and dwellings	24,600	25,100	24,400	-500	200
Education and health services	290,700	292,300	264,900	-1,600	25,800
Educational services	32,400	34,900	29,200	-2,500	3,200
Health care and social assistance	258,300	257,400	235,700	900	22,600
Ambulatory health care services	92,400	91,300	90,400	1,100	2,000
Hospitals	59,100	58,800	58,400	300	700
Nursing and residential care facilities	52,400	51,100	50,600	1,300	1,800
Social assistance	54,400	56,200	36,300	-1,800	18,100
Leisure and hospitality	228,700	223,800	216,700	4,900	12,000
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	31,700	29,800	29,800	1,900	1,900
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	23,300	21,800	22,000	1,500	1,300
Accommodation and food services	197,000	194,000	186,900	3,000	10,100
Accommodation	28,500	27,800	27,600	700	900
Food services and drinking places	168,500	166,200	159,300	2,300	9,200
Full-service restaurants	77,100	75,300	74,200	1,800	2,900
Limited-service eating places	73,600	73,700	69,900	-100	3,700
Other services	64,300	64,700	64,100	-400	200
Repair and maintenance	18,000	18,000	18,600	0	-600
Personal and laundry services	16,000	15,400	15,400	600	600
Membership associations and organizations	30,300	31,300	30,100	-1,000	200
Religious organizations	16,400	16,900	15,800	-500	600
Government	270,900	304,400	287,300	-33,500	-16,400
Federal government	29,600	29,400	29,400	200	200
State government	39,900	40,100	56,800	-200	-16,900
State education	700	800	700	-100	0
Local government	201,400	234,900	201,100	-33,500	300
Indian tribal	8,500	8,300	8,500	200	0
Local education	106,700	139,200	107,300	-32,500	-600
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	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.