

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 18, 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 3.8 Percent in August

Oregon's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in August, which was Oregon's lowest unemployment rate since comparable records began in 1976. Oregon's July unemployment rate was 3.9 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in both July and August.

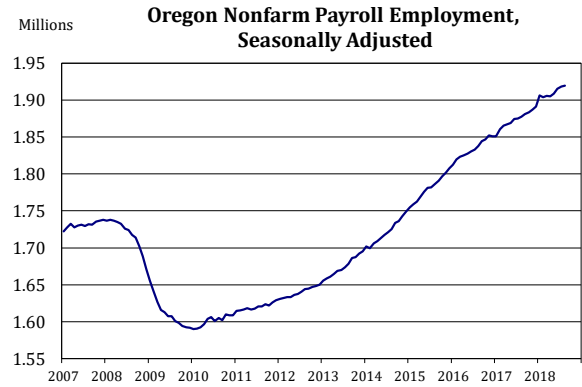
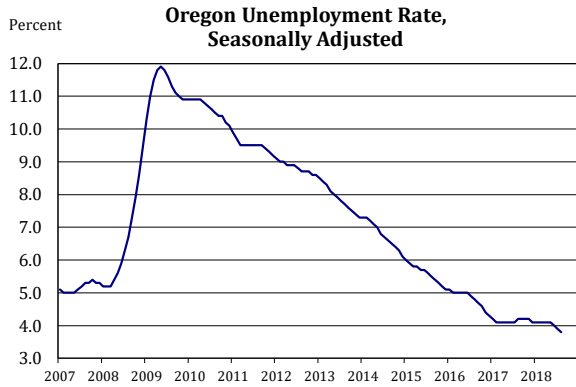
The number of Oregonians unemployed shrank in recent months. In August, the number of unemployed people dropped to 80,500, which is down from 88,000 in August 2017. The low number of unemployed reflects a very tight job market. Many people just entering the labor force are getting snapped up by employers. In August, there were only about 20,000 new entrants to the labor force who were unemployed; this was only one-third the number of such "unemployed entrants" seen in the early 2010s. This means that there are far fewer Oregonians just entering the workforce who can't find a job. Meanwhile in August, of the unemployed Oregonians, 28,000 had lost their job—a historically low level, given that in 2009 there were five times the number of unemployed due to job loss.

In August, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment grew by a modest 900 jobs, following a revised gain of 3,400 jobs in July. Monthly gains in August were concentrated in **construction**, which added 800 jobs, and trade, which added 800 jobs in **wholesale trade** and 700 jobs in **retail trade**. These gains were offset by losses in **leisure and hospitality** (-1,100 jobs) and **government** (-600 jobs).

Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 42,000 jobs, or 2.2 percent, since August 2017. More than one-quarter of payroll employment growth was in the **construction** industry, which added 11,400 jobs, expanding by 11.6 percent. Over the year, no other industry has grown nearly as fast as construction. Next in line are four major industries that each grew slightly slower than 3 percent: **manufacturing** (+5,500 jobs, or 2.9%); **professional and business services** (+6,900 jobs, or 2.8%); **leisure and hospitality** (+5,700 jobs, or 2.8%); and **health care and social assistance** (+6,400 jobs, or 2.7%). Rapid growth across the industries isn't universal, as several industries remained close to their year-ago job totals, including **wholesale trade** (700 jobs, or 0.9%); **retail trade** (+1,200 jobs, or 0.6%); **transportation, warehousing, and utilities** (+300 jobs, or 0.5%); **government** (no change in jobs, or 0.0%); and **information** (-200 jobs, or -0.6%).

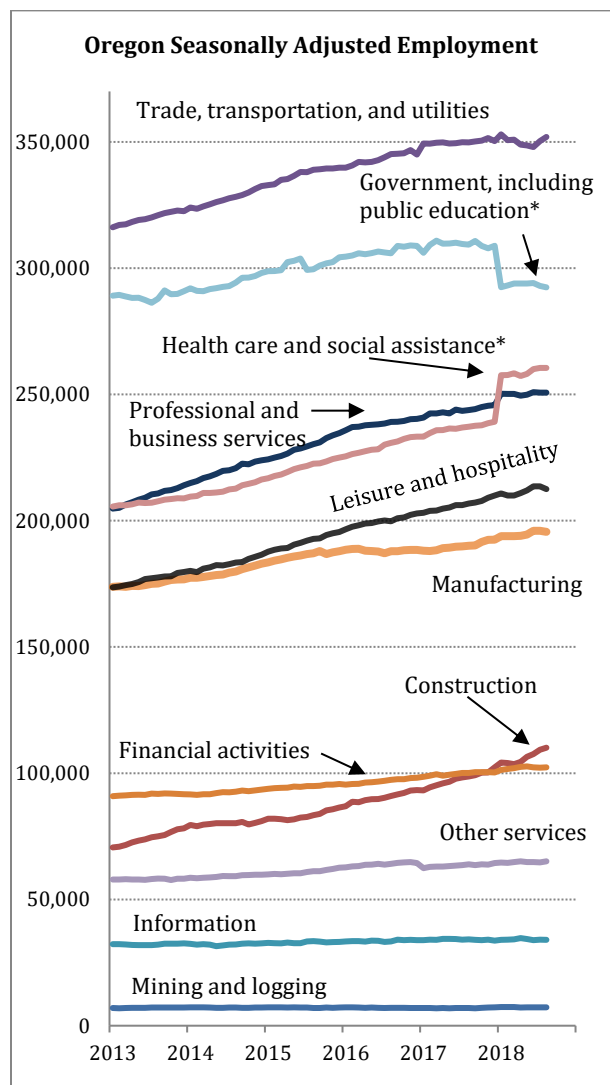
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, September 25th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, October 16th.



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

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



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 people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	August 2018	July 2018	August 2017	Change From July 2018	Change From August 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,122,899	2,137,211	2,134,652	-14,312	-11,753
Unemployed	83,851	85,552	95,441	-1,701	-11,590
Unemployment rate	3.9	4.0	4.5	-0.1	-0.6
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	3.8	3.9	4.2	-0.1	-0.4
Employed	2,039,048	2,051,659	2,039,211	-12,611	-163
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.3	62.6	63.4	-0.2	-0.7
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	7.7	7.8	8.4	-0.2	-0.7
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,920,700	1,917,800	1,872,300	2,900	48,400
Total private	1,650,800	1,645,800	1,586,900	5,000	63,900
Mining and logging	7,500	7,500	7,300	0	200
Logging	5,400	5,500	5,400	-100	0
Construction	115,500	113,500	103,200	2,000	12,300
Construction of buildings	31,000	30,600	28,300	400	2,700
Residential building construction	18,600	18,600	17,300	0	1,300
Nonresidential building construction	12,400	12,000	11,000	400	1,400
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,500	11,100	10,700	400	800
Specialty trade contractors	73,000	71,800	64,200	1,200	8,800
Building foundation and exterior contractors	14,200	13,900	12,900	300	1,300
Building equipment contractors	31,900	30,900	27,200	1,000	4,700
Building finishing contractors	16,900	17,200	15,000	-300	1,900
Other specialty trade contractors	10,000	9,800	9,100	200	900
Manufacturing	200,000	200,200	193,900	-200	6,100
Durable goods	136,000	136,500	132,400	-500	3,600
Wood product manufacturing	23,500	23,600	23,100	-100	400
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,600	6,600	6,500	0	100
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	9,000	9,100	8,900	-100	100
Other wood product manufacturing	7,900	7,900	7,700	0	200
Primary metal manufacturing	8,600	8,600	8,200	0	400
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	16,600	16,600	16,000	0	600
Machinery manufacturing	14,300	14,300	13,300	0	1,000
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,800	38,800	37,200	0	1,600
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,200	30,200	29,000	0	1,200
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,500	5,500	5,200	0	300
Transportation equipment manufacturing	12,100	12,100	12,000	0	100
Nondurable goods	64,000	63,700	61,500	300	2,500
Food manufacturing	33,200	33,600	32,200	-400	1,000
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	12,900	13,000	13,300	-100	-400
Paper manufacturing	4,000	4,000	4,200	0	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	354,000	352,000	351,300	2,000	2,700
Wholesale trade	77,200	76,400	76,100	800	1,100
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	37,300	37,300	35,000	0	2,300
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	31,900	31,200	29,500	700	2,400
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	8,000	7,900	11,600	100	-3,600
Retail trade	213,100	212,400	212,400	700	700
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	27,600	27,800	26,900	-200	700
Building material and garden supply stores	17,700	18,000	17,100	-300	600
Food and beverage stores	42,800	43,000	44,600	-200	-1,800
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16,500	16,500	17,400	0	-900
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,600	9,600	9,900	0	-300
General merchandise stores	42,100	41,600	41,000	500	1,100
Miscellaneous store retailers	16,200	15,900	15,500	300	700
Nonstore retailers	7,400	6,800	7,200	600	200

	August 2018	July 2018	August 2017	Change From July 2018	Change From August 2017
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	63,700	63,200	62,800	500	900
Utilities	4,800	4,900	4,800	-100	0
Transportation and warehousing	58,900	58,300	58,000	600	900
Truck transportation	18,900	18,600	19,200	300	-300
Couriers and messengers	8,800	8,500	8,400	300	400
Warehousing and storage	8,900	9,000	8,800	-100	100
Information	34,700	34,800	34,500	-100	200
Publishing industries, except internet	14,500	14,500	14,800	0	-300
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	3,200	3,300	3,600	-100	-400
Software publishers	11,300	11,200	11,200	100	100
Telecommunications	5,400	5,400	5,700	0	-300
Financial activities	101,800	101,600	101,600	200	200
Finance and insurance	57,300	56,900	57,700	400	-400
Credit intermediation and related activities	27,400	27,100	27,200	300	200
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,100	23,900	24,600	200	-500
Real estate and rental and leasing	44,500	44,700	43,900	-200	600
Real estate	39,800	40,000	38,100	-200	1,700
Professional and business services	255,400	254,100	247,700	1,300	7,700
Professional and technical services	99,300	99,100	95,400	200	3,900
Legal services	12,400	12,600	12,000	-200	400
Architectural and engineering services	17,300	17,400	16,200	-100	1,100
Computer systems design and related services	16,100	16,000	16,500	100	-400
Management of companies and enterprises	49,700	49,700	48,000	0	1,700
Administrative and waste services	106,400	105,300	104,300	1,100	2,100
Administrative and support services	100,100	99,100	98,700	1,000	1,400
Employment services	43,600	42,200	42,200	1,400	1,400
Business support services	13,200	13,400	13,600	-200	-400
Services to buildings and dwellings	25,000	24,900	24,400	100	600
Education and health services	291,300	289,900	266,500	1,400	24,800
Educational services	32,800	32,500	30,200	300	2,600
Health care and social assistance	258,500	257,400	236,300	1,100	22,200
Ambulatory health care services	92,300	92,400	90,600	-100	1,700
Hospitals	59,100	59,100	58,500	0	600
Nursing and residential care facilities	52,400	52,100	50,600	300	1,800
Social assistance	54,700	53,800	36,600	900	18,100
Leisure and hospitality	225,700	228,300	216,500	-2,600	9,200
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	31,100	31,600	29,300	-500	1,800
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	22,900	23,300	21,500	-400	1,400
Accommodation and food services	194,600	196,700	187,200	-2,100	7,400
Accommodation	28,600	28,500	27,800	100	800
Food services and drinking places	166,000	168,200	159,400	-2,200	6,600
Full-service restaurants	75,000	76,500	74,200	-1,500	800
Limited-service eating places	73,500	73,800	69,800	-300	3,700
Other services	64,900	63,900	64,400	1,000	500
Repair and maintenance	18,200	17,800	18,700	400	-500
Personal and laundry services	16,000	15,900	15,400	100	600
Membership associations and organizations	30,700	30,200	30,300	500	400
Religious organizations	17,100	16,500	16,000	600	1,100
Government	269,900	272,000	285,400	-2,100	-15,500
Federal government	29,400	29,600	29,200	-200	200
State government	40,400	40,200	57,000	200	-16,600
State education	900	800	800	100	100
Local government	200,100	202,200	199,200	-2,100	900
Indian tribal	8,400	8,500	8,400	-100	0
Local education	103,800	105,700	105,300	-1,900	-1,500
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.