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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

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

## Oregon's Unemployment Rate Remained at a Record Low of 3.8 Percent in September

Oregon's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in September, the same as in August. These were Oregon's lowest unemployment rates since comparable records began in 1976. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped from 3.9 percent in August to 3.7 percent in September.

Oregon's labor market was unusually tight in September, as indicated not only by the low unemployment rate, but also by the low number of Oregonians who are considered "short-term unemployed." In September, 80,000 Oregonians were unemployed. Of those, 16,000 had been unemployed for 27 weeks or more ("long-term unemployed"), and 64,000 had been unemployed for less than 27 weeks ("short-term unemployed"). The number of short-term unemployed was quite low historically and was well below levels seen at the end of the prior expansion in 2006 and 2007, when an average of 86,000 people were categorized as short-term unemployed.

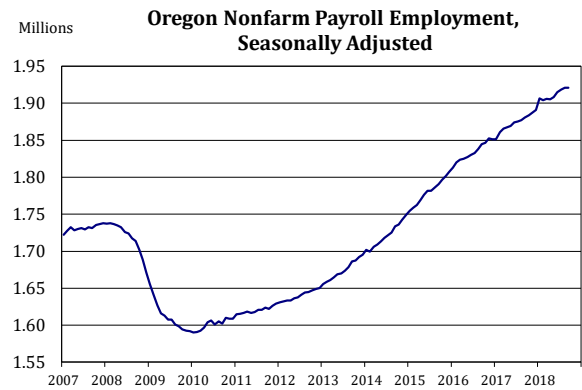
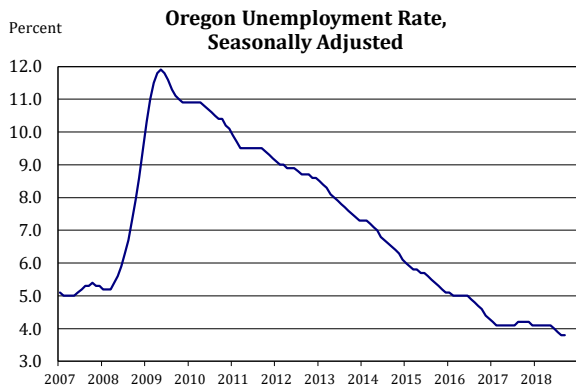
In September, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment grew by a modest 300 jobs, following a revised gain of 2,400 jobs in August. Monthly gains in September were concentrated in **leisure and hospitality** (+900 jobs) and **professional and business services** (+800 jobs). These gains were offset by losses in **retail trade** (-1,300 jobs) and **wholesale trade** (-800 jobs).

Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40,200 jobs, or 2.1 percent, since September 2017. This growth rate is very close to the 2.2 percent annual growth rate the state has experienced over the prior 21 months, cooling off from the 3.0 percent average annual growth rate seen during the prior three years dating back to 2013.

More than one-quarter of Oregon's payroll employment growth over the past 12 months was in the **construction** industry, which added 11,100 jobs, expanding by 11.2 percent. Over the year, no other industry has grown nearly as fast as construction. Next in line are three major industries that each grew by close to 3 percent: **leisure and hospitality** (+6,600 jobs, or 3.2%); **other services** (+2,000 jobs, or 3.1%); and **professional and business services** (+7,400 jobs, or 3.0%). Several industries remained close to their year-ago job totals, including **information** (+100 jobs, or 0.3%); **government** (-200 jobs, or -0.1%); **retail trade** (-700 jobs, or -0.3%); and **wholesale trade** (-300 jobs, or -0.4%).

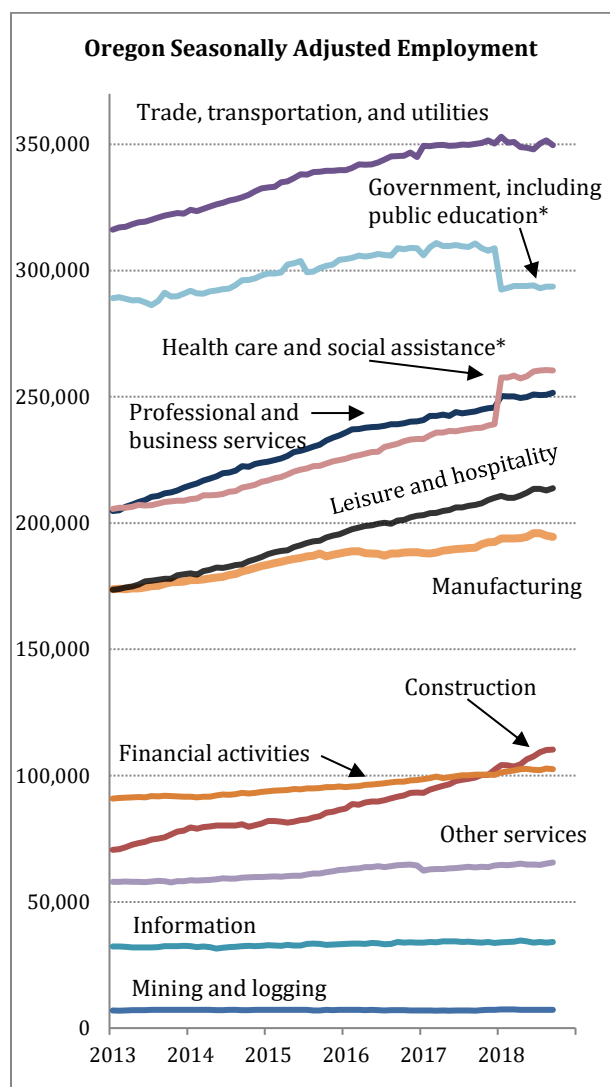
### Next Press Releases

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



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

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	4,200	4,500	300
Total private	-8,500	-8,300	200
Mining and logging	-200	-200	0
Construction	-1,700	-1,500	200
Manufacturing	-2,000	-2,400	-400
Wholesale trade	-500	-1,300	-800
Retail trade	-1,400	-2,700	-1,300
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	900	1,100	200
Information	-600	-400	200
Financial activities	-900	-1,200	-300
Professional and business services	-1,600	-800	800
Private educational services	5,200	5,600	400
Health care and social assistance	-200	-300	-100
Leisure and hospitality	-6,100	-5,200	900
Other services	600	1,000	400
Government	12,700	12,800	100



**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](http://www.QualityInfo.org/press-release). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://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](http://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

	September 2018	August 2018	September 2017	Change From August 2018	Change From September 2017
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	2,118,955	2,124,482	2,134,310	-5,527	-15,355
Unemployed	77,114	84,421	85,082	-7,307	-7,968
Unemployment rate	3.6	4.0	4.0	-0.4	-0.4
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	3.8	3.8	4.2	0.0	-0.4
Employed	2,041,841	2,040,061	2,049,228	1,780	-7,387
<b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.2	62.3	63.4	-0.1	-1.2
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	7.8	7.7	8.4	0.1	-0.6
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,927,500	1,923,000	1,883,100	4,500	44,400
Total private	1,643,400	1,651,700	1,584,900	-8,300	58,500
Mining and logging	7,300	7,500	7,100	-200	200
Logging	5,200	5,300	5,200	-100	0
Construction	114,400	115,900	102,500	-1,500	11,900
Construction of buildings	30,600	31,100	28,000	-500	2,600
Residential building construction	18,200	18,700	16,900	-500	1,300
Nonresidential building construction	12,400	12,400	11,100	0	1,300
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,400	11,600	10,600	-200	800
Specialty trade contractors	72,400	73,200	63,900	-800	8,500
Building foundation and exterior contractors	14,000	14,300	12,800	-300	1,200
Building equipment contractors	31,900	32,100	27,300	-200	4,600
Building finishing contractors	16,500	16,800	14,700	-300	1,800
Other specialty trade contractors	10,000	10,000	9,100	0	900
Manufacturing	196,900	199,300	192,000	-2,400	4,900
Durable goods	134,800	136,100	131,700	-1,300	3,100
Wood product manufacturing	23,400	23,600	22,800	-200	600
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,500	6,600	6,400	-100	100
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	9,100	9,100	8,800	0	300
Other wood product manufacturing	7,800	7,900	7,600	-100	200
Primary metal manufacturing	8,600	8,600	8,300	0	300
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	16,500	16,600	16,000	-100	500
Machinery manufacturing	14,100	14,300	13,400	-200	700
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,600	38,900	37,000	-300	1,600
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,100	30,200	28,900	-100	1,200
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,500	5,500	5,200	0	300
Transportation equipment manufacturing	12,100	12,100	11,800	0	300
Nondurable goods	62,100	63,200	60,300	-1,100	1,800
Food manufacturing	31,600	32,600	30,800	-1,000	800
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	11,700	12,500	12,200	-800	-500
Paper manufacturing	4,000	3,900	4,200	100	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	351,200	354,100	351,100	-2,900	100
Wholesale trade	75,800	77,100	75,800	-1,300	0
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	36,900	37,300	35,000	-400	1,900
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	31,200	31,800	29,800	-600	1,400
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,700	8,000	11,000	-300	-3,300
Retail trade	210,800	213,500	211,900	-2,700	-1,100
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	27,200	27,400	26,800	-200	400
Building material and garden supply stores	17,300	17,700	16,600	-400	700
Food and beverage stores	42,600	43,000	44,200	-400	-1,600
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16,100	16,400	16,700	-300	-600
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,500	9,600	9,700	-100	-200
General merchandise stores	42,000	42,400	41,500	-400	500
Miscellaneous store retailers	16,400	16,200	15,700	200	700
Nonstore retailers	7,700	7,400	7,900	300	-200

	September 2018	August 2018	September 2017	Change From August 2018	Change From September 2017
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	64,600	63,500	63,400	1,100	1,200
Utilities	4,800	4,800	4,800	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	59,800	58,700	58,600	1,100	1,200
Truck transportation	19,100	18,800	19,000	300	100
Couriers and messengers	9,100	8,800	8,600	300	500
Warehousing and storage	9,000	8,900	8,800	100	200
Information	34,200	34,600	34,500	-400	-300
Publishing industries, except internet	14,400	14,600	14,700	-200	-300
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	3,200	3,300	3,600	-100	-400
Software publishers	11,200	11,300	11,100	-100	100
Telecommunications	5,300	5,400	5,600	-100	-300
Financial activities	101,200	102,400	101,000	-1,200	200
Finance and insurance	56,700	57,700	57,600	-1,000	-900
Credit intermediation and related activities	27,100	27,500	27,200	-400	-100
Insurance carriers and related activities	23,900	24,200	24,500	-300	-600
Real estate and rental and leasing	44,500	44,700	43,400	-200	1,100
Real estate	39,500	39,800	37,700	-300	1,800
Professional and business services	254,700	255,500	246,300	-800	8,400
Professional and technical services	98,800	99,600	94,700	-800	4,100
Legal services	12,100	12,300	11,900	-200	200
Architectural and engineering services	17,400	17,300	16,200	100	1,200
Computer systems design and related services	16,000	16,100	16,300	-100	-300
Management of companies and enterprises	49,300	49,500	47,500	-200	1,800
Administrative and waste services	106,600	106,400	104,100	200	2,500
Administrative and support services	100,300	100,100	98,500	200	1,800
Employment services	43,200	43,600	42,800	-400	400
Business support services	13,400	13,200	13,400	200	0
Services to buildings and dwellings	25,000	24,900	23,900	100	1,100
Education and health services	297,000	291,700	274,000	5,300	23,000
Educational services	38,300	32,700	36,800	5,600	1,500
Health care and social assistance	258,700	259,000	237,200	-300	21,500
Ambulatory health care services	92,300	92,700	90,800	-400	1,500
Hospitals	59,300	59,100	58,700	200	600
Nursing and residential care facilities	51,600	52,300	50,600	-700	1,000
Social assistance	55,500	54,900	37,100	600	18,400
Leisure and hospitality	220,800	226,000	212,600	-5,200	8,200
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	28,800	31,100	27,500	-2,300	1,300
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	20,900	22,900	19,800	-2,000	1,100
Accommodation and food services	192,000	194,900	185,100	-2,900	6,900
Accommodation	27,100	28,600	26,500	-1,500	600
Food services and drinking places	164,900	166,300	158,600	-1,400	6,300
Full-service restaurants	75,100	75,100	73,500	0	1,600
Limited-service eating places	72,600	73,500	68,900	-900	3,700
Other services	65,700	64,700	63,800	1,000	1,900
Repair and maintenance	18,300	18,100	18,500	200	-200
Personal and laundry services	15,900	16,000	15,300	-100	600
Membership associations and organizations	31,500	30,600	30,000	900	1,500
Religious organizations	18,000	17,100	16,600	900	1,400
Government	284,100	271,300	298,200	12,800	-14,100
Federal government	29,300	29,400	29,000	-100	300
State government	40,200	40,500	56,500	-300	-16,300
State education	800	900	800	-100	0
Local government	214,600	201,400	212,700	13,200	1,900
Indian tribal	8,000	8,400	8,300	-400	-300
Local education	119,600	105,200	119,800	14,400	-200
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.