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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Has Stayed Near 4 Percent for Three Years

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in September and October. The rate has been between 4.0 percent and 4.4 percent for an unprecedented 36 consecutive months dating back to November 2016. The U.S. unemployment rate ticked up from 3.5 percent in September to 3.6 percent in October.

Other measures of Oregon's labor force also indicated a tight labor market in recent months. Fewer individuals are remaining unemployed for extended periods: The number of individuals unemployed for 52 weeks or more dropped to 6,000 in October, which was the lowest level in a dozen years and well below the peak of 70,000 in 2010. The number of unemployed who lost their job has remained close to 32,000 for the past three years, which was less than one-quarter of those unemployed due to a job loss in 2009. Meanwhile, the number of people who were unemployed due to leaving their job voluntarily has recently risen above 16,000, up from an average of 12,000 during the prior six calendar years. The increase in the number of people leaving their jobs voluntarily could indicate increasing confidence among workers of being able to easily find another job if they quit their current job.

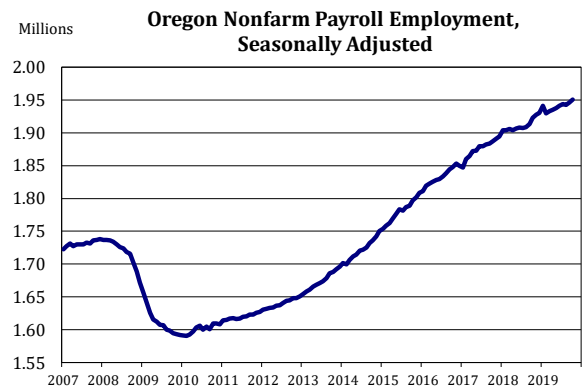
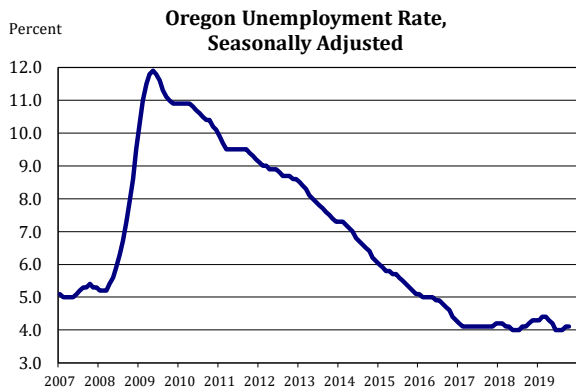
Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 4,400 jobs in October, following an upwardly revised gain of 3,300 jobs in September. Gains in October were concentrated in **leisure and hospitality** (+2,400 jobs), **government** (+2,300), and **wholesale trade** (+1,000). These monthly gains were partially offset by job losses of 700 each in **construction** and **health care and social assistance**, and a loss of 900 jobs in **retail trade**.

In addition to the strong monthly gains in September and October, quarterly revisions boosted the level of reported employment by 6,400 jobs for June and subsequent months.

Oregon's payroll employment grew by 27,800 jobs, or 1.4 percent, over the past 12 months. This growth rate was slightly slower than the 1.7 percent average annual growth rate Oregon's economy experienced over the past 19 months. During the five years prior to that, employment grew much faster—at an average of 2.8 percent per year. Oregon has added jobs at the same pace as the U.S. over the past year.

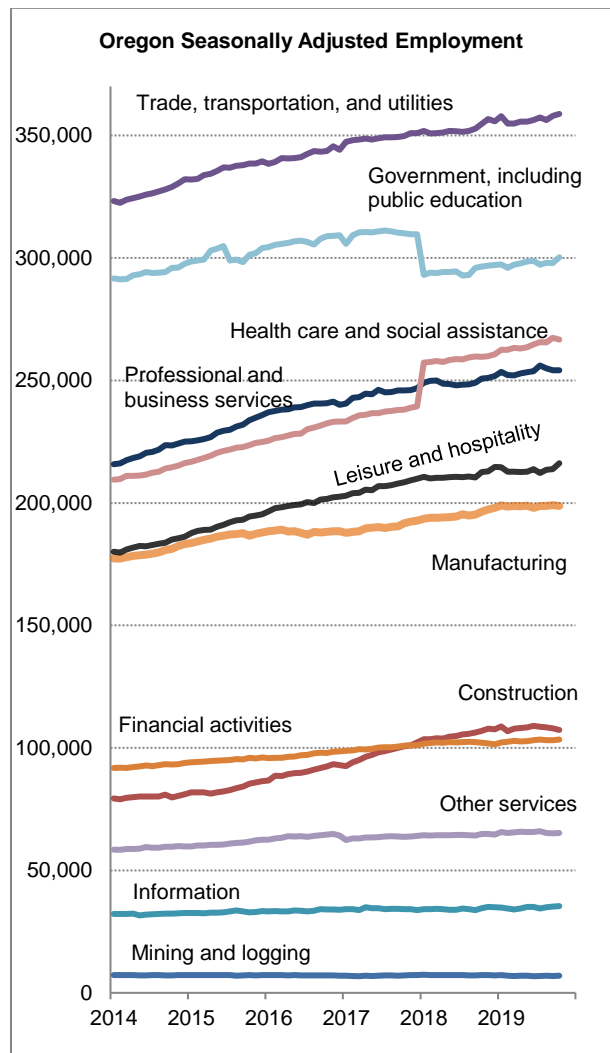
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, November 19th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Tuesday, December 17th.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes September to October 2019

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	7,900	12,300	4,400
Total private	-6,000	-3,900	2,100
Mining and logging	100	200	100
Construction	-1,400	-2,100	-700
Manufacturing	-1,600	-2,000	-400
Wholesale trade	-500	500	1,000
Retail trade	700	-200	-900
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	600	1,300	700
Information	200	400	200
Financial activities	-400	-100	300
Professional and business services	-400	-400	0
Private educational services	1,500	1,400	-100
Health care and social assistance	700	0	-700
Leisure and hospitality	-6,200	-3,800	2,400
Other services	700	900	200
Government	13,900	16,200	2,300



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 April, May, and June 2019 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, 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

	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Change From September 2019	Change From October 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,118,914	2,124,764	2,117,663	-5,850	1,251
Unemployed	74,575	82,620	83,429	-8,045	-8,854
Unemployment rate	3.5	3.9	3.9	-0.4	-0.4
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.1	4.1	4.2	0.0	-0.1
Employed	2,044,339	2,042,144	2,034,234	2,195	10,105
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	61.7	61.7	62.3	0.0	-0.6
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	8.4	8.5	8.6	-0.1	-0.2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,959,900	1,947,600	1,935,400	12,300	24,500
Total private	1,655,300	1,659,200	1,634,200	-3,900	21,100
Mining and logging	7,300	7,100	7,400	200	-100
Logging	5,300	5,100	5,400	200	-100
Construction	109,700	111,800	109,000	-2,100	700
Construction of buildings	30,700	31,600	30,600	-900	100
Residential building construction	18,400	19,100	18,800	-700	-400
Nonresidential building construction	12,300	12,500	11,800	-200	500
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,100	11,400	10,700	-300	400
Specialty trade contractors	67,900	68,800	67,700	-900	200
Building foundation and exterior contractors	13,000	13,000	13,100	0	-100
Building equipment contractors	30,800	30,700	30,000	100	800
Building finishing contractors	14,800	15,500	15,400	-700	-600
Other specialty trade contractors	9,300	9,600	9,200	-300	100
Manufacturing	199,400	201,400	197,200	-2,000	2,200
Durable goods	136,600	137,400	136,600	-800	0
Wood product manufacturing	23,000	23,000	23,600	0	-600
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,100	6,100	6,400	0	-300
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,900	8,900	9,200	0	-300
Other wood product manufacturing	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0
Primary metal manufacturing	9,300	9,200	8,800	100	500
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	16,900	16,900	16,700	0	200
Machinery manufacturing	14,200	14,200	14,300	0	-100
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,100	38,700	38,400	-600	-300
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	29,900	30,500	30,200	-600	-300
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,600	5,500	5,500	100	100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	13,000	12,900	12,300	100	700
Nondurable goods	62,800	64,000	60,600	-1,200	2,200
Food manufacturing	30,600	31,300	30,000	-700	600
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	11,400	11,800	11,300	-400	100
Paper manufacturing	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	359,600	358,000	356,300	1,600	3,300
Wholesale trade	78,400	77,900	76,000	500	2,400
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	39,100	38,800	37,300	300	1,800
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	31,500	31,400	31,000	100	500
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,800	7,700	7,700	100	100
Retail trade	209,900	210,100	212,600	-200	-2,700
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,800	27,000	26,900	-200	-100
Building material and garden supply stores	16,500	16,800	16,300	-300	200
Food and beverage stores	44,000	44,500	43,300	-500	700
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16,200	16,000	16,200	200	0
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,700	9,600	9,600	100	100
General merchandise stores	41,100	40,600	41,900	500	-800
Miscellaneous store retailers	17,400	17,200	16,800	200	600
Nonstore retailers	8,200	8,300	8,600	-100	-400

	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Change From September 2019	Change From October 2018
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	71,300	70,000	67,700	1,300	3,600
Utilities	4,700	4,600	4,800	100	-100
Transportation and warehousing	66,600	65,400	62,900	1,200	3,700
Truck transportation	19,500	19,400	19,000	100	500
Couriers and messengers	10,500	10,100	9,800	400	700
Warehousing and storage	13,100	13,000	11,100	100	2,000
Information	35,100	34,700	34,500	400	600
Publishing industries, except internet	15,100	15,000	14,800	100	300
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,900	2,900	3,200	0	-300
Software publishers	12,200	12,100	11,600	100	600
Telecommunications	5,100	5,100	5,200	0	-100
Financial activities	103,000	103,100	102,600	-100	400
Finance and insurance	56,000	56,600	57,100	-600	-1,100
Credit intermediation and related activities	25,900	26,100	26,600	-200	-700
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,400	24,600	24,200	-200	200
Real estate and rental and leasing	47,000	46,500	45,500	500	1,500
Real estate	41,100	40,700	39,900	400	1,200
Professional and business services	256,200	256,600	252,400	-400	3,800
Professional and technical services	101,100	100,000	98,200	1,100	2,900
Legal services	11,800	11,600	11,800	200	0
Architectural and engineering services	18,100	18,100	16,900	0	1,200
Computer systems design and related services	17,000	17,000	16,700	0	300
Management of companies and enterprises	50,100	50,300	49,100	-200	1,000
Administrative and waste services	105,000	106,300	105,100	-1,300	-100
Administrative and support services	99,900	100,400	99,300	-500	600
Employment services	44,300	43,400	42,900	900	1,400
Business support services	12,800	12,800	13,100	0	-300
Services to buildings and dwellings	25,700	26,100	24,400	-400	1,300
Education and health services	305,400	304,000	299,000	1,400	6,400
Educational services	38,000	36,600	38,800	1,400	-800
Health care and social assistance	267,400	267,400	260,200	0	7,200
Ambulatory health care services	95,700	96,400	93,000	-700	2,700
Hospitals	60,400	60,200	59,300	200	1,100
Nursing and residential care facilities	52,500	52,800	51,500	-300	1,000
Social assistance	58,800	58,000	56,400	800	2,400
Leisure and hospitality	213,100	216,900	210,900	-3,800	2,200
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	26,900	28,700	26,200	-1,800	700
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	18,800	20,400	18,500	-1,600	300
Accommodation and food services	186,200	188,200	184,700	-2,000	1,500
Accommodation	26,200	27,000	26,000	-800	200
Food services and drinking places	160,000	161,200	158,700	-1,200	1,300
Full-service restaurants	72,100	72,400	72,200	-300	-100
Limited-service eating places	71,300	72,300	69,800	-1,000	1,500
Other services	66,500	65,600	64,900	900	1,600
Repair and maintenance	18,500	18,500	19,000	0	-500
Personal and laundry services	16,100	15,800	15,500	300	600
Membership associations and organizations	31,900	31,300	30,400	600	1,500
Religious organizations	17,000	16,800	16,500	200	500
Government	304,600	288,400	301,200	16,200	3,400
Federal government	28,400	29,600	28,600	-1,200	-200
State government	40,600	41,100	39,900	-500	700
State education	700	700	800	0	-100
Local government	235,600	217,700	232,700	17,900	2,900
Indian tribal	8,400	8,300	8,200	100	200
Local education	139,000	120,800	138,100	18,200	900
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.