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(503) 947-1272 [Video](#) and [Audio](#) available at 10:00 AM

Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.7 Percent in December

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 3.7 percent in December, the lowest on comparable records dating back to 1976. The November unemployment rate was 3.9 percent.

"The latest estimates suggest there are fewer unemployed Oregonians now than at any point since 1976, when comparable records begin. That's especially striking considering Oregon's labor force is twice as large as it was 44 years ago," said Nick Beleiciks, Systems and Economic Analysis manager at the Oregon Employment Department.

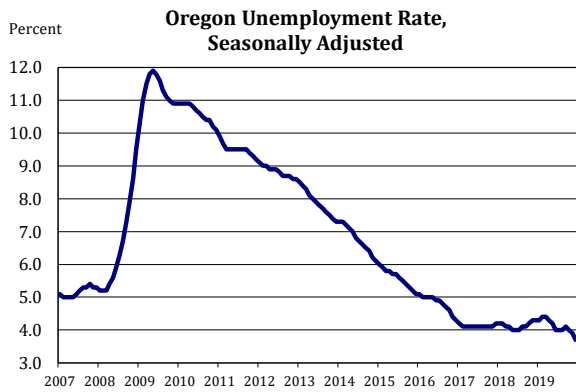
In December, many of Oregon's workforce metrics set records, indicating an increasingly tight labor market. The number of people who were unemployed for less than half a year dropped to the lowest level in at least 18 years. The number of people who were unemployed due to a layoff also dropped to the lowest level in the past two decades. The broadest measure of labor underutilization, called "U-6", came in at the lowest on records dating back nearly two decades. This measure includes the unemployed, plus those who want a full-time job but who were working part-time due to the economy.

Total nonfarm payroll employment grew by 800 jobs in December, following a gain of 3,800 jobs, as revised, in November. December gains were strongest in **leisure and hospitality** (+2,000 jobs). In addition, several industries added between 300 and 500 jobs. Meanwhile, two industries declined by more than 500 jobs: **health care and social assistance** (-900 jobs) and **professional and business services** (-1,600 jobs).

Oregon's over-the-year job growth of 1.4 percent equaled the U.S. job growth of 1.4 percent. Most of Oregon's major industries expanded by between 1 percent and 3 percent since December 2018. The fastest growing industries in the past 12 months were **private educational services** (+1,300 jobs, or 3.6%) and **transportation, warehousing, and utilities** (+2,100 jobs, or 3.0%). In that time only two industries cut jobs: **retail trade** (-700 jobs, or -0.3%) and **mining and logging** (-300 jobs, or -4.2%).

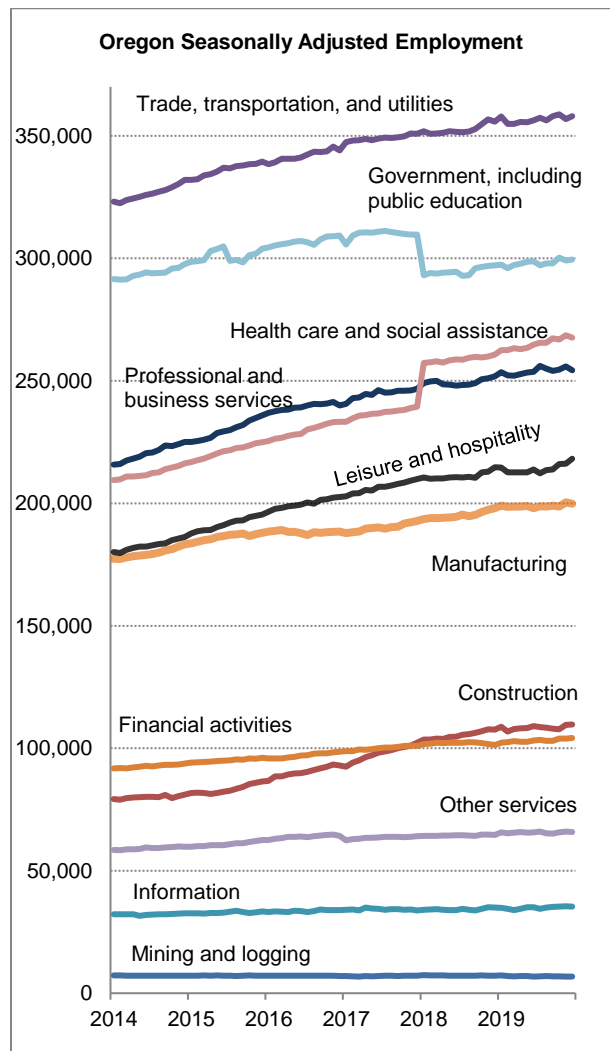
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the December county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, January 28th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Tuesday, March 3rd. At the time of the March 3rd press release all of the statewide employment and unemployment data will be revised for at least the prior two years. This is a normal part of the annual processing and revisions to these data.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes November to December 2019

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



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted, except for Mr. Beleiciks's quote which is referring to the not seasonally adjusted unemployed.

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

	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	Change From November 2019	Change From December 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,097,247	2,109,316	2,104,382	-12,069	-7,135
Unemployed	60,847	65,158	89,585	-4,311	-28,738
Unemployment rate	2.9	3.1	4.3	-0.2	-1.4
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	3.7	3.9	4.3	-0.2	-0.6
Employed	2,036,400	2,044,158	2,014,797	-7,758	21,603
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	61.5	61.6	62.2	-0.1	-0.7
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	7.8	8.2	8.6	-0.4	-0.8
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,959,600	1,963,300	1,937,400	-3,700	22,200
Total private	1,655,400	1,657,800	1,635,300	-2,400	20,100
Mining and logging	6,700	7,000	7,100	-300	-400
Logging	4,700	5,100	5,200	-400	-500
Construction	106,600	109,600	105,900	-3,000	700
Construction of buildings	30,400	31,200	30,100	-800	300
Residential building construction	18,500	19,200	18,300	-700	200
Nonresidential building construction	11,900	12,000	11,800	-100	100
Heavy and civil engineering construction	10,400	10,600	9,900	-200	500
Specialty trade contractors	65,800	67,800	65,900	-2,000	-100
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,700	13,100	12,400	-400	300
Building equipment contractors	30,600	31,000	30,200	-400	400
Building finishing contractors	13,700	14,600	14,600	-900	-900
Other specialty trade contractors	8,800	9,100	8,700	-300	100
Manufacturing	198,000	199,000	196,600	-1,000	1,400
Durable goods	138,300	137,300	137,500	1,000	800
Wood product manufacturing	23,200	23,100	23,600	100	-400
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,100	6,100	6,400	0	-300
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	9,000	9,000	9,100	0	-100
Other wood product manufacturing	8,100	8,000	8,100	100	0
Primary metal manufacturing	9,200	9,200	8,900	0	300
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	17,300	17,200	16,800	100	500
Machinery manufacturing	14,400	14,300	14,500	100	-100
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,200	37,900	38,500	300	-300
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,000	29,800	30,300	200	-300
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,500	5,500	5,500	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	12,900	13,000	12,400	-100	500
Nondurable goods	59,700	61,700	59,100	-2,000	600
Food manufacturing	29,200	29,800	29,000	-600	200
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	10,000	10,700	10,600	-700	-600
Paper manufacturing	4,100	4,100	4,000	0	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	367,100	363,300	365,200	3,800	1,900
Wholesale trade	77,800	77,500	76,600	300	1,200
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	38,600	38,100	37,500	500	1,100
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	31,500	31,700	31,300	-200	200
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,700	7,700	7,800	0	-100
Retail trade	215,200	213,700	216,200	1,500	-1,000
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,900	27,000	26,600	-100	300
Building material and garden supply stores	16,100	16,200	15,700	-100	400
Food and beverage stores	44,300	44,400	43,200	-100	1,100
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	18,400	17,600	18,000	800	400
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	10,300	10,200	10,100	100	200
General merchandise stores	44,000	43,700	43,800	300	200
Miscellaneous store retailers	17,400	17,400	16,500	0	900
Nonstore retailers	8,100	8,500	8,600	-400	-500

	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	Change From November 2019	Change From December 2018
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	74,100	72,100	72,400	2,000	1,700
Utilities	4,700	4,700	4,800	0	-100
Transportation and warehousing	69,400	67,400	67,600	2,000	1,800
Truck transportation	19,400	19,100	18,800	300	600
Couriers and messengers	13,600	11,900	12,600	1,700	1,000
Warehousing and storage	12,800	13,100	13,000	-300	-200
Information	35,200	35,500	34,800	-300	400
Publishing industries, except internet	15,000	15,000	14,900	0	100
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,900	2,900	3,200	0	-300
Software publishers	12,100	12,100	11,700	0	400
Telecommunications	5,200	5,200	5,200	0	0
Financial activities	104,200	103,500	101,800	700	2,400
Finance and insurance	57,000	56,500	57,000	500	0
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,200	26,100	26,600	100	-400
Insurance carriers and related activities	25,100	24,900	24,200	200	900
Real estate and rental and leasing	47,200	47,000	44,800	200	2,400
Real estate	41,600	41,300	39,500	300	2,100
Professional and business services	253,100	255,400	250,800	-2,300	2,300
Professional and technical services	100,800	100,500	98,500	300	2,300
Legal services	11,900	11,900	11,900	0	0
Architectural and engineering services	17,400	17,400	17,000	0	400
Computer systems design and related services	16,800	17,100	16,600	-300	200
Management of companies and enterprises	50,300	50,100	49,400	200	900
Administrative and waste services	102,000	104,800	102,900	-2,800	-900
Administrative and support services	96,500	99,300	97,100	-2,800	-600
Employment services	41,400	43,200	42,700	-1,800	-1,300
Business support services	13,100	12,900	13,200	200	-100
Services to buildings and dwellings	24,600	25,700	23,100	-1,100	1,500
Education and health services	306,900	308,600	299,800	-1,700	7,100
Educational services	37,600	38,900	37,700	-1,300	-100
Health care and social assistance	269,300	269,700	262,100	-400	7,200
Ambulatory health care services	95,600	96,500	93,800	-900	1,800
Hospitals	60,700	60,800	59,500	-100	1,200
Nursing and residential care facilities	52,900	53,100	51,900	-200	1,000
Social assistance	60,100	59,300	56,900	800	3,200
Leisure and hospitality	210,700	208,800	209,000	1,900	1,700
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	27,200	26,400	26,900	800	300
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	19,800	19,000	19,900	800	-100
Accommodation and food services	183,500	182,400	182,100	1,100	1,400
Accommodation	24,500	24,500	24,600	0	-100
Food services and drinking places	159,000	157,900	157,500	1,100	1,500
Full-service restaurants	70,200	70,000	71,200	200	-1,000
Limited-service eating places	71,500	71,300	69,900	200	1,600
Other services	66,900	67,100	64,300	-200	2,600
Repair and maintenance	18,200	18,100	18,700	100	-500
Personal and laundry services	16,000	16,200	15,500	-200	500
Membership associations and organizations	32,700	32,800	30,100	-100	2,600
Religious organizations	17,400	17,300	16,500	100	900
Government	304,200	305,500	302,100	-1,300	2,100
Federal government	27,500	27,800	27,800	-300	-300
State government	40,500	40,800	39,700	-300	800
State education	800	800	800	0	0
Local government	236,200	236,900	234,600	-700	1,600
Indian tribal	8,300	8,400	8,100	-100	200
Local education	140,500	140,800	139,900	-300	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.