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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.9 Percent in October

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 6.9 percent in October from 7.9 percent, as revised, in September. For the past few months, Oregon's unemployment rate has closely tracked the national unemployment rate which also fell to 6.9 percent in October from 7.9 percent in September.

Oregon's total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 14,200 jobs in October, following a revised gain of 9,300 jobs in September. Over the past four months the rate of job growth has averaged 14,400 per month, following more rapid growth in May and June, when 74,500 jobs were added. Oregon employers added jobs in each of the past six months, and the state has recovered 46 percent of the jobs cut in March and April.

Over-the-month job gains in October were largest in **construction** (+6,100 jobs), **professional and business services** (+4,300), and **leisure and hospitality** (+4,300). Declines were largest in **government** (-7,400 jobs).

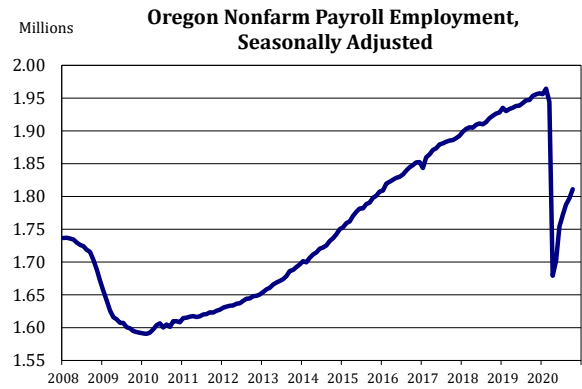
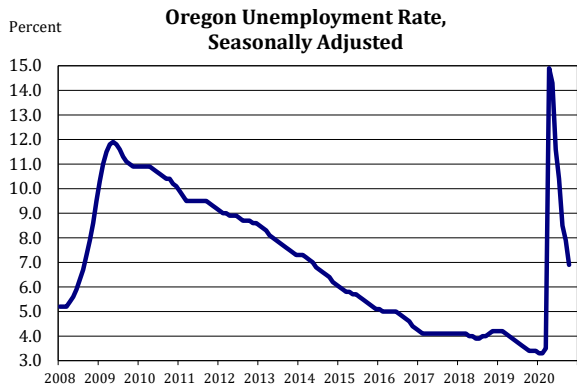
Leisure and hospitality continues to be the industry most impacted by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its employment bounced back substantially in May and June, but job gains have slowed over the past four months. Employment totaled 162,000 in October, which was down 54,300 jobs, or 25 percent, since its peak month of February. Over the past 12 months, two of its component industries cut employment by more than a quarter. Since October 2019 **arts, entertainment, and recreation** is down by nearly half (-13,000 jobs, or -49 percent) and **accommodation** is down by nearly a third (-8,600 jobs, or -32 percent).

Most schools in Oregon were impacted by a combination of distance learning and declining enrollment this autumn, which resulted in job cuts at all levels of education. When comparing October 2020 with October 2019, all of education—from grade schools to colleges—have experienced job reductions. **Local government education** reduced employment to 118,700 in October from 139,900 in October 2019 (-21,200 jobs, or -15%). This industry includes local K-12 schools, community colleges and the Oregon University System. **Private education**, which includes private grade schools and private universities, cut 7,400 jobs, or 20 percent, since October 2019.

Two major industries expanded since October 2019. **Construction** surged by 6,100 jobs over the month in October and is up 700 jobs since October 2019, putting it close to its record levels during late 2019 through March 2020. **Transportation, warehousing, and utilities** added 1,200 jobs in October and grew fast for most of the past few years, adding 5,800 jobs over the past 12 months. The industry benefitted from rapid demand growth in online shopping and the resulting expansion of warehousing and distribution.

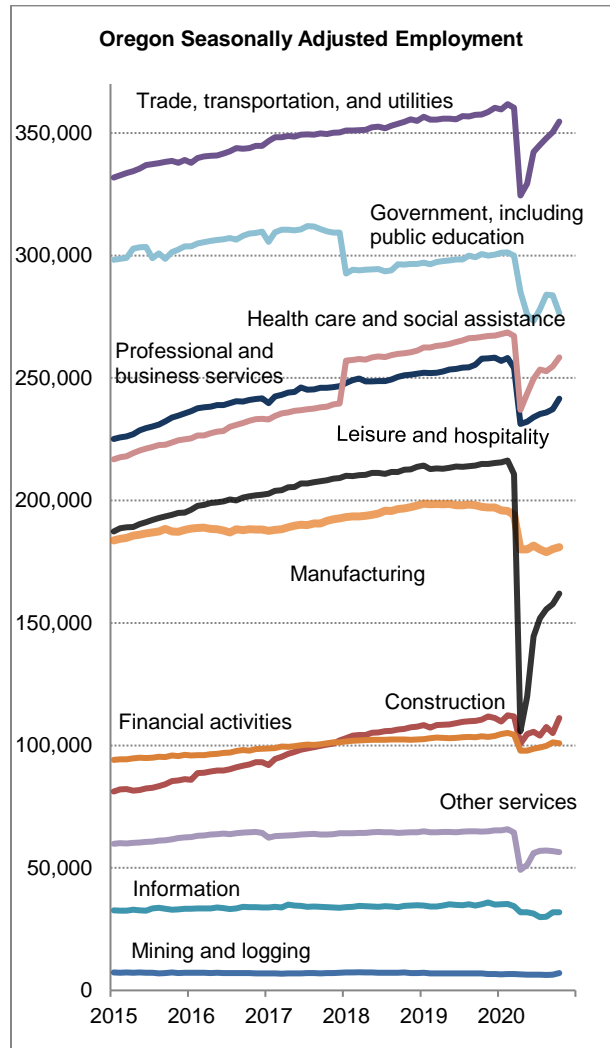
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, November 24th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Tuesday, December 15th.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes September to October 2020

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	10,700	24,900	14,200
Total private	-2,700	18,900	21,600
Mining and logging	100	800	700
Construction	-2,100	4,000	6,100
Manufacturing	-1,800	-1,000	800
Wholesale trade	-100	0	100
Retail trade	600	3,600	3,000
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	500	1,700	1,200
Information	0	0	0
Financial activities	-200	-500	-300
Professional and business services	500	4,800	4,300
Private educational services	2,000	200	-1,800
Health care and social assistance	1,700	5,400	3,700
Leisure and hospitality	-4,300	0	4,300
Other services	400	-100	-500
Government	13,400	6,000	-7,400



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the detailed industries within leisure and hospitality and government.

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 2020 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 can be found at QualityInfo.org/press-release. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit 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.

To file a claim for unemployment benefits or get more information about unemployment programs, visit unemployment.oregon.gov.

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 2020	September 2020	October 2019	Change From September 2020	Change From October 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,145,460	2,038,215	2,109,185	107,245	36,275
Unemployed	137,452	149,864	63,668	-12,412	73,784
Unemployment rate	6.4	7.4	3.0	-1.0	3.4
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	6.9	7.9	3.4	-1.0	3.5
Employed	2,008,008	1,888,351	2,045,517	119,657	-37,509
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	61.9	58.8	61.5	3.1	0.4
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	11.7	13.8	7.6	-2.1	4.1
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,821,600	1,796,700	1,966,600	24,900	-145,000
Total private	1,540,700	1,521,800	1,661,100	18,900	-120,400
Mining and logging	7,300	6,500	7,000	800	300
Logging	5,300	4,800	5,100	500	200
Construction	112,000	108,000	112,700	4,000	-700
Construction of buildings	33,600	32,600	32,400	1,000	1,200
Residential building construction	21,000	20,300	19,900	700	1,100
Nonresidential building construction	12,600	12,300	12,500	300	100
Heavy and civil engineering construction	10,800	10,700	11,200	100	-400
Specialty trade contractors	67,600	64,700	69,100	2,900	-1,500
Building foundation and exterior contractors	13,000	11,400	13,200	1,600	-200
Building equipment contractors	29,400	28,500	30,500	900	-1,100
Building finishing contractors	15,800	15,600	15,900	200	-100
Other specialty trade contractors	9,400	9,200	9,500	200	-100
Manufacturing	181,200	182,200	197,900	-1,000	-16,700
Durable goods	124,900	125,100	136,000	-200	-11,100
Wood product manufacturing	21,400	21,300	22,700	100	-1,300
Sawmills and wood preservation	5,900	5,800	6,100	100	-200
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,000	8,100	8,800	-100	-800
Other wood product manufacturing	7,500	7,400	7,800	100	-300
Primary metal manufacturing	7,200	7,400	9,500	-200	-2,300
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,200	15,000	16,500	200	-1,300
Machinery manufacturing	13,100	13,100	13,900	0	-800
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	37,500	37,500	38,700	0	-1,200
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,000	30,000	30,600	0	-600
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,000	5,000	5,500	0	-500
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,000	10,400	12,300	-400	-2,300
Nondurable goods	56,300	57,100	61,900	-800	-5,600
Food manufacturing	27,200	28,100	29,900	-900	-2,700
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	9,600	10,200	11,200	-600	-1,600
Paper manufacturing	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	355,200	349,900	359,500	5,300	-4,300
Wholesale trade	71,800	71,800	76,700	0	-4,900
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	36,400	36,500	37,700	-100	-1,300
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	27,900	28,200	31,500	-300	-3,600
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,500	7,100	7,500	400	0
Retail trade	206,900	203,300	210,900	3,600	-4,000
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	24,300	23,800	26,800	500	-2,500
Building material and garden supply stores	18,000	18,400	16,300	-400	1,700
Food and beverage stores	45,400	45,300	43,600	100	1,800
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	10,600	10,200	15,700	400	-5,100
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	8,800	9,000	9,600	-200	-800
General merchandise stores	42,800	42,400	40,700	400	2,100
Miscellaneous store retailers	15,200	14,900	17,300	300	-2,100
Nonstore retailers	7,700	7,400	8,600	300	-900

	October 2020	September 2020	October 2019	Change From September 2020	Change From October 2019
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	76,500	74,800	71,900	1,700	4,600
Utilities	4,700	4,700	4,800	0	-100
Transportation and warehousing	71,800	70,100	67,100	1,700	4,700
Truck transportation	18,300	18,400	19,100	-100	-800
Couriers and messengers	13,800	12,800	10,500	1,000	3,300
Warehousing and storage	20,900	20,000	15,000	900	5,900
Information	31,700	31,700	35,300	0	-3,600
Publishing industries, except internet	15,000	15,000	15,400	0	-400
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,400	2,500	3,000	-100	-600
Software publishers	12,600	12,500	12,400	100	200
Telecommunications	4,800	4,900	5,000	-100	-200
Financial activities	100,800	101,300	104,300	-500	-3,500
Finance and insurance	56,700	56,600	57,200	100	-500
Credit intermediation and related activities	25,900	26,000	26,300	-100	-400
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,600	24,700	24,600	-100	0
Real estate and rental and leasing	44,100	44,700	47,100	-600	-3,000
Real estate	38,500	39,500	41,300	-1,000	-2,800
Professional and business services	243,800	239,000	259,300	4,800	-15,500
Professional and technical services	97,800	96,100	100,800	1,700	-3,000
Legal services	11,300	11,100	11,900	200	-600
Architectural and engineering services	17,700	17,500	17,700	200	0
Computer systems design and related services	16,600	16,100	17,200	500	-600
Management of companies and enterprises	48,900	49,000	50,700	-100	-1,800
Administrative and waste services	97,100	93,900	107,800	3,200	-10,700
Administrative and support services	91,200	87,800	101,900	3,400	-10,700
Employment services	39,100	35,800	44,700	3,300	-5,600
Business support services	11,300	11,500	12,800	-200	-1,500
Services to buildings and dwellings	24,600	24,100	25,200	500	-600
Education and health services	291,500	285,900	306,700	5,600	-15,200
Educational services	31,000	30,800	39,600	200	-8,600
Health care and social assistance	260,500	255,100	267,100	5,400	-6,600
Ambulatory health care services	91,400	92,100	95,600	-700	-4,200
Hospitals	58,100	57,700	59,900	400	-1,800
Nursing and residential care facilities	57,100	52,000	52,500	5,100	4,600
Social assistance	53,900	53,300	59,100	600	-5,200
Leisure and hospitality	160,000	160,000	213,500	0	-53,500
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	13,600	14,100	26,800	-500	-13,200
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	9,000	9,800	18,700	-800	-9,700
Accommodation and food services	146,400	145,900	186,700	500	-40,300
Accommodation	17,900	19,100	26,500	-1,200	-8,600
Food services and drinking places	128,500	126,800	160,200	1,700	-31,700
Full-service restaurants	52,700	52,200	71,800	500	-19,100
Limited-service eating places	64,500	63,500	71,100	1,000	-6,600
Other services	57,200	57,300	64,900	-100	-7,700
Repair and maintenance	17,200	17,600	18,900	-400	-1,700
Personal and laundry services	14,200	13,700	16,000	500	-1,800
Membership associations and organizations	25,800	26,000	30,000	-200	-4,200
Religious organizations	13,400	13,800	16,600	-400	-3,200
Government	280,900	274,900	305,500	6,000	-24,600
Federal government	29,700	31,700	28,800	-2,000	900
State government	41,400	41,400	40,900	0	500
State education	1,000	900	900	100	100
Local government	209,800	201,800	235,800	8,000	-26,000
Indian tribal	7,400	7,400	8,100	0	-700
Local education	118,700	110,500	139,900	8,200	-21,200
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.