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## Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.2% in July as Oregon Adds 20,000 Jobs

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 5.2% in July from 5.6% in June. July was the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive monthly decline in Oregon's unemployment rate. The reduction in the unemployment rate accelerated over the past two months with a 0.2 percentage point drop in June followed by a 0.4 point drop in July. These improvements followed slow declines of 0.1 point per month in each of the first five months of 2021.

Oregon's July unemployment rate declined dramatically from its high of 13.2% in April 2020, at the peak of the last recession, to 5.2% in July. However, the state's unemployment rate is still moderately above the period of record low rates in the years prior to the pandemic. During January 2017 through March 2020, Oregon's unemployment rate was fairly steady, averaging 3.9%.

For the past several years, Oregon's unemployment rate generally has closely tracked the U.S. unemployment rate. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 5.4% in July from 5.9% in June.

In Oregon, nonfarm payroll employment grew by 20,000 in July, following monthly gains averaging 9,100 in the prior six months. Gains in July were largest in **government** (+12,800 jobs) and **leisure and hospitality** (+7,100). Only one major industry shed more than 900 jobs: **transportation, warehousing, and utilities** (-2,500 jobs).

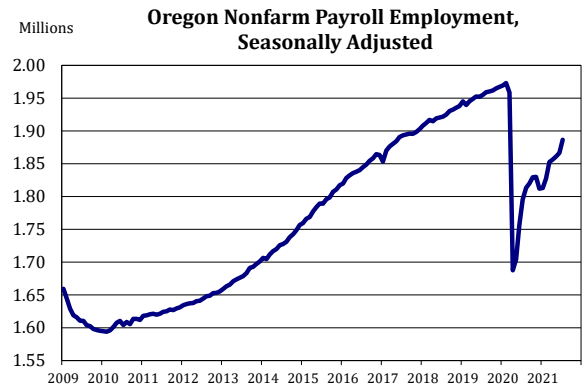
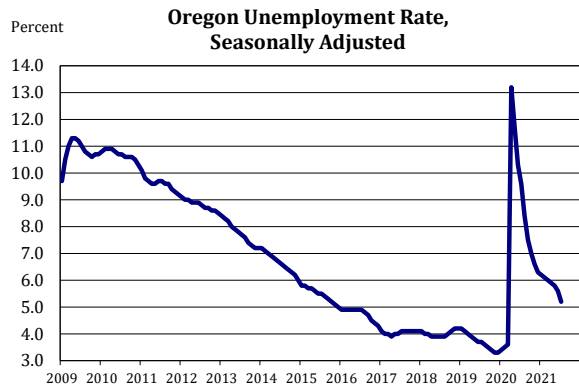
Government job gains in July were concentrated in **local government** — in contrast with **federal** government and **state** government which both experienced their normal seasonal pattern in July. Throughout the economic recovery of the past year, local government averaged more than 20,000 jobs below its pre-recession level of about 230,000. But in July, seasonally adjusted employment shot upward by 12,800 jobs. Likely factors in the stronger July pattern this year include schools not laying off the typical numbers of employees for the summer and cities and counties ramping up employment closer to pre-pandemic levels.

Leisure and hospitality expanded rapidly in July, adding 7,100 jobs. Despite this gain, it still accounts for the bulk of Oregon's jobs not recovered since early 2020, with 44,500 jobs left to recover to reach the prior peak month of February 2020. The industry has regained 60% of jobs lost early in the pandemic.

Transportation, warehousing, and utilities declined by 2,500 jobs in July. This loss may reflect a change in the seasonal pattern of the industry over the past two years. With online shopping and delivery rapidly growing, the industry has exploded over the last few years. It ramped up by 12,500 jobs between April and December of last year, which was about double the industry's seasonal hiring a few years prior. Despite the recent hiccup in July, the industry is still 5,100 jobs above its July 2019 total of 70,400 jobs.

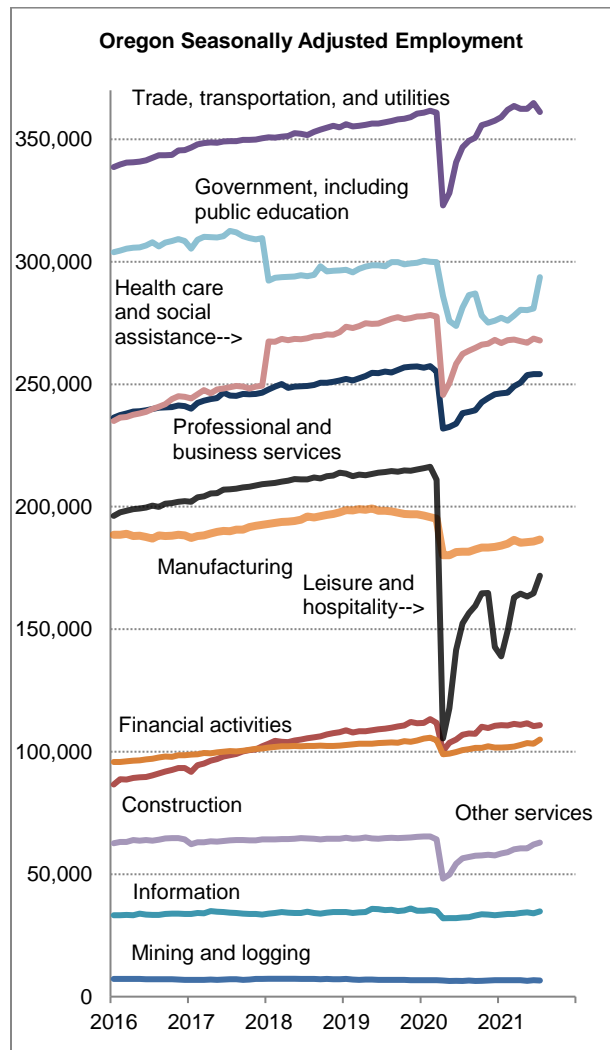
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the July county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Aug. 24, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for August on Tuesday, Sep. 14.



**Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes June to July 2021**

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	-22,900	-2,900	20,000
Total private	7,800	15,000	7,200
Mining and logging	100	0	-100
Construction	2,200	2,700	500
Manufacturing	1,300	2,100	800
Wholesale trade	500	100	-400
Retail trade	1,400	600	-800
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	700	-1,800	-2,500
Information	-100	700	800
Financial activities	900	2,700	1,800
Professional and business services	2,400	2,400	0
Private educational services	-1,700	-1,600	100
Health care and social assistance	-1,100	-2,000	-900
Leisure and hospitality	1,600	8,700	7,100
Other services	-400	400	800
Government	-30,700	-17,900	12,800



**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 2021 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](https://qualityinfo.org/press-release). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [QualityInfo.org](https://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](https://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

	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Change From June 2021	Change From July 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	2,190,869	2,171,802	2,054,752	19,067	136,117
Unemployed	105,502	112,591	204,520	-7,089	-99,018
Unemployment rate	4.8	5.2	10.0	-0.4	-5.2
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	5.2	5.6	9.6	-0.4	-4.4
Employed	2,085,367	2,059,211	1,850,232	26,156	235,135
<b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.5	62.5	59.2	0.0	3.3
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	10.2	10.7	16.5	-0.5	-6.3
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,882,400	1,885,300	1,788,100	-2,900	94,300
Total private	1,609,200	1,594,200	1,529,000	15,000	80,200
Mining and logging	6,800	6,800	6,700	0	100
Logging	4,800	4,900	4,900	-100	-100
Construction	116,200	113,500	110,800	2,700	5,400
Construction of buildings	32,400	31,200	32,200	1,200	200
Residential building construction	19,800	19,200	19,800	600	0
Nonresidential building construction	12,600	12,000	12,400	600	200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,100	10,700	10,800	400	300
Specialty trade contractors	72,700	71,600	67,800	1,100	4,900
Building foundation and exterior contractors	13,700	13,700	13,300	0	400
Building equipment contractors	32,500	32,700	29,600	-200	2,900
Building finishing contractors	15,500	14,800	15,400	700	100
Other specialty trade contractors	11,000	10,400	9,500	600	1,500
Manufacturing	189,800	187,700	184,800	2,100	5,000
Durable goods	131,200	129,500	126,600	1,700	4,600
Wood product manufacturing	23,500	23,000	21,700	500	1,800
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,300	6,200	6,000	100	300
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,900	8,800	8,300	100	600
Other wood product manufacturing	8,300	8,000	7,400	300	900
Primary metal manufacturing	6,300	6,400	7,000	-100	-700
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,900	15,600	15,400	300	500
Machinery manufacturing	13,800	13,800	13,300	0	500
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,200	38,100	38,000	100	200
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,900	30,800	30,400	100	500
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,900	4,900	5,200	0	-300
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,800	10,700	10,600	100	200
Nondurable goods	58,600	58,200	58,200	400	400
Food manufacturing	29,400	29,100	29,200	300	200
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	11,400	10,600	11,200	800	200
Paper manufacturing	3,800	3,800	4,100	0	-300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	361,000	362,100	347,100	-1,100	13,900
Wholesale trade	75,400	75,300	73,100	100	2,300
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	38,000	38,000	36,500	0	1,500
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	30,000	29,900	29,600	100	400
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,400	7,400	7,000	0	400
Retail trade	211,000	210,400	200,800	600	10,200
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	25,100	25,300	24,200	-200	900
Building material and garden supply stores	19,600	20,100	18,700	-500	900
Food and beverage stores	46,300	46,700	45,300	-400	1,000
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	13,400	12,800	12,100	600	1,300
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,900	9,300	8,100	600	1,800
General merchandise stores	41,700	41,600	41,400	100	300
Miscellaneous store retailers	17,400	16,900	14,500	500	2,900
Nonstore retailers	7,800	7,700	7,200	100	600

	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Change From June 2021	Change From July 2020
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	74,600	76,400	73,200	-1,800	1,400
Utilities	4,800	4,700	4,900	100	-100
Transportation and warehousing	69,800	71,700	68,300	-1,900	1,500
Truck transportation	19,600	18,900	18,800	700	800
Couriers and messengers	12,900	13,500	12,700	-600	200
Warehousing and storage	20,200	19,900	19,500	300	700
Information	34,500	33,800	32,300	700	2,200
Publishing industries, except internet	15,400	15,300	15,100	100	300
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,300	2,200	2,600	100	-300
Software publishers	13,100	13,100	12,500	0	600
Telecommunications	4,600	4,500	4,800	100	-200
Financial activities	106,400	103,700	102,200	2,700	4,200
Finance and insurance	57,400	57,200	57,200	200	200
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,100	26,000	26,300	100	-200
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,100	24,100	24,600	0	-500
Real estate and rental and leasing	49,000	46,500	45,000	2,500	4,000
Real estate	42,100	40,900	40,400	1,200	1,700
Professional and business services	255,300	252,900	239,600	2,400	15,700
Professional and technical services	106,100	104,100	98,500	2,000	7,600
Legal services	11,900	11,700	11,700	200	200
Architectural and engineering services	18,200	17,600	17,500	600	700
Computer systems design and related services	17,500	16,900	16,800	600	700
Management of companies and enterprises	47,700	48,000	49,000	-300	-1,300
Administrative and waste services	101,500	100,800	92,100	700	9,400
Administrative and support services	95,200	94,400	86,100	800	9,100
Employment services	43,200	40,900	32,500	2,300	10,700
Business support services	10,700	10,900	11,500	-200	-800
Services to buildings and dwellings	26,500	26,900	25,200	-400	1,300
Education and health services	292,600	296,200	287,000	-3,600	5,600
Educational services	27,800	29,400	24,500	-1,600	3,300
Health care and social assistance	264,800	266,800	262,500	-2,000	2,300
Ambulatory health care services	94,300	93,200	90,200	1,100	4,100
Hospitals	58,700	58,300	59,200	400	-500
Nursing and residential care facilities	50,700	51,100	52,200	-400	-1,500
Social assistance	61,100	64,200	60,900	-3,100	200
Leisure and hospitality	184,000	175,300	161,400	8,700	22,600
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	22,100	20,300	18,000	1,800	4,100
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	17,000	15,200	13,800	1,800	3,200
Accommodation and food services	161,900	155,000	143,400	6,900	18,500
Accommodation	22,400	20,800	19,300	1,600	3,100
Food services and drinking places	139,500	134,200	124,100	5,300	15,400
Full-service restaurants	57,600	55,300	51,500	2,300	6,100
Limited-service eating places	69,600	67,400	63,300	2,200	6,300
Other services	62,600	62,200	57,100	400	5,500
Repair and maintenance	19,300	19,200	17,800	100	1,500
Personal and laundry services	14,700	14,000	13,200	700	1,500
Membership associations and organizations	28,600	29,000	26,100	-400	2,500
Religious organizations	13,200	14,000	13,800	-800	-600
Government	273,200	291,100	259,100	-17,900	14,100
Federal government	30,100	29,900	29,800	200	300
State government	42,700	43,000	41,700	-300	1,000
State education	900	900	800	0	100
Local government	200,400	218,200	187,600	-17,800	12,800
Indian tribal	7,800	7,600	7,400	200	400
Local education	105,100	124,800	95,400	-19,700	9,700
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.