

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 14, 2021 CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Gail Krumenauer](#), State Employment Economist
(971) 301-3771 [Video](#) and [Audio](#) available at 10:00 AM
[David Cooke](#), Economist (503) 947-1272

Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.9% in August as Oregon Adds 7,900 Jobs

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 4.9% in August from 5.2% in July. This was the first time Oregon's unemployment rate dropped below 5% since March 2020, when the rate was 3.6%. Oregon's unemployment rate was below 5% in only two other periods since 1976 when comparable records began: during 14 consecutive months in the mid-1990s when the rate dropped to as low as 4.5%; and during the 51 consecutive months during 2016 through March 2020 when the rate dropped to a record low of 3.3% in late 2019.

The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 5.2% in August from 5.4% in July.

In Oregon, nonfarm payroll employment grew by 7,900 in August, following monthly gains averaging 10,300 in the prior seven months. Gains in August were largest in **government** (+3,500 jobs); **wholesale trade** (+1,400); **leisure and hospitality** (+1,200); and **professional and business services** (+1,000). Only one major industry cut jobs: **retail trade** (-1,900 jobs).

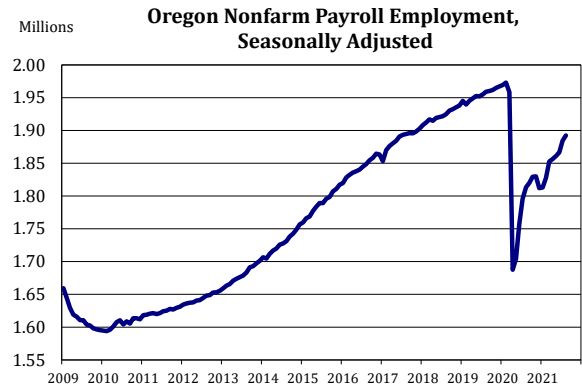
Since the low point of April 2020, at the economic depths of the COVID-induced recession, Oregon has recovered 204,700 jobs, or 72% of the jobs lost during the recession.

Leisure and hospitality added 1,200 jobs in August, following a gain of 6,100, as revised, in July. Despite these gains, it still accounts for the bulk of Oregon's jobs not recovered since early 2020, with 44,300 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.

Employment in **health care and social assistance** has been relatively flat all year. This major industry recovered substantial jobs in mid- through late-2020, but is still down 10,400 jobs, or 4%, since its pre-recession peak of February 2020. Over the past year, **nursing and residential care facilities** has been especially weak, having lost 1,300 jobs since August 2020. Meanwhile, two component industries have expanded in the past 12 months: **ambulatory health care services** (+3,100 jobs) and **social assistance** (+1,100 jobs).

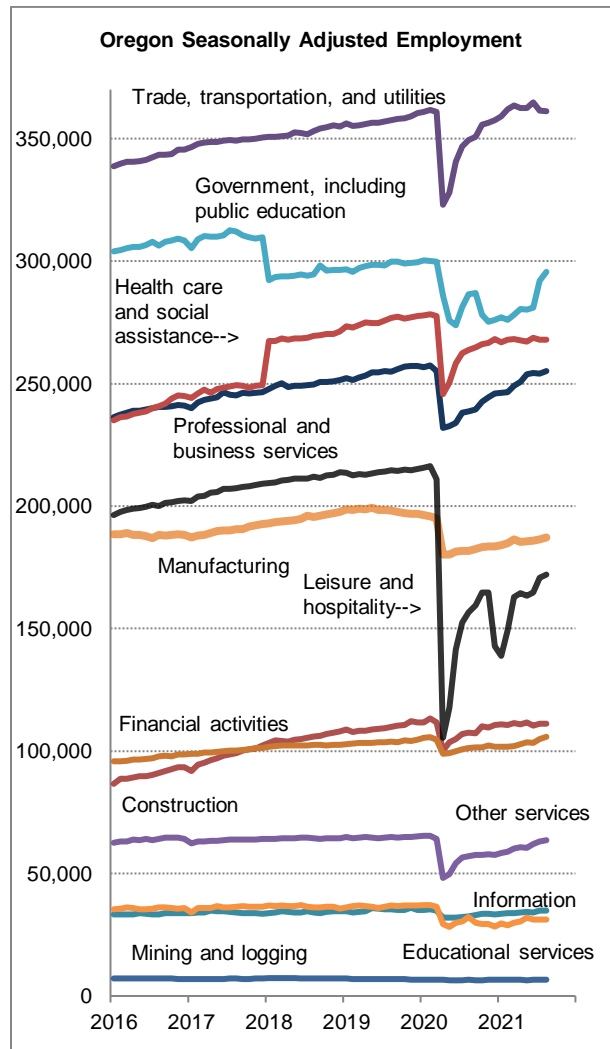
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Sep. 21, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, Oct. 19.



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

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,200	9,100	7,900
Total private	2,800	7,200	4,400
Mining and logging	100	200	100
Construction	900	1,000	100
Manufacturing	-300	300	600
Wholesale trade	500	1,900	1,400
Retail trade	-300	-2,200	-1,900
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	-100	300	400
Information	-100	-100	0
Financial activities	0	800	800
Professional and business services	-200	800	1,000
Private educational services	200	200	0
Health care and social assistance	1,000	1,100	100
Leisure and hospitality	1,000	2,200	1,200
Other services	100	700	600
Government	-1,600	1,900	3,500



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted, except for the detailed industries within health care and social assistance.

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.

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

	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	Change From July 2021	Change From August 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,176,876	2,190,809	2,110,616	-13,933	66,260
Unemployed	98,497	105,813	176,159	-7,316	-77,662
Unemployment rate	4.5	4.8	8.3	-0.3	-3.8
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.9	5.2	8.4	-0.3	-3.5
Employed	2,078,379	2,084,996	1,934,457	-6,617	143,922
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.5	62.5	60.6	0.0	1.9
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	9.7	10.2	14.9	-0.5	-5.2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,891,900	1,882,800	1,807,400	9,100	84,500
Total private	1,617,200	1,610,000	1,543,500	7,200	73,700
Mining and logging	7,000	6,800	6,800	200	200
Logging	5,000	4,900	4,900	100	100
Construction	117,600	116,600	112,200	1,000	5,400
Construction of buildings	32,100	32,600	32,500	-500	-400
Residential building construction	19,500	19,700	20,100	-200	-600
Nonresidential building construction	12,600	12,900	12,400	-300	200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,300	11,000	10,900	300	400
Specialty trade contractors	74,200	73,000	68,800	1,200	5,400
Building foundation and exterior contractors	14,800	13,900	13,400	900	1,400
Building equipment contractors	32,600	32,600	30,200	0	2,400
Building finishing contractors	16,000	15,500	15,600	500	400
Other specialty trade contractors	10,800	11,000	9,600	-200	1,200
Manufacturing	190,000	189,700	184,500	300	5,500
Durable goods	131,700	131,000	126,300	700	5,400
Wood product manufacturing	23,400	23,400	21,700	0	1,700
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,200	6,200	6,000	0	200
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,900	8,900	8,200	0	700
Other wood product manufacturing	8,300	8,300	7,500	0	800
Primary metal manufacturing	6,200	6,300	6,700	-100	-500
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	16,000	15,900	15,300	100	700
Machinery manufacturing	13,800	13,900	13,300	-100	500
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,400	38,200	37,900	200	500
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	31,200	30,900	30,300	300	900
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,900	4,900	5,100	0	-200
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,800	10,800	10,700	0	100
Nondurable goods	58,300	58,700	58,200	-400	100
Food manufacturing	28,900	29,400	28,900	-500	0
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	11,300	11,400	10,900	-100	400
Paper manufacturing	3,800	3,800	4,000	0	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	360,900	360,900	350,400	0	10,500
Wholesale trade	77,400	75,500	73,700	1,900	3,700
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	38,600	38,100	36,700	500	1,900
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	31,300	30,000	30,000	1,300	1,300
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,500	7,400	7,000	100	500
Retail trade	208,200	210,400	203,100	-2,200	5,100
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	25,000	25,100	24,600	-100	400
Building material and garden supply stores	18,900	19,600	18,500	-700	400
Food and beverage stores	46,100	46,500	45,600	-400	500
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	13,300	13,300	12,700	0	600
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,900	9,900	8,400	0	1,500
General merchandise stores	41,600	41,700	41,200	-100	400
Miscellaneous store retailers	16,700	16,600	14,900	100	1,800
Nonstore retailers	8,100	7,800	7,400	300	700

	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	Change From July 2021	Change From August 2020
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	75,300	75,000	73,600	300	1,700
Utilities	4,800	4,800	4,800	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	70,500	70,200	68,800	300	1,700
Truck transportation	19,700	19,500	19,000	200	700
Couriers and messengers	13,500	13,200	12,800	300	700
Warehousing and storage	20,500	20,200	19,300	300	1,200
Information	34,500	34,600	32,800	-100	1,700
Publishing industries, except internet	15,500	15,400	15,200	100	300
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,300	2,300	2,600	0	-300
Software publishers	13,200	13,100	12,600	100	600
Telecommunications	4,600	4,700	4,800	-100	-200
Financial activities	107,000	106,200	102,700	800	4,300
Finance and insurance	57,300	57,500	57,300	-200	0
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,000	26,200	26,400	-200	-400
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,200	24,400	24,600	-200	-400
Real estate and rental and leasing	49,700	48,700	45,400	1,000	4,300
Real estate	43,800	42,300	40,600	1,500	3,200
Professional and business services	255,900	255,100	241,600	800	14,300
Professional and technical services	106,600	105,600	98,400	1,000	8,200
Legal services	11,800	11,800	11,700	0	100
Architectural and engineering services	18,200	17,900	17,500	300	700
Computer systems design and related services	17,700	17,400	16,800	300	900
Management of companies and enterprises	47,700	47,800	48,900	-100	-1,200
Administrative and waste services	101,600	101,700	94,300	-100	7,300
Administrative and support services	95,500	95,400	88,300	100	7,200
Employment services	43,000	42,700	34,700	300	8,300
Business support services	10,800	10,500	11,600	300	-800
Services to buildings and dwellings	26,400	26,900	25,200	-500	1,200
Education and health services	294,600	293,300	289,600	1,300	5,000
Educational services	28,300	28,100	26,500	200	1,800
Health care and social assistance	266,300	265,200	263,100	1,100	3,200
Ambulatory health care services	94,200	94,100	91,100	100	3,100
Hospitals	58,600	58,500	58,300	100	300
Nursing and residential care facilities	50,600	50,600	51,900	0	-1,300
Social assistance	62,900	62,000	61,800	900	1,100
Leisure and hospitality	186,400	184,200	165,400	2,200	21,000
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	22,100	22,200	18,300	-100	3,800
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	16,500	16,700	14,000	-200	2,500
Accommodation and food services	164,300	162,000	147,100	2,300	17,200
Accommodation	22,700	22,300	19,900	400	2,800
Food services and drinking places	141,600	139,700	127,200	1,900	14,400
Full-service restaurants	59,600	57,500	52,700	2,100	6,900
Limited-service eating places	69,800	70,100	64,300	-300	5,500
Other services	63,300	62,600	57,500	700	5,800
Repair and maintenance	20,200	19,300	18,000	900	2,200
Personal and laundry services	14,500	14,800	13,400	-300	1,100
Membership associations and organizations	28,600	28,500	26,100	100	2,500
Religious organizations	13,700	13,200	13,700	500	0
Government	274,700	272,800	263,900	1,900	10,800
Federal government	29,800	30,100	33,400	-300	-3,600
State government	42,800	42,900	42,000	-100	800
State education	900	900	900	0	0
Local government	202,100	199,800	188,500	2,300	13,600
Indian tribal	7,900	7,800	7,500	100	400
Local education	106,800	104,500	96,600	2,300	10,200
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.