

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 26, 2019

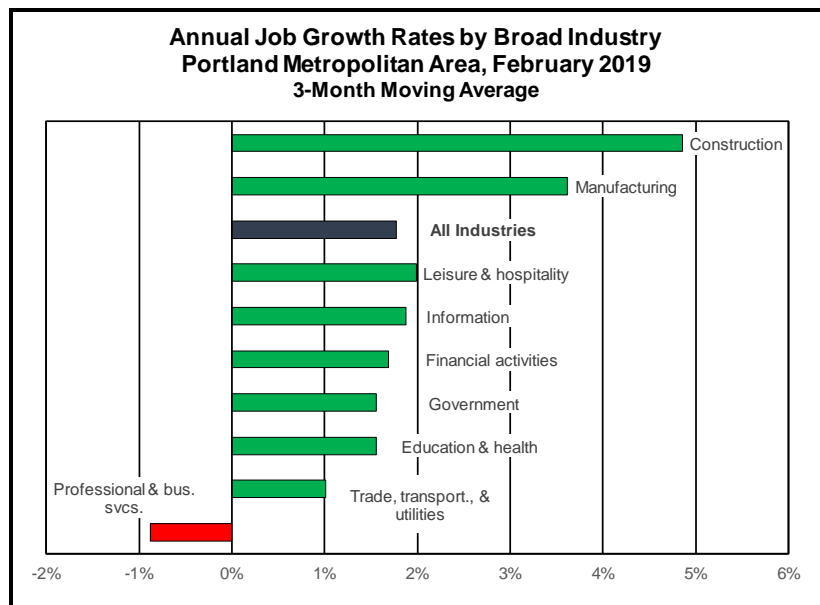
CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Amy Vander Vliet, Economist  
Amy.S.VanderVliet@oregon.gov  
(971) 804-2099

## Employment in the Portland Metro Area: February 2019 Unemployment Holds Steady

The Portland metro area's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in February; the same as the nation and lower than Oregon (4.4%). An estimated 54,900 area residents were unemployed; 2,200 fewer than a year earlier.

The economy shed 1,700 jobs in February following a gain of 5,300 jobs in January (seasonally adjusted). Month-to-month data can be volatile, especially this time of year. The three-month moving average, which is more indicative of underlying trends, shows an average monthly gain of 1,700 jobs since December.

Over the past year, nonfarm employment increased by 1.8 percent (on a three-month moving average basis). A year ago, annual growth was 2.6 percent. Construction has slowed significantly over the year but still remains the fastest growing industry (+4.9%). Manufacturing is outperforming the overall economy, powered by high-tech manufacturing and nondurable goods. Professional and business services is the only broad sector in the red, pulled down by losses in employment services (i.e. temp help).



### Next Press Release

The Oregon Employment Department will release the Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Tuesday, April 23.

The Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly payroll employment and labor force data for Oregon's metropolitan areas and counties. 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 payroll employment estimates are revised quarterly using information from unemployment insurance tax records. All department publications use data from this *official Oregon series* unless noted.

The department also makes the BLS-produced nonfarm payroll employment series for metropolitan areas available. These are revised annually by BLS.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org). To subscribe, go to [www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm](http://www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm), enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your selected preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org), select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*.

For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.



### Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	January 2019	February 2018
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	1,327,542	1,323,777	1,308,636	3,765	18,906
Unemployed	54,883	57,092	55,840	-2,209	-957
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.3%	4.3%	-0.2	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	4.0%	3.6%	-0.2	0.2
Employed	1,272,659	1,266,685	1,252,796	5,974	19,863
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	1,199,900	1,198,700	1,181,000	1,200	18,900
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,211,100	1,212,800	1,190,200	-1,700	20,900
Total private	1,046,100	1,046,100	1,029,200	0	16,900
Mining, logging, and construction	73,000	72,600	70,000	400	3,000
Mining and logging	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
Construction	71,700	71,300	68,700	400	3,000
Construction of buildings	19,700	19,500	18,300	200	1,400
Residential building construction	11,700	11,500	10,700	200	1,000
Nonresidential building construction	8,000	8,000	7,600	0	400
Heavy and civil engineering construction	5,600	5,600	5,300	0	300
Specialty trade contractors	46,400	46,200	45,100	200	1,300
Manufacturing	129,900	129,800	125,300	100	4,600
Durable goods	96,300	96,100	92,400	200	3,900
Wood product manufacturing	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	100
Primary metal manufacturing	6,000	6,000	5,600	0	400
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	13,200	13,100	12,700	100	500
Machinery manufacturing	10,300	10,300	10,100	0	200
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,300	38,100	36,400	200	1,900
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	31,100	31,000	29,800	100	1,300
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,000	5,000	4,800	0	200
Transportation equipment manufacturing	7,300	7,200	6,700	100	600
Nondurable goods	33,600	33,700	32,900	-100	700
Food manufacturing	13,700	13,600	13,400	100	300
Paper manufacturing	2,500	2,500	2,800	0	-300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	214,500	218,500	212,800	-4,000	1,700
Wholesale trade	56,500	57,000	56,100	-500	400
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	29,000	29,400	28,600	-400	400
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	20,800	21,000	20,900	-200	-100
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	6,700	6,600	6,600	100	100
Retail trade	116,100	118,600	117,400	-2,500	-1,300
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	14,700	14,700	14,600	0	100
Food and beverage stores	23,400	23,400	23,400	0	0
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	10,400	10,800	10,300	-400	100
General merchandise stores	23,100	24,300	23,400	-1,200	-300
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	41,900	42,900	39,300	-1,000	2,600
Utilities	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	100
Transportation and warehousing	39,400	40,400	36,900	-1,000	2,500
Air transportation	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	100
Truck transportation	10,600	10,600	10,500	0	100
Couriers and messengers	7,500	8,700	6,600	-1,200	900
Warehousing and storage	5,800	5,800	4,800	0	1,000
Information	25,100	25,300	25,100	-200	0
Publishing industries, except internet	10,400	10,400	10,200	0	200
Software publishers	8,800	8,800	8,500	0	300
Telecommunications	4,200	4,200	4,500	0	-300

## Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)

	--Change From--				
	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	January 2019	February 2018
Financial activities	72,500	72,200	71,100	300	1,400
Finance and insurance	42,900	42,800	43,400	100	-500
Credit intermediation and related activities	18,800	18,700	19,300	100	-500
Insurance carriers and related activities	18,100	18,200	18,200	-100	-100
Real estate and rental and leasing	29,600	29,400	27,700	200	1,900
Professional and business services	180,900	179,500	182,600	1,400	-1,700
Professional and technical services	76,400	76,400	77,100	0	-700
Architectural and engineering services	14,000	14,100	13,800	-100	200
Computer systems design and related services	15,600	15,600	15,400	0	200
Management of companies and enterprises	41,700	41,600	40,000	100	1,700
Administrative and waste services	62,800	61,500	65,500	1,300	-2,700
Administrative and support services	60,300	59,000	62,300	1,300	-2,000
Employment services	26,700	26,100	27,800	600	-1,100
Business support services	6,700	6,700	7,000	0	-300
Services to buildings and dwellings	14,900	14,600	15,100	300	-200
Education and health services	185,900	183,600	180,700	2,300	5,200
Educational services	30,600	29,600	30,100	1,000	500
Colleges and universities	15,500	14,000	14,500	1,500	1,000
Health care and social assistance	155,300	154,000	150,600	1,300	4,700
Ambulatory health care services	59,300	58,700	56,600	600	2,700
Hospitals	31,600	31,600	31,400	0	200
Nursing and residential care facilities	28,100	28,200	27,600	-100	500
Social assistance	36,300	35,500	35,000	800	1,300
Leisure and hospitality	122,000	121,900	120,300	100	1,700
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	16,200	16,000	16,900	200	-700
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	11,400	11,400	12,200	0	-800
Accommodation and food services	105,800	105,900	103,400	-100	2,400
Accommodation	10,400	10,400	10,100	0	300
Food services and drinking places	95,400	95,500	93,300	-100	2,100
Full-service restaurants	42,200	42,700	42,400	-500	-200
Limited-service eating places	41,800	41,600	40,400	200	1,400
Other services	42,300	42,700	41,300	-400	1,000
Membership associations and organizations	17,400	17,400	17,800	0	-400
Government	153,800	152,600	151,800	1,200	2,000
Federal government	18,300	18,300	18,100	0	200
State government	11,900	11,900	11,700	0	200
State education	1,800	2,200	2,700	-400	-900
Local government	123,600	122,400	122,000	1,200	1,600
Local education	68,800	67,600	69,300	1,200	-500

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.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.

Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Official Oregon Series. 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.

The Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro metropolitan area includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in Oregon, and Clark and Skamania counties in Washington State.