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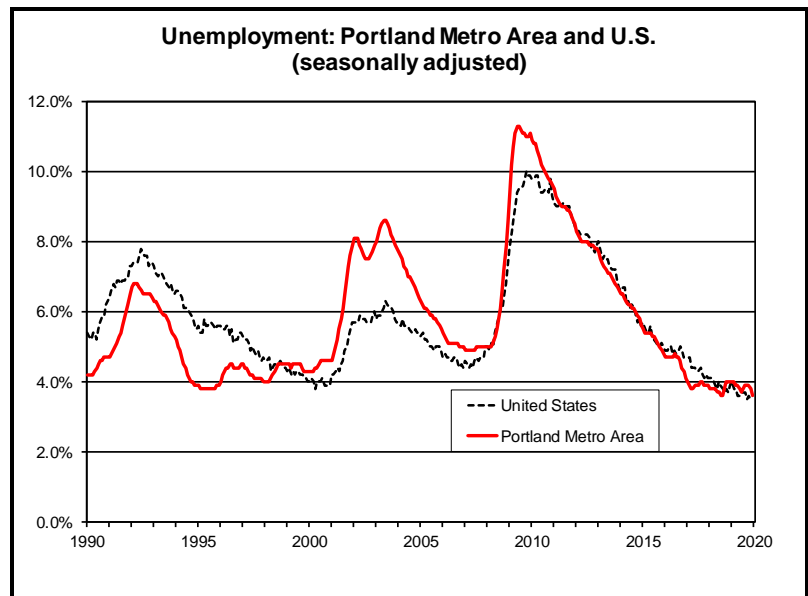
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Employment in the Portland Metro Area: December 2019

The Portland metro area's unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in December, the lowest on comparable records dating back to 1990. Oregon's unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in December, the lowest since at least 1976. The national rate was 3.5 percent, the lowest since 1969.

Employers added 2,900 jobs in December (seasonally adjusted) following a gain of 1,400 jobs, as revised, in November. Monthly employment gains averaged 1,900 jobs in 2019, which is slightly lower than in 2018 when monthly growth averaged 2,000 jobs.

Retail trade had a late-season surge in December (+1,900 jobs) as stores wrapped up hiring for the holiday season. Restaurants also made up for a relatively weak November with the addition of 1,200 jobs in December. On the negative side, employment services (e.g. temp help) pulled back more than typical for this time of year.



Since December 2018, nonfarm employment increased by 1.8 percent, slightly stronger than the statewide (1.4%) and national rates (1.4%). The fastest growing industries were financial activities; professional and business services, propelled by the professional and scientific services component (e.g. architecture and engineering firms) and company headquarters; and private educational and health services. Growth in the construction industry cooled to 2.0 percent over the year, the slowest pace in more than four years.

Next Press Release

The Oregon Employment Department will release the Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Tuesday, March 10.

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.

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To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit 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.

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 MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	November 2019	December 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,337,061	1,337,778	1,326,617	-717	10,444
Unemployed	37,053	41,798	51,668	-4,745	-14,615
Unemployment rate	2.8%	3.1%	3.9%	-0.3	-1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.6%	3.8%	4.0%	-0.2	-0.4
Employed	1,300,008	1,295,980	1,274,949	4,028	25,059
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,238,500	1,235,000	1,219,700	3,500	18,800
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,233,300	1,230,400	1,211,000	2,900	22,300
Total private	1,083,600	1,080,300	1,065,800	3,300	17,800
Mining, logging, and construction	76,600	78,000	75,200	-1,400	1,400
Mining and logging	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	-100
Construction	75,300	76,700	73,800	-1,400	1,500
Construction of buildings	19,900	20,200	19,600	-300	300
Residential building construction	11,900	12,100	11,400	-200	500
Nonresidential building construction	8,000	8,100	8,200	-100	-200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	6,400	6,600	6,000	-200	400
Specialty trade contractors	49,000	49,900	48,200	-900	800
Manufacturing	130,100	129,700	128,900	400	1,200
Durable goods	95,700	95,300	95,500	400	200
Wood product manufacturing	4,100	4,000	4,100	100	0
Primary metal manufacturing	6,200	6,200	6,000	0	200
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	13,700	13,600	13,500	100	200
Machinery manufacturing	10,100	10,000	10,400	100	-300
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	37,000	36,700	37,500	300	-500
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,200	30,000	30,700	200	-500
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	7,600	7,700	7,100	-100	500
Nondurable goods	34,400	34,400	33,400	0	1,000
Food manufacturing	13,300	13,500	13,300	-200	0
Paper manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	227,700	224,500	227,600	3,200	100
Wholesale trade	58,700	58,600	57,500	100	1,200
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	30,800	30,500	29,500	300	1,300
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	21,200	21,400	21,300	-200	-100
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	6,700	6,700	6,700	0	0
Retail trade	120,300	118,400	122,600	1,900	-2,300
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	14,400	14,500	14,500	-100	-100
Food and beverage stores	23,400	23,600	24,000	-200	-600
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	12,400	11,700	11,800	700	600
General merchandise stores	25,400	25,000	25,600	400	-200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	48,700	47,500	47,500	1,200	1,200
Utilities	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100
Transportation and warehousing	46,100	44,900	45,000	1,200	1,100
Air transportation	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0
Truck transportation	11,100	11,000	10,800	100	300
Couriers and messengers	9,700	8,600	9,100	1,100	600
Warehousing and storage	8,500	8,700	8,700	-200	-200
Information	27,600	27,700	25,900	-100	1,700
Publishing industries, except internet	11,000	11,000	10,600	0	400
Software publishers	9,400	9,400	8,900	0	500
Telecommunications	4,300	4,300	4,200	0	100

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)

	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	--Change From--	
				November 2019	December 2018
Financial activities	74,900	74,800	72,300	100	2,600
Finance and insurance	43,500	43,700	42,800	-200	700
Credit intermediation and related activities	17,900	17,900	18,400	0	-500
Insurance carriers and related activities	19,300	19,600	18,300	-300	1,000
Real estate and rental and leasing	31,400	31,100	29,500	300	1,900
Professional and business services	192,200	192,900	186,200	-700	6,000
Professional and technical services	81,200	80,200	78,200	1,000	3,000
Architectural and engineering services	15,300	15,400	14,400	-100	900
Computer systems design and related services	15,900	16,000	15,700	-100	200
Management of companies and enterprises	43,100	42,900	41,600	200	1,500
Administrative and waste services	67,900	69,800	66,400	-1,900	1,500
Administrative and support services	63,700	65,400	63,100	-1,700	600
Employment services	28,100	28,500	28,200	-400	-100
Business support services	6,900	6,900	7,000	0	-100
Services to buildings and dwellings	15,200	15,700	15,200	-500	0
Education and health services	188,000	188,400	182,400	-400	5,600
Educational services	31,100	31,700	29,200	-600	1,900
Colleges and universities	11,800	12,600	12,900	-800	-1,100
Health care and social assistance	156,900	156,700	153,200	200	3,700
Ambulatory health care services	58,900	59,400	57,900	-500	1,000
Hospitals	32,100	32,200	31,400	-100	700
Nursing and residential care facilities	28,300	28,200	28,200	100	100
Social assistance	37,600	36,900	35,700	700	1,900
Leisure and hospitality	124,900	122,100	125,100	2,800	-200
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	17,200	16,600	17,500	600	-300
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	12,400	11,900	12,700	500	-300
Accommodation and food services	107,700	105,500	107,600	2,200	100
Accommodation	11,000	10,900	10,800	100	200
Food services and drinking places	96,700	94,600	96,800	2,100	-100
Full-service restaurants	43,100	42,600	43,100	500	0
Limited-service eating places	41,700	41,000	42,200	700	-500
Other services	41,600	42,200	42,200	-600	-600
Membership associations and organizations	17,500	17,900	17,700	-400	-200
Government	154,900	154,700	153,900	200	1,000
Federal government	18,400	18,300	18,400	100	0
State government	11,900	12,000	11,700	-100	200
State education	2,900	2,900	2,600	0	300
Local government	124,600	124,400	123,800	200	800
Local education	69,400	69,500	69,500	-100	-100

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.