FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 27, 2020

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Record Job Losses, Soaring Unemployment
Portland Metro Area: April 2020

The Portland metro area’s unemployment rate soared to 14.0 percent in April (not seasonally adjusted) as the impact of COVID-19 and the public health measures enacted to contain it hit the region in full force. This is the highest rate since comparable records began in 1990. The March rate was the lowest on record. The number of unemployed metro residents nearly quadrupled in April to 186,300.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates are not yet available due to extraordinary processing demands incurred by April’s massive change in unemployment.

Employers slashed 157,800 jobs in April as businesses closed or limited operations in response to social distancing. Combined with March, losses total 163,500 jobs; a decline of 13.3 percent since February, wiping out six years of job growth.

Job losses spanned the entire economy, affecting every major industry. Leisure and hospitality suffered the largest and steepest loss, slashing over half of its workforce (-63,200 jobs; -52.9%). Bars and restaurants were among the first and most severely impacted businesses; spectator sports were canceled, amusement parks shuttered, and hotels experienced skyrocketing vacancy rates as travel and tourism came to a grinding halt.

Private health care and social assistance recorded the second-largest loss (-19,000; -12.1%). Elective surgeries, non-urgent care, dental cleaning, and eye exams were on hold through April. Some of these services resumed in May, albeit with restrictions and limited capacity. Finance and insurance (-1,100; -2.6%) and company headquarters (-1,600; -3.7%) experienced the mildest losses.

Every large metro region across the nation has lost jobs during the pandemic. Portland’s two-month rate of decline ranks in the middle of the pack of the nation’s 50 largest metro areas (28th steepest).
Next Press Release
The Oregon Employment Department will release the Portland metropolitan area’s unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Tuesday, June 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.

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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.

To file an Unemployment Insurance claim, visit our online claims system or call our contact centers, where Employment Department staff are ready to help by phone, at 1-877-FILE-4-UI (1-877-345-3484). For coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit www.oregon.gov/employ/Pages/COVID-19.aspx. For help finding jobs and training resources, 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.
### Labor Force Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>April 2020</th>
<th>March 2020</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
<th>March 2020</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian labor force</td>
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<td>1,330,450</td>
<td>1,319,297</td>
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<td>Unemployed</td>
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<td>Unemployment rate</td>
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<td>3.6%</td>
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<td>10.4</td>
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<td>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>1,141,843</td>
<td>1,282,631</td>
<td>1,271,605</td>
<td>-140,788</td>
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### Nonfarm Payroll Employment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
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<th>March 2020</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
<th>March 2020</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total nonfarm employment</td>
<td>1,066,600</td>
<td>1,219,000</td>
<td>1,218,700</td>
<td>-152,400</td>
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<td>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</td>
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<td>1,224,700</td>
<td>1,217,400</td>
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<td>Total private</td>
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<td>1,063,800</td>
<td>1,063,300</td>
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<td>Mining, logging, and construction</td>
<td>68,300</td>
<td>77,900</td>
<td>75,400</td>
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<td>Mining and logging</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Construction of buildings</td>
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<td>Nonresidential building construction</td>
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<td>Heavy and civil engineering construction</td>
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<td>Specialty trade contractors</td>
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<td>Manufacturing</td>
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<td>Durable goods</td>
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<td>Wood product manufacturing</td>
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<td>Primary metal manufacturing</td>
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<td>Fabricated metal product manufacturing</td>
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<td>Machining</td>
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<td>Computer and electronic product manufacturing</td>
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<td>Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.</td>
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<td>Electronic instrument manufacturing</td>
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<td>Transportation equipment manufacturing</td>
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<td>Nondurable goods</td>
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<td>Food manufacturing</td>
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<td>Paper manufacturing</td>
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<td>Trade, transportation, and utilities</td>
<td>197,300</td>
<td>220,700</td>
<td>218,000</td>
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<td>Wholesale trade</td>
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<td>Merchant wholesalers, durable goods</td>
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<td>Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods</td>
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<td>Electronic markets and agents and brokers</td>
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<td>Retail trade</td>
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<td>Motor vehicle and parts dealers</td>
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<td>Food and beverage stores</td>
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<td>Clothing and clothing accessories stores</td>
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<td>General merchandise stores</td>
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<td>Transportation, warehousing, and utilities</td>
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<td>Transportation and warehousing</td>
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<td>Truck transportation</td>
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<td>Couriers and messengers</td>
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<td>Warehousing and storage</td>
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<td>Publishing industries, except internet</td>
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## Employment Department News Release

### Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)

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<th>March 2020</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
<th>--Change From--</th>
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<td>Financial activities</td>
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<td>Credit intermediation and related activities</td>
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<td>Insurance carriers and related activities</td>
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<td>Real estate and rental and leasing</td>
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<td>Professional and business services</td>
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<td>187,200</td>
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<td>Professional and technical services</td>
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<td>Architectural and engineering services</td>
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<td>Computer systems design and related services</td>
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<td>Management of companies and enterprises</td>
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<td>Administrative and waste services</td>
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<td>Services to buildings and dwellings</td>
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<td>Education and health services</td>
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<td>Educational services</td>
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<td>Colleges and universities</td>
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<td>Health care and social assistance</td>
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<td>Ambulatory health care services</td>
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<td>Nursing and residential care facilities</td>
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<td>Social assistance</td>
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<td>Leisure and hospitality</td>
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<td>Arts, entertainment, and recreation</td>
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<td>Amusement, gambling, and recreation</td>
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<td>Accommodation and food services</td>
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<td>Full-service restaurants</td>
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<td>Limited-service eating places</td>
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<td>Other services</td>
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<td>State government</td>
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<td>State education</td>
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<td>Local government</td>
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<td>Local education</td>
<td>68,800</td>
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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.