

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 22, 2020

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

## Portland Metropolitan Area: August 2020

### Wildfires Impact

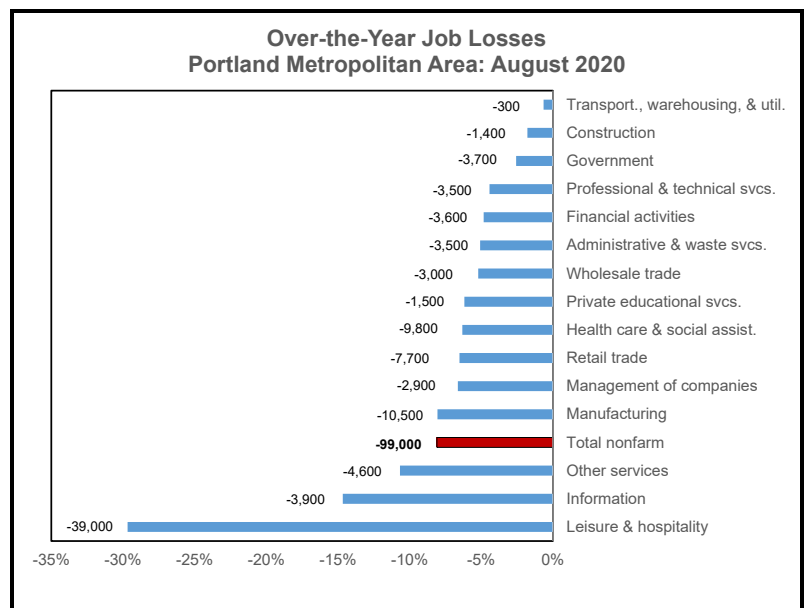
Devastating wildfires have ravaged homes, communities, workplaces, and more than 1 million acres of land across Oregon over the past several weeks. This release covers the Portland Metropolitan Area's employment situation in August. It does not capture the personal and economic disruption caused by these disasters.

The Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate declined to 8.3 percent in August from 11.0 percent in July. Approximately 110,500 area residents remain unemployed; more than double the number a year ago.

The region's nonfarm employment rose by 7,500 jobs, following a gain of 9,000 jobs in July (seasonally adjusted). Over the past four months employers added back 59,600 jobs, slightly more than one-third of March and April losses (-169,700).

August gains were largest in construction (+2,900); government (+1,900), as public school employees returned to work; retail trade (+1,800); and leisure and hospitality (+1,400), driven entirely by restaurants and drinking places. The large and diverse professional and business services sector cut jobs across all published components (-1,700). Wholesale trade also declined in August (-800).

Over the year, employment is down 8.1 percent (99,000 jobs). Transportation, warehousing, and utilities is the least-scathed broad industry, down 0.6 percent (-300 jobs), with cuts in air and truck transportation nearly offset by gains in couriers and warehousing. Construction has also experienced relatively mild losses, down 1.6 percent (-1,400 jobs). Leisure and hospitality, hit hardest by the pandemic, unsurprisingly suffered the largest decline over the year (-29.7%; -39,000 jobs), with employment in hotels and other accommodations cut nearly in half (-46.3%).



**Next Press Release**

The Oregon Employment Department will release the Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, October 20.

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*.

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](http://www.oregon.gov/employ/Pages/COVID-19.aspx). For help finding jobs and training resources, 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--				
	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	July 2020	August 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	1,311,412	1,323,474	1,333,061	-12,062	-21,649
Unemployed	110,462	148,230	49,971	-37,768	60,491
Unemployment rate	8.4%	11.2%	3.7%	-2.8	4.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	8.3%	11.0%	3.5%	-2.7	4.8
Employed	1,200,950	1,175,244	1,283,090	25,706	-82,140
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	1,124,000	1,117,400	1,223,000	6,600	-99,000
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>1,121,400</i>	<i>1,113,900</i>	<i>1,225,800</i>	<i>7,500</i>	<i>-104,400</i>
Total private	983,600	978,900	1,078,900	4,700	-95,300
Mining, logging, and construction	78,500	75,600	80,000	2,900	-1,500
Mining and logging	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	-100
Construction	77,300	74,400	78,700	2,900	-1,400
Construction of buildings	20,100	19,800	20,800	300	-700
Residential building construction	10,900	10,700	12,100	200	-1,200
Nonresidential building construction	9,200	9,100	8,700	100	500
Heavy and civil engineering construction	7,000	6,700	6,800	300	200
Specialty trade contractors	50,200	47,900	51,100	2,300	-900
Manufacturing	119,800	119,500	130,300	300	-10,500
Durable goods	88,900	89,100	95,500	-200	-6,600
Wood product manufacturing	3,800	3,800	4,000	0	-200
Primary metal manufacturing	4,600	5,000	6,200	-400	-1,600
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	12,300	12,300	13,400	0	-1,100
Machinery manufacturing	9,800	9,900	10,100	-100	-300
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	36,600	36,800	37,600	-200	-1,000
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,800	31,000	30,800	-200	0
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,300	4,300	5,000	0	-700
Transportation equipment manufacturing	6,300	6,500	7,500	-200	-1,200
Nondurable goods	30,900	30,400	34,800	500	-3,900
Food manufacturing	12,600	12,500	13,900	100	-1,300
Paper manufacturing	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	211,000	210,100	222,000	900	-11,000
Wholesale trade	54,600	55,400	57,600	-800	-3,000
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	29,100	29,500	29,800	-400	-700
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	19,700	20,100	21,500	-400	-1,800
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	5,800	5,800	6,300	0	-500
Retail trade	110,500	108,700	118,200	1,800	-7,700
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	13,600	13,100	14,700	500	-1,100
Food and beverage stores	24,500	24,700	24,000	-200	500
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	7,200	7,400	10,500	-200	-3,300
General merchandise stores	24,200	23,800	22,800	400	1,400
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	45,900	46,000	46,200	-100	-300
Utilities	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	43,300	43,400	43,600	-100	-300
Air transportation	3,100	3,100	4,200	0	-1,100
Truck transportation	10,400	10,400	11,300	0	-900
Couriers and messengers	9,200	9,200	7,200	0	2,000
Warehousing and storage	10,900	10,800	9,100	100	1,800
Information	22,700	22,600	26,600	100	-3,900
Publishing industries, except internet	10,700	10,500	11,200	200	-500
Software publishers	9,100	8,900	9,500	200	-400
Telecommunications	3,500	3,600	3,900	-100	-400

## Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)

	--Change From--				
	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	July 2020	August 2019
Financial activities	70,900	70,500	74,500	400	-3,600
Finance and insurance	41,900	41,900	43,300	0	-1,400
Credit intermediation and related activities	17,700	17,800	18,300	-100	-600
Insurance carriers and related activities	18,500	18,500	18,700	0	-200
Real estate and rental and leasing	29,000	28,600	31,200	400	-2,200
Professional and business services	181,800	183,500	191,700	-1,700	-9,900
Professional and technical services	75,600	76,100	79,100	-500	-3,500
Architectural and engineering services	14,800	15,100	15,300	-300	-500
Computer systems design and related services	15,100	15,100	15,700	0	-600
Management of companies and enterprises	40,800	41,200	43,700	-400	-2,900
Administrative and waste services	65,400	66,200	68,900	-800	-3,500
Administrative and support services	61,700	62,600	65,400	-900	-3,700
Employment services	26,800	27,400	28,100	-600	-1,300
Business support services	6,300	6,400	7,100	-100	-800
Services to buildings and dwellings	15,600	15,700	16,400	-100	-800
Education and health services	168,000	167,800	179,300	200	-11,300
Educational services	22,800	22,200	24,300	600	-1,500
Colleges and universities	8,800	8,500	9,200	300	-400
Health care and social assistance	145,200	145,600	155,000	-400	-9,800
Ambulatory health care services	55,700	55,300	58,300	400	-2,600
Hospitals	30,400	30,600	31,600	-200	-1,200
Nursing and residential care facilities	27,900	28,500	28,500	-600	-600
Social assistance	31,200	31,200	36,600	0	-5,400
Leisure and hospitality	92,400	91,000	131,400	1,400	-39,000
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	13,500	13,600	19,800	-100	-6,300
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	10,400	10,500	14,600	-100	-4,200
Accommodation and food services	78,900	77,400	111,600	1,500	-32,700
Accommodation	6,500	6,400	12,100	100	-5,600
Food services and drinking places	72,400	71,000	99,500	1,400	-27,100
Full-service restaurants	27,900	28,000	44,100	-100	-16,200
Limited-service eating places	34,800	34,300	43,800	500	-9,000
Other services	38,500	38,300	43,100	200	-4,600
Membership associations and organizations	14,800	15,100	18,100	-300	-3,300
Government	140,400	138,500	144,100	1,900	-3,700
Federal government	18,900	18,700	18,700	200	200
State government	12,400	12,100	12,300	300	100
State education	2,100	1,800	2,300	300	-200
Local government	109,100	107,700	113,100	1,400	-4,000
Local education	55,200	54,000	57,300	1,200	-2,100

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.