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Employment and Unemployment in the Portland Metropolitan Area February 2026

The Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate was 5.1% in February, unchanged from January although higher than a year earlier (4.4%). Approximately 74,300 area residents were unemployed; 4,900 more than a year ago. Oregon's unemployment rate was 5.2% and national rate was 4.4% in February.

The metro area's nonfarm employment declined by 6,900 jobs in February (seasonally adjusted). Losses were broad-based, with all major sectors underperforming typical February trends.

Weakness in construction continued into February, with no job gains compared with the typical increase of 1,000-plus jobs due to the start of the outdoor building season.

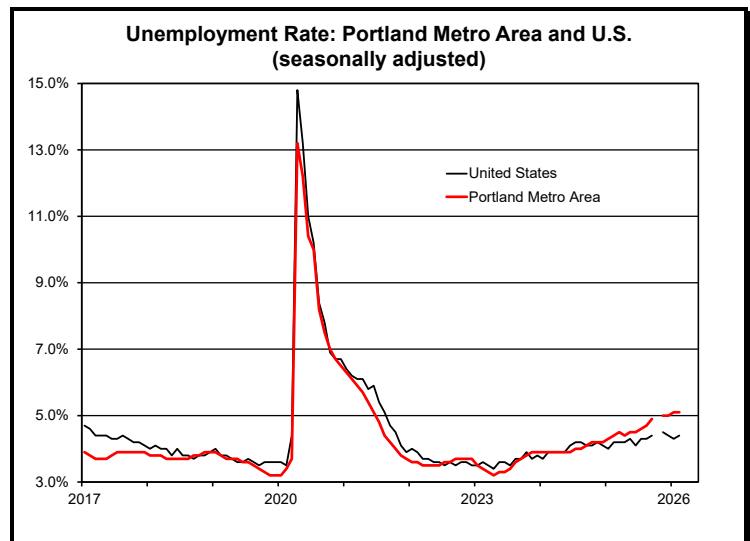
Transportation and warehousing also deviated from season norms, shedding 2,700 jobs when a loss of about 500 is typical for this time of year. This sector was one of the few still adding jobs on a year-over-year basis through most of 2025, but annual growth has been flat or negative in three of the past four months.

Professional and business services continued its downward trend, adding 400 jobs when 2,000 is the February norm. Year-over-year growth turned negative in June 2023 and continued in February (-8,900 jobs; -4.6%).

Over the past 12 months the metro area has lost 30,200 jobs, or -2.4% (not seasonally adjusted). All major industries are in the red except for private health care and social assistance (+3,700 jobs; 1.8%).

Next Press Release

The Oregon Employment Department will release the Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Tuesday, May 5.



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 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 help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

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

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,368,889	1,368,848	1,386,694	41	-17,805
Unemployed	74,299	75,659	69,393	-1,360	4,906
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.5%	5.0%	-0.1	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	5.1%	4.4%	0.0	0.7
Employed	1,294,590	1,293,189	1,317,301	1,401	-22,711
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,202,800	1,208,200	1,233,000	-5,400	-30,200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,214,900	1,221,800	1,241,400	-6,900	-26,500
Total private	1,042,300	1,048,200	1,070,700	-5,900	-28,400
Mining, logging, and construction	73,700	73,700	77,900	0	-4,200
Mining and logging	900	900	1,000	0	-100
Construction	72,800	72,800	76,900	0	-4,100
Construction of buildings	18,800	18,600	20,100	200	-1,300
Residential building construction	11,700	11,600	12,500	100	-800
Nonresidential building construction	7,100	7,000	7,600	100	-500
Heavy and civil engineering construction	6,800	6,800	7,100	0	-300
Specialty trade contractors	47,200	47,400	49,700	-200	-2,500
Manufacturing	112,100	112,700	118,400	-600	-6,300
Durable goods	82,300	82,900	88,200	-600	-5,900
Primary metal manufacturing	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	11,400	11,500	11,800	-100	-400
Machinery manufacturing	8,900	8,900	9,200	0	-300
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	32,000	32,200	37,100	-200	-5,100
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	26,700	26,900	31,600	-200	-4,900
Electronic instrument manufacturing	3,800	3,900	4,000	-100	-200
Transportation equipment manufacturing	6,600	6,700	6,600	-100	0
Nondurable goods	29,800	29,800	30,200	0	-400
Food manufacturing	13,800	13,700	13,700	100	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	213,400	217,000	218,900	-3,600	-5,500
Wholesale trade	54,100	54,400	56,200	-300	-2,100
Retail trade	109,300	110,100	111,300	-800	-2,000
General merchandise retailers	22,200	22,400	22,300	-200	-100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50,000	52,500	51,400	-2,500	-1,400
Utilities	2,700	2,700	2,800	0	-100
Transportation and warehousing	47,300	49,800	48,600	-2,500	-1,300
Truck transportation	9,600	9,700	10,300	-100	-700
Couriers and messengers	11,400	12,500	12,200	-1,100	-800
Warehousing and storage	9,800	10,200	9,800	-400	0
Information	23,700	24,300	25,900	-600	-2,200
Software publishers	9,700	9,800	10,400	-100	-700
Financial activities	70,300	70,300	71,100	0	-800
Finance and insurance	38,900	38,900	39,800	0	-900
Credit intermediation and related activities	14,000	14,100	14,100	-100	-100
Insurance carriers and related activities	18,200	18,200	18,700	0	-500
Real estate and rental and leasing	31,400	31,400	31,300	0	100

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Professional and business services	183,200	182,800	192,100	400	-8,900
Professional and technical services	81,200	81,500	85,900	-300	-4,700
Architectural and engineering services	15,300	15,300	15,600	0	-300
Computer systems design and related services	14,200	14,200	15,200	0	-1,000
Management of companies and enterprises	38,600	38,600	39,700	0	-1,100
Administrative and waste services	63,400	62,700	66,500	700	-3,100
Employment services	22,800	22,500	25,200	300	-2,400
Private education and health services	211,200	211,100	207,500	100	3,700
Private educational services	27,300	26,800	28,900	500	-1,600
Health care and social assistance	183,900	184,300	178,600	-400	5,300
Ambulatory health care services	63,600	63,900	63,400	-300	200
Hospitals	34,400	34,300	33,700	100	700
Nursing and residential care facilities	34,200	34,200	33,100	0	1,100
Social assistance	51,700	51,900	48,400	-200	3,300
Leisure and hospitality	113,500	114,300	115,800	-800	-2,300
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	17,400	17,300	18,200	100	-800
Accommodation and food services	96,100	97,000	97,600	-900	-1,500
Accommodation	9,800	9,800	9,700	0	100
Food services and drinking places	86,300	87,200	87,900	-900	-1,600
Restaurants and other eating places	76,300	77,100	77,200	-800	-900
Other services	41,200	42,000	43,100	-800	-1,900
Government	160,500	160,000	162,300	500	-1,800
Federal government	17,400	17,400	18,900	0	-1,500
State government	14,300	14,300	14,400	0	-100
State education	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	-100
Local government	128,800	128,300	129,000	500	-200
Local education	67,300	66,900	68,700	400	-1,400

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.