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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Amy Vander Vliet, Economist

Amy.S.VanderVliet@employ.oregon.gov

(971) 804-2099

Employment and Unemployment in the Portland Metropolitan Area Continued Job Losses in March 2026

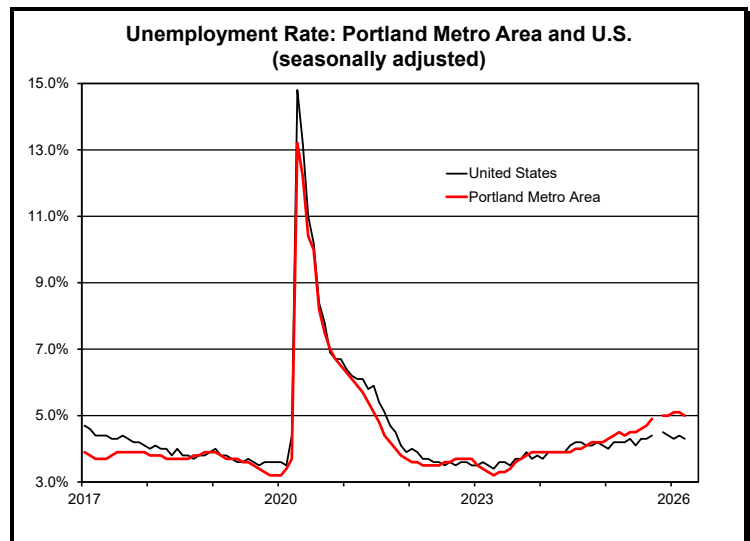
The Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate was 5.0% in March, essentially unchanged from February (5.1%) although higher than a year earlier (4.5%). Approximately 70,900 area residents were unemployed; 2,500 more than a year ago. Oregon's unemployment rate was 5.2% and national rate was 4.3% in March.

The metro area's nonfarm employment declined by 4,400 jobs in March (seasonally adjusted). As in February, losses were broad-based, with most major sectors under-performing typical trends for this time of year.

Losses were largest in financial activities (-900 jobs), transportation and warehousing (-800), and manufacturing (-500).

Leisure and hospitality added fewer jobs than typical; professional and business services continued its prolonged downturn; and healthcare and social assistance took a breather from its long-term growth trend.

Over the past 12 months employment in the metro area has declined by 2.6%, or 32,600 jobs (not seasonally adjusted). Most major industries are in the red, led by information (-7.7%, -2,000 jobs) and construction (-6.3%; -4,900 jobs). Private health care and social assistance is the only sector adding jobs over the year (+2.7%; 4,800 jobs). The public sector had been the only other sector adding jobs on an annual basis, but growth turned negative in January and by March employment was down 1.5%, or 2,500 jobs.



Next Press Release

The Oregon Employment Department will release the Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 27.

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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The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit QualityInfo.org, select Tools, and choose LAUS or CES from the dropdown menu. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

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--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,367,513	1,368,950	1,385,658	-1,437	-18,145
Unemployed	70,907	74,242	68,413	-3,335	2,494
Unemployment rate	5.2%	5.4%	4.9%	-0.2	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.1%	4.5%	-0.1	0.5
Employed	1,296,606	1,294,708	1,317,245	1,898	-20,639
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,202,600	1,202,800	1,235,200	-200	-32,600
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,210,100	1,214,500	1,237,500	-4,400	-27,400
Total private	1,041,900	1,042,300	1,072,000	-400	-30,100
Mining, logging, and construction	73,500	73,700	78,500	-200	-5,000
Mining and logging	900	900	1,000	0	-100
Construction	72,600	72,800	77,500	-200	-4,900
Construction of buildings	18,600	18,800	20,100	-200	-1,500
Residential building construction	11,600	11,700	12,500	-100	-900
Nonresidential building construction	7,000	7,100	7,600	-100	-600
Heavy and civil engineering construction	6,800	6,800	7,100	0	-300
Specialty trade contractors	47,200	47,200	50,300	0	-3,100
Manufacturing	111,600	112,100	116,800	-500	-5,200
Durable goods	82,100	82,300	86,600	-200	-4,500
Primary metal manufacturing	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	11,400	11,400	11,800	0	-400
Machinery manufacturing	8,900	8,900	9,100	0	-200
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	31,900	32,000	35,700	-100	-3,800
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	26,600	26,700	30,200	-100	-3,600
Electronic instrument manufacturing	3,800	3,800	4,000	0	-200
Transportation equipment manufacturing	6,600	6,600	6,500	0	100
Nondurable goods	29,500	29,800	30,200	-300	-700
Food manufacturing	13,700	13,800	13,600	-100	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	212,700	213,400	218,100	-700	-5,400
Wholesale trade	53,900	54,100	55,800	-200	-1,900
Retail trade	109,600	109,300	111,300	300	-1,700
General merchandise retailers	22,200	22,200	22,200	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	49,200	50,000	51,000	-800	-1,800
Utilities	2,700	2,700	2,800	0	-100
Transportation and warehousing	46,500	47,300	48,200	-800	-1,700
Truck transportation	9,600	9,600	10,400	0	-800
Couriers and messengers	11,200	11,400	11,900	-200	-700
Warehousing and storage	9,600	9,800	9,400	-200	200
Information	23,900	23,700	25,900	200	-2,000
Software publishers	9,700	9,700	10,400	0	-700
Financial activities	69,400	70,300	70,900	-900	-1,500
Finance and insurance	38,400	38,900	39,900	-500	-1,500
Credit intermediation and related activities	13,800	14,000	14,100	-200	-300
Insurance carriers and related activities	18,000	18,200	18,900	-200	-900
Real estate and rental and leasing	31,000	31,400	31,000	-400	0

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)

	March		February		March	
	2026	2026	2025	2025	2026	2025
Professional and business services	183,500	183,200	192,400	300	-8,900	
Professional and technical services	80,700	81,200	85,600	-500	-4,900	
Architectural and engineering services	15,200	15,300	15,700	-100	-500	
Computer systems design and related services	13,800	14,200	15,200	-400	-1,400	
Management of companies and enterprises	38,700	38,600	39,600	100	-900	
Administrative and waste services	64,100	63,400	67,200	700	-3,100	
Employment services	23,200	22,800	25,600	400	-2,400	
Private education and health services	211,500	211,200	208,500	300	3,000	
Private educational services	27,400	27,300	29,200	100	-1,800	
Health care and social assistance	184,100	183,900	179,300	200	4,800	
Ambulatory health care services	63,200	63,600	63,200	-400	0	
Hospitals	34,200	34,400	34,100	-200	100	
Nursing and residential care facilities	34,200	34,200	33,100	0	1,100	
Social assistance	52,500	51,700	48,900	800	3,600	
Leisure and hospitality	114,500	113,500	117,500	1,000	-3,000	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	17,600	17,400	18,900	200	-1,300	
Accommodation and food services	96,900	96,100	98,600	800	-1,700	
Accommodation	9,800	9,800	9,800	0	0	
Food services and drinking places	87,100	86,300	88,800	800	-1,700	
Restaurants and other eating places	76,900	76,300	77,700	600	-800	
Other services	41,300	41,200	43,400	100	-2,100	
Government	160,700	160,500	163,200	200	-2,500	
Federal government	17,400	17,400	18,900	0	-1,500	
State government	14,300	14,300	14,400	0	-100	
State education	2,000	1,900	2,000	100	0	
Local government	129,000	128,800	129,900	200	-900	
Local education	67,400	67,300	68,900	100	-1,500	

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.