

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 21, 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Amy Vander Vliet, Economist

[Amy.S.VanderVliet@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:Amy.S.VanderVliet@employ.oregon.gov)

(971) 804-2099

## **Employment and Unemployment in the Portland Metropolitan Area September 2025**

### **Federal Government Shutdown Pauses Employment Reports**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) suspended the monthly employment and unemployment reports for the nation, states, and metropolitan areas as of Oct. 1, 2025. The Portland metropolitan area's monthly jobs and unemployment rate data for September are unavailable at this time. In the meantime, the Oregon Employment Department will highlight data and analysis that we continue to produce. One such topic is federal government employment.

#### **Federal Government Jobs in the Portland Metropolitan Area**

The Portland metropolitan area had an average of 18,900 federal government jobs during the 12 months ending in August 2025 (the most recent data available). This accounted for 1.5% of total employment; a smaller share than Oregon's rural counties (2.5%), the average large metro (1.9%), and the nation (1.9%).

Federal government employment declined by 700 jobs (-3.6%) over the year ending in August 2025, a significantly faster rate of decline than for all industries (-0.5%). In comparison, federal government declined by 3.9% statewide and 3.1% nationally.

Federal government tends to pay relatively high wages: \$106,658 annually on average (2024); 36% higher than the average across all industries (\$74,672). [Read more about federal government jobs in the Portland metropolitan area.](#)

#### **Next Press Release**

The Oregon Employment Department will update our [schedule of future releases](#) as federal services return.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from [QualityInfo.org](http://QualityInfo.org). To subscribe, go to [www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe](http://www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe), 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 preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

The pdf version of the news release can be found at [www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [QualityInfo.org](http://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](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-947-1444. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at [OED\\_Communications@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a [OED\\_Communications@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

###