State of Oregon
Employment Department

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 24, 2026

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

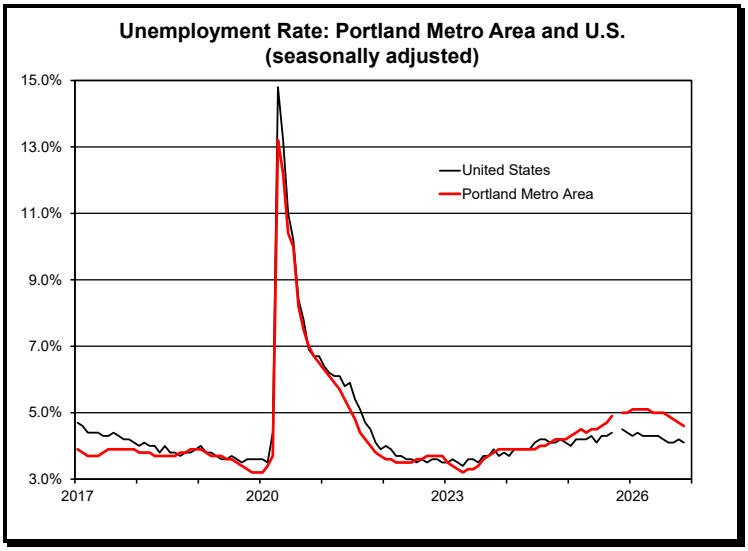
Employment and Unemployment in the Portland Metropolitan Area

The Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate was 4.6% in October compared to 4.7% in September. Approximately 57,800 area residents were unemployed. After plateauing for about a year, the region's unemployment rate has slowly declined over the past eight months from 5.1% to 4.6%. Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.9% and the national rate was 4.1% in October.

The metro area's nonfarm employment declined by 1,200 jobs in October (seasonally adjusted).

Public education added fewer jobs than typical for October, although this was expected following September's atypically large gains as fall hiring at schools started earlier this year.

Trade, transportation, and utilities declined by 600 when a gain of roughly 500 is more typical for this time of year. The wholesale trade component was entirely responsible, cutting 1,500 jobs (preliminary estimates).



Professional and business services outperformed expectations for the fifth consecutive month, adding 800 jobs when the average October sees a decline. Private health care and social assistance also added more jobs than anticipated.

In the past 12 months, employment rose by 0.2%, or 2,600 jobs (not seasonally adjusted). For well over a year, only two broad industries recorded gains on an annual basis: private health care and social assistance, and leisure and hospitality. In October, three additional sectors were up over the year: professional and business services, financial activities, and construction.

Next Press Release

The Oregon Employment Department will release the Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

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 QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to 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, 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.

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 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at 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.

###

State of Oregon Employment Department

Workforce & Economic Research Division
QualityInfo.org
November 24, 2026

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

				--Change From--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,383,569	1,383,241	NA	328	NA
Unemployed	57,759	55,943	NA	1,816	NA
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.0%	NA	0.2	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*4.6%*	*4.7%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	1,325,810	1,327,298	NA	-1,488	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,243,600	1,241,300	1,241,000	2,300	2,600
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*1,232,600*	*1,233,800*	*1,238,300*	*-1,200*	*-5,700*
Total private	1,077,900	1,079,000	1,079,200	-1,100	-1,300
Mining, logging, and construction	79,700	80,600	79,600	-900	100
Mining and logging	900	900	1,000	0	-100
Construction	78,800	79,700	78,600	-900	200
Construction of buildings	20,200	20,400	20,600	-200	-400
Residential building construction	12,800	12,900	13,200	-100	-400
Nonresidential building construction	7,400	7,500	7,400	-100	0
Heavy and civil engineering construction	7,200	7,300	7,500	-100	-300
Specialty trade contractors	51,400	52,000	50,500	-600	900
Manufacturing	113,500	113,900	114,300	-400	-800
Durable goods	83,000	83,000	83,900	0	-900
Primary metal manufacturing	4,800	4,800	4,700	0	100
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	11,600	11,600	11,500	0	100
Machinery manufacturing	9,200	9,200	9,200	0	0
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	31,800	31,900	32,900	-100	-1,100
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	26,600	26,700	27,600	-100	-1,000
Electronic instrument manufacturing	3,900	3,900	3,900	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	7,100	7,100	6,800	0	300
Nondurable goods	30,500	30,900	30,400	-400	100
Food manufacturing	14,000	14,000	13,800	0	200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	216,400	216,800	219,400	-400	-3,000
Wholesale trade	52,600	54,100	55,100	-1,500	-2,500
Retail trade	109,900	109,500	112,000	400	-2,100
General merchandise retailers	22,400	22,100	22,300	300	100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	53,900	53,200	52,300	700	1,600
Utilities	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	51,100	50,400	49,500	700	1,600
Truck transportation	10,200	10,300	10,200	-100	0
Couriers and messengers	12,900	12,200	12,500	700	400
Warehousing and storage	10,600	10,500	9,800	100	800
Information	25,000	24,900	25,800	100	-800
Software publishers	9,800	9,800	10,100	0	-300

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	--Change From-- September 2026	--Change From-- October 2025
Financial activities	71,800	72,100	71,200	-300	600
Finance and insurance	39,700	40,000	39,600	-300	100
Credit intermediation and related activities	13,900	14,000	14,000	-100	-100
Insurance carriers and related activities	18,300	18,400	18,700	-100	-400
Real estate and rental and leasing	32,100	32,100	31,600	0	500
Professional and business services	190,100	189,400	189,500	700	600
Professional and technical services	83,800	82,800	83,900	1,000	-100
Architectural and engineering services	16,000	15,900	15,800	100	200
Computer systems design and related services	14,700	14,600	15,100	100	-400
Management of companies and enterprises	38,000	38,200	38,300	-200	-300
Administrative and waste services	68,300	68,400	67,300	-100	1,000
Employment services	25,400	25,100	24,800	300	600
Private education and health services	217,200	214,700	214,500	2,500	2,700
Private educational services	26,300	25,500	28,800	800	-2,500
Health care and social assistance	190,900	189,200	185,700	1,700	5,200
Ambulatory health care services	67,300	66,700	65,300	600	2,000
Hospitals	34,800	34,700	34,800	100	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	36,600	36,300	34,900	300	1,700
Social assistance	52,200	51,500	50,700	700	1,500
Leisure and hospitality	121,100	123,500	121,200	-2,400	-100
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	19,600	20,400	18,900	-800	700
Accommodation and food services	101,500	103,100	102,300	-1,600	-800
Accommodation	10,200	10,300	10,200	-100	0
Food services and drinking places	91,300	92,800	92,100	-1,500	-800
Restaurants and other eating places	79,300	80,800	80,200	-1,500	-900
Other services	43,100	43,100	43,700	0	-600
Government	165,700	162,300	161,800	3,400	3,900
Federal government	17,500	17,400	17,600	100	-100
State government	14,400	14,400	14,300	0	100
State education	1,800	1,700	1,900	100	-100
Local government	133,800	130,500	129,900	3,300	3,900
Local education	68,600	65,400	67,400	3,200	1,200

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.