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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 5.0% in September

Oregon's unemployment rate was little changed at 5.0% in September and 5.1% in August. It has held to a tight range between 5.0% and 5.3% for the past 19 months, since March 2025 when it was 5.0%. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.2% in September and 4.1% in August.

In September, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 5,800 jobs, following a revised gain of 2,600 jobs in August. September's gains were largest in **construction** (+2,000 jobs); **health care and social assistance** (+1,700); and **leisure and hospitality** (+1,300). Losses were largest in **retail trade** (-1,500 jobs).

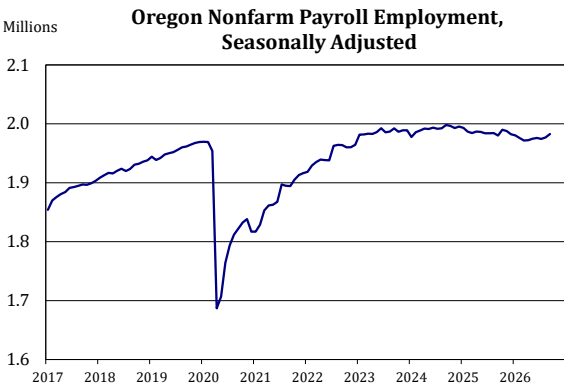
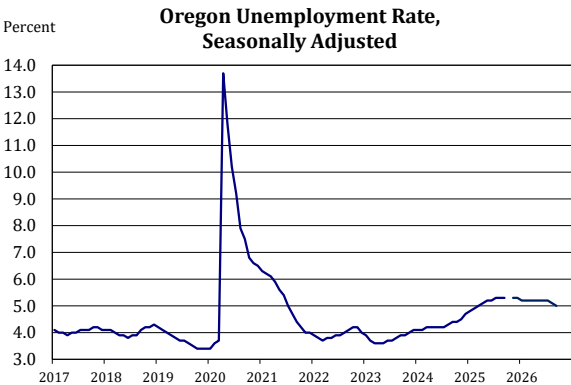
In the past 12 months, payroll employment rose by 2,600 jobs, or 0.1%. **Health care and social assistance** continued its rapid growth during the past four years by adding 12,100 jobs, or 3.8%, in the past 12 months. **Other services** (+1,600 jobs, or 2.4%) and **private education** (+1,300, or 3.6%) were the other major industries that added the most jobs since September 2025. **Manufacturing** (-4,300 jobs, or -2.4%) cut the most jobs in that time, followed by **government** (-4,000 jobs, or -1.3%).

Construction employment drifted upward during April through August, then jumped higher by 2,000 jobs in September. In the past 12 months, each of the three component industries expanded: **construction of buildings** (+900 jobs); **specialty trade contractors** (+500); and **heavy and civil engineering construction** (+100).

Several industries rebounded over the most recent two months. Government added 1,300 jobs since July, following losses in prior months. Nonetheless, it has cut 4,000 jobs in the past 12 months. Manufacturing added 1,700 jobs since July, partially reversing steady declines during the past three years. Leisure and hospitality's September gain reversed losses in June and July.

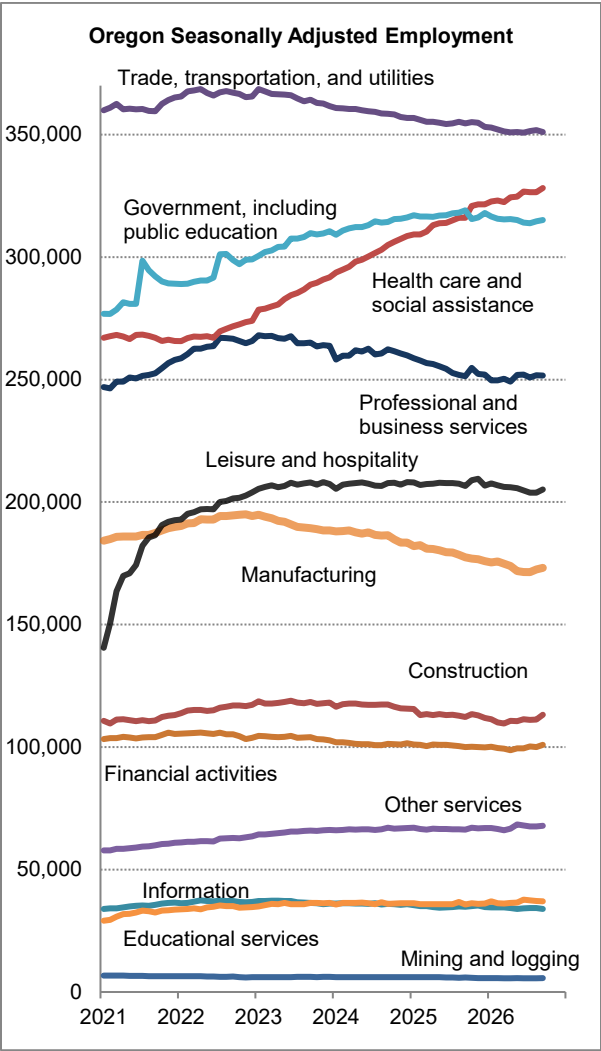
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Oct. 20, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October on Wednesday, Nov. 18.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes August to September 2026

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	7,900	13,700	5,800
Total private	-5,800	-500	5,300
Mining and logging	-100	0	100
Construction	-1,800	200	2,000
Manufacturing	-300	300	600
Wholesale trade	100	600	500
Retail trade	-200	-1,700	-1,500
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	900	1,000	100
Information	-200	-600	-400
Financial activities	-100	800	900
Professional and business services	200	0	-200
Private educational services	2,600	2,500	-100
Health care and social assistance	0	1,700	1,700
Leisure and hospitality	-6,400	-5,100	1,300
Other services	-500	-200	300
Government	13,700	14,200	500



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the component industries within construction.

The Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly Oregon payroll employment and labor force data. 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 publishes payroll employment estimates that are revised quarterly by using employment counts from employer unemployment insurance tax records. All department publications use this Official Oregon Series data unless noted otherwise. This month's release incorporates the January, February, and March 2026 tax records data. The department continues to make the original nonfarm payroll employment series available; these data are produced by the BLS.

The PDF version of the news release can be found at [QualityInfo.org/press-release](https://qualityinfo.org/press-release). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [QualityInfo.org](https://qualityinfo.org), select *Tools*, then choose *LAUS* or *CES* under the *Economy* header. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

To file a claim for unemployment benefits or get more information about unemployment programs, visit unemployment.oregon.gov.

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. OED provides free help so you can use our services. Some examples are sign language and spoken-language interpreters, written materials in other languages, large print, audio, and other formats. To get help, please call 503-947-1444. TTY users call 711. You can also send an email to communications@employ.oregon.gov.

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