

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 13, 2023 CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Oregon's Nonfarm Payroll Employment Declines by 1,200 in August

Oregon's unemployment rate stayed at 3.4% in August, the same as July. This tied Oregon's record low of 3.4%, which also was reached in November and December 2019. Since May, Oregon's unemployment rate has been below 4%. The U.S. unemployment rate rose from 3.5% in July to 3.8% in August.

In August, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 1,200 jobs, following a revised gain of 3,400 jobs in July. August's over-the-month job losses were largest in **retail trade** (-1,600 jobs); **construction** (-1,000); and **professional and business services** (-800). Job gains were largest in **leisure and hospitality** (+2,100 jobs).

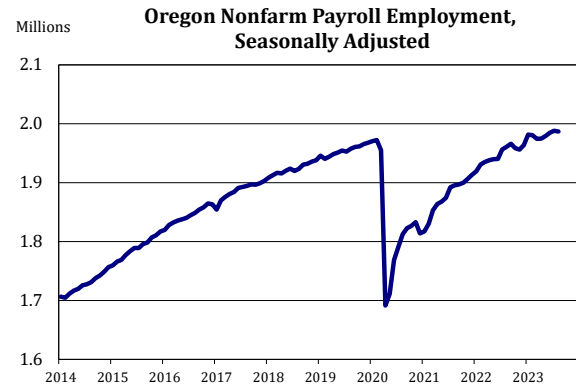
Payroll employment grew by 1.3% over the past 12 months. Over-the-year job growth decelerated to an average of about 2% in the past five months, from 12-month growth rates that were above 3% during the economic recovery period, which included much of the prior two years.

Several major industries grew rapidly over the past 12 months. Since August 2022, **leisure and hospitality** (+10,500 jobs, or 5.3%) continued to add jobs at a rapid clip, but is still 6,100 jobs below its prior peak reached in February 2020. **Health care and social assistance** (+14,000 jobs, or 5.2%) also added jobs rapidly over the past 12 months, with **social assistance** gaining 6,300 jobs in that time. Each of health care's component industries added close to 2,500 jobs in that time. **Government** (9,400 jobs, or 3.1%) grew rapidly in that time as well, as **local government** recently rose above its pre-pandemic level.

Several industries have contracted in the past 12 months. **Manufacturing** (-4,100 jobs, or -2.1%) employs fewer workers than a year ago, as many of its **durable goods manufacturing** component industries have cut up to 2% of jobs in that time. Similarly, **retail trade** (-3,700 jobs, or -1.8%) has cut jobs recently, with most retail component industries declining slightly since August 2022. Meanwhile, after booming from 2019 through 2021, **transportation, warehousing, and utilities** has retraced some of those job gains, cutting 3,200 jobs, or 4.0%, in the past 12 months.

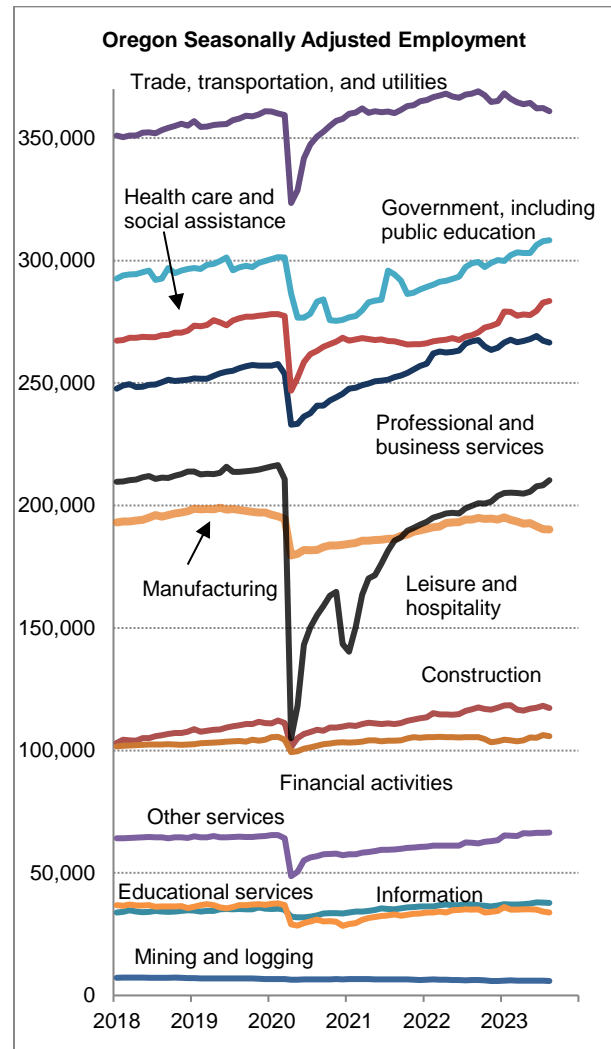
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Sept. 19, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Wednesday, Oct. 18.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes July to August 2023

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



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the component industries within manufacturing; retail trade; and health care and social assistance.

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 2023 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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Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	Change From July 2023	Change From August 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,162,031	2,159,181	2,200,720	2,850	-38,689
Unemployed	82,788	83,019	102,597	-231	-19,809
Unemployment rate	3.8	3.8	4.7	0.0	-0.9
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	3.4	3.4	4.3	0.0	-0.9
Employed	2,079,243	2,076,162	2,098,123	3,081	-18,880
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	61.8	61.8	62.8	0.0	-1.0
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	7.7	7.6	7.5	0.1	0.2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,988,000	1,986,800	1,954,600	1,200	33,400
Total private	1,700,400	1,701,700	1,676,200	-1,300	24,200
Mining and logging	6,200	6,300	6,500	-100	-300
Logging	4,500	4,500	4,700	0	-200
Construction	124,500	123,800	120,500	700	4,000
Construction of buildings	34,100	34,300	35,000	-200	-900
Residential building construction	21,200	21,500	22,500	-300	-1,300
Nonresidential building construction	12,900	12,800	12,500	100	400
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,900	11,700	11,200	200	700
Specialty trade contractors	78,500	77,800	74,300	700	4,200
Building foundation and exterior contractors	14,100	14,100	13,800	0	300
Building equipment contractors	37,100	36,600	34,400	500	2,700
Building finishing contractors	16,500	16,500	16,000	0	500
Other specialty trade contractors	10,800	10,600	10,100	200	700
Manufacturing	194,300	195,200	196,900	-900	-2,600
Durable goods	134,000	134,400	136,900	-400	-2,900
Wood product manufacturing	23,000	22,900	23,600	100	-600
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,500	6,400	6,500	100	0
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,400	8,400	8,700	0	-300
Other wood product manufacturing	8,100	8,100	8,400	0	-300
Primary metal manufacturing	7,300	7,300	7,200	0	100
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,900	16,000	16,300	-100	-400
Machinery manufacturing	14,500	14,500	14,600	0	-100
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	41,500	41,600	42,000	-100	-500
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	34,300	34,600	34,700	-300	-400
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,800	4,800	4,900	0	-100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	11,100	11,200	11,000	-100	100
Nondurable goods	60,300	60,800	60,000	-500	300
Food manufacturing	30,400	30,600	30,100	-200	300
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	10,500	10,700	10,700	-200	-200
Paper manufacturing	4,300	4,400	4,200	-100	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	361,900	364,200	367,400	-2,300	-5,500
Wholesale trade	77,800	77,400	77,800	400	0
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	39,500	39,200	39,400	300	100
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	31,000	31,000	31,000	0	0
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	7,300	7,200	7,400	100	-100
Retail trade	208,600	210,900	211,300	-2,300	-2,700
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,700	26,500	27,000	200	-300
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	18,300	18,400	18,600	-100	-300
Food and beverage retailers	47,800	47,900	48,000	-100	-200
General merchandise retailers	40,000	40,300	39,900	-300	100
Clothing, clothing accessories, shoe, and jewelry retailers	15,900	15,800	16,100	100	-200
Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, book, and miscellaneous	30,100	30,100	30,300	0	-200

	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	Change From July 2023	Change From August 2022
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	75,500	75,900	78,300	-400	-2,800
Utilities	5,000	5,000	4,900	0	100
Transportation and warehousing	70,500	70,900	73,400	-400	-2,900
Truck transportation	19,000	19,000	19,700	0	-700
Couriers and messengers	14,200	14,100	14,400	100	-200
Warehousing and storage	16,700	16,900	19,100	-200	-2,400
Information	37,800	38,200	37,300	-400	500
Publishing industries	17,100	17,100	16,900	0	200
Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	100
Software publishers	14,600	14,600	14,500	0	100
Telecommunications	4,300	4,400	4,300	-100	0
Financial activities	106,700	107,800	106,700	-1,100	0
Finance and insurance	52,800	53,700	55,300	-900	-2,500
Credit intermediation and related activities	22,900	23,100	24,300	-200	-1,400
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,500	24,300	24,400	200	100
Real estate and rental and leasing	53,900	54,100	51,400	-200	2,500
Real estate	48,200	48,500	45,400	-300	2,800
Professional and business services	266,400	268,100	267,300	-1,700	-900
Professional and technical services	111,600	112,600	110,900	-1,000	700
Legal services	12,100	12,100	12,000	0	100
Architectural and engineering services	19,100	19,300	19,000	-200	100
Computer systems design and related services	16,600	16,800	18,000	-200	-1,400
Management of companies and enterprises	53,100	52,500	50,800	600	2,300
Administrative and waste services	101,700	103,000	105,600	-1,300	-3,900
Administrative and support services	95,400	96,800	99,300	-1,400	-3,900
Employment services	39,700	40,500	44,500	-800	-4,800
Business support services	7,800	7,900	8,800	-100	-1,000
Services to buildings and dwellings	27,600	27,300	27,300	300	300
Private education and health services	315,600	313,700	300,300	1,900	15,300
Private educational services	31,500	31,300	30,200	200	1,300
Health care and social assistance	284,100	282,400	270,100	1,700	14,000
Ambulatory health care services	98,900	98,200	96,200	700	2,700
Hospitals	59,900	59,300	57,600	600	2,300
Nursing and residential care facilities	51,700	51,800	49,000	-100	2,700
Social assistance	73,600	73,100	67,300	500	6,300
Leisure and hospitality	220,300	218,300	210,300	2,000	10,000
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	30,100	29,900	28,000	200	2,100
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	21,300	21,500	20,000	-200	1,300
Accommodation and food services	190,200	188,400	182,300	1,800	7,900
Accommodation	27,000	26,600	25,600	400	1,400
Food services and drinking places	163,200	161,800	156,700	1,400	6,500
Full-service restaurants	69,400	69,800	66,400	-400	3,000
Limited-service eating places	73,500	73,500	73,700	0	-200
Other services	66,700	66,100	63,000	600	3,700
Repair and maintenance	19,600	19,200	19,600	400	0
Personal and laundry services	15,100	15,000	14,700	100	400
Membership associations and organizations	32,000	31,900	28,700	100	3,300
Religious organizations	14,800	14,700	14,300	100	500
Government	287,600	285,100	278,400	2,500	9,200
Federal government	29,600	29,400	28,600	200	1,000
State government	45,400	45,200	43,700	200	1,700
State education	1,400	1,400	1,200	0	200
Local government	212,600	210,500	206,100	2,100	6,500
Indian tribal	8,500	8,300	7,800	200	700
Local education	109,600	107,700	108,800	1,900	800
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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.

Labor Force Status: Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Employed includes nonfarm payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture and labor disputants. Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

U-6 is the total unemployed plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force plus total employed part-time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: 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. These survey-based estimates are revised quarterly, based on more complete information from employer tax records.