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## Oregon's Unemployment Rate Reaches Record Low 3.7 Percent in April

Oregon's unemployment rate edged down to 3.7 percent in April from 3.8 percent in March, reaching a new record low since comparable records began in 1976. The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 4.4 percent in April. Oregon's rate was significantly below its year-ago rate of 5.0 percent in April 2016.

In April, nonfarm payroll employment rose by 6,600 following a revised gain of 1,300 in March. Gains were widespread among the industries, with eight of the 14 major industries each adding close to 1,000 jobs. Meanwhile only three industries cut jobs, and those losses were modest: **government** (-700 jobs), **wholesale trade** (-500), and **information** (-300).

Over the past 12 months, Oregon's total nonfarm payroll employment rose 39,100, or 2.1 percent, which was a deceleration from the growth rate near or above 3 percent throughout much of the past four years. Despite the deceleration, Oregon is still growing faster than the U.S. growth rate of 1.6 percent.

Since April 2016, Oregon's **construction** sector grew the fastest of the major industries, adding 6,400 jobs, or 7.2 percent. Within construction, **specialty trade contractors** and **construction of buildings** grew quickly. **Transportation, warehousing and utilities** (+3,600 jobs, or 6.0%) also expanded rapidly, due to growth in **transportation and warehousing**. **Professional and business services** (+8,700 jobs, or 3.7%) was the third-fastest growing major industry category. It was led by strong job gains in **employment services**. **Health care and social assistance** (+6,800 jobs, or 3.0%) rounded out the list of fastest growing industries, as each of its four component industries added jobs at a rapid clip.

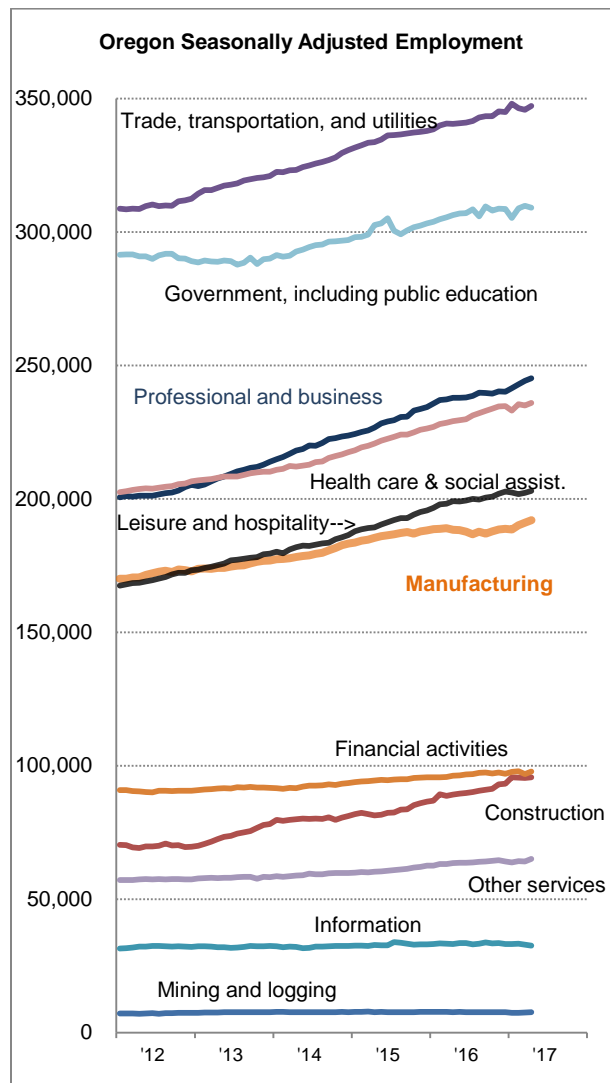
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, May 23rd, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Tuesday, June 13th.



**Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes March to April 2017**

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	9,500	16,100	6,600
Total private	9,700	17,000	7,300
Mining and logging	0	100	100
Construction	2,300	2,500	200
Manufacturing	500	1,500	1,000
Wholesale trade	0	-500	-500
Retail trade	1,700	2,800	1,100
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-300	600	900
Information	200	-100	-300
Financial activities	-100	900	1,000
Professional and business services	2,800	3,800	1,000
Private educational services	-300	-200	100
Health care and social assistance	0	900	900
Leisure and hospitality	3,300	4,100	800
Other services	-400	600	1,000
Government	-200	-900	-700



**Notes:**

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted.

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 October, November and December 2016 tax records data. In addition, data for July through September 2016 were revised upward by a total of 600 to 1,300 jobs per month. 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, including tables and graphs, 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 [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org), then within the top banner, select *Economic Data*, then choose *LAUS* or *CES*. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

### Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016	Change From March 2017	Change From April 2016
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	2,086,215	2,068,526	2,037,794	17,689	48,421
Unemployed	73,513	84,481	98,075	-10,968	-24,562
Unemployment rate	3.5	4.1	4.8	-0.6	-1.3
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	3.7	3.8	5.0	-0.1	-1.3
Employed	2,012,702	1,984,045	1,939,719	28,657	72,983
<b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.8	62.5	62.7	0.3	0.1
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	8.0	8.5	10.4	-0.5	-2.4
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,868,700	1,852,600	1,828,400	16,100	40,300
Total private	1,552,900	1,535,900	1,514,900	17,000	38,000
Mining and logging	7,500	7,400	7,500	100	0
Logging	5,700	5,600	5,800	100	-100
Construction	94,100	91,600	87,800	2,500	6,300
Construction of buildings	25,600	25,700	22,800	-100	2,800
Residential building construction	15,200	15,600	13,600	-400	1,600
Nonresidential building construction	10,400	10,100	9,200	300	1,200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	9,000	8,300	9,200	700	-200
Specialty trade contractors	59,500	57,600	55,800	1,900	3,700
Building foundation and exterior contractors	11,200	10,700	11,000	500	200
Building equipment contractors	26,700	26,300	24,400	400	2,300
Building finishing contractors	13,500	13,000	12,700	500	800
Other specialty trade contractors	8,100	7,600	7,700	500	400
Manufacturing	191,200	189,700	186,800	1,500	4,400
Durable goods	133,000	132,300	131,600	700	1,400
Wood product manufacturing	23,000	22,900	22,600	100	400
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,400	6,400	6,400	0	0
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,800	8,800	8,500	0	300
Other wood product manufacturing	7,800	7,700	7,700	100	100
Primary metal manufacturing	8,500	8,400	8,200	100	300
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	16,300	16,200	16,000	100	300
Machinery manufacturing	12,700	12,600	12,400	100	300
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	37,100	37,500	38,600	-400	-1,500
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	29,000	29,300	30,400	-300	-1,400
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,100	5,100	5,200	0	-100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	12,100	12,100	12,300	0	-200
Nondurable goods	58,200	57,400	55,200	800	3,000
Food manufacturing	29,200	28,600	27,800	600	1,400
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	10,900	10,800	10,600	100	300
Paper manufacturing	4,100	4,100	4,300	0	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	342,300	339,400	336,500	2,900	5,800
Wholesale trade	74,900	75,400	75,300	-500	-400
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	33,000	33,000	33,300	0	-300
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	28,200	28,200	27,800	0	400
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	13,700	14,200	14,200	-500	-500
Retail trade	205,000	202,200	201,600	2,800	3,400
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,400	26,400	25,700	0	700
Building material and garden supply stores	17,100	16,200	16,500	900	600
Food and beverage stores	43,600	42,800	42,200	800	1,400
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	15,200	15,200	15,400	0	-200
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,700	9,600	10,100	100	-400
General merchandise stores	41,100	41,100	41,400	0	-300
Miscellaneous store retailers	11,100	11,000	11,100	100	0
Nonstore retailers	5,700	5,600	6,300	100	-600

	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016	Change From March 2017	Change From April 2016
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	62,400	61,800	59,600	600	2,800
Utilities	4,500	4,400	4,600	100	-100
Transportation and warehousing	57,900	57,400	55,000	500	2,900
Truck transportation	18,500	18,500	18,900	0	-400
Couriers and messengers	8,300	8,700	7,700	-400	600
Warehousing and storage	8,600	8,600	7,500	0	1,100
Information	32,500	32,600	33,100	-100	-600
Publishing industries, except internet	14,400	14,500	14,500	-100	-100
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	3,600	3,700	3,900	-100	-300
Software publishers	10,800	10,800	10,600	0	200
Telecommunications	5,700	5,700	5,900	0	-200
Financial activities	98,100	97,200	95,700	900	2,400
Finance and insurance	56,700	56,400	56,100	300	600
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,600	26,200	26,000	400	600
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,300	24,300	24,400	0	-100
Real estate and rental and leasing	41,400	40,800	39,600	600	1,800
Real estate	36,300	35,500	34,300	800	2,000
Professional and business services	245,000	241,200	237,800	3,800	7,200
Professional and technical services	95,500	94,100	93,000	1,400	2,500
Legal services	12,300	12,000	11,800	300	500
Architectural and engineering services	15,600	15,300	14,700	300	900
Computer systems design and related services	16,000	15,800	15,500	200	500
Management of companies and enterprises	45,800	45,600	45,200	200	600
Administrative and waste services	103,700	101,500	99,600	2,200	4,100
Administrative and support services	98,400	96,100	94,400	2,300	4,000
Employment services	41,900	41,200	38,700	700	3,200
Business support services	13,300	13,100	14,900	200	-1,600
Services to buildings and dwellings	22,300	21,400	22,800	900	-500
Education and health services	275,600	274,900	268,300	700	7,300
Educational services	37,600	37,800	38,600	-200	-1,000
Health care and social assistance	238,000	237,100	229,700	900	8,300
Ambulatory health care services	89,700	89,000	85,800	700	3,900
Hospitals	58,800	59,000	57,100	-200	1,700
Nursing and residential care facilities	50,800	50,700	49,100	100	1,700
Social assistance	38,700	38,400	37,700	300	1,000
Leisure and hospitality	202,200	198,100	197,800	4,100	4,400
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	27,400	26,600	25,100	800	2,300
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	20,100	19,700	18,300	400	1,800
Accommodation and food services	174,800	171,500	172,700	3,300	2,100
Accommodation	23,700	23,400	23,200	300	500
Food services and drinking places	151,100	148,100	149,500	3,000	1,600
Full-service restaurants	70,400	67,900	69,100	2,500	1,300
Limited-service eating places	65,200	65,600	65,200	-400	0
Other services	64,400	63,800	63,600	600	800
Repair and maintenance	17,800	17,600	17,700	200	100
Personal and laundry services	14,600	14,600	14,400	0	200
Membership associations and organizations	32,000	31,600	31,500	400	500
Religious organizations	16,500	16,500	16,700	0	-200
Government	315,800	316,700	313,500	-900	2,300
Federal government	27,700	27,200	27,700	500	0
State government	56,200	56,300	55,200	-100	1,000
State education	800	800	700	0	100
Local government	231,900	233,200	230,600	-1,300	1,300
Indian tribal	8,300	8,200	8,200	100	100
Local education	140,100	141,300	139,800	-1,200	300
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.