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CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Video](#) and [Audio](#) available at 10:00 AM

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## Oregon's Unemployment Rate Reaches Record Low 3.6 Percent in May

Oregon's unemployment rate edged down to 3.6 percent in May from 3.7 percent in April, reaching a new record low since comparable records began in 1976. Oregon's rate was significantly below its year-ago rate of 5.0 percent in May 2016. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in May 2017.

As unemployment edged down, the labor force hit a record high. For the first time, in May, Oregon's labor force rose above 2.1 million. The labor force grew by 40,000 in the first five months of this year.

In May, nonfarm payroll employment rose 2,900, following a gain of 6,800 in April. In May, gains were largest in **construction**, which added 1,600 jobs. Also, four major industries each added close to 800 jobs: **manufacturing** (+900 jobs), **educational services** (+800), **professional and business services** (+700), and **leisure and hospitality** (+700). Meanwhile, only two major industries experienced substantial cutbacks: **other services** (-1,000 jobs) and **information** (-600).

Construction continued to expand rapidly in May, rising to 97,700 jobs. After hovering near 70,000 jobs during 2010 through 2012, construction has expanded rapidly since 2013. Over the past 12 months construction's component industries adding the most jobs were **specialty trade contractors** (+3,900 jobs), **residential building construction** (+2,300), and **nonresidential building construction** (+1,200).

Manufacturing added jobs this year, following little overall gains in 2016. In the first five months of this year, manufacturing added 4,300 jobs, with **durable goods manufacturing** up 1,700 and **nondurable goods manufacturing** up 2,600. **Fabricated metal product manufacturing** added 600 jobs in the past five months. **Food manufacturing** continued its steady gains of the past several years, with its May employment at 29,500 jobs, up 1,300 since May 2016.

Over the past 12 months, Oregon's total nonfarm payroll employment rose 40,400, or 2.2 percent. This is faster than Oregon's 1.5-percent average annual growth rate since 1990. But recent growth has moderated from growth near or above 3 percent throughout much of the past four years.

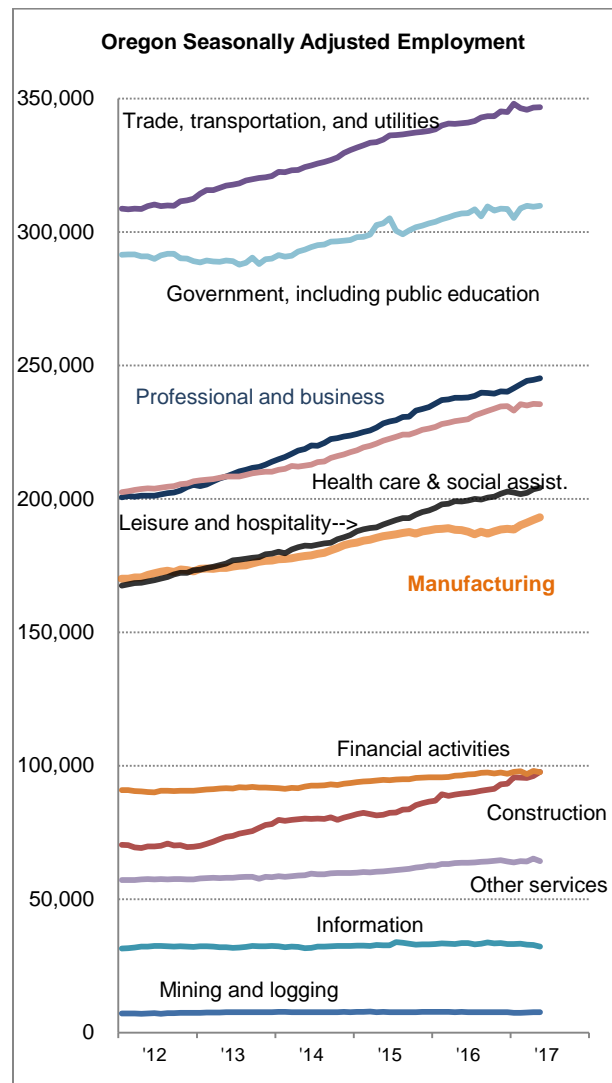
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, June 20th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Tuesday, July 18th.



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

| INDUSTRY                                  | Normal Seasonal Movement | Unadjusted Change | Seasonally Adjusted Change |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Total nonfarm payroll employment          | 12,700                   | 15,600            | 2,900                      |
| Total private                             | 9,800                    | 12,300            | 2,500                      |
| Mining and logging                        | 200                      | 100               | -100                       |
| Construction                              | 1,000                    | 2,600             | 1,600                      |
| Manufacturing                             | 1,000                    | 1,900             | 900                        |
| Wholesale trade                           | 600                      | 800               | 200                        |
| Retail trade                              | 2,500                    | 2,200             | -300                       |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | 100                      | 300               | 200                        |
| Information                               | 400                      | -200              | -600                       |
| Financial activities                      | 400                      | 0                 | -400                       |
| Professional and business services        | 300                      | 1,000             | 700                        |
| Private educational services              | -2,300                   | -1,500            | 800                        |
| Health care and social assistance         | -300                     | -500              | -200                       |
| Leisure and hospitality                   | 4,800                    | 5,500             | 700                        |
| Other services                            | 1,100                    | 100               | -1,000                     |
| Government                                | 2,900                    | 3,300             | 400                        |



**Notes:**

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

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. 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

|  | May<br>2017 | April<br>2017 | May<br>2016 | Change From<br>April 2017 | Change From<br>May 2016 |
|--|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Labor Force Status</b>                              |             |               |             |                           |                         |
| Civilian labor force                                   | 2,105,948   | 2,086,147     | 2,043,391   | 19,801                    | 62,557                  |
| Unemployed   | 69,494      | 73,432        | 94,466      | -3,938                    | -24,972                 |
| Unemployment rate                                      | 3.3         | 3.5           | 4.6         | -0.2                      | -1.3                    |
| Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted                 | 3.6         | 3.7           | 5.0         | -0.1                      | -1.4                    |
| Employed   | 2,036,454   | 2,012,715     | 1,948,925   | 23,739                    | 87,529                  |
| <b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>                    |             |               |             |                           |                         |
| Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted    | 63.2        | 62.8          | 62.7        | 0.4                       | 0.5                     |
| Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted | 7.7         | 8.1           | 10.5        | -0.4                      | -2.8                    |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>                      |             |               |             |                           |                         |
| Total nonfarm payroll employment                       | 1,884,400   | 1,868,800     | 1,837,900   | 15,600                    | 46,500                  |
| Total private  | 1,565,000   | 1,552,700     | 1,521,400   | 12,300                    | 43,600                  |
| Mining and logging                                     | 7,700       | 7,600         | 7,800       | 100                       | -100                    |
| Logging  | 5,900       | 5,700         | 6,000       | 200                       | -100                    |
| Construction   | 97,200      | 94,600        | 89,500      | 2,600                     | 7,700                   |
| Construction of buildings                              | 26,700      | 25,800        | 23,200      | 900                       | 3,500                   |
| Residential building construction                      | 16,200      | 15,400        | 13,900      | 800                       | 2,300                   |
| Nonresidential building construction                   | 10,500      | 10,400        | 9,300       | 100                       | 1,200                   |
| Heavy and civil engineering construction               | 9,600       | 9,200         | 9,300       | 400                       | 300                     |
| Specialty trade contractors                            | 60,900      | 59,600        | 57,000      | 1,300                     | 3,900                   |
| Building foundation and exterior contractors           | 11,300      | 11,200        | 11,100      | 100                       | 200                     |
| Building equipment contractors                         | 27,200      | 26,800        | 24,800      | 400                       | 2,400                   |
| Building finishing contractors                         | 14,000      | 13,500        | 13,200      | 500                       | 800                     |
| Other specialty trade contractors                      | 8,400       | 8,100         | 7,900       | 300                       | 500                     |
| Manufacturing  | 193,200     | 191,300       | 187,700     | 1,900                     | 5,500                   |
| Durable goods  | 133,800     | 133,100       | 131,800     | 700                       | 2,000                   |
| Wood product manufacturing                             | 22,900      | 23,000        | 22,700      | -100                      | 200                     |
| Sawmills and wood preservation                         | 6,400       | 6,400         | 6,400       | 0                         | 0                       |
| Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.               | 8,700       | 8,800         | 8,500       | -100                      | 200                     |
| Other wood product manufacturing                       | 7,800       | 7,800         | 7,800       | 0                         | 0                       |
| Primary metal manufacturing                            | 8,500       | 8,500         | 8,200       | 0                         | 300                     |
| Fabricated metal product manufacturing                 | 16,700      | 16,400        | 16,200      | 300                       | 500                     |
| Machinery manufacturing                                | 12,700      | 12,700        | 12,400      | 0                         | 300                     |
| Computer and electronic product manufacturing          | 37,200      | 37,100        | 38,700      | 100                       | -1,500                  |
| Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.            | 29,200      | 29,000        | 30,500      | 200                       | -1,300                  |
| Electronic instrument manufacturing                    | 5,100       | 5,100         | 5,200       | 0                         | -100                    |
| Transportation equipment manufacturing                 | 12,100      | 12,100        | 12,300      | 0                         | -200                    |
| Nondurable goods                                       | 59,400      | 58,200        | 55,900      | 1,200                     | 3,500                   |
| Food manufacturing                                     | 29,500      | 29,300        | 28,200      | 200                       | 1,300                   |
| Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty           | 11,100      | 11,000        | 10,800      | 100                       | 300                     |
| Paper manufacturing                                    | 4,100       | 4,100         | 4,200       | 0                         | -100                    |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities                   | 344,900     | 341,600       | 338,200     | 3,300                     | 6,700                   |
| Wholesale trade  | 75,900      | 75,100        | 75,300      | 800                       | 600                     |
| Merchant wholesalers, durable goods                    | 33,700      | 33,200        | 33,400      | 500                       | 300                     |
| Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods                 | 28,600      | 28,300        | 27,700      | 300                       | 900                     |
| Electronic markets and agents and brokers              | 13,600      | 13,600        | 14,200      | 0                         | -600                    |
| Retail trade   | 206,600     | 204,400       | 203,100     | 2,200                     | 3,500                   |
| Motor vehicle and parts dealers                        | 27,000      | 26,400        | 25,900      | 600                       | 1,100                   |
| Building material and garden supply stores             | 17,400      | 17,000        | 16,800      | 400                       | 600                     |
| Food and beverage stores                               | 44,300      | 43,500        | 42,600      | 800                       | 1,700                   |
| Clothing and clothing accessories stores               | 15,200      | 15,200        | 15,500      | 0                         | -300                    |
| Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores           | 9,600       | 9,700         | 10,100      | -100                      | -500                    |
| General merchandise stores                             | 40,900      | 41,100        | 41,700      | -200                      | -800                    |
| Miscellaneous store retailers                          | 11,300      | 11,100        | 11,300      | 200                       | 0                       |
| Nonstore retailers                                     | 5,700       | 5,700         | 6,400       | 0                         | -700                    |

|  | May<br>2017 | April<br>2017 | May<br>2016 | Change From<br>April 2017 | Change From<br>May 2016 |
|--|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities   | 62,400      | 62,100        | 59,800      | 300                       | 2,600                   |
| Utilities                                    | 4,500       | 4,500         | 4,600       | 0                         | -100                    |
| Transportation and warehousing               | 57,900      | 57,600        | 55,200      | 300                       | 2,700                   |
| Truck transportation                         | 18,800      | 18,500        | 18,900      | 300                       | -100                    |
| Couriers and messengers                      | 8,300       | 8,300         | 7,900       | 0                         | 400                     |
| Warehousing and storage                      | 8,600       | 8,700         | 7,500       | -100                      | 1,100                   |
| Information                                  | 32,500      | 32,700        | 33,400      | -200                      | -900                    |
| Publishing industries, except internet       | 14,400      | 14,400        | 14,500      | 0                         | -100                    |
| Newspaper, book, and directory publishers    | 3,600       | 3,600         | 3,900       | 0                         | -300                    |
| Software publishers                          | 10,800      | 10,800        | 10,600      | 0                         | 200                     |
| Telecommunications                           | 5,700       | 5,700         | 5,900       | 0                         | -200                    |
| Financial activities                         | 98,300      | 98,300        | 96,300      | 0                         | 2,000                   |
| Finance and insurance                        | 57,000      | 56,900        | 56,200      | 100                       | 800                     |
| Credit intermediation and related activities | 26,500      | 26,500        | 26,000      | 0                         | 500                     |
| Insurance carriers and related activities    | 24,400      | 24,500        | 24,500      | -100                      | -100                    |
| Real estate and rental and leasing           | 41,300      | 41,400        | 40,100      | -100                      | 1,200                   |
| Real estate                                  | 36,100      | 36,200        | 34,700      | -100                      | 1,400                   |
| Professional and business services           | 245,300     | 244,300       | 237,400     | 1,000                     | 7,900                   |
| Professional and technical services          | 94,800      | 95,100        | 91,300      | -300                      | 3,500                   |
| Legal services                               | 12,200      | 12,100        | 11,800      | 100                       | 400                     |
| Architectural and engineering services       | 15,900      | 15,600        | 14,700      | 300                       | 1,200                   |
| Computer systems design and related services | 16,000      | 16,000        | 15,600      | 0                         | 400                     |
| Management of companies and enterprises      | 46,100      | 45,800        | 45,300      | 300                       | 800                     |
| Administrative and waste services            | 104,400     | 103,400       | 100,800     | 1,000                     | 3,600                   |
| Administrative and support services          | 98,700      | 98,000        | 95,600      | 700                       | 3,100                   |
| Employment services                          | 42,900      | 42,000        | 39,400      | 900                       | 3,500                   |
| Business support services                    | 13,200      | 13,300        | 14,700      | -100                      | -1,500                  |
| Services to buildings and dwellings          | 22,400      | 21,900        | 23,300      | 500                       | -900                    |
| Education and health services                | 273,100     | 275,100       | 265,700     | -2,000                    | 7,400                   |
| Educational services                         | 35,900      | 37,400        | 35,900      | -1,500                    | 0                       |
| Health care and social assistance            | 237,200     | 237,700       | 229,800     | -500                      | 7,400                   |
| Ambulatory health care services              | 89,100      | 89,700        | 85,600      | -600                      | 3,500                   |
| Hospitals                                    | 59,000      | 58,900        | 57,100      | 100                       | 1,900                   |
| Nursing and residential care facilities      | 50,300      | 50,400        | 49,200      | -100                      | 1,100                   |
| Social assistance                            | 38,800      | 38,700        | 37,900      | 100                       | 900                     |
| Leisure and hospitality                      | 208,200     | 202,700       | 201,300     | 5,500                     | 6,900                   |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation          | 27,700      | 27,600        | 25,200      | 100                       | 2,500                   |
| Amusement, gambling, and recreation          | 20,200      | 20,200        | 18,000      | 0                         | 2,200                   |
| Accommodation and food services              | 180,500     | 175,100       | 176,100     | 5,400                     | 4,400                   |
| Accommodation                                | 24,500      | 23,900        | 24,400      | 600                       | 100                     |
| Food services and drinking places            | 156,000     | 151,200       | 151,700     | 4,800                     | 4,300                   |
| Full-service restaurants                     | 72,500      | 70,500        | 70,200      | 2,000                     | 2,300                   |
| Limited-service eating places                | 66,600      | 65,500        | 66,200      | 1,100                     | 400                     |
| Other services                               | 64,600      | 64,500        | 64,100      | 100                       | 500                     |
| Repair and maintenance                       | 17,900      | 17,800        | 17,800      | 100                       | 100                     |
| Personal and laundry services                | 14,600      | 14,600        | 14,500      | 0                         | 100                     |
| Membership associations and organizations    | 32,100      | 32,100        | 31,800      | 0                         | 300                     |
| Religious organizations                      | 16,400      | 16,600        | 16,800      | -200                      | -400                    |
| Government                                   | 319,400     | 316,100       | 316,500     | 3,300                     | 2,900                   |
| Federal government                           | 28,300      | 27,700        | 28,200      | 600                       | 100                     |
| State government                             | 57,000      | 56,300        | 55,600      | 700                       | 1,400                   |
| State education                              | 800         | 800           | 800         | 0                         | 0                       |
| Local government                             | 234,100     | 232,100       | 232,700     | 2,000                     | 1,400                   |
| Indian tribal                                | 8,300       | 8,300         | 8,300       | 0                         | 0                       |
| Local education                              | 141,200     | 140,300       | 140,700     | 900                       | 500                     |
| 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.