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## Oregon Adds 4,800 Jobs in May; Unemployment Rate Holds Steady at 4.1 Percent

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in May. For 17 consecutive months, the rate has been at or near 4.1 percent, its lowest level since comparable records began in 1976. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 3.8 percent in May, from 3.9 percent in April.

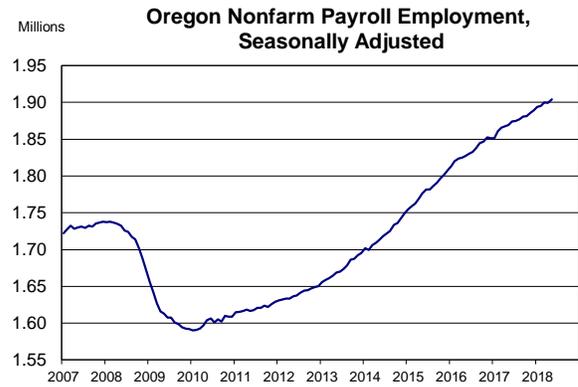
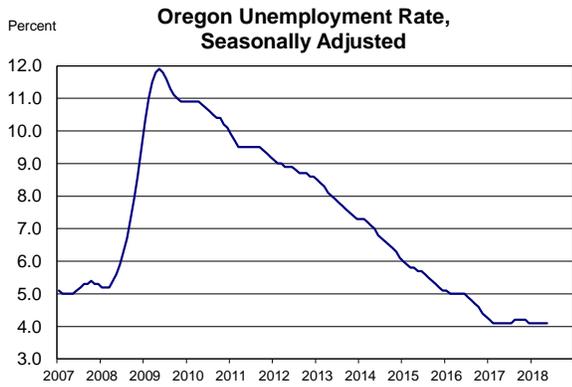
In May, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 4,800 jobs, following a revised loss of 700 jobs in April. Four major industries added at least 900 jobs in May: **construction** (+1,600 jobs); **health care and social assistance** (+1,500); **professional and business services** (+1,000); and **leisure and hospitality** (+900). Only two major industries dropped in May: **wholesale trade** (-800 jobs) and **retail trade** (-600).

Over the past 12 months, Oregon's nonfarm employment rose by 34,600 jobs, or 1.9 percent. This growth was slightly faster than the national growth rate of 1.6 percent during the same period. In Oregon, over-the-year job gains were strongest in **construction** (+9,600 jobs, or 9.9%); **transportation, warehousing, and utilities** (+2,700 jobs, or 4.3%); and **leisure and hospitality** (+6,200 jobs, or 3.0%). Since May 2017, only two major industries cut jobs: **government** (-800 jobs, or -0.3%) and **information** (-300 jobs, or -0.9%).

**Construction** added 1,600 jobs in May, reaching an all-time high of 106,400 jobs. This was the first time construction rose above its previous record high reached more than 10 years ago in August 2007 when there were 105,400 jobs in construction. Since 2007, **residential building construction** has had the fastest growth rate of the industries within construction; at 18,700 jobs in May, it was 19 percent above its 2007 annual average. **Building equipment contractors** grew 12 percent over the past 11 years and **nonresidential building construction** grew 8 percent. Most other industries within the construction sector are still slightly below their record highs of 2007. However, **heavy and civil engineering construction**—at 10,100 jobs in May—remained 18 percent below its 2007 average.

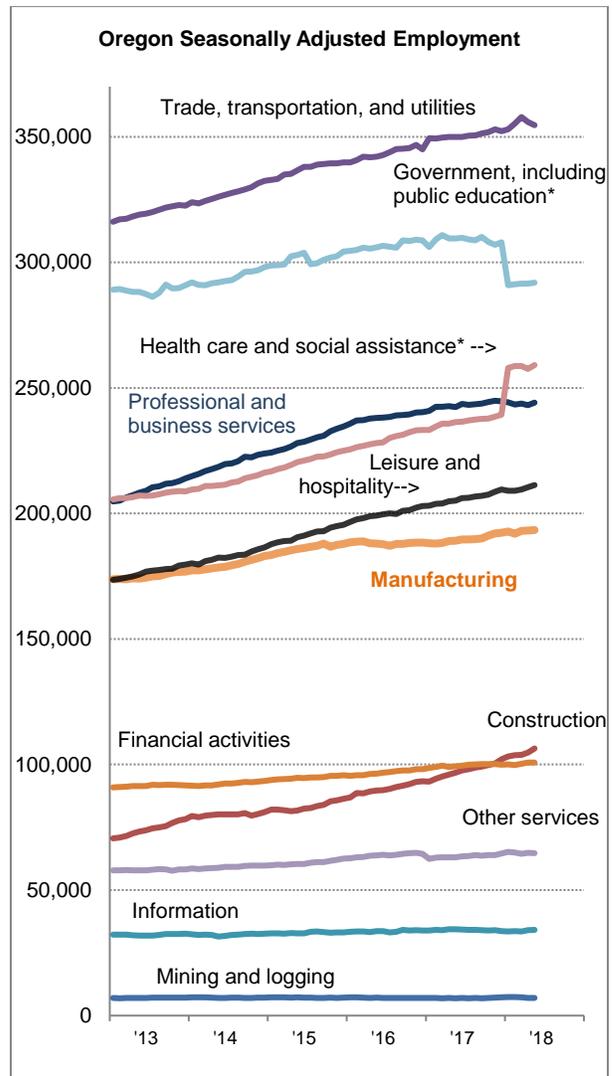
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, June 19th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Tuesday, July 17th.



**Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes April to May 2018**

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	12,600	17,400	4,800
Total private	9,900	14,400	4,500
Mining and logging	200	200	0
Construction	2,100	3,700	1,600
Manufacturing	600	800	200
Wholesale trade	600	-200	-800
Retail trade	1,300	700	-600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	200	400	200
Information	300	400	100
Financial activities	100	100	0
Professional and business services	900	1,900	1,000
Private educational services	-1,400	-900	500
Health care and social assistance	-200	1,300	1,500
Leisure and hospitality	4,800	5,700	900
Other services	400	300	-100
Government	2,700	3,000	300



**Notes:**

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

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 2017 tax records data. The department continues to make the original nonfarm payroll employment series available; these data are produced by the BLS.

\*Effective with the January 2018 data, employment of Oregon's approximately 17,000 home care workers are counted in private health care and social assistance instead of state government. The change was due to legislative action clarifying that for purposes of workforce and labor market information, home care workers are not employees of state government. The reclassification affects private sector and government monthly change figures for January 2018 and will affect over-the-year change figures through December 2018. It does not affect total payroll employment levels.

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.