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CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Anna Johnson](#), Senior Economic Analyst  
(503) 991-2110

[Video](#) and [Audio](#) available at 10 a.m.

## Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.0% in February

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 4.0% in February, from 4.2%, as revised, in January. Oregon's unemployment rate dropped rapidly from its peak in April 2020 through late 2021, and is now at its lowest level since prior to the pandemic-induced recession in March 2020 when it was 3.5%. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.8% in February and 4.0% in January.

In February, 59,000 Oregonians had been unemployed for less than six months, which was near the lowest number in two decades. Meanwhile, 24,000 Oregonians had been unemployed for more than six months, as the number of long-term unemployed decreased rapidly since hitting a recent peak of 65,000 in April 2021.

In February, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 12,300 jobs, following a revised gain of 5,100 jobs in January. This was the largest monthly gain since July 2021 when 34,800 jobs were added.

In February, gains were largest in **leisure and hospitality** (+3,500 jobs), **construction** (+2,300), **health care and social assistance** (+1,600), and **professional and business services** (+1,200). Eight other industries each added between 200 and 900 jobs. None of the major industries had a substantial job loss in February.

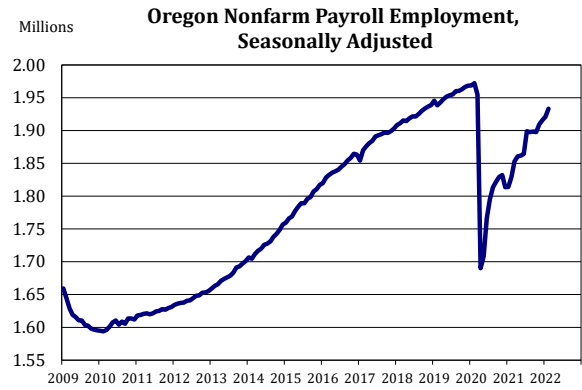
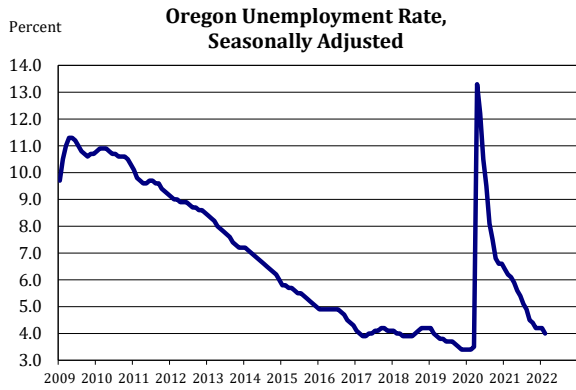
Leisure and hospitality rapidly added jobs all of this year and last year. It added 51,700 jobs, or 34.4%, since February 2021. Despite these gains, leisure and hospitality still accounts for a large share of the jobs Oregon has not recovered since early 2020, with 14,600 jobs left to recover to reach the prior peak month of February 2020. The industry has regained 87% of jobs lost early in the pandemic.

Construction reached another record high of 116,100 jobs in February. Mild weather in mid-February allowed roofers and other contractors to get jobs done that may have been postponed in more inclement winters.

**Professional and technical services** employed 106,000 in February and continued its rapid expansion. It added 4,700 jobs, or 4.6%, since its pre-recession peak in February 2020.

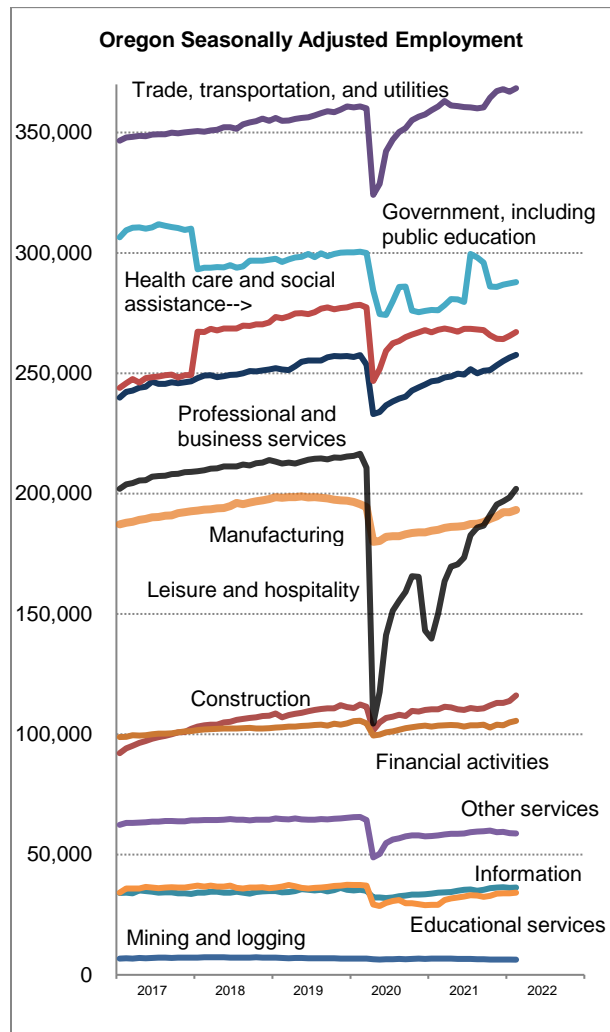
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, March 29, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Wednesday, April 13.



**Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes January to February 2022**

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	13,100	25,400	12,300
Total private	9,900	21,600	11,700
Mining and logging	0	-100	-100
Construction	2,400	4,700	2,300
Manufacturing	900	1,800	900
Wholesale trade	200	500	300
Retail trade	-1,200	-800	400
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	-400	300	700
Information	100	300	200
Financial activities	400	1,000	600
Professional and business services	2,700	3,900	1,200
Private educational services	2,200	2,500	300
Health care and social assistance	1,300	2,900	1,600
Leisure and hospitality	800	4,300	3,500
Other services	500	300	-200
Government	3,200	3,800	600



**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 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), 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.

To file a claim for unemployment benefits or get more information about unemployment programs, visit [Oregon.gov/employ](https://Oregon.gov/employ).

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at [OED\\_Communications@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

### Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	February 2022	January 2022	February 2021	Change From January 2022	Change From February 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	2,186,858	2,175,806	2,125,838	11,052	61,020
Unemployed	86,900	100,094	143,174	-13,194	-56,274
Unemployment rate	4.0	4.6	6.7	-0.6	-2.7
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.0	4.2	6.2	-0.2	-2.2
Employed	2,099,958	2,075,712	1,982,664	24,246	117,294
<b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.8	62.6	62.1	0.2	0.7
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	7.7	7.9	11.4	-0.2	-3.7
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,917,000	1,891,600	1,814,100	25,400	102,900
Total private	1,624,700	1,603,100	1,533,100	21,600	91,600
Mining and logging	6,000	6,100	6,500	-100	-500
Logging	4,300	4,400	4,700	-100	-400
Construction	111,700	107,000	106,300	4,700	5,400
Construction of buildings	32,700	31,500	30,600	1,200	2,100
Residential building construction	21,400	20,600	19,200	800	2,200
Nonresidential building construction	11,300	10,900	11,400	400	-100
Heavy and civil engineering construction	9,600	9,100	9,400	500	200
Specialty trade contractors	69,400	66,400	66,300	3,000	3,100
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,400	11,800	12,600	600	-200
Building equipment contractors	33,700	32,100	30,700	1,600	3,000
Building finishing contractors	14,100	13,700	14,000	400	100
Other specialty trade contractors	9,200	8,800	9,000	400	200
Manufacturing	191,400	189,600	183,100	1,800	8,300
Durable goods	131,100	130,800	127,300	300	3,800
Wood product manufacturing	22,900	22,800	22,600	100	300
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,300	6,300	6,300	0	0
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,600	8,500	8,400	100	200
Other wood product manufacturing	8,000	8,000	7,900	0	100
Primary metal manufacturing	6,900	6,900	6,400	0	500
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,900	15,900	15,400	0	500
Machinery manufacturing	14,200	14,000	13,400	200	800
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,300	37,900	37,600	400	700
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,800	30,600	30,200	200	600
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,900	4,900	4,900	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,600	10,500	10,800	100	-200
Nondurable goods	60,300	58,800	55,800	1,500	4,500
Food manufacturing	28,800	28,400	27,700	400	1,100
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	9,600	9,500	9,800	100	-200
Paper manufacturing	4,100	4,100	4,000	0	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	364,400	364,400	356,800	0	7,600
Wholesale trade	76,600	76,100	74,100	500	2,500
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	37,700	37,500	36,900	200	800
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	31,500	31,300	30,000	200	1,500
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,400	7,300	7,200	100	200
Retail trade	209,000	209,800	205,400	-800	3,600
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	25,600	25,100	25,200	500	400
Building material and garden supply stores	18,000	17,800	17,900	200	100
Food and beverage stores	45,600	46,000	45,700	-400	-100
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	13,200	13,700	12,500	-500	700
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,200	9,400	8,700	-200	500
General merchandise stores	42,300	42,900	41,500	-600	800
Miscellaneous store retailers	17,900	17,800	16,000	100	1,900
Nonstore retailers	7,200	7,400	7,800	-200	-600

	February 2022	January 2022	February 2021	Change From January 2022	Change From February 2021
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	78,800	78,500	77,300	300	1,500
Utilities	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	74,100	73,800	72,600	300	1,500
Truck transportation	19,500	19,200	18,700	300	800
Couriers and messengers	15,200	16,100	15,600	-900	-400
Warehousing and storage	20,000	20,000	19,500	0	500
Information	36,200	35,900	34,100	300	2,100
Publishing industries, except internet	16,000	16,200	15,500	-200	500
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Software publishers	13,600	13,800	13,100	-200	500
Telecommunications	4,400	4,400	4,700	0	-300
Financial activities	104,800	103,800	102,500	1,000	2,300
Finance and insurance	56,100	56,400	57,000	-300	-900
Credit intermediation and related activities	25,500	25,100	26,400	400	-900
Insurance carriers and related activities	23,700	24,200	24,400	-500	-700
Real estate and rental and leasing	48,700	47,400	45,500	1,300	3,200
Real estate	44,900	43,800	40,900	1,100	4,000
Professional and business services	255,000	251,100	244,900	3,900	10,100
Professional and technical services	105,900	105,100	102,200	800	3,700
Legal services	12,000	12,000	11,700	0	300
Architectural and engineering services	18,800	18,600	17,400	200	1,400
Computer systems design and related services	17,000	16,900	16,900	100	100
Management of companies and enterprises	48,400	48,000	47,800	400	600
Administrative and waste services	100,700	98,000	94,900	2,700	5,800
Administrative and support services	95,100	91,900	89,000	3,200	6,100
Employment services	43,800	40,800	37,200	3,000	6,600
Business support services	9,600	9,600	11,000	0	-1,400
Services to buildings and dwellings	26,500	25,600	23,700	900	2,800
Education and health services	303,500	298,100	299,700	5,400	3,800
Educational services	35,900	33,400	31,900	2,500	4,000
Health care and social assistance	267,600	264,700	267,800	2,900	-200
Ambulatory health care services	94,800	93,800	93,800	1,000	1,000
Hospitals	58,300	57,900	58,500	400	-200
Nursing and residential care facilities	49,100	48,200	51,000	900	-1,900
Social assistance	65,400	64,800	64,500	600	900
Leisure and hospitality	193,100	188,800	142,200	4,300	50,900
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	24,200	23,300	15,900	900	8,300
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	18,000	17,500	11,900	500	6,100
Accommodation and food services	168,900	165,500	126,300	3,400	42,600
Accommodation	21,300	20,800	16,300	500	5,000
Food services and drinking places	147,600	144,700	110,000	2,900	37,600
Full-service restaurants	62,300	60,500	39,200	1,800	23,100
Limited-service eating places	70,700	70,400	62,500	300	8,200
Other services	58,600	58,300	57,000	300	1,600
Repair and maintenance	19,400	19,300	18,300	100	1,100
Personal and laundry services	13,600	13,500	13,000	100	600
Membership associations and organizations	25,600	25,500	25,700	100	-100
Religious organizations	13,800	13,500	13,900	300	-100
Government	292,300	288,500	281,000	3,800	11,300
Federal government	26,900	26,800	27,600	100	-700
State government	42,000	41,400	41,900	600	100
State education	1,000	1,000	900	0	100
Local government	223,400	220,300	211,500	3,100	11,900
Indian tribal	7,600	7,500	7,300	100	300
Local education	129,600	126,800	121,200	2,800	8,400
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.

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