

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 15, 2018

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Oregon's Low Unemployment Rate Continues in April

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in March and April. For 16 consecutive months, the rate has been close to 4.1 percent, its lowest level since comparable records began in 1976. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 3.9 percent in April, from 4.1 percent in March.

In April, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 2,900 jobs, following a revised gain of 5,000 jobs in March. This was Oregon's first monthly job decline in 16 months. The last decline was in December 2016.

In April, three major industries declined by more than 1,000 jobs. **Retail trade** dropped by 2,500 jobs, following a gain of 2,400 in March. **Health care and social assistance** cut 1,400 jobs in April following a gain of 800 during the prior two months. **Professional and business services** declined by 1,100 jobs and is now down 2,200 since its peak of 244,900 jobs in November 2017.

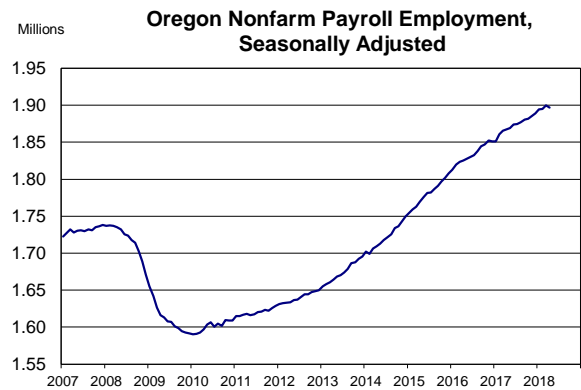
Meanwhile, seven of Oregon's major industries added jobs in April, led by **leisure and hospitality** (+600 jobs) and **construction** (+500).

Over the past few years Oregon's economy gradually decelerated, from very rapid growth a few years ago, to moderate growth over the past year. In the past 12 months 29,600 jobs were added, which is a gain of 1.6 percent. This rate of growth is a slowdown from the more rapid expansion during the prior few years when Oregon's job gains peaked in mid-2015 at 3.7 percent.

Oregon's annual job gains have been above 1.6 percent since March 2013. Oregon had been adding jobs at a faster pace than the U.S., but now is growing jobs at the same pace as the nation, since U.S. jobs also expanded by 1.6 percent during the past 12 months.

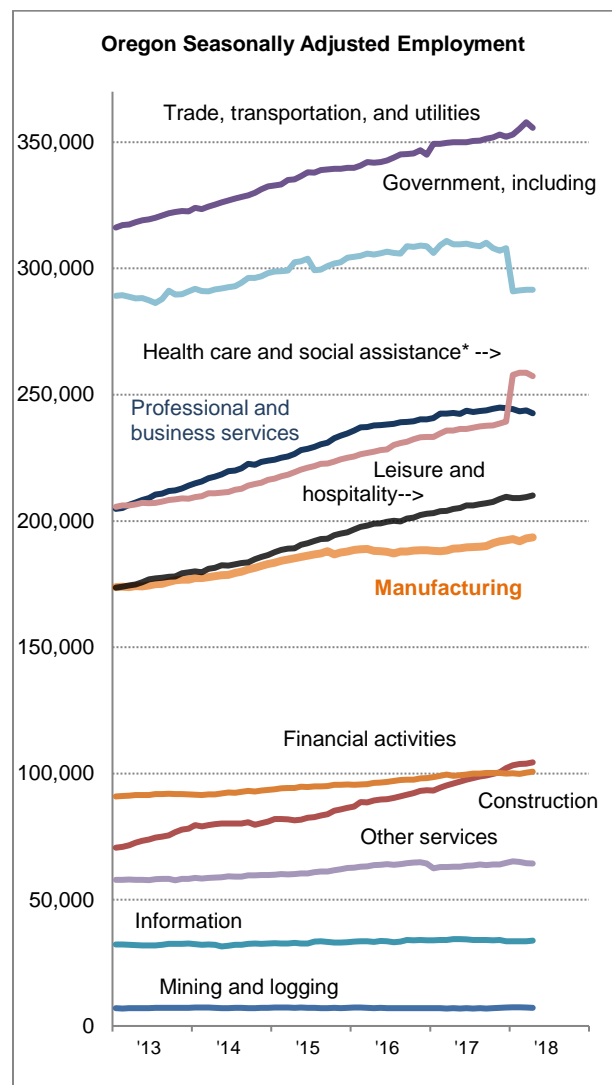
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, May 22nd, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Tuesday, June 12th.



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

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	10,400	7,500	-2,900
Total private	10,700	7,800	-2,900
Mining and logging	0	-100	-100
Construction	2,000	2,500	500
Manufacturing	900	1,300	400
Wholesale trade	-200	0	200
Retail trade	1,800	-700	-2,500
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-200	-100	100
Information	300	600	300
Financial activities	700	1,100	400
Professional and business services	2,100	1,000	-1,100
Private educational services	-600	-800	-200
Health care and social assistance	-300	-1,700	-1,400
Leisure and hospitality	4,200	4,800	600
Other services	0	-100	-100
Government	-300	-300	0



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 2017 tax records data. In addition, data for July through September 2017 were revised upward by a total of 500 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.

*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. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit 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.

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 2018	March 2018	April 2017	Change From March 2018	Change From April 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,101,298	2,116,790	2,085,262	-15,492	16,036
Unemployed	80,904	91,448	79,461	-10,544	1,443
Unemployment rate	3.9	4.3	3.8	-0.4	0.1
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0
Employed	2,020,394	2,025,342	2,005,801	-4,948	14,593
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.8	62.9	62.9	-0.1	-0.1
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	8.3	8.3	8.5	0.0	-0.2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,896,000	1,888,500	1,869,600	7,500	26,400
Total private	1,597,400	1,589,600	1,552,600	7,800	44,800
Mining and logging	7,000	7,100	6,800	-100	200
Logging	5,000	5,200	5,000	-200	0
Construction	102,900	100,400	94,600	2,500	8,300
Construction of buildings	29,100	28,700	26,000	400	3,100
Residential building construction	18,300	18,100	15,700	200	2,600
Nonresidential building construction	10,800	10,600	10,300	200	500
Heavy and civil engineering construction	9,400	9,300	9,100	100	300
Specialty trade contractors	64,400	62,400	59,500	2,000	4,900
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,900	12,400	11,900	500	1,000
Building equipment contractors	27,600	27,400	26,000	200	1,600
Building finishing contractors	15,100	14,200	13,600	900	1,500
Other specialty trade contractors	8,800	8,400	8,000	400	800
Manufacturing	192,400	191,100	187,600	1,300	4,800
Durable goods	134,500	134,000	131,100	500	3,400
Wood product manufacturing	23,100	23,000	23,000	100	100
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,400	6,400	6,400	0	0
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	9,100	9,000	8,800	100	300
Other wood product manufacturing	7,600	7,600	7,800	0	-200
Primary metal manufacturing	8,600	8,500	8,100	100	500
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	16,200	16,200	16,000	0	200
Machinery manufacturing	14,000	14,000	12,900	0	1,100
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	37,700	37,400	36,600	300	1,100
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	29,600	29,400	28,400	200	1,200
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,400	5,400	5,100	0	300
Transportation equipment manufacturing	12,100	12,000	11,900	100	200
Nondurable goods	57,900	57,100	56,500	800	1,400
Food manufacturing	28,900	28,900	28,800	0	100
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	11,000	11,000	10,800	0	200
Paper manufacturing	3,900	4,000	4,200	-100	-300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350,700	351,500	345,700	-800	5,000
Wholesale trade	76,800	76,800	76,400	0	400
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	33,100	33,100	33,400	0	-300
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	29,600	29,300	28,800	300	800
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	14,100	14,400	14,200	-300	-100
Retail trade	209,300	210,000	207,400	-700	1,900
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,400	26,700	26,500	-300	-100
Building material and garden supply stores	17,400	16,800	16,900	600	500
Food and beverage stores	43,000	43,200	42,900	-200	100
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16,300	16,400	16,600	-100	-300
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	10,000	9,900	9,700	100	300
General merchandise stores	39,300	39,400	40,600	-100	-1,300
Miscellaneous store retailers	15,200	15,100	14,800	100	400
Nonstore retailers	6,600	6,700	6,600	-100	0

	April 2018	March 2018	April 2017	Change From March 2018	Change From April 2017
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	64,600	64,700	61,900	-100	2,700
Utilities	4,800	4,700	4,700	100	100
Transportation and warehousing	59,800	60,000	57,200	-200	2,600
Truck transportation	18,900	18,700	18,600	200	300
Couriers and messengers	8,500	9,100	8,200	-600	300
Warehousing and storage	9,000	9,000	8,300	0	700
Information	33,600	33,000	34,800	600	-1,200
Publishing industries, except internet	14,400	14,600	14,700	-200	-300
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	3,300	3,400	3,700	-100	-400
Software publishers	11,100	11,200	11,000	-100	100
Telecommunications	5,600	5,600	5,700	0	-100
Financial activities	101,200	100,100	98,400	1,100	2,800
Finance and insurance	58,300	57,400	57,200	900	1,100
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,800	26,400	27,100	400	-300
Insurance carriers and related activities	25,500	24,900	24,300	600	1,200
Real estate and rental and leasing	42,900	42,700	41,200	200	1,700
Real estate	37,900	37,500	36,000	400	1,900
Professional and business services	242,400	241,400	242,500	1,000	-100
Professional and technical services	96,100	95,700	95,500	400	600
Legal services	11,800	11,800	11,900	0	-100
Architectural and engineering services	16,400	16,200	15,600	200	800
Computer systems design and related services	16,200	16,300	16,400	-100	-200
Management of companies and enterprises	47,100	46,900	46,900	200	200
Administrative and waste services	99,200	98,800	100,100	400	-900
Administrative and support services	94,200	94,000	94,700	200	-500
Employment services	38,400	39,900	39,900	-1,500	-1,500
Business support services	12,800	12,700	14,100	100	-1,300
Services to buildings and dwellings	24,600	23,100	23,100	1,500	1,500
Education and health services	295,200	297,700	275,000	-2,500	20,200
Educational services	37,500	38,300	38,800	-800	-1,300
Health care and social assistance	257,700	259,400	236,200	-1,700	21,500
Ambulatory health care services	92,200	92,200	89,300	0	2,900
Hospitals	58,600	59,100	58,400	-500	200
Nursing and residential care facilities	50,600	51,100	50,500	-500	100
Social assistance	56,300	57,000	38,000	-700	18,300
Leisure and hospitality	208,700	203,900	204,000	4,800	4,700
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	27,600	26,800	26,700	800	900
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	19,900	19,500	19,500	400	400
Accommodation and food services	181,100	177,100	177,300	4,000	3,800
Accommodation	24,800	24,300	23,800	500	1,000
Food services and drinking places	156,300	152,800	153,500	3,500	2,800
Full-service restaurants	71,800	71,000	70,600	800	1,200
Limited-service eating places	69,500	67,000	67,600	2,500	1,900
Other services	63,300	63,400	63,200	-100	100
Repair and maintenance	18,100	18,300	18,200	-200	-100
Personal and laundry services	15,300	15,200	15,100	100	200
Membership associations and organizations	29,900	29,900	29,900	0	0
Religious organizations	17,000	16,800	16,800	200	200
Government	298,600	298,900	317,000	-300	-18,400
Federal government	27,600	27,100	27,600	500	0
State government	38,600	38,700	56,400	-100	-17,800
State education	700	700	800	0	-100
Local government	232,400	233,100	233,000	-700	-600
Indian tribal	8,000	8,000	8,200	0	-200
Local education	139,400	140,300	140,700	-900	-1,300
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.