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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.7% in September

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 4.7% in September from 5.0%, as revised, in August. In September, 102,000 Oregonians were unemployed. This is a remarkable improvement from the worst labor force impacts of the COVID recession when 270,000 Oregonians were jobless in April 2020. However, there is still ground to make up to approach the average of 82,000 Oregonians unemployed during 2017 through 2019, during the tight labor market of the prior economic expansion. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 4.8% in September from 5.2% in August.

In Oregon, nonfarm payroll employment declined by 200 in September, following a revised gain of 8,900 jobs in August. Monthly gains averaged 10,200 during January through August. Job reductions in September were largest in **government** (-3,800 jobs) and **construction** (-1,400). These losses were balanced by substantial gains in **professional and business services** (+2,500 jobs); **leisure and hospitality** (+2,200); and **transportation, warehousing, and utilities** (+1,000 jobs).

The private sector added 3,600 jobs in September, continuing the steady private-sector expansion that averaged 4,600 jobs added per month over the past six months.

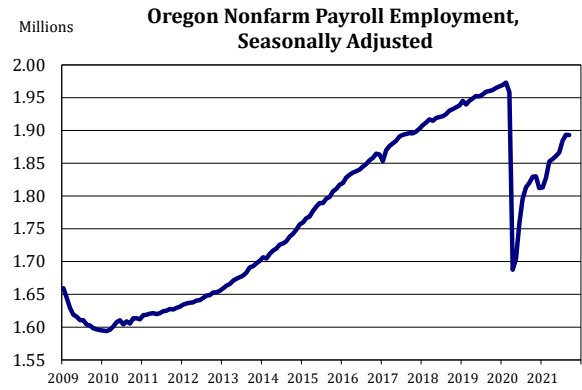
Government job losses in September were concentrated in local government where some K-12 schools added fewer employees than is typical at the start of the school year. Other local government employers are still well below their staffing levels seen two years ago, prior to the recession.

Leisure and hospitality added 2,200 jobs in September, following a gain of 1,200 in August. Despite these gains, leisure and hospitality still accounts for the bulk of Oregon's jobs not recovered since early 2020, with 42,100 jobs left to recover to reach the prior peak month of February 2020. The industry has regained 62% of jobs lost early in the pandemic.

Professional and technical services has grown at a rapid rate throughout 2021, and is now well above its pre-recession peak. This industry added 11,800 jobs since the low point in April 2020. Most of the jobs in the broader industry are found in firms providing services in the areas of legal, architectural, engineering, computer systems design, management consulting, research, and veterinary.

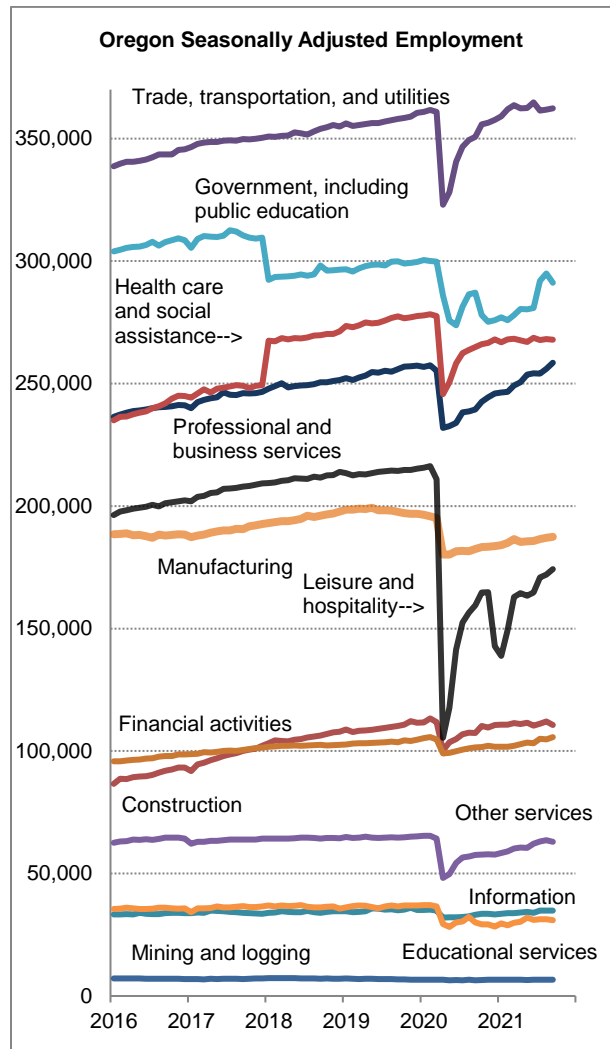
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Oct. 26, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October on Tuesday, Nov. 16.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes August to September 2021

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	4,600	4,400	-200
Total private	-9,200	-5,600	3,600
Mining and logging	-100	-200	-100
Construction	-2,000	-3,400	-1,400
Manufacturing	-1,300	-900	400
Wholesale trade	200	100	-100
Retail trade	-1,600	-1,900	-300
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	600	1,600	1,000
Information	0	-100	-100
Financial activities	-700	100	800
Professional and business services	0	2,500	2,500
Private educational services	3,600	3,300	-300
Health care and social assistance	-100	-400	-300
Leisure and hospitality	-7,400	-5,200	2,200
Other services	-400	-1,100	-700
Government	13,800	10,000	-3,800



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 January, February and March 2021 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 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 unemployment.oregon.gov.

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2021	August 2021	September 2020	Change From August 2021	Change From September 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,171,365	2,177,183	2,116,300	-5,818	55,065
Unemployed	88,944	98,775	155,374	-9,831	-66,430
Unemployment rate	4.1	4.5	7.3	-0.4	-3.2
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.7	5.0	7.5	-0.3	-2.8
Employed	2,082,421	2,078,408	1,960,926	4,013	121,495
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.4	62.5	61.1	-0.1	1.3
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	9.3	9.7	12.9	-0.4	-3.6
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,897,900	1,893,500	1,818,900	4,400	79,000
Total private	1,613,400	1,619,000	1,542,200	-5,600	71,200
Mining and logging	6,800	7,000	6,600	-200	200
Logging	4,900	5,000	4,800	-100	100
Construction	115,300	118,700	109,800	-3,400	5,500
Construction of buildings	31,000	32,500	31,800	-1,500	-800
Residential building construction	18,500	19,700	19,600	-1,200	-1,100
Nonresidential building construction	12,500	12,800	12,200	-300	300
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,000	11,300	10,600	-300	400
Specialty trade contractors	73,300	74,900	67,400	-1,600	5,900
Building foundation and exterior contractors	15,000	15,400	12,900	-400	2,100
Building equipment contractors	31,900	32,700	29,900	-800	2,000
Building finishing contractors	15,900	15,900	15,100	0	800
Other specialty trade contractors	10,500	10,900	9,500	-400	1,000
Manufacturing	189,000	189,900	184,100	-900	4,900
Durable goods	131,400	131,600	125,900	-200	5,500
Wood product manufacturing	23,200	23,300	21,700	-100	1,500
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,200	6,100	6,000	100	200
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,800	8,900	8,200	-100	600
Other wood product manufacturing	8,200	8,300	7,500	-100	700
Primary metal manufacturing	6,300	6,400	6,800	-100	-500
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,700	16,000	15,400	-300	300
Machinery manufacturing	14,100	13,800	13,200	300	900
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,800	38,600	37,500	200	1,300
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	31,500	31,300	30,000	200	1,500
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,900	4,900	5,100	0	-200
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,700	10,800	10,600	-100	100
Nondurable goods	57,600	58,300	58,200	-700	-600
Food manufacturing	28,400	28,900	28,700	-500	-300
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	10,800	11,300	10,700	-500	100
Paper manufacturing	3,800	3,800	4,000	0	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	361,400	361,600	351,400	-200	10,000
Wholesale trade	77,200	77,100	73,400	100	3,800
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	38,500	38,400	36,600	100	1,900
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	31,200	31,200	29,800	0	1,400
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,500	7,500	7,000	0	500
Retail trade	207,200	209,100	203,100	-1,900	4,100
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	25,200	25,100	24,700	100	500
Building material and garden supply stores	18,400	18,800	18,200	-400	200
Food and beverage stores	46,300	46,700	45,300	-400	1,000
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	12,600	13,200	12,400	-600	200
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,500	10,000	8,400	-500	1,100
General merchandise stores	42,400	41,800	41,400	600	1,000
Miscellaneous store retailers	16,400	16,600	15,200	-200	1,200
Nonstore retailers	7,800	8,100	7,800	-300	0

	September 2021	August 2021	September 2020	Change From August 2021	Change From September 2020
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	77,000	75,400	74,900	1,600	2,100
Utilities	4,800	4,800	4,800	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	72,200	70,600	70,100	1,600	2,100
Truck transportation	20,000	19,400	19,000	600	1,000
Couriers and messengers	13,900	13,600	13,100	300	800
Warehousing and storage	20,800	20,400	19,700	400	1,100
Information	34,500	34,600	33,100	-100	1,400
Publishing industries, except internet	15,700	15,600	15,300	100	400
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,500	2,500	2,600	0	-100
Software publishers	13,200	13,100	12,700	100	500
Telecommunications	4,600	4,600	4,800	0	-200
Financial activities	105,800	105,700	101,700	100	4,100
Finance and insurance	57,600	56,500	57,000	1,100	600
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,700	25,900	26,400	800	300
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,200	23,700	24,500	500	-300
Real estate and rental and leasing	48,200	49,200	44,700	-1,000	3,500
Real estate	42,200	43,200	39,900	-1,000	2,300
Professional and business services	259,000	256,500	240,000	2,500	19,000
Professional and technical services	108,000	106,900	98,300	1,100	9,700
Legal services	11,800	11,800	11,700	0	100
Architectural and engineering services	18,500	18,200	17,400	300	1,100
Computer systems design and related services	17,700	17,700	16,700	0	1,000
Management of companies and enterprises	48,100	47,800	48,700	300	-600
Administrative and waste services	102,900	101,800	93,000	1,100	9,900
Administrative and support services	97,300	96,100	87,000	1,200	10,300
Employment services	44,600	43,700	34,000	900	10,600
Business support services	10,700	10,900	11,500	-200	-800
Services to buildings and dwellings	26,300	26,200	24,800	100	1,500
Education and health services	298,200	295,300	293,800	2,900	4,400
Educational services	31,800	28,500	30,200	3,300	1,600
Health care and social assistance	266,400	266,800	263,600	-400	2,800
Ambulatory health care services	93,600	94,300	91,400	-700	2,200
Hospitals	57,800	58,500	58,200	-700	-400
Nursing and residential care facilities	48,600	50,600	51,600	-2,000	-3,000
Social assistance	66,400	63,400	62,400	3,000	4,000
Leisure and hospitality	181,300	186,500	164,000	-5,200	17,300
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	20,200	22,100	17,700	-1,900	2,500
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	14,900	16,500	13,300	-1,600	1,600
Accommodation and food services	161,100	164,400	146,300	-3,300	14,800
Accommodation	21,400	22,700	19,800	-1,300	1,600
Food services and drinking places	139,700	141,700	126,500	-2,000	13,200
Full-service restaurants	58,800	59,500	52,500	-700	6,300
Limited-service eating places	69,000	70,200	64,100	-1,200	4,900
Other services	62,100	63,200	57,700	-1,100	4,400
Repair and maintenance	20,100	20,000	18,000	100	2,100
Personal and laundry services	14,100	14,500	13,300	-400	800
Membership associations and organizations	27,900	28,700	26,400	-800	1,500
Religious organizations	14,100	13,800	14,000	300	100
Government	284,500	274,500	276,700	10,000	7,800
Federal government	29,400	29,800	31,900	-400	-2,500
State government	42,800	42,800	42,100	0	700
State education	1,100	900	900	200	200
Local government	212,300	201,900	202,700	10,400	9,600
Indian tribal	7,700	7,900	7,500	-200	200
Local education	120,500	106,600	110,900	13,900	9,600
Labor-management disputes	200	200	0	0	200

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.