



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Nov. 17, 2021

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# **CORRECTION: Nov. 17 Oregon Employment Department Media Statement**

Our next media availability is scheduled for 1 p.m., Wed., Dec. 1.

## **Helping Oregonians Get Back to Work**

Even with Oregon experiencing [record low unemployment](#), the Oregon Employment Department and its WorkSource Oregon partners continue helping workers find good jobs and employers find talented employees. WorkSource Oregon centers are offering job fairs and employer meet-and-greets across the state.

Here are just a few highlights of upcoming WorkSource Oregon [events](#):

- “Meet the Employer” events are scheduled this month in Albany, Salem and Woodburn.
- Hiring Events in Salem and Corvallis have in-person interviews being conducted from 3 – 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18.
- A virtual business spotlight event is scheduled for 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23.
- A Veterans Job Fair is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4, in White City, Oregon.

More information on these events and more are at [WorkSourceOregon.org](http://WorkSourceOregon.org).

## **Economic Update**

Yesterday the Employment Department released the [unemployment rate and jobs numbers](#) for Oregon in October.

Oregon employers added 4,700 jobs to nonfarm payrolls in October. The private sector added 10,300 jobs, and those gains were widespread. Oregon’s hotels, restaurants,



bars, and entertainment places added 3,100 jobs in October, the most of any sector. Professional and business services added 2,900 jobs during the month. We also saw big gains in construction (1,500), manufacturing (1,400), and wholesale trade (1,100).

Government lost 5,600 jobs in October. Nearly all the government job losses occurred in local government. Public K-12 and public higher education make up about half of all jobs in local government in Oregon. As the school year got underway, schools were not hiring near as much as expected this time of year. That resulted in a seasonally adjusted decline of 5,400 jobs. Oregon is not unique in this experience; nationally, public K-12 and higher education fell 65,000 jobs short of typical hiring levels in October.

Leisure and hospitality has added more than 43,000 jobs in 2021. Yet the sector remains 30,000 jobs below its pre-recession employment level, and it represents the biggest gap in a full jobs recovery in the state.

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 4.4% in October from 4.7% in September. We've seen significant declines in the unemployment rate for five months in a row. While more people found work in October, Oregon's labor force growth has leveled off in the past few of months after growing quite a bit between July 2020 and May 2021.

## **Employer Payroll Tax Update**

As a reminder, the Employment Department has good news for employers next year. Oregon is lowering the [payroll tax rate](#) to an average rate of 1.97 percent (tax schedule three) for the 2022 calendar year. This is down from an average rate of 2.26 percent (tax schedule four) in 2021. House Bill 3389 allows Oregon to lower tax rates while other states are increasing UI tax rates and continuing to borrow funds.

Recognizing the hardships experienced by employers during the pandemic and the critical role they play in the state's recovery, the Oregon Legislature passed [House Bill 3389](#), and the Governor signed it into law on July 27, 2021. The law expands ongoing efforts to help employers affected by the pandemic, and it is projected to save Oregon employers \$2.2 billion over the next 10 years.

The department has mailed individual 2022 tax rate notices to employers. Any employer who has not received their notice by November 22, 2021, should contact the Employment Department Tax Section at [OED\\_Taxinfo\\_User@oregon.gov](mailto:OED_Taxinfo_User@oregon.gov) or call 503-947-1488. Due to the projected high call volume, employers may receive a quicker response by emailing the department. More information is on our [employer taxes webpage](#).



## **Last week's statistics**

- Last week, the Employment Department paid about \$16.4 million in benefits to more than 25,600 Oregonians.
- From Monday, Nov. 8 – Friday, Nov. 12, 2021, the Employment Department answered more than 97% of calls in 15 minutes or less, meeting its July 1 goal. Of all the calls, nearly 89% were answered in under five minutes.
- Nearly 97% of Contact Us inquiries were resolved in seven days or less.

## **Upcoming Holiday Hours**

All Oregon Employment Department offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, people may receive their unemployment benefits a couple of days later for the week ending Saturday, Nov. 27.

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Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: 971-673-6400. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.