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CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Gail Krumenauer](#), State Employment Economist
(971) 301-3771

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

[David Cooke](#), Economist (971) 375-5288

Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.4% in March

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 4.4% in March, down from 4.7% in February. For the past 20 months since August 2021, Oregon's unemployment rate has remained relatively steady and near historic lows. The unemployment rate averaged 4.3% in that time, while ranging between 3.5% and 4.8%. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.5% in March and 3.6% in February.

In March, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 2,400 jobs, following a revised loss of 2,700 jobs in February. In March, gains were largest in **health care and social assistance** (+1,600 jobs) and **professional and business services** (+1,200). The only major industries to cut a substantial number of jobs were **retail trade** (-900 jobs) and **transportation, warehousing, and utilities** (-500).

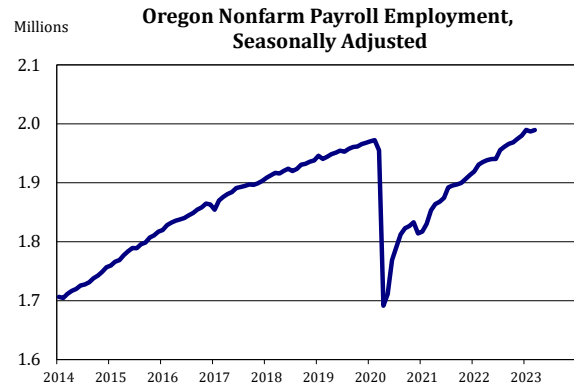
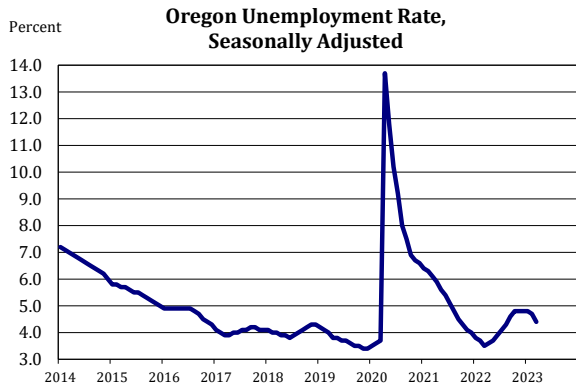
Health care and social assistance added jobs at a rapid pace over the past year. Since March 2022, it added 8,300 jobs, which was a 3.1% increase. Nearly all of the gains over the year were in **social assistance**, which added 5,400 jobs since March 2022 and is now 2,500 jobs above its pre-pandemic high. **Hospitals** added 800 jobs in March, following little gain during the prior 11 months.

Professional and business services grew rapidly over the past three years. It added 8,900 jobs, or 3.4%, since March 2022. One of its component industries, **administrative and waste services**, was a primary driver of jobs expansion lately, as it added 4,400 jobs, or 4.2%, in the past 12 months. Employing 110,400 in March, this large industry makes up one in 20 nonfarm payroll jobs in Oregon. It includes firms such as **temporary help services, janitorial services, landscaping services, and telephone call centers**.

Retail trade hovered close to 210,000 jobs throughout the past two years, with a slightly downward trend over the past year. Since March 2022, the broad retail trade sector lost 1,600 jobs (-0.8%). Most retail components cut between 100 and 600 jobs. The only published component industry expanding in that time was **food and beverage retailers**, which added 900 jobs.

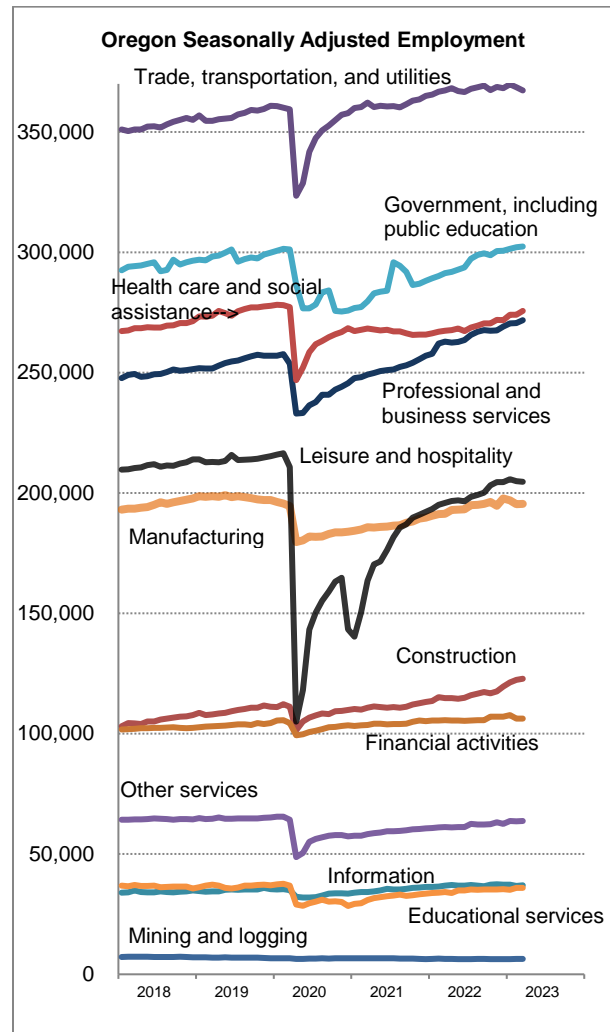
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 25, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 17.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes February to March 2023

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	6,900	9,300	2,400
Total private	5,100	7,200	2,100
Mining and logging	200	200	0
Construction	1,000	1,400	400
Manufacturing	-200	-100	100
Wholesale trade	-700	-600	100
Retail trade	300	-600	-900
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	-500	-1,000	-500
Information	-100	200	300
Financial activities	-500	-600	-100
Professional and business services	1,000	2,200	1,200
Private educational services	200	200	0
Health care and social assistance	700	2,300	1,600
Leisure and hospitality	3,500	3,300	-200
Other services	200	300	100
Government	1,800	2,100	300



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the components of health care and social assistance and retail trade.

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.

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To file a claim for unemployment benefits or get more information about unemployment programs, visit unemployment.oregon.gov.

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. OED provides free help so you can use our services. Some examples are sign language and spoken-language interpreters, written materials in other languages, large print, audio, and other formats. To get help, please call 503-947-1444. TTY users call 711. You can also send an email to communications@employ.oregon.gov.

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Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	March 2023	February 2023	March 2022	Change From February 2023	Change From March 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,150,837	2,161,677	2,175,702	-10,840	-24,865
Unemployed	79,061	98,565	86,328	-19,504	-7,267
Unemployment rate	3.7	4.6	4.0	-0.9	-0.3
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.4	4.7	3.5	-0.3	0.9
Employed	2,071,776	2,063,112	2,089,374	8,664	-17,598
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.7	62.9	62.7	-0.2	0.0
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	7.5	7.8	7.0	-0.3	0.5
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,979,500	1,970,200	1,928,600	9,300	50,900
Total private	1,670,900	1,663,700	1,632,500	7,200	38,400
Mining and logging	6,300	6,100	6,200	200	100
Logging	4,600	4,500	4,500	100	100
Construction	119,200	117,800	112,600	1,400	6,600
Construction of buildings	34,100	33,200	33,000	900	1,100
Residential building construction	21,900	21,000	21,200	900	700
Nonresidential building construction	12,200	12,200	11,800	0	400
Heavy and civil engineering construction	10,700	10,500	9,900	200	800
Specialty trade contractors	74,400	74,100	69,700	300	4,700
Building foundation and exterior contractors	13,700	13,600	13,000	100	700
Building equipment contractors	35,100	35,200	32,400	-100	2,700
Building finishing contractors	15,700	15,500	14,800	200	900
Other specialty trade contractors	9,900	9,800	9,500	100	400
Manufacturing	192,400	192,500	189,900	-100	2,500
Durable goods	136,100	136,600	133,400	-500	2,700
Wood product manufacturing	23,200	23,300	23,300	-100	-100
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,400	6,500	6,500	-100	-100
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,500	8,500	8,500	0	0
Other wood product manufacturing	8,300	8,300	8,300	0	0
Primary metal manufacturing	7,200	7,300	7,100	-100	100
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	16,400	16,400	16,100	0	300
Machinery manufacturing	15,000	14,900	14,400	100	600
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	40,800	41,200	40,100	-400	700
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	34,100	34,400	32,900	-300	1,200
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,800	4,800	4,800	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,900	11,000	10,600	-100	300
Nondurable goods	56,300	55,900	56,500	400	-200
Food manufacturing	27,800	27,900	28,000	-100	-200
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	9,700	9,800	9,600	-100	100
Paper manufacturing	4,100	4,100	4,200	0	-100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	362,800	365,000	364,400	-2,200	-1,600
Wholesale trade	78,200	78,800	76,300	-600	1,900
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	39,800	40,700	38,300	-900	1,500
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	30,900	30,600	30,600	300	300
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	7,500	7,500	7,400	0	100
Retail trade	206,300	206,900	209,000	-600	-2,700
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,300	26,200	26,700	100	-400
Building material and garden equipment and supplies c	17,700	17,500	18,300	200	-600
Food and beverage retailers	47,600	47,700	46,700	-100	900
General merchandise retailers	40,500	40,500	40,700	0	-200
Clothing, clothing accessories, shoe, and jewelry retail	15,400	15,500	15,500	-100	-100
Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, book, and	29,400	29,900	29,400	-500	0

	March 2023	February 2023	March 2022	Change From February 2023	Change From March 2022
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	78,300	79,300	79,100	-1,000	-800
Utilities	5,000	5,000	4,800	0	200
Transportation and warehousing	73,300	74,300	74,300	-1,000	-1,000
Truck transportation	18,700	18,900	18,900	-200	-200
Couriers and messengers	14,800	15,200	15,400	-400	-600
Warehousing and storage	19,000	19,200	20,000	-200	-1,000
Information	36,700	36,500	36,600	200	100
Publishing industries	16,700	16,600	16,500	100	200
Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishe	2,300	2,300	2,400	0	-100
Software publishers	14,400	14,300	14,100	100	300
Telecommunications	4,200	4,200	4,500	0	-300
Financial activities	105,200	105,800	104,800	-600	400
Finance and insurance	54,500	54,300	56,000	200	-1,500
Credit intermediation and related activities	23,700	23,700	25,200	0	-1,500
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,100	23,900	24,400	200	-300
Real estate and rental and leasing	50,700	51,500	48,800	-800	1,900
Real estate	45,600	45,800	43,600	-200	2,000
Professional and business services	270,600	268,400	261,900	2,200	8,700
Professional and technical services	110,800	109,500	108,600	1,300	2,200
Legal services	11,800	11,700	11,700	100	100
Architectural and engineering services	18,800	18,500	18,200	300	600
Computer systems design and related services	17,000	16,800	17,700	200	-700
Management of companies and enterprises	50,400	50,200	48,500	200	1,900
Administrative and waste services	109,400	108,700	104,800	700	4,600
Administrative and support services	102,900	102,300	98,700	600	4,200
Employment services	45,700	45,600	45,900	100	-200
Business support services	8,600	8,700	9,400	-100	-800
Services to buildings and dwellings	28,500	27,900	25,400	600	3,100
Private education and health services	314,100	311,600	305,000	2,500	9,100
Private educational services	37,600	37,400	36,500	200	1,100
Health care and social assistance	276,500	274,200	268,500	2,300	8,000
Ambulatory health care services	94,900	94,200	94,800	700	100
Hospitals	59,100	58,300	58,200	800	900
Nursing and residential care facilities	50,200	50,600	48,600	-400	1,600
Social assistance	72,300	71,100	66,900	1,200	5,400
Leisure and hospitality	200,100	196,800	190,300	3,300	9,800
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	27,200	26,900	23,800	300	3,400
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	18,700	18,500	17,200	200	1,500
Accommodation and food services	172,900	169,900	166,500	3,000	6,400
Accommodation	21,900	21,800	21,000	100	900
Food services and drinking places	151,000	148,100	145,500	2,900	5,500
Full-service restaurants	63,200	62,800	61,500	400	1,700
Limited-service eating places	70,000	68,900	69,600	1,100	400
Other services	63,500	63,200	60,800	300	2,700
Repair and maintenance	19,400	19,500	19,000	-100	400
Personal and laundry services	14,800	14,600	14,300	200	500
Membership associations and organizations	29,300	29,100	27,500	200	1,800
Religious organizations	14,800	14,500	14,400	300	400
Government	308,600	306,500	296,100	2,100	12,500
Federal government	27,400	27,000	27,100	400	300
State government	43,200	42,900	42,400	300	800
State education	1,300	1,300	1,100	0	200
Local government	238,000	236,600	226,600	1,400	11,400
Indian tribal	7,800	7,800	7,500	0	300
Local education	140,000	139,000	133,500	1,000	6,500
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.