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Oregon's Job Growth Slows to 5,100 in September

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 8.0 percent in September from 8.5 percent, as revised, in August. For the past few months, Oregon's unemployment rate has closely tracked the national unemployment rate which fell to 7.9 percent in September from 8.4 percent in August.

Oregon's total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 5,100 jobs in September, following a revised gain of 16,200 jobs in August. Over the past three months the rate of job growth slowed, with 39,000 jobs added in that time, following more rapid growth in May and June, when 83,100 jobs were added. Despite the recent slowdown, Oregon employers added jobs in each of the past five months, and the state has recovered 45 percent of the jobs cut in March and April.

Over-the-month job gains in September were largest in **leisure and hospitality** (+2,600 jobs); **financial activities** (+1,600); **health care and social assistance** (+1,600); **retail trade** (+1,500); and **information** (+1,200). Two industries cut a substantial number of jobs in September: **construction** (-2,600 jobs) and **private educational services** (-1,400).

Leisure and hospitality continues to be the industry most impacted by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its employment bounced back substantially in May and June, but job gains have slowed over the past three months. Employment totaled 163,200 in September, which was down 53,400 jobs, or 24.7%, since its peak month of February.

Manufacturing lost a substantial number of jobs this spring and hasn't rebounded. Employment stood at 180,000 jobs in September, which was close to its level of the past five months. Since September 2019, manufacturing cut 18,100 jobs with losses widespread throughout most component industries. During that time, primary metals manufacturing dropped the most in percentage terms, shedding 2,600 jobs, or 28 percent. Next in line was transportation equipment manufacturing which cut 19 percent. Two other manufacturing industries dropped at least 10 percent: food manufacturing (-4,200 jobs, or -14%) and electronic instrument manufacturing (-600 jobs, or -11%). None of the published manufacturing industries added a substantial number of jobs over the past 12 months.

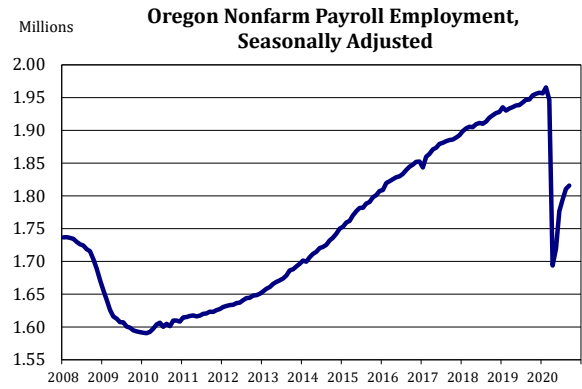
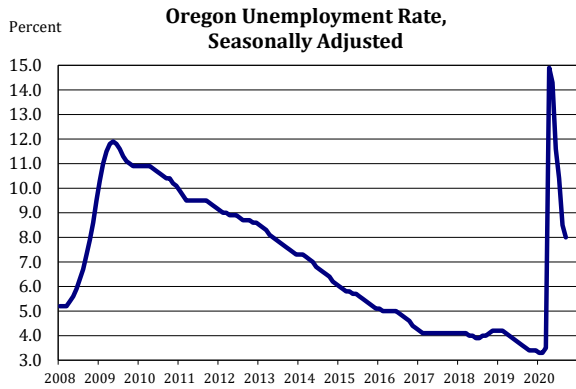
In contrast, two major industries rose closer to pre-pandemic employment levels. Retail trade rebounded rapidly, adding 4,700 jobs over the past two months. This left the industry down only 4,800 jobs, or 2.3 percent, since February. Certain retailers responded to strong demand lately, with food and beverage stores up 900 jobs, or 2.1 percent, since last September. Similarly, building material and garden supply stores added 900 jobs, or 5.4 percent in that time, while general merchandise stores added 1,100 jobs or 2.7 percent. Clearly consumer preferences and demands have shifted substantially,

as reflected by job losses in several categories including clothing stores, which cut 8,100 jobs, or 51.6 percent, over the year, and miscellaneous store retailers, which shed 2,800 jobs, or 16.5 percent.

Health care and social assistance added 2,300 jobs over the past two months and was only 8,200 jobs, or 3.1 percent, below its recent high in February. Over the past 12 months, social assistance cut 4,900 jobs, or 8.4 percent. However, health care declined only 800 jobs in that time.

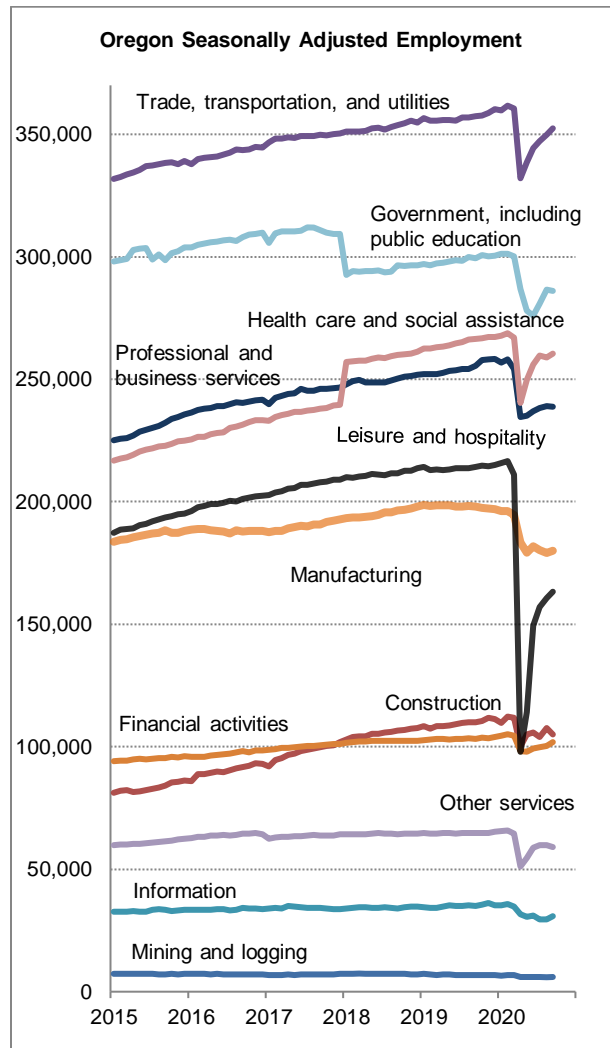
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, October 20th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October on Tuesday, November 17th.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes August to September 2020

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	4,900	10,000	5,100
Total private	-8,000	-2,200	5,800
Mining and logging	-200	0	200
Construction	-1,600	-4,200	-2,600
Manufacturing	-2,100	-1,200	900
Wholesale trade	-200	300	500
Retail trade	-1,100	400	1,500
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	-200	400	600
Information	-400	800	1,200
Financial activities	-400	1,200	1,600
Professional and business services	-1,800	-2,000	-200
Private educational services	4,100	2,700	-1,400
Health care and social assistance	900	2,500	1,600
Leisure and hospitality	-4,800	-2,200	2,600
Other services	-200	-900	-700
Government	12,900	12,200	-700



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the detailed industries within manufacturing, retail trade, and health care and social assistance.

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 2020 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 2020	August 2020	September 2019	Change From August 2020	Change From September 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,058,198	2,088,833	2,109,356	-30,635	-51,158
Unemployed	149,915	177,552	64,940	-27,637	84,975
Unemployment rate	7.3	8.5	3.1	-1.2	4.2
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	8.0	8.5	3.5	-0.5	4.5
Employed	1,908,283	1,911,281	2,044,416	-2,998	-136,133
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	59.6	60.0	61.5	-0.4	-1.9
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	13.8	14.7	7.7	-0.9	6.1
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,818,400	1,808,400	1,947,900	10,000	-129,500
Total private	1,541,600	1,543,800	1,658,500	-2,200	-116,900
Mining and logging	6,200	6,200	7,000	0	-800
Logging	4,100	4,100	5,200	0	-1,100
Construction	109,700	113,900	112,700	-4,200	-3,000
Construction of buildings	31,800	31,800	32,000	0	-200
Residential building construction	19,300	18,500	19,400	800	-100
Nonresidential building construction	12,500	13,300	12,600	-800	-100
Heavy and civil engineering construction	10,800	11,100	11,300	-300	-500
Specialty trade contractors	67,100	71,000	69,400	-3,900	-2,300
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,900	14,000	13,100	-1,100	-200
Building equipment contractors	28,600	30,500	30,400	-1,900	-1,800
Building finishing contractors	15,800	16,500	16,200	-700	-400
Other specialty trade contractors	9,800	10,000	9,700	-200	100
Manufacturing	182,600	183,800	199,000	-1,200	-16,400
Durable goods	127,000	127,500	136,300	-500	-9,300
Wood product manufacturing	21,900	22,000	22,900	-100	-1,000
Sawmills and wood preservation	5,900	6,000	6,100	-100	-200
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,200	8,200	8,900	0	-700
Other wood product manufacturing	7,800	7,800	7,900	0	-100
Primary metal manufacturing	6,800	6,800	9,400	0	-2,600
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,500	15,600	16,600	-100	-1,100
Machinery manufacturing	13,300	13,300	14,000	0	-700
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	37,600	37,200	38,600	400	-1,000
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,600	30,400	30,500	200	100
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,900	4,900	5,500	0	-600
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,100	10,200	12,400	-100	-2,300
Nondurable goods	55,600	56,300	62,700	-700	-7,100
Food manufacturing	26,600	27,400	30,800	-800	-4,200
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	10,600	11,200	11,800	-600	-1,200
Paper manufacturing	3,900	3,900	4,000	0	-100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	352,600	351,500	358,400	1,100	-5,800
Wholesale trade	75,400	75,100	76,600	300	-1,200
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	36,200	35,900	37,700	300	-1,500
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	32,100	32,100	31,500	0	600
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,100	7,100	7,400	0	-300
Retail trade	206,200	205,800	210,700	400	-4,500
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	25,400	25,100	26,800	300	-1,400
Building material and garden supply stores	17,500	18,000	16,600	-500	900
Food and beverage stores	44,800	45,100	43,900	-300	900
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	7,600	8,100	15,700	-500	-8,100
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	8,900	8,500	9,500	400	-600
General merchandise stores	41,600	42,100	40,500	-500	1,100
Miscellaneous store retailers	14,200	13,900	17,000	300	-2,800
Nonstore retailers	7,500	7,200	8,500	300	-1,000

	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	Change From August 2020	Change From September 2019
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	71,000	70,600	71,100	400	-100
Utilities	4,900	5,000	4,900	-100	0
Transportation and warehousing	66,100	65,600	66,200	500	-100
Truck transportation	17,700	17,800	19,200	-100	-1,500
Couriers and messengers	12,400	12,200	10,200	200	2,200
Warehousing and storage	16,600	16,200	14,300	400	2,300
Information	31,000	30,200	34,900	800	-3,900
Publishing industries, except internet	15,800	15,600	15,100	200	700
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,700	2,700	2,800	0	-100
Software publishers	13,100	12,900	12,300	200	800
Telecommunications	4,900	4,800	5,000	100	-100
Financial activities	101,400	100,200	103,700	1,200	-2,300
Finance and insurance	56,200	56,100	56,800	100	-600
Credit intermediation and related activities	25,600	25,800	26,200	-200	-600
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,700	24,700	24,500	0	200
Real estate and rental and leasing	45,200	44,100	46,900	1,100	-1,700
Real estate	41,100	39,800	41,000	1,300	100
Professional and business services	240,600	242,600	256,900	-2,000	-16,300
Professional and technical services	94,200	95,300	100,000	-1,100	-5,800
Legal services	11,200	11,400	11,800	-200	-600
Architectural and engineering services	17,200	17,500	17,800	-300	-600
Computer systems design and related services	16,200	16,500	17,100	-300	-900
Management of companies and enterprises	48,200	48,200	51,000	0	-2,800
Administrative and waste services	98,200	99,100	105,900	-900	-7,700
Administrative and support services	91,600	92,500	99,900	-900	-8,300
Employment services	38,000	38,100	42,500	-100	-4,500
Business support services	12,000	12,000	12,900	0	-900
Services to buildings and dwellings	24,200	24,800	25,300	-600	-1,100
Education and health services	292,500	287,300	302,200	5,200	-9,700
Educational services	32,800	30,100	36,800	2,700	-4,000
Health care and social assistance	259,700	257,200	265,400	2,500	-5,700
Ambulatory health care services	96,800	96,100	95,000	700	1,800
Hospitals	57,900	58,200	59,800	-300	-1,900
Nursing and residential care facilities	51,700	52,000	52,400	-300	-700
Social assistance	53,300	50,900	58,200	2,400	-4,900
Leisure and hospitality	166,700	168,900	218,800	-2,200	-52,100
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	19,600	20,900	28,400	-1,300	-8,800
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	14,100	15,300	20,300	-1,200	-6,200
Accommodation and food services	147,100	148,000	190,400	-900	-43,300
Accommodation	19,900	20,400	27,800	-500	-7,900
Food services and drinking places	127,200	127,600	162,600	-400	-35,400
Full-service restaurants	52,700	52,400	73,300	300	-20,600
Limited-service eating places	58,800	59,400	71,800	-600	-13,000
Other services	58,300	59,200	64,900	-900	-6,600
Repair and maintenance	19,600	19,000	18,800	600	800
Personal and laundry services	13,900	15,100	16,100	-1,200	-2,200
Membership associations and organizations	24,800	25,100	30,000	-300	-5,200
Religious organizations	13,800	13,700	16,400	100	-2,600
Government	276,800	264,600	289,400	12,200	-12,600
Federal government	31,900	33,500	29,700	-1,600	2,200
State government	41,100	41,200	41,500	-100	-400
State education	1,000	900	900	100	100
Local government	203,800	189,900	218,200	13,900	-14,400
Indian tribal	7,400	7,400	8,100	0	-700
Local education	110,100	96,000	122,300	14,100	-12,200
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.