

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 18, 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Gail Krumenauer](#), State Employment Economist
(971) 301-3771 [Video](#) and [Audio](#) available at 10:00 AM
[David Cooke](#), Economist (503) 947-1272

Oregon Hiring Slows to 2,200 Jobs in April

Oregon's unemployment rate remained at 6.0% in April, the same as in March. The rate declined slightly in January, February, and March before holding steady in April. Throughout the middle and end of 2020, Oregon's unemployment rate dropped sharply, and is now down considerably from its recent high point of 13.2% in April 2020. The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 6.1% in April, from 6.0% in March.

"Although Oregon's unemployment rate hit a stand-still in April, underlying labor force dynamics continue shifting. April marked the first month since the pandemic recession started that those experiencing permanent job losses were the largest group of laid off Oregonians. Long-term unemployment has also reached its highest point in nine years," said Gail Krumenauer, State Employment Economist with the Oregon Employment Department.

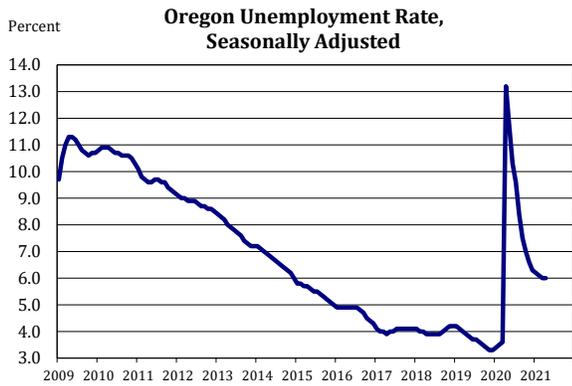
In Oregon, hiring slowed as nonfarm payroll employment grew by 2,200 in April, following monthly gains averaging 14,000 in the prior three months. Monthly gains were concentrated in **government** (+2,300 jobs) and **leisure and hospitality** (+2,000). Monthly declines were largest in **manufacturing** (-900 jobs), **transportation, warehousing, and utilities** (-800), and **retail trade** (-800).

In April, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment totaled 1,855,600, a drop of 117,400 jobs, or 6% from the pre-recession peak in February 2020. Oregon's employment dropped to a low of 1,687,500 by April 2020. Since then, Oregon has recovered 168,100 jobs, or 59% of the jobs lost between February and April 2020.

Employment totals for recent months were revised upward, indicating somewhat higher jobs totals in Oregon in late 2020 and early this year. Total nonfarm employment was revised upward by approximately 13,000 jobs per month for December 2020 through March 2021. Upward revisions were most pronounced in leisure and hospitality (+6,000 jobs), **health care and social assistance** (+3,000), and **retail trade** (+1,900). These gains were partially offset by downward revisions that were most pronounced in **professional and business services** (-2,000 jobs).

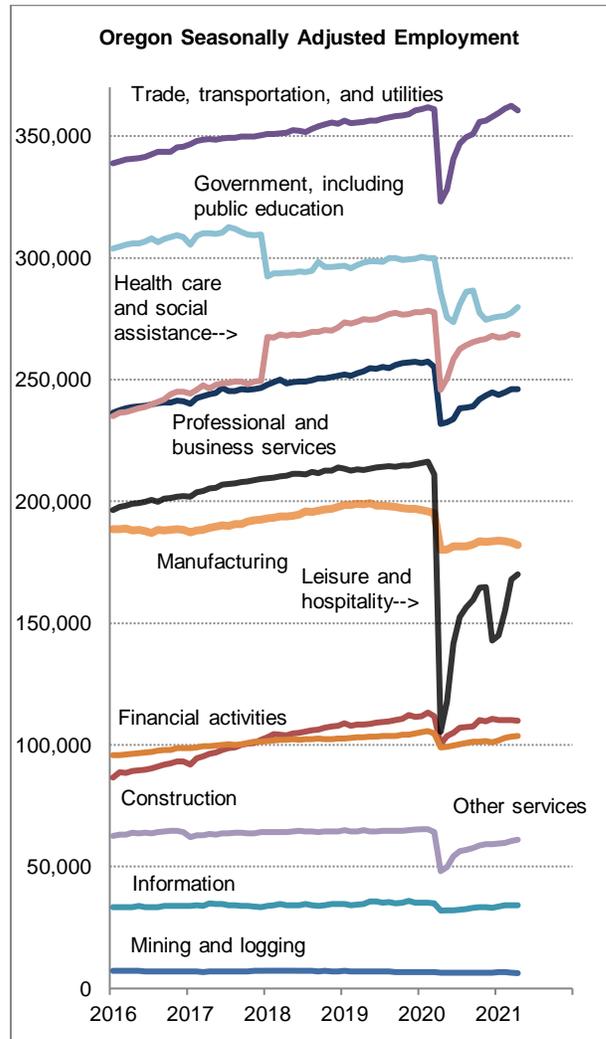
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, May 25, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Tuesday, June 15.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes March to April 2021

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



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 2020 tax records data. In addition, data for July through September 2020 were revised by a total of up to 1,900 jobs per month. 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

	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	Change From March 2021	Change From April 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,162,896	2,156,640	2,035,126	6,256	127,770
Unemployed	134,716	143,776	267,428	-9,060	-132,712
Unemployment rate	6.2	6.7	13.1	-0.5	-6.9
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	6.0	6.0	13.2	0.0	-7.2
Employed	2,028,180	2,012,864	1,767,698	15,316	260,482
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.4	62.3	59.7	0.1	2.7
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	11.3	11.4	20.9	-0.1	-9.6
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,858,300	1,845,200	1,687,500	13,100	170,800
Total private	1,572,900	1,563,000	1,395,200	9,900	177,700
Mining and logging	6,200	6,300	6,300	-100	-100
Logging	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0
Construction	109,100	107,000	99,200	2,100	9,900
Construction of buildings	30,800	31,100	28,700	-300	2,100
Residential building construction	19,200	19,500	17,000	-300	2,200
Nonresidential building construction	11,600	11,600	11,700	0	-100
Heavy and civil engineering construction	10,300	10,100	9,700	200	600
Specialty trade contractors	68,000	65,800	60,800	2,200	7,200
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,400	11,400	11,600	1,000	800
Building equipment contractors	32,100	31,800	27,200	300	4,900
Building finishing contractors	13,800	13,400	13,500	400	300
Other specialty trade contractors	9,700	9,200	8,500	500	1,200
Manufacturing	181,500	182,200	178,500	-700	3,000
Durable goods	124,800	124,700	126,000	100	-1,200
Wood product manufacturing	21,900	22,000	21,400	-100	500
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,100	6,200	5,900	-100	200
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,600	8,600	8,300	0	300
Other wood product manufacturing	7,200	7,200	7,200	0	0
Primary metal manufacturing	5,900	6,000	9,000	-100	-3,100
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,200	15,300	15,000	-100	200
Machinery manufacturing	13,300	13,100	13,200	200	100
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,000	37,900	38,200	100	-200
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,300	30,200	30,600	100	-300
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,100	5,100	5,100	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,800	10,900	9,700	-100	1,100
Nondurable goods	56,700	57,500	52,500	-800	4,200
Food manufacturing	27,900	28,600	25,900	-700	2,000
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	9,700	9,700	9,900	0	-200
Paper manufacturing	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	357,900	359,300	318,800	-1,400	39,100
Wholesale trade	74,800	75,300	72,400	-500	2,400
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	37,600	37,400	36,100	200	1,500
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	30,200	30,800	29,400	-600	800
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,000	7,100	6,900	-100	100
Retail trade	205,200	204,600	177,000	600	28,200
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	24,900	25,100	22,400	-200	2,500
Building material and garden supply stores	18,900	18,300	17,000	600	1,900
Food and beverage stores	44,500	44,700	43,300	-200	1,200
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	12,700	12,500	6,100	200	6,600
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	8,700	8,500	5,700	200	3,000
General merchandise stores	40,600	41,100	38,300	-500	2,300
Miscellaneous store retailers	16,400	16,200	10,700	200	5,700
Nonstore retailers	7,800	7,700	6,800	100	1,000

	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	Change From March 2021	Change From April 2020
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	77,900	79,400	69,400	-1,500	8,500
Utilities	4,600	4,700	4,800	-100	-200
Transportation and warehousing	73,300	74,700	64,600	-1,400	8,700
Truck transportation	18,900	18,800	17,900	100	1,000
Couriers and messengers	12,700	14,800	10,900	-2,100	1,800
Warehousing and storage	20,600	20,500	17,500	100	3,100
Information	34,700	34,400	31,800	300	2,900
Publishing industries, except internet	15,700	15,600	14,800	100	900
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100
Software publishers	13,000	12,900	12,200	100	800
Telecommunications	4,800	4,900	4,900	-100	-100
Financial activities	102,300	101,500	98,600	800	3,700
Finance and insurance	57,600	57,700	56,700	-100	900
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,100	26,400	26,200	-300	-100
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,600	25,100	24,300	-500	300
Real estate and rental and leasing	44,700	43,800	41,900	900	2,800
Real estate	40,100	39,300	37,600	800	2,500
Professional and business services	246,600	245,500	231,900	1,100	14,700
Professional and technical services	102,700	102,200	96,600	500	6,100
Legal services	11,700	11,600	11,300	100	400
Architectural and engineering services	17,500	17,400	17,200	100	300
Computer systems design and related services	16,600	16,500	16,800	100	-200
Management of companies and enterprises	47,900	47,800	48,000	100	-100
Administrative and waste services	96,000	95,500	87,300	500	8,700
Administrative and support services	90,000	89,500	81,500	500	8,500
Employment services	37,400	36,800	30,700	600	6,700
Business support services	11,200	11,200	11,800	0	-600
Services to buildings and dwellings	24,700	23,700	22,300	1,000	2,400
Education and health services	304,700	305,500	278,400	-800	26,300
Educational services	36,100	35,600	31,900	500	4,200
Health care and social assistance	268,600	269,900	246,500	-1,300	22,100
Ambulatory health care services	93,100	93,800	75,800	-700	17,300
Hospitals	60,000	60,200	59,000	-200	1,000
Nursing and residential care facilities	51,300	51,400	52,300	-100	-1,000
Social assistance	64,200	64,500	59,400	-300	4,800
Leisure and hospitality	168,500	161,100	103,400	7,400	65,100
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	18,700	17,700	13,000	1,000	5,700
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	14,100	13,300	8,600	800	5,500
Accommodation and food services	149,800	143,400	90,400	6,400	59,400
Accommodation	18,200	17,200	12,100	1,000	6,100
Food services and drinking places	131,600	126,200	78,300	5,400	53,300
Full-service restaurants	54,900	51,800	21,200	3,100	33,700
Limited-service eating places	65,300	63,900	51,500	1,400	13,800
Other services	61,400	60,200	48,300	1,200	13,100
Repair and maintenance	18,100	18,100	16,200	0	1,900
Personal and laundry services	13,600	13,400	6,700	200	6,900
Membership associations and organizations	29,700	28,700	25,400	1,000	4,300
Religious organizations	15,100	14,400	13,700	700	1,400
Government	285,400	282,200	292,300	3,200	-6,900
Federal government	28,500	27,600	27,900	900	600
State government	42,300	42,200	40,700	100	1,600
State education	900	900	900	0	0
Local government	214,600	212,400	223,700	2,200	-9,100
Indian tribal	7,400	7,500	7,400	-100	0
Local education	124,100	122,000	132,900	2,100	-8,800
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.