

May 8, 2025

Are you still mailing paper reports to us? Here's why you should use Frances Online

- Your reports will process significantly faster.
- You can view and verify your reports were filed.



- You have documentation of your communications with us.
- You have 24/7 access to detailed account information.
- You can view past reports and business information.
- You can view current tax-related information for your business.

Register for a Frances Online account by visiting our website.

Using Frances Online also helps you respond to Paid Leave Oregon and Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims.

- With Benefit Access, view and respond to UI and Paid Leave claims from current and former employees.
- You can view and respond to questionnaires quickly, which speeds up processing. As soon as you complete a questionnaire, you can access it from your account.

Please take note if you receive a Notice of Wages Reported and Possible Claim (NWRPC)



This notice is sent to employers when someone files a claim for unemployment

OED Employer News May 8, 2025: TEST - REJZER Laurie B * OED - Outlook

cost the employer. If the information is incorrect or there are other job-related reasons that affect the claim (such as the person quitting voluntarily or being fired for misconduct), the employer can respond to this form to request that the charges be removed.

Please note the following:

- You do not need to respond to the NWRPC form if the employee was laid off due to **lack of work**. In this situation, the charges cannot be removed.
- If you disagree with the charges and want them removed from the claim, please send a written response explaining clearly and specifically why you are disputing them.

There are **two dates** on the NWRPC form:

- One is to **appeal the wages** used on the claim (you have 10 days to respond).
- One is to **protest the charges** on the claim (you have 30 days to respond).

Oregon Business & Industry: A great statewide resource for Business Advocacy, Research and Education



On April 29, <u>Oregon Business & Industry</u> (OBI), Oregon's statewide chamber of commerce, held a virtual **Oregon Trade Summit** event focused on the importance of trade to the state's economy. You can watch a recording of the event for free here. It includes a presentation about Oregon's trade sector by ECOnorthwest, a conversation about the federal policy landscape with U.S. Chamber of Commerce senior director of international policy, Isabelle Icso, and a panel discussion involving business leaders in key industry sectors.

OBI represents more than 1,600 businesses in Oregon, more than 75% of which are small businesses. OBI engages in advocacy, education and research and offers group pricing for health insurance, discounted workers' compensation insurance to qualifying member businesses. OBI is also the Oregon affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation.

Learn more about OBI on <u>their website</u> or by attending their upcoming <u>Annual Meeting</u>, held in Salem on Wednesday, June 4. Register here.

Finally, stay tuned for the May launch of OBI's third annual <u>Coolest Thing Made in</u> <u>Oregon contest</u>, which celebrates Oregon's manufacturers. If your business manufactures a qualifying product, please nominate it!





workers from heat, wildfire smoke



Oregon employers must protect their workers from the potential hazards of extreme heat and wildfire smoke.

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Oregon OSHA's heat and wildfire smoke policy requirements address the protective steps employers must take.

The <u>heat illness prevention rule</u> addresses access to shade and cool water, preventive cool-down breaks and plans, general information, and training. The <u>wildfire smoke rule</u> includes a range of exposure assessments and controls, as well as training and communication tools. Both rules include provisions for protecting workers who rely on employer-provided housing – included as part of farm operations – from heat and wildfire smoke.

More information and free resources, including fact sheets and online training in English and Spanish, are available on Oregon OSHA's A-to-Z topic pages about <u>heat</u> and <u>wildfire smoke</u>. Oregon OSHA also offers <u>consultation services</u> to improve safety and health programs and <u>technical help</u> with understanding its requirements.

Did you know the Oregon Employment Department offers Fidelity Bonds through the Federal Bonding Program?



This unique program helps employers hire people who may have a harder time finding work because of their background.

People who may qualify include:

- Those with a criminal record
- People recovering from substance use disorders
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipients
- · Individuals with poor credit
- Youth and adults with little or no work history
- Those who were dishonorably discharged from the military

The bond provides an insurance guarantee against loss in cases of employee theft, forgery, larceny or embezzlement. Employers can request bonds between \$5,000 and \$25,000 per qualifying new hire. Learn more and request a bond on the **Federal Bonding webpage**.

Are you a small business? Check out this Small Business resource from the Secretary



of State

The <u>Office of Small Business Assistance</u> is a state resource that helps Oregon entrepreneurs and nonprofits navigate government disputes and complaints. During the first quarter of 2025, the Office of Small Business Assistance helped 109 small businesses. Half of these cases took no more than 10 days to resolve and 22% of cases were about licensing requirements.

Visit their <u>website</u> to learn more about services that include: coaching, referrals, and dispute assistance. Sign up for their quarterly newsletter "Minding Your Business" on their homepage.

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.

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a communications@employ.oregon.gov.

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