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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.7% in May

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 3.7% in May, down from 4.0% in April. This was the fourth consecutive monthly drop in the unemployment rate, down from a recent high of 4.8% in January. The May rate was similar to rates in February through May 2022, when it ranged from 3.5% to 3.7%. Oregon's May unemployment rate of 3.7% equaled the U.S. unemployment rate, which rose to 3.7% in May from 3.4% in April.

In May, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 3,600 jobs, following a revised gain of 500 jobs in April. Over-the-month gains were largest in **financial activities** (+1,200 jobs), **leisure and hospitality** (+1,100), and **transportation, warehousing, and utilities** (+1,000). Declines were largest in **retail trade** (-500 jobs) and **government** (-300). Since May 2022, Oregon has added 39,100 nonfarm payroll jobs (+2.0%).

Leisure and hospitality, while still adding jobs, has grown at a slower rate during the past 12 months than during its rapid partial recovery during much of 2020 and 2021. Its component industry, **accommodation and food services**, which employed 177,000 in May, added 4,800 jobs in the past 12 months. Meanwhile, **arts, entertainment, and recreation**, which employed 27,600 in May, added 2,800 jobs in that time. Despite these recent gains, leisure and hospitality is still 11,900 jobs (-5%) below where it was in February 2020, just prior to the Pandemic Recession.

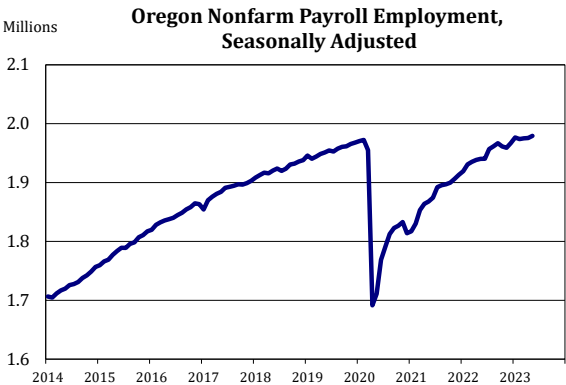
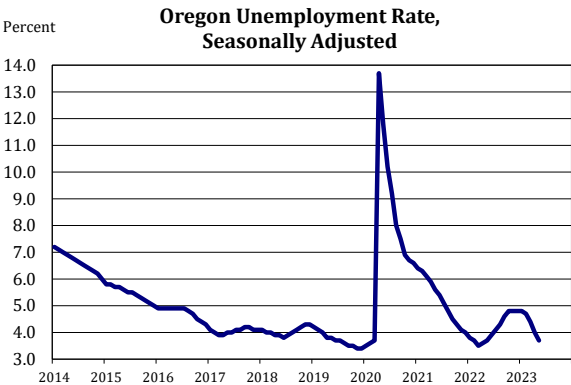
Professional and business services job gains have decelerated over the past year. It added 5,200 jobs since May 2022, growing at the same rate of 2.0% as Oregon's total nonfarm payroll employment. But at a total of 268,000 jobs in May, professional and business services is well above its pre-recession peak figure of 257,700 jobs in February 2020.

Local government, at 229,700 jobs in May, was back near its pre-recession total. This sector, which includes schools and city and county governments, took about three years to fully rebound from the Pandemic Recession cutbacks during 2020.

Retail trade employment ticked down 500 jobs in May. Industry employment has been steady recently, coming in at 208,800 in May, which was close to its jobs totals of 2017 through 2023, with the exception of the recession-induced plunge of 2020.

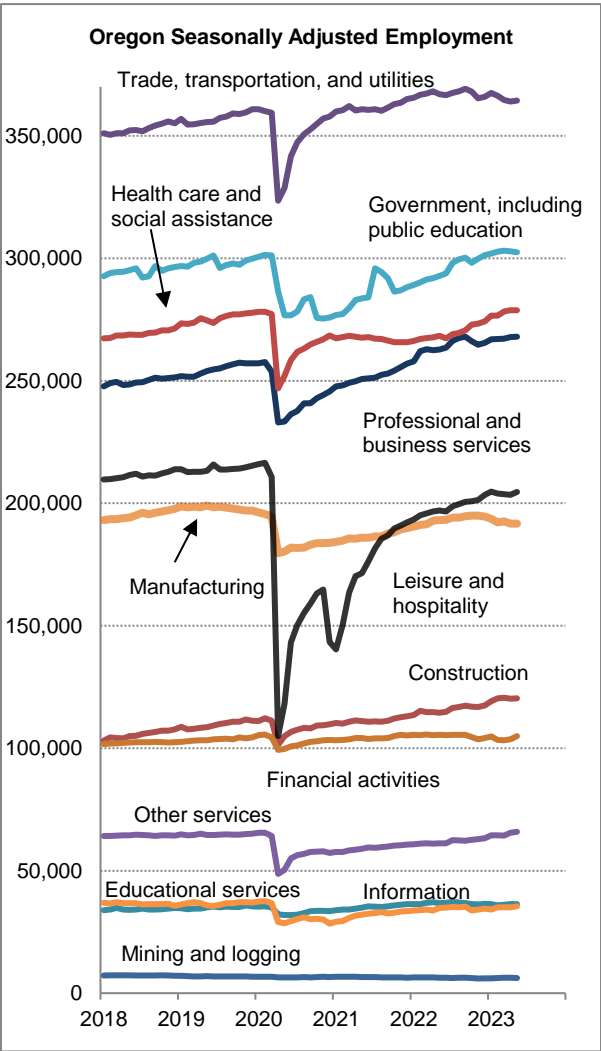
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Wednesday, June 21, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Wednesday, July 19.



**Seasonal Expectations and
Over-the-Month Employment Changes
April to May 2023**

| INDUSTRY | Normal Seasonal Movement | Unadjusted Change | Seasonally Adjusted Change |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total nonfarm payroll employment | 10,800 | 14,400 | 3,600 |
| Total private | 8,200 | 12,100 | 3,900 |
| Mining and logging | 100 | 0 | -100 |
| Construction | 2,600 | 2,800 | 200 |
| Manufacturing | 900 | 900 | 0 |
| Wholesale trade | 300 | 200 | -100 |
| Retail trade | 600 | 100 | -500 |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities | -400 | 600 | 1,000 |
| Information | -100 | 0 | 100 |
| Financial activities | 700 | 1,900 | 1,200 |
| Professional and business services | 700 | 900 | 200 |
| Private educational services | -1,300 | -900 | 400 |
| Health care and social assistance | -700 | -700 | 0 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 4,700 | 5,800 | 1,100 |
| Other services | 100 | 500 | 400 |
| Government | 2,600 | 2,300 | -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 2022 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), select *Tools*, then choose *LAUS* or *CES* under the *Economy* header. 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.

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

| | May 2023 | April 2023 | May 2022 | Change From April 2023 | Change From May 2022 |
|--|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Labor Force Status | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | 2,126,788 | 2,126,521 | 2,157,494 | 267 | -30,706 |
| Unemployed | 68,105 | 60,389 | 72,603 | 7,716 | -4,498 |
| Unemployment rate | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.4 | 0.4 | -0.2 |
| Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.7 | -0.3 | 0.0 |
| Employed | 2,058,683 | 2,066,132 | 2,084,891 | -7,449 | -26,208 |
| Other Labor Force Indicators | | | | | |
| Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted | 62.2 | 62.4 | 62.7 | -0.2 | -0.5 |
| Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 0.1 | 0.6 |
| Nonfarm Payroll Employment | | | | | |
| Total nonfarm payroll employment | 1,989,000 | 1,974,600 | 1,945,100 | 14,400 | 43,900 |
| Total private | 1,676,700 | 1,664,600 | 1,645,600 | 12,100 | 31,100 |
| Mining and logging | 6,200 | 6,200 | 6,300 | 0 | -100 |
| Logging | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,600 | 0 | -100 |
| Construction | 122,300 | 119,500 | 114,600 | 2,800 | 7,700 |
| Construction of buildings | 34,600 | 34,000 | 33,300 | 600 | 1,300 |
| Residential building construction | 22,700 | 22,300 | 21,400 | 400 | 1,300 |
| Nonresidential building construction | 11,900 | 11,700 | 11,900 | 200 | 0 |
| Heavy and civil engineering construction | 11,300 | 11,000 | 10,300 | 300 | 1,000 |
| Specialty trade contractors | 76,400 | 74,500 | 71,000 | 1,900 | 5,400 |
| Building foundation and exterior contractors | 14,100 | 13,800 | 13,200 | 300 | 900 |
| Building equipment contractors | 35,800 | 35,000 | 32,900 | 800 | 2,900 |
| Building finishing contractors | 16,200 | 15,800 | 15,100 | 400 | 1,100 |
| Other specialty trade contractors | 10,300 | 9,900 | 9,800 | 400 | 500 |
| Manufacturing | 191,400 | 190,500 | 192,600 | 900 | -1,200 |
| Durable goods | 134,800 | 135,100 | 135,100 | -300 | -300 |
| Wood product manufacturing | 22,700 | 22,700 | 23,300 | 0 | -600 |
| Sawmills and wood preservation | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,500 | 0 | -200 |
| Plywood and engineered wood product mfg. | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,500 | 0 | -200 |
| Other wood product manufacturing | 8,100 | 8,100 | 8,300 | 0 | -200 |
| Primary metal manufacturing | 7,400 | 7,400 | 7,200 | 0 | 200 |
| Fabricated metal product manufacturing | 16,000 | 15,900 | 16,200 | 100 | -200 |
| Machinery manufacturing | 14,900 | 14,900 | 14,500 | 0 | 400 |
| Computer and electronic product manufacturing | 41,800 | 41,600 | 41,000 | 200 | 800 |
| Semiconductor and electronic component mfg. | 34,500 | 34,400 | 33,700 | 100 | 800 |
| Electronic instrument manufacturing | 4,700 | 4,700 | 4,800 | 0 | -100 |
| Transportation equipment manufacturing | 10,700 | 10,700 | 10,800 | 0 | -100 |
| Nondurable goods | 56,600 | 55,400 | 57,500 | 1,200 | -900 |
| Food manufacturing | 27,500 | 27,400 | 28,500 | 100 | -1,000 |
| Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty | 9,500 | 9,300 | 9,700 | 200 | -200 |
| Paper manufacturing | 4,000 | 3,900 | 4,200 | 100 | -200 |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities | 359,000 | 358,100 | 364,200 | 900 | -5,200 |
| Wholesale trade | 76,000 | 75,800 | 76,900 | 200 | -900 |
| Merchant wholesalers, durable goods | 38,400 | 38,500 | 38,600 | -100 | -200 |
| Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods | 30,400 | 30,100 | 30,900 | 300 | -500 |
| Wholesale trade agents and brokers | 7,200 | 7,200 | 7,400 | 0 | -200 |
| Retail trade | 204,700 | 204,600 | 209,200 | 100 | -4,500 |
| Motor vehicle and parts dealers | 26,200 | 26,000 | 26,800 | 200 | -600 |
| Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers | 17,600 | 17,500 | 19,000 | 100 | -1,400 |
| Food and beverage retailers | 47,900 | 47,900 | 46,700 | 0 | 1,200 |
| General merchandise retailers | 38,700 | 39,000 | 40,200 | -300 | -1,500 |
| Clothing, clothing accessories, shoe, and jewelry retailers | 15,100 | 15,100 | 15,500 | 0 | -400 |
| Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, book, and miscellaneous | 29,000 | 28,400 | 29,700 | 600 | -700 |

| | May 2023 | April 2023 | May 2022 | Change From April 2023 | Change From May 2022 |
|---|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities | 78,300 | 77,700 | 78,100 | 600 | 200 |
| Utilities | 5,100 | 5,000 | 4,900 | 100 | 200 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 73,200 | 72,700 | 73,200 | 500 | 0 |
| Truck transportation | 19,000 | 18,700 | 19,000 | 300 | 0 |
| Couriers and messengers | 13,800 | 13,700 | 14,500 | 100 | -700 |
| Warehousing and storage | 17,900 | 17,700 | 19,400 | 200 | -1,500 |
| Information | 36,200 | 36,200 | 36,800 | 0 | -600 |
| Publishing industries | 16,900 | 16,800 | 16,600 | 100 | 300 |
| Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Software publishers | 14,500 | 14,400 | 14,200 | 100 | 300 |
| Telecommunications | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,400 | 0 | -200 |
| Financial activities | 104,700 | 102,800 | 105,300 | 1,900 | -600 |
| Finance and insurance | 54,100 | 53,900 | 55,700 | 200 | -1,600 |
| Credit intermediation and related activities | 23,500 | 23,600 | 24,900 | -100 | -1,400 |
| Insurance carriers and related activities | 23,900 | 23,800 | 24,300 | 100 | -400 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 50,600 | 48,900 | 49,600 | 1,700 | 1,000 |
| Real estate | 45,700 | 44,500 | 44,100 | 1,200 | 1,600 |
| Professional and business services | 268,500 | 267,600 | 262,800 | 900 | 5,700 |
| Professional and technical services | 111,400 | 112,300 | 108,100 | -900 | 3,300 |
| Legal services | 11,700 | 11,700 | 11,800 | 0 | -100 |
| Architectural and engineering services | 18,700 | 18,800 | 18,400 | -100 | 300 |
| Computer systems design and related services | 16,600 | 17,000 | 17,700 | -400 | -1,100 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 51,100 | 50,800 | 49,300 | 300 | 1,800 |
| Administrative and waste services | 106,000 | 104,500 | 105,400 | 1,500 | 600 |
| Administrative and support services | 99,700 | 98,000 | 99,200 | 1,700 | 500 |
| Employment services | 44,500 | 42,800 | 45,000 | 1,700 | -500 |
| Business support services | 8,400 | 8,400 | 9,200 | 0 | -800 |
| Services to buildings and dwellings | 27,300 | 27,600 | 26,500 | -300 | 800 |
| Private education and health services | 315,700 | 317,300 | 303,400 | -1,600 | 12,300 |
| Private educational services | 35,800 | 36,700 | 35,100 | -900 | 700 |
| Health care and social assistance | 279,900 | 280,600 | 268,300 | -700 | 11,600 |
| Ambulatory health care services | 95,500 | 96,200 | 94,900 | -700 | 600 |
| Hospitals | 59,400 | 59,400 | 57,600 | 0 | 1,800 |
| Nursing and residential care facilities | 51,900 | 51,700 | 48,700 | 200 | 3,200 |
| Social assistance | 73,100 | 73,300 | 67,100 | -200 | 6,000 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 206,900 | 201,100 | 198,000 | 5,800 | 8,900 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 27,600 | 25,800 | 24,700 | 1,800 | 2,900 |
| Amusement, gambling, and recreation | 19,200 | 18,100 | 17,200 | 1,100 | 2,000 |
| Accommodation and food services | 179,300 | 175,300 | 173,300 | 4,000 | 6,000 |
| Accommodation | 25,400 | 23,900 | 22,600 | 1,500 | 2,800 |
| Food services and drinking places | 153,900 | 151,400 | 150,700 | 2,500 | 3,200 |
| Full-service restaurants | 67,800 | 65,100 | 64,100 | 2,700 | 3,700 |
| Limited-service eating places | 70,500 | 70,400 | 71,200 | 100 | -700 |
| Other services | 65,800 | 65,300 | 61,600 | 500 | 4,200 |
| Repair and maintenance | 19,000 | 19,100 | 19,100 | -100 | -100 |
| Personal and laundry services | 15,600 | 15,500 | 14,500 | 100 | 1,100 |
| Membership associations and organizations | 31,200 | 30,700 | 28,000 | 500 | 3,200 |
| Religious organizations | 15,600 | 15,300 | 14,600 | 300 | 1,000 |
| Government | 312,300 | 310,000 | 299,500 | 2,300 | 12,800 |
| Federal government | 28,700 | 27,800 | 28,200 | 900 | 500 |
| State government | 44,600 | 44,400 | 42,600 | 200 | 2,000 |
| State education | 1,400 | 1,300 | 1,100 | 100 | 300 |
| Local government | 239,000 | 237,800 | 228,700 | 1,200 | 10,300 |
| Indian tribal | 8,100 | 7,900 | 7,500 | 200 | 600 |
| Local education | 141,200 | 139,800 | 134,100 | 1,400 | 7,100 |
| 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.