

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 16, 2025

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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 4.6% in March

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.6% in March and 4.5% in February, after rising gradually over the past year from 4.1% in March 2024. Oregon's 4.6% unemployment rate was the highest since August 2021, when the rate was 4.7%, and slightly higher than during the three years prior to the COVID recession that started in 2020. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.2% in March and 4.1% in February.

In March, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 7,300 jobs, following a revised gain of 1,600 jobs in February. March's gains were largest in **health care and social assistance** (+4,600 jobs); **professional and business services** (+1,000); **other services** (+800); and **wholesale trade** (+700). None of the other major industries had a job change of more than 400 jobs.

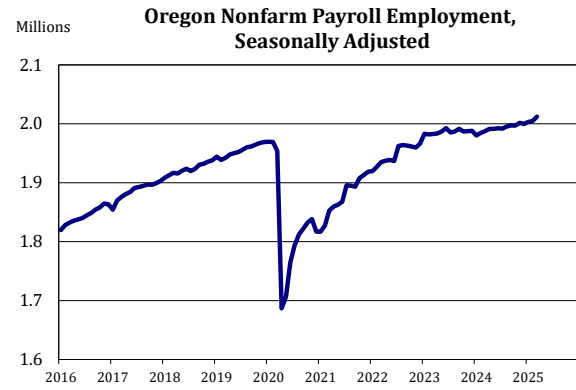
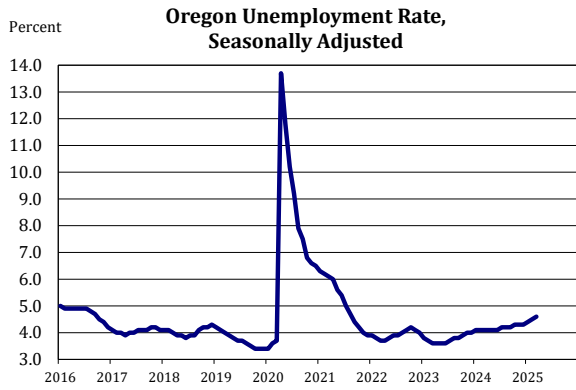
The return of workers who were on strike at a major health care provider contributed to the one-month gain of 4,600 jobs in health care and social assistance during March. This industry has been leading private-sector job growth in Oregon over the past few years. It added 18,400 jobs, or 6.2%, in the 12 months through March, continuing a three-year streak of rapid growth.

Professional and business services added jobs in each of the first three months of the year, with gains totaling 4,500 jobs in that time. This reversed a generally declining trend in the industry during the prior two years when it shed 5,400 jobs during the 24 months ending December 2024.

Other services – an industry which includes religious organizations, membership associations, personal services, laundry services, and repair and maintenance services – has expanded steadily for more than four years. It employed 69,300 in March and is now well above its pre-pandemic high of 65,700 jobs in January 2020.

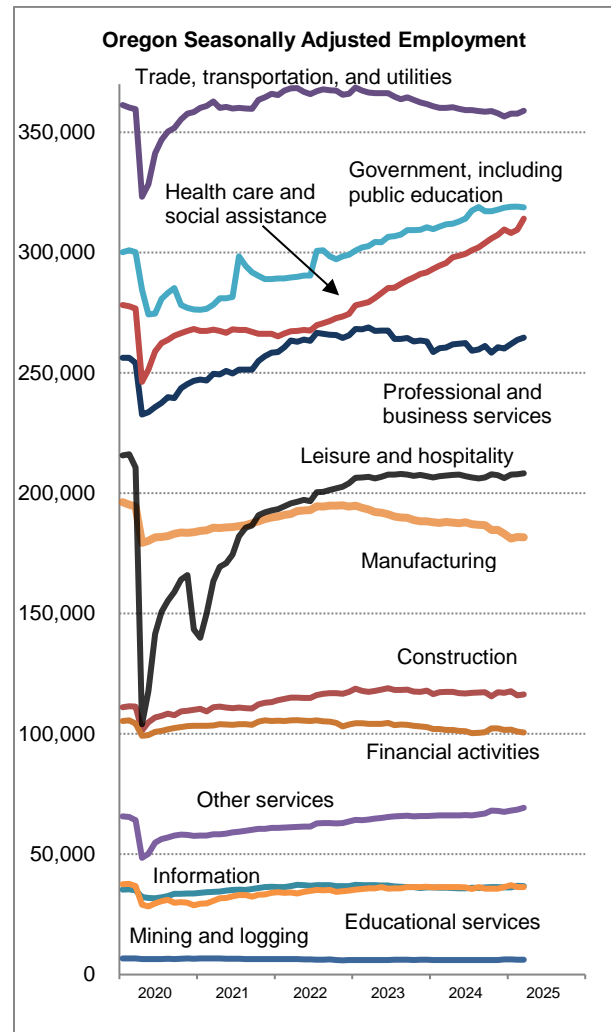
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 22, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 14.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes February to March 2025

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	6,600	13,900	7,300
Total private	5,400	13,000	7,600
Mining and logging	100	100	0
Construction	200	600	400
Manufacturing	-300	-400	-100
Wholesale trade	0	700	700
Retail trade	-600	-600	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	-100	300	400
Information	-100	-300	-200
Financial activities	-200	-600	-400
Professional and business services	1,100	2,100	1,000
Private educational services	-100	-100	0
Health care and social assistance	1,100	5,700	4,600
Leisure and hospitality	3,700	4,100	400
Other services	600	1,400	800
Government	1,200	900	-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 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.

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Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	Change From February 2025	Change From March 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,212,328	2,204,246	2,195,220	8,082	17,108
Unemployed	115,116	115,290	95,896	-174	19,220
Unemployment rate	5.2	5.2	4.4	0.0	0.8
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.6	4.5	4.1	0.1	0.5
Employed	2,097,212	2,088,956	2,099,324	8,256	-2,112
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.7	62.7	62.6	0.0	0.1
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	8.5	8.1	8.2	0.4	0.3
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	2,001,500	1,987,600	1,982,200	13,900	19,300
Total private	1,676,800	1,663,800	1,663,500	13,000	13,300
Mining and logging	6,100	6,000	5,900	100	200
Logging	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	-100
Construction	113,000	112,400	115,100	600	-2,100
Construction of buildings	31,800	31,000	32,200	800	-400
Residential building construction	20,500	19,700	20,500	800	0
Nonresidential building construction	11,300	11,300	11,700	0	-400
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,100	11,000	11,000	100	100
Specialty trade contractors	70,100	70,400	71,900	-300	-1,800
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,700	12,600	13,300	100	-600
Building equipment contractors	33,100	33,900	34,200	-800	-1,100
Building finishing contractors	14,700	14,400	14,800	300	-100
Other specialty trade contractors	9,600	9,500	9,600	100	0
Manufacturing	178,900	179,300	186,900	-400	-8,000
Durable goods	126,700	127,300	132,200	-600	-5,500
Wood product manufacturing	22,100	22,100	22,800	0	-700
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,200	6,200	6,600	0	-400
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,300	8,300	8,400	0	-100
Other wood product manufacturing	7,600	7,600	7,800	0	-200
Primary metal manufacturing	7,700	7,700	7,500	0	200
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,000	15,100	15,400	-100	-400
Machinery manufacturing	13,600	13,600	13,800	0	-200
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	36,900	36,900	40,000	0	-3,100
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,400	30,400	33,100	0	-2,700
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,400	4,400	4,700	0	-300
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,600	10,600	11,300	0	-700
Nondurable goods	52,200	52,000	54,700	200	-2,500
Food manufacturing	26,300	26,200	27,200	100	-900
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	8,900	8,900	8,900	0	0
Paper manufacturing	3,800	3,800	4,100	0	-300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	355,300	354,900	356,700	400	-1,400
Wholesale trade	78,300	77,600	78,200	700	100
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	41,200	40,700	40,100	500	1,100
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	29,800	29,700	30,800	100	-1,000
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	7,300	7,200	7,300	100	0
Retail trade	200,300	200,900	202,100	-600	-1,800
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,000	25,700	26,000	300	0
Building material and garden equipment and supplies	17,200	16,900	17,600	300	-400
Food and beverage retailers	46,300	46,400	46,800	-100	-500
General merchandise retailers	39,200	39,600	39,100	-400	100
Clothing, clothing accessories, shoe, and jewelry retail	14,900	15,000	15,000	-100	-100
Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, book, and	27,900	28,400	28,300	-500	-400

	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	Change From February 2025	Change From March 2024
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	76,700	76,400	76,400	300	300
Utilities	5,300	5,300	5,000	0	300
Transportation and warehousing	71,400	71,100	71,400	300	0
Truck transportation	18,300	18,100	18,200	200	100
Couriers and messengers	13,700	14,100	14,000	-400	-300
Warehousing and storage	17,900	17,900	17,300	0	600
Information	36,200	36,500	36,100	-300	100
Publishing industries	16,100	16,200	16,300	-100	-200
Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers	2,200	2,200	2,300	0	-100
Software publishers	13,900	14,000	14,000	-100	-100
Telecommunications	3,800	3,900	4,000	-100	-200
Financial activities	99,200	99,800	100,700	-600	-1,500
Finance and insurance	52,900	53,100	53,600	-200	-700
Credit intermediation and related activities	20,900	21,000	21,800	-100	-900
Insurance carriers and related activities	25,100	25,300	25,100	-200	0
Real estate and rental and leasing	46,300	46,700	47,100	-400	-800
Real estate	40,300	40,500	41,400	-200	-1,100
Professional and business services	263,500	261,400	259,200	2,100	4,300
Professional and technical services	112,900	113,000	111,100	-100	1,800
Legal services	12,400	12,400	11,900	0	500
Architectural and engineering services	19,700	19,600	19,000	100	700
Computer systems design and related services	16,800	17,100	17,600	-300	-800
Management of companies and enterprises	48,800	49,000	50,600	-200	-1,800
Administrative and waste services	101,800	99,400	97,500	2,400	4,300
Administrative and support services	94,300	92,200	92,500	2,100	1,800
Employment services	39,400	38,300	38,700	1,100	700
Business support services	6,100	6,100	7,000	0	-900
Services to buildings and dwellings	26,600	25,900	26,600	700	0
Private education and health services	353,300	347,700	335,100	5,600	18,200
Private educational services	38,200	38,300	38,700	-100	-500
Health care and social assistance	315,100	309,400	296,400	5,700	18,700
Ambulatory health care services	107,200	104,700	102,300	2,500	4,900
Hospitals	64,400	62,500	61,200	1,900	3,200
Nursing and residential care facilities	59,400	58,700	55,700	700	3,700
Social assistance	84,100	83,500	77,200	600	6,900
Leisure and hospitality	202,400	198,300	202,000	4,100	400
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	27,100	25,900	27,700	1,200	-600
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	19,500	18,600	20,200	900	-700
Accommodation and food services	175,300	172,400	174,300	2,900	1,000
Accommodation	23,200	22,800	23,100	400	100
Food services and drinking places	152,100	149,600	151,200	2,500	900
Full-service restaurants	61,300	60,300	62,100	1,000	-800
Limited-service eating places	74,100	74,100	72,300	0	1,800
Other services	68,900	67,500	65,800	1,400	3,100
Repair and maintenance	21,500	21,400	20,500	100	1,000
Personal and laundry services	16,000	15,700	15,400	300	600
Membership associations and organizations	31,400	30,400	29,900	1,000	1,500
Religious organizations	14,700	14,500	14,500	200	200
Government	324,700	323,800	318,700	900	6,000
Federal government	28,400	28,200	28,900	200	-500
State government	48,700	48,800	46,800	-100	1,900
State education	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
Local government	247,600	246,800	243,000	800	4,600
Indian tribal	9,100	9,100	8,500	0	600
Local education	145,300	144,800	141,800	500	3,500
Labor-management disputes	200	3,500	0	-3,300	200

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.