State of Oregon
Employment Department

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 18, 2026

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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was 4.9% in October

Oregon's unemployment rate was little changed at 4.9% in October from 5.0% in September. It has held to a range between 4.9% and 5.3% for the past 21 months, since February 2025 when it was 4.9%. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.1% in October and 4.2% in September.

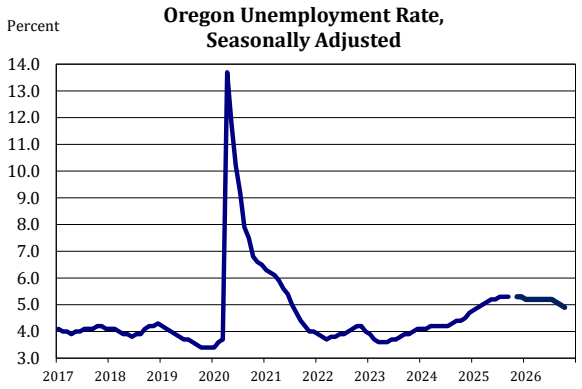
In October, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 300 jobs, following a revised gain of 4,700 jobs in September. October's gains were largest in **professional and business services** (+2,200 jobs); **health care and social assistance** (+1,300); and **leisure and hospitality** (+900). Losses were largest in **construction** (-1,800 jobs); **retail trade** (-1,500); and **wholesale trade** (-1,400).

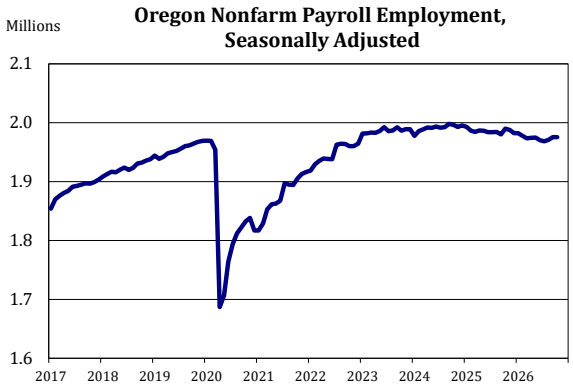
Several industries rebounded over the past three months. Professional and business services added 3,200 jobs since July. Manufacturing added 2,600 jobs since July, partially reversing steady declines during the past three years. Leisure and hospitality added 2,400 jobs in the past three months, following a flat employment trend during the prior three years. Government added 2,300 jobs since July, following losses in prior months.

Health care and social assistance was the fastest growing industry in the past 12 months, adding 6,700 jobs, or 2.1% in that time. While the health care industries have seen slower growth, social assistance continued its very rapid growth of the past four years, adding 3,900 jobs, or 4.6%, in the past 12 months.

Construction employment continued its decline of the past three years. At 108,200 jobs in October, it was down 5,300 jobs, or 4.7%, in the past 12 months. Losses during that time were most pronounced in building equipment contractors (-2,700 jobs, or -8.1%) and building finishing contractors (-1,200 jobs, or -8.2%). Since reaching a record high of 118,900 jobs in June 2023, construction declined by 10,700 jobs, or 9.0%.

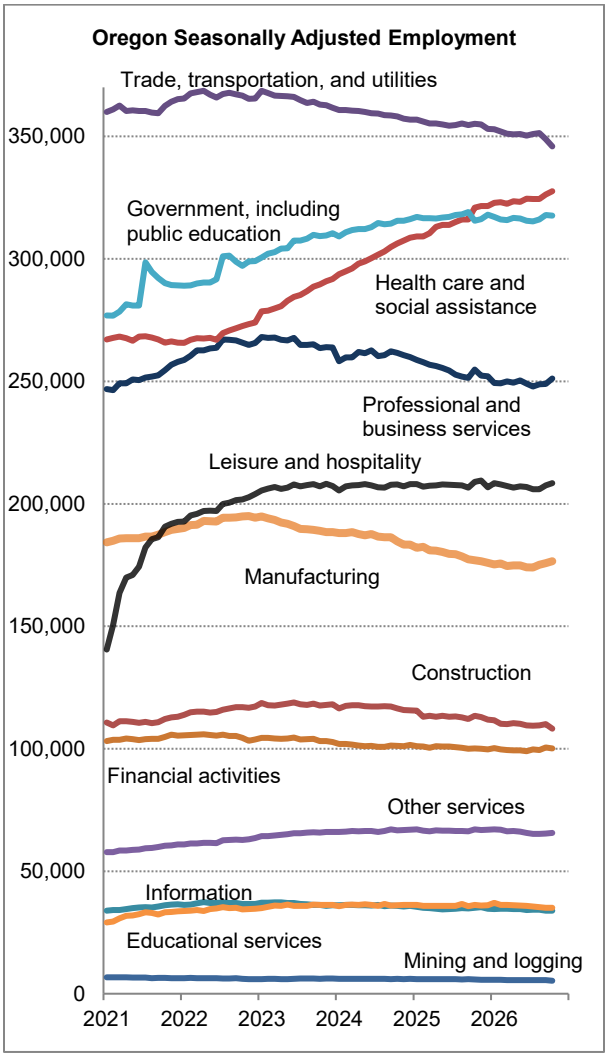
Next Press Releases
The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Nov. 24, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Wednesday, Dec. 16.





Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes September to October 2026

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	8,000	7,700	-300
Total private	-2,300	-2,300	0
Mining and logging	-100	-300	-200
Construction	-500	-2,300	-1,800
Manufacturing	-1,100	-300	800
Wholesale trade	-400	-1,800	-1,400
Retail trade	1,500	0	-1,500
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	300	-100
Information	0	0	0
Financial activities	-600	-1,000	-400
Professional and business services	400	2,600	2,200
Private educational services	900	900	0
Health care and social assistance	600	1,900	1,300
Leisure and hospitality	-3,500	-2,600	900
Other services	100	300	200
Government	10,300	10,000	-300



Notes:
All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the component industries within construction, 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 April, May, and June 2026 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. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit 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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State of Oregon
Employment Department

Workforce and Economic Research
2025 Benchmark
Nov. 18, 2026

Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	Change From September 2026	Change From October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,235,742	2,228,353	not available	7,389	not available
Unemployed	97,278	94,223	not available	3,055	not available
Unemployment rate	4.4	4.2	not available	0.2	not available
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.9	5.0	not available	-0.1	not available
Employed	2,138,464	2,134,130	not available	4,334	not available
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.7	62.6	not available	0.1	not available
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	8.8	8.9	not available	-0.1	not available
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,986,300	1,978,600	1,983,400	7,700	2,900
Total private	1,667,900	1,670,200	1,663,500	-2,300	4,400
Mining and logging	5,700	6,000	6,000	-300	-300
Logging	3,900	4,100	4,100	-200	-200
Construction	114,200	116,500	115,400	-2,300	-1,200
Construction of buildings	31,700	32,100	31,400	-400	300
Residential building construction	20,300	20,500	20,100	-200	200
Nonresidential building construction	11,400	11,600	11,300	-200	100
Heavy and civil engineering construction	12,400	12,700	12,300	-300	100
Specialty trade contractors	70,100	71,700	71,700	-1,600	-1,600
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,700	12,900	12,900	-200	-200
Building equipment contractors	33,000	33,700	33,700	-700	-700
Building finishing contractors	14,000	14,600	15,000	-600	-1,000
Other specialty trade contractors	10,400	10,500	10,100	-100	300
Manufacturing	176,400	176,700	178,000	-300	-1,600
Durable goods	121,800	121,800	122,200	0	-400
Wood product manufacturing	21,500	21,500	21,800	0	-300
Sawmills and wood preservation	5,800	5,800	5,900	0	-100
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,400	8,400	8,500	0	-100
Other wood product manufacturing	7,300	7,300	7,400	0	-100
Primary metal manufacturing	7,400	7,300	7,300	100	100
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	14,900	15,000	15,000	-100	-100
Machinery manufacturing	13,500	13,500	13,700	0	-200
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	30,600	30,900	32,700	-300	-2,100
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	25,100	25,200	26,400	-100	-1,300
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,300	4,400	4,400	-100	-100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,600	10,600	10,700	0	-100
Nondurable goods	54,600	54,900	55,800	-300	-1,200
Food manufacturing	28,600	28,700	29,200	-100	-600
Trade, transportation, and utilities	348,400	349,900	355,800	-1,500	-7,400
Wholesale trade	71,800	73,600	74,700	-1,800	-2,900
Retail trade	199,400	199,400	201,000	0	-1,600
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	24,300	24,700	25,500	-400	-1,200
Food and beverage retailers	45,300	45,900	46,400	-600	-1,100
General merchandise retailers	40,900	40,100	39,200	800	1,700

	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	Change From September 2026	Change From October 2025
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	77,200	76,900	80,100	300	-2,900
Utilities	5,200	5,300	5,200	-100	0
Transportation and warehousing	72,000	71,600	74,900	400	-2,900
Truck transportation	16,700	16,700	17,600	0	-900
Couriers and messengers	17,400	16,500	16,800	900	600
Warehousing and storage	17,900	17,800	18,100	100	-200
Information	31,900	31,900	33,400	0	-1,500
Software publishers	12,100	12,100	12,800	0	-700
Financial activities	100,500	101,500	99,100	-1,000	1,400
Finance and insurance	50,900	51,600	51,400	-700	-500
Credit intermediation and related activities	21,100	21,400	21,000	-300	100
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,200	24,800	24,100	-600	100
Real estate and rental and leasing	49,600	49,900	47,700	-300	1,900
Real estate	43,300	43,500	41,800	-200	1,500
Professional and business services	253,500	250,900	253,500	2,600	0
Professional and technical services	108,300	107,600	107,700	700	600
Architectural and engineering services	18,600	18,600	19,100	0	-500
Computer systems design and related services	15,200	15,500	16,900	-300	-1,700
Management of companies and enterprises	47,500	47,600	47,900	-100	-400
Administrative and waste services	97,700	95,700	97,900	2,000	-200
Employment services	35,700	33,200	36,000	2,500	-300
Private education and health services	363,500	360,700	351,100	2,800	12,400
Private educational services	36,900	36,000	36,300	900	600
Health care and social assistance	326,600	324,700	314,800	1,900	11,800
Ambulatory health care services	106,600	106,200	105,800	400	800
Hospitals	65,600	65,200	65,400	400	200
Nursing and residential care facilities	63,100	62,200	60,200	900	2,900
Social assistance	91,300	91,100	83,400	200	7,900
Leisure and hospitality	206,900	209,500	205,800	-2,600	1,100
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	28,500	29,800	26,800	-1,300	1,700
Accommodation and food services	178,400	179,700	179,000	-1,300	-600
Accommodation	25,400	25,900	24,800	-500	600
Food services and drinking places	153,000	153,800	154,200	-800	-1,200
Restaurants and other eating places	135,400	136,100	137,400	-700	-2,000
Other services	66,900	66,600	65,400	300	1,500
Repair and maintenance	20,700	20,400	20,100	300	600
Personal and laundry services	16,100	16,000	16,000	100	100
Membership associations and organizations	30,100	30,200	29,300	-100	800
Government	318,400	308,400	319,900	10,000	-1,500
Federal government	27,000	27,200	27,700	-200	-700
State government	49,400	49,400	49,100	0	300
State education	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
Local government	242,000	231,800	243,100	10,200	-1,100
Indian tribal	9,100	9,200	9,000	-100	100
Local education	135,200	125,100	137,300	10,100	-2,100
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.

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