

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Nick Beleiciks](#), State Employment Economist  
(503) 947-1267 [Video](#) and [Audio](#) available at 10:00  
AM

[David Cooke](#), Economist (503) 947-1272

## Oregon's Economy Remains Strong—Adds 2,700 Jobs in February

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in January and February. For 14 consecutive months, Oregon's unemployment rate has been close to 4.1 percent, its lowest level since comparable records began in 1976. The U.S. unemployment rate was also 4.1 percent in both January and February.

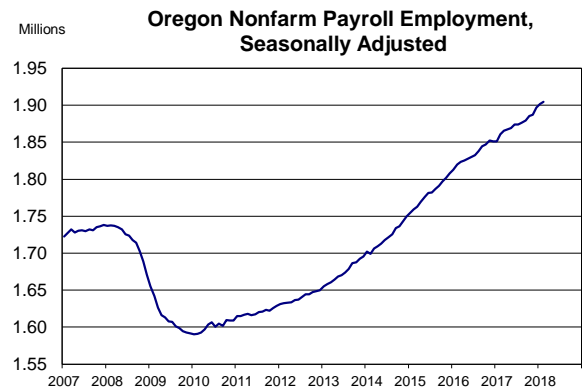
In February, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment grew by 2,700 jobs, following a revised gain of 4,900 jobs in January. Three major industries each added 1,000 jobs or more: **retail trade** (+1,800 jobs), **construction** (+1,000), and **health care and social assistance** (+1,000). These gains were partially offset by losses of 1,100 jobs in **private educational services**, 900 in **professional and business services**, and 700 in **manufacturing**.

Payroll employment grew by 43,700 jobs, or 2.3 percent, in the most recent 12 months. In that time, gains were fastest in **construction** (+7,400 jobs, or 7.8%), **other services** (+3,200 jobs, or 5.1%), and **leisure and hospitality** (+9,700 jobs, or 4.8%). Meanwhile, growth in **professional and business services** slowed dramatically, as it added only 2,000 jobs in the past 12 months. The gain of only 0.8 percent was much slower than its average annual growth rate of 4.0 percent from mid-2010 through mid-2016.

Over-the-year job growth numbers for all states were released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on March 12th. Most Oregon industries ranked high in growth when compared with other states. Oregon's total nonfarm employment grew 2.7 percent from January 2017 to January 2018. That was the fifth fastest job growth among the states, following Utah (3.1%), and Idaho, Nevada, and Washington (each at 2.8%). Oregon's private sector tied with Idaho for the second-fastest job growth (behind Utah). Oregon industries placing in the top three include **other services** (1st), **private education and health services** (2nd behind Nevada), **leisure and hospitality** (2nd behind Utah), and **financial activities**, which tied for third with New Mexico (behind Idaho and Arizona).

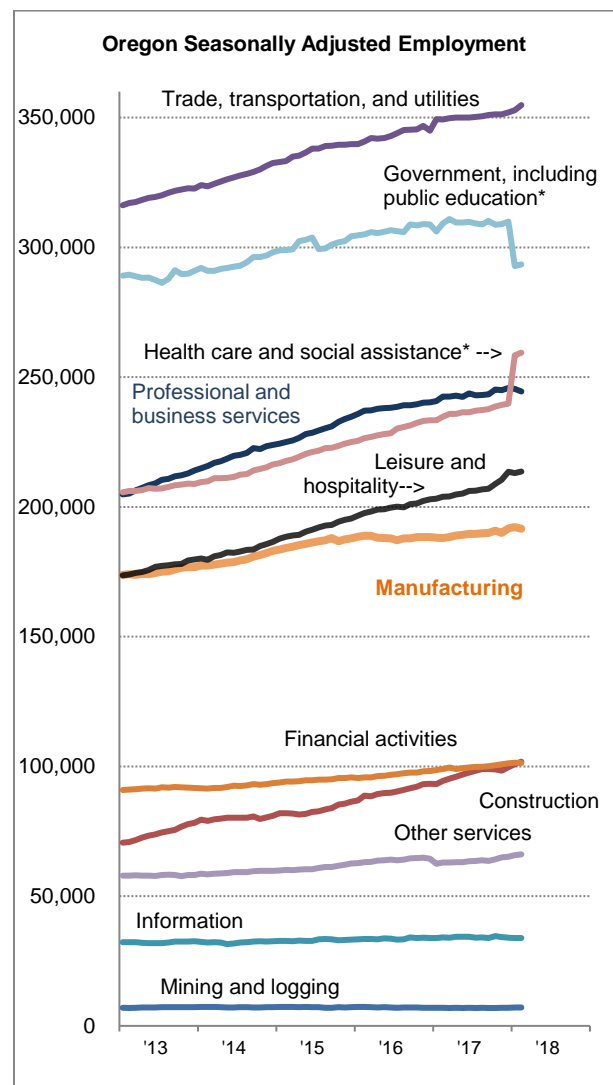
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, March 27th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Tuesday, April 17th.



**Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes January to February 2018**

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	13,900	16,600	2,700
Total private	9,000	11,100	2,100
Mining and logging	100	100	0
Construction	1,100	2,100	1,000
Manufacturing	1,900	1,200	-700
Wholesale trade	500	500	0
Retail trade	-2,600	-800	1,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-600	-400	200
Information	200	200	0
Financial activities	100	0	-100
Professional and business services	2,200	1,300	-900
Private educational services	2,200	1,100	-1,100
Health care and social assistance	1,700	2,700	1,000
Leisure and hospitality	1,800	2,400	600
Other services	400	700	300
Government	4,900	5,500	600



**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.

\*Effective with the January 2018 data, employment of Oregon's approximately 17,000 home care workers are counted in private health care and social assistance instead of state government. The change was due to legislative action clarifying that for purposes of workforce and labor market information, home care workers are not employees of state government. The reclassification affects private sector and government monthly change figures for January 2018 and will affect over-the-year change figures through December 2018. It does not affect total payroll employment levels.

The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at [www.QualityInfo.org/press-release](http://www.QualityInfo.org/press-release). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.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.

For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon centers or go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

### Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	February 2018	January 2018	February 2017	Change From January 2018	Change From February 2017
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	2,123,329	2,107,516	2,062,476	15,813	60,853
Unemployed	91,976	89,604	88,807	2,372	3,169
Unemployment rate	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0
Employed	2,031,353	2,017,912	1,973,669	13,441	57,684
<b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	63.4	63.3	62.8	0.1	0.6
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	8.0	8.3	8.8	-0.3	-0.8
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,884,000	1,867,400	1,842,500	16,600	41,500
Total private	1,585,300	1,574,200	1,527,500	11,100	57,800
Mining and logging	6,800	6,700	6,700	100	100
Logging	5,000	4,900	5,000	100	0
Construction	97,700	95,600	90,200	2,100	7,500
Construction of buildings	28,500	27,700	24,700	800	3,800
Residential building construction	17,700	16,900	14,800	800	2,900
Nonresidential building construction	10,800	10,800	9,900	0	900
Heavy and civil engineering construction	9,200	8,900	8,400	300	800
Specialty trade contractors	60,000	59,000	57,100	1,000	2,900
Building foundation and exterior contractors	11,800	11,400	11,100	400	700
Building equipment contractors	26,800	26,800	25,600	0	1,200
Building finishing contractors	13,500	13,200	12,900	300	600
Other specialty trade contractors	7,900	7,600	7,500	300	400
Manufacturing	189,100	187,900	185,400	1,200	3,700
Durable goods	132,600	132,400	129,700	200	2,900
Wood product manufacturing	23,100	23,200	22,800	-100	300
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,300	6,300	6,400	0	-100
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	9,200	9,200	8,600	0	600
Other wood product manufacturing	7,600	7,700	7,800	-100	-200
Primary metal manufacturing	8,200	8,200	8,100	0	100
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,900	15,800	15,800	100	100
Machinery manufacturing	13,600	13,600	12,600	0	1,000
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	37,400	37,400	36,300	0	1,100
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	29,200	29,100	28,100	100	1,100
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,200	5,300	5,100	-100	100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	11,600	11,600	11,800	0	-200
Nondurable goods	56,500	55,500	55,700	1,000	800
Food manufacturing	29,900	29,300	28,200	600	1,700
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	10,300	10,000	10,500	300	-200
Paper manufacturing	3,900	3,900	4,200	0	-300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	348,500	349,200	343,700	-700	4,800
Wholesale trade	76,000	75,500	76,000	500	0
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	33,300	33,000	33,200	300	100
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	28,400	28,200	28,600	200	-200
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	14,300	14,300	14,200	0	100
Retail trade	209,000	209,800	205,700	-800	3,300
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	27,000	26,900	26,100	100	900
Building material and garden supply stores	16,000	15,600	15,700	400	300
Food and beverage stores	43,400	43,600	42,600	-200	800
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16,100	16,700	16,800	-600	-700
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,300	9,600	9,500	-300	-200
General merchandise stores	40,600	41,900	40,700	-1,300	-100
Miscellaneous store retailers	15,400	15,200	14,800	200	600
Nonstore retailers	7,000	7,300	6,700	-300	300

	February 2018	January 2018	February 2017	Change From January 2018	Change From February 2017
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	63,500	63,900	62,000	-400	1,500
Utilities	4,700	4,700	4,600	0	100
Transportation and warehousing	58,800	59,200	57,400	-400	1,400
Truck transportation	18,900	18,600	18,500	300	400
Couriers and messengers	9,700	10,300	8,600	-600	1,100
Warehousing and storage	8,800	8,700	8,300	100	500
Information	33,800	33,600	34,100	200	-300
Publishing industries, except internet	14,600	14,600	14,700	0	-100
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	3,500	3,500	3,700	0	-200
Software publishers	11,100	11,100	11,000	0	100
Telecommunications	5,500	5,500	5,700	0	-200
Financial activities	100,800	100,800	97,500	0	3,300
Finance and insurance	57,900	58,000	57,200	-100	700
Credit intermediation and related activities	28,100	28,000	27,100	100	1,000
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,800	24,600	24,300	200	500
Real estate and rental and leasing	42,900	42,800	40,300	100	2,600
Real estate	38,000	38,100	35,200	-100	2,800
Professional and business services	240,100	238,800	238,200	1,300	1,900
Professional and technical services	94,600	94,100	94,400	500	200
Legal services	11,800	11,400	11,800	400	0
Architectural and engineering services	15,800	15,500	15,300	300	500
Computer systems design and related services	16,800	16,400	16,100	400	700
Management of companies and enterprises	47,400	47,100	46,500	300	900
Administrative and waste services	98,100	97,600	97,300	500	800
Administrative and support services	93,100	92,000	91,800	1,100	1,300
Employment services	39,300	39,600	39,000	-300	300
Business support services	13,300	13,400	14,100	-100	-800
Services to buildings and dwellings	21,800	21,300	21,300	500	500
Education and health services	298,500	294,700	273,300	3,800	25,200
Educational services	38,700	37,600	38,600	1,100	100
Health care and social assistance	259,800	257,100	234,700	2,700	25,100
Ambulatory health care services	92,600	91,800	88,400	800	4,200
Hospitals	59,000	58,900	58,200	100	800
Nursing and residential care facilities	51,300	51,100	50,500	200	800
Social assistance	56,900	55,300	37,600	1,600	19,300
Leisure and hospitality	204,300	201,900	196,000	2,400	8,300
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	24,900	24,300	25,600	600	-700
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	18,200	18,000	18,900	200	-700
Accommodation and food services	179,400	177,600	170,400	1,800	9,000
Accommodation	23,700	23,600	22,200	100	1,500
Food services and drinking places	155,700	154,000	148,200	1,700	7,500
Full-service restaurants	71,900	71,000	67,700	900	4,200
Limited-service eating places	68,900	69,000	65,700	-100	3,200
Other services	65,700	65,000	62,400	700	3,300
Repair and maintenance	19,000	18,700	17,800	300	1,200
Personal and laundry services	15,600	15,300	14,800	300	800
Membership associations and organizations	31,100	31,000	29,800	100	1,300
Religious organizations	16,900	17,000	16,800	-100	100
Government	298,700	293,200	315,000	5,500	-16,300
Federal government	27,100	27,100	27,300	0	-200
State government	39,000	38,800	56,200	200	-17,200
State education	800	800	800	0	0
Local government	232,600	227,300	231,500	5,300	1,100
Indian tribal	8,100	8,100	8,000	0	100
Local education	139,600	134,600	140,200	5,000	-600
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.