

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 16, 2015

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## Oregon's Labor Market Largely Unchanged in May

Oregon's unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 5.3 percent in May compared with 5.2 percent in April. This kept the state's rate close to the national level, as the U.S. unemployment rate was 5.5 in May and 5.4 percent in April.

An unemployment rate close to 5 percent is near the lowest Oregon's rate has been over the past 40 years. The rate did reach similar levels during four prior periods of economic expansion since the 1980s, but Oregon's rate never dropped substantially below 5 percent. The record low in the series, which dates back to 1976, occurred in January and February 1995, when the rate dropped to 4.7 percent.

Payroll employment growth paused in May, posting a seasonally adjusted decline of 1,400, the first monthly drop since September 2012. But this one-month decline is not an indicator of continued job losses. Despite the one-month decline in jobs, payroll employment was still up substantially over the year, having added 50,500 jobs, or 2.9 percent, since May 2014.

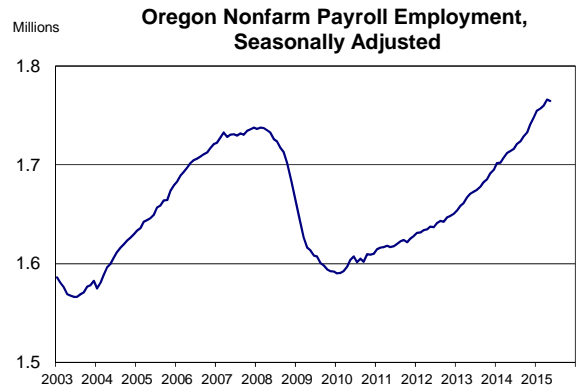
Taking a breather from rapid growth in recent months, most industries hired close to their normal, seasonal numbers of jobs in May. **Retail trade** was the biggest exception as it added only 700 jobs in May, when an increase of 2,100 is its seasonal norm.

The slight dip in the May jobs figures could be payback from strong gains in recent months. Oregon's mild and dry winter helped keep people employed in industries affected by winter weather. For example, **construction** employment didn't drop as much as normal during January and February. This allowed many in construction to get back to work sooner than usual. Following these unusual fluctuations, construction employment stood at its highest May total in seven years at 81,300 jobs, a gain of 1,100, or 1.4 percent, since May 2014.

Real wages are growing. With Oregon's unemployment rate dropping close to historic lows, wage gains reflected a tightening labor market. Average hourly earnings increased 2.2 percent over the year for Oregon's private-sector payroll employees. These wage gains were above the rate of consumer price inflation.

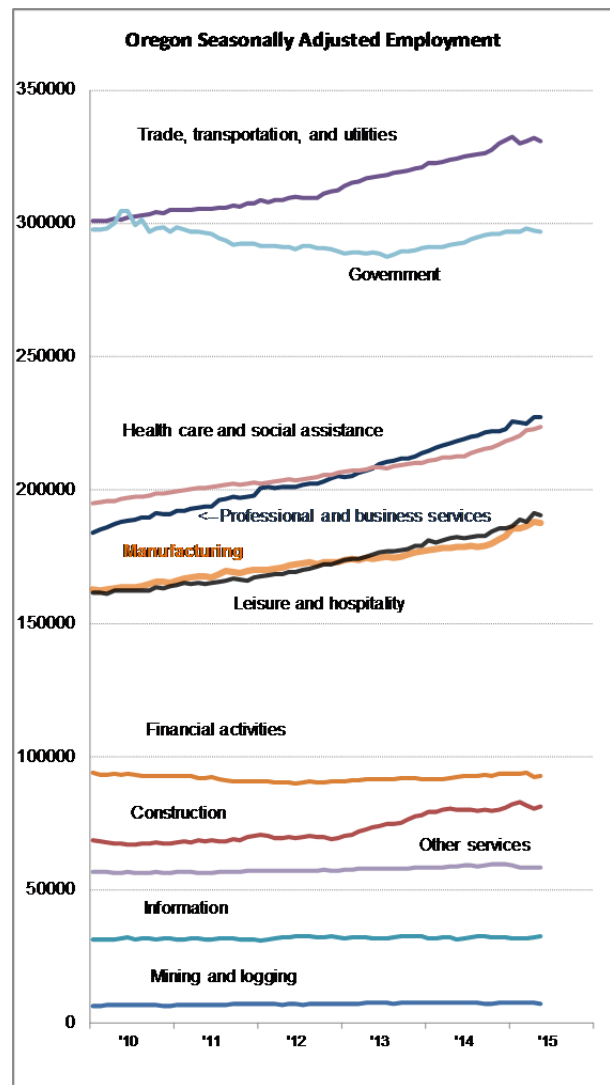
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, June 23rd, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Tuesday, July 14th.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes April to May 2015

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	13,400	12,000	-1,400
Total private	10,300	9,200	-1,100
Mining and logging	200	100	-100
Construction	1,300	1,900	600
Manufacturing	2,000	1,200	-800
Wholesale trade	400	400	0
Retail trade	2,100	700	-1,400
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	400	500	100
Information	0	300	300
Financial activities	-100	300	400
Professional and business services	900	900	0
Private educational services	-2,100	-2,300	-200
Health care and social assistance	-100	800	900
Leisure and hospitality	4,900	4,100	-800
Other services	400	300	-100
Government	3,100	2,800	-300



**Notes:**

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the detailed industry employment components.

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 2014 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, 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

	May 2015	April 2015	May 2014	Change From April 2015	Change From May 2014
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	1,922,951	1,920,218	1,926,409	2,733	-3,458
Unemployed	101,888	100,522	127,259	1,366	-25,371
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.2	6.6	0.1	-1.3
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	5.3	5.2	7.0	0.1	-1.7
Employed	1,821,063	1,819,696	1,799,151	1,367	21,912
<b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	60.5	60.8	61.1	-0.3	-0.6
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	11.7	11.6	14.2	0.1	-2.5
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,775,600	1,763,600	1,723,400	12,000	52,200
Total private	1,468,200	1,459,000	1,421,600	9,200	46,600
Mining and logging	7,400	7,300	7,700	100	-300
Logging	5,900	5,800	6,100	100	-200
Construction	80,400	78,500	80,300	1,900	100
Construction of buildings	20,800	20,300	19,900	500	900
Residential building construction	12,200	11,900	11,300	300	900
Nonresidential building construction	8,600	8,400	8,600	200	0
Heavy and civil engineering construction	8,900	8,700	8,800	200	100
Specialty trade contractors	50,700	49,500	51,600	1,200	-900
Building foundation and exterior contractors	9,300	9,100	9,300	200	0
Building equipment contractors	21,800	21,800	24,400	0	-2,600
Building finishing contractors	12,500	11,900	11,200	600	1,300
Other specialty trade contractors	7,100	6,700	6,700	400	400
Manufacturing	186,200	185,000	177,700	1,200	8,500
Durable goods	132,100	131,400	125,400	700	6,700
Wood product manufacturing	22,300	22,100	21,800	200	500
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,500	6,500	6,300	0	200
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,300	8,200	8,200	100	100
Other wood product manufacturing	7,500	7,400	7,300	100	200
Primary metal manufacturing	8,600	8,600	8,300	0	300
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,600	15,400	15,300	200	300
Machinery manufacturing	12,400	12,600	12,200	-200	200
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	37,700	37,800	36,100	-100	1,600
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	29,600	29,600	27,600	0	2,000
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,100	5,100	5,200	0	-100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	12,700	12,600	11,300	100	1,400
Nondurable goods	54,100	53,600	52,300	500	1,800
Food manufacturing	27,200	26,900	26,100	300	1,100
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	9,700	9,300	9,300	400	400
Paper manufacturing	4,300	4,400	4,500	-100	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	329,700	328,100	322,100	1,600	7,600
Wholesale trade	73,500	73,100	72,000	400	1,500
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	32,800	32,800	32,700	0	100
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	27,400	27,000	25,700	400	1,700
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	13,300	13,300	13,600	0	-300
Retail trade	197,900	197,200	193,700	700	4,200
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	24,000	24,100	23,600	-100	400
Building material and garden supply stores	16,000	15,500	15,700	500	300
Food and beverage stores	41,700	41,900	40,400	-200	1,300
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	15,500	15,300	15,700	200	-200
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	10,100	10,100	9,900	0	200
General merchandise stores	41,000	40,800	40,300	200	700
Miscellaneous store retailers	10,600	10,400	10,300	200	300
Nonstore retailers	6,400	6,300	6,100	100	300

	May 2015	April 2015	May 2014	Change From April 2015	Change From May 2014
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	58,300	57,800	56,400	500	1,900
Utilities	4,400	4,400	4,600	0	-200
Transportation and warehousing	53,900	53,400	51,800	500	2,100
Truck transportation	18,800	18,400	18,200	400	600
Couriers and messengers	7,600	7,400	6,700	200	900
Warehousing and storage	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0
Information	32,500	32,200	31,600	300	900
Publishing industries, except internet	14,200	14,100	14,000	100	200
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	4,100	4,100	4,200	0	-100
Software publishers	10,100	10,000	9,800	100	300
Telecommunications	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0
Financial activities	93,300	93,000	92,100	300	1,200
Finance and insurance	55,700	54,800	55,800	900	-100
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,500	25,900	26,600	600	-100
Insurance carriers and related activities	23,400	23,400	23,800	0	-400
Real estate and rental and leasing	37,600	38,200	36,300	-600	1,300
Real estate	32,700	33,200	31,200	-500	1,500
Professional and business services	227,500	226,600	217,600	900	9,900
Professional and technical services	89,500	91,200	83,000	-1,700	6,500
Legal services	11,800	11,700	11,800	100	0
Architectural and engineering services	13,600	13,600	13,100	0	500
Computer systems design and related services	15,300	15,600	14,200	-300	1,100
Management of companies and enterprises	41,700	41,400	40,100	300	1,600
Administrative and waste services	96,300	94,000	94,500	2,300	1,800
Administrative and support services	91,700	89,100	89,500	2,600	2,200
Employment services	39,100	37,400	37,300	1,700	1,800
Business support services	14,900	14,900	15,300	0	-400
Services to buildings and dwellings	21,800	21,200	21,200	600	600
Educational and health services	259,900	261,400	248,400	-1,500	11,500
Educational services	36,300	38,600	35,300	-2,300	1,000
Health care and social assistance	223,600	222,800	213,100	800	10,500
Ambulatory health care services	82,000	81,900	78,200	100	3,800
Hospitals	55,700	55,100	53,300	600	2,400
Nursing and residential care facilities	47,700	47,900	46,400	-200	1,300
Social assistance	38,200	37,900	35,200	300	3,000
Leisure and hospitality	192,400	188,300	184,600	4,100	7,800
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	23,500	23,500	23,400	0	100
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	17,000	17,100	17,000	-100	0
Accommodation and food services	168,900	164,800	161,200	4,100	7,700
Accommodation	23,700	22,600	23,100	1,100	600
Food services and drinking places	145,200	142,200	138,100	3,000	7,100
Full-service restaurants	68,600	67,400	65,400	1,200	3,200
Limited-service eating places	60,900	60,500	59,000	400	1,900
Other services	58,900	58,600	59,500	300	-600
Repair and maintenance	16,400	16,300	16,400	100	0
Personal and laundry services	13,800	13,600	13,700	200	100
Membership associations and organizations	28,700	28,700	29,400	0	-700
Religious organizations	16,700	16,700	16,700	0	0
Government	307,400	304,600	301,800	2,800	5,600
Federal government	27,900	27,400	27,300	500	600
State government	88,000	87,500	85,200	500	2,800
State education	35,000	34,800	34,400	200	600
Local government	191,500	189,700	189,300	1,800	2,200
Indian tribal	8,100	8,100	8,400	0	-300
Local education	101,700	101,100	101,200	600	500
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.