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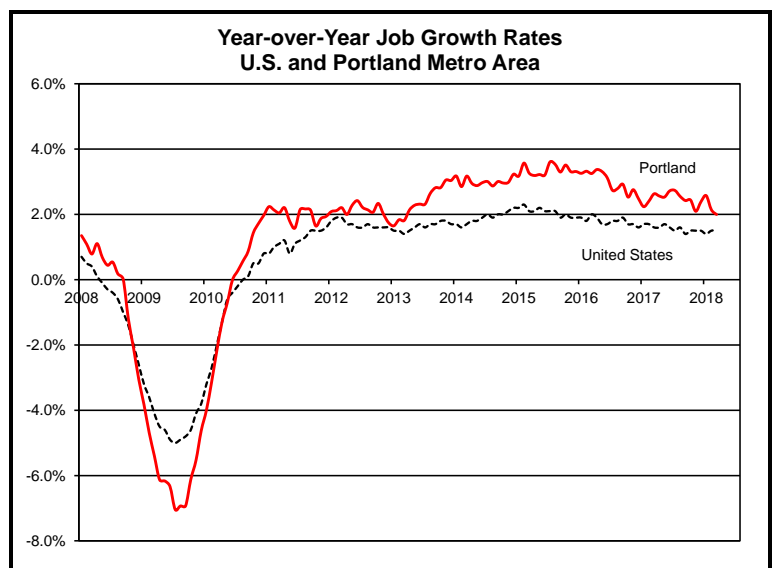
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## Employment in the Portland Metro Area: March 2018 Job Growth and Low Unemployment Continue

The Portland metro area's unemployment rate remained below 4 percent for the fifth consecutive month in March, at 3.7 percent. An estimated 53,600 area residents were unemployed in March, down 1,900 from a year earlier.

Metro area employers added 2,700 jobs in March (seasonally adjusted). Meanwhile, February's preliminary estimates were revised up from a loss of 1,000 to a gain of 800 jobs. The metro area has not experienced a month of net job loss since February 2014.

Manufacturing and retail trade added more jobs than typical, although these numbers are preliminary and subject to revisions. Financial activities also had a strong month. Losses in information and construction partially offset these gains.



Employment in the metro area rose by 23,300 jobs over the year, or 2.0 percent. This is faster than the U.S. (1.5%) and all but 15 of the nation's largest metro areas. Growth has hovered between 2 and 2.5 percent since late 2016, cooling after more than two years in the 3-to-3.5 percent range.

Note: Starting in 2018, employment of the metro area's approximately 7,500 home care workers are now counted in private health care and social assistance instead of state government. The change is 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 will affect over-the-year change figures through December 2018. It does not affect total payroll employment levels.

### Next Press Release

The Oregon Employment Department will release the Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Tuesday, May 22.

The Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly payroll employment and labor force data for Oregon's metropolitan areas and counties. 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 payroll employment estimates are revised quarterly using information from unemployment insurance tax records. All department publications use data from this *official Oregon series* unless noted.

The department also makes the BLS-produced nonfarm payroll employment series for metropolitan areas available. These are revised annually by BLS.

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To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org), select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*.

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.

## Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro MSA Labor Force and Industry Employment

	March 2018	February 2018	March 2017	---Change from--- February 2018	March 2017
<b>LABOR FORCE STATUS</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	1,319,000	1,322,100	1,297,500	-3,100	21,500
Unemployed	53,600	53,900	51,700	-300	1,900
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%		
Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted	3.7%	3.6%	3.5%		
Total Employed	1,265,400	1,268,200	1,245,800	-2,800	19,600
<b>NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT</b>					
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>1,182,900</b>	<b>1,176,400</b>	<b>1,163,000</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>19,900</b>
<b>Total nonfarm, seasonally adjusted</b>	<b>1,190,400</b>	<b>1,187,700</b>	<b>1,167,100</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>23,300</b>
<b>Total private</b>	<b>1,030,500</b>	<b>1,024,500</b>	<b>1,004,200</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>26,300</b>
<b>Mining and logging</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>66,200</b>	<b>66,500</b>	<b>64,200</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>2,000</b>
Construction of buildings	18,000	17,800	17,200	200	800
Residential building construction	10,700	10,600	9,900	100	800
Nonresidential building construction	7,300	7,200	7,300	100	0
Heavy and civil engineering construction	5,400	5,300	4,900	100	500
Specialty trade contractors	42,800	43,400	42,100	-600	700
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>125,600</b>	<b>123,800</b>	<b>121,600</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>4,000</b>
Durable goods	91,500	90,100	89,700	1,400	1,800
Wood product manufacturing	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
Primary metal manufacturing	5,800	5,700	5,700	100	100
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	12,700	12,600	12,500	100	200
Machinery manufacturing	10,100	10,000	9,100	100	1,000
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	37,300	36,400	35,100	900	2,200
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,400	29,800	28,400	600	2,000
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,700	4,700	4,600	0	100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	6,500	6,500	6,700	0	-200
Nondurable goods	34,100	33,700	31,900	400	2,200
Food manufacturing	13,700	13,600	13,000	100	700
Paper manufacturing	2,700	2,700	3,000	0	-300
<b>Trade, transportation, and utilities</b>	<b>216,300</b>	<b>214,200</b>	<b>212,800</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>3,500</b>
Wholesale trade	58,300	58,200	56,700	100	1,600
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	26,400	26,400	25,900	0	500
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	20,300	20,200	19,300	100	1,000
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	11,600	11,600	11,500	0	100
Retail trade	117,900	116,200	117,000	1,700	900
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	14,600	14,500	14,300	100	300
Food and beverage stores	24,000	23,900	23,800	100	200
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	10,500	10,300	10,600	200	-100
General merchandise stores	23,000	23,200	23,200	-200	-200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40,100	39,800	39,100	300	1,000
Utilities	2,400	2,400	2,300	0	100
Transportation and Warehousing	37,700	37,400	36,800	300	900
Air transportation	4,100	4,100	3,900	0	200
Truck transportation	10,600	10,500	10,700	100	-100
Couriers and messengers	6,700	6,700	6,200	0	500
Warehousing and storage	4,600	4,600	4,500	0	100
<b>Information</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>25,800</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-400</b>
Publishing industries, except internet	10,200	10,300	10,200	-100	0
Software publishers	8,500	8,500	8,200	0	300
Telecommunications	4,600	4,600	5,100	0	-500

**Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)**

	March 2018	February 2018	March 2017	---Change from---	
				February 2018	March 2017
<b>Financial activities</b>	<b>71,100</b>	<b>70,500</b>	<b>69,300</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1,800</b>
Finance and insurance	43,200	43,300	43,000	-100	200
Credit intermediation and related activities	19,300	19,300	19,000	0	300
Insurance carriers and related activities	18,800	18,900	18,600	-100	200
Real estate and rental and leasing	27,900	27,200	26,300	700	1,600
<b>Professional and business services</b>	<b>177,100</b>	<b>176,400</b>	<b>178,600</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>-1,500</b>
Professional and technical services	73,600	73,300	74,900	300	-1,300
Architectural and engineering services	13,400	13,400	13,100	0	300
Computer systems design and related services	15,700	15,600	15,100	100	600
Management of companies and enterprises	39,800	39,800	39,400	0	400
Administrative and waste services	63,700	63,300	64,300	400	-600
Administrative and support services	60,400	60,000	61,200	400	-800
Employment services	26,500	26,300	26,400	200	100
Business support services	6,900	7,100	7,400	-200	-500
Services to buildings and dwellings	14,800	14,400	14,800	400	0
<b>Education and health services</b>	<b>184,800</b>	<b>184,500</b>	<b>170,900</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>13,900</b>
Educational services	31,400	31,200	30,400	200	1,000
Colleges and universities	15,400	15,000	14,700	400	700
Health care and social assistance	153,400	153,300	140,500	100	12,900
Ambulatory health care services	57,100	57,400	55,200	-300	1,900
Hospitals	31,600	31,400	31,100	200	500
Nursing and residential care facilities	28,200	28,300	27,400	-100	800
Social assistance	36,500	36,200	26,800	300	9,700
<b>Leisure and hospitality</b>	<b>120,300</b>	<b>118,900</b>	<b>118,800</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,500</b>
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	15,800	15,300	16,600	500	-800
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	11,500	11,200	12,200	300	-700
Accommodation and food services	104,500	103,600	102,200	900	2,300
Accommodation	10,500	10,400	10,100	100	400
Food services and drinking places	94,000	93,200	92,100	800	1,900
Full-service restaurants	44,100	43,800	42,100	300	2,000
Limited-service eating places	40,000	39,800	39,700	200	300
<b>Other services</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>42,600</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>1,500</b>
Membership associations and organizations	18,600	18,300	17,700	300	900
<b>Government</b>	<b>152,400</b>	<b>151,900</b>	<b>158,800</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-6,400</b>
Federal government	18,100	18,100	18,100	0	0
State government	11,500	11,500	19,800	0	-8,300
State education	2,700	2,800	2,700	-100	0
Local government	122,800	122,300	120,900	500	1,900
Local education	69,800	69,500	69,500	300	300

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.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.

Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian 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.

The Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro metropolitan area includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in Oregon, and Clark and Skamania counties in Washington State.