

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 17, 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 Unemployment Rate at New Record Low of 4.0 Percent in June

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in June, which was Oregon's lowest unemployment rate since comparable records began in 1976. Oregon's May unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate was also 4.0 percent in June.

In June, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 1,900 jobs, following a revised gain of 3,200 jobs in May. Job gains were led by **leisure and hospitality** (+1,800 jobs) and **private educational services** (+1,000). Three major industries each added close to 600 jobs: **health care and social assistance** (+700); **manufacturing** (+600); and **construction** (+500). Several industries shed jobs in June, including **retail trade** (-1,000 jobs); **information** (-800); **financial activities** (-600); and **transportation, warehousing and utilities** (-500).

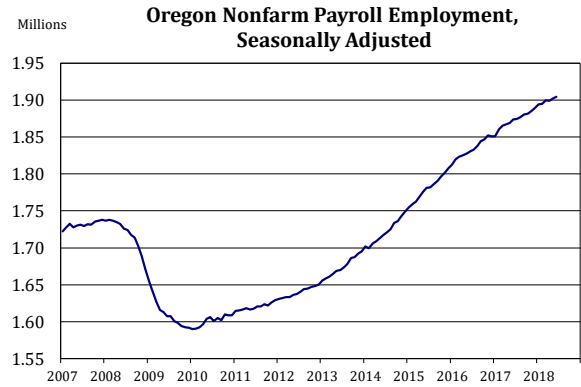
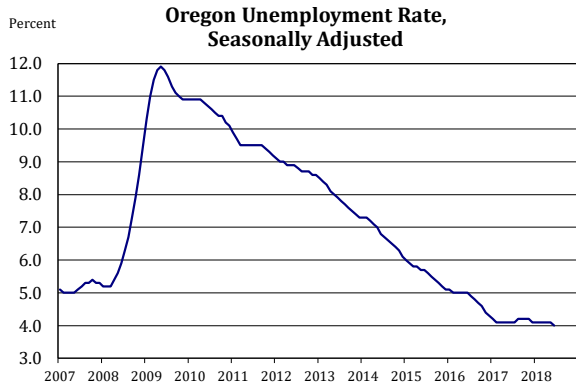
Although Oregon's payroll employment continued to expand, the rate of growth has moderated in recent months. Job gains averaged 1,500 per month over the past three months. Over the past 12 months, 31,400 jobs were added, good for a growth rate of 1.6 percent. This growth matched that of the U.S. where over-the-year job growth was also 1.6 percent through June. Oregon's job gains were much faster in 2013 through 2017, averaging 2.8 percent per year and reaching a peak growth rate of 3.7 percent in mid-2015.

Part of the reason for the slowdown in the rate of job growth is likely due to an unusually tight labor market. Many employers are facing increasing difficulty hiring workers. The degree of Oregon's labor market tightness is reflected in these indicators:

- The number of people working part time for economic reasons is at the lowest since at least 2002, when comparable records began.
- The broadest measure of labor underutilization, U-6, dropped to 7.8 percent in June, which was its lowest reading since at least 2002.
- The number of Oregonians unemployed for 27 weeks or more dropped below 7,000, the lowest level since at least 2002, and far below the more than 100,000 long-term unemployed in 2010 during the aftermath of the recession.
- The number of people entering the labor market without a job was at its lowest level since at least 2000, when comparable records began.

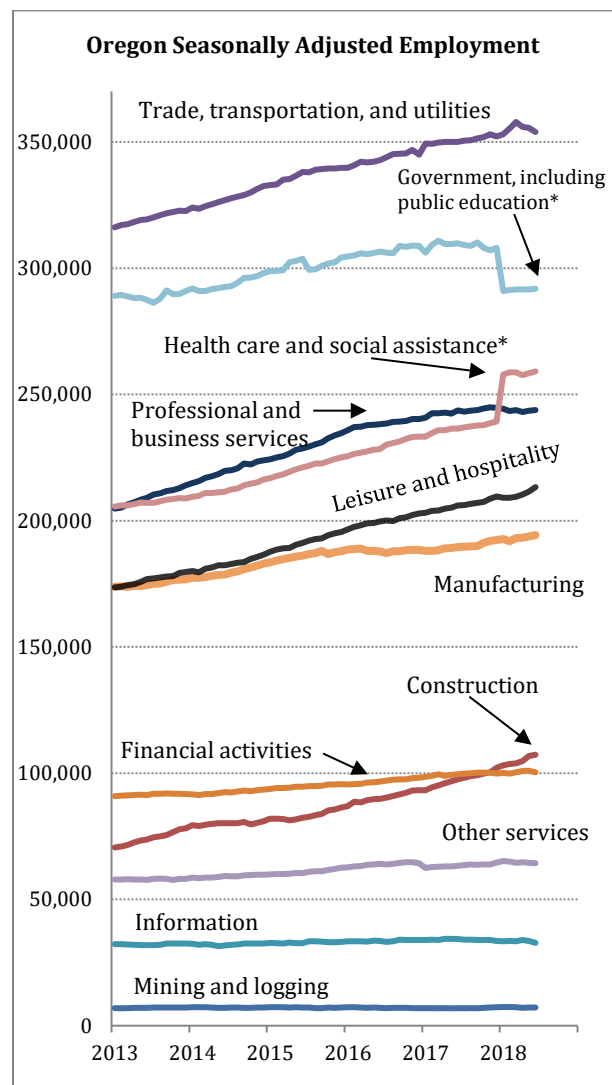
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the June county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, July 24th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for July on Tuesday, August 14th.



**Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes May to June 2018**

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	9,600	11,500	1,900
Total private	9,600	11,200	1,600
Mining and logging	200	200	0
Construction	1,700	2,200	500
Manufacturing	2,100	2,700	600
Wholesale trade	300	100	-200
Retail trade	1,000	0	-1,000
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	100	-400	-500
Information	-100	-900	-800
Financial activities	200	-400	-600
Professional and business services	1,900	2,200	300
Private educational services	-2,300	-1,300	1,000
Health care and social assistance	-1,700	-1,000	700
Leisure and hospitality	6,800	8,600	1,800
Other services	-600	-800	-200
Government	0	300	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 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 2017 tax records data. The department continues to make the original nonfarm payroll employment series available; these data are produced by the BLS.

\*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

	June 2018	May 2018	June 2017	Change From May 2018	Change From June 2017
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	2,117,464	2,102,938	2,117,704	14,526	-240
Unemployed	84,165	73,290	90,393	10,875	-6,228
Unemployment rate	4.0	3.5	4.3	0.5	-0.3
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.0	4.1	4.1	-0.1	-0.1
Employed	2,033,299	2,029,648	2,027,311	3,651	5,988
<b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.7	63.0	63.3	-0.3	-0.6
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	7.8	8.0	8.4	-0.2	-0.6
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,925,600	1,914,100	1,891,400	11,500	34,200
Total private	1,623,700	1,612,500	1,571,200	11,200	52,500
Mining and logging	7,300	7,100	7,100	200	200
Logging	5,300	5,200	5,200	100	100
Construction	109,300	107,100	99,100	2,200	10,200
Construction of buildings	30,600	30,100	27,100	500	3,500
Residential building construction	19,300	19,100	16,300	200	3,000
Nonresidential building construction	11,300	11,000	10,800	300	500
Heavy and civil engineering construction	10,600	10,200	9,900	400	700
Specialty trade contractors	68,100	66,800	62,100	1,300	6,000
Building foundation and exterior contractors	13,400	13,100	12,500	300	900
Building equipment contractors	28,800	28,400	26,600	400	2,200
Building finishing contractors	16,300	16,000	14,400	300	1,900
Other specialty trade contractors	9,600	9,300	8,600	300	1,000
Manufacturing	195,800	193,100	191,200	2,700	4,600
Durable goods	135,600	134,600	132,100	1,000	3,500
Wood product manufacturing	23,100	23,100	23,000	0	100
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,400	6,400	6,400	0	0
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	9,100	9,100	8,800	0	300
Other wood product manufacturing	7,600	7,600	7,800	0	-200
Primary metal manufacturing	8,600	8,500	8,200	100	400
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	16,400	16,300	16,100	100	300
Machinery manufacturing	14,100	14,100	13,100	0	1,000
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,200	37,100	37,000	1,100	1,200
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,000	29,000	28,800	1,000	1,200
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,400	5,400	5,200	0	200
Transportation equipment manufacturing	12,100	12,100	12,000	0	100
Nondurable goods	60,200	58,500	59,100	1,700	1,100
Food manufacturing	31,100	29,600	30,600	1,500	500
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	12,100	11,100	12,000	1,000	100
Paper manufacturing	3,900	3,900	4,200	0	-300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	353,300	353,600	349,000	-300	4,300
Wholesale trade	76,700	76,600	76,800	100	-100
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	33,000	32,900	33,800	100	-800
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	29,600	29,800	28,700	-200	900
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	14,100	13,900	14,300	200	-200
Retail trade	211,900	211,900	209,600	0	2,300
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,800	26,900	26,700	-100	100
Building material and garden supply stores	18,000	17,900	17,300	100	700
Food and beverage stores	43,100	42,500	44,100	600	-1,000
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16,200	16,100	16,700	100	-500
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,900	9,900	9,700	0	200
General merchandise stores	39,900	39,800	40,500	100	-600
Miscellaneous store retailers	15,500	15,400	15,000	100	500
Nonstore retailers	6,700	6,500	6,800	200	-100

	June 2018	May 2018	June 2017	Change From May 2018	Change From June 2017
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	64,700	65,100	62,600	-400	2,100
Utilities	4,800	4,800	4,700	0	100
Transportation and warehousing	59,900	60,300	57,900	-400	2,000
Truck transportation	18,800	19,000	18,800	-200	0
Couriers and messengers	8,600	8,500	8,300	100	300
Warehousing and storage	9,000	9,000	8,500	0	500
Information	32,800	33,700	34,300	-900	-1,500
Publishing industries, except internet	14,400	14,400	14,900	0	-500
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	3,300	3,300	3,700	0	-400
Software publishers	11,100	11,100	11,200	0	-100
Telecommunications	5,600	5,500	5,800	100	-200
Financial activities	101,100	101,500	99,800	-400	1,300
Finance and insurance	57,400	58,100	57,300	-700	100
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,500	26,800	27,100	-300	-600
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,600	25,200	24,500	-600	100
Real estate and rental and leasing	43,700	43,400	42,500	300	1,200
Real estate	38,800	38,500	36,900	300	1,900
Professional and business services	246,400	244,200	244,900	2,200	1,500
Professional and technical services	96,500	95,600	93,900	900	2,600
Legal services	12,200	12,100	11,900	100	300
Architectural and engineering services	16,800	16,500	15,900	300	900
Computer systems design and related services	16,100	16,300	16,300	-200	-200
Management of companies and enterprises	47,800	47,700	47,500	100	300
Administrative and waste services	102,100	100,900	103,500	1,200	-1,400
Administrative and support services	96,600	96,200	98,000	400	-1,400
Employment services	39,800	39,500	41,900	300	-2,100
Business support services	12,800	12,800	13,800	0	-1,000
Services to buildings and dwellings	25,100	25,200	24,000	-100	1,100
Education and health services	291,100	293,400	268,900	-2,300	22,200
Educational services	33,800	35,100	33,000	-1,300	800
Health care and social assistance	257,300	258,300	235,900	-1,000	21,400
Ambulatory health care services	91,300	92,000	89,700	-700	1,600
Hospitals	58,700	58,500	58,400	200	300
Nursing and residential care facilities	51,100	51,100	50,500	0	600
Social assistance	56,200	56,700	37,300	-500	18,900
Leisure and hospitality	223,200	214,600	213,000	8,600	10,200
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	30,000	28,000	28,300	2,000	1,700
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	21,700	20,100	20,500	1,600	1,200
Accommodation and food services	193,200	186,600	184,700	6,600	8,500
Accommodation	28,500	26,400	26,600	2,100	1,900
Food services and drinking places	164,700	160,200	158,100	4,500	6,600
Full-service restaurants	76,300	73,400	73,200	2,900	3,100
Limited-service eating places	72,100	71,000	69,400	1,100	2,700
Other services	63,400	64,200	63,900	-800	-500
Repair and maintenance	17,800	18,300	18,400	-500	-600
Personal and laundry services	15,400	15,400	15,300	0	100
Membership associations and organizations	30,200	30,500	30,200	-300	0
Religious organizations	16,800	17,200	16,500	-400	300
Government	301,900	301,600	320,200	300	-18,300
Federal government	29,300	28,300	29,200	1,000	100
State government	39,600	39,200	57,200	400	-17,600
State education	700	700	800	0	-100
Local government	233,000	234,100	233,800	-1,100	-800
Indian tribal	8,200	8,100	8,300	100	-100
Local education	137,600	139,800	139,600	-2,200	-2,000
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.