

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 17, 2019 CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Gail Krumenauer](#), Senior Economic Analyst  
(503) 947-1268 [Video](#) and [Audio](#) available at 10:00 AM

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

## Oregon's Unemployment Rate Remains at 4.0 Percent in August

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in August, the same as in June and July. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.7 percent during each of the most recent three months of June, July, and August.

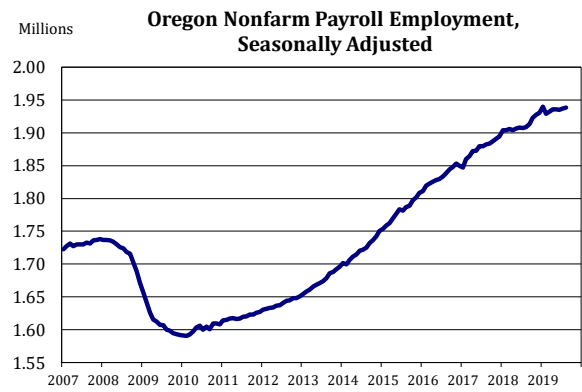
Oregon's unemployment rate has been between 4.0 percent and 4.4 percent for 34 consecutive months dating back to November 2016. This sustained stretch of low unemployment is unprecedented in comparable records dating back to 1976. In the 40 years prior to 2016, Oregon's unemployment rate was never below 4.7 percent.

In August, Oregon's total nonfarm payroll employment added 900 jobs, following a gain of 2,400 jobs in July. Monthly gains for August were strongest in **leisure and hospitality** (+1,600 jobs) and **professional and business services** (+1,100). These gains were offset by job losses in several industries: **wholesale trade** (-900 jobs); **other services** (-900); **retail trade** (-700); and **health care and social assistance** (-600).

Recent employment growth has slowed from the rapid expansion over the prior several years. In the first eight months of 2019, total nonfarm employment gains averaged 1,000 jobs per month. This was a marked slowdown from the average gain of 3,000 jobs per month in 2018. So far in 2019, several industries have cut jobs, with **information** down the most in percentage terms (-2,000 jobs, or -5.7%). Several other major industries shed jobs in that time: **finance and insurance** (-1,200 jobs, or -2.1%); **leisure and hospitality** (-2,600 jobs, or -1.2%); and **retail trade** (-2,200 jobs, or -1.0%). These losses were offset by job growth over the past eight months in **education and health services** (6,400 jobs, or 2.2%); **professional and business services** (4,200 jobs, or 1.7%); and **manufacturing** (3,100 jobs, or 1.6%).

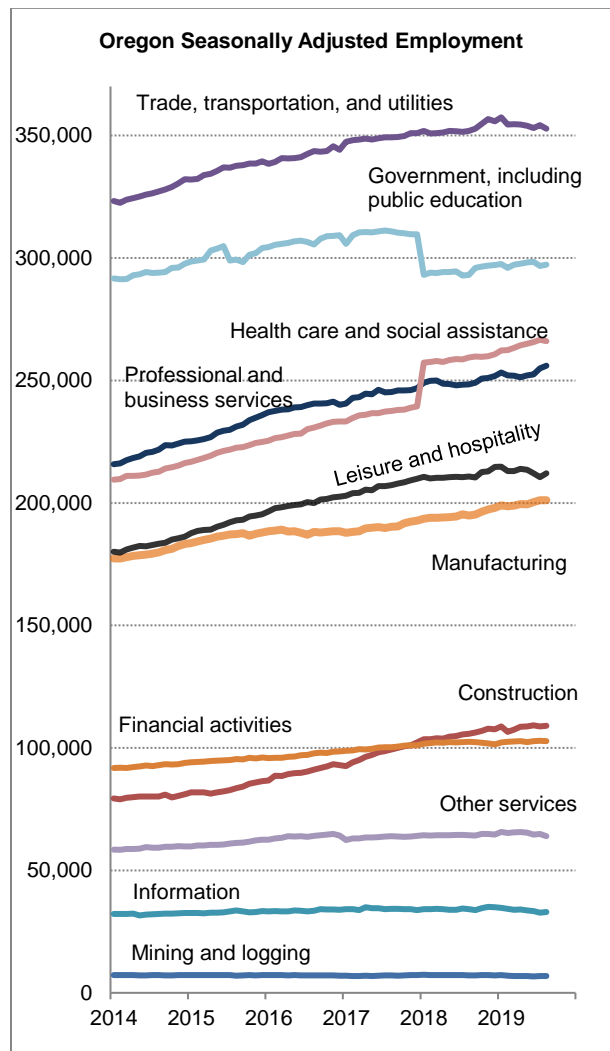
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, September 24th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, October 15th.



**Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes July to August 2019**

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



**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 January, February and March 2019 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 people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

### Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	August 2019	July 2019	August 2018	Change From July 2019	Change From August 2018
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	2,141,497	2,135,807	2,115,832	5,690	25,665
Unemployed	95,223	89,654	87,668	5,569	7,555
Unemployment rate	4.4	4.2	4.1	0.2	0.3
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.0	4.0	4.1	0.0	-0.1
Employed	2,046,274	2,046,153	2,028,164	121	18,110
<b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	61.8	61.8	62.2	0.0	-0.4
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	8.5	8.4	8.3	0.1	0.2
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,940,700	1,939,200	1,907,100	1,500	33,600
Total private	1,665,500	1,662,900	1,636,900	2,600	28,600
Mining and logging	7,300	7,200	7,400	100	-100
Logging	5,400	5,300	5,400	100	0
Construction	115,000	114,000	110,500	1,000	4,500
Construction of buildings	32,000	31,300	30,900	700	1,100
Residential building construction	19,300	18,800	18,900	500	400
Nonresidential building construction	12,700	12,500	12,000	200	700
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,400	11,100	11,000	300	400
Specialty trade contractors	71,600	71,600	68,600	0	3,000
Building foundation and exterior contractors	13,800	13,400	13,200	400	600
Building equipment contractors	31,700	31,900	29,800	-200	1,900
Building finishing contractors	16,500	16,700	16,200	-200	300
Other specialty trade contractors	9,600	9,600	9,400	0	200
Manufacturing	205,200	205,600	198,800	-400	6,400
Durable goods	138,000	138,000	136,500	0	1,500
Wood product manufacturing	23,700	23,900	23,600	-200	100
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,400	6,400	6,400	0	0
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	9,100	9,200	9,200	-100	-100
Other wood product manufacturing	8,200	8,300	8,000	-100	200
Primary metal manufacturing	9,200	9,300	8,600	-100	600
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	17,300	17,200	16,700	100	600
Machinery manufacturing	14,500	14,600	14,300	-100	200
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	38,100	38,200	38,300	-100	-200
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	29,800	29,800	30,000	0	-200
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,600	5,600	5,600	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	13,100	13,200	12,100	-100	1,000
Nondurable goods	67,200	67,600	62,300	-400	4,900
Food manufacturing	34,200	35,100	31,800	-900	2,400
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	13,300	13,800	12,600	-500	700
Paper manufacturing	4,000	4,000	3,900	0	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	355,100	356,100	353,700	-1,000	1,400
Wholesale trade	76,300	77,200	76,200	-900	100
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	37,500	37,900	37,400	-400	100
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	31,300	31,700	31,000	-400	300
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,500	7,600	7,800	-100	-300
Retail trade	209,300	209,900	213,100	-600	-3,800
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,900	26,400	27,200	500	-300
Building material and garden supply stores	17,300	17,500	17,000	-200	300
Food and beverage stores	44,000	44,100	43,900	-100	100
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16,700	16,600	16,800	100	-100
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	9,400	9,400	9,700	0	-300
General merchandise stores	40,700	40,600	41,600	100	-900
Miscellaneous store retailers	16,900	16,800	16,300	100	600
Nonstore retailers	7,300	7,300	7,500	0	-200

	August 2019	July 2019	August 2018	Change From July 2019	Change From August 2018
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	69,500	69,000	64,400	500	5,100
Utilities	4,800	4,800	4,900	0	-100
Transportation and warehousing	64,700	64,200	59,500	500	5,200
Truck transportation	19,400	19,200	19,100	200	300
Couriers and messengers	9,700	9,500	9,200	200	500
Warehousing and storage	12,500	12,400	9,100	100	3,400
Information	33,700	33,600	34,400	100	-700
Publishing industries, except internet	14,800	14,800	14,800	0	0
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	3,000	3,000	3,300	0	-300
Software publishers	11,800	11,800	11,500	0	300
Telecommunications	5,000	5,000	5,200	0	-200
Financial activities	102,700	102,600	103,900	100	-1,200
Finance and insurance	55,800	56,100	57,600	-300	-1,800
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,700	26,600	27,200	100	-500
Insurance carriers and related activities	23,600	23,800	24,300	-200	-700
Real estate and rental and leasing	46,900	46,500	46,300	400	600
Real estate	40,700	40,400	40,300	300	400
Professional and business services	261,200	258,500	252,700	2,700	8,500
Professional and technical services	101,000	100,400	97,900	600	3,100
Legal services	12,100	11,900	11,900	200	200
Architectural and engineering services	18,500	17,900	16,900	600	1,600
Computer systems design and related services	16,700	16,700	16,500	0	200
Management of companies and enterprises	51,100	51,100	49,100	0	2,000
Administrative and waste services	109,100	107,000	105,700	2,100	3,400
Administrative and support services	103,300	100,900	99,800	2,400	3,500
Employment services	47,700	44,700	42,400	3,000	5,300
Business support services	12,900	13,000	13,200	-100	-300
Services to buildings and dwellings	25,500	25,600	25,000	-100	500
Education and health services	297,700	296,800	289,000	900	8,700
Educational services	33,400	32,700	30,200	700	3,200
Health care and social assistance	264,300	264,100	258,800	200	5,500
Ambulatory health care services	94,700	94,600	92,900	100	1,800
Hospitals	60,300	60,100	59,100	200	1,200
Nursing and residential care facilities	52,800	52,600	51,700	200	1,100
Social assistance	56,500	56,800	55,100	-300	1,400
Leisure and hospitality	224,400	224,500	221,600	-100	2,800
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	31,400	32,200	30,100	-800	1,300
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	23,000	23,500	21,900	-500	1,100
Accommodation and food services	193,000	192,300	191,500	700	1,500
Accommodation	29,600	29,900	28,700	-300	900
Food services and drinking places	163,400	162,400	162,800	1,000	600
Full-service restaurants	74,300	74,500	75,100	-200	-800
Limited-service eating places	73,500	72,900	71,300	600	2,200
Other services	63,200	64,000	64,900	-800	-1,700
Repair and maintenance	18,100	18,200	19,100	-100	-1,000
Personal and laundry services	15,900	16,100	15,800	-200	100
Membership associations and organizations	29,200	29,700	30,000	-500	-800
Religious organizations	15,400	15,600	16,000	-200	-600
Government	275,200	276,300	270,200	-1,100	5,000
Federal government	30,600	30,200	29,100	400	1,500
State government	41,400	41,100	40,400	300	1,000
State education	1,000	900	800	100	200
Local government	203,200	205,000	200,700	-1,800	2,500
Indian tribal	8,500	8,500	8,400	0	100
Local education	104,900	105,700	105,100	-800	-200
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.