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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Has Stayed Near 4 Percent for Three Years

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in September and October. The rate has been between 4.0 percent and 4.4 percent for an unprecedented 36 consecutive months dating back to November 2016. The U.S. unemployment rate ticked up from 3.5 percent in September to 3.6 percent in October.

Other measures of Oregon's labor force also indicated a tight labor market in recent months. Fewer individuals are remaining unemployed for extended periods: The number of individuals unemployed for 52 weeks or more dropped to 6,000 in October, which was the lowest level in a dozen years and well below the peak of 70,000 in 2010. The number of unemployed who lost their job has remained close to 32,000 for the past three years, which was less than one-quarter of those unemployed due to a job loss in 2009. Meanwhile, the number of people who were unemployed due to leaving their job voluntarily has recently risen above 16,000, up from an average of 12,000 during the prior six calendar years. The increase in the number of people leaving their jobs voluntarily could indicate increasing confidence among workers of being able to easily find another job if they quit their current job.

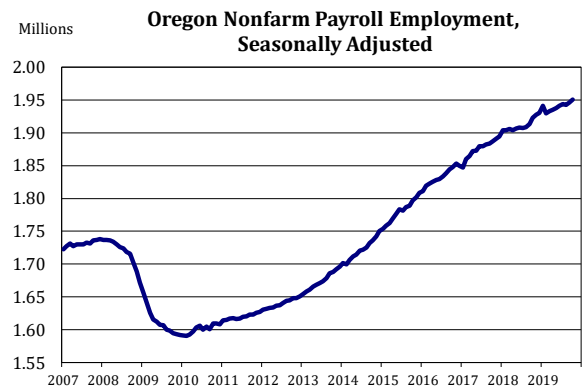
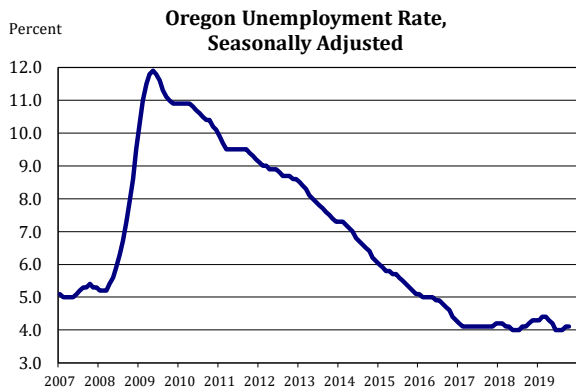
Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 4,400 jobs in October, following an upwardly revised gain of 3,300 jobs in September. Gains in October were concentrated in **leisure and hospitality** (+2,400 jobs), **government** (+2,300), and **wholesale trade** (+1,000). These monthly gains were partially offset by job losses of 700 each in **construction** and **health care and social assistance**, and a loss of 900 jobs in **retail trade**.

In addition to the strong monthly gains in September and October, quarterly revisions boosted the level of reported employment by 6,400 jobs for June and subsequent months.

Oregon's payroll employment grew by 27,800 jobs, or 1.4 percent, over the past 12 months. This growth rate was slightly slower than the 1.7 percent average annual growth rate Oregon's economy experienced over the past 19 months. During the five years prior to that, employment grew much faster—at an average of 2.8 percent per year. Oregon has added jobs at the same pace as the U.S. over the past year.

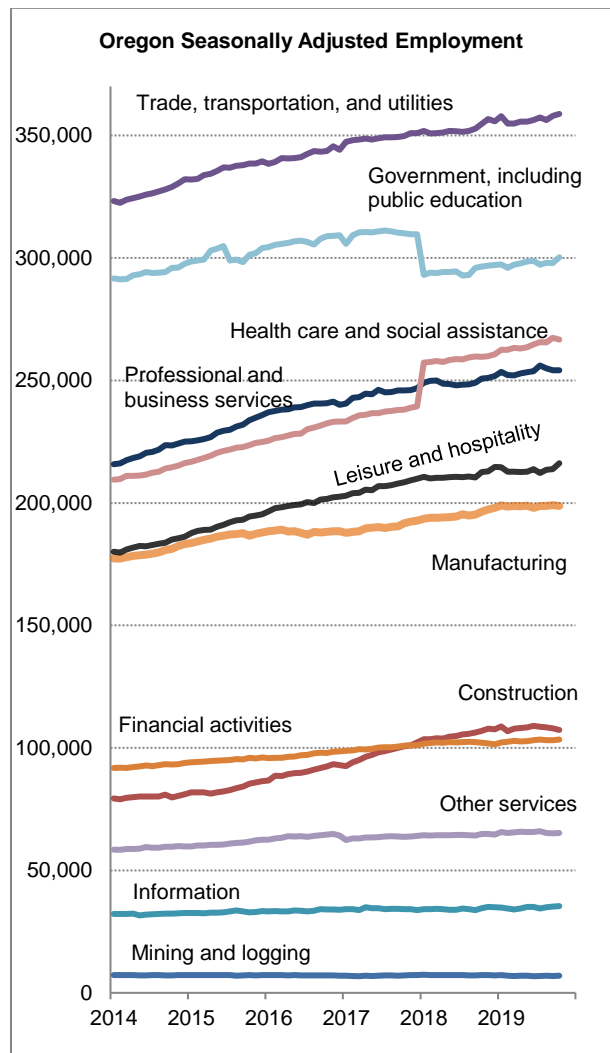
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, November 19th, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Tuesday, December 17th.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes September to October 2019

| INDUSTRY | Normal Seasonal Movement | Unadjusted Change | Seasonally Adjusted Change |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Total nonfarm payroll employment | 7,900 | 12,300 | 4,400 |
| Total private | -6,000 | -3,900 | 2,100 |
| Mining and logging | 100 | 200 | 100 |
| Construction | -1,400 | -2,100 | -700 |
| Manufacturing | -1,600 | -2,000 | -400 |
| Wholesale trade | -500 | 500 | 1,000 |
| Retail trade | 700 | -200 | -900 |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities | 600 | 1,300 | 700 |
| Information | 200 | 400 | 200 |
| Financial activities | -400 | -100 | 300 |
| Professional and business services | -400 | -400 | 0 |
| Private educational services | 1,500 | 1,400 | -100 |
| Health care and social assistance | 700 | 0 | -700 |
| Leisure and hospitality | -6,200 | -3,800 | 2,400 |
| Other services | 700 | 900 | 200 |
| Government | 13,900 | 16,200 | 2,300 |



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 April, May, and June 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. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit 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.

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

| | October 2019 | September 2019 | October 2018 | Change From September 2019 | Change From October 2018 |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Labor Force Status | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | 2,118,914 | 2,124,764 | 2,117,663 | -5,850 | 1,251 |
| Unemployed | 74,575 | 82,620 | 83,429 | -8,045 | -8,854 |
| Unemployment rate | 3.5 | 3.9 | 3.9 | -0.4 | -0.4 |
| Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Employed | 2,044,339 | 2,042,144 | 2,034,234 | 2,195 | 10,105 |
| Other Labor Force Indicators | | | | | |
| Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted | 61.7 | 61.7 | 62.3 | 0.0 | -0.6 |
| Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| Nonfarm Payroll Employment | | | | | |
| Total nonfarm payroll employment | 1,959,900 | 1,947,600 | 1,935,400 | 12,300 | 24,500 |
| Total private | 1,655,300 | 1,659,200 | 1,634,200 | -3,900 | 21,100 |
| Mining and logging | 7,300 | 7,100 | 7,400 | 200 | -100 |
| Logging | 5,300 | 5,100 | 5,400 | 200 | -100 |
| Construction | 109,700 | 111,800 | 109,000 | -2,100 | 700 |
| Construction of buildings | 30,700 | 31,600 | 30,600 | -900 | 100 |
| Residential building construction | 18,400 | 19,100 | 18,800 | -700 | -400 |
| Nonresidential building construction | 12,300 | 12,500 | 11,800 | -200 | 500 |
| Heavy and civil engineering construction | 11,100 | 11,400 | 10,700 | -300 | 400 |
| Specialty trade contractors | 67,900 | 68,800 | 67,700 | -900 | 200 |
| Building foundation and exterior contractors | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,100 | 0 | -100 |
| Building equipment contractors | 30,800 | 30,700 | 30,000 | 100 | 800 |
| Building finishing contractors | 14,800 | 15,500 | 15,400 | -700 | -600 |
| Other specialty trade contractors | 9,300 | 9,600 | 9,200 | -300 | 100 |
| Manufacturing | 199,400 | 201,400 | 197,200 | -2,000 | 2,200 |
| Durable goods | 136,600 | 137,400 | 136,600 | -800 | 0 |
| Wood product manufacturing | 23,000 | 23,000 | 23,600 | 0 | -600 |
| Sawmills and wood preservation | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,400 | 0 | -300 |
| Plywood and engineered wood product mfg. | 8,900 | 8,900 | 9,200 | 0 | -300 |
| Other wood product manufacturing | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Primary metal manufacturing | 9,300 | 9,200 | 8,800 | 100 | 500 |
| Fabricated metal product manufacturing | 16,900 | 16,900 | 16,700 | 0 | 200 |
| Machinery manufacturing | 14,200 | 14,200 | 14,300 | 0 | -100 |
| Computer and electronic product manufacturing | 38,100 | 38,700 | 38,400 | -600 | -300 |
| Semiconductor and electronic component mfg. | 29,900 | 30,500 | 30,200 | -600 | -300 |
| Electronic instrument manufacturing | 5,600 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 100 | 100 |
| Transportation equipment manufacturing | 13,000 | 12,900 | 12,300 | 100 | 700 |
| Nondurable goods | 62,800 | 64,000 | 60,600 | -1,200 | 2,200 |
| Food manufacturing | 30,600 | 31,300 | 30,000 | -700 | 600 |
| Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty | 11,400 | 11,800 | 11,300 | -400 | 100 |
| Paper manufacturing | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities | 359,600 | 358,000 | 356,300 | 1,600 | 3,300 |
| Wholesale trade | 78,400 | 77,900 | 76,000 | 500 | 2,400 |
| Merchant wholesalers, durable goods | 39,100 | 38,800 | 37,300 | 300 | 1,800 |
| Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods | 31,500 | 31,400 | 31,000 | 100 | 500 |
| Electronic markets and agents and brokers | 7,800 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 100 | 100 |
| Retail trade | 209,900 | 210,100 | 212,600 | -200 | -2,700 |
| Motor vehicle and parts dealers | 26,800 | 27,000 | 26,900 | -200 | -100 |
| Building material and garden supply stores | 16,500 | 16,800 | 16,300 | -300 | 200 |
| Food and beverage stores | 44,000 | 44,500 | 43,300 | -500 | 700 |
| Clothing and clothing accessories stores | 16,200 | 16,000 | 16,200 | 200 | 0 |
| Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores | 9,700 | 9,600 | 9,600 | 100 | 100 |
| General merchandise stores | 41,100 | 40,600 | 41,900 | 500 | -800 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 17,400 | 17,200 | 16,800 | 200 | 600 |
| Nonstore retailers | 8,200 | 8,300 | 8,600 | -100 | -400 |

| | October 2019 | September 2019 | October 2018 | Change From September 2019 | Change From October 2018 |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities | 71,300 | 70,000 | 67,700 | 1,300 | 3,600 |
| Utilities | 4,700 | 4,600 | 4,800 | 100 | -100 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 66,600 | 65,400 | 62,900 | 1,200 | 3,700 |
| Truck transportation | 19,500 | 19,400 | 19,000 | 100 | 500 |
| Couriers and messengers | 10,500 | 10,100 | 9,800 | 400 | 700 |
| Warehousing and storage | 13,100 | 13,000 | 11,100 | 100 | 2,000 |
| Information | 35,100 | 34,700 | 34,500 | 400 | 600 |
| Publishing industries, except internet | 15,100 | 15,000 | 14,800 | 100 | 300 |
| Newspaper, book, and directory publishers | 2,900 | 2,900 | 3,200 | 0 | -300 |
| Software publishers | 12,200 | 12,100 | 11,600 | 100 | 600 |
| Telecommunications | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,200 | 0 | -100 |
| Financial activities | 103,000 | 103,100 | 102,600 | -100 | 400 |
| Finance and insurance | 56,000 | 56,600 | 57,100 | -600 | -1,100 |
| Credit intermediation and related activities | 25,900 | 26,100 | 26,600 | -200 | -700 |
| Insurance carriers and related activities | 24,400 | 24,600 | 24,200 | -200 | 200 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 47,000 | 46,500 | 45,500 | 500 | 1,500 |
| Real estate | 41,100 | 40,700 | 39,900 | 400 | 1,200 |
| Professional and business services | 256,200 | 256,600 | 252,400 | -400 | 3,800 |
| Professional and technical services | 101,100 | 100,000 | 98,200 | 1,100 | 2,900 |
| Legal services | 11,800 | 11,600 | 11,800 | 200 | 0 |
| Architectural and engineering services | 18,100 | 18,100 | 16,900 | 0 | 1,200 |
| Computer systems design and related services | 17,000 | 17,000 | 16,700 | 0 | 300 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 50,100 | 50,300 | 49,100 | -200 | 1,000 |
| Administrative and waste services | 105,000 | 106,300 | 105,100 | -1,300 | -100 |
| Administrative and support services | 99,900 | 100,400 | 99,300 | -500 | 600 |
| Employment services | 44,300 | 43,400 | 42,900 | 900 | 1,400 |
| Business support services | 12,800 | 12,800 | 13,100 | 0 | -300 |
| Services to buildings and dwellings | 25,700 | 26,100 | 24,400 | -400 | 1,300 |
| Education and health services | 305,400 | 304,000 | 299,000 | 1,400 | 6,400 |
| Educational services | 38,000 | 36,600 | 38,800 | 1,400 | -800 |
| Health care and social assistance | 267,400 | 267,400 | 260,200 | 0 | 7,200 |
| Ambulatory health care services | 95,700 | 96,400 | 93,000 | -700 | 2,700 |
| Hospitals | 60,400 | 60,200 | 59,300 | 200 | 1,100 |
| Nursing and residential care facilities | 52,500 | 52,800 | 51,500 | -300 | 1,000 |
| Social assistance | 58,800 | 58,000 | 56,400 | 800 | 2,400 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 213,100 | 216,900 | 210,900 | -3,800 | 2,200 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 26,900 | 28,700 | 26,200 | -1,800 | 700 |
| Amusement, gambling, and recreation | 18,800 | 20,400 | 18,500 | -1,600 | 300 |
| Accommodation and food services | 186,200 | 188,200 | 184,700 | -2,000 | 1,500 |
| Accommodation | 26,200 | 27,000 | 26,000 | -800 | 200 |
| Food services and drinking places | 160,000 | 161,200 | 158,700 | -1,200 | 1,300 |
| Full-service restaurants | 72,100 | 72,400 | 72,200 | -300 | -100 |
| Limited-service eating places | 71,300 | 72,300 | 69,800 | -1,000 | 1,500 |
| Other services | 66,500 | 65,600 | 64,900 | 900 | 1,600 |
| Repair and maintenance | 18,500 | 18,500 | 19,000 | 0 | -500 |
| Personal and laundry services | 16,100 | 15,800 | 15,500 | 300 | 600 |
| Membership associations and organizations | 31,900 | 31,300 | 30,400 | 600 | 1,500 |
| Religious organizations | 17,000 | 16,800 | 16,500 | 200 | 500 |
| Government | 304,600 | 288,400 | 301,200 | 16,200 | 3,400 |
| Federal government | 28,400 | 29,600 | 28,600 | -1,200 | -200 |
| State government | 40,600 | 41,100 | 39,900 | -500 | 700 |
| State education | 700 | 700 | 800 | 0 | -100 |
| Local government | 235,600 | 217,700 | 232,700 | 17,900 | 2,900 |
| Indian tribal | 8,400 | 8,300 | 8,200 | 100 | 200 |
| Local education | 139,000 | 120,800 | 138,100 | 18,200 | 900 |
| 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.