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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Amy Vander Vliet, Economist  
Amy.S.VanderVliet@oregon.gov  
(971) 804-2099

## Employment in the Portland Metro Area: August 2017 Job Growth Takes a Breather

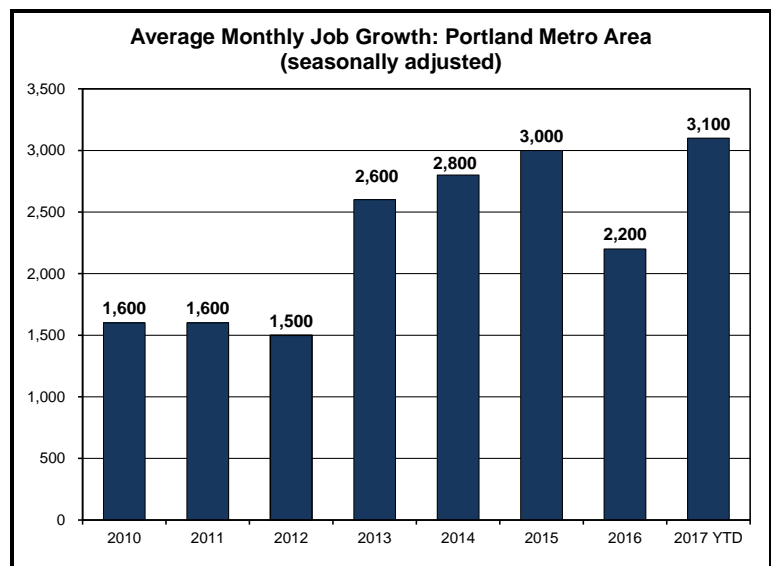
The Portland metro area's unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.1 percent in August compared with 3.9 percent in July. Over the year, the rate declined from 4.9 percent as the number of unemployed residents fell by 8,200 to 56,200.

Metro area businesses shed 1,800 jobs in August following an upwardly revised gain of 4,000 jobs in July (seasonally adjusted).

Three major industries deviated from seasonal norms, contributing to August's decline. Leisure and hospitality shed 1,000 jobs when a gain of 600 to 800 jobs is the norm. However, this sector experienced unusually strong gains earlier in the summer, and employment remains well above year-ago levels (+6,700 jobs; +5.5%). The government sector cut 2,200 jobs. However, as with leisure and hospitality, these losses offset a relatively strong late spring and early summer. Finally,

manufacturing ended its 6-month growth streak with the loss of 500 jobs. The decline was broad-based, as every published component either lost jobs or was flat over the month.

The pace of job growth in the metro area ticked up over the summer and remains above 3 percent despite August's losses. Over the past 12 months, the region's total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 35,300 jobs, or 3.1 percent, compared with an average of 2.3 percent in the first half of this year. Once again, construction was the fastest-growing major industry with a year-over-year gain of 10.6 percent (+6,900 jobs). Financial activities shifted into the red in August, with a year-over-year decline of 300 jobs. The information sector is also now below year-ago levels (-200 jobs).



**Next Press Release**

The Oregon Employment Department will release the Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, October 24.

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

	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	---Change from--- July 2017	August 2016
<b>LABOR FORCE STATUS</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	1,326,900	1,333,100	1,287,300	-6,200	39,600
Unemployed	56,200	54,800	64,400	1,400	-8,200
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.1%	5.0%		
Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted	4.1%	3.9%	4.9%		
Total Employed	1,270,700	1,278,300	1,222,900	-7,600	47,800
<b>NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT</b>					
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>1,180,300</b>	<b>1,180,000</b>	<b>1,145,000</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>35,300</b>
<b>Total nonfarm, seasonally adjusted</b>	<b>1,179,100</b>	<b>1,180,900</b>	<b>1,149,500</b>	<b>-1,800</b>	<b>29,600</b>
<b>Total private</b>	<b>1,033,300</b>	<b>1,030,800</b>	<b>1,000,300</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>33,000</b>
<b>Mining and logging</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>71,700</b>	<b>71,100</b>	<b>64,800</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>6,900</b>
Construction of buildings	19,400	19,100	16,700	300	2,700
Residential building construction	11,100	11,000	9,600	100	1,500
Nonresidential building construction	8,300	8,100	7,100	200	1,200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	6,000	5,800	5,300	200	700
Specialty trade contractors	46,300	46,200	42,800	100	3,500
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>125,700</b>	<b>126,200</b>	<b>124,000</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>1,700</b>
Durable goods	92,600	92,900	91,400	-300	1,200
Wood product manufacturing	4,100	4,100	3,900	0	200
Primary metal manufacturing	5,900	6,000	5,800	-100	100
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	12,700	12,700	12,700	0	0
Machinery manufacturing	9,500	9,500	9,000	0	500
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	36,000	36,100	37,000	-100	-1,000
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	29,300	29,400	30,200	-100	-900
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,500	4,600	4,600	-100	-100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	7,000	7,000	7,100	0	-100
Nondurable goods	33,100	33,300	32,600	-200	500
Food manufacturing	14,400	14,500	13,500	-100	900
Paper manufacturing	2,800	2,800	2,900	0	-100
<b>Trade, transportation, and utilities</b>	<b>218,800</b>	<b>217,200</b>	<b>211,500</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>7,300</b>
Wholesale trade	58,700	58,300	56,400	400	2,300
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	26,600	26,700	25,900	-100	700
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	20,300	19,800	19,100	500	1,200
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	11,800	11,800	11,400	0	400
Retail trade	119,700	118,900	117,700	800	2,000
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	14,700	14,700	14,200	0	500
Food and beverage stores	24,500	24,400	24,200	100	300
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	11,200	11,200	10,900	0	300
General merchandise stores	23,900	23,600	24,100	300	-200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40,400	40,000	37,400	400	3,000
Utilities	2,400	2,400	2,300	0	100
Transportation and Warehousing	38,000	37,600	35,100	400	2,900
Air transportation	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	200
Truck transportation	10,700	10,700	10,600	0	100
Couriers and messengers	6,200	6,000	5,900	200	300
Warehousing and storage	4,400	4,400	3,800	0	600
<b>Information</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,100</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-200</b>
Publishing industries, except internet	9,800	9,800	9,900	0	-100
Software publishers	7,900	7,800	7,900	100	0
Telecommunications	5,000	5,000	5,300	0	-300

**Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)**

	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	---Change from--- July 2017	August 2016
<b>Financial activities</b>	<b>69,100</b>	<b>69,200</b>	<b>69,400</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-300</b>
Finance and insurance	43,200	43,300	42,800	-100	400
Credit intermediation and related activities	19,100	19,100	18,400	0	700
Insurance carriers and related activities	18,800	18,900	18,800	-100	0
Real estate and rental and leasing	25,900	25,900	26,600	0	-700
<b>Professional and business services</b>	<b>181,800</b>	<b>180,600</b>	<b>178,800</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>3,000</b>
Professional and technical services	76,900	75,800	74,400	1,100	2,500
Architectural and engineering services	13,700	13,600	12,800	100	900
Computer systems design and related services	15,400	15,300	15,100	100	300
Management of companies and enterprises	39,200	39,200	38,100	0	1,100
Administrative and waste services	65,700	65,600	66,300	100	-600
Administrative and support services	62,500	62,400	63,300	100	-800
Employment services	28,400	28,300	26,600	100	1,800
Business support services	7,200	7,200	7,600	0	-400
Services to buildings and dwellings	15,200	15,100	15,900	100	-700
<b>Education and health services</b>	<b>170,100</b>	<b>168,600</b>	<b>160,200</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>9,900</b>
Educational services	26,700	26,800	23,500	-100	3,200
Colleges and universities	10,500	10,800	9,700	-300	800
Health care and social assistance	143,400	141,800	136,700	1,600	6,700
Ambulatory health care services	56,900	56,700	53,700	200	3,200
Hospitals	31,100	31,300	30,600	-200	500
Nursing and residential care facilities	28,300	27,700	26,800	600	1,500
Social assistance	27,100	26,100	25,600	1,000	1,500
<b>Leisure and hospitality</b>	<b>129,600</b>	<b>130,600</b>	<b>122,900</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>6,700</b>
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	20,900	20,800	18,900	100	2,000
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	15,400	15,400	13,900	0	1,500
Accommodation and food services	108,700	109,800	104,000	-1,100	4,700
Accommodation	10,900	11,000	10,800	-100	100
Food services and drinking places	97,800	98,800	93,200	-1,000	4,600
Full-service restaurants	44,500	44,900	43,100	-400	1,400
Limited-service eating places	41,400	42,400	40,300	-1,000	1,100
<b>Other services</b>	<b>40,200</b>	<b>40,900</b>	<b>42,200</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-2,000</b>
Membership associations and organizations	17,800	17,800	19,100	0	-1,300
<b>Government</b>	<b>147,000</b>	<b>149,200</b>	<b>144,700</b>	<b>-2,200</b>	<b>2,300</b>
Federal government	18,100	18,300	18,200	-200	-100
State government	20,100	19,400	19,700	700	400
State education	1,700	1,900	2,300	-200	-600
Local government	108,800	111,500	106,800	-2,700	2,000
Local education	55,600	58,300	55,200	-2,700	400

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.