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Employment in Central Oregon: April 2021

Preliminary estimates for April reveal the pace of recovery slowed dramatically for much of Central Oregon after several months of hot hiring. Both Deschutes and Jefferson counties posted job gains largely consistent with the normal seasonal pattern. However, Crook County posted strong enough gains to push total nonfarm employment above the pre-COVID peak in February 2020.

Crook County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.6% in April, up slightly from 7.4% in March. The unemployment rate remains higher than before the first impacts from COVID-19 in February 2020 when it was 4.4%.

Preliminary estimates reveal that employment levels rose sharply in April, up 150 jobs (+2.2%) on a seasonally adjusted basis. These monthly gains were enough to push employment in Crook County above the pre-COVID peak in February 2020.

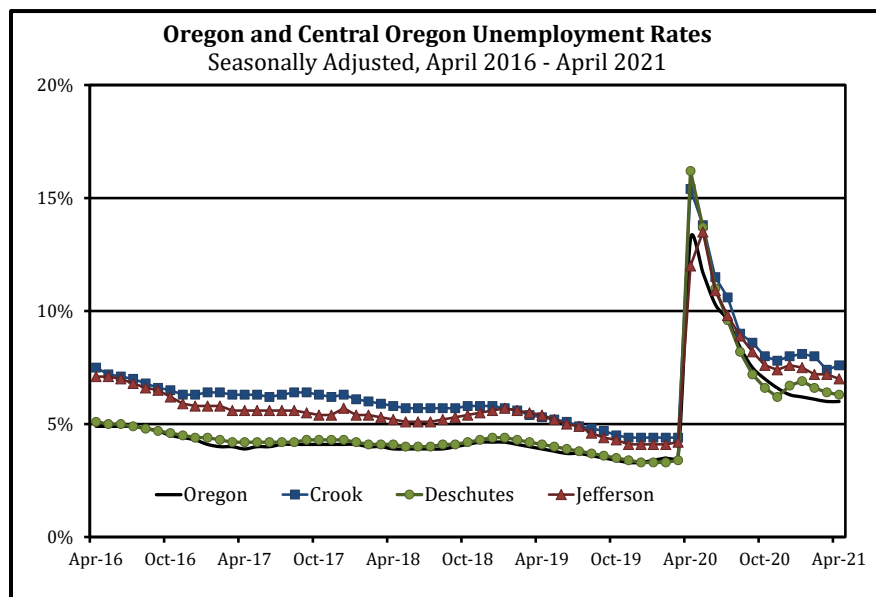
The strong hiring in April was largely concentrated in hard hit industries that continued to rehire from earlier layoffs.

Leisure and hospitality added

220 jobs in April; professional and business services added 150 jobs; and construction added 100 jobs.

Deschutes County (Bend-Redmond MSA): The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was little changed at 6.3% in April compared with 6.4% in March. The unemployment rate remains higher than before the first impacts from COVID-19 in February 2020 when it was 3.3%.

After several months of very strong hiring, preliminary estimates reveal that the employment recovery stalled in April with hiring largely in line with seasonal trends (+740 jobs). Employment levels in April 2021 remained down around 4% (-3,600 jobs) from the pre-COVID peak in February 2020.



The year-over-year change is now capturing the large losses from the initial lockdown this time last year with total nonfarm employment up 12,120 jobs from April 2020. These year-over-year changes are no longer a reflection of the employment situation before the onset of COVID-19. To gauge where non-seasonally adjusted industry employment sits compared with the pre-COVID peak we can go back one additional year and compare the most recent estimates to the same month in 2019.

Several industries had employment levels that remained lower in April 2021 than in April 2019, including leisure and hospitality (-1,590 jobs); professional and business services (-500); local government education (-490); and manufacturing (-230). Meanwhile, a few industries posted employment levels notably higher than April 2019, including private education and health services (+720 jobs); retail trade (+410); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+260); and construction (+240).

Jefferson County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped slightly to 7.0% in April, down from 7.2% in March. The unemployment rate remains higher than before the first impacts from COVID-19 in February 2020 when it was 4.1%.

Hiring stalled in Jefferson County with businesses only adding 120 jobs in April 2021, slightly less than the typical seasonal gain of 160 jobs. Despite these slower gains in April total nonfarm employment is fast approaching pre-COVID levels, down only 50 jobs (-0.7%) from February 2020.

The weak seasonal hiring in April was largely due to a loss of 40 jobs in the manufacturing sector. Most other industries posted modest gains in April.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, June 22 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Tuesday, June 15.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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May 25, 2021

Crook County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	March 2021	April 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	10,930	10,781	10,015	149	915
Unemployed	828	915	1,540	-87	-712
Unemployment rate	7.6%	8.5%	15.4%	-0.9	-7.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.6%	7.4%	15.4%	0.2	-7.8
Employed	10,102	9,866	8,475	236	1,627
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	6,670	6,460	5,900	210	770
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6,790	6,640	6,010	150	780
Total private	5,410	5,260	4,710	150	700
Mining, logging, and construction	890	790	800	100	90
Mining and logging	40	40	50	0	-10
Construction	850	750	750	100	100
Manufacturing	660	670	610	-10	50
Wood product manufacturing	370	380	340	-10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,060	1,060	1,010	0	50
Wholesale trade	300	320	310	-20	-10
Retail trade	560	550	510	10	50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	200	190	190	10	10
Information	280	280	250	0	30
Financial activities	220	220	210	0	10
Professional and business services	590	550	440	40	150
Education and health services	790	800	740	-10	50
Leisure and hospitality	660	630	440	30	220
Other services	260	260	210	0	50
Government	1,260	1,200	1,190	60	70
Federal government	290	230	270	60	20
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	850	850	810	0	40

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.



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Bend-Redmond MSA (Deschutes County) Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	March 2021	April 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	101,964	101,836	93,031	128	8,933
Unemployed	6,410	7,195	15,114	-785	-8,704
Unemployment rate	6.3%	7.1%	16.2%	-0.8	-9.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.3%	6.4%	16.2%	-0.1	-9.9
Employed	95,554	94,641	77,917	913	17,637
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	84,740	84,000	72,620	740	12,120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	85,750	85,840	72,910	-90	12,840
Total private	75,290	74,790	63,110	500	12,180
Mining, logging, and construction	7,200	7,130	6,790	70	410
Manufacturing	5,360	5,350	4,810	10	550
Durable goods	3,230	3,220	3,140	10	90
Trade, transportation, and utilities	16,690	16,620	13,860	70	2,830
Wholesale trade	2,290	2,280	2,120	10	170
Retail trade	12,030	11,980	9,710	50	2,320
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,370	2,360	2,030	10	340
Information	1,670	1,670	1,630	0	40
Financial activities	4,810	4,720	4,350	90	460
Professional and business services	9,880	9,920	9,950	-40	-70
Education and health services	15,180	15,240	13,240	-60	1,940
Leisure and hospitality	11,440	11,120	6,170	320	5,270
Accommodation and food services	9,560	9,150	5,310	410	4,250
Other services	3,060	3,020	2,310	40	750
Government	9,450	9,210	9,510	240	-60
Federal government	980	900	920	80	60
State government	960	950	930	10	30
Local government	7,510	7,360	7,660	150	-150
Local education	4,350	4,240	4,750	110	-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: Official Oregon Series. 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.



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Jefferson County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	March 2021	April 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,032	10,984	10,173	48	859
Unemployed	755	920	1,206	-165	-451
Unemployment rate	6.8%	8.4%	11.9%	-1.6	-5.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7.0%</i>	<i>7.2%</i>	<i>12.0%</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>-5.0</i>
Employed	10,277	10,064	8,967	213	1,310
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	6,720	6,600	6,210	120	510
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6,700</i>	<i>6,740</i>	<i>6,190</i>	<i>-40</i>	<i>510</i>
Total private	4,270	4,230	3,850	40	420
Mining, logging, and construction	160	150	140	10	20
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	150	140	130	10	20
Manufacturing	1,230	1,270	1,200	-40	30
Wood product manufacturing	890	930	830	-40	60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	920	920	830	0	90
Wholesale trade	180	180	180	0	0
Retail trade	650	640	550	10	100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	100	100	-10	-10
Information	30	30	20	0	10
Financial activities	150	140	150	10	0
Professional and business services	240	220	190	20	50
Education and health services	730	730	730	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	590	570	420	20	170
Other services	220	200	170	20	50
Government	2,450	2,370	2,360	80	90
Federal government	120	120	120	0	0
State government	300	290	300	10	0
Local government	2,030	1,960	1,940	70	90
Indian tribal	920	860	900	60	20

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.

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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.

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, select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

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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.