

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 22, 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Amy Vander Vliet, Economist

Amy.S.VanderVliet@employ.oregon.gov

(971) 804-2099

Portland Metropolitan Area: March 2025

Employers added 4,900 jobs (seasonally adjusted) in March, and February's losses were revised from 1,800 to 800 jobs.

Most major industries performed within a few hundred jobs of seasonal norms. The notable exception was private health care, which added 4,300 jobs. The majority of these gains were due to the return of workers who had been on strike at a major health care provider since January.

Elsewhere, above-average gains in leisure and hospitality offset a weak February. Construction, on the other hand, remains sluggish. It added 400 jobs when gains of roughly 1,000 are more the norm for this time of year. This sector has gone from being one of the fastest growing broad industries to one of the slowest over the last two years.

Year-over-year employment growth was flat in March (+300 jobs). Gains in health care and social assistance, other services (which includes religious organizations, membership associations, personal services, laundry services, and repair and maintenance services), and government barely offset declines in manufacturing, construction, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality.

The Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate was 4.9% in March (not seasonally adjusted); up from 4.4% a year earlier. Approximately 67,100 area residents were unemployed; 9,300 more than a year ago. The statewide unadjusted unemployment rate was 5.2%.

Note: Labor force statistics (e.g. the unemployment rate) for the country's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) are produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The BLS has temporarily suspended the production of seasonally adjusted data for MSAs as they work on implementing new geographic delineations of metro areas based on up-to-date population estimates from the 2020 Census. Production will resume when this work is completed, likely in time for the May data which will be released in June. In the meantime, the Oregon Employment Department will rely on the not seasonally adjusted data produced by the BLS. Read more on this pause in seasonally adjusted metro area data [here](https://www.qualityinfo.org/web/guest/-/a-pause-on-seasonally-adjusted-labor-force-statistics-for-metro-areas).

[\(<https://www.qualityinfo.org/web/guest/-/a-pause-on-seasonally-adjusted-labor-force-statistics-for-metro-areas>\)](https://www.qualityinfo.org/web/guest/-/a-pause-on-seasonally-adjusted-labor-force-statistics-for-metro-areas)

Next Press Release

The Oregon Employment Department will release the Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Tuesday, May 20.

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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe, enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

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 QualityInfo.org, select Tools, and choose LAUS or CES from the dropdown menu. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

To file an Unemployment Insurance claim, visit our online claims system or call our contact centers, where Employment Department staff are ready to help by phone, at 1-877-FILE-4-UI (1-877-345-3484). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

###



Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

			--Change From--		
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,382,118	1,377,893	1,387,730	4,225	-5,612
Unemployed	67,078	68,599	57,740	-1,521	9,338
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.0%	4.2%	-0.1	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	1,315,040	1,309,294	1,329,990	5,746	-14,950
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,244,000	1,235,600	1,243,700	8,400	300
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>1,252,100</i>	<i>1,247,200</i>	<i>1,245,400</i>	<i>4,900</i>	<i>6,700</i>
Total private	1,081,200	1,072,700	1,083,600	8,500	-2,400
Mining, logging, and construction	79,100	78,700	82,100	400	-3,000
Mining and logging	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Construction	78,000	77,600	81,000	400	-3,000
Construction of buildings	20,500	20,100	21,200	400	-700
Residential building construction	12,600	12,100	13,200	500	-600
Nonresidential building construction	7,900	8,000	8,000	-100	-100
Heavy and civil engineering construction	6,900	6,900	6,900	0	0
Specialty trade contractors	50,600	50,600	52,900	0	-2,300
Manufacturing	117,800	117,700	123,100	100	-5,300
Durable goods	87,600	87,600	92,000	0	-4,400
Wood product manufacturing	3,800	3,800	4,000	0	-200
Primary metal manufacturing	4,400	4,400	4,600	0	-200
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	11,600	11,700	12,000	-100	-400
Machinery manufacturing	9,000	9,000	9,300	0	-300
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	36,200	36,300	39,800	-100	-3,600
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	31,000	31,000	34,100	0	-3,100
Electronic instrument manufacturing	3,900	3,900	4,200	0	-300
Transportation equipment manufacturing	6,500	6,500	6,900	0	-400
Nondurable goods	30,200	30,100	31,100	100	-900
Food manufacturing	13,600	13,600	13,700	0	-100
Paper manufacturing	2,300	2,300	2,500	0	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	220,600	219,700	220,700	900	-100
Wholesale trade	57,600	57,400	57,700	200	-100
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	31,300	31,200	31,000	100	300
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	20,600	20,600	20,800	0	-200
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	5,700	5,600	5,900	100	-200
Retail trade	112,900	112,800	112,500	100	400
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	14,400	14,200	14,200	200	200
Food and beverage retailers	25,400	25,400	25,100	0	300
General merchandise retailers	22,000	22,100	22,100	-100	-100
Clothing, accessories, shoe, and jewelry retailers	10,000	10,200	10,100	-200	-100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50,100	49,500	50,500	600	-400
Utilities	2,800	2,800	2,600	0	200
Transportation and warehousing	47,300	46,700	47,900	600	-600
Air transportation	4,300	4,300	4,200	0	100
Truck transportation	10,400	10,400	10,500	0	-100
Couriers and messengers	9,700	9,900	10,200	-200	-500
Warehousing and storage	12,200	12,300	11,400	-100	800
Information	27,100	27,500	26,800	-400	300
Publishing industries	12,100	12,200	12,300	-100	-200
Software publishers	10,800	10,800	10,900	0	-100
Telecommunications	2,600	2,500	2,800	100	-200

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
Financial activities	70,700	71,100	71,300	-400	-600
Finance and insurance	40,100	40,300	40,200	-200	-100
Credit intermediation and related activities	13,900	14,000	14,600	-100	-700
Insurance carriers and related activities	18,300	18,400	18,700	-100	-400
Real estate and rental and leasing	30,600	30,800	31,100	-200	-500
Professional and business services	194,500	193,500	196,500	1,000	-2,000
Professional and technical services	85,600	85,700	86,100	-100	-500
Architectural and engineering services	16,200	16,200	15,600	0	600
Computer systems design and related services	14,800	15,100	15,600	-300	-800
Management of companies and enterprises	40,500	40,300	41,500	200	-1,000
Administrative and waste services	68,400	67,500	68,900	900	-500
Administrative and support services	64,100	63,400	64,900	700	-800
Employment services	26,800	26,500	27,300	300	-500
Business support services	3,500	3,500	4,300	0	-800
Services to buildings and dwellings	17,600	17,300	17,200	300	400
Private education and health services	210,800	206,400	201,900	4,400	8,900
Private educational services	28,400	28,300	29,400	100	-1,000
Private colleges and universities	10,600	10,700	11,100	-100	-500
Health care and social assistance	182,400	178,100	172,500	4,300	9,900
Ambulatory health care services	64,600	63,600	62,800	1,000	1,800
Hospitals	34,900	32,800	32,200	2,100	2,700
Nursing and residential care facilities	33,600	33,400	31,600	200	2,000
Social assistance	49,300	48,300	45,900	1,000	3,400
Leisure and hospitality	115,700	113,600	117,500	2,100	-1,800
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	17,500	16,700	17,400	800	100
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	12,400	11,800	12,400	600	0
Accommodation and food services	98,200	96,900	100,100	1,300	-1,900
Accommodation	9,800	9,700	9,900	100	-100
Food services and drinking places	88,400	87,200	90,200	1,200	-1,800
Full-service restaurants	36,000	35,600	36,900	400	-900
Limited-service eating places	41,400	41,100	42,100	300	-700
Other services	44,900	44,500	43,700	400	1,200
Membership associations and organizations	18,800	18,500	18,100	300	700
Government	162,800	162,900	160,100	-100	2,700
Federal government	18,700	18,800	19,000	-100	-300
State government	14,200	14,300	13,700	-100	500
State education	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
Local government	129,900	129,800	127,400	100	2,500
Local education	71,300	71,400	69,100	-100	2,200

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.

The Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro metropolitan area includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in Oregon, and Clark and Skamania counties in Washington State.