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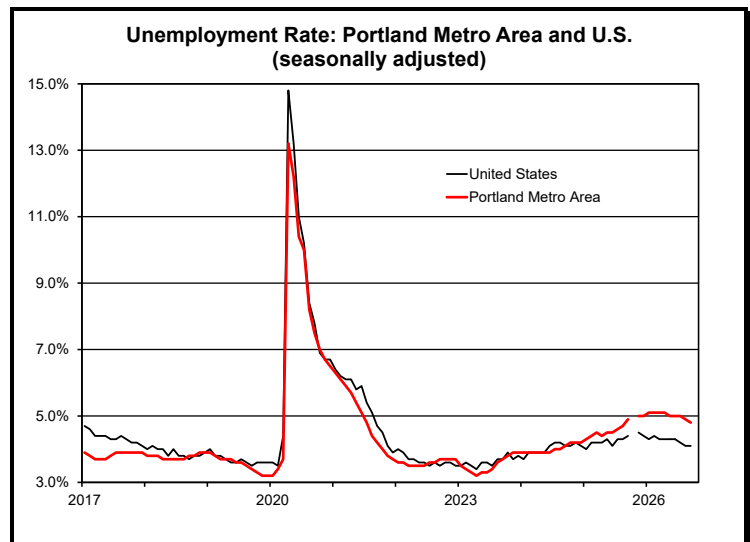
Employment and Unemployment in the Portland Metropolitan Area August 2026: Unemployment Little Changed

The Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate was little changed at 4.8% in August compared to 4.9% in July. Approximately 67,700 area residents were unemployed; 6,100 fewer than a year ago. After rising steadily since early 2023, the region's unemployment rate plateaued in the summer of 2025 and has hovered close to 5.0% since. Oregon's unemployment rate was 5.1% and the national rate was 4.1% in August.

The metro area's nonfarm employment declined by 2,600 jobs in August (seasonally adjusted).

Several broad industries added fewer jobs than expected for this time of year, which contributed to the region's seasonally adjusted losses:

- Private health care and social assistance was flat over the month when a gain of 700 jobs is the typical August trend. This sector has been growing rapidly over the past few years while most others have declined or been flat. And while it remains one of the fastest-growing broad industries over the year, the pace of growth has cooled in 2026.
- Leisure and hospitality took a breather in August following several months of above average gains. The restaurant component shed jobs (-600) in a month that typically sees the addition of several hundred jobs.
- Financial activities also pulled back in August after staging the beginning of a comeback in late spring and early summer.



Above-average gains in professional and business services, construction, and information partially offset these losses.

Next Press Release

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

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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.

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

	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	--Change From--	
				July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,388,806	1,373,045	1,393,613	15,761	-4,807
Unemployed	67,728	67,347	73,846	381	-6,118
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.9%	5.3%	0.0	-0.4
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.8%	4.9%	5.0%	-0.1	-0.2
Employed	1,321,078	1,305,698	1,319,767	15,380	1,311
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,234,800	1,234,500	1,236,500	300	-1,700
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	1,224,500	1,227,100	1,236,700	-2,600	-12,200
Total private	1,080,000	1,079,200	1,082,100	800	-2,100
Mining, logging, and construction	80,300	79,500	81,400	800	-1,100
Mining and logging	1,000	1,100	1,100	-100	-100
Construction	79,300	78,400	80,300	900	-1,000
Construction of buildings	20,600	20,500	20,800	100	-200
Residential building construction	13,100	13,000	13,000	100	100
Nonresidential building construction	7,500	7,500	7,800	0	-300
Heavy and civil engineering construction	7,300	7,300	7,700	0	-400
Specialty trade contractors	51,400	50,600	51,800	800	-400
Manufacturing	112,100	112,500	116,400	-400	-4,300
Durable goods	83,300	83,200	85,900	100	-2,600
Primary metal manufacturing	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	11,600	11,600	11,800	0	-200
Machinery manufacturing	9,200	9,200	9,100	0	100
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	32,200	32,400	35,000	-200	-2,800
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	26,900	27,000	29,600	-100	-2,700
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,000	4,000	3,900	0	100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	7,200	7,200	6,600	0	600
Nondurable goods	28,800	29,300	30,500	-500	-1,700
Food manufacturing	13,300	13,500	13,900	-200	-600
Trade, transportation, and utilities	215,900	216,200	219,100	-300	-3,200
Wholesale trade	55,000	55,300	55,700	-300	-700
Retail trade	109,900	110,500	111,800	-600	-1,900
General merchandise retailers	22,200	22,100	22,000	100	200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	51,000	50,400	51,600	600	-600
Utilities	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	48,200	47,600	48,800	600	-600
Truck transportation	9,900	9,900	10,200	0	-300
Couriers and messengers	11,900	11,700	11,900	200	0
Warehousing and storage	9,600	9,600	10,300	0	-700
Information	25,100	24,900	25,900	200	-800
Software publishers	10,000	10,100	10,200	-100	-200
Financial activities	72,100	72,800	72,000	-700	100
Finance and insurance	40,300	40,600	39,900	-300	400
Credit intermediation and related activities	14,200	14,300	14,000	-100	200
Insurance carriers and related activities	19,200	19,400	18,700	-200	500
Real estate and rental and leasing	31,800	32,200	32,100	-400	-300

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (cont.)

	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Professional and business services	189,000	188,400	189,700	600	-700
Professional and technical services	83,300	83,700	84,400	-400	-1,100
Architectural and engineering services	15,700	15,800	16,000	-100	-300
Computer systems design and related services	14,600	14,700	15,200	-100	-600
Management of companies and enterprises	38,000	38,100	38,800	-100	-800
Administrative and waste services	67,700	66,600	66,500	1,100	1,200
Employment services	25,200	24,700	23,600	500	1,600
Private education and health services	214,400	213,700	207,600	700	6,800
Private educational services	26,600	25,900	25,000	700	1,600
Health care and social assistance	187,800	187,800	182,600	0	5,200
Ambulatory health care services	65,600	65,600	64,400	0	1,200
Hospitals	34,600	34,600	34,500	0	100
Nursing and residential care facilities	36,000	35,900	34,300	100	1,700
Social assistance	51,600	51,700	49,400	-100	2,200
Leisure and hospitality	127,600	127,800	126,000	-200	1,600
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	22,900	22,500	21,300	400	1,600
Accommodation and food services	104,700	105,300	104,700	-600	0
Accommodation	10,500	10,500	10,500	0	0
Food services and drinking places	94,200	94,800	94,200	-600	0
Restaurants and other eating places	82,400	82,800	82,500	-400	-100
Other services	43,500	43,400	44,000	100	-500
Government	154,800	155,300	154,400	-500	400
Federal government	17,300	17,500	18,400	-200	-1,100
State government	13,700	13,700	14,000	0	-300
State education	1,100	1,000	1,600	100	-500
Local government	123,800	124,100	122,000	-300	1,800
Local education	59,200	59,400	59,300	-200	-100

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.