

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 20, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Amy Vander Vliet, Economist

Amy.S.VanderVliet@employ.oregon.gov

(971) 804-2099

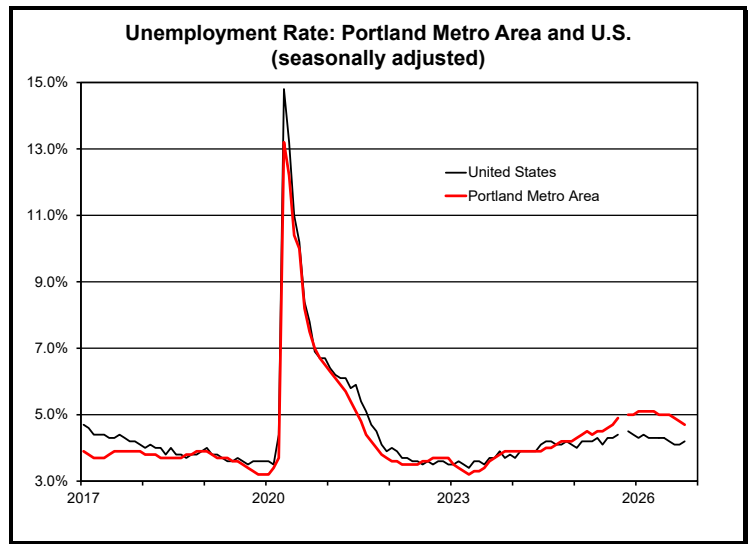
Employment and Unemployment in the Portland Metropolitan Area

The Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate was 4.7% in September compared to 4.8% in August. Approximately 56,300 area residents were unemployed; 13,400 fewer than a year ago. The region's unemployment rate plateaued in the summer of 2025 and has hovered close to 5.0% since. Oregon's unemployment rate was 5.0% and the national rate was 4.2% in September.

The metro area's nonfarm employment rose by 5,100 jobs in September (seasonally adjusted). August's decline was revised from 2,600 to 600.

Construction outperformed seasonal expectations for the third consecutive month, adding 1,200 jobs when losses are the September norm.

Professional and business services also outperformed expectations, adding 1,700 jobs when the average September sees losses. The temp help component contributed to half of these gains.



Local education (K-12 and community colleges) added several thousand jobs above the typical September gain. This is likely due to school schedules and the timing of fall hiring.

On the other end of the spectrum, leisure and hospitality cut more jobs than typical, offsetting atypically strong hiring in late spring and early summer.

In the past 12 months, employment rose by 0.6%, or 7,200 jobs (not seasonally adjusted). Health care and social assistance growth (3.0%) continues to outpace all other broad industries, with leisure and hospitality (2.1%), construction (1.4%), and financial activities (1.4%) also in the black.

Next Press Release

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

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

	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	--Change From--	
				August 2026	September 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,385,215	1,388,542	1,388,805	-3,327	-3,590
Unemployed	56,308	67,522	69,677	-11,214	-13,369
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.9%	5.0%	-0.8	-0.9
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.7%	4.8%	5.1%	-0.1	-0.4
Employed	1,328,907	1,321,020	1,319,128	7,887	9,779
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,241,600	1,235,500	1,234,400	6,100	7,200
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	1,231,600	1,226,500	1,233,200	5,100	-1,600
Total private	1,081,000	1,080,500	1,075,700	500	5,300
Mining, logging, and construction	81,200	79,900	80,000	1,300	1,200
Mining and logging	1,100	1,000	1,000	100	100
Construction	80,100	78,900	79,000	1,200	1,100
Construction of buildings	20,600	20,500	20,400	100	200
Residential building construction	13,100	13,000	12,700	100	400
Nonresidential building construction	7,500	7,500	7,700	0	-200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	7,300	7,300	7,700	0	-400
Specialty trade contractors	52,200	51,100	50,900	1,100	1,300
Manufacturing	112,000	112,200	114,900	-200	-2,900
Durable goods	82,900	83,300	84,200	-400	-1,300
Primary metal manufacturing	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	11,600	11,600	11,700	0	-100
Machinery manufacturing	9,200	9,200	9,100	0	100
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	31,900	32,300	33,300	-400	-1,400
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	26,600	26,900	28,000	-300	-1,400
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,000	4,000	3,900	0	100
Transportation equipment manufacturing	7,200	7,200	6,800	0	400
Nondurable goods	29,100	28,900	30,700	200	-1,600
Food manufacturing	13,400	13,400	14,000	0	-600
Trade, transportation, and utilities	216,200	216,000	218,400	200	-2,200
Wholesale trade	55,000	54,800	55,300	200	-300
Retail trade	109,300	110,200	111,100	-900	-1,800
General merchandise retailers	22,300	22,300	22,100	0	200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	51,900	51,000	52,000	900	-100
Utilities	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	49,100	48,200	49,200	900	-100
Truck transportation	10,000	9,900	10,100	100	-100
Couriers and messengers	12,000	11,900	12,300	100	-300
Warehousing and storage	9,800	9,600	10,100	200	-300
Information	24,500	24,900	25,600	-400	-1,100
Software publishers	9,900	10,000	10,100	-100	-200

	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	--Change From--	
				August 2026	September 2025
Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)					
Financial activities	72,100	71,900	71,100	200	1,000
Finance and insurance	40,400	40,100	39,500	300	900
Credit intermediation and related activities	14,200	14,100	13,900	100	300
Insurance carriers and related activities	19,200	19,100	18,600	100	600
Real estate and rental and leasing	31,700	31,800	31,600	-100	100
Professional and business services	191,000	189,200	189,500	1,800	1,500
Professional and technical services	83,500	83,400	83,700	100	-200
Architectural and engineering services	15,800	15,700	15,900	100	-100
Computer systems design and related services	14,500	14,600	15,100	-100	-600
Management of companies and enterprises	38,200	38,100	38,700	100	-500
Administrative and waste services	69,300	67,700	67,100	1,600	2,200
Employment services	26,300	25,400	24,600	900	1,700
Private education and health services	216,100	214,300	209,900	1,800	6,200
Private educational services	28,200	26,700	27,400	1,500	800
Health care and social assistance	187,900	187,600	182,500	300	5,400
Ambulatory health care services	65,800	65,500	64,300	300	1,500
Hospitals	34,600	34,600	34,700	0	-100
Nursing and residential care facilities	35,900	36,000	34,300	-100	1,600
Social assistance	51,600	51,500	49,200	100	2,400
Leisure and hospitality	125,200	128,500	122,600	-3,300	2,600
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	21,300	22,900	19,600	-1,600	1,700
Accommodation and food services	103,900	105,600	103,000	-1,700	900
Accommodation	10,400	10,600	10,400	-200	0
Food services and drinking places	93,500	95,000	92,600	-1,500	900
Restaurants and other eating places	81,500	83,000	81,000	-1,500	500
Other services	42,700	43,600	43,700	-900	-1,000
Government	160,600	155,000	158,700	5,600	1,900
Federal government	17,300	17,300	18,300	0	-1,000
State government	14,200	13,900	14,300	300	-100
State education	1,300	1,100	1,900	200	-600
Local government	129,100	123,800	126,100	5,300	3,000
Local education	64,900	59,200	63,500	5,700	1,400

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.

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