

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 26, 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Gail Krumenauer](#), State Employment Economist
(971) 301-3771

[Video](#) and [Audio](#) available at 10 a.m. PT

[David Cooke](#), Economist (971) 375-5288

Oregon's Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.5% in February

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.5% in February and 4.4% in January, after rising gradually over the past year from 4.1% in February 2024. Oregon's 4.5% unemployment rate was the highest since August 2021, when the rate was 4.7%, and slightly higher than during the three years prior to the COVID recession that started in 2020. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.1% in February and 4.0% in January.

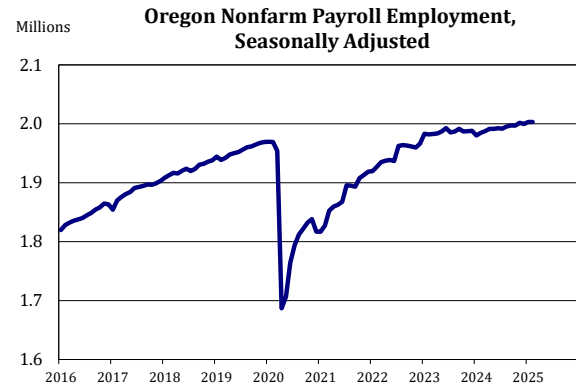
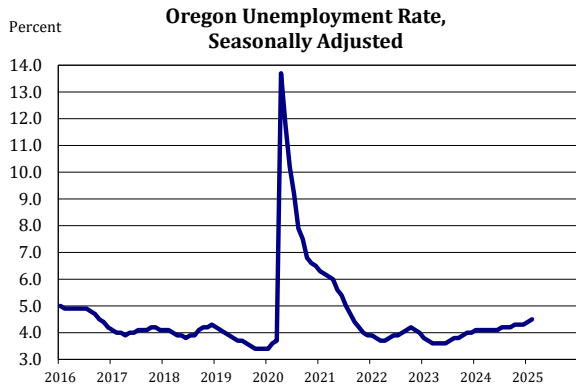
In February, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 100 jobs, following a revised gain of 3,500 jobs in January. February's gains were largest in **professional and business services** (+1,700 jobs); **information** (+700); **manufacturing** (+600); and **government** (+500). Declines were largest in **construction** (-2,200 jobs); **private educational services** (-900); and **financial activities** (-700).

Two industries within professional and business services bumped up hiring in February. **Professional and technical services** added 1,300 jobs on top of adding 1,100 in January. This followed a gradual downtrend of 1,500 jobs during the prior 22 months. Meanwhile, **administrative and waste services** added 400 jobs in February; however, despite the one-month gain, this industry was on a choppy downward trajectory during much of the past two years, having cut 5,600 jobs since its all-time high of 106,600 in March 2022.

Payroll employment grew slowly over the past 12 months, adding 18,500 jobs, or 0.9%, in that time. Job gains were strongest in **health care and social assistance** (+14,000 jobs, or 4.8%) and **government** (+8,700 jobs, or 2.8%). Meanwhile, manufacturing shed the most jobs of the major industries (-6,000 jobs, or -3.2%). Construction (-1,800 jobs, or -1.5%) and **retail trade** (-1,800 jobs, or -0.9%) each declined substantially since February 2024.

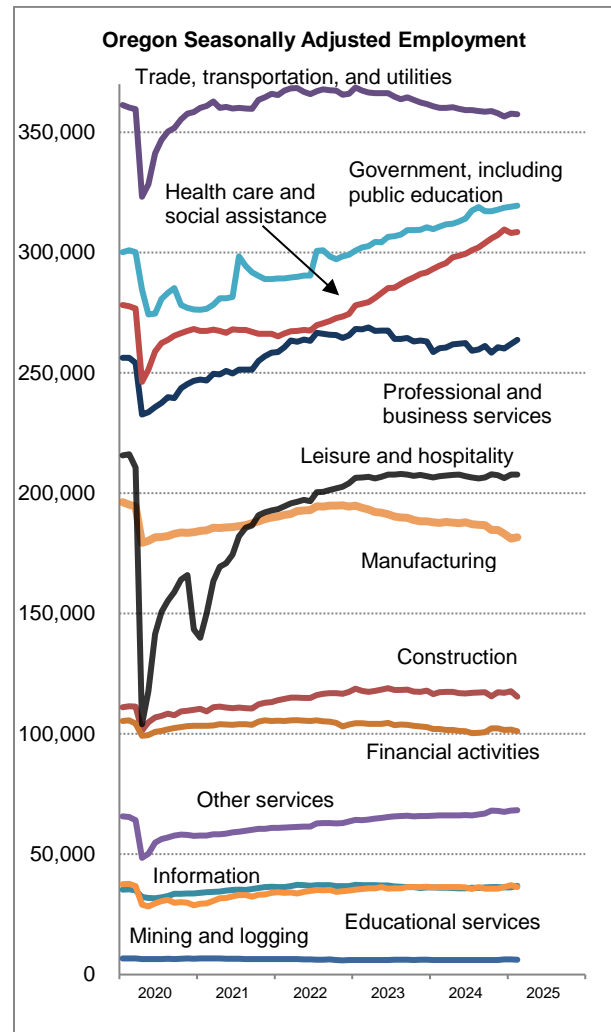
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 1, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Wednesday, April 16.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes January to February 2025

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	7,700	7,600	-100
Total private	3,700	3,100	-600
Mining and logging	0	-100	-100
Construction	1,800	-400	-2,200
Manufacturing	400	1,000	600
Wholesale trade	-100	-300	-200
Retail trade	-1,400	-1,300	100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	-500	-700	-200
Information	-100	600	700
Financial activities	-800	-1,500	-700
Professional and business services	2,600	4,300	1,700
Private educational services	1,800	900	-900
Health care and social assistance	700	1,100	400
Leisure and hospitality	-600	-500	100
Other services	-100	0	100
Government	4,000	4,500	500



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted.

The Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly Oregon payroll employment and labor force data. 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. This press release incorporates, for the first time, the annual revisions to the data for 2024 and prior years.

The PDF version of the news release can be found at QualityInfo.org/press-release. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit QualityInfo.org, select *Tools*, then choose *LAUS* or *CES* under the *Economy* header. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

To file a claim for unemployment benefits or get more information about unemployment programs, visit unemployment.oregon.gov.

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. OED provides free help so you can use our services. Some examples are sign language and spoken-language interpreters, written materials in other languages, large print, audio, and other formats. To get help, please call 503-947-1444. TTY users call 711. You can also send an email to 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 communications@employ.oregon.gov.

Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	Change From January 2025	Change From February 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,204,149	2,194,893	2,187,280	9,256	16,869
Unemployed	115,710	117,396	100,505	-1,686	15,205
Unemployment rate	5.2	5.3	4.6	-0.1	0.6
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.5	4.4	4.1	0.1	0.4
Employed	2,088,439	2,077,497	2,086,775	10,942	1,664
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.7	62.7	62.6	0.0	0.1
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	8.1	7.9	8.3	0.2	-0.2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,986,600	1,979,000	1,972,700	7,600	13,900
Total private	1,662,500	1,659,400	1,656,400	3,100	6,100
Mining and logging	6,000	6,100	5,900	-100	100
Logging	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	-100
Construction	111,800	112,200	114,000	-400	-2,200
Construction of buildings	30,800	30,900	32,300	-100	-1,500
Residential building construction	19,500	19,600	20,500	-100	-1,000
Nonresidential building construction	11,300	11,300	11,800	0	-500
Heavy and civil engineering construction	10,900	11,000	10,700	-100	200
Specialty trade contractors	70,100	70,300	71,000	-200	-900
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,500	12,600	13,200	-100	-700
Building equipment contractors	33,800	34,000	33,900	-200	-100
Building finishing contractors	14,300	14,200	14,500	100	-200
Other specialty trade contractors	9,500	9,500	9,400	0	100
Manufacturing	179,200	178,200	186,100	1,000	-6,900
Durable goods	127,400	126,300	131,900	1,100	-4,500
Wood product manufacturing	22,100	21,800	22,700	300	-600
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,200	6,100	6,600	100	-400
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,300	8,200	8,300	100	0
Other wood product manufacturing	7,600	7,500	7,800	100	-200
Primary metal manufacturing	7,700	7,600	7,500	100	200
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,100	15,000	15,300	100	-200
Machinery manufacturing	13,600	13,600	13,800	0	-200
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	36,900	37,100	40,000	-200	-3,100
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,600	30,700	33,100	-100	-2,500
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,400	4,400	4,700	0	-300
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,600	10,600	11,400	0	-800
Nondurable goods	51,800	51,900	54,200	-100	-2,400
Food manufacturing	26,200	26,500	27,000	-300	-800
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	8,800	8,900	8,700	-100	100
Paper manufacturing	3,800	3,800	4,100	0	-300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	355,000	357,300	356,500	-2,300	-1,500
Wholesale trade	77,600	77,900	77,900	-300	-300
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	40,700	40,600	40,000	100	700
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	29,700	30,000	30,600	-300	-900
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	7,200	7,300	7,300	-100	-100
Retail trade	200,900	202,200	201,700	-1,300	-800
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	25,600	26,000	26,100	-400	-500
Building material and garden equipment and supplies c	16,900	16,700	17,100	200	-200
Food and beverage retailers	46,500	46,700	46,800	-200	-300
General merchandise retailers	39,600	40,100	39,000	-500	600
Clothing, clothing accessories, shoe, and jewelry retail	15,000	15,500	15,000	-500	0
Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, book, and	28,700	28,400	28,300	300	400

	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	Change From January 2025	Change From February 2024
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	76,500	77,200	76,900	-700	-400
Utilities	5,300	5,300	5,000	0	300
Transportation and warehousing	71,200	71,900	71,900	-700	-700
Truck transportation	18,200	18,200	18,200	0	0
Couriers and messengers	14,100	14,900	14,200	-800	-100
Warehousing and storage	17,900	18,100	17,800	-200	100
Information	36,500	35,900	36,300	600	200
Publishing industries	16,100	16,100	16,200	0	-100
Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Software publishers	13,900	13,900	14,000	0	-100
Telecommunications	3,800	3,800	4,000	0	-200
Financial activities	99,800	101,300	101,000	-1,500	-1,200
Finance and insurance	53,000	53,900	53,700	-900	-700
Credit intermediation and related activities	21,000	21,300	21,900	-300	-900
Insurance carriers and related activities	25,300	25,500	25,100	-200	200
Real estate and rental and leasing	46,800	47,400	47,300	-600	-500
Real estate	40,600	41,200	41,500	-600	-900
Professional and business services	261,900	257,600	259,000	4,300	2,900
Professional and technical services	113,300	111,800	111,300	1,500	2,000
Legal services	12,400	12,300	12,000	100	400
Architectural and engineering services	19,600	19,400	19,000	200	600
Computer systems design and related services	17,100	16,500	17,700	600	-600
Management of companies and enterprises	49,000	48,900	50,600	100	-1,600
Administrative and waste services	99,600	96,900	97,100	2,700	2,500
Administrative and support services	92,200	89,600	92,000	2,600	200
Employment services	38,600	36,500	38,900	2,100	-300
Business support services	6,100	6,000	7,100	100	-1,000
Services to buildings and dwellings	26,000	25,600	26,000	400	0
Private education and health services	346,800	344,800	333,200	2,000	13,600
Private educational services	38,100	37,200	38,400	900	-300
Health care and social assistance	308,700	307,600	294,800	1,100	13,900
Ambulatory health care services	104,500	104,700	102,000	-200	2,500
Hospitals	62,600	61,700	60,900	900	1,700
Nursing and residential care facilities	58,000	58,300	55,600	-300	2,400
Social assistance	83,600	82,900	76,300	700	7,300
Leisure and hospitality	198,000	198,500	199,000	-500	-1,000
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	25,600	25,800	27,400	-200	-1,800
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	18,500	18,700	20,000	-200	-1,500
Accommodation and food services	172,400	172,700	171,600	-300	800
Accommodation	22,800	23,400	22,500	-600	300
Food services and drinking places	149,600	149,300	149,100	300	500
Full-service restaurants	60,200	60,000	61,200	200	-1,000
Limited-service eating places	74,300	73,500	71,300	800	3,000
Other services	67,500	67,500	65,400	0	2,100
Repair and maintenance	21,300	21,400	20,300	-100	1,000
Personal and laundry services	15,700	15,800	15,300	-100	400
Membership associations and organizations	30,500	30,300	29,800	200	700
Religious organizations	14,600	14,500	14,600	100	0
Government	324,100	319,600	316,300	4,500	7,800
Federal government	28,200	28,300	28,500	-100	-300
State government	48,800	48,700	46,700	100	2,100
State education	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
Local government	247,100	242,600	241,100	4,500	6,000
Indian tribal	9,100	8,700	8,400	400	700
Local education	145,100	141,300	140,500	3,800	4,600
Labor-management disputes	3,500	3,500	0	0	3,500

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.

Labor Force Status: Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Employed includes nonfarm payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture and labor disputants. Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

U-6 is the total unemployed plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force plus total employed part-time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all persons marginally attached to the 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. These survey-based estimates are revised quarterly, based on more complete information from employer tax records.