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Portland Metropolitan Area: September 2024

The Portland metropolitan area's unemployment rate was 4.0% in September, unchanged from August and slightly higher than the year-ago rate of 3.8%. Approximately 52,400 area residents were unemployed; 4,400 more than a year ago. The statewide rate was also 4.0% and the national rate edged down to 4.1%.

Employers cut 1,800 jobs in September following a gain of 1,500 in August (seasonally adjusted).

Private and public education didn't add the usual number of jobs for September, the traditional start of the school year, contributing to the area's overall losses. This is likely due to the timing of the school calendar and data collection. October's numbers should reflect the full extent of school hiring.

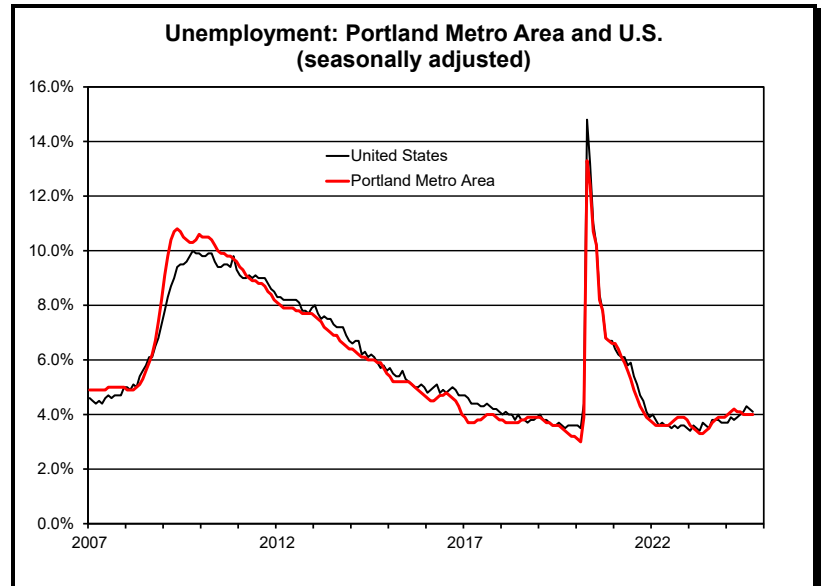
Construction also contributed to September's decline, shedding roughly four times the usual number of jobs for this time of year.

Partially offsetting these losses, leisure and hospitality cut fewer jobs than expected based on seasonal trends, and private health care continued to add jobs at a rapid clip.

Employment in the metro area reached an all-time peak in early 2023 then declined slightly as rising interest rates took a toll, especially on spending-sensitive sectors of the economy (e.g. construction, manufacturing). Then things steadied in the fall and for the past 12 months employment levels have been fairly stable, hovering within 5,000 jobs of 1,240,000.

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. 19



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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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

	--Change From--				
	September 2024	August 2024	September 2023	August 2024	September 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,360,880	1,372,396	1,357,522	-11,516	3,358
Unemployed	52,360	55,867	47,958	-3,507	4,402
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.1%	3.5%	-0.3	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.0%	3.8%	0.0	0.2
Employed	1,308,520	1,316,529	1,309,564	-8,009	-1,044
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,257,200	1,256,900	1,244,800	300	12,400
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,243,200	1,245,000	1,246,600	-1,800	-3,400
Total private	1,102,200	1,102,700	1,092,900	-500	9,300
Mining, logging, and construction	84,400	86,600	84,500	-2,200	-100
Mining and logging	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Construction	83,300	85,500	83,400	-2,200	-100
Construction of buildings	22,100	22,600	22,100	-500	0
Residential building construction	13,800	14,100	13,600	-300	200
Nonresidential building construction	8,300	8,500	8,500	-200	-200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	7,500	7,700	7,400	-200	100
Specialty trade contractors	53,700	55,200	53,900	-1,500	-200
Manufacturing	125,400	126,200	125,100	-800	300
Durable goods	92,400	93,200	92,600	-800	-200
Wood product manufacturing	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0
Primary metal manufacturing	4,600	4,700	4,600	-100	0
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	12,100	12,100	12,000	0	100
Machinery manufacturing	9,400	9,400	9,600	0	-200
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	40,400	40,600	40,200	-200	200
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	34,900	35,100	34,300	-200	600
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,300	4,300	4,300	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	7,000	7,000	6,600	0	400
Nondurable goods	33,000	33,000	32,500	0	500
Food manufacturing	14,500	14,600	14,200	-100	300
Paper manufacturing	2,700	2,700	2,500	0	200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	225,400	224,600	224,200	800	1,200
Wholesale trade	59,700	59,700	58,400	0	1,300
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	31,700	31,900	31,200	-200	500
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	22,000	21,800	21,200	200	800
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0
Retail trade	113,500	113,600	114,700	-100	-1,200
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	14,400	14,400	14,500	0	-100
Food and beverage retailers	25,600	25,600	25,400	0	200
General merchandise retailers	22,800	22,600	22,500	200	300
Clothing, accessories, shoe, and jewelry retailers	10,200	10,500	10,600	-300	-400
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	52,200	51,300	51,100	900	1,100
Utilities	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0
Transportation and warehousing	49,500	48,600	48,400	900	1,100
Air transportation	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	200
Truck transportation	10,800	10,700	10,900	100	-100
Couriers and messengers	10,800	10,500	10,400	300	400
Warehousing and storage	11,600	11,500	11,500	100	100
Information	26,600	26,700	26,900	-100	-300
Publishing industries	11,900	12,000	12,400	-100	-500
Software publishers	10,700	10,800	10,900	-100	-200
Telecommunications	2,600	2,600	2,900	0	-300

Nonfarm Payroll Employment (continued)

	--Change From--				
	September 2024	August 2024	September 2023	August 2024	September 2023
Financial activities	74,500	74,800	73,600	-300	900
Finance and insurance	40,700	41,400	40,700	-700	0
Credit intermediation and related activities	14,900	15,100	15,300	-200	-400
Insurance carriers and related activities	18,200	18,900	18,700	-700	-500
Real estate and rental and leasing	33,800	33,400	32,900	400	900
Professional and business services	195,600	196,500	198,800	-900	-3,200
Professional and technical services	82,700	84,100	85,300	-1,400	-2,600
Architectural and engineering services	15,500	15,800	16,100	-300	-600
Computer systems design and related services	14,900	15,200	15,500	-300	-600
Management of companies and enterprises	41,700	41,800	41,800	-100	-100
Administrative and waste services	71,200	70,600	71,700	600	-500
Administrative and support services	67,200	66,500	67,700	700	-500
Employment services	30,100	29,400	30,100	700	0
Business support services	4,100	4,100	4,700	0	-600
Services to buildings and dwellings	17,400	17,500	17,700	-100	-300
Private education and health services	203,000	199,200	195,000	3,800	8,000
Private educational services	26,400	24,100	27,700	2,300	-1,300
Private colleges and universities	9,700	8,100	10,100	1,600	-400
Health care and social assistance	176,600	175,100	167,300	1,500	9,300
Ambulatory health care services	63,000	63,100	61,300	-100	1,700
Hospitals	33,700	32,900	31,900	800	1,800
Nursing and residential care facilities	33,000	32,900	30,400	100	2,600
Social assistance	46,900	46,200	43,700	700	3,200
Leisure and hospitality	123,200	124,200	121,700	-1,000	1,500
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	18,500	18,800	17,900	-300	600
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	13,400	13,600	12,800	-200	600
Accommodation and food services	104,700	105,400	103,800	-700	900
Accommodation	11,000	11,000	10,400	0	600
Food services and drinking places	93,700	94,400	93,400	-700	300
Full-service restaurants	38,700	39,300	38,400	-600	300
Limited-service eating places	44,100	44,500	43,500	-400	600
Other services	44,100	43,900	43,100	200	1,000
Membership associations and organizations	18,300	17,900	17,900	400	400
Government	155,000	154,200	151,900	800	3,100
Federal government	19,100	19,100	18,600	0	500
State government	13,900	13,900	13,600	0	300
State education	2,200	1,900	2,000	300	200
Local government	122,000	121,200	119,700	800	2,300
Local education	61,900	60,600	62,200	1,300	-300

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.

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