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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Was Unchanged at 5.2% in May

Oregon's unemployment rate was 5.2% in each of the first five months of 2026. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.3% in March, April, and May.

In May, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 3,600 jobs, following a gain of 600 jobs, as revised, in April. May's gains were largest in **other services** (+2,000 jobs) and **professional and business services** (+1,800). Losses were largest in **manufacturing** (-1,100 jobs).

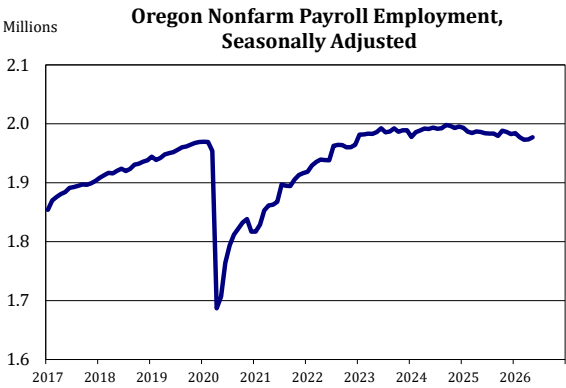
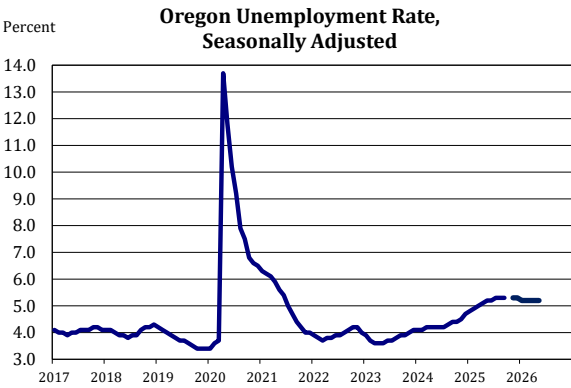
Although nonfarm payroll employment rose by a total of 4,200 jobs during April and May, this broad measure of Oregon's employment was still 9,100 jobs, or 0.5%, below its May 2025 level. Over the past 12 months, nine of the major industries have cut jobs, while only five industries have added jobs. At 1,977,100, Oregon nonfarm payroll employment has been slightly below two million jobs for the past four years and is down 20,900 jobs from its peak of 1,998,000 in September 2024.

The rapid expansion during the prior three years within **health care and social assistance** is slowing. Since October 2025, growth appears to have leveled off in **ambulatory health care services** and in **hospitals**. However, the other two industries within the broader sector continued their rapid expansion. Since October, **nursing and residential care facilities** added 1,500 jobs, while **social assistance** added 4,600.

Manufacturing employment dropped 1,100 jobs in May, following steep losses over the prior three years. In the past 12 months, **durable goods manufacturing** cut 5,900 jobs, or 4.7%, while **nondurable goods manufacturing** cut 2,200 jobs, or 4.0%.

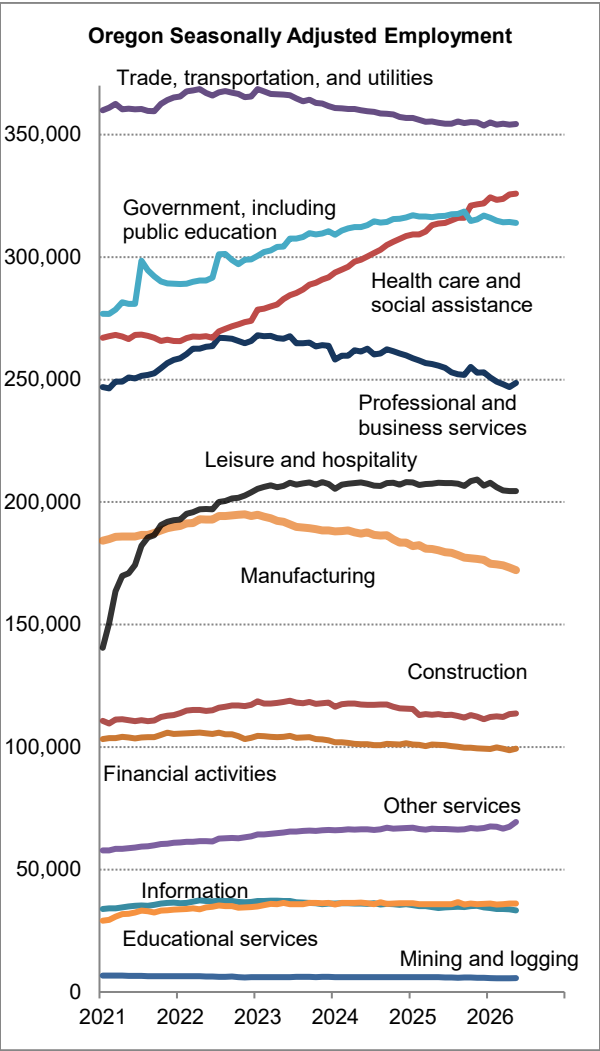
Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, June 23, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Wednesday, July 15.



Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes April to May 2026

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	9,700	13,300	3,600
Total private	7,800	11,700	3,900
Mining and logging	100	200	100
Construction	1,200	1,500	300
Manufacturing	1,200	100	-1,100
Wholesale trade	200	500	300
Retail trade	-300	-200	100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	0	-100	-100
Information	0	-400	-400
Financial activities	1,300	1,900	600
Professional and business services	600	2,400	1,800
Private educational services	-900	-900	0
Health care and social assistance	-700	-400	300
Leisure and hospitality	4,900	4,900	0
Other services	200	2,200	2,000
Government	1,900	1,600	-300



Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted, except for the component industries within health care and social assistance.

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.

The Oregon Employment Department publishes payroll employment estimates that are revised quarterly by using employment counts from employer unemployment insurance tax records. All department publications use this Official Oregon Series data unless noted otherwise. This month's release incorporates the October, November, and December 2025 tax records data. In addition, data for July, August, and September 2025 were revised by a total of up to 4,300 jobs per month. The department continues to make the original nonfarm payroll employment series available; these data are produced by the BLS.

The PDF version of the news release can be found at [QualityInfo.org/press-release](https://qualityinfo.org/press-release). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [QualityInfo.org](https://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.

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Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	Change From April 2026	Change From May 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,199,710	2,188,209	2,206,986	11,501	-7,276
Unemployed	105,557	103,589	106,166	1,968	-609
Unemployment rate	4.8	4.7	4.8	0.1	0.0
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.0	0.0
Employed	2,094,153	2,084,620	2,100,820	9,533	-6,667
Other Labor Force Indicators					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	62.4	62.5	62.9	-0.1	-0.5
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	9.0	9.0	9.2	0.0	-0.2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,983,700	1,970,400	2,001,900	13,300	-18,200
Total private	1,661,400	1,649,700	1,676,100	11,700	-14,700
Mining and logging	5,700	5,500	6,000	200	-300
Logging	3,800	3,700	4,000	100	-200
Construction	114,100	112,600	113,700	1,500	400
Construction of buildings	31,600	31,000	31,500	600	100
Residential building construction	20,500	20,100	20,200	400	300
Nonresidential building construction	11,100	10,900	11,300	200	-200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	12,000	11,700	11,700	300	300
Specialty trade contractors	70,500	69,900	70,500	600	0
Building foundation and exterior contractors	12,500	12,400	12,600	100	-100
Building equipment contractors	34,000	33,600	33,500	400	500
Building finishing contractors	14,000	14,100	14,500	-100	-500
Other specialty trade contractors	10,000	9,800	9,900	200	100
Manufacturing	172,000	171,900	180,200	100	-8,200
Durable goods	119,800	119,700	125,700	100	-5,900
Wood product manufacturing	21,300	21,200	22,200	100	-900
Sawmills and wood preservation	5,700	5,700	5,900	0	-200
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,300	8,200	8,600	100	-300
Other wood product manufacturing	7,300	7,300	7,700	0	-400
Primary metal manufacturing	7,500	7,500	7,400	0	100
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	14,800	14,800	15,200	0	-400
Machinery manufacturing	13,400	13,400	13,800	0	-400
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	31,500	31,700	35,600	-200	-4,100
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	25,400	25,400	29,000	0	-3,600
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,300	4,300	4,500	0	-200
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,900	10,900	10,900	0	0
Nondurable goods	52,200	52,200	54,500	0	-2,300
Food manufacturing	26,800	26,900	28,000	-100	-1,200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350,700	350,500	353,100	200	-2,400
Wholesale trade	74,300	73,800	76,000	500	-1,700
Retail trade	197,700	197,900	200,600	-200	-2,900
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	24,900	25,100	26,300	-200	-1,400
Food and beverage retailers	46,400	46,500	46,500	-100	-100
General merchandise retailers	39,100	39,100	39,100	0	0

	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	Change From April 2026	Change From May 2025
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	78,700	78,800	76,500	-100	2,200
Utilities	5,300	5,200	5,300	100	0
Transportation and warehousing	73,400	73,600	71,200	-200	2,200
Truck transportation	17,000	17,100	17,900	-100	-900
Couriers and messengers	16,100	16,200	15,900	-100	200
Warehousing and storage	17,400	17,400	14,400	0	3,000
Information	33,100	33,500	34,600	-400	-1,500
Software publishers	12,500	12,600	13,000	-100	-500
Financial activities	99,700	97,800	100,900	1,900	-1,200
Finance and insurance	52,100	51,500	53,100	600	-1,000
Credit intermediation and related activities	21,400	20,900	21,200	500	200
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,700	24,300	25,200	400	-500
Real estate and rental and leasing	47,600	46,300	47,800	1,300	-200
Real estate	42,200	41,100	42,000	1,100	200
Professional and business services	248,300	245,900	258,000	2,400	-9,700
Professional and technical services	108,000	106,100	109,600	1,900	-1,600
Architectural and engineering services	18,500	18,500	19,300	0	-800
Computer systems design and related services	16,700	16,800	17,500	-100	-800
Management of companies and enterprises	46,200	46,300	48,300	-100	-2,100
Administrative and waste services	94,100	93,500	100,100	600	-6,000
Employment services	33,700	32,800	37,400	900	-3,700
Private education and health services	363,300	364,600	352,000	-1,300	11,300
Private educational services	37,600	38,500	36,700	-900	900
Health care and social assistance	325,700	326,100	315,300	-400	10,400
Ambulatory health care services	108,100	109,100	106,600	-1,000	1,500
Hospitals	64,800	65,100	64,500	-300	300
Nursing and residential care facilities	63,000	62,800	60,300	200	2,700
Social assistance	89,800	89,100	83,900	700	5,900
Leisure and hospitality	205,300	200,400	210,200	4,900	-4,900
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	29,600	28,600	29,500	1,000	100
Accommodation and food services	175,700	171,800	180,700	3,900	-5,000
Accommodation	23,500	23,300	25,100	200	-1,600
Food services and drinking places	152,200	148,500	155,600	3,700	-3,400
Other services	69,200	67,000	67,400	2,200	1,800
Repair and maintenance	20,500	19,700	20,600	800	-100
Personal and laundry services	16,500	16,100	16,000	400	500
Membership associations and organizations	32,200	31,200	30,800	1,000	1,400
Government	322,300	320,700	325,800	1,600	-3,500
Federal government	27,100	26,600	28,900	500	-1,800
State government	49,200	49,200	49,400	0	-200
State education	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	-100
Local government	246,000	244,900	247,500	1,100	-1,500
Indian tribal	9,200	9,200	8,800	0	400
Local education	138,100	137,600	141,600	500	-3,500
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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.