



News

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Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to its Lowest in Three Years

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 9.1 percent in November, a 0.4-point drop from 9.5 percent in October. Meanwhile, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also dropped by 0.4 point in November, to reach 8.6 percent.

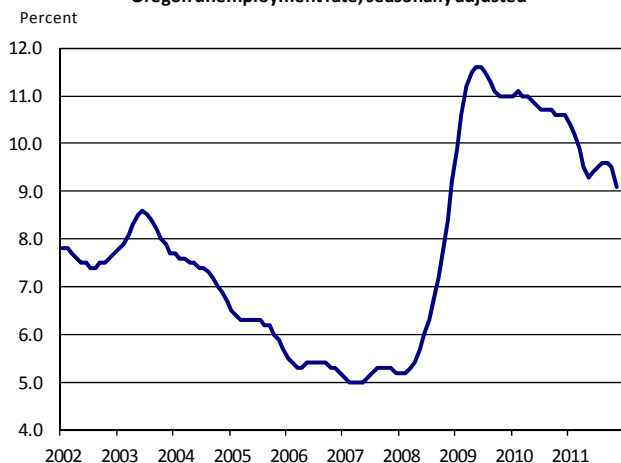
Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 1,600 in November, following a revised loss of 600 in October. November job gains were led by educational and health services (+2,300 jobs), trade, transportation and utilities (+1,900) and construction (+900). Gains were offset by losses in leisure and hospitality (-3,000), manufacturing (-2,300), financial activities (-1,100) and government (-900).

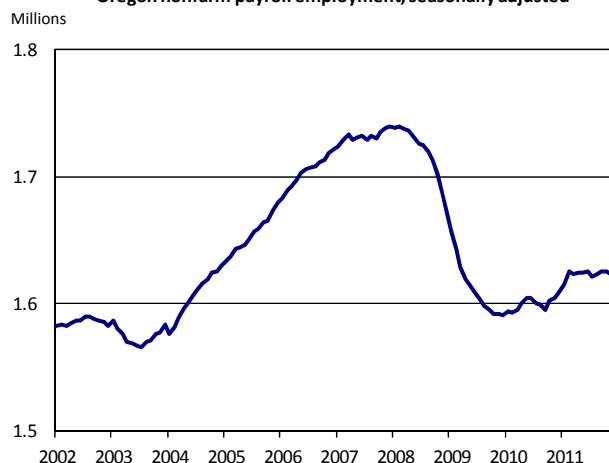
November Labor Market Highlights

- Oregon seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped significantly, from 9.5 percent in October to 9.1 percent in November.
- Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, at 9.1 percent in November, was 1.5 percentage points below its year-ago figure of 10.6 percent in November 2010.
- At 1,623,400 in November, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment remained in a tight range. Since February it has stayed between 1,621,700 and 1,624,900, which is a range of only 3,200 jobs or 0.2 percent.
- Retail trade continued to post cheery holiday hiring by adding 6,400 jobs in November.

Oregon unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted



Oregon nonfarm payroll employment, seasonally adjusted



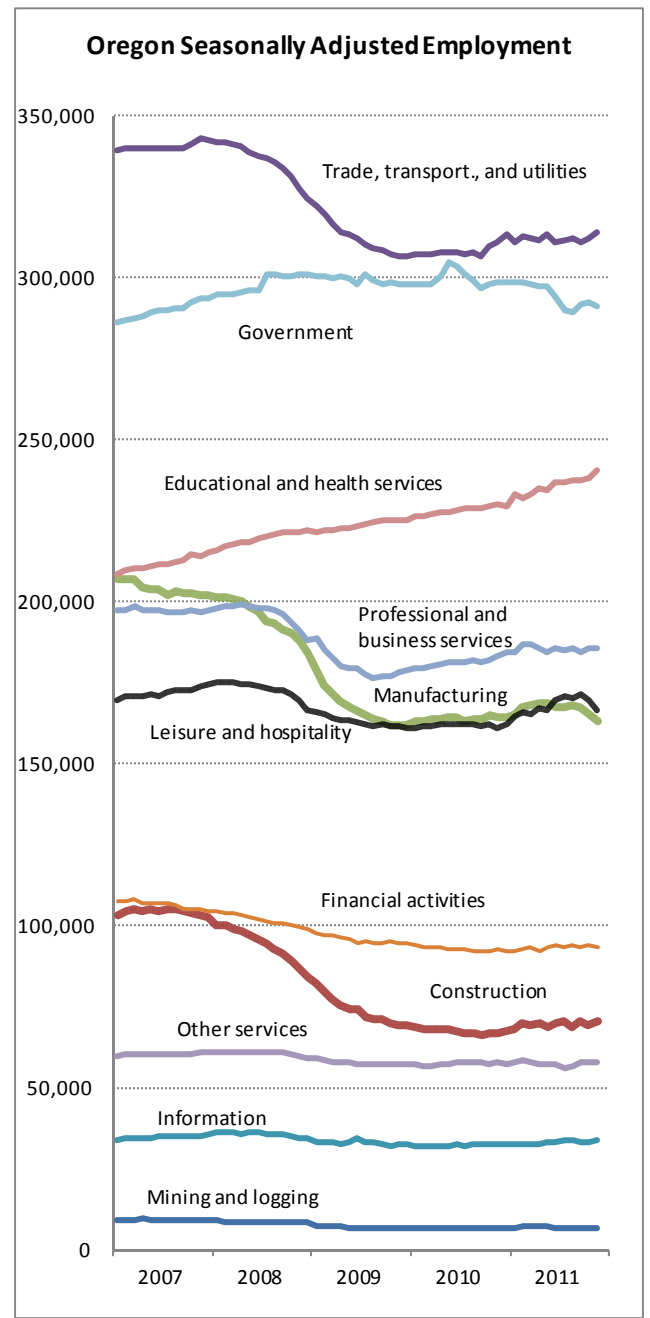
Educational and health services grew rapidly, adding 2,600 jobs during a month where net hiring is typically up by 300. Since November 2010, this private sector industry group has added the most jobs of any of the large sectors, posting a gain of 10,400 in that time. Each of its five component industries has added between 1,400 and 2,600 over that 12-month period.

Construction continued to tread water near 70,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis, with 70,300 such jobs in November, compared with 69,400 in October, and also 70,300 in September. Similar to total nonfarm employment, construction has been in a tight range since February, when it employed 70,200 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes
October to November 2011

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	-900	-2,500	-1,600
Total private	-3,800	-4,500	-700
Mining and logging	-300	-200	100
Construction	-3,200	-2,300	900
Manufacturing	-300	-2,600	-2,300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	5,000	6,900	1,900
Information	0	500	500
Financial activities	-100	-1,200	-1,100
Professional and business services	-2,500	-2,600	-100
Educational and health services	300	2,600	2,300
Leisure and hospitality	-2,100	-5,100	-3,000
Other services	-600	-500	100
Government	2,900	2,000	-900

Trade, transportation and utilities added 6,900 jobs at a time of year when a gain of 5,000 is expected due to seasonal factors. Retail was particularly strong, adding 6,400 in November. General merchandise stores added 2,800, while clothing and clothing accessories stores added 1,300. Holiday hiring has been robust through November, similar to the national payroll employment numbers, which have shown holiday hiring similar to 2004 though 2007 and well above levels seen in 2008 through 2010.



Leisure and hospitality dropped back from its summer peak demand times and employed 164,000 in November. The industry has added jobs compared with its year-ago figure when it employed 158,300. Gains since November 2010 were concentrated in food services and drinking places, which is up 4,700 jobs or 3.9 percent in that time.

Manufacturing cut 2,600 jobs in November, when a loss of only 300 would be the normal seasonal movement. Durable goods manufacturing has gradually diminished its workforce over the past few months, following a robust start to the year. Since November 2010, over-the-year losses in wood product manufacturing (-1,300 jobs) have been more than offset by gains in machinery manufacturing (+800) and computer and electronic product manufacturing (+1,400).

Financial activities cut 1,200 jobs, when a loss of only 100 is the normal seasonal movement for November. This industry remains near its post-recession lows of close to 93,200 on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since November 2010, gains in real estate and rental and leasing (+700 jobs) were offset by losses in insurance carriers and related activities (-1,000).

Government added 2,000 jobs in November, which was slightly below its normal seasonal pattern of 2,900 jobs added for the month. Schools, at both the local and state levels, normally are near their high point for the year in November. This year, state government education employed 34,000, which was up 1,800 since November 2010. However, local government education reflected the extent of recent budget cuts, employing only 101,200 in November, which was down 5,000 from its year-ago figure.

Hours and Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for Oregon manufacturing production workers spiked up to 41.0 hours in November, a gain from 38.9 in July, four months

prior. This was the highest level since 41.3 hours in October 2006. This measure of the workweek has generally trended higher over the past two years and is up from the November 2010 figure of 39.0 hours.

Average earnings of all private-sector payroll employees in Oregon dipped slightly to \$21.88 per hour in November from \$21.91 in October. The November figure was up 33 cents per hour, or 1.5 percent, from November 2010.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The national unemployment rate dropped from 9.0 percent in October to 8.6 percent in November. Oregon's November rate of 9.1 percent was 0.5 percentage point above the U.S. rate. The difference between the Oregon and the U.S. unemployment rates was not statistically significant.

The latest figures indicate that Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been on a generally declining trend for the past two and a half years. Since reaching a high point of 11.6 percent in May and June 2009, Oregon's rate has slowly diminished. At 9.1 percent in November, it is at its lowest rate since November 2008, when Oregon's rate was 8.4 percent.

In November, 167,563 Oregonians were unemployed. This is 41,806 fewer individuals than in November 2010 when 209,369 Oregonians were unemployed.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Monday, December 19th and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for December on Wednesday, January 18th.

For many years, monthly employment estimates for Oregon and its metropolitan areas were developed by Oregon Employment Department economists. These economists were also responsible for revising the initial sample-based estimates annually, based on more complete information from Oregon businesses. This revisions process is known as benchmarking.

In March 2011, responsibility for the monthly employment estimates for Oregon and its metropolitan areas shifted to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The estimates developed by BLS are more heavily dependent on the sample of businesses and less reliant on knowledge of local economic events. They are also likely to demonstrate increased month-to-month variability.

BLS staff is also taking over responsibility for the annual benchmarking process. The results of this process will be reflected when revised data for 2010 and 2011 are released in February and March 2012.

Comments or questions should be directed to Graham Slater, Administrator of the Oregon Employment Department's Workforce and Economic Research Division, at (503) 947-1212.

For the complete version of the news release, including tables and graphs, visit: www.QualityInfo.org/pressrelease.

If you need this release in the Spanish language, please contact Loretta Gallegos at 503-947-1794.

For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities

Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	November 2011	October 2011	November 2010	Change From October 2011	Change From November 2010
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,995,161	2,002,085	1,997,016	-6,924	-1,855
Unemployed	167,563	176,444	209,369	-8,881	-41,806
Unemployment rate	8.4	8.8	10.5	-0.4	-2.1
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	9.1	9.5	10.6	-0.4	-1.5
Employed	1,827,598	1,825,641	1,787,647	1,957	39,951
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,641,700	1,644,200	1,622,500	-2,500	19,200
Total private	1,343,400	1,347,900	1,316,800	-4,500	26,600
Mining and logging	6,800	7,000	6,800	-200	0
Logging	5,300	5,400	5,300	-100	0
Construction	72,100	74,400	68,600	-2,300	3,500
Construction of buildings	16,000	16,800	15,700	-800	300
Residential building construction	9,300	9,700	9,200	-400	100
Nonresidential building construction	6,700	7,100	6,500	-400	200
Heavy and civil engineering construction	8,900	9,200	9,300	-300	-400
Specialty trade contractors	47,200	48,400	43,600	-1,200	3,600
Building foundation and exterior contractors	9,000	9,400	8,700	-400	300
Building equipment contractors	23,700	23,600	19,500	100	4,200
Building finishing contractors	9,000	9,700	9,500	-700	-500
Other specialty trade contractors	5,500	5,700	5,900	-200	-400
Manufacturing	165,200	167,800	166,400	-2,600	-1,200
Durable goods	116,900	117,200	115,800	-300	1,100
Wood product manufacturing	18,100	18,300	19,400	-200	-1,300
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,200	6,200	5,900	0	300
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	6,100	6,100	6,900	0	-800
Other wood product manufacturing	5,800	6,000	6,600	-200	-800
Primary metal manufacturing	7,900	7,900	7,600	0	300
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	14,400	14,500	14,200	-100	200
Machinery manufacturing	10,800	10,800	10,000	0	800
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	36,700	36,800	35,300	-100	1,400
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	27,100	27,300	26,100	-200	1,000
Electronic instrument manufacturing	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,400	10,100	10,200	300	200
Nondurable goods	48,300	50,600	50,600	-2,300	-2,300
Food manufacturing	24,000	25,600	25,400	-1,600	-1,400
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	8,200	9,500	9,600	-1,300	-1,400
Paper manufacturing	4,700	4,700	4,900	0	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	321,300	314,400	317,800	6,900	3,500
Wholesale trade	72,600	72,000	72,700	600	-100
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	30,200	29,900	30,100	300	100
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	28,300	28,500	29,600	-200	-1,300
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	14,100	13,600	13,000	500	1,100
Retail trade	196,100	189,700	192,700	6,400	3,400
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	23,000	23,300	22,100	-300	900
Building material and garden supply stores	12,700	13,000	12,900	-300	-200
Food and beverage stores	40,500	40,600	38,800	-100	1,700
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16,800	15,500	16,900	1,300	-100
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	11,000	10,400	10,500	600	500
General merchandise stores	41,300	38,500	39,700	2,800	1,600
Miscellaneous store retailers	9,700	9,700	10,100	0	-400
Nonstore retailers	8,500	7,900	8,100	600	400

	November 2011	October 2011	November 2010	Change From October 2011	Change From November 2010
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	52,600	52,700	52,400	-100	200
Utilities	4,400	4,400	4,500	0	-100
Transportation and warehousing	48,200	48,300	47,900	-100	300
Truck transportation	16,500	16,600	16,500	-100	0
Couriers and messengers	6,500	6,200	6,500	300	0
Warehousing and storage	6,400	6,300	6,700	100	-300
Information	33,800	33,300	32,500	500	1,300
Publishing industries, except internet	14,400	14,300	14,200	100	200
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	4,900	4,900	5,100	0	-200
Software publishers	9,500	9,400	9,100	100	400
Telecommunications	6,600	6,600	6,700	0	-100
Financial activities	93,200	94,400	92,900	-1,200	300
Finance and insurance	56,100	56,000	56,500	100	-400
Credit intermediation and related activities	26,900	26,700	27,200	200	-300
Insurance carriers and related activities	23,000	23,100	24,000	-100	-1,000
Real estate and rental and leasing	37,100	38,400	36,400	-1,300	700
Real estate	31,000	31,800	31,000	-800	0
Professional and business services	185,300	187,900	182,500	-2,600	2,800
Professional and technical services	73,900	74,500	70,600	-600	3,300
Legal services	11,800	11,400	12,200	400	-400
Architectural and engineering services	12,700	12,800	12,500	-100	200
Computer systems design and related services	10,200	10,200	10,100	0	100
Management of companies and enterprises	30,000	29,800	30,400	200	-400
Administrative and waste services	81,400	83,600	81,500	-2,200	-100
Administrative and support services	75,900	78,100	76,400	-2,200	-500
Employment services	31,200	32,400	31,800	-1,200	-600
Business support services	12,800	12,500	12,900	300	-100
Services to buildings and dwellings	17,100	18,900	17,900	-1,800	-800
Educational and health services	244,000	241,400	233,600	2,600	10,400
Educational services	36,500	36,000	34,600	500	1,900
Health care and social assistance	207,500	205,400	199,000	2,100	8,500
Ambulatory health care services	72,800	72,400	70,200	400	2,600
Hospitals	56,000	55,200	53,600	800	2,400
Nursing and residential care facilities	45,700	45,000	43,600	700	2,100
Social assistance	33,000	32,800	31,600	200	1,400
Leisure and hospitality	164,000	169,100	158,300	-5,100	5,700
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	20,300	22,600	19,700	-2,300	600
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	14,400	15,500	14,700	-1,100	-300
Accommodation and food services	143,700	146,500	138,600	-2,800	5,100
Accommodation	19,700	21,000	19,300	-1,300	400
Food services and drinking places	124,000	125,500	119,300	-1,500	4,700
Full-service restaurants	62,100	63,300	57,800	-1,200	4,300
Limited-service eating places	49,200	49,500	49,700	-300	-500
Other services	57,700	58,200	57,400	-500	300
Repair and maintenance	15,000	15,200	15,000	-200	0
Personal and laundry services	11,900	12,000	12,100	-100	-200
Membership associations and organizations	30,800	31,000	30,300	-200	500
Religious organizations	16,100	16,200	16,500	-100	-400
Government	298,300	296,300	305,700	2,000	-7,400
Federal government	27,200	28,200	28,300	-1,000	-1,100
State government	82,300	81,600	81,400	700	900
State education	34,000	32,500	32,200	1,500	1,800
Local government	188,800	186,500	196,000	2,300	-7,200
Indian tribal	8,600	8,600	8,400	0	200
Local education	101,200	98,500	106,200	2,700	-5,000
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.

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.

Cautionary Note to Users: Starting in December 2009, revised estimation procedures mandated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics may result in unusually large or volatile month-to-month employment changes. These survey-based estimates are revised annually, based on more complete information from quarterly employer tax records.