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## Oregon's Unemployment Rate Edged Down to 4.1% in December

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1% in December, edging down from 4.2% in November. This was the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of declines in Oregon's unemployment rate. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped from 4.2% in November to 3.9% in December.

Nonfarm payroll employment in Oregon rose by 8,200 in December, following a revised gain of 9,200 jobs in November. Throughout 2021, monthly job gains averaged 8,900. In December, gains were largest in **leisure and hospitality** (+2,600 jobs), **health care and social assistance** (+1,200), **manufacturing** (+900), and **professional and business services** (+900). None of the major industries had a big drop in jobs during December.

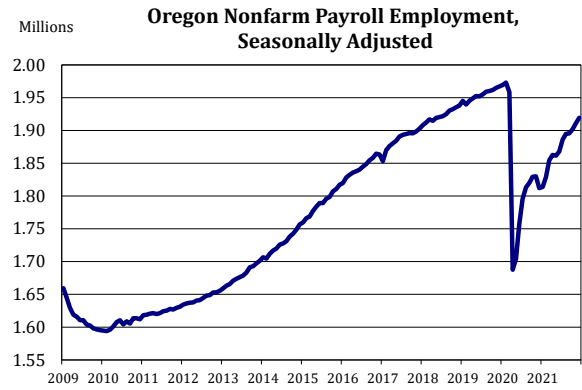
Leisure and hospitality added 2,600 jobs in December, following a gain of 3,700 in November. Despite these gains, leisure and hospitality still accounts for a large share of Oregon's jobs not recovered since early 2020, with 23,200 jobs left to recover to reach the prior peak month of February 2020. The industry has regained 79% of jobs lost early in the pandemic.

Manufacturing added 900 jobs in December and 1,000 jobs in November, continuing its steady recovery over the past year and a half. Recent job gains were strongest in nondurable goods manufacturing, including food manufacturing which employed 28,700 in December, a level close to each of the four Decembers prior to the recession.

**Administrative and waste services** added jobs at a fast clip, averaging 1,400 per month over the past four months. Demand is hot for temporary help supply and employee leasing firms, as the **employment services** industry added 9,500 jobs, good for 25% growth, over the year. These gains were countered by declines in another component industry: **business support services**, which has steadily declined from 16,000 jobs six years ago to 9,900 jobs in December 2021. Reductions within the category were concentrated in telephone call centers, and to a lesser extent, copy shops.

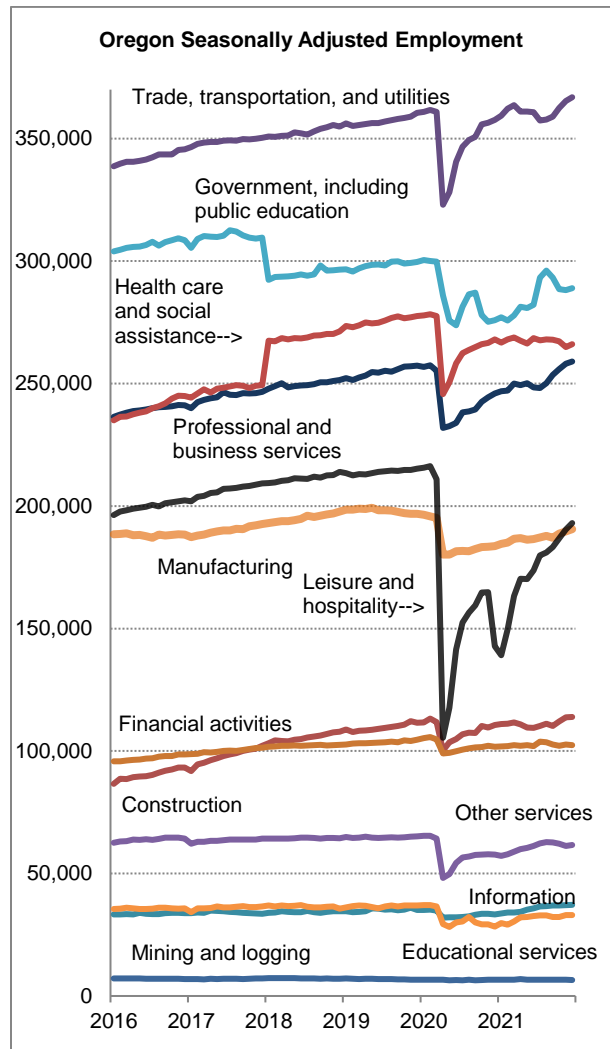
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the December county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Jan. 25, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Tuesday, Mar. 8.



**Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes November to December 2021**

| INDUSTRY                                   | Normal Seasonal Movement | Unadjusted Change | Seasonally Adjusted Change |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Total nonfarm payroll employment           | -6,000                   | 2,200             | 8,200                      |
| Total private                              | -4,500                   | 3,000             | 7,500                      |
| Mining and logging                         | -200                     | -300              | -100                       |
| Construction                               | -3,300                   | -3,200            | 100                        |
| Manufacturing                              | -1,500                   | -600              | 900                        |
| Wholesale trade                            | 100                      | 600               | 500                        |
| Retail trade                               | 400                      | 700               | 300                        |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities | 2,300                    | 3,100             | 800                        |
| Information                                | 100                      | 200               | 100                        |
| Financial activities                       | 400                      | 200               | -200                       |
| Professional and business services         | -700                     | 200               | 900                        |
| Private educational services               | -1,200                   | -1,200            | 0                          |
| Health care and social assistance          | -300                     | 900               | 1,200                      |
| Leisure and hospitality                    | -500                     | 2,100             | 2,600                      |
| Other services                             | -100                     | 300               | 400                        |
| Government                                 | -1,500                   | -800              | 700                        |



**Notes:**

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for food manufacturing and employment services.

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 April, May, and June 2021 tax records data. 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), then within the top banner, select *Economic Data*, then choose *LAUS* or *CES*. 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](https://unemployment.oregon.gov).

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

### Oregon Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

|  | December<br>2021 | November<br>2021 | December<br>2020 | Change From<br>November 2021 | Change From<br>December 2020 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Labor Force Status</b>                              |                  |                  |                  |                              |                              |
| Civilian labor force                                   | 2,166,263        | 2,170,491        | 2,127,775        | -4,228                       | 38,488                       |
| Unemployed   | 78,329           | 74,448           | 131,658          | 3,881                        | -53,329                      |
| Unemployment rate                                      | 3.6              | 3.4              | 6.2              | 0.2                          | -2.6                         |
| Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted                 | 4.1              | 4.2              | 6.3              | -0.1                         | -2.2                         |
| Employed   | 2,087,934        | 2,096,043        | 1,996,117        | -8,109                       | 91,817                       |
| <b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>                    |                  |                  |                  |                              |                              |
| Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted    | 62.2             | 62.2             | 62.0             | 0.0                          | 0.2                          |
| Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted | 8.0              | 8.3              | 11.6             | -0.3                         | -3.6                         |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>                      |                  |                  |                  |                              |                              |
| Total nonfarm payroll employment                       | 1,926,600        | 1,924,400        | 1,824,000        | 2,200                        | 102,600                      |
| Total private  | 1,633,200        | 1,630,200        | 1,543,200        | 3,000                        | 90,000                       |
| Mining and logging                                     | 6,300            | 6,600            | 6,700            | -300                         | -400                         |
| Logging  | 4,600            | 4,800            | 4,800            | -200                         | -200                         |
| Construction   | 111,000          | 114,200          | 108,700          | -3,200                       | 2,300                        |
| Construction of buildings                              | 31,700           | 32,800           | 31,400           | -1,100                       | 300                          |
| Residential building construction                      | 19,900           | 20,800           | 19,500           | -900                         | 400                          |
| Nonresidential building construction                   | 11,800           | 12,000           | 11,900           | -200                         | -100                         |
| Heavy and civil engineering construction               | 9,600            | 10,300           | 10,000           | -700                         | -400                         |
| Specialty trade contractors                            | 69,700           | 71,100           | 67,300           | -1,400                       | 2,400                        |
| Building foundation and exterior contractors           | 12,800           | 13,300           | 12,900           | -500                         | -100                         |
| Building equipment contractors                         | 32,800           | 32,200           | 30,800           | 600                          | 2,000                        |
| Building finishing contractors                         | 14,300           | 15,400           | 14,300           | -1,100                       | 0                            |
| Other specialty trade contractors                      | 9,800            | 10,200           | 9,300            | -400                         | 500                          |
| Manufacturing  | 188,500          | 189,100          | 183,000          | -600                         | 5,500                        |
| Durable goods  | 130,100          | 131,300          | 126,800          | -1,200                       | 3,300                        |
| Wood product manufacturing                             | 23,000           | 22,900           | 22,200           | 100                          | 800                          |
| Sawmills and wood preservation                         | 6,200            | 6,200            | 6,200            | 0                            | 0                            |
| Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.               | 8,500            | 8,500            | 8,300            | 0                            | 200                          |
| Other wood product manufacturing                       | 8,300            | 8,200            | 7,700            | 100                          | 600                          |
| Primary metal manufacturing                            | 6,100            | 6,200            | 6,500            | -100                         | -400                         |
| Fabricated metal product manufacturing                 | 15,800           | 16,000           | 15,500           | -200                         | 300                          |
| Machinery manufacturing                                | 13,400           | 13,400           | 13,400           | 0                            | 0                            |
| Computer and electronic product manufacturing          | 37,700           | 39,000           | 37,500           | -1,300                       | 200                          |
| Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.            | 30,400           | 31,600           | 30,000           | -1,200                       | 400                          |
| Electronic instrument manufacturing                    | 4,900            | 4,900            | 5,000            | 0                            | -100                         |
| Transportation equipment manufacturing                 | 10,600           | 10,500           | 10,800           | 100                          | -200                         |
| Nondurable goods                                       | 58,400           | 57,800           | 56,200           | 600                          | 2,200                        |
| Food manufacturing                                     | 28,700           | 28,300           | 27,900           | 400                          | 800                          |
| Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty           | 9,100            | 9,400            | 10,000           | -300                         | -900                         |
| Paper manufacturing                                    | 4,100            | 4,100            | 4,100            | 0                            | 0                            |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities                   | 377,100          | 372,700          | 368,600          | 4,400                        | 8,500                        |
| Wholesale trade  | 78,900           | 78,300           | 74,300           | 600                          | 4,600                        |
| Merchant wholesalers, durable goods                    | 38,200           | 38,100           | 36,900           | 100                          | 1,300                        |
| Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods                 | 33,000           | 32,400           | 30,300           | 600                          | 2,700                        |
| Electronic markets and agents and brokers              | 7,700            | 7,800            | 7,100            | -100                         | 600                          |
| Retail trade   | 215,100          | 214,400          | 212,400          | 700                          | 2,700                        |
| Motor vehicle and parts dealers                        | 25,500           | 25,700           | 24,900           | -200                         | 600                          |
| Building material and garden supply stores             | 17,600           | 17,400           | 17,800           | 200                          | -200                         |
| Food and beverage stores                               | 46,300           | 46,400           | 45,900           | -100                         | 400                          |
| Clothing and clothing accessories stores               | 14,900           | 14,700           | 14,600           | 200                          | 300                          |
| Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores           | 9,900            | 10,100           | 9,400            | -200                         | 500                          |
| General merchandise stores                             | 46,400           | 45,500           | 44,100           | 900                          | 2,300                        |
| Miscellaneous store retailers                          | 16,500           | 16,700           | 16,000           | -200                         | 500                          |
| Nonstore retailers                                     | 8,600            | 8,500            | 8,700            | 100                          | -100                         |

|  | December<br>2021 | November<br>2021 | December<br>2020 | Change From<br>November 2021 | Change From<br>December 2020 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities   | 83,100           | 80,000           | 81,900           | 3,100                        | 1,200                        |
| Utilities                                    | 5,000            | 4,900            | 4,700            | 100                          | 300                          |
| Transportation and warehousing               | 78,100           | 75,100           | 77,200           | 3,000                        | 900                          |
| Truck transportation                         | 20,100           | 20,300           | 18,900           | -200                         | 1,200                        |
| Couriers and messengers                      | 21,200           | 17,400           | 18,100           | 3,800                        | 3,100                        |
| Warehousing and storage                      | 20,500           | 20,300           | 20,900           | 200                          | -400                         |
| Information                                  | 36,800           | 36,600           | 33,600           | 200                          | 3,200                        |
| Publishing industries, except internet       | 16,300           | 16,200           | 15,300           | 100                          | 1,000                        |
| Newspaper, book, and directory publishers    | 2,600            | 2,600            | 2,500            | 0                            | 100                          |
| Software publishers                          | 13,700           | 13,600           | 12,800           | 100                          | 900                          |
| Telecommunications                           | 4,700            | 4,800            | 4,800            | -100                         | -100                         |
| Financial activities                         | 102,400          | 102,200          | 101,600          | 200                          | 800                          |
| Finance and insurance                        | 55,900           | 56,100           | 57,300           | -200                         | -1,400                       |
| Credit intermediation and related activities | 26,000           | 25,900           | 26,500           | 100                          | -500                         |
| Insurance carriers and related activities    | 23,900           | 24,000           | 24,700           | -100                         | -800                         |
| Real estate and rental and leasing           | 46,500           | 46,100           | 44,300           | 400                          | 2,200                        |
| Real estate                                  | 43,500           | 42,400           | 39,800           | 1,100                        | 3,700                        |
| Professional and business services           | 260,800          | 260,600          | 246,000          | 200                          | 14,800                       |
| Professional and technical services          | 107,200          | 108,500          | 100,400          | -1,300                       | 6,800                        |
| Legal services                               | 12,000           | 12,000           | 11,700           | 0                            | 300                          |
| Architectural and engineering services       | 18,900           | 18,900           | 17,500           | 0                            | 1,400                        |
| Computer systems design and related services | 17,200           | 17,700           | 16,800           | -500                         | 400                          |
| Management of companies and enterprises      | 48,200           | 47,900           | 48,300           | 300                          | -100                         |
| Administrative and waste services            | 105,400          | 104,200          | 97,300           | 1,200                        | 8,100                        |
| Administrative and support services          | 100,100          | 98,900           | 91,200           | 1,200                        | 8,900                        |
| Employment services                          | 47,900           | 46,700           | 38,400           | 1,200                        | 9,500                        |
| Business support services                    | 9,900            | 10,100           | 11,500           | -200                         | -1,600                       |
| Services to buildings and dwellings          | 25,100           | 25,400           | 24,200           | -300                         | 900                          |
| Education and health services                | 300,200          | 300,500          | 299,000          | -300                         | 1,200                        |
| Educational services                         | 33,100           | 34,300           | 29,600           | -1,200                       | 3,500                        |
| Health care and social assistance            | 267,100          | 266,200          | 269,400          | 900                          | -2,300                       |
| Ambulatory health care services              | 95,000           | 94,600           | 93,700           | 400                          | 1,300                        |
| Hospitals                                    | 57,700           | 57,500           | 59,200           | 200                          | -1,500                       |
| Nursing and residential care facilities      | 46,800           | 46,500           | 51,700           | 300                          | -4,900                       |
| Social assistance                            | 67,600           | 67,600           | 64,800           | 0                            | 2,800                        |
| Leisure and hospitality                      | 188,500          | 186,400          | 138,700          | 2,100                        | 49,800                       |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation          | 22,800           | 21,500           | 14,800           | 1,300                        | 8,000                        |
| Amusement, gambling, and recreation          | 16,700           | 15,300           | 10,600           | 1,400                        | 6,100                        |
| Accommodation and food services              | 165,700          | 164,900          | 123,900          | 800                          | 41,800                       |
| Accommodation                                | 20,600           | 20,500           | 16,700           | 100                          | 3,900                        |
| Food services and drinking places            | 145,100          | 144,400          | 107,200          | 700                          | 37,900                       |
| Full-service restaurants                     | 60,600           | 61,100           | 37,400           | -500                         | 23,200                       |
| Limited-service eating places                | 72,400           | 70,400           | 62,000           | 2,000                        | 10,400                       |
| Other services                               | 61,600           | 61,300           | 57,300           | 300                          | 4,300                        |
| Repair and maintenance                       | 20,100           | 19,900           | 18,100           | 200                          | 2,000                        |
| Personal and laundry services                | 13,300           | 13,600           | 13,100           | -300                         | 200                          |
| Membership associations and organizations    | 28,200           | 27,800           | 26,100           | 400                          | 2,100                        |
| Religious organizations                      | 13,600           | 13,200           | 14,000           | 400                          | -400                         |
| Government                                   | 293,400          | 294,200          | 280,800          | -800                         | 12,600                       |
| Federal government                           | 27,300           | 27,500           | 28,300           | -200                         | -1,000                       |
| State government                             | 42,000           | 42,000           | 41,700           | 0                            | 300                          |
| State education                              | 900              | 900              | 900              | 0                            | 0                            |
| Local government                             | 224,100          | 224,700          | 210,800          | -600                         | 13,300                       |
| Indian tribal                                | 7,600            | 7,700            | 7,400            | -100                         | 200                          |
| Local education                              | 130,900          | 131,300          | 120,100          | -400                         | 10,800                       |
| 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.