

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2020 CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## Oregon's Unemployment Rate Drops to 7.7 Percent in August

### Wildfires Impact

Devastating wildfires have ravaged workplaces, homes, communities, and more than 1 million acres of land across Oregon over the past several days. This release covers the Oregon employment situation in August. It does not capture the personal and economic disruption caused by these disasters.

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 7.7 percent in August from 10.4 percent in July. The unemployment rate was more than double last year's rate of 3.6 percent in August 2019. Meanwhile, the U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 8.4 percent in August from 10.2 percent in July.

Oregon's total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 11,300 jobs in August, following a revised gain of 17,700 jobs in July. Over the past four months, employers added back 41 percent of the jobs that were cut in March and April.

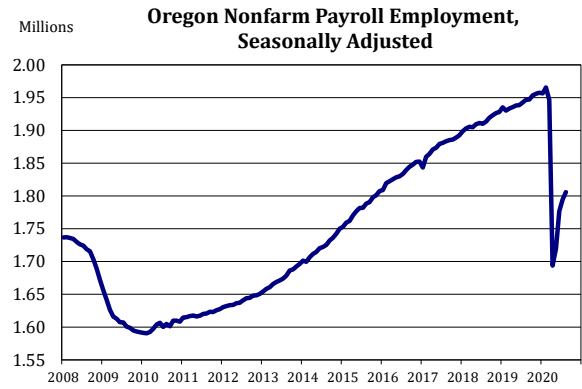
Over-the-month job gains in August were largest in **leisure and hospitality** (+4,200 jobs); **retail trade** (+3,300); **construction** (+3,200); and **government** (+3,000). Two industries cut a substantial number of jobs in August: **wholesale trade** (-1,400 jobs) and **health care and social assistance** (-1,400).

Leisure and hospitality—which includes restaurants, drinking establishments, hotels, and recreational industries—has added back the most jobs of any of the major industries over the past four months. Despite adding 63,200 jobs during the past four months, leisure and hospitality is only a little over halfway back to its February 2020 peak employment level, prior to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Retail trade has bounced back closer to its recent peak employment level. It added 16,100 jobs over the past four months, which was nearly three-quarters of the jobs lost earlier in the year. The third industry to add back more than half of its jobs lost, while also rebounding by more than 10,000 jobs, was health care and social assistance. This industry, despite a 1,400-job loss in August, added 18,000 jobs over the past four months, regaining nearly two-thirds of its March and April job losses.

Not all industries have rebounded with substantial job growth over the past four months. In August, the following industries remained near their low point for the year: manufacturing; government; information; and professional and business services.

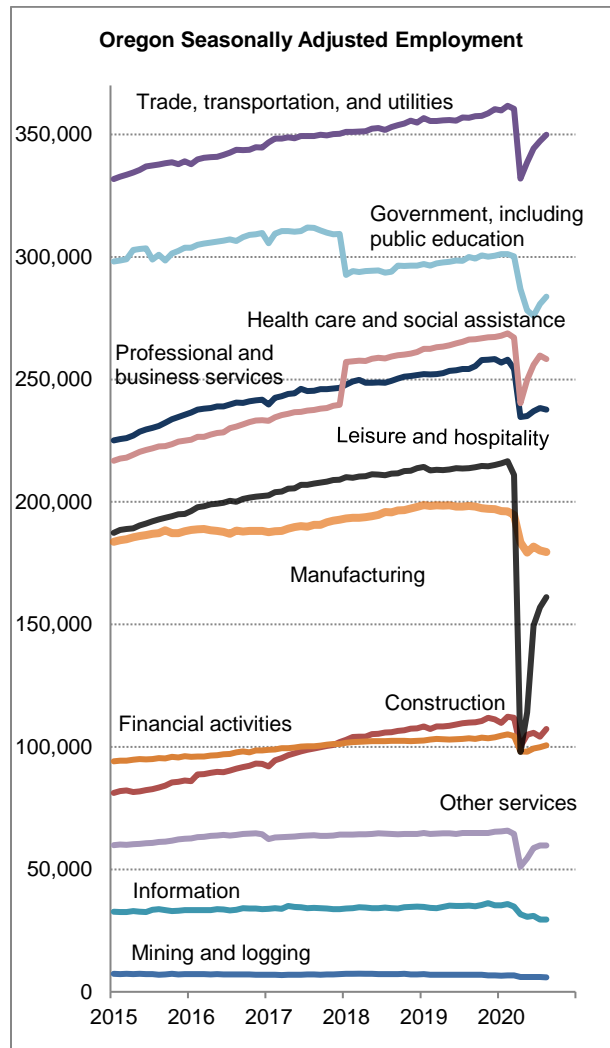
### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, September 22nd, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, October 13th.



### Seasonal Expectations and Over-the-Month Employment Changes July to August 2020

INDUSTRY	Normal Seasonal Movement	Unadjusted Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total nonfarm payroll employment	-700	10,600	11,300
Total private	800	9,100	8,300
Mining and logging	100	0	-100
Construction	-700	2,500	3,200
Manufacturing	700	0	-700
Wholesale trade	100	-1,300	-1,400
Retail trade	-100	3,200	3,300
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	-100	700	800
Information	0	0	0
Financial activities	-300	500	800
Professional and business services	500	-200	-700
Private educational services	400	600	200
Health care and social assistance	900	-500	-1,400
Leisure and hospitality	-800	3,400	4,200
Other services	100	200	100
Government	-1,500	1,500	3,000



**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.

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 January, February and March 2020 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

	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	Change From July 2020	Change From August 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	2,072,940	2,084,949	2,123,490	-12,009	-50,550
Unemployed	161,839	221,460	82,140	-59,621	79,699
Unemployment rate	7.8	10.6	3.9	-2.8	3.9
Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	7.7	10.4	3.6	-2.7	4.1
Employed	1,911,101	1,863,489	2,041,350	47,612	-130,249
<b>Other Labor Force Indicators</b>					
Labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted	59.5	59.8	61.6	-0.3	-2.1
Labor underutilization rate – U-6, seasonally adjusted	14.4	17.0	7.9	-2.6	6.5
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	1,803,600	1,793,000	1,940,800	10,600	-137,200
Total private	1,542,000	1,532,900	1,664,900	9,100	-122,900
Mining and logging	6,200	6,200	7,100	0	-900
Logging	4,100	4,100	5,200	0	-1,100
Construction	113,600	111,100	114,500	2,500	-900
Construction of buildings	31,200	30,300	32,600	900	-1,400
Residential building construction	17,900	17,100	19,800	800	-1,900
Nonresidential building construction	13,300	13,200	12,800	100	500
Heavy and civil engineering construction	11,100	10,900	11,500	200	-400
Specialty trade contractors	71,300	69,900	70,400	1,400	900
Building foundation and exterior contractors	14,100	13,800	13,300	300	800
Building equipment contractors	30,800	30,000	30,700	800	100
Building finishing contractors	16,400	16,100	16,500	300	-100
Other specialty trade contractors	10,000	10,000	9,900	0	100
Manufacturing	184,300	184,300	201,200	0	-16,900
Durable goods	127,900	127,700	137,400	200	-9,500
Wood product manufacturing	22,000	21,900	23,200	100	-1,200
Sawmills and wood preservation	6,000	6,000	6,200	0	-200
Plywood and engineered wood product mfg.	8,200	8,200	9,000	0	-800
Other wood product manufacturing	7,800	7,700	8,000	100	-200
Primary metal manufacturing	6,800	7,000	9,300	-200	-2,500
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	15,600	15,600	16,800	0	-1,200
Machinery manufacturing	13,300	13,400	14,100	-100	-800
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	37,200	37,400	38,900	-200	-1,700
Semiconductor and electronic component mfg.	30,400	30,600	30,700	-200	-300
Electronic instrument manufacturing	4,900	4,900	5,600	0	-700
Transportation equipment manufacturing	10,200	10,200	12,700	0	-2,500
Nondurable goods	56,400	56,600	63,800	-200	-7,400
Food manufacturing	27,400	27,200	31,800	200	-4,400
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty	11,000	11,500	12,600	-500	-1,600
Paper manufacturing	3,900	3,900	4,000	0	-100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	351,500	348,900	357,800	2,600	-6,300
Wholesale trade	74,900	76,200	76,900	-1,300	-2,000
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	35,800	36,100	37,900	-300	-2,100
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	32,000	33,000	31,500	-1,000	500
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	7,100	7,100	7,500	0	-400
Retail trade	205,900	202,700	211,300	3,200	-5,400
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	25,000	24,800	27,100	200	-2,100
Building material and garden supply stores	17,900	18,000	17,000	-100	900
Food and beverage stores	45,100	45,000	44,200	100	900
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	7,900	8,100	16,200	-200	-8,300
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	8,600	8,300	9,600	300	-1,000
General merchandise stores	42,100	41,100	40,300	1,000	1,800
Miscellaneous store retailers	13,900	13,600	17,100	300	-3,200
Nonstore retailers	7,300	7,200	7,600	100	-300

	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	Change From July 2020	Change From August 2019
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	70,700	70,000	69,600	700	1,100
Utilities	5,000	5,000	4,900	0	100
Transportation and warehousing	65,700	65,000	64,700	700	1,000
Truck transportation	17,900	17,900	19,300	0	-1,400
Couriers and messengers	12,200	12,000	9,800	200	2,400
Warehousing and storage	16,300	15,800	13,500	500	2,800
Information	30,100	30,100	35,400	0	-5,300
Publishing industries, except internet	15,600	15,500	15,300	100	300
Newspaper, book, and directory publishers	2,700	2,700	2,900	0	-200
Software publishers	12,900	12,800	12,400	100	500
Telecommunications	4,800	4,900	5,000	-100	-200
Financial activities	100,300	99,800	105,000	500	-4,700
Finance and insurance	56,100	56,000	57,200	100	-1,100
Credit intermediation and related activities	25,800	25,800	26,400	0	-600
Insurance carriers and related activities	24,800	24,600	24,600	200	200
Real estate and rental and leasing	44,200	43,800	47,800	400	-3,600
Real estate	40,200	39,300	41,700	900	-1,500
Professional and business services	241,300	241,500	257,800	-200	-16,500
Professional and technical services	95,000	95,900	101,000	-900	-6,000
Legal services	11,400	11,500	11,900	-100	-500
Architectural and engineering services	17,400	17,300	17,900	100	-500
Computer systems design and related services	16,500	16,500	17,200	0	-700
Management of companies and enterprises	48,200	48,500	51,200	-300	-3,000
Administrative and waste services	98,100	97,100	105,600	1,000	-7,500
Administrative and support services	91,400	90,600	99,600	800	-8,200
Employment services	37,700	35,900	41,300	1,800	-3,600
Business support services	12,000	12,100	13,100	-100	-1,100
Services to buildings and dwellings	24,600	24,600	25,700	0	-1,100
Education and health services	286,200	286,100	296,700	100	-10,500
Educational services	29,600	29,000	30,900	600	-1,300
Health care and social assistance	256,600	257,100	265,800	-500	-9,200
Ambulatory health care services	95,900	94,500	95,400	1,400	500
Hospitals	58,200	58,300	59,600	-100	-1,400
Nursing and residential care facilities	51,800	53,300	52,500	-1,500	-700
Social assistance	50,700	51,000	58,300	-300	-7,600
Leisure and hospitality	169,300	165,900	224,000	3,400	-54,700
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	20,800	21,000	30,500	-200	-9,700
Amusement, gambling, and recreation	15,600	16,000	22,100	-400	-6,500
Accommodation and food services	148,500	144,900	193,500	3,600	-45,000
Accommodation	20,400	19,800	29,100	600	-8,700
Food services and drinking places	128,100	125,100	164,400	3,000	-36,300
Full-service restaurants	52,800	51,500	74,400	1,300	-21,600
Limited-service eating places	59,400	59,200	73,100	200	-13,700
Other services	59,200	59,000	65,400	200	-6,200
Repair and maintenance	19,000	18,400	19,100	600	-100
Personal and laundry services	15,100	15,000	16,100	100	-1,000
Membership associations and organizations	25,100	25,600	30,200	-500	-5,100
Religious organizations	13,700	13,600	15,900	100	-2,200
Government	261,600	260,100	275,900	1,500	-14,300
Federal government	30,100	29,900	30,100	200	0
State government	41,200	41,200	41,700	0	-500
State education	900	900	800	0	100
Local government	190,300	189,000	204,100	1,300	-13,800
Indian tribal	7,400	7,400	8,300	0	-900
Local education	96,400	94,800	106,800	1,600	-10,400
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.