

Oregon Employment Report

Joint Economic Committee

Senator Mike Lee, Chairman

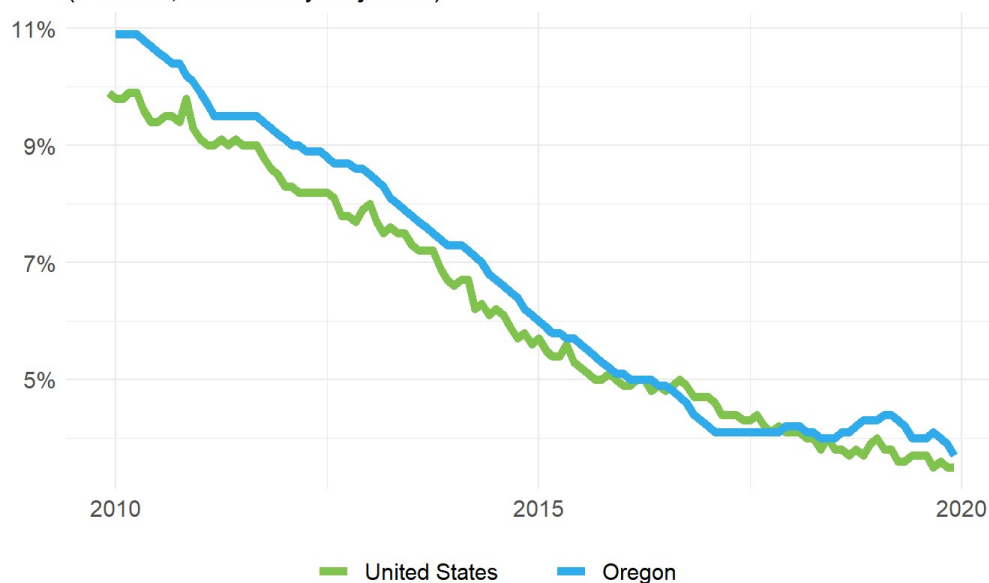
January 24, 2020

Summary

- **Oregon added 800 net payroll jobs and the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 3.7 percent in December**, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released at 10:00am on January 24, 2020.
- **Over the past twelve months, Oregon added 36,800 payroll jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage point from 4.3 percent.
- **In December, Oregon's private sector added 400 net private payroll jobs** and over the past twelve months it added 34,800 private payroll jobs in the establishment survey.
- In the household survey, the number of **unemployed fell by 4,015 on net in December**, and over the past year employment rose by 14,632.
- Oregon's **labor force participation rate fell to 61.5 percent** in December from 61.6. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell by 0.7 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **remained unchanged in December**. State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release March 16, 2020. The national employment situation report for January will be released February 07, 2020.

Oregon and U.S. Unemployment Rates

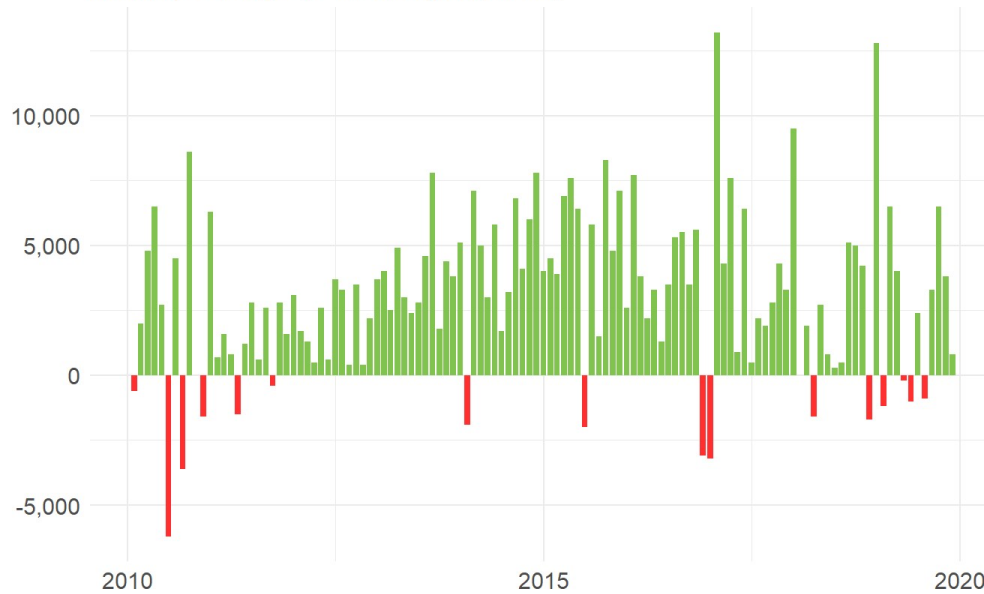
(Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Oregon Payroll Employment

Oregon Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Monthly Change (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Oregon added 800 net payroll jobs, or 0 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, Oregon added 3,800 jobs. Over the past twelve months, Oregon added 36,800 payroll jobs, or 1.9 percent. Oregon nonfarm payroll employment had increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls rose by 145,000 in December, or rose by 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending with December, nonfarm payrolls rose by 2,108,000 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Oregon is tied for 10th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During December, Oregon's private-sector added 400 jobs, or approximately 0 percent. The private-sector in Oregon added 5,000 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Oregon added 34,800, or 2.1 percent. Oregon private-sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs rose by 139,000 jobs in December, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the national payroll rose by 1,947,000 jobs in the private sector, or rose by 1.5 percent. Oregon ranks 10th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for a percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

Change in Oregon Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally adjusted

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were Leisure and Hospitality (2,000) and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (1,300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Education and Health Services (-900) and Professional and Business Services (-1,600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Education and Health Services (10,200) and Manufacturing (5,400). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining and Logging (-100) and Information (-500).

Oregon Labor Force Statistics

Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Oregon fell to 61.5 percent in December from 61.6 percent in the prior month. At a labor force participation rate of 61.5 percent, Oregon ranks 39th in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Oregon fell by 0.7 percentage point from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Oregon was 65.5 percent last occurring in December 2010. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Oregon occurred in May 2000 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 60.8 percent in November 2013. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Oregon.

The national labor force participation rate remained steady at 63.2 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national labor force participation rate was 67.3 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national labor force participation rate was 65.2 percent in April 2010. The recent 10-year low occurred in September 2015 at a level of 62.4 percent. The series low for the national labor force participation rate was 58.1 percent in December 1954.

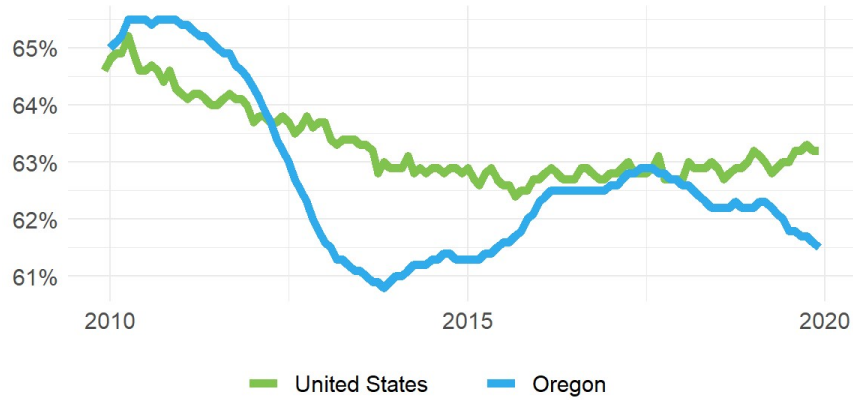
Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Oregon civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, in December rose to 59.2 from 59.1 percent in the prior month. At 59.2 percent, Oregon ranks 40th among state employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Oregon fell by -0.3 percentage point from a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Oregon was 60.3 percent last occurring in August 2017. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Oregon last occurred in May 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 65.6 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 56.3 percent last occurring in November 2013. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio in Oregon last occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.2 percent.

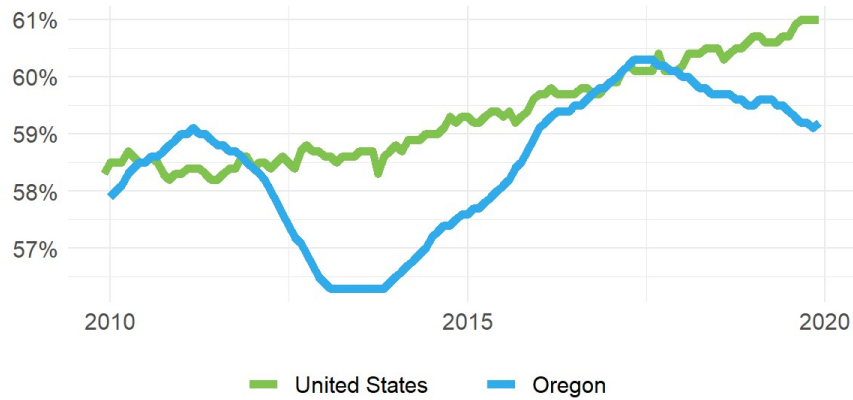
The national employment-to-population ratio remained steady at 61 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.4 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 61 percent in December 2019. The recent 10-year low occurred in July 2011 at a level of 58.2 percent. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.9 percent in October 1949.

Oregon and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Oregon and U.S. Employment-to-Population Ratios (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics