



JANUARY 2025

Oregon Jobs and Labor Force – December 2024 Update

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In December 2024, Oregon's employment landscape was marked by significant declines across most sectors. Total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 4,922 jobs, with nine out of eleven major sectors reporting losses. Manufacturing experienced the largest decline, shedding 1,876 jobs, followed closely by the construction sector, which lost 1,814 jobs. Other sectors facing notable reductions included leisure and hospitality, financial activities, and professional and business services.

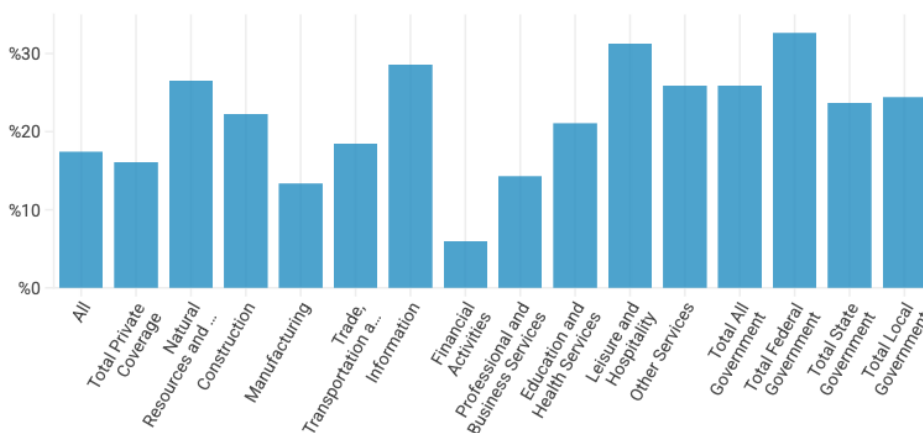
Despite the widespread losses, the education and health services sector added 1,978 jobs, driven by growth in social assistance and nursing and residential care facilities. The trade, transportation, and utilities sector also saw a modest increase, adding 1,791 jobs. While Oregon's labor force participation rate remained steady at 63%, the unemployment rate rose to 4.1%, highlighting ongoing challenges in the state's labor market.

Amid these employment shifts, wage dynamics in Oregon have evolved significantly over the past five years. Between 2019 and 2024, annual average wages increased by 17%, driven by substantial growth in key sectors. The federal government led the way with a 32.65% increase, followed by the information sector at 28.64%. Other sectors such as leisure and hospitality (31.30%) and natural resources and mining (26.52%) also saw remarkable gains, reflecting expanding economic opportunities in these industries.

However, wage growth varied significantly across sectors. Financial activities saw the slowest increase at just 6.03%, highlighting notable disparities. The most substantial gains were driven by government and private industries such as leisure and hospitality and information.

Sectoral Analysis of Annual Average Wage Growth in Oregon, 2019–2024

From 2019 to 2024, Oregon experienced robust job growth with an average wage increase of 17%, led by the Federal Government sector, which saw the highest wage growth at 32.65%.

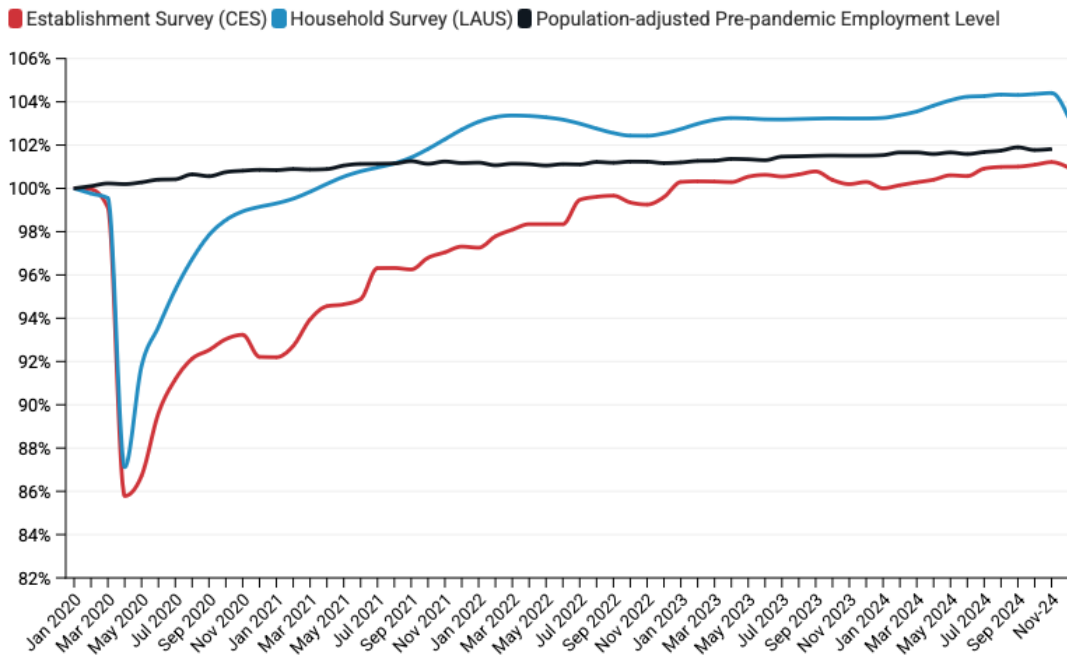


Source: State of Oregon Employment Department, Covered Employment and Wages

Key Findings—Oregon December 2024 Employment Data

- In December, Oregon's **total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 4,922 jobs**. The **education and health services sector** led job growth, **adding 1,978 jobs**, primarily driven by growth in **social assistance and nursing and residential care facilities**.
- **The trade, transportation, and utilities sector** also added 1,791 jobs in December.
- Preliminary employment figures for November were revised downwards.
- **Since January 2020, Oregon's total employment has increased**, with private-sector employment up by 1,392 jobs and government employment increasing by 17,583 jobs.
- **Only two out of eleven major sectors added jobs in December.**
- The **manufacturing sector experienced the largest decline**, losing 1,876 jobs, the steepest drop among major sectors. The construction and leisure and hospitality sectors also posted declines of 1,814 jobs and 1,090 jobs, respectively.
- The state's **unemployment rate increased to 4.1%** in December, slightly above the 4.0% rate from November and the 3.9% rate from a year ago.
- Oregon's labor force participation rate (LFPR) remained unchanged at 63% in December.

Employment Levels in Oregon since January 2020



Data derived from BLS CES and LAUS. December figures have been updated using the State of Oregon Employment Department's CES. Note: LAUS December figures are not available until January 28th.

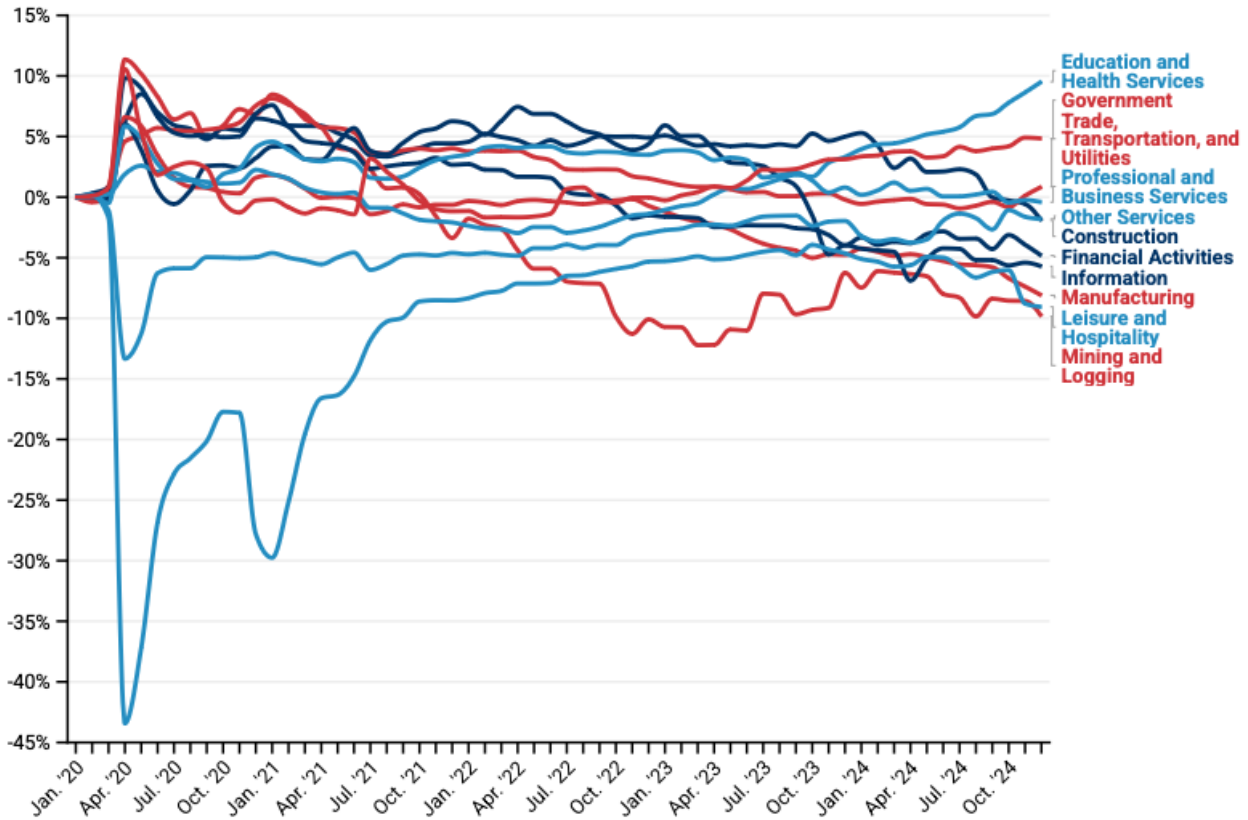
- **According to the BLS survey of establishments (CES), Oregon recovered to its pre-pandemic employment-to-population ratio in August 2021 and has remained above that level since.**

- According to the BLS measure of local employment (LAUS), which captures both traditional jobs and self-employment, Oregon's employment recovered to its pre-pandemic level in March 2021 and has remained above since.

A Deeper Dive into Oregon Industries

- In December, total nonfarm payroll employment in Oregon decreased by **4,922 jobs**. The **education and health services sector** countered this trend by adding **1,978 jobs**, with significant contributions from social assistance and nursing and residential care facilities, which saw the most notable increases.
- In contrast, the **manufacturing sector**, a critical pillar of Oregon's economy, faced the most significant job losses, shedding **1,876 positions**. This downturn underscores the persistent challenges within this foundational industry.
- The **trade, transportation, and utilities sector** added **1,791 jobs** in December, highlighting sustained growth in this crucial sector.
- In December, **nine out of eleven major sectors in Oregon's economy shed jobs**, with **manufacturing** recording the most significant losses, followed closely by the **construction** industry, which lost **1,814 jobs**.
- The **government sector** experienced a slight decrease of **990 jobs**, with reductions in federal and local government employment offsetting a small gain in state government.
- Other notable job losses in Oregon's economy include the **financial activities sector**, which decreased by 1,212 jobs; the **professional and business services sector**, down by 1,067 jobs; and the **leisure and hospitality sector**, which dropped by 1,090 jobs.
- The **mining and logging, and information** sectors each posted modest declines in employment, with losses of 100 jobs and 190 jobs, respectively.
- Since January 2020, **private-sector employment** in Oregon has increased by **1392 jobs**, while **government employment** grew by **17,583 jobs**, led by gains in **state and local government**.
- **Seven of the eleven super-sectors** remain below their January 2020 employment levels, including **mining and logging, manufacturing, information, leisure and hospitality, and financial activities**.
 - The **mining and logging sector** continue to lag the most, with employment **8.96% lower** than in January 2020.
 - In contrast, the **government sector** has shown the most significant growth, expanding by **5.86 %** since January 2020, driven largely by gains in **state government**.

Changing Industry Shares of Total Oregon Employment since January 2020



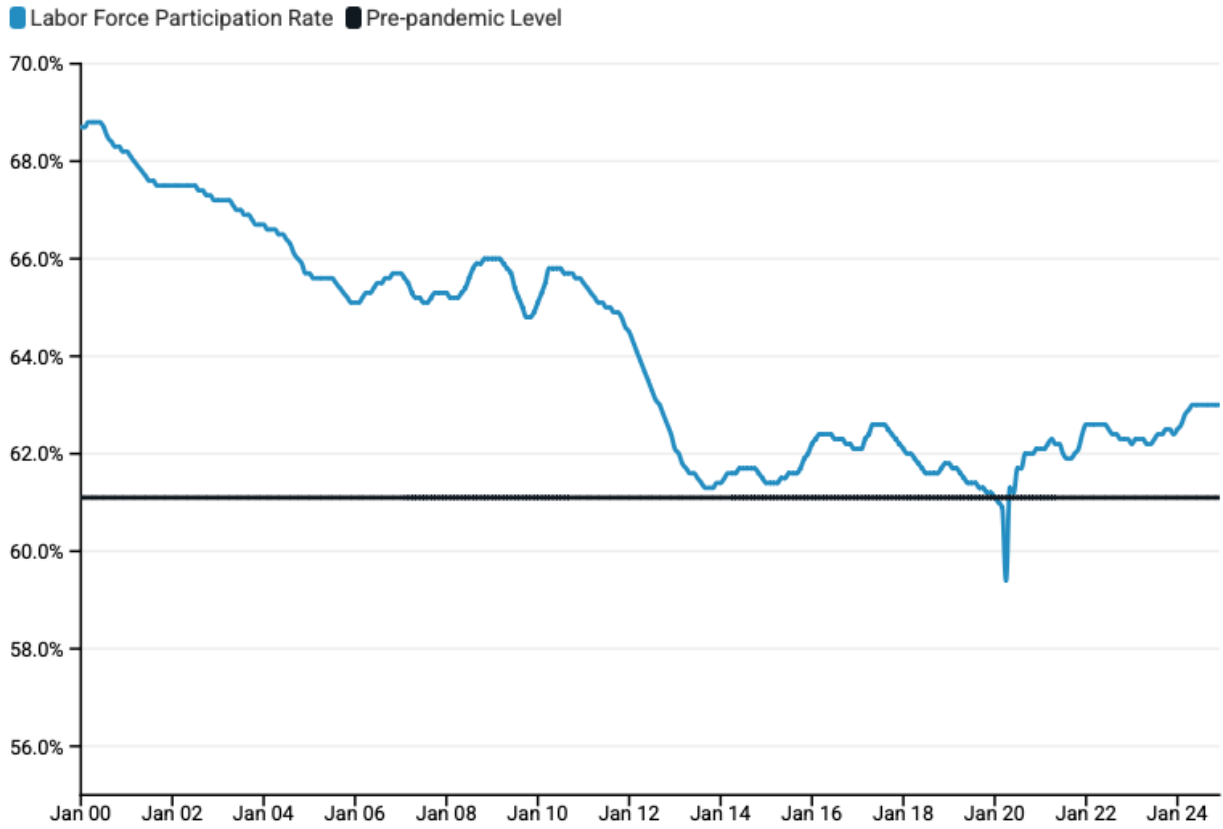
Oregon Labor Force Update

Oregon's Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) held steady at 63% in December. The preliminary figures for November, initially reported at a 4.1% unemployment rate, have been revised downward to 4.0%. In contrast, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December registered a slight increase to 4.1%.

Key Findings—Oregon December '24 Labor Force Data

- Oregon's labor force participation rate (LFPR) stands at 63%, an increase of 1.9 percentage points since January 2020.
- The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) increased to 4.1% in December.

Labor Force Participation Rate in Oregon Since 2000



Data Sources

The data in this report are drawn from key sources, including the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), and the State of Oregon Employment Department's Current Employment Estimates. The State of Oregon Employment Department's Current Employment Estimates are used to refine and update preliminary estimates and calculate growth rates. Additional data are retrieved from FRED.