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Oregon Jobs and Labor Force – January 2025 Update

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Data Revisions and Methodological Updates by BLS

This report incorporates recent quarterly data revisions from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), including updates to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program released on March 5, 2025. These revisions reflect annual population adjustments from the 2020 Census, which impact labor force estimates and unemployment figures. The labor force and unemployment figures in this report fully reflect these updates.

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program is undergoing annual benchmark revisions, which will be released on March 21, 2025, with the publication of State and Metro Area CES data for January 2025. These forthcoming annual CES revisions will incorporate comprehensive employer tax records from March 2024 to update industry employment estimates. As a result, the industry employment figures in this report do not yet reflect these forthcoming revisions.

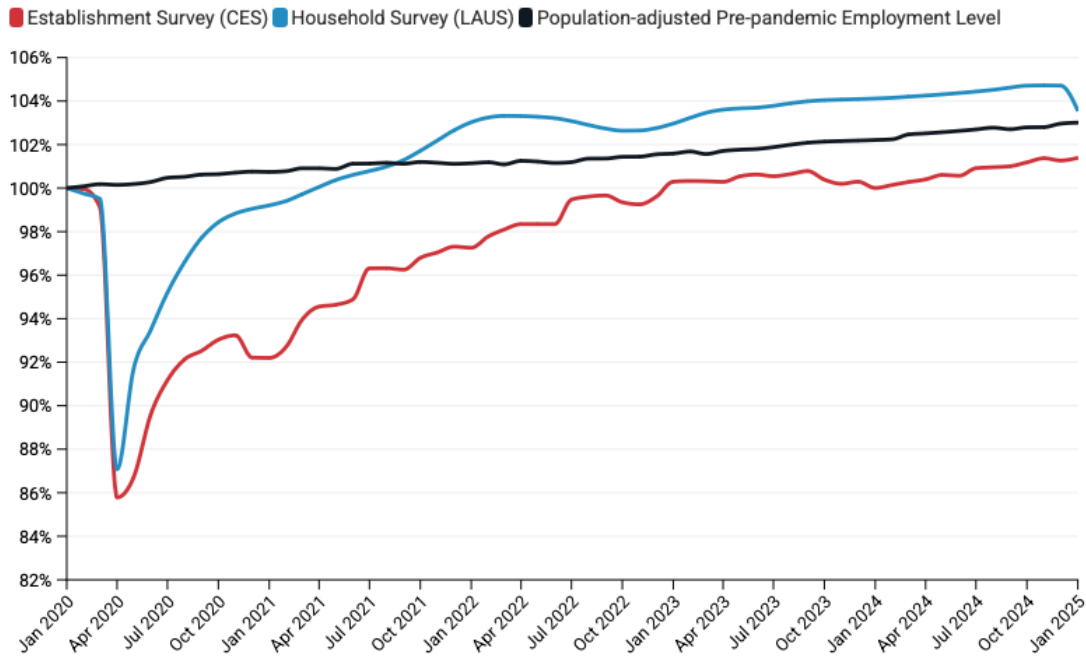
Oregon’s labor market remained **resilient in January 2025**, with **nonfarm payroll employment increasing by 2,394 jobs**. Despite ongoing fluctuations across industries, **seven of the eleven major sectors added jobs**, with notable growth in **professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and trade, transportation, and utilities**.

At the same time, quarterly data revisions released by the BLS on March 5, 2025, incorporated updated employment benchmarks and annual population adjustments. These changes **revised labor force participation estimates downward** while **adjusting unemployment figures upward**. Following these revisions, Oregon’s labor force participation rate remained at 62.7% in January, and the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held at 4.3%.

Key Findings—Oregon January 2025 Employment Data

- In January, **Oregon’s total nonfarm payroll employment** increased by **2,394 jobs**. **Professional and business services** led job growth, adding **1,396 jobs**, followed by **leisure and hospitality**, which gained **1,178 jobs**.
- The **trade, transportation, and utilities sector** also expanded, adding **1,109 jobs** in January.
- Since **January 2020**, Oregon’s total employment has grown by **27,400 jobs**, with **private-sector employment** increasing by **9,100 jobs** and **government employment** rising by **17,100 jobs**.
- **Seven of the eleven major sectors** added jobs in January.
- The **manufacturing sector** saw the steepest decline, losing **2,211 jobs**—the largest drop among major industries. The **education and health services sector** also contracted, shedding **403 jobs**, primarily due to losses in **health care and social assistance services**.
- The state's seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate remained at 4.3%** in January
- Oregon's labor force participation rate (LFPR) remained steady at 62.7% in January.

Employment Levels in Oregon since January 2020



Source: BLS, State of Oregon Employment Department • Data through December 2024 from BLS; January estimate calculated using Oregon Employment Department data and CSI calculations.

- 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 January, **total nonfarm payroll employment in Oregon** increased by **2,394 jobs**. The **preliminary December figures** were revised **upward by approximately 1,700 jobs**, indicating a smaller decline than initially reported. With this revision, **December saw a loss of 1,995 jobs**.

January job growth was led by the professional and business services sector, which added **1,400 jobs**. The **second-largest employment increase** occurred in the **leisure and hospitality sector**, which gained **1,180 jobs**, primarily driven by growth in **accommodation and food services**. The **trade, transportation, and utilities sector** also saw significant gains, adding **1,110 jobs** in January. Other sectors contributing to job growth included **other services, government, construction, and information**.

In contrast, the **manufacturing sector—a key pillar of Oregon’s economy—continued to experience the largest job losses, shedding 2,210 positions**. This decline highlights ongoing challenges within the industry.

Seven of Oregon’s eleven major sectors added jobs in January.

The **government sector added 400 jobs**, primarily due to growth in **local government**. However, **state government employment broke its sustained upward trend since September 2024**, seeing no increase.

Other notable job losses included the **financial activities sector (-201 jobs)** and the **education and health services sector (-403 jobs)**.

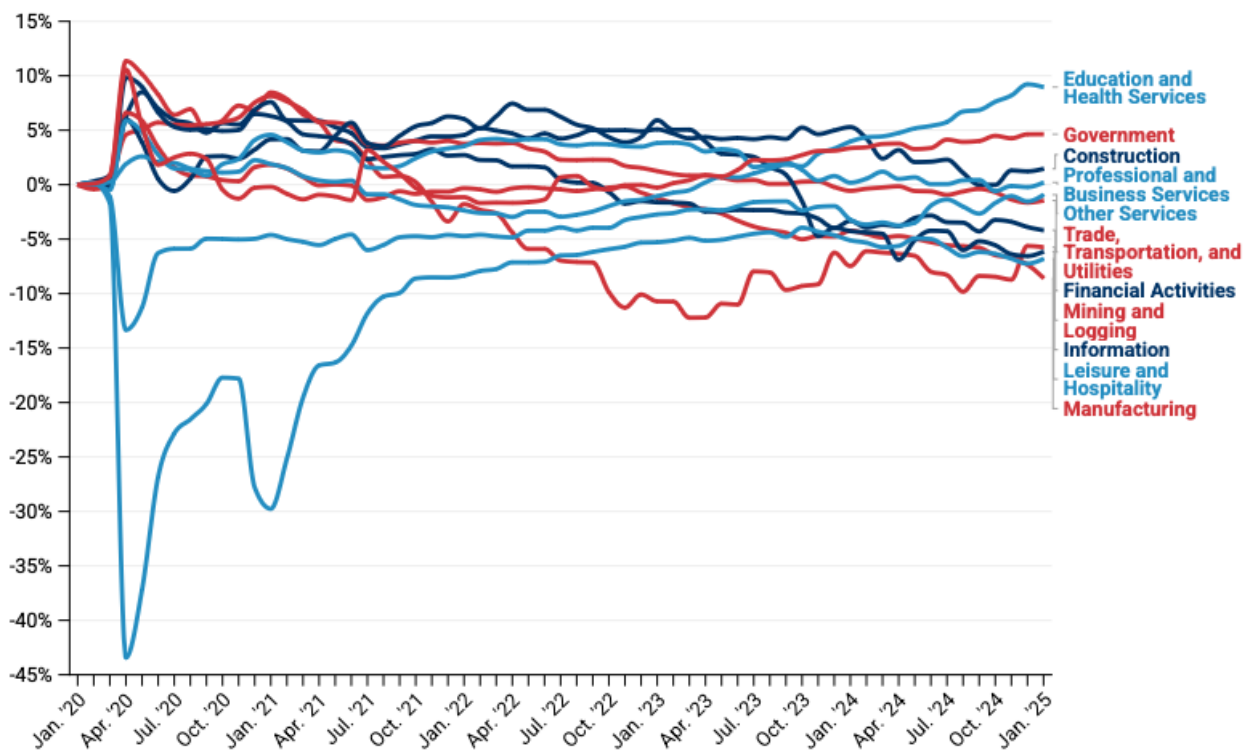
Since **January 2020**, **private-sector employment** in Oregon has increased by **27,400 jobs**, while **government employment** has grown by **18,300 jobs**, largely due to **gains in state and local government**.

Six 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 **manufacturing sector** has fallen the most, with employment **7.29% lower** than in January 2020.

In contrast, **education and health services** has shown the **strongest growth**, increasing by **10.48%**, followed by the **government sector, which expanded by 6.09%**

Changing Industry Shares of Total Oregon Employment since January 2020



Source: Calculated by CSI using employment data from BLS, State of Oregon Employment Department CES • Employment data benchmarked to BLS; recent estimates based on Oregon CES growth rates.

Oregon Labor Force Update

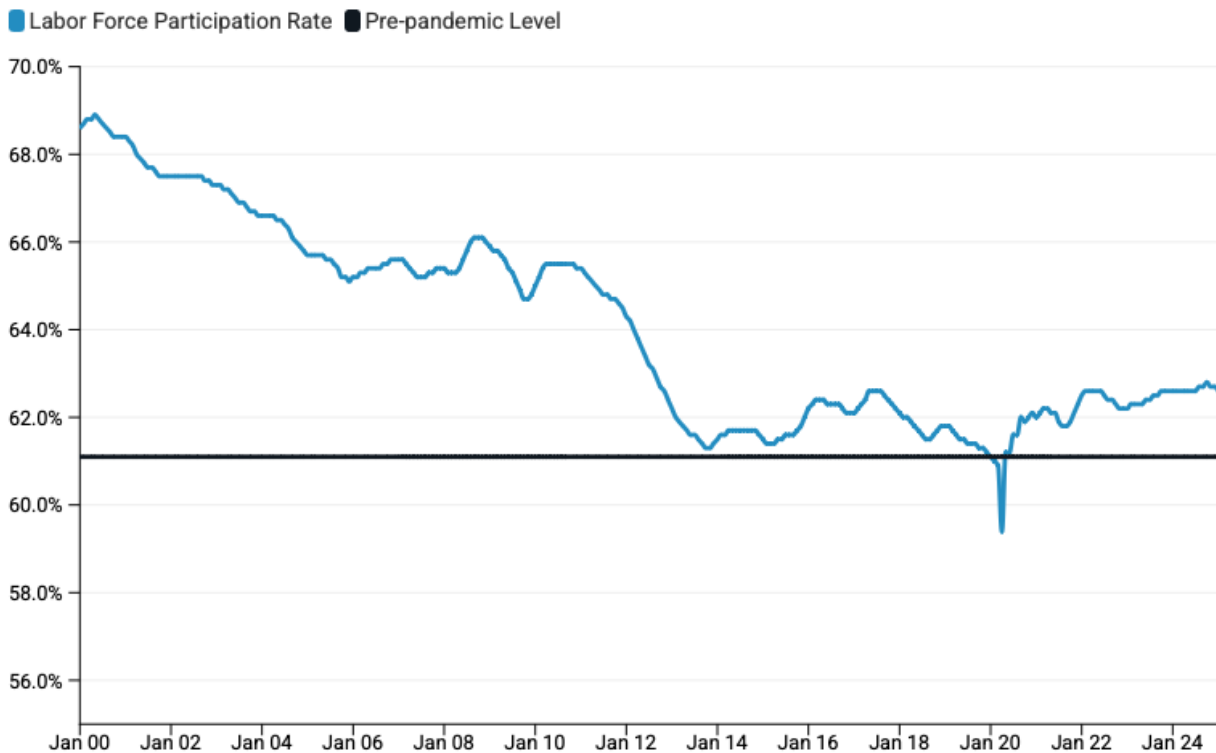
Following the **BLS revision**, Oregon’s **Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** was reported at **62.7% in January**. Previous LFPR estimates for November and December were revised downward to 62.7%.

With the **March 5, 2025, revision**, the **seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** for January was reported at **4.3%**, reflecting an **upward revision to unemployment figures**. However, this remains **unchanged from the revised December rate of 4.3%**.

Key Findings—Oregon January '25 Labor Force Data

- Following the **BLS revision**, Oregon’s **Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** was reported at **62.7% in January**. Previous LFPR estimates for November and December were revised **downward to 62.7%**.
- With the **March 5, 2025, revision**, the **seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** for January was reported at **4.3%**, reflecting an **upward revision to unemployment figures**. However, this remains **unchanged from the revised December rate of 4.3%**.

Labor Force Participation Rate in Oregon Since 2000



Source: BLS, State of Oregon Employment Department • Labor force participation data from BLS; January estimate updated using Oregon Employment Department data.

Data Sources

Employment and labor force figures are benchmarked to BLS data through November 2024 for Current Employment Statistics (CES) and through December 2024 for LAUS. December 2024 LAUS data is used as reported, while December 2024 and January 2025 CES employment estimates are updated using growth rates from the Oregon Employment Department's CES program.