



DECEMBER 2024

# Oregon Jobs and Labor Force – November 2024 Update

Authors: Mark McMullen, Serra Kirsch

In November, Oregon's employment landscape continued to evolve, highlighting a persistent shift from traditional manufacturing roles to positions in health care and social assistance. This transition underscores the state's ongoing economic transformation and raises concerns about the future of its historically significant manufacturing sector.

Manufacturing has long been a cornerstone of Oregon's economy, contributing approximately \$36.3 billion to the state's GDP and employing around 204,000 individuals. Notably, manufacturing jobs offer a median salary of \$65,000, surpassing the state's average median salary of \$55,700. <sup>1</sup>Despite this, recent trends indicate a decline in manufacturing employment. Between June 2023 and June 2024, Oregon ranked 45th nationally in manufacturing growth, reflecting a significant lag behind the national average. <sup>2</sup>

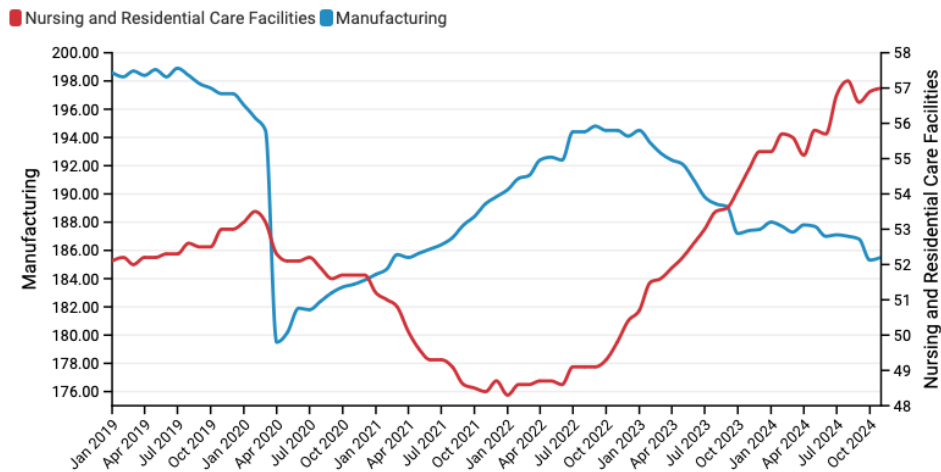
In contrast, the health care sector, particularly nursing and residential care facilities, has experienced notable growth. Over the past year, employment in these facilities increased from **54,700 jobs in November 2023** to **56,992 jobs in November 2024**, an addition of **2,292 jobs**, representing a **4.2% growth**. This sustained upward trend reflects the growing demand for health care services. While the growth in health care employment addresses critical needs, it also presents challenges. Positions in nursing and residential care facilities typically offer lower wages compared to manufacturing roles, potentially impacting overall wage growth and economic stability in the state.

The shift from high-paying manufacturing jobs to lower-paying health care positions may have broader implications for Oregon's economic health. Manufacturing not only provides substantial wages but also contributes significantly to the state's export economy. The decline in this sector could affect Oregon's economic competitiveness and the financial well-being of its workforce.

### Employment Levels in Oregon since January 2020

Nursing and Residential Care Facilities and Manufacturing Sectors

Employment in the Nursing and Residential Care Facilities sector has grown consistently, meanwhile, the Manufacturing sector has experienced a steady decline since 2022



Data derived from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics survey. October numbers have been updated from last month's preliminary estimates, and November growth rates are estimated using the State of Oregon Employment Department's Current Employment Estimates.

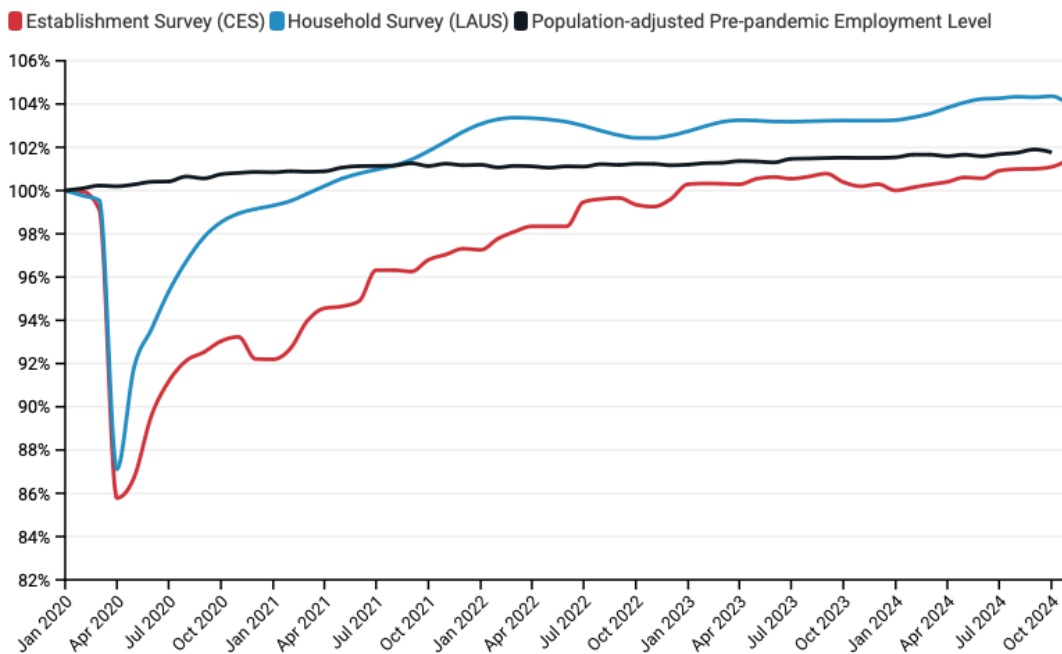
<sup>1</sup> <https://oregonbusiness.com/oregon-losing-ground-in-manufacturing-per-obi-report/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://oregonbusinessindustry.com/2024manufacturingreport/>

## Key Findings—Oregon November 2024 Employment Data

- In November, Oregon added 5,050 jobs, with mining, logging, and construction leading job growth by adding 2,050 jobs, driven primarily by growth in construction.
- Private education and health services added 1,987 jobs in November.
- Preliminary employment figures for October were revised upward by 1,770 jobs.
- Oregon's total employment is approximately 1.44% higher than in early 2020,
- Seven out of eleven major sectors added jobs in November.
- The leisure and hospitality sector experienced the largest decline, losing 693 jobs, the steepest drop among major sectors. The information sector and financial activities also posted declines of 189 and 402 jobs, respectively.
- The state's unemployment rate increased to 4.1% in November, slightly above the 4% rate from October and the 3.9% rate from a year ago.
- Oregon's labor force participation rate (LFPR) remained unchanged at 63% in November.

### Employment Levels in Oregon since January 2020



Data derived from BLS CES and LAUS. November figures have been updated using the State of Oregon Employment Department's CES. Note: LAUS November figures are not available until December 20th.

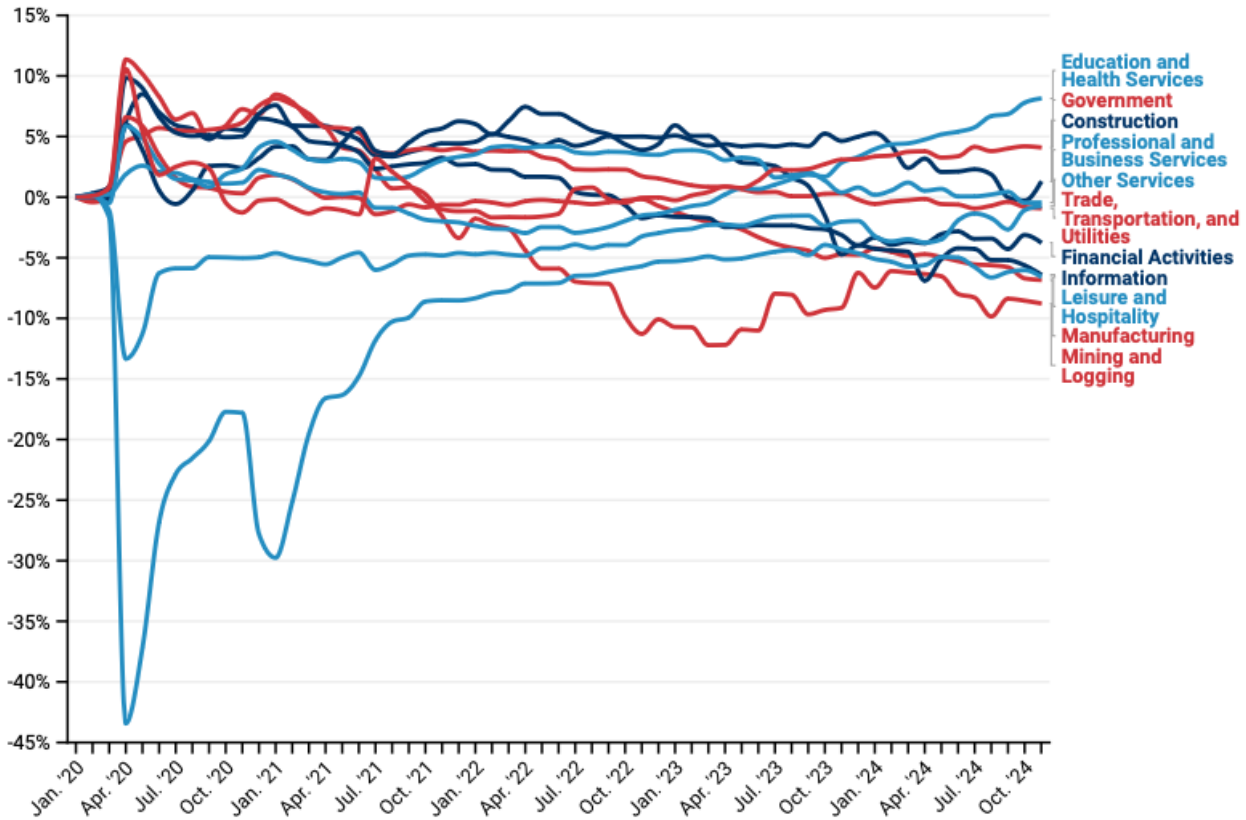
- **According to the BLS survey of establishments (CES), Oregon recovered to its pre-pandemic employment-to-population ratio in August 2021 and has remained above that level since.**

- 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 November, total nonfarm payroll employment in Oregon increased by **5,050 jobs**, with the **mining, logging, and construction sector** contributing the largest gain of **2,050 jobs**, driven primarily by growth in construction.
- **Private education and health services** added **1,987 jobs**, marking another strong month of growth for the sector.
- **Professional and business services** saw an increase of **682 jobs**, with gains spread across professional, technical, and administrative services.
- **Manufacturing** posted a modest increase of **198 jobs**, with growth in durable goods manufacturing offsetting a decline in non-durable goods.
- The **government sector** added **500 jobs**, with small gains in government employment, state and local government adding 200 jobs each.
- The **trade, transportation, and utilities sector** grew by **499 jobs**, primarily due to gains in transportation and warehousing.
- **Other services** continued its upward trend, adding **387 jobs**.
- Conversely, the **leisure and hospitality sector** experienced a decline of **693 jobs**, marking the largest loss among major industries this month.
- **Information and financial activities** sectors posted small declines of **189 jobs** and **402 jobs**, respectively.
- Since January 2020, **private-sector employment** in Oregon has increased by **11,500 jobs**, while **government employment** grew by **16,800 jobs**, led by gains in **state and local government**.
- **Five of the eleven super-sectors** remain below their January 2020 employment levels, including **mining and logging, construction, manufacturing, leisure and hospitality, and financial activities**.
  - The **mining and logging sector** continues to lag the most, with employment **7.5% lower** than in January 2020.
  - In contrast, the **education and health services sector** has shown the most significant growth, expanding by **9.7%** since January 2020, driven largely by gains in **health care and social assistance**.

## Changing Industry Shares of Total Oregon Employment since January 2020



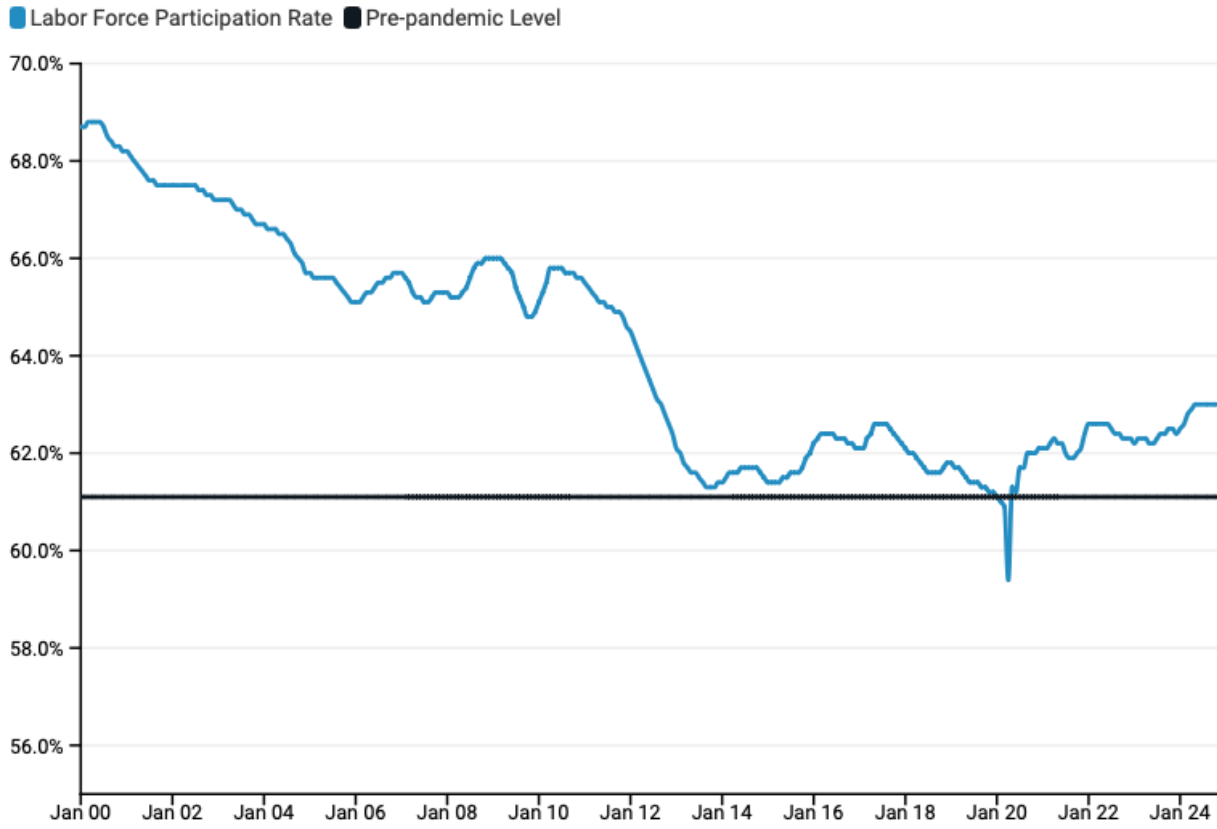
### Oregon Labor Force Update

Oregon’s Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) held steady at 63%, and the unemployment rate increase to 4.1% in November.

### Key Findings—Oregon November ‘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 November.

## 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.