



MAY 2025

# Oregon Jobs and Labor Force – April 2025 Update

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## April Job Gains Accompanied by Major Quarterly Revisions to 2024 Data

Oregon added 1,200 nonfarm payroll jobs in April 2025, according to seasonally adjusted estimates. However, this month’s release included a **routine quarterly revision** based on newly available employer tax records, which significantly altered the trend. Job estimates for **October, November, and December 2024** were revised downward by a combined **nearly 38,000 jobs**, while **January and February 2025** were revised up by more than **32,000**. The net result was a **reduction of roughly 8,000 jobs** across the July 2024 to February 2025 period.

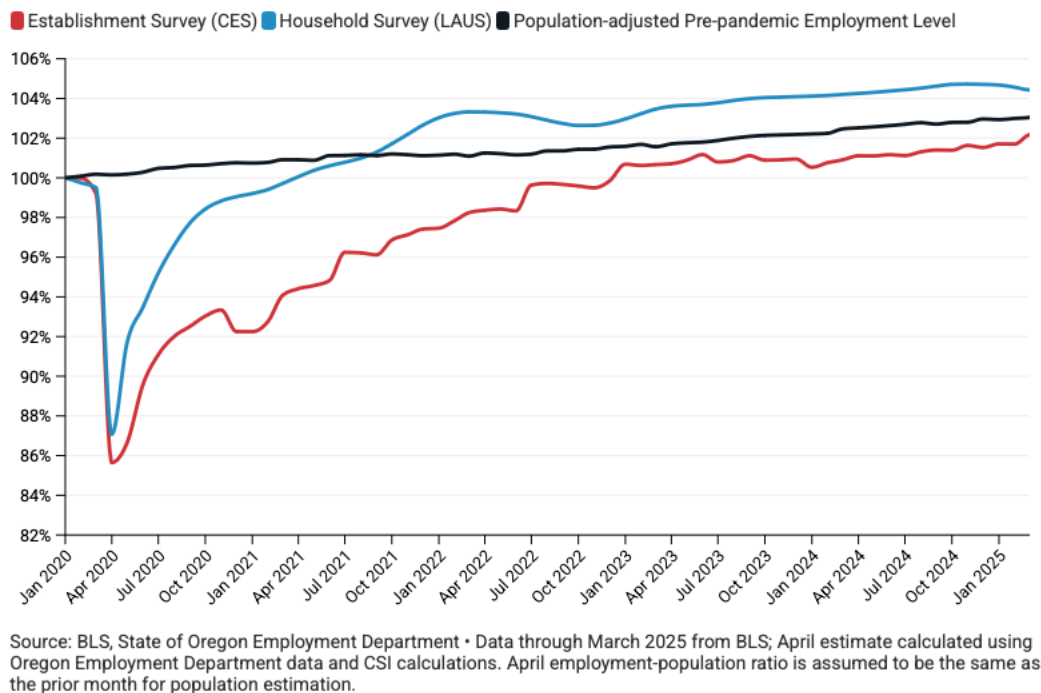
Meanwhile, the state’s labor force participation rate remained unchanged at **62.7%**, still **1.6 percentage points above** its pre-pandemic level, indicating continued strong labor force engagement. Oregon’s **unemployment rate** rose to **4.7%** in April, extending a gradual upward trend observed over the past year.

Job gains in April were concentrated in just three supersectors—**Leisure and Hospitality, Professional and Business Services**, and **Education and Health Services**—while most other sectors either lost jobs or held steady. Notably, the largest losses came from **Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities**, and **Government**, which helped offset private sector growth.

### Key Highlights—Oregon April 2025 Employment Data

- Oregon’s seasonally adjusted **total nonfarm payroll employment** increased by **1,200 jobs** in April.
- Nearly all of the gains came from the **Private sector**, which added about **1,600 jobs**, led by strong growth in the **Leisure and Hospitality** sector. In contrast, **Government employment** declined by **400 jobs**.
- **Manufacturing** and **Mining and Logging** held steady in April, while **Construction** shed approximately **200 jobs**.
- Only **3 out of Oregon’s 11 major industry supersectors** added jobs in April: **Leisure and Hospitality, Education and Health Services**, and **Professional and Business Services**. The remaining supersectors either lost jobs or saw no change.
- The largest job losses occurred in the **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** supersector, which shed approximately 1,600 jobs in April.

## Employment Levels in Oregon since January 2020



- The **Current Employment Statistics (CES)** survey indicates that Oregon has yet to fully return to its **pre-pandemic employment-to-population ratio**.
- However, estimates from the **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)** program that Oregon’s total employment surpassed pre-pandemic levels as early as **September 2021** and has remained above that benchmark.

## Industry-Level Dynamics

April’s modest overall employment growth masks significant variation across industries:

- **Leisure and Hospitality** led all industries, adding more than 3,200 jobs—driven primarily by gains in **Accommodation and Food Services**, which contributed over 2,800 jobs.
- **Professional and Business Services** added 900 jobs, with the bulk of growth coming from **Administrative and Support Services**.

- Apart from Leisure and Hospitality and Professional and Business Services, the only other supersector to add jobs was **Education and Health Services**, which posted a modest gain of 100 jobs. Within this category, the **Education** sector lost about 300 jobs, while **Health Care and Social Assistance** added roughly 400.
- **Mining and Logging** and **Manufacturing** employment held steady in April, showing no change from March levels.
- The **Construction** sector shed approximately 200 jobs.
- The largest job losses occurred in the **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** sector, which saw a decline of 1,600 jobs. Most of this drop came from **Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities**, down by over 1,200 jobs, along with a loss of about 400 jobs in **Wholesale Trade**.
- The **Information** sector continued to decline, shedding 300 jobs in April. Losses over the past two months have effectively erased the gains made in February.
- **Financial Activities** employment held steady overall, as job gains in **Financial and Insurance** were offset by losses in **Real Estate and Rental and Leasing**.
- **Government** employment continued its downward trend, declining by about 400 jobs—driven primarily by a 300-job loss at the **local government** level.

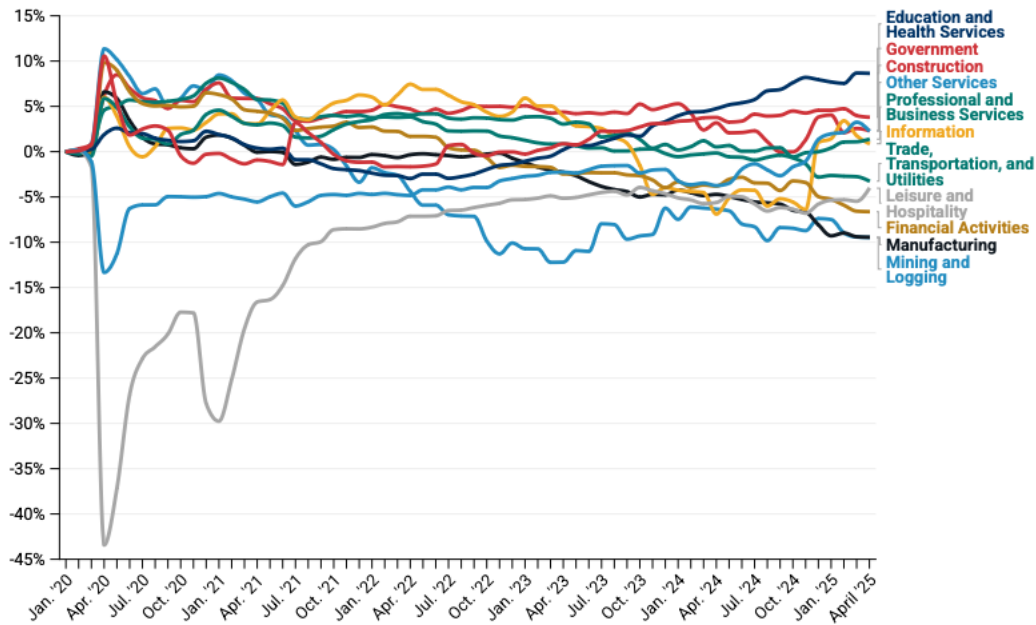
#### Since the Onset of the Pandemic:

- **Total nonfarm employment** in Oregon is up **43,700 jobs** since January 2020.
- However, **five of eleven supersectors** remain below pre-pandemic levels: Mining and Logging, Manufacturing, Trade, Transportation and Utilities, Financial Activities, Leisure and Hospitality.

### Notable shifts:

- Employment in Manufacturing and in Mining and Logging remains well below pre-pandemic levels—down 7.4% and 7.5%, respectively, compared to January 2020.
- In contrast, Education and Health services employment has grown by 11.1%, driven largely by gains in Health Care and Social Assistance.
- Government employment is also up, rising 6.1% since January 2020.

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

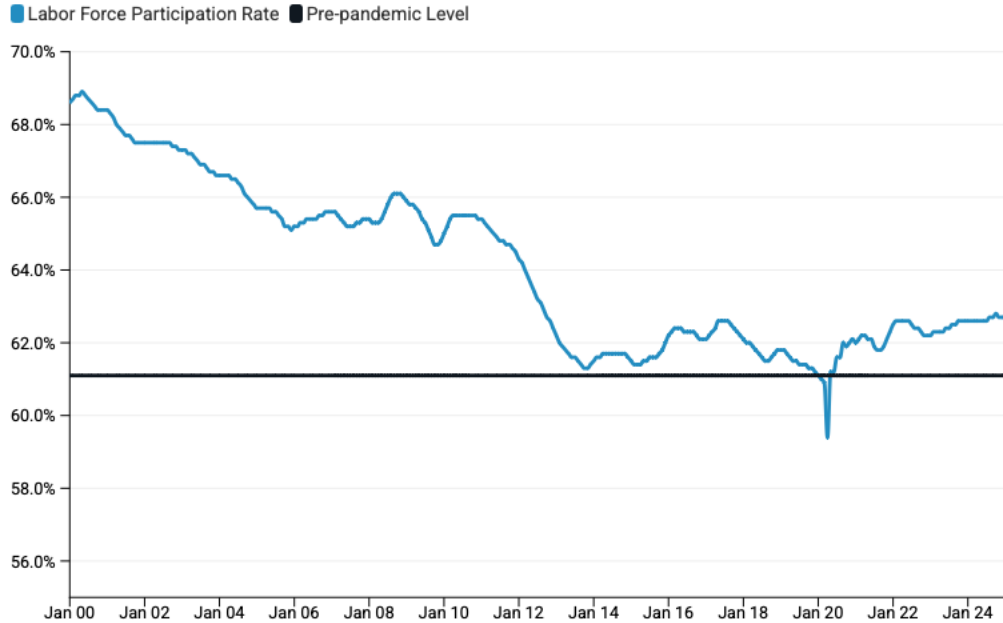


Source: Calculated by CSI using employment data from BLS, State of Oregon Employment Department CES • Employment data benchmarked to BLS; April estimates based on Oregon CES growth rates.

### Oregon Labor Force Update

- Oregon's labor force participation rate (LFPR) held steady at 62.7% in April. That's 1.6 percentage points higher than in January 2020, suggesting stronger-than-expected engagement in the workforce since the pandemic.
- The unemployment rate ticked up to 4.7%, continuing a gradual rise that may signal easing labor market tightness.

## Labor Force Participation Rate in Oregon Since 2000



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

### Technical Notes and Data Sources

All data are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise noted. Employment estimates derive from the **Oregon Current Employment Statistics (CES)** survey and are benchmarked to **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)** data through **February 2025**. Labor force estimates come from the **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)** program. **April 2025 CES and LAUS estimates** are extrapolated using **monthly growth rates** from the **Oregon Employment Department's April release**.