

NEWS

STATE OF OREGON EMPLOYMENT DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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RE: September Employment Figures

Oregon unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) 11.2% up .3 from Aug.

National unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) 10.1% up .3 from Aug.

Employed Oregon residents 1,177,600 up 8,600 from Aug.
Unemployed Oregon residents 130,500 down 3,100 from Aug.

Total payroll jobs (nonfarm) 975,100 up 10,800 from Aug.
down 56,700 from Sept. 1981

*Nonfarm employment index (1972=100)	September	August	Sept. 1981
	123.8	124.4	130.9

[Oregon's ^{employment} economy,] continuing to suffer from the recession gripping the nation] failed to show any signs of real improvement in September according to a report released today by the Oregon Employment Division. Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Oregon moved up .3 from 10.9 in August to 11.2 in September. The unemployment rate for the nation showed a like increase moving from 9.8 in August to 10.1 in September.

Total nonagricultural employment advanced 10,800 in September reaching 975,100. However, [the gains were less] than expected dropping the nonfarm total 56,700 below a year ago, 77,100 below the total of September '80, and 112,900 beneath the peak shown in September '79. The nonagricultural wage and salary employment index dipped another .6 to a five year low of 123.8.

(more)

* The employment index is based on a "typical" economic year in Oregon. It measures the percentage change in nonfarm employment between the base year (1972) and the current month. It is generally considered one of Oregon's best indicators of economic growth or decline. The index has been adjusted to remove the effect of normal seasonal fluctuations in employment.

Direct
In most major industries the employment picture was once again discouraging. The huge trade industry in particular exhibited weakness at a time when analysts are watching this sector for early signs of recovery. The slippage (-3,100 after seasonal adjustment) was felt throughout most of wholesale and retail trade. On a positive note, approximately 1,000 workers were hired in the eating/drinking portion of retail trade in conjunction with demands for food service.

Employers engaged in the manufacture of machinery, instruments, and paper also reported reductions in September, in conjunction with the general weakness in the economy.

The key lumber and construction industries again held their own over the month showing no further signs of deterioration. Undoubtedly the good weather experienced during the midmonth survey week contributed to the September strength. Food processing activity also held up well in September, the peak of the canning season.

The reopening of elementary and secondary schools accounts for the largest change in employment. An estimated 11,200 workers were added in the local education sector.

"I know it is a formidable task for employers and the unemployed alike to withstand these last trying months in the recession," said Ray Thorne Employment Division Administrator. "But better economic times are on the horizon. The prime rate coming down is certainly a good sign, and there are significant numbers of jobs available for those willing to work. In September alone our agency made over 6,300 placements."