

## Employment In Oregon: May 1994

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 5.8 percent in May, from the April rate of 5.9 percent. Although the decline was only a tenth of a percentage point, this was the fourth consecutive monthly decline in the rate. Oregon's unemployment rate remains slightly below the national rate, which dropped by four tenths of a percentage point to 6.0 percent in May.

The economic picture for Oregon workers is improving. The number of workers unable to find jobs is dropping and the number of jobs is growing. Seasonally adjusted employment registered a gain of 4,200 in May. This equates to a 2.8 percent annual growth rate in total nonfarm payroll jobs since May 1993.

Services, construction, and certain manufacturing sectors led the way. Services, which accounts for one fourth of all payroll jobs, gained 1,700 jobs in May. As the height of the tourism season approaches, hotels and lodging places, which accounts for 19,300 jobs, added 400 in May. Employment services added 800 over the

month to their list of working employees. This sector has been growing rapidly over the past 10 years as businesses continue to demand more temporary and leased workers.

The Oregon construction boom continues, as 3,300 more jobs were created in May. All major sectors of construction added a significant number of workers to their payrolls. Although last year was a strong year for Oregon's construction sector, since May 1993, 6,700 construction jobs have been added.

The manufacturing sectors which have been experiencing rapid expansion over the last several months are primarily concentrated in the durable goods manufacturing sectors outside

of lumber and wood products. Transportation equipment added 400 jobs over the month and 900 jobs over the year. Several large firms have been expanding their workforces to keep up with the success of their products.

Electronic and other electric equipment added 200 jobs over the month, and 2,100 jobs over the year. This is an annual growth rate of 10.6 percent. As in transportation equipment, several large firms with national and international markets, have been rapidly expanding their facilities.

Fabricated metals manufacturing sector rapidly added back jobs, 300 in May and 1,200 over the year. Now employing 12,100, this sector came back to the employment levels it experience during 1989.

### More Grads Expected

An estimated 27,500 students graduated from Oregon public schools this spring

That's about 1,000 more than last year and the most since 1988. The record high was 32,757 in 1971. The number dropped nearly every year until it bottomed out at 24,702 in 1991. It is expected to continue to increase at least the remainder of the decade. The current sixth grade - the Class of 2000 - is the state's largest.

### Presidential Finalists Named

Twelve teachers are Oregon's nominees for Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. Four teachers - an elementary and secondary teacher in each subject - will be selected.

The four recipients will receive \$7,500 from the National Science Foundation for school-related activities. The selection is expected to be announced in September.

Elementary science teachers are Judy Daugherty-Lewis, North Gresham Grade School; Debra Freeman, Rocky Heights Elementary School, Hermiston, and Lisa Nyberg, Brattain Elementary School, Springfield.

Secondary science teachers are Elaine Harris, Twality Middle School, Tigard; Judith Holtzinger, Oregon School for the Deaf, Salem, and Ford Morishita, Clackamas High School.

Elementary mathematics teachers are Larry Buschman, Jefferson Elementary School, Jefferson; Judy Ferrari, Pleasant Hill Elementary School, and Karrie Locke, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, Portland.

Secondary mathematics teachers are Susan Abrams, West Linn High School; Richard Brannan, West Sylvan Middle School, Portland, and Ralph Schubothe, Banks High School.

The program is coordinated by the Oregon Department of Education.



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### B-FIT PROGRAM RECRUITING FOR 1994 FALL TERM

**B-Fit:** A two-term certificate program which gives female and minority students a unique hands-on experience in many of the basic skills required to enter an apprenticeship training program or other skilled non-traditional jobs in industry. Program focuses on the construction and electrical and mechanical trades.

You will receive two terms of skills training on PCC's Rock Creek campus in the following areas:

- Trades Basic Skills
- Construction Basic Skills
- Electrical/Mechanical Basic Skills
- Trades Math
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- Cooperative Ed/Worksite Training
- Job Search Skills Orientation

During the initial orientation session, you will learn about the B-Fit program and its services, be introduced to careers in the skilled trades, and explore job realities to determine if you wish to enter the training program.

#### EDUCATION TO WORK PROGRAM

The Education to Work Program is a cooperative effort between the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Portland Community College, designed to assist minorities and women in accessing pre-apprenticeship education and obtaining highway construction jobs. Information about scholarships for the 1994-95 academic year may be obtained by contacting:

Jennice Taylor, Job Developer; 244-6111, ext 7473.  
Classes begin Sept. 19, 1994.  
Financial Aid Available; \$540.00 per term.

#### FOR ORIENTATION INFORMATION CONTACT:

Judy Campagna, B-Fit Instructor; 244-6111, ext-7475  
Donna Adams, ext-7201.  
Classes will be held on the Rock Creek Campus  
17705 N. W. Springville Road; Portland, Oregon.

B-Fit is offered in cooperation with federal and state apprenticeship programs and private industry.

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The John & Yvonne Garlington Multicultural Fellowship at Warner Pacific College provides up to \$3,500 a year in financial assistance for students from diverse cultural backgrounds. More than 100 Warner students have benefited from this program, which is intended to enrich the cultural diversity of the Warner Pacific College community. Funds are still available for Fall Semester! Contact Delores Dillard, multicultural coordinator, for details on how you might qualify for this award, as well as other Federal and State financial aid programs.



Delores Dillard

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