

U.S. unemployment falls to nearly 1969 levels; hiring solid

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Another month of strong hiring drove the nation’s unemployment rate down to 3.8 percent — tantalizingly close to the level last seen in 1969, when Detroit still dominated the auto industry and the Vietnam War was raging.

Employers added 233,000 jobs in May, up from 159,000 in April, the Labor Department reported Friday. And unemployment fell to an 18-year low.

The report shows that the nearly 9-year-old economic expansion — the second-longest on record — remains on track and may even be gaining steam. Employers appear to be shrugging off recent concerns about global trade disputes.

“The May jobs report revealed impressive strength and breadth in U.S. job creation that blew away most economists’ expectations,” said Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West.

With the unemployment rate so low, businesses have complained for months that they are struggling to find enough qualified workers. But Friday’s jobs report suggests that they are taking chances with pockets of the unemployed and underemployed whom they had previously ignored.

Roughly an hour before the employment data was released, President Donald Trump appeared to hint on Twitter that a strong jobs report was coming. “Looking forward to seeing the employment numbers at 8:30 this morning,” he tweeted.

The president is normally briefed on the monthly jobs report the day before it is



In this May 15 file photo, Joan Herrera, center, sits and waits as her mother Andrea Batista Garcia, left, and Marlene Gonzales, fill out job applications while attending the Great Northeast 2018 Job Fair at Capriotti’s in McAdoo, near Hazleton, Pa. The U.S. government issues the May jobs report on Friday.

released, and he and other administration officials are not supposed to comment on it beforehand.

Larry Kudlow, the president’s top economic adviser, downplayed Trump’s tweet. “He didn’t give any numbers,” Kudlow said. “No one revealed the numbers to the public.”

Investors welcomed the report. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 219 points Friday, or 0.9 percent. Other indexes also moved higher.

The healthy jobs data makes it more likely that the Federal Reserve will keep raising interest rates this year — two and possibly three more times, after doing so in March.

Unemployment dropped from 3.9 percent in April. When rounded to one decimal, as the Labor Department typically does, the official jobless rate is now the lowest since April 2000.

But the unrounded figure is 3.75 percent, the low-

est since December 1969. Unemployment remained below 4 percent for nearly four straight years in the late 1960s, but it rose to 6.1 percent during a mild recession in 1970. It didn’t fall below 4 percent again until the dot-com-fueled boom of the late 1990s.

Businesses desperate to hire are reaching deep into pools of the unemployed to find workers. Unemployment among high school graduates fell sharply to 3.9 percent, a 17-year low. For black Americans, it hit a record low of 5.9 percent. The unemployment rate for women dropped to 3.6 percent, the lowest since 1953.

And the number of part-time workers who would prefer full-time jobs is down 6 percent from a year ago. That means businesses are converting some part-timers to full-time work.

Companies are also hiring the long-term unemployed — those who have been out of work for six months

or longer. Their ranks have fallen by nearly one-third in the past year.

That’s important because economists worry that people who are out of work for long periods can see their skills erode.

Those trends suggest that companies, for all their complaints, are still able to hire without significantly boosting wages. Average hourly pay rose 2.7 percent in May from a year earlier, below the 3.5 percent to 4 percent pace that occurred the last time unemployment was this low.

The number of involuntary part-time workers is still higher than it was before the 2008-09 recession.

Macroeconomic Advisers, a forecasting firm, said it now foresees the economy expanding at a robust 4.1 percent annual pace in the April-June quarter, which would be the fastest in nearly four years. The economy expanded just 2.2 percent in the first quarter.

BRIEFLY

31 local students attend the Oregon Tradeswomen Career Fair

PENDLETON — The School to Careers program took 31 local students to the Oregon Tradeswomen Career Fair in Portland.

Eastern Oregon Business Source and local school districts partner the program to helps local business and industry create career-related learning opportunities for regional high school students.

Six students from Pendleton High School, 25 from Sunridge Middle School, and four from Hermiston High School attended the event on May 18.

Susan Bower of Eastern Oregon Business Source said the “goal of the trade fair is to introduce students to the wide variety of career opportunities available in the trades while offering a unique, hands-on opportunity for young women to learn about apprenticeship and career training opportunities after high school.”

School to Careers coor-

dinator Christina van der Kamp said “There was huge value in having the girls literally get their hands dirty in a wide variety of activities, such as welding, construction, wiring, and fitting pipes.”

The students also benefited from talking with exhibit staff, van der Kamp added, the vast majority of whom were working professionals.

The trip also showed the program needs “to reach out to the middle school as much as possible to involve that age group in even more career exploration,” according to van der Kamp.

The Education Foundation of Pendleton funded travel to the event and the Pendleton Building Construction Trades Council sponsored meals and financial assistance for students in need.

For more information about the School to Career Program, contact van der Kamp at 541-969 6748 or email at christinavanderkamp@eobusinesssource.com.

Luxury 225-room hotel planned at site of Portland food cart pod

PORTLAND (AP) — A developer plans to replace a pod of Portland food carts with a luxury hotel.

Walter Bowen, the chief executive of BPM Real Estate Group, says in an email to *The Oregonian/OregonLive* that his company is in talks with several five-star hotel brands.

Plans call for 225 hotel rooms on nine floors,

plus office space and condominiums.

The development proposal on Southwest Washington Street in downtown was disclosed late last month, but the developer and the specifics of the plan had not previously been identified.

At 424 feet tall, the tower would be Portland’s fifth-tallest building.

Pot businessman pleads guilty to failing to file tax returns

PORTLAND (AP) — The part-owner of multiple Oregon medical marijuana dispensaries has pleaded guilty to four misdemeanor counts of willfully failing to file income tax returns.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports that Matthew Price, part-owner and operator of Portland and Eugene Cannabliis dispensaries, acknowledged in court that he didn’t file individual tax returns from 2011 through 2014 for income received

from the operation of the dispensaries.

Prosecutors say the offense resulted in a tax loss of nearly \$263,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Seth Uram says the government will seek a sentence of one year and one day, which would allow Price to earn credit for good time and likely face less than a year behind bars.

Price’s lawyer Whitney Boise said he’ll argue for a probationary sentence.

Unclear future of e-scooter companies in Portland

PORTLAND (AP) — Dockless electric scooter companies will be allowed to start operating in Portland during a four-month trial later this summer, but their future in the city is still up in the air, transportation officials said.

Other large cities such as San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Seattle and Austin, Texas, have had issues with dockless e-scooter rental companies, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. Customers can rent a scooter through their smartphone for a fee and drop it off anywhere in the city.

Portland has decided to approach the business model cautiously instead of welcoming the five companies

that have expressed interest in conducting business in the city, said Dylan Rivera, a spokesman for the transportation department. They don’t want to see dozens of scooters dumped on city sidewalks, he said.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman and other transportation commissioners sent a letter Tuesday to five companies setting out rules for the four-month trial.

The companies include Skip, Spin, LimeBike, Bird and Goat.

Companies will be required to “report on and mitigate” concerns such as pedestrian safety, access for people with disabilities, compliance with state laws and provided anonymized

data about users’ trip lengths and origin and destination.

LimeBike, a Silicon Valley-based venture capital-backed startup, is looking to bring electric assisted bikes and dockless bike programs to Portland in addition to e-scooters, but first it hopes to be “a good partner” with the city on the e-scooter issue, said Gabriel Scheer, LimeBike’s director of strategic development.

LimeBike said the advantage of dockless systems is that they don’t have geographic requirements and can bring transportation options to underserved parts of east Portland.

“Let’s go to Cully. Let’s go to Lents. Let’s go to the areas that aren’t being served

by Biketown,” Scheer said, referring to the city’s own bike rental service.

The pilot program is not expected to begin this month, Rivera said.

Companies have been warned not to start the service without prior approval.

Failure to follow the rules “will result in confiscation” of scooters and fines, Saltzman wrote in the letter.

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Dr. Libby is originally from Hilton Head, South Carolina and graduated from Furman University in Greenville, SC. She attended medical school at the University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine, and completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. She then spent three years at Western Family Care/Lander Medical Clinic in Riverton, Wyoming. Dr. Libby is Board Certified, American Board of Family Medicine. She has a passion for rural medicine and looks forward to living in Pendleton with her husband Brandon and daughter Sophie Belle.



St. Anthony Clinic

3001 St. Anthony Way
Pendleton, Oregon
www.sahpendleton.org

WHAT IS DSAC?

DSAC is a group of local volunteers who give advice, educate and advocate on issues that are important to people with disabilities. A majority of volunteers are people with disabilities, but all are advocates.

WHAT DOES DSAC DO?

The council reviews policies, quality of services, and issues pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act. We advise the local offices of DHS Aging and People with Disabilities as well as other state & local agencies.

To Volunteer or For More Information:
Contact the local Pendleton/Hermiston DHS APD DSAC Liaison

Pam Buckman
pam.j.buckman@state.or.us
PHONE: 541-966-6212





"Scramble for Scholarships"

Friday, June 8th
1pm Shotgun Start

Big River Golf Course - Umatilla

Golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate in the 25th annual "Scramble for Scholarships" golf tournament. Four person teams can sign up together or individual pairings can be made by the tournament committee. Your \$70 entry fee covers green fees, a box lunch, and BBQ dinner, and makes a charitable donation to the foundation to use in awarding scholarships for local health care students.

Join us by registering at scrambleforscholarships.eventbrite.com or by calling 541-667-3405. **Entry deadline is June 6th.**

Great prize holes and Hole-in-one on #1 & #9 wins a new car sponsored by Tom Denchel Ford and Hermiston Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram!