



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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The Honorable Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair
The Honorable Senator Daniel Bonham, Vice-Chair
Interim Senate Labor and Business Committee

RE: Follow-up information to September 30 Employment Department Update

Dear Chair Taylor and Vice Chair Bonham:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present an update on our work to your committee. I'm following up with answers to a few questions that were asked during the informational meeting.

First, Senator Patterson asked about the small business development trends we are seeing in our 37 WorkSource Oregon (WSO) Offices. Our WSO offices served approximately 5,600 businesses in Oregon from January to June this year. We unfortunately do not have data about specific trends in the small business community but have strong partnerships with the workforce development system in each region, including the Local Workforce Development Boards, who along with us build and maintain relationships with local businesses. If you would like, we would be glad to further discuss this issue and see if there is data we could collect or find relevant to the question.¹

Second, Chair Taylor asked how long it takes for people to find a job on average and several committee members asked related questions about the current state of unemployment in Oregon. In August 2025, the average length of time Oregonians are unemployed was almost 20 weeks, but the median is closer to 11 weeks. This includes all Oregonians who are unemployed, not just those who are receiving UI benefits (i.e. those who have newly entered or re-entered the workforce and are looking for work; those who lost their jobs; and those who quit jobs without having another one lined up, but are still looking for their next job).

Only a portion of all unemployed Oregonians are eligible for or receive UI benefits. For those who do receive benefits, about one-third (31%) exhausted their unemployment benefits in

¹ You can find some additional labor market insight, performed by our Workforce and Economic Research Division, which speaks to recent small business trends in Oregon at <https://www.qualityinfo.org/web/guest/-/fourth-quarter-2024-median-wage-and-employment-by-firm-size-and-industry>.

August 2025, meaning they claimed all weeks of benefits available to them. As of August 31, the number of Oregonians who exhausted UI benefits totaled about 2,700 people (about 43,000 people received UI benefits in the same period of time). We think this is a relatively small number compared to the labor force of 2.2 million Oregonians overall.

Thank you again for inviting us to share information with your committee and please let me know if you have any other questions.

Kind regards,



Andrew Stolfi (Oct 1, 2025 16:56:54 PDT)

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cc: Whitney Perez, Legislative Policy Research Office Analyst