



2019 Statesman Dinner – Tickets Running Out!



You're running out of time to get your ticket to OBI's premier event for 2019. Tables are all sold out, but **single tickets are still available**. To acquire tickets click [here](#) or email [Morgan Beltz](#) or [Patti Winter](#).

The annual Statesman Dinner is on Oct. 7 at a new venue: Portland State University Viking Pavilion. The original location, the Portland Art Museum Kridel Ballroom, suffered a ceiling collapse earlier this month and OBI moved to the nearby location that could accommodate an even larger number of attendees.

Join us in honoring retired Gov. Ted Kulongoski and legendary Oregon businessman and civic leader Gerry Frank as the Statesmen of the Year and reserve your spot to hear a keynote address from U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. Even with this larger capacity, spots are filling up fast. Make sure you don't miss out!



Regulatory Updates

Paid family and medical leave – OBI submitted names to the employment department and to the Governor's office for the Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) advisory committee. The Department has until September 2021 to craft rules, so it will be some time before that work really begins in earnest. The department named a director for the new division but the PFML division is just now being planned and developed.

Independent contractors – Rep. Paul Holvey, D-Eugene, is revisiting the issue of independent contractors. During the 2019 session he introduced [HB 2498](#) which would have virtually eliminated independent contractor status in the state. The bill was prompted by the

California Supreme Court ruling in the [Dynamex](#) case. The court ruled independent contractors could only be considered independent if they were not providing services that are in the regular course of business they are working with. The California legislature then codified that ruling into state law. While HB 2498 did not pass the 2019 session, Rep. Holvey will be gathering a workgroup to revisit the issue. OBI will update you as this progresses.

Accommodations for mothers – The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) is reviewing bills passed in the 2019 Legislature relating to breaks for breastfeeding and expression of milk and pregnancy accommodations ([HB 2341](#) and [HB 2593](#)). BOLI has not commenced formal rulemaking, but is holding meetings next month on these topics. OBI will engage in the process and keep you updated.

Workers' compensation – OBI and the Associated General Contractors have partnered to establish a stronger and more effective Workers' Comp Coalition. Our hope is the coalition will bring together businesses, HR professionals, attorneys and lobbyists to respond to threats to the stability of Oregon's workers' compensation system. Please contact [Paloma Sparks](#) if you wish to participate.

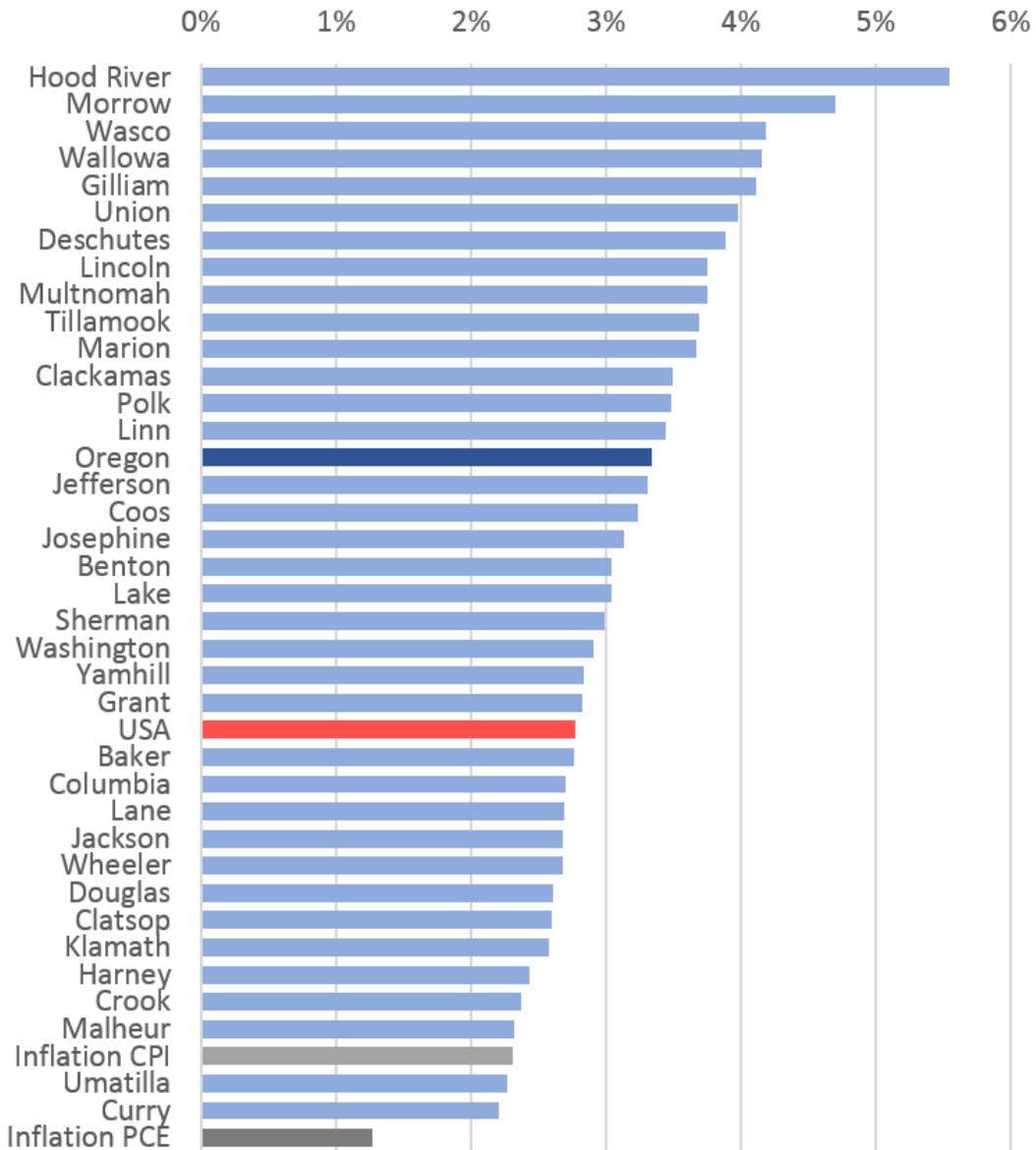
Wage Growth in Oregon

Wages are growing in all sectors across Oregon. That's what the Office of Economic Analysis had to say in [a report](#) released this month.

“Stronger wage gains are seen across the entire state of Oregon,” it says. “Most counties are above the U.S. average and those that are not, are not far behind. There are no stragglers in Oregon in recent years.”

Today, the state's average wage is 94% of the U.S. average. That's the highest it's been since the peak of the timber industry in the 1970s, when it was 96% of U.S. average.

Annual Wage Growth, 2014-2018



Data: QCEW | Source: BLS, Oregon Employment Dept, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

August Employment Update

Oregon's unemployment rate has held steady between 4% and 4.4% for 34 consecutive months. That's unprecedented since the 1970s, according to the Oregon Employment Department. August's unemployment rate was 4%, the department announced Tuesday. The stretch goes back to 2016, before which the lowest unemployment rate was 4.7%.

Employment in Oregon: August 2019

From the Oregon Employment Department

Employment rose by **900 jobs** in August 2019

Gains:

- **1,600** - leisure and hospitality
- **1,100** - professional and business services

Offset losses:

- **-900** - wholesale trade
- **-900** - other services
- **-700** - retail trade
- **-600** - healthcare and social assistance

Unemployment rate: **4%**

Oregon's unemployment rate has been between **4%** and **4.4%** for **34 consecutive months**.

This stretch of low unemployment is "unprecedented" back to 1976.

Prior to 2016, Oregon's unemployment rate never dropped below 4.7%.

August's job gains were less than earlier this year, at 900 jobs. The largest gains were in leisure and hospitality and professional and business services, but those were offset by losses in wholesale trade, retail trade, healthcare and social assistance and other services.

Read more in the Oregon Employment Department's [August report](#).

Worker Availability Ratio and the Tight Labor Market

The tight labor market across the nation is unprecedented, according to the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#).

"Employers looking to fill open positions are experiencing a labor market that's nearly three times tighter than it has been on average over the last two decades and eight times tighter than it was 10 years ago," the Chamber said in its new Monthly Workforce Monitor.



The monitor looks at a new data point, the worker availability ratio, which shows how many workers are available for each open position. In June and July, that ratio was 1.09 and 1.08, respectively. That means for every job opening, there was barely one available worker. That compares to ratios of 8 workers to one job 10 years ago, and a 20-year average of 2.9 workers for every available position.

Read more at the U.S. Chamber's [website](#).



Upcoming Events

Manufacturing Symposium



- When: Sept. 27, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Where: Hilton Portland
- Visit the [event page](#) for more

The Manufacturing Symposium, presented by Schwabe and Aldrich, is just around the corner. Get your tickets to this event where you can network and learn about the state of the industry from those affecting legislative changes and leading the charge in manufacturing. Panelists include Sen. Betsy Johnson, and OBI's President and CEO, Sandra McDonough.

[Click here](#) to learn more and reserve your spot.

2020 OBI Annual Meeting – Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Feb. 13, for the OBI Annual Meeting and Lobby Day in Salem! Details to follow soon.



In the News

[Oregon insight: Working moms carry most of the parenting load](#)

[Multnomah County On-call and temp employees seek union recognition](#)

[Grocery union cancels contracts with Kroger](#)

[Oregon millennials defy 'job hopper' stereotype](#)

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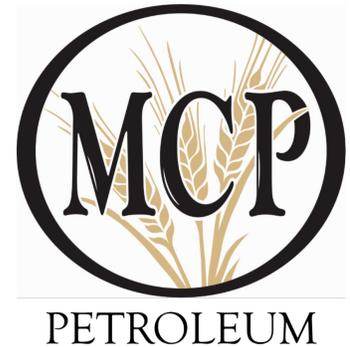


Resources

Wholesale Fuel Pricing

OBI has partnered with MCP Petroleum to drive down OBI members' fuel cost. OBI is leveraging the collective purchasing power of our membership to get wholesale fuel pricing for our members. In addition to fuel savings, OBI members will have access to a comprehensive fuel management system that will reduce slippage, save valuable employee time and provide accountability and oversight of your company's fuel consumption.

OBI members who use 900 gallons of fuel annually through their company are eligible for this program. Please contact [Jeff DeSantis](#) for more information.



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LegalPlus Program



Did you know, by being an OBI member you can get free legal advice? OBI and Innova Legal Advisors provides members 15 minutes of legal consultation each month through the LegalPlus program. Check it out by [clicking here](#). Or contact Bob Blackmore at Innova Legal Advisors: Phone: 503-479-7175; email: Bob.Blackmore@innovalegaladvisors.com.



OBI HealthChoice

Big Business Options on a Small Business Budget

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