Message from our Board Chair

OBI Board Chair Scott Parrish writes about the ways companies are innovating to get products to their customers, whether it's fast home delivery, in-store pickup or curbside pickup. Click here to read more.

Share your thoughts with Scott at scottparrish@oregonbusinessindustry.com.

Statesman Dinner – Limited Seats Available!

There are limited seats still available for the 2019 Statesman Dinner, scheduled for Monday, Oct. 7, in Portland. Come hear our keynoter, Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and join us in honoring our 2019 Statesmen of the Year, retired Gov. Ted Kulongoski and businessman Gerry Frank. Click here to register. Please note: The event location has moved from the Portland Art Museum to Portland State University's Viking Pavilion because of the ceiling collapse at the museum's Kridel Ballroom.

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.

September Economic and Revenue Forecast
The September Economic Forecast had good news for Oregon, including continued growth and a new, higher, estimate for the kicker refund for taxpayers. The report upped next year’s kicker amount to nearly $1.6 billion – the third largest on record. It comes out to about $739 for the average taxpayer. The corporate tax kicker – which is not returned to taxpayers but instead spent on K-12 education – also increased to $675.6 million.

“All told, Oregon continues to hit the sweet spot for now,” the report’s executive summary stated.

While the forecast was positive, it noted Oregon is no longer outpacing the rest of the country as it was. But economic growth continues to keep up with population growth. The trade war is also making businesses wary.

Read the executive summary here, or the full report here. Slides about the report are available here.

State of Labor

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce offered numbers on the state of labor in all 50 states. Oregon added 36,400 jobs from July 2018 to July 2019. Jobs increased by 1.9% and wages increased by 6.5%. The state’s unemployment rate is 4%.

Compared to our West Coast states, Oregon is apace percentage wise but not in the raw numbers of jobs added. California’s jobs increased at 1.8% with 311,800 jobs added. Its wages increased by 7.4% and unemployment was close at 4.1%. Washington’s jobs grew by 3% with 102,400 jobs added. Wages also increased by 5.9% and unemployment is a bit higher at 4.6%.
Tax Rulemaking

The state started the process for rulemaking on the new Corporate Activity Tax, the result of $2 billion K-12 education bill, HB 3427. OBI remains engaged in this process, working with partners on issues, priorities and technical fixes which could happen in stakeholder meetings across the state, or the 2020 short legislative session.

Members are welcome to contact Mike Stober, OBI director of government affairs, for questions or more information. Or check out the state’s Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) website. You can also send questions and feedback to the CAT policy team at cat.help@dor.oregon.gov.

Manufacturing Week

Manufacturing Day is coming up on Oct. 4. OBI will be celebrating all week by profiling some of the great makers in Oregon. Keep an eye on our website and social media the week of Sept. 30 to Oct. 4. If your company is doing anything special for the week or the day, please let us know.

Put on by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), Manufacturing Day is all about empowering manufacturers to come together and address collective challenges to help communities and future generations thrive. For more, see mfgday.com.

August New Members

Ash Creek Animal Clinic
Adelsheim Vineyard
Achterhof Healthcare Pharmacy
Sanofi-Aventis
The Provenance Chain
Member News

Help us tell your story. Send us your news at communications@oregonbusinessindustry.com. Here are a few headlines from OBI members.

Two West Coast Wineries Named ‘Best for the World’ for Environmental Efforts

U.S. Bank Receives ‘Outstanding’ Community Reinvestment Act Rating

Delta Approved for Nonstop Service Between Portland and Tokyo

How 4 Companies Struggle to Navigate Trump’s Trade Uncertainty

An Oregon Recession? Unconventional Trade War Casts a Shadow

Oregon Taxpayers to get Record Tax ‘Kicker’ Refund Next Year

Greenbrier Releases Inaugural Environmental, Social and Governance Report

Legislator Information

OBI has an easy way to contact your legislator on our website. On the Legislative Session page you can find a listing of Oregon Representatives and Oregon Senators, along with their contact information.

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

Wholesale Fuel Pricing

OBI members have an opportunity to get discounts on fuel purchases. Click here to learn more or contact Jeff DeSantis for more information.