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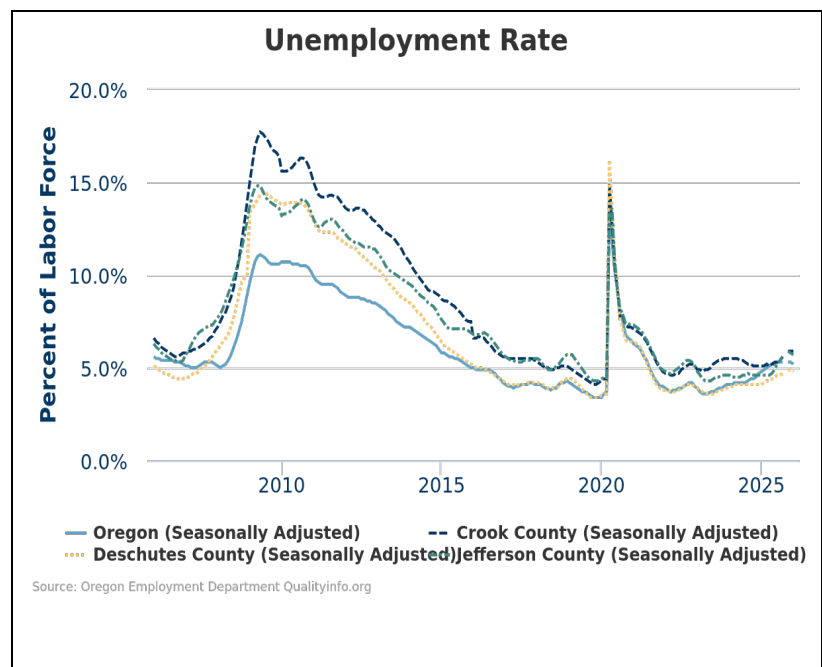
Employment in Central Oregon: March 2026

Central Oregon seasonally adjusted unemployment rates saw very little movement from February to March, holding steady in Deschutes County and decreasing slightly in Jefferson and Crook counties.

Bend MSA (Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties): The Bend MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in March, essentially unchanged from the February revised rate of 5.0%. Last year in March the unemployment rate was 4.4%, or 0.5 percentage point lower.

The Bend MSA's employment gains in March were less than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 330 during the month, when an employment increase of 440 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 110 between February and March. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is now up 7.6% from the level in February 2020, or 7,730 jobs above its pre-pandemic level.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment decreased by 0.6% (-620 jobs) from March 2025 to March 2026.



The private sector overall added 250 jobs over the month. Leisure and hospitality added 190 jobs in March. Professional and business services employment gained 140 jobs in March.

Public sector employment increased by 80 in March. Federal government employment increased by 60. Local government added 20 jobs. State government employment was unchanged in March.

Crook County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.8% in March 2026, essentially unchanged from the February revised rate of 5.9%. Crook County's unemployment rate has increased from 5.2% to 5.8% over the past year.

Crook County's employment gains in March were more than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 70 during the month, when an employment increase of 50 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 20 between February and March. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is now up 9.6% from the level in February 2020, or 640 jobs above its pre-pandemic level.

Over the past year Crook County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 130 jobs or -1.7%. Over the past year private sector employment is down 10 jobs. The public sector has shed 110 jobs over the past year.

Private sector employment overall was up 40 over the month. Construction added 10 jobs in March. Wholesale trade; private education and health services; and professional and business services each added 10 jobs in March.

Public sector employment increased by 30 in March. State government employment decreased by 10. Federal government added 40 jobs. Local government employment was unchanged in March.

Deschutes County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8% in March 2026, matching its revised February unemployment rate of 4.8%. In March 2025, it was 4.3%.

Deschutes County's employment gains in March were less than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 230 during the month, when an employment increase of 400 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 170 between February and March. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is now up 7.2% from the level in February 2020, or 6,380 jobs above its pre-pandemic level.

Over the past year Deschutes County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 770 jobs or -0.8%. Over the past year private sector employment is up 700 jobs. The public sector has shed 830 jobs over the past year.

Private sector employment grew 180 over the month. Professional and business services added 120 jobs in March. Leisure and hospitality added 160 jobs in March.

Public sector employment increased by 50 in March. Local government employment increased by 20. Federal government added 40 jobs. State government employment declined 10 in March.

Jefferson County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.5% in March 2026, down from 5.6% in February and up 0.9 percentage point from March 2025.

Jefferson County's employment gains in March were less than normal; total nonfarm employment gained 80 during the month, when an employment increase of 90 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 10 between February and March. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is now up 1.6% from the level in February 2020, or 110 jobs above its pre-pandemic level.

Over the past year Jefferson County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has added 20 jobs or +0.3%. Over the past year private sector employment is down 20 jobs. The public sector has added 50 jobs over the past year.

Private sector employment gained 70 jobs over the month. Both trade, transportation, and utilities and manufacturing added 20 jobs in March. Leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and private education and health services each added 10 jobs in March.

Public sector employment increased by 10 in March. Local government employment increased by 10. Federal and state government employment were both unchanged in March.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Wednesday, May 27 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, May 20.



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May 5, 2026

Bend MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	134,115	133,963	133,427	152	688
Unemployed	7,151	7,716	7,156	-565	-5
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.8%	5.4%	-0.5	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	5.0%	4.4%	-0.1	0.5
Employed	126,964	126,247	126,271	717	693
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	109,100	108,770	108,890	330	210
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>109,980</i>	<i>110,090</i>	<i>110,600</i>	<i>-110</i>	<i>-620</i>
Total private	95,200	94,950	93,960	250	1,240
Mining, logging, and construction	9,140	9,140	8,670	0	470
Manufacturing	8,260	8,200	8,570	60	-310
Durable goods	5,680	5,670	6,010	10	-330
Trade, transportation, and utilities	18,310	18,380	18,390	-70	-80
Wholesale trade	2,930	2,940	2,950	-10	-20
Retail trade	12,860	12,880	12,780	-20	80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,520	2,560	2,660	-40	-140
Information	1,920	1,910	2,080	10	-160
Financial activities	5,490	5,550	5,470	-60	20
Professional and business services	11,970	11,830	12,300	140	-330
Private education and health services	19,910	19,910	19,410	0	500
Leisure and hospitality	16,110	15,920	15,180	190	930
Accommodation and food services	13,060	12,920	12,280	140	780
Other services	4,090	4,110	3,890	-20	200
Government	13,900	13,820	14,930	80	-1,030
Federal government	1,240	1,180	1,350	60	-110
State government	1,670	1,670	1,680	0	-10
Local government	10,990	10,970	11,900	20	-910
Local education	5,620	5,640	6,500	-20	-880

The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.

Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Official Oregon Series. Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics.

The Bend MSA includes Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties.



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Crook County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,051	13,067	12,906	-16	145
Unemployed	832	889	791	-57	41
Unemployment rate	6.4%	6.8%	6.1%	-0.4	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.8%</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Employed	12,219	12,178	12,115	41	104
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	7,170	7,100	7,290	70	-120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7,310</i>	<i>7,290</i>	<i>7,440</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>-130</i>
Total private	5,950	5,910	5,960	40	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	1,020	1,010	850	10	170
Mining and logging	50	50	30	0	20
Construction	970	960	820	10	150
Manufacturing	620	620	760	0	-140
Wood product manufacturing	220	230	330	-10	-110
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,200	1,190	1,200	10	0
Wholesale trade	360	350	370	10	-10
Retail trade	620	620	620	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	220	220	210	0	10
Information	230	230	250	0	-20
Financial activities	240	240	240	0	0
Professional and business services	590	580	640	10	-50
Private education and health services	910	900	910	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	820	820	840	0	-20
Other services	320	320	270	0	50
Government	1,220	1,190	1,330	30	-110
Federal government	250	210	270	40	-20
State government	130	140	130	-10	0
Local government	840	840	930	0	-90

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Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants. Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics.



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Deschutes County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	110,034	109,897	109,600	137	434
Unemployed	5,667	6,112	5,743	-445	-76
Unemployment rate	5.2%	5.6%	5.2%	-0.4	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.8%	4.3%	0.0	0.5
Employed	104,367	103,785	103,857	582	510
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	94,680	94,450	94,810	230	-130
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	95,540	95,710	96,310	-170	-770
Total private	84,340	84,160	83,640	180	700
Mining, logging, and construction	7,920	7,920	7,630	0	290
Manufacturing	6,610	6,560	6,580	50	30
Durable goods	4,340	4,350	4,290	-10	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	16,040	16,100	16,270	-60	-230
Wholesale trade	2,350	2,370	2,420	-20	-70
Retail trade	11,390	11,410	11,500	-20	-110
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,300	2,320	2,350	-20	-50
Information	1,670	1,660	1,790	10	-120
Financial activities	5,110	5,170	5,090	-60	20
Professional and business services	11,580	11,460	11,390	120	190
Private education and health services	18,250	18,260	17,700	-10	550
Leisure and hospitality	13,470	13,310	13,730	160	-260
Accommodation and food services	11,120	10,990	10,900	130	220
Other services	3,690	3,720	3,460	-30	230
Government	10,340	10,290	11,170	50	-830
Federal government	920	880	980	40	-60
State government	1,170	1,180	1,160	-10	10
Local government	8,250	8,230	9,030	20	-780
Local education	4,390	4,400	5,230	-10	-840

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Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.
 Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.
 Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics.



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Jefferson County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,030	10,999	10,921	31	109
Unemployed	652	715	622	-63	30
Unemployment rate	5.9%	6.5%	5.7%	-0.6	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.5%	5.6%	4.6%	-0.1	0.9
Employed	10,378	10,284	10,299	94	79
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	6,820	6,740	6,790	80	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6,820	6,830	6,800	-10	20
Total private	4,340	4,270	4,360	70	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	190	190	190	0	0
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	180	180	180	0	0
Manufacturing	1,170	1,150	1,230	20	-60
Wood product manufacturing	880	870	950	10	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	940	920	920	20	20
Wholesale trade	160	150	160	10	0
Retail trade	670	660	660	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	110	110	100	0	10
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	120	120	140	0	-20
Professional and business services	230	220	270	10	-40
Private education and health services	830	820	800	10	30
Leisure and hospitality	610	600	610	10	0
Other services	210	210	160	0	50
Government	2,480	2,470	2,430	10	50
Federal government	90	90	100	0	-10
State government	390	390	390	0	0
Local government	2,000	1,990	1,940	10	60
Indian tribal	920	900	860	20	60

The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.

Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics.

The Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly payroll employment and labor force data for Oregon's metropolitan areas and counties. The estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. The estimates of unemployment are based on a survey of households and other sources.

The Oregon Employment Department payroll employment estimates are revised quarterly using information from unemployment insurance tax records. All department publications use data from this *official Oregon series* unless noted.

The department also makes the BLS-produced nonfarm payroll employment series for metropolitan areas available. These are revised annually by BLS.

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To file an Unemployment Insurance claim, visit our online claims system or call our contact centers, where Employment Department staff are ready to help by phone, at 1-877-FILE-4-UI (1-877-345-3484). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org

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