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CONTACT INFORMATION:
Shaun Barrick, Regional Economist
Shaun.Barrick@employ.oregon.gov
(541) 435-8569

Employment in Columbia County: February 2026

Seasonally adjusted Unemployment Rate Unchanged in February

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1% in February, unchanged from January, and above the rate of 5.1% in February 2025. The statewide unemployment rate was 5.2% in February, and the national rate was 4.4%.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 in February to 12,170 jobs. Seasonally adjusted figures compare expected changes with actual changes. A gain of 30 jobs was expected for the month, and the county's payroll employment increased by 20. Private sector employment increased by 10, and government employment increased by 10. Professional and business services added 20 jobs (+1.7%). Private education and health services lost 20 jobs (-1.1%). Other industries experienced little to no change.

February's total nonfarm employment was up from the previous year by 20 jobs, an increase of 0.2%. Some broad sectors gained jobs over the past year. The largest gain occurred in private education and health services, which added 130 jobs (+7.6%). Trade, transportation, and utilities was down 60 jobs over the year (-2.6%). Local education was up 50 jobs over the year (+4.3%).

Next News Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Friday, May 1, and March county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, May 5.

Columbia County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	26,508	26,467	26,744	41	-236
Unemployed	1,773	1,809	1,623	-36	150
Unemployment rate	6.7%	6.8%	6.1%	-0.1	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	6.1%	5.1%	0.0	1.0
Employed	24,735	24,658	25,121	77	-386
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,130	12,110	12,110	20	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,170	12,180	12,140	-10	30
Total private	9,950	9,940	9,960	10	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	860	860	890	0	-30
Mining and logging	180	180	190	0	-10
Construction	680	680	700	0	-20
Manufacturing	1,490	1,490	1,480	0	10
Durable goods	1,100	1,100	1,110	0	-10
Wood product manufacturing	230	230	240	0	-10
Nondurable goods	390	390	370	0	20
Paper manufacturing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,220	2,220	2,280	0	-60
Retail trade	1,510	1,510	1,560	0	-50
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	470	460	490	10	-20
Professional and business services	1,210	1,190	1,210	20	0
Private education and health services	1,840	1,860	1,710	-20	130
Leisure and hospitality	1,350	1,360	1,370	-10	-20
Other services	460	450	480	10	-20
Government	2,180	2,170	2,150	10	30
Federal government	80	80	80	0	0
State government	210	210	220	0	-10
Local government	1,890	1,880	1,850	10	40
Local education	1,220	1,210	1,170	10	50
Local government excluding educational services	670	670	680	0	-10

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.

Oregon Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates by Area (1)

	<u>February 2026</u>	<u>January 2026</u>	<u>February 2025</u>
United States	4.4	4.3	4.2
State of Oregon	5.2	5.2	4.9
<u>Metropolitan Statistical Areas:</u>			
Albany (Linn County)	5.5	5.6	4.9
Bend (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties)	5.0	5.0	4.4
Corvallis (Benton County)	4.6	4.6	4.0
Eugene-Springfield (Lane County)	5.3	5.3	4.5
Grants Pass (Josephine County)	7.0	7.1	6.1
Medford (Jackson County)	5.8	5.9	5.1
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro (2)	5.1	5.1	4.4
Salem (Marion and Polk counties)	5.0	5.1	4.4
<u>Counties (1):</u>			
Baker	5.6	5.8	4.7
Benton	4.6	4.6	4.0
Clackamas	5.0	5.0	4.2
Clatsop	5.1	5.2	4.4
Columbia	6.1	6.1	5.1
Coos	5.8	5.9	5.1
Crook	5.9	5.9	5.1
Curry	6.6	6.7	5.6
Deschutes	4.8	4.8	4.2
Douglas	6.3	6.4	5.6
Gilliam	5.7	5.7	4.6
Grant	7.3	7.6	6.5
Harney	4.7	4.9	4.5
Hood River	4.1	4.1	3.6
Jackson	5.8	5.9	5.1
Jefferson	5.6	5.7	4.6
Josephine	7.0	7.1	6.1
Klamath	7.4	7.4	6.1
Lake	6.0	6.2	5.2
Lane	5.3	5.3	4.5
Lincoln	6.0	6.1	5.2
Linn	5.5	5.6	4.9
Malheur	4.6	4.7	4.2
Marion	5.1	5.1	4.3
Morrow	4.6	4.8	4.5
Multnomah	5.2	5.2	4.4
Polk	4.9	5.0	4.3
Sherman	5.1	5.1	3.9
Tillamook	5.4	5.4	4.6
Umatilla	5.3	5.5	4.9
Union	5.5	5.6	5.0
Wallowa	6.1	6.2	4.8
Wasco	5.1	5.2	4.4
Washington	5.1	5.1	4.1
Wheeler	4.8	4.8	4.4
Yamhill	5.0	5.0	4.3

(1) Seasonally adjusted rates for the United States and Oregon are official Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) series. Source of Metro data is BLS and LAUS. Source of county data is OED.

(2) Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro MSA includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in Oregon and Clark and Skamania counties in Washington.

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.

The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit QualityInfo.org, select *Tools*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES* from the dropdown menu. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

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For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

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