

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2026

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

Employment in Columbia County: March 2026

Seasonally adjusted payroll employment up by 50 in March

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1% in March, unchanged from February, and above the rate of 5.2% in March 2025. The statewide unemployment rate was 5.2% in March, and the national rate was 4.3%.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 in March to 12,220 jobs. Seasonally adjusted figures compare expected changes with actual changes. A gain of 60 jobs was expected for the month, and the county's payroll employment increased by 110. Private-sector employment increased by 100, and government employment increased by 10. Private education and health services added 30 jobs (+1.6%). Manufacturing added 20 jobs (+1.3%). Other industries experienced little to no change.

March's total nonfarm employment was up from the previous year by 70 jobs, an increase of 0.6%. Some broad sectors gained jobs over the past year. The largest gain occurred in private education and health services, which added 120 jobs (+6.9%). Retail trade was down 40 jobs over the year (-2.6%). Local education was up 60 jobs over the year (+5.1%).

Next News Releases

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

Columbia 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	26,443	26,506	26,709	-63	-266
Unemployed	1,689	1,772	1,607	-83	82
Unemployment rate	6.4%	6.7%	6.0%	-0.3	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	6.1%	5.2%	0.0	0.9
Employed	24,754	24,734	25,102	20	-348
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,240	12,130	12,170	110	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,220	12,170	12,140	50	80
Total private	10,050	9,950	10,030	100	20
Mining, logging, and construction	870	860	900	10	-30
Mining and logging	180	180	190	0	-10
Construction	690	680	710	10	-20
Manufacturing	1,510	1,490	1,470	20	40
Durable goods	1,110	1,100	1,090	10	20
Wood product manufacturing	230	230	230	0	0
Nondurable goods	400	390	380	10	20
Paper manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0 ¹
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,230	2,220	2,270	10	-40
Retail trade	1,510	1,510	1,550	0	-40
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	470	470	490	0	-20
Professional and business services	1,220	1,210	1,230	10	-10
Private education and health services	1,870	1,840	1,750	30	120
Leisure and hospitality	1,370	1,350	1,390	20	-20
Other services	460	460	480	0	-20
Government	2,190	2,180	2,140	10	50
Federal government	80	80	80	0	0
State government	210	210	220	0	-10
Local government	1,900	1,890	1,840	10	60
Local education	1,230	1,220	1,170	10	60
Local government excluding educational services	670	670	670	0	0

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>March 2026</u>	<u>February 2026</u>	<u>March 2025</u>
United States	4.3	4.4	4.2
State of Oregon	5.2	5.2	5.0
<u>Metropolitan Statistical Areas:</u>			
Albany (Linn County)	5.4	5.5	4.9
Bend (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties)	4.9	5.0	4.4
Corvallis (Benton County)	4.4	4.6	4.0
Eugene-Springfield (Lane County)	5.2	5.3	4.6
Grants Pass (Josephine County)	6.8	7.0	6.3
Medford (Jackson County)	5.8	5.8	5.2
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro (2)	5.0	5.1	4.5
Salem (Marion and Polk counties)	5.0	5.0	4.5
<u>Counties (1):</u>			
Baker	5.4	5.6	4.8
Benton	4.4	4.6	4.0
Clackamas	4.9	4.9	4.3
Clatsop	5.0	5.1	4.5
Columbia	6.1	6.1	5.2
Coos	5.7	5.8	5.2
Crook	5.8	5.9	5.2
Curry	6.4	6.6	5.6
Deschutes	4.8	4.8	4.3
Douglas	6.2	6.3	5.7
Gilliam	5.5	5.7	4.6
Grant	7.1	7.3	6.5
Harney	4.6	4.7	4.5
Hood River	4.0	4.1	3.7
Jackson	5.8	5.8	5.2
Jefferson	5.5	5.6	4.6
Josephine	6.8	7.0	6.3
Klamath	7.2	7.4	6.3
Lake	5.8	6.0	5.4
Lane	5.2	5.3	4.6
Lincoln	5.9	6.0	5.3
Linn	5.4	5.5	4.9
Malheur	4.5	4.6	4.3
Marion	5.0	5.0	4.4
Morrow	4.5	4.6	4.7
Multnomah	5.1	5.2	4.5
Polk	4.9	4.9	4.3
Sherman	4.9	5.1	3.9
Tillamook	5.3	5.4	4.7
Umatilla	5.2	5.3	4.9
Union	5.3	5.5	5.2
Wallowa	6.0	6.1	4.9
Wasco	5.0	5.1	4.5
Washington	5.0	5.1	4.2
Wheeler	4.7	4.8	4.3
Yamhill	4.9	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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