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Employment in South Central Oregon: December 2025

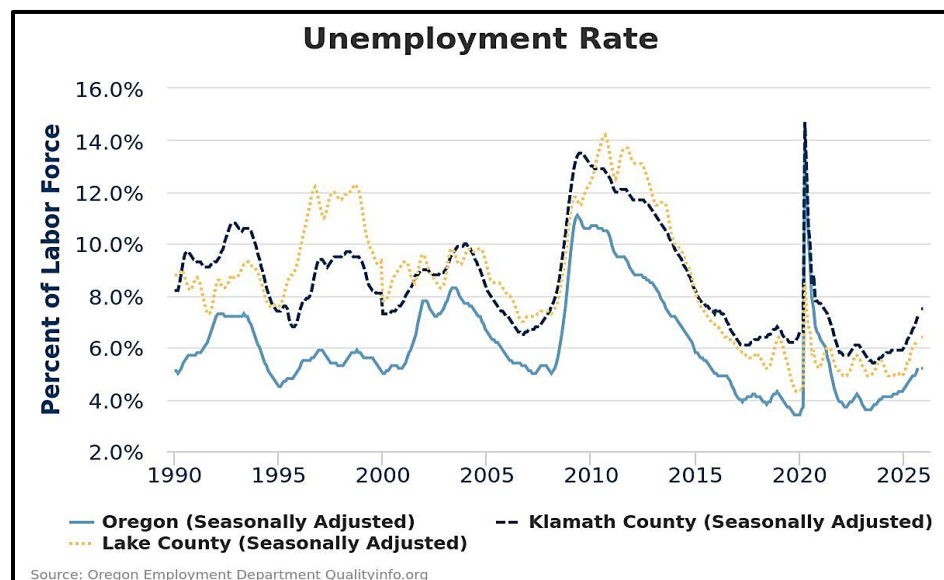
South Central Oregon industries registered modest movement over the month, as losses outpaced gains and total nonfarm employment declined in both counties, while seasonally adjusted unemployment rates held steady over the month.

Klamath County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 7.5% in December 2025, up 1.6 percentage points from the previous year. Outside of the pandemic recession, the last time the unemployment rate was this high was a decade ago, in January 2016.

Klamath County lost 310 jobs in December, a -1.3% decrease. The largest losses were concentrated in the public sector (-110 jobs), primarily in local government (-90 jobs). Other notable losses occurred within the private sector, primarily within mining, logging, and construction (-80 jobs) with all losses occurring in construction, and in leisure and hospitality, which lost 80

jobs over the month. Smaller private-sector losses occurred in private education and health services (-30 jobs); professional and business services (-20 jobs); and manufacturing (-10 jobs) with all losses occurring in durable goods (-10 jobs). Private-sector gains were minimal and occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs). All other industries saw little to no change over the month.

Klamath County shed 290 jobs in the past year (-1.2%) losses concentrated in trade, transportation, and utilities (-120 jobs); manufacturing (-100 jobs); leisure and hospitality; and the public sector (-60 jobs). Other notable losses also occurred within professional and business services (-30 jobs), financial activities (-30 jobs), and information (-10 jobs). Of the jobs lost in manufacturing, 70 of them were shed



in durable goods manufacturing and 30 in nondurable goods manufacturing. Private-sector job gains were sparse and occurred within construction (+90 jobs); private education and health services (+20 jobs); and other services (-10 jobs).

Lake County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in December 2025 at 6.4%, up 1.5 percentage points from the previous year. Outside of the pandemic recession the last time the unemployment rate was this high was in 2019 and the rate remains historically low for the area. The unemployment rate was 4.3% in February 2020, before the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic recession were first felt.

Total nonfarm employment decreased by 10 jobs from November to December (-0.5%). Losses were concentrated within the public sector (-10 jobs), specifically local government (-10 jobs), and leisure and hospitality (-10 jobs) within the private sector. Gains were minimal and occurred in private education and health services (+10 jobs). Although trade, transportation, and utilities saw no net change for the month, its retail trade subsector lost 10 jobs, which were offset by gains elsewhere in the sector. All other industries saw little to no change, and seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment levels remain 230 jobs (-9.6%) below the pre-pandemic employment levels, as of December.

Lake County's total nonfarm employment declined by 50 jobs (-2.3%) since December 2024. Over-the-year losses were primarily concentrated within the public sector (-40 jobs). Private-sector declines occurred within other services (-30 jobs) and manufacturing (-30 jobs). Gains were slightly more widespread but smaller and seen in construction (+20 jobs); within trade, transportation, and utilities (+10 jobs); private education and health services (+10 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (+10 jobs). All other major industries saw little to no movement over the year.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department has yet to receive an updated [release schedule from the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS). The January 2026 data would typically be released in March. We are awaiting notification from the BLS regarding publication dates for the rest of the year and will update [our schedule of future releases](#) as dates become available.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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January 27, 2026

Klamath County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

| | --Change From-- | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | December 2025 | November 2025 | December 2024 | November 2025 | December 2024 |
| Labor Force Status | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | 28,900 | 29,371 | 28,483 | -471 | 417 |
| Unemployed | 2,179 | 2,008 | 1,805 | 171 | 374 |
| Unemployment rate | 7.5% | 6.8% | 6.3% | 0.7 | 1.2 |
| <i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i> | <i>7.5%</i> | <i>7.5%</i> | <i>5.9%</i> | <i>0.0</i> | <i>1.6</i> |
| Employed | 26,721 | 27,363 | 26,678 | -642 | 43 |
| Nonfarm Payroll Employment | | | | | |
| Total nonfarm employment | 23,280 | 23,590 | 23,570 | -310 | -290 |
| <i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i> | <i>23,500</i> | <i>23,530</i> | <i>23,790</i> | <i>-30</i> | <i>-290</i> |
| Total private | 17,910 | 18,110 | 18,140 | -200 | -230 |
| Mining, logging, and construction | 1,280 | 1,360 | 1,190 | -80 | 90 |
| Mining and logging | 90 | 90 | 90 | 0 | 0 |
| Construction | 1,190 | 1,270 | 1,100 | -80 | 90 |
| Manufacturing | 1,510 | 1,520 | 1,610 | -10 | -100 |
| Durable goods | 1,430 | 1,440 | 1,500 | -10 | -70 |
| Wood product manufacturing | 1,140 | 1,140 | 1,190 | 0 | -50 |
| Nondurable goods | 80 | 80 | 110 | 0 | -30 |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities | 4,540 | 4,520 | 4,660 | 20 | -120 |
| Wholesale trade | 700 | 700 | 740 | 0 | -40 |
| Retail trade | 3,080 | 3,080 | 3,130 | 0 | -50 |
| Food and beverage retailers | 610 | 610 | 620 | 0 | -10 |
| General merchandise retailers | 920 | 900 | 880 | 20 | 40 |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities | 760 | 740 | 790 | 20 | -30 |
| Information | 100 | 100 | 110 | 0 | -10 |
| Financial activities | 850 | 850 | 880 | 0 | -30 |
| Professional and business services | 1,500 | 1,520 | 1,530 | -20 | -30 |
| Private education and health services | 4,720 | 4,750 | 4,700 | -30 | 20 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 2,500 | 2,580 | 2,560 | -80 | -60 |
| Other services | 910 | 910 | 900 | 0 | 10 |
| Government | 5,370 | 5,480 | 5,430 | -110 | -60 |
| Federal government | 680 | 690 | 690 | -10 | -10 |
| State government | 590 | 600 | 630 | -10 | -40 |
| Local government | 4,100 | 4,190 | 4,110 | -90 | -10 |
| Local education | 2,490 | 2,580 | 2,520 | -90 | -30 |

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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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January 27, 2026

Lake County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

| | --Change From-- | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | December 2025 | November 2025 | December 2024 | November 2025 | December 2024 |
| Labor Force Status | | | | | |
| Civilian labor force | 3,354 | 3,403 | 3,457 | -49 | -103 |
| Unemployed | 212 | 195 | 180 | 17 | 32 |
| Unemployment rate | 6.3% | 5.7% | 5.2% | 0.6 | 1.1 |
| <i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i> | <i>6.4%</i> | <i>6.4%</i> | <i>4.9%</i> | <i>0.0</i> | <i>1.5</i> |
| Employed | 3,142 | 3,208 | 3,277 | -66 | -135 |
| Nonfarm Payroll Employment | | | | | |
| Total nonfarm employment | 2,100 | 2,110 | 2,150 | -10 | -50 |
| <i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i> | <i>2,160</i> | <i>2,140</i> | <i>2,210</i> | <i>20</i> | <i>-50</i> |
| Total private | 1,090 | 1,090 | 1,100 | 0 | -10 |
| Mining, logging, and construction | 130 | 130 | 110 | 0 | 20 |
| Mining and logging | 30 | 30 | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Construction | 100 | 100 | 80 | 0 | 20 |
| Manufacturing | 180 | 180 | 210 | 0 | -30 |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities | 340 | 340 | 330 | 0 | 10 |
| Retail trade | 240 | 250 | 230 | -10 | 10 |
| Information | 20 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Financial activities | 50 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Professional and business services | 60 | 60 | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Private education and health services | 120 | 110 | 110 | 10 | 10 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 140 | 150 | 130 | -10 | 10 |
| Other services | 50 | 50 | 80 | 0 | -30 |
| Government | 1,010 | 1,020 | 1,050 | -10 | -40 |
| Federal government | 170 | 170 | 190 | 0 | -20 |
| State government | 200 | 200 | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| Local government | 640 | 650 | 660 | -10 | -20 |

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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

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

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