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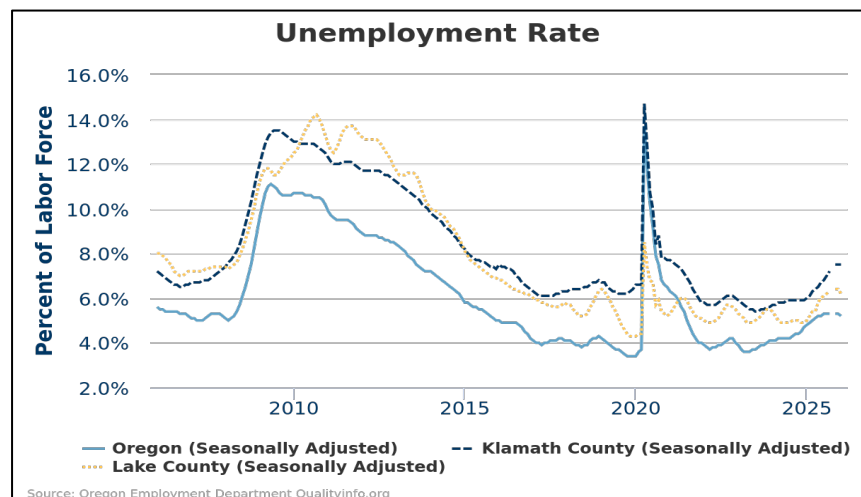
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## Employment in South Central Oregon: February 2026

South Central Oregon industries registered seasonal losses 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 7.4% in February 2026, up 1.3 percentage points from the previous year.

Klamath County's employment losses in February were more than normal; total nonfarm employment was down 40 during the month, when an employment increase of 110 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 150 between January and February. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is now up 2.1% from the level in February 2020, or 480 jobs above its pre-pandemic level.



Over the past year Klamath County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 130 jobs or -0.5%. Private sector employment is down 90 and public sector employment is down 50 jobs over the past year.

The private sector overall dropped 90 jobs over the month. Professional and business services shed 70 jobs in February. Trade, transportation, and utilities employment declined 30 in February.

Public sector employment increased by 50 in February. Local government employment increased by 80. Federal government shed 20 jobs. State government employment declined 10 in February.

**Lake County:** The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 6.0% in February 2026, down from a revised 6.2% in January. Lake County's unemployment rate is up 0.8 percentage point from the previous year.

Lake County's employment losses in February were more than normal; total nonfarm employment was down 10 during the month, when an employment increase of 30 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 40 between January and February. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is now down -9.6% from the level in February 2020, or 230 jobs below its pre-pandemic level.

Over the past year Lake County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has added 20 jobs or +0.9%. Private sector employment is up 10 and public sector employment is flat over the past year.

The private sector was unchanged over the month. Construction added 10 jobs in February. Trade, transportation, and utilities employment dropped 10 in February.

Public-sector employment decreased by 10 in February. Local government employment increased by 20. Federal government shed 20 jobs. State government employment declined 10 in February.

### **Next Press Releases**

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



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

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April 21, 2026

## Klamath County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	29,371	29,353	29,206	18	165
Unemployed	2,509	2,662	2,403	-153	106
Unemployment rate	8.5%	9.1%	8.2%	-0.6	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.4%	7.4%	6.1%	0.0	1.3
Employed	26,862	26,691	26,803	171	59
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	23,190	23,230	23,330	-40	-140
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	23,690	23,840	23,820	-150	-130
Total private	17,760	17,850	17,850	-90	-90
Mining, logging, and construction	1,160	1,160	1,140	0	20
Mining and logging	90	100	90	-10	0
Construction	1,070	1,060	1,050	10	20
Manufacturing	1,490	1,500	1,580	-10	-90
Durable goods	1,380	1,390	1,470	-10	-90
Wood product manufacturing	1,120	1,120	1,160	0	-40
Nondurable goods	110	110	110	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,550	4,580	4,520	-30	30
Wholesale trade	700	710	730	-10	-30
Retail trade	3,060	3,070	3,060	-10	0
Food and beverage retailers	630	640	620	-10	10
General merchandise retailers	880	890	900	-10	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	790	800	730	-10	60
Information	100	100	110	0	-10
Financial activities	840	840	810	0	30
Professional and business services	1,420	1,490	1,460	-70	-40
Private education and health services	4,820	4,810	4,760	10	60
Leisure and hospitality	2,480	2,470	2,550	10	-70
Other services	900	900	920	0	-20
Government	5,430	5,380	5,480	50	-50
Federal government	590	610	660	-20	-70
State government	600	610	640	-10	-40
Local government	4,240	4,160	4,180	80	60
Local education	2,620	2,540	2,580	80	40

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.



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April 21, 2026

## Lake County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,438	3,430	3,400	8	38
Unemployed	251	252	270	-1	-19
Unemployment rate	7.3%	7.3%	7.9%	0.0	-0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>6.2%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>0.8</i>
Employed	3,187	3,178	3,130	9	57
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,100	2,110	2,090	-10	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,160</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>2,140</i>	<i>-40</i>	<i>20</i>
Total private	1,100	1,100	1,090	0	10
Mining, logging, and construction	130	120	120	10	10
Mining and logging	30	30	40	0	-10
Construction	100	90	80	10	20
Manufacturing	200	200	160	0	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	340	340	-10	-10
Retail trade	240	240	240	0	0
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	40	40	40	0	0
Professional and business services	70	70	70	0	0
Private education and health services	110	110	130	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	130	130	140	0	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,000	1,010	1,000	-10	0
Federal government	130	150	170	-20	-40
State government	200	210	190	-10	10
Local government	670	650	640	20	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.

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](http://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](mailto:OED.Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

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