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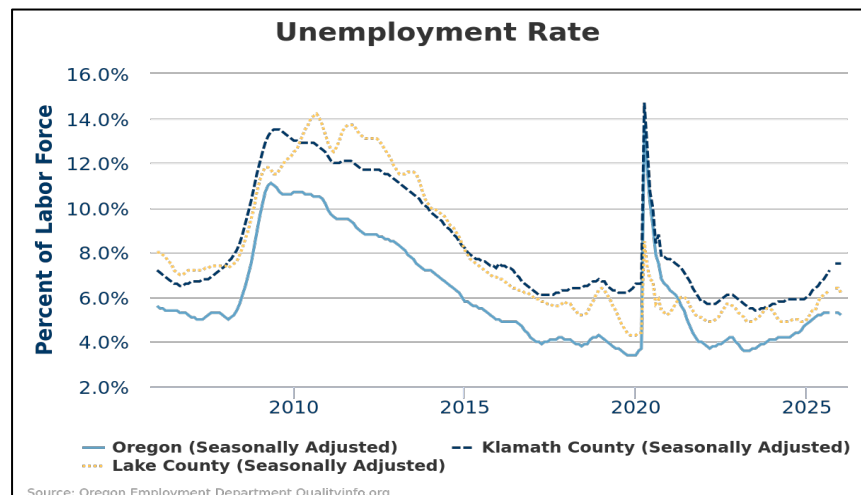
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Employment in South Central Oregon: March 2026

Klamath County registered seasonal gains over the month, While Lake County showed employment declines. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates declined over the month.

Klamath County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.2% in March 2026, down from February's revised rate of 7.4%. The unemployment rate is up 0.9 percentage points from the previous year.

Klamath County's employment gains in March were more than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 150 during the month, when an employment increase of 120 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 30 between February and March. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is now up 2.2% from the level in February 2020, or 520 jobs above its pre-pandemic level.



Over the past year Klamath County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 30 jobs or -0.1%. Private sector employment is down 20 and public sector employment is also down 20 jobs over the past year.

The private sector overall added 140 jobs over the month. Private education and health services added 40 jobs in March. Leisure and hospitality and construction each added 30 jobs in March.

Public sector employment increased by 10 in March. Local government employment decreased by 10. Federal government added 20 jobs. State government employment was unchanged in March.

Lake County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 5.8% in March 2026, down from a revised 6.0% in February. Lake County's unemployment rate is up 0.4 percentage point from the previous year.

Lake County's employment losses in March were more than normal; total nonfarm employment was down 20 during the month, when an employment increase of 10 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 30 between February and March. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is now down 10.9% from the level in February 2020, or 260 jobs below its pre-pandemic level.

Over the past year Lake County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has dropped 40 jobs or -1.9%. Private sector employment is flat over the past year, and public sector employment is down 40 jobs.

The private sector was unchanged over the month. Manufacturing added 10 jobs in March. Financial activities employment declined 10 in March.

Public sector employment decreased 20 in March. Local government employment decreased by 20. Federal government 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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

May 5, 2026

Klamath 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	29,363	29,371	29,390	-8	-27
Unemployed	2,268	2,507	2,433	-239	-165
Unemployment rate	7.7%	8.5%	8.3%	-0.8	-0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.2%	7.4%	6.3%	-0.2	0.9
Employed	27,095	26,864	26,957	231	138
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	23,350	23,200	23,390	150	-40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	23,730	23,700	23,760	30	-30
Total private	17,910	17,770	17,930	140	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	1,190	1,160	1,180	30	10
Mining and logging	90	90	90	0	0
Construction	1,100	1,070	1,090	30	10
Manufacturing	1,500	1,490	1,560	10	-60
Durable goods	1,380	1,380	1,450	0	-70
Wood product manufacturing	1,120	1,120	1,140	0	-20
Nondurable goods	120	110	110	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,570	4,550	4,520	20	50
Wholesale trade	700	700	740	0	-40
Retail trade	3,070	3,060	3,060	10	10
Food and beverage retailers	630	630	620	0	10
General merchandise retailers	890	880	870	10	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	800	790	720	10	80
Information	100	100	110	0	-10
Financial activities	840	840	810	0	30
Professional and business services	1,440	1,430	1,490	10	-50
Private education and health services	4,860	4,820	4,790	40	70
Leisure and hospitality	2,510	2,480	2,570	30	-60
Other services	900	900	900	0	0
Government	5,440	5,430	5,460	10	-20
Federal government	610	590	690	20	-80
State government	600	600	630	0	-30
Local government	4,230	4,240	4,140	-10	90
Local education	2,600	2,620	2,530	-20	70

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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May 5, 2026

Lake 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	3,413	3,444	3,430	-31	-17
Unemployed	216	251	244	-35	-28
Unemployment rate	6.3%	7.3%	7.1%	-1.0	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.8%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Employed	3,197	3,193	3,186	4	11
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,080	2,100	2,120	-20	-40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,130</i>	<i>2,160</i>	<i>2,170</i>	<i>-30</i>	<i>-40</i>
Total private	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Mining, logging, and construction	130	130	110	0	20
Mining and logging	30	30	30	0	0
Construction	100	100	80	0	20
Manufacturing	210	200	200	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	330	350	0	-20
Retail trade	240	240	240	0	0
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	30	40	40	-10	-10
Professional and business services	70	70	50	0	20
Private education and health services	110	110	120	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	130	130	140	0	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	980	1,000	1,020	-20	-40
Federal government	130	130	180	0	-50
State government	200	200	190	0	10
Local government	650	670	650	-20	0

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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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