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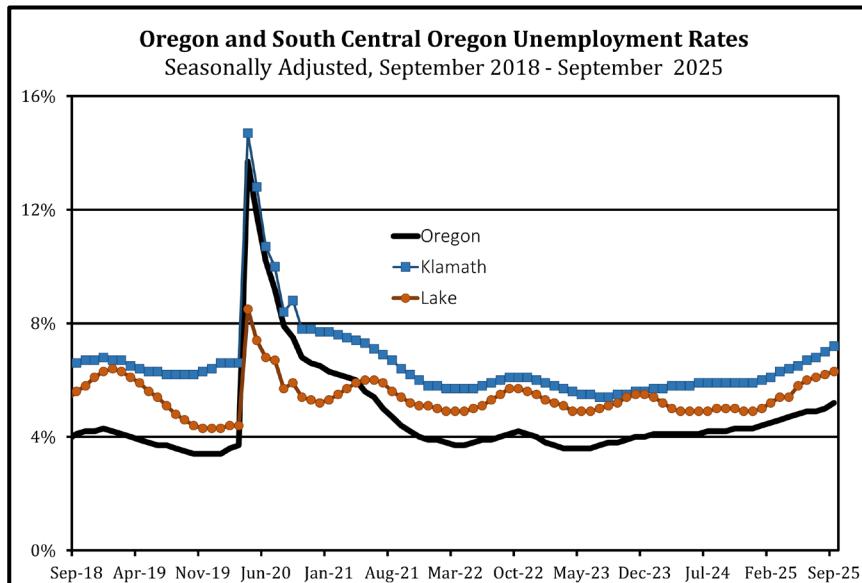
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Employment in South Central Oregon: September 2025

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates continue to rise in South Central Oregon with September rates rising in both counties, but faster in Klamath County

Klamath County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continued to increase over the month of September and is now 7.2%, up from a revised rate of 7.0% in August. In September 2024, the unemployment rate was 1.3 percentage points lower, at 5.9%.

Klamath County gained 270 jobs in September, up 1.1% with the largest increase occurring in government (+480 jobs), specifically local government (+510 jobs). Private-sector gains were minimal and occurred in private education and health services (+10 jobs). Private-sector losses were more widespread and were concentrated in leisure and hospitality (-110 jobs), with smaller losses taking place in professional and business services (-40 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (-30 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-20 jobs); and financial activities (-20 jobs).



Klamath County shed 310 jobs in the past year (-1.3%) with private-sector losses concentrated in trade, transportation, and utilities (-160 jobs); professional and business services (-80 jobs); and manufacturing (-80 jobs). Other notable losses also occurred within leisure and hospitality (-30 jobs); private education and health services (-30 jobs); financial activities (-10 jobs); and information (-10 jobs). Of the jobs lost in manufacturing, 60 of them were shed in durable goods manufacturing and 20 in nondurable goods manufacturing. Private-sector job gains were sparse and occurred within other services (+40 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (+40 jobs); and government (+10 jobs).

Lake County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in September, going from 6.2% in August to 6.3% in September – last year around this time it was 1.3 percentage points lower, at 5.0%. The unemployment rate was 4.3% in February 2020, before the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic recession were first felt.

Total nonfarm employment saw little to no change from August to September with gains and losses canceling each other out. Employment gains in government (+20 jobs) were offset by private-sector losses in other services (-10 jobs) and manufacturing (-10 jobs). All other major industries saw little to no change, and seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment levels remained 250 jobs (-10.5%) below the pre-pandemic employment levels, as of September.

Lake County's total nonfarm employment has declined by 140 jobs (-6.1%) since September 2024. Over-the-year losses were primarily concentrated within the public sector (-80 jobs). Smaller yet noticeable declines also occurred within professional and business services (-30 jobs) and other services (-30 jobs). Additionally, financial activities and manufacturing lost 10 jobs each. The only industries to gain jobs over the year ending in September were construction (+10 jobs) and trade, transportation, and utilities (+10 jobs). All other major industries saw little to no change over the year.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October and November on Wednesday, Jan. 7 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Jan. 13. The October employment survey jobs data will be released along with November's data, but there won't be October labor force or unemployment data published.



Klamath County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025	September 2024	--Change From--
Labor Force Status						
Civilian labor force	29,717	29,914	29,450	-197	267	
Unemployed	1,992	2,163	1,432	-171	560	
Unemployment rate	6.7%	7.2%	4.9%	-0.5	1.8	
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.2%	7.0%	5.9%	0.2	1.3	
Employed	27,725	27,751	28,018	-26	-293	
Nonfarm Payroll Employment						
Total nonfarm employment	24,000	23,730	24,310	270	-310	
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	23,620	23,570	23,940	50	-320	
Total private	18,460	18,670	18,780	-210	-320	
Mining, logging, and construction	1,440	1,470	1,400	-30	40	
Mining and logging	90	100	80	-10	10	
Construction	1,350	1,370	1,320	-20	30	
Manufacturing	1,540	1,540	1,620	0	-80	
Durable goods	1,460	1,460	1,520	0	-60	
Wood product manufacturing	1,140	1,140	1,200	0	-60	
Nondurable goods	80	80	100	0	-20	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,470	4,490	4,630	-20	-160	
Wholesale trade	690	690	720	0	-30	
Retail trade	3,040	3,060	3,120	-20	-80	
Food and beverage retailers	610	610	620	0	-10	
General merchandise retailers	880	880	900	0	-20	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	740	740	790	0	-50	
Information	100	100	110	0	-10	
Financial activities	840	860	850	-20	-10	
Professional and business services	1,550	1,590	1,630	-40	-80	
Private education and health services	4,780	4,770	4,810	10	-30	
Leisure and hospitality	2,820	2,930	2,850	-110	-30	
Other services	920	920	880	0	40	
Government	5,540	5,060	5,530	480	10	
Federal government	810	830	820	-20	-10	
State government	620	630	620	-10	0	
Local government	4,110	3,600	4,090	510	20	
Local education	2,470	1,990	2,450	480	20	

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
 QualityInfo.org
 December 16, 2025

Lake County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,543	3,562	3,627	-19	-84
Unemployed	195	197	152	-2	43
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.5%	4.2%	0.0	1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.3%	6.2%	5.0%	0.1	1.3
Employed	3,348	3,365	3,475	-17	-127
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,160	2,160	2,300	0	-140
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,140	2,120	2,280	20	-140
Total private	1,120	1,140	1,180	-20	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	130	130	120	0	10
Mining and logging	30	30	30	0	0
Construction	100	100	90	0	10
Manufacturing	190	200	200	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	340	330	0	10
Retail trade	250	250	230	0	20
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	40	40	50	0	-10
Professional and business services	60	60	90	0	-30
Private education and health services	110	110	110	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	160	160	160	0	0
Other services	70	80	100	-10	-30
Government	1,040	1,020	1,120	20	-80
Federal government	210	230	230	-20	-20
State government	200	200	210	0	-10
Local government	630	590	680	40	-50

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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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