State of Oregon
Employment Department

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 24, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Patrick O'Connor, Regional Economist
Patrick.s.oconnor@employ.oregon.gov
(503) 400-4374

Employment in Corvallis MSA (Benton County): October 2026

Benton County's Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.0%

Benton County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0% in October, essentially unchanged from its revised unemployment rate of 4.1% in September. Oregon's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October was 4.9%.

Benton County's employment gains in October were more than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 2,090 during the month, when an employment increase of 1,800 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 290 between September and October. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is now down 0.2% from the level in February 2020, or 100 jobs below its pre-pandemic level.

Over the past year Benton County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 1,430 jobs or -3.2%.

The private sector employment overall was up 190 over the month. Gains and losses were mixed at the industry level. Leisure and hospitality added 120 jobs in October. Health care and social assistance added 60 jobs in October.

Public sector employment increased 1,900 in October. Local government education employment increased by 1,930. Federal and state government employment were both little changed in October.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Dec. 22 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

State of Oregon Employment Department

Workforce & Economic Research Division
QualityInfo.org
November 24, 2026

Corvallis MSA (Benton County) Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

			--Change From--		
	October 2026	**September 2026**	**October 2025**	**September 2026**	**October 2025**
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	50,999	49,179	NA	1,820	NA
Unemployed	1,865	1,920	NA	-55	NA
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.9%	NA	-0.2	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*4.0%*	*4.1%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	49,134	47,259	NA	1,875	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	44,320	42,230	45,420	2,090	-1,100
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*43,420*	*43,130*	*44,850*	*290*	*-1,430*
Total private	28,470	28,280	28,980	190	-510
Mining, logging, and construction	1,480	1,510	1,510	-30	-30
Manufacturing	2,430	2,430	2,510	0	-80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,530	4,500	4,620	30	-90
Information	490	490	580	0	-90
Financial activities	1,530	1,540	1,530	-10	0
Professional and business services	4,070	4,040	4,280	30	-210
Private education and health services	7,930	7,890	7,860	40	70
Health care and social assistance	7,600	7,540	7,450	60	150
Leisure and hospitality	4,430	4,310	4,520	120	-90
Other services	1,580	1,570	1,570	10	10
Government	15,850	13,950	16,440	1,900	-590
Federal government	390	390	420	0	-30
State government	320	320	330	0	-10
State education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local government	15,140	13,240	15,690	1,900	-550
Local education	13,710	11,780	14,190	1,930	-480

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: Official Oregon Series. 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.

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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe, enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

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.

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

###