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Employment in Columbia County: May 2026

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate 6.0% in May

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.0% in May, down from 6.1% from April, and above the rate of 5.9% in May 2025. The statewide unemployment rate was 5.2% in May, and the national rate was 4.3%.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment was unchanged in May at 12,330 jobs. Seasonally adjusted figures compare expected changes with actual changes. A gain of 90 jobs was expected for the month, and the county's payroll employment increased by 90. Private-sector employment increased by 100, and government employment decreased by 10. Leisure and hospitality added 40 jobs (+2.8%). Local education lost 10 jobs (-0.8%).

May's total nonfarm employment was up from the previous year by 20 jobs, an increase of 0.2%. Some broad sectors gained jobs over the past year. The largest gain occurred in private education and health services, which added 160 jobs (+8.9%). Professional and business services was down 110 jobs over the year (-8.3%). Local education was up 60 jobs over the year (+5.2%).

Next News Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the June statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, July 15, and June county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, July 21.

Columbia County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	26,257	26,253	26,539	4	-282
Unemployed	1,436	1,453	1,432	-17	4
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%	0.0	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.0%	6.1%	5.9%	-0.1	0.1
Employed	24,821	24,800	25,107	21	-286
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,510	12,420	12,490	90	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,330	12,330	12,320	0	10
Total private	10,330	10,230	10,370	100	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	920	900	950	20	-30
Mining and logging	170	170	190	0	-20
Construction	750	730	760	20	-10
Manufacturing	1,470	1,470	1,490	0	-20
Durable goods	1,080	1,080	1,120	0	-40
Wood product manufacturing	230	230	230	0	0
Nondurable goods	390	390	370	0	20
Paper manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0 ¹
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,300	2,280	2,310	20	-10
Retail trade	1,600	1,580	1,600	20	0
Information	60	60	60	0	0
Financial activities	470	470	510	0	-40
Professional and business services	1,210	1,210	1,320	0	-110
Private education and health services	1,950	1,940	1,790	10	160
Leisure and hospitality	1,470	1,430	1,450	40	20
Other services	480	470	490	10	-10
Government	2,180	2,190	2,120	-10	60
Federal government	80	80	80	0	0
State government	220	220	220	0	0
Local government	1,880	1,890	1,820	-10	60
Local education	1,210	1,220	1,150	-10	60
Local government excluding educational services	670	670	670	0	0

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.

Oregon Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates by Area (1)

	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025
United States	4.3	4.3	4.3
State of Oregon	5.2	5.2	5.2
<u>Metropolitan Statistical Areas:</u>			
Albany (Linn County)	5.4	5.4	5.6
Bend (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties)	4.9	4.9	4.9
Corvallis (Benton County)	4.2	4.2	4.1
Eugene-Springfield (Lane County)	5.1	5.1	5.0
Grants Pass (Josephine County)	6.7	6.7	7.1
Medford (Jackson County)	5.6	5.7	5.6
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro (2)	5.0	5.0	4.8
Salem (Marion and Polk counties)	4.9	4.9	5.0
<u>Counties (1):</u>			
Baker	5.3	5.3	5.5
Benton	4.2	4.2	4.1
Clackamas	4.9	4.9	4.8
Clatsop	4.9	4.9	5.0
Columbia	6.0	6.1	5.9
Coos	5.7	5.7	5.7
Crook	6.0	5.9	5.7
Curry	6.3	6.3	6.5
Deschutes	4.8	4.8	4.8
Douglas	6.2	6.2	6.1
Gilliam	5.4	5.6	4.8
Grant	6.5	6.8	7.4
Harney	4.7	4.6	4.8
Hood River	4.0	3.9	4.1
Jackson	5.6	5.7	5.6
Jefferson	5.6	5.6	5.5
Josephine	6.7	6.7	7.1
Klamath	7.2	7.1	7.1
Lake	5.8	5.8	6.2
Lane	5.1	5.1	5.0
Lincoln	5.8	5.8	5.9
Linn	5.4	5.4	5.6
Malheur	4.4	4.4	4.7
Marion	5.0	5.0	5.0
Morrow	4.5	4.4	5.2
Multnomah	5.1	5.1	5.1
Polk	4.8	4.8	4.8
Sherman	4.8	4.8	4.9
Tillamook	5.2	5.2	5.3
Umatilla	5.1	5.1	5.6
Union	5.0	5.1	5.8
Wallowa	5.9	5.9	5.7
Wasco	5.0	5.0	5.1
Washington	5.0	5.0	4.8
Wheeler	4.6	4.7	4.1
Yamhill	4.9	4.8	4.7

(1) Seasonally adjusted rates for the United States and Oregon are official Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) series. Source of Metro data is BLS and LAUS. Source of county data is OED.

(2) Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro MSA includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in Oregon and Clark and Skamania counties in Washington.

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.

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For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

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