State of Oregon
Employment Department

NEWS

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Employment in Columbia County: October 2026

Seasonally adjusted employment increased by 30 in October

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.5% in October, down from 5.6% in September. The statewide unemployment rate was 4.9% in October, and the national rate was 4.1%.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment increased in October by 30 to 12,100 jobs (+0.2%). Seasonally adjusted figures compare expected changes with actual changes. A gain of 10 jobs was expected for the month, and the county's payroll employment increased by 40. Private sector employment grew by 20, and government employment increased by 20. Trade, transportation, and utilities added 30 jobs (+1.4%). Leisure and hospitality lost 40 jobs (-2.8%). Local education added 30 jobs (+2.8%).

October's total nonfarm employment was down from the previous year by 190 jobs, a decrease of 1.5%. Some broad sectors gained jobs over the past year. The largest gain occurred in private education and health services, which added 90 jobs (+4.7%). Professional and business services was down 170 jobs over the year (-14.9%). Local education, was down 30 jobs over the year (-2.7%).

Next News Releases

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

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Columbia 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	26,726	26,658	NA	68	NA
Unemployed	1,316	1,277	NA	39	NA
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.8%	NA	0.1	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*5.5%*	*5.6%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	25,410	25,381	NA	29	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,180	12,140	12,370	40	-190
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*12,100*	*12,070*	*12,290*	*30*	*-190*
Total private	10,080	10,060	10,260	20	-180
Mining, logging, and construction	920	920	910	0	10
Mining and logging	170	170	180	0	-10
Construction	750	750	730	0	20
Manufacturing	1,520	1,520	1,490	0	30
Durable goods	1,120	1,120	1,090	0	30
Wood product manufacturing	240	240	220	0	20
Nondurable goods	400	400	400	0	0
Paper manufacturing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,200	2,170	2,290	30	-90
Retail trade	1,510	1,520	1,580	-10	-70
Information	60	60	60	0	0
Financial activities	520	520	510	0	10
Professional and business services	970	970	1,140	0	-170
Private education and health services	2,020	2,000	1,930	20	90
Leisure and hospitality	1,400	1,440	1,450	-40	-50
Other services	470	460	480	10	-10
Government	2,100	2,080	2,110	20	-10
Federal government	80	80	80	0	0
State government	220	220	220	0	0
Local government	1,800	1,780	1,810	20	-10
Local education	1,100	1,070	1,130	30	-30
Local government excluding educational services	700	710	680	-10	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.

Oregon Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates by Area (1)

	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025
United States	4.1	4.2	--
State of Oregon	4.9	5.0	--
Metropolitan Statistical Areas:			
Albany (Linn County)	5.1	5.1	--
Bend (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties)	4.8	4.8	--
Corvallis (Benton County)	4.0	4.1	--
Eugene-Springfield (Lane County)	4.9	4.9	--
Grants Pass (Josephine County)	6.8	6.9	--
Medford (Jackson County)	5.5	5.6	--
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro (2)	4.6	4.7	--
Salem (Marion and Polk counties)	4.7	4.8	--
Counties (1):			
Baker	5.3	5.3	--
Benton	4.0	4.1	--
Clackamas	4.5	4.6	--
Clatsop	4.7	4.8	--
Columbia	5.5	5.6	--
Coos	5.4	5.5	--
Crook	5.7	5.8	--
Curry	5.8	5.9	--
Deschutes	4.6	4.7	--
Douglas	5.8	5.9	--
Gilliam	4.4	4.5	--
Grant	6.8	6.7	--
Harney	5.0	4.9	--
Hood River	3.7	3.8	--
Jackson	5.5	5.6	--
Jefferson	5.3	5.4	--
Josephine	6.8	6.9	--
Klamath	6.9	7.0	--
Lake	6.0	6.0	--
Lane	4.9	4.9	--
Lincoln	5.7	5.7	--
Linn	5.1	5.1	--
Malheur	4.2	4.3	--
Marion	4.7	4.8	--
Morrow	4.6	4.6	--
Multnomah	4.8	4.9	--
Polk	4.6	4.7	--
Sherman	4.5	4.6	--
Tillamook	4.9	5.0	--
Umatilla	5.0	5.2	--
Union	4.8	4.8	--
Wallowa	5.9	6.0	--
Wasco	4.9	5.0	--
Washington	4.5	4.6	--
Wheeler	3.9	4.0	--
Yamhill	4.4	4.5	--

(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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