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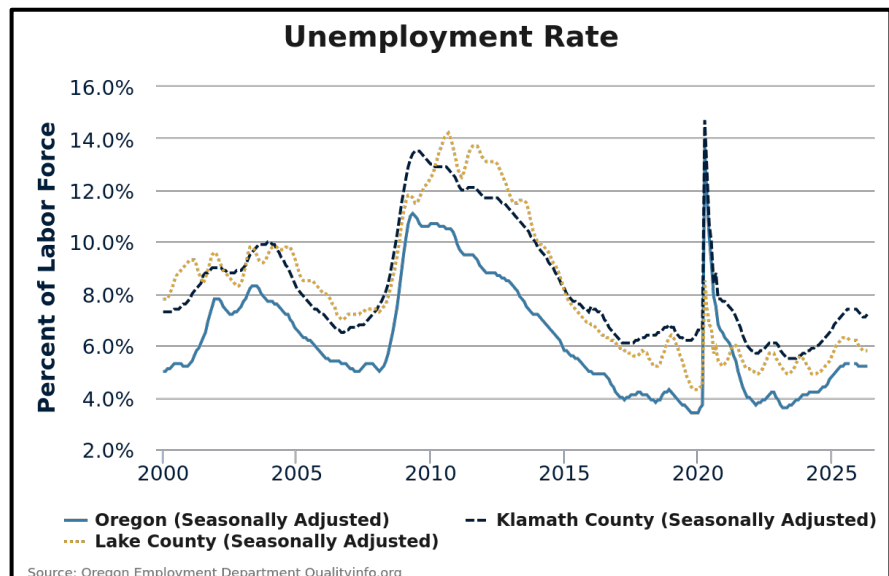
Employment in South Central Oregon: May 2026

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in South Central Oregon continued to hold steady from April to May with little to no movement in Lake County and a slight increase in Klamath County.

Klamath County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.2% in May, up from a revised rate of 7.1% in April. Compared with the previous year, the unemployment rate is up 0.1 percentage point.

Klamath County's employment gains in May were smaller than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 340 (+1.5%) during the month, when an employment increase of 390 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 50 jobs (-0.2%) between April and May.

Losses were minimal and occurred in private education and health services (-50 jobs). Employment gains were more widespread and concentrated in leisure and hospitality (+140 jobs), the public sector (+120 jobs), and the construction industry (+60 jobs). Within the public sector, both federal and local employment grew (+60 jobs each). Smaller gains were also seen in professional and business services (+30 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs); manufacturing (+10 jobs); and mining and logging (+10 jobs). All other industries saw little to no change over the month.



Over the past year Klamath County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 670 jobs (-2.8%). Private-sector losses were concentrated in professional and business services (-210 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (-150 jobs). Trade, transportation, and utilities dropped 100 jobs with losses in this industry split between wholesale (-40 jobs) and retail (-70 jobs) but marginally offset by

transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+10 jobs). Manufacturing lost 90 jobs over the year with 80 of them shed in durable goods manufacturing. Smaller losses occurred in construction (-80 jobs); private education and health services (-20 jobs); other services (-20 jobs); and financial activities (-10 jobs). Gains were minimal and occurred within the public sector (+10 jobs) with local government (+70 jobs) and state government (+10 jobs) gains largely offset by federal government losses (-70 jobs).

Lake County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.8% in May 2026, unchanged from April. Over the year the unemployment rate is down 0.4 percentage point.

Lake County's employment gains in May were larger than normal. Total nonfarm employment was up 40 (+1.9%) during the month, when an employment decrease of 10 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 50 (+2.4%) between April and May with very little movement among industries.

Industry employment was largely flat in May, but the limited movement that did occur was positive. These gains occurred within the public sector (+30 jobs) and construction (+10 jobs). Within the public sector, both local government (+20 jobs) and federal government (+10 jobs) gained jobs over the month while state government remained unchanged. All other major industries saw little to no change over the month.

Over the past year Lake County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has dropped 20 jobs (-0.9%). Over-the-year losses were primarily concentrated within the public sector (-30 jobs) with federal government losing 50 jobs and local government gaining 20 jobs. Private-sector declines occurred within trade, transportation, and utilities (-20 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-20 jobs); professional and business services (-10 jobs); and financial activities (-10 jobs). Gains were smaller and occurred within manufacturing (+50 jobs) and other services (+20 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 June on Wednesday, July 15 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, July 21.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

June 23, 2026

Klamath 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	29,280	28,986	29,660	294	-380
Unemployed	1,840	1,907	1,820	-67	20
Unemployment rate	6.3%	6.6%	6.1%	-0.3	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.2%	7.1%	7.1%	0.1	0.1
Employed	27,440	27,079	27,840	361	-400
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	23,600	23,260	24,270	340	-670
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	23,270	23,320	23,940	-50	-670
Total private	18,020	17,800	18,700	220	-680
Mining, logging, and construction	1,330	1,260	1,410	70	-80
Mining and logging	100	90	100	10	0
Construction	1,230	1,170	1,310	60	-80
Manufacturing	1,470	1,460	1,560	10	-90
Durable goods	1,380	1,370	1,460	10	-80
Wood product manufacturing	1,090	1,090	1,150	0	-60
Nondurable goods	90	90	100	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,500	4,480	4,600	20	-100
Wholesale trade	690	690	730	0	-40
Retail trade	3,020	3,000	3,090	20	-70
Food and beverage retailers	590	600	620	-10	-30
General merchandise retailers	850	870	860	-20	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	790	790	780	0	10
Information	100	100	100	0	0
Financial activities	820	820	830	0	-10
Professional and business services	1,410	1,380	1,620	30	-210
Private education and health services	4,850	4,900	4,870	-50	-20
Leisure and hospitality	2,650	2,510	2,800	140	-150
Other services	890	890	910	0	-20
Government	5,580	5,460	5,570	120	10
Federal government	690	630	760	60	-70
State government	640	640	630	0	10
Local government	4,250	4,190	4,180	60	70
Local education	2,620	2,570	2,590	50	30

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

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June 23, 2026

Lake 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	3,463	3,412	3,504	51	-41
Unemployed	195	197	226	-2	-31
Unemployment rate	5.6%	5.8%	6.4%	-0.2	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.8%	5.8%	6.2%	0.0	-0.4
Employed	3,268	3,215	3,278	53	-10
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,110	2,070	2,130	40	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,120	2,070	2,140	50	-20
Total private	1,100	1,090	1,090	10	10
Mining, logging, and construction	120	110	120	10	0
Mining and logging	30	30	30	0	0
Construction	90	80	90	10	0
Manufacturing	210	210	160	0	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	320	340	0	-20
Retail trade	240	240	240	0	0
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	30	30	40	0	-10
Professional and business services	60	60	70	0	-10
Private education and health services	120	120	120	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	130	130	150	0	-20
Other services	90	90	70	0	20
Government	1,010	980	1,040	30	-30
Federal government	140	130	190	10	-50
State government	200	200	200	0	0
Local government	670	650	650	20	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.

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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