State of Oregon Employment Department

NEWS

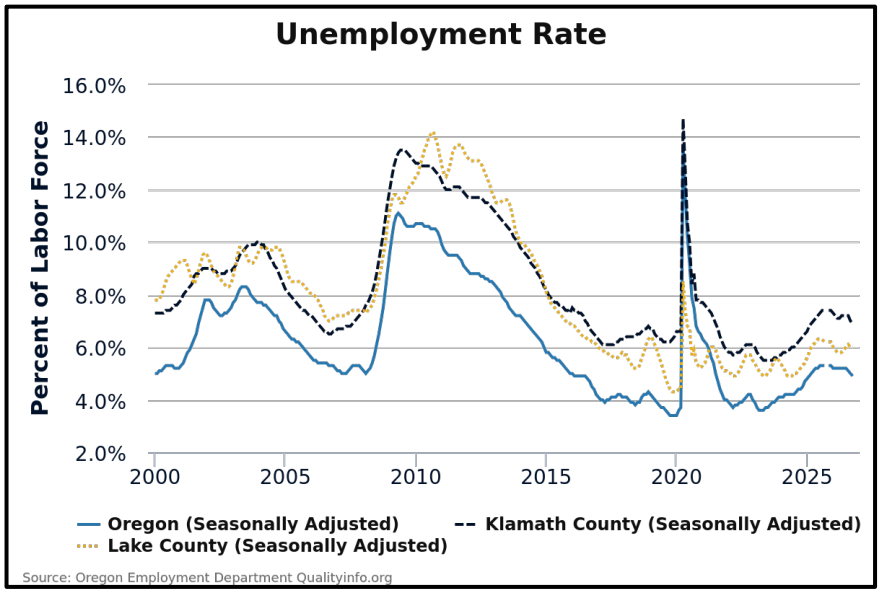
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 24, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Nicole Ramos, Regional Economist
Nicole.S.Ramos@employ.oregon.gov
(541) 706-0779

Employment in South Central Oregon: October 2026

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates across South Central Oregon hold steady in October with no change in Lake County and a marginal decrease in Klamath County.

Klamath County: Klamath County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined from a revised rate of 7.0% in September to 6.9% in October.



Monthly job losses were weaker than typical for October. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 70 jobs (-0.3%), when a seasonal decline of 220 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 150 jobs from September to October.

Total private employment was down 170 jobs over the month. Private losses were primarily concentrated within leisure and hospitality (-150 jobs) with smaller losses in construction (-30 jobs), professional and business services (-10 jobs), and other services (-10 jobs). Private-sector gains were minimal and occurred in private education and health services (+20 jobs) and trade, transportation, and utilities (+10 jobs), while all remaining private industries were largely unchanged. Public-sector employment posted a net increase of 100 jobs, mainly local government (+130 jobs) with a smaller downtick at the state (-10 jobs) and federal (-20 jobs) levels.

Over the past year, Klamath County shed 290 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs (-1.2%). While no change would be expected, total nonfarm employment fell by 290 jobs. Most losses occurred across private industries (-260 jobs), with notable declines in mining, logging, and construction (-80 jobs), with construction decreasing 70 jobs; private education and health services (-70 jobs); other services (-

60 jobs); professional and business services (-50 jobs); and durable goods manufacturing (-50 jobs). Private-sector gains occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (+40 jobs), financial activities (+20 jobs), and information (+10 jobs). The public sector decreased by 30 jobs net. Declines in both local government education (-100 jobs) and state government (-40 jobs) were partially offset by gains at the federal level (+80 jobs).

Lake County: Lake County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in October, at a revised rate of 6.0%.

Employment gains for the month were larger than normal. Total nonfarm employment rose by 20 jobs (+0.9%), when typically, a decline of 20 jobs would be expected. Seasonally adjusted employment increased by 40 jobs (+1.9%) between September and October as a result.

Overall, industry employment shifted very little during the month. Minor private-sector losses occurred in leisure and hospitality (-10 jobs) and other services (-10 jobs). Private gains were even smaller and concentrated in financial activities (+10 jobs). No other private industries posted any measurable gains. Government employment was up 30 jobs over the month with a gain of 40 jobs in local government and a decline of 10 jobs at the federal level. Activity across the rest of the local economy held essentially steady.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment was down 30 jobs (-1.4%) over the year ending in October. Lake County lost 30 nonfarm jobs over the past year (-1.4%), while no change would be expected. Private-sector employment accounted for most of the decline, down 40 jobs with losses in construction (-20); other services (-10 jobs); manufacturing (-10 jobs); and retail trade (-10 jobs). Gains occurred in leisure and hospitality (+10 jobs) and government (+10 jobs), with local government losses (-20 jobs) offsetting most of the gains in federal government (+30 jobs).

Next Press Releases

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

State of Oregon Employment Department

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

Klamath 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	29,533	29,623	NA	-90	NA
Unemployed	1,686	1,634	NA	52	NA
Unemployment rate	5.7%	5.5%	NA	0.2	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*6.9%*	*7.0%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	27,847	27,989	NA	-142	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	23,430	23,500	23,720	-70	-290
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*23,150*	*23,000*	*23,440*	*150*	*-290*
Total private	17,970	18,140	18,230	-170	-260
Mining, logging, and construction	1,290	1,320	1,370	-30	-80
Mining and logging	90	90	100	0	-10
Construction	1,200	1,230	1,270	-30	-70
Manufacturing	1,440	1,440	1,490	0	-50
Durable goods	1,350	1,350	1,400	0	-50
Wood product manufacturing	1,050	1,050	1,100	0	-50
Nondurable goods	90	90	90	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,570	4,560	4,530	10	40
Wholesale trade	630	640	690	-10	-60
Retail trade	3,100	3,080	3,020	20	80
Food and beverage retailers	700	710	630	-10	70
General merchandise retailers	830	820	840	10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	840	840	820	0	20
Information	110	110	100	0	10
Financial activities	840	840	820	0	20
Professional and business services	1,450	1,460	1,500	-10	-50
Private education and health services	4,790	4,770	4,860	20	-70
Leisure and hospitality	2,660	2,810	2,680	-150	-20
Other services	820	830	880	-10	-60
Government	5,460	5,360	5,490	100	-30
Federal government	770	790	690	-20	80
State government	600	610	640	-10	-40
Local government	4,090	3,960	4,160	130	-70
Local education	2,430	2,270	2,530	160	-100

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.

State of Oregon Employment Department

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

Lake 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	3,570	3,611	NA	-41	NA
Unemployed	173	166	NA	7	NA
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.6%	NA	0.2	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*6.0%*	*6.0%*	*NA*	*0.0*	*NA*
Employed	3,397	3,445	NA	-48	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,180	2,160	2,210	20	-30
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*2,150*	*2,110*	*2,180*	*40*	*-30*
Total private	1,150	1,160	1,190	-10	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	130	130	150	0	-20
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Construction	90	90	110	0	-20
Manufacturing	200	200	210	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	340	350	0	-10
Retail trade	240	240	250	0	-10
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	40	30	40	10	0
Professional and business services	80	80	80	0	0
Private education and health services	110	110	110	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	150	160	140	-10	10
Other services	80	90	90	-10	-10
Government	1,030	1,000	1,020	30	10
Federal government	200	210	170	-10	30
State government	200	200	200	0	0
Local government	630	590	650	40	-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.

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.

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.

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.

###