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Employment in Columbia County: January 2026

Seasonally adjusted Unemployment Rate Unchanged in January

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1% in January, unchanged from December, and above the rate of 5.0% in January 2025. The statewide unemployment rate was 5.2% in January, and the national rate was 4.3%.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 in January to 12,220 jobs. Seasonally adjusted figures compare expected changes with actual changes. A loss of 90 jobs was expected for the month, and the county's payroll employment decreased by 80. Private sector employment decreased by 70, and government employment decreased by 10. Private education and health services and construction each added 30 jobs (+1.6% and +4.5%, respectively). Trade, transportation, and utilities lost 40 jobs (-1.8%). Local education lost 20 jobs (-1.6%).

January's total nonfarm employment was up from the previous year by 50 jobs, an increase of 0.4%. Some broad sectors gained jobs over the past year. The largest gain occurred in private education and health services, which added 170 jobs (+9.9%). Trade, transportation, and utilities was down 80 jobs over the year (-3.5%). Local education was up 60 jobs over the year (+5.2%).

Next News Releases

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

Columbia County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025	January 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	26,457	26,633	26,803	-176	-346
Unemployed	1,810	1,580	1,692	230	118
Unemployment rate	6.8%	5.9%	6.3%	0.9	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	6.1%	5.0%	0.0	1.1
Employed	24,647	25,053	25,111	-406	-464
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,150	12,230	12,100	-80	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,220	12,210	12,170	10	50
Total private	9,980	10,050	9,950	-70	30
Mining, logging, and construction	880	860	890	20	-10
Mining and logging	180	190	190	-10	-10
Construction	700	670	700	30	0
Manufacturing	1,490	1,500	1,490	-10	0
Durable goods	1,100	1,110	1,110	-10	-10
Wood product manufacturing	230	230	240	0	-10
Nondurable goods	390	390	380	0	10
Paper manufacturing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,210	2,250	2,290	-40	-80
Retail trade	1,500	1,520	1,560	-20	-60
Information	50	50	60	0	-10
Financial activities	470	470	490	0	-20
Professional and business services	1,200	1,230	1,190	-30	10
Private education and health services	1,890	1,860	1,720	30	170
Leisure and hospitality	1,330	1,360	1,360	-30	-30
Other services	460	470	460	-10	0
Government	2,170	2,180	2,150	-10	20
Federal government	80	80	80	0	0
State government	210	210	230	0	-20
Local government	1,880	1,890	1,840	-10	40
Local education	1,210	1,230	1,150	-20	60
Local government excluding educational services	670	660	690	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)

	<u>January 2026</u>	<u>December 2025</u>	<u>January 2025</u>
United States	4.3	4.4	4.0
State of Oregon	5.2	5.3	4.8
<u>Metropolitan Statistical Areas:</u>			
Albany (Linn County)	5.6	5.6	4.8
Bend (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties)	5.0	5.0	4.3
Corvallis (Benton County)	4.6	4.5	3.9
Eugene-Springfield (Lane County)	5.3	5.2	4.5
Grants Pass (Josephine County)	7.1	7.2	6.0
Medford (Jackson County)	5.9	5.9	5.1
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro (2)	5.1	5.0	4.3
Salem (Marion and Polk counties)	5.0	5.1	4.3
<u>Counties (1):</u>			
Baker	5.8	5.9	4.6
Benton	4.6	4.5	3.9
Clackamas	5.0	5.0	4.1
Clatsop	5.2	5.3	4.4
Columbia	6.1	6.1	4.9
Coos	5.9	6.0	5.0
Crook	5.9	5.9	5.1
Curry	6.7	6.9	5.6
Deschutes	4.8	4.9	4.1
Douglas	6.4	6.4	5.5
Gilliam	5.7	5.6	4.7
Grant	7.6	7.9	6.5
Harney	4.9	5.0	4.5
Hood River	4.1	4.2	3.5
Jackson	5.9	5.9	5.1
Jefferson	5.7	5.8	4.6
Josephine	7.1	7.2	6.0
Klamath	7.5	7.5	6.0
Lake	6.2	6.4	5.0
Lane	5.3	5.2	4.5
Lincoln	6.1	6.2	5.2
Linn	5.6	5.6	4.8
Malheur	4.7	4.9	4.1
Marion	5.1	5.1	4.3
Morrow	4.8	4.9	4.0
Multnomah	5.2	5.2	4.3
Polk	5.0	5.0	4.2
Sherman	5.1	5.2	3.9
Tillamook	5.4	5.5	4.4
Umatilla	5.5	5.6	4.7
Union	5.6	5.7	4.9
Wallowa	6.2	6.3	4.7
Wasco	5.2	5.3	4.4
Washington	5.1	5.1	4.0
Wheeler	4.8	4.8	4.0
Yamhill	5.0	5.0	4.2

(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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