

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 21, 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

Employment in Central Oregon: September 2025

Federal Government Shutdown Pauses Employment Reports

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) suspended the monthly employment and unemployment reports for the nation, states, and metropolitan areas as of Oct. 1, 2025. Oregon's monthly jobs and unemployment rate for September are unavailable at this time. In the meantime, we will highlight data that we continue to produce and share when it becomes available. One such topic is federal government employment.

Statewide and Regional Federal Government Jobs

Oregon had an average of 29,000 federal government jobs covered by unemployment benefits during the first half of 2025. That accounted for about 1.5% of all jobs in the state. The federal government share of all jobs was much higher in some rural counties. This time last year, the top 10 counties by share of all jobs in federal government were rural areas. More than 15% of all jobs in Sherman County were in federal government. The next-largest shares were in Grant (9%), Harney (8%), and Lake (8%) counties.

Federal government employment in Crook County accounted for 4.2% of all county employment, representing 321 covered positions and placing it among the top five Oregon counties with the highest proportion of federal jobs relative to total county employment. In comparison, 1.3% of all jobs in Jefferson County were in the federal sector. Deschutes County had the lowest share, with 1.1% of all fourth-quarter covered jobs last year classified as federal government positions. Still, in terms of absolute numbers, Deschutes County had the highest count of federal workers in Central Oregon, with 1,022 federal jobs.

More recently, and not directly comparable due to seasonal differences between quarters, Deschutes County averaged 1,052 federal payroll jobs in the second quarter of 2025. By June 2025, there were 1,066 federal jobs, 32 fewer than in the same month the previous year. In June, federal payroll employment in Jefferson County was 100—nine more than in June 2024. In Crook County, it was 347, a decrease of 12 from the previous year. Federal employment in this region typically peaks in the third quarter and begins to decline in the fourth quarter, though.

Federal government jobs also tend to pay relatively high wages. Looking at annual average wages, jobs on federal government payrolls in Oregon paid nearly \$98,500 in 2024. That was 38% higher than the average annual wage for all jobs in Oregon. Crook County had one of the smallest wage gaps between federal and overall covered employment, ranking third lowest in the state. There, federal workers earned just 8% more than the countywide average. In contrast, in both Deschutes and Crook counties the wage gap was larger than average. In 2024, federal jobs in Deschutes County paid 48% more than the average for all jobs in the county. Similarly, federal payroll jobs in Jefferson County paid 43% more than the countywide average. [For more about federal government jobs in Oregon click here.](#)

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department will publish the latest Oregon Job Vacancy Survey report on Oct. 23, and the next update on statewide trends on Wednesday, Nov. 19. We will update our schedule of future releases as federal services return.

If you have questions about the South Central economy, feel free to reach out. We're still at work providing quality information so employers and job seekers can make informed decisions. The most current data remains last month's report, highlighting August employment figures. That data is attached for reference and is also available at qualityinfo.org.

To file a claim for unemployment benefits or get more information about unemployment programs, visit unemployment.oregon.gov.

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Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

September 23, 2025

Bend MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	137,935	137,528	135,349	407	2,586
Unemployed	6,835	6,796	5,736	39	1,099
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.9%	4.2%	0.1	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.7%	4.3%	0.1	0.5
Employed	131,100	130,732	129,613	368	1,487
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	110,950	110,400	112,670	550	-1,720
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	111,750	111,190	111,410	560	340
Total private	97,980	97,640	100,030	340	-2,050
Mining, logging, and construction	9,290	9,350	9,500	-60	-210
Manufacturing	8,690	8,660	8,490	30	200
Durable goods	6,010	6,000	5,790	10	220
Trade, transportation, and utilities	18,480	18,400	19,270	80	-790
Wholesale trade	2,950	2,950	3,040	0	-90
Retail trade	12,850	12,810	13,270	40	-420
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,680	2,640	2,960	40	-280
Information	2,090	2,090	2,400	0	-310
Financial activities	5,740	5,730	5,840	10	-100
Professional and business services	12,700	12,630	12,940	70	-240
Private education and health services	19,750	19,560	19,090	190	660
Leisure and hospitality	17,310	17,330	18,460	-20	-1,150
Accommodation and food services	14,380	14,350	15,000	30	-620
Other services	3,930	3,890	4,040	40	-110
Government	12,970	12,760	12,640	210	330
Federal government	1,470	1,550	1,610	-80	-140
State government	1,690	1,690	1,670	0	20
Local government	9,810	9,520	9,360	290	450
Local education	4,330	4,010	4,060	320	270

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: Official Oregon Series. 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.



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September 23, 2025

Crook County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,350	13,279	13,123	71	227
Unemployed	730	746	667	-16	63
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.6%	5.1%	-0.1	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Employed	12,620	12,533	12,456	87	164
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	7,390	7,440	7,760	-50	-370
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7,230</i>	<i>7,270</i>	<i>7,590</i>	<i>-40</i>	<i>-360</i>
Total private	6,090	6,140	6,360	-50	-270
Mining, logging, and construction	890	890	940	0	-50
Mining and logging	30	30	50	0	-20
Construction	860	860	890	0	-30
Manufacturing	750	740	730	10	20
Wood product manufacturing	330	320	360	10	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,200	1,200	1,280	0	-80
Wholesale trade	360	360	350	0	10
Retail trade	620	620	670	0	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	220	220	260	0	-40
Information	230	230	520	0	-290
Financial activities	240	250	230	-10	10
Professional and business services	720	720	620	0	100
Private education and health services	840	850	810	-10	30
Leisure and hospitality	940	980	920	-40	20
Other services	280	280	310	0	-30
Government	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	-100
Federal government	350	360	380	-10	-30
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	810	800	880	10	-70

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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.



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September 23, 2025

Deschutes County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	113,036	112,720	110,959	316	2,077
Unemployed	5,424	5,364	4,543	60	881
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.8%	4.1%	0.0	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.6%	4.1%	0.0	0.5
Employed	107,612	107,356	106,416	256	1,196
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	96,840	96,220	98,260	620	-1,420
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	97,540	96,910	97,160	630	380
Total private	87,430	87,040	89,170	390	-1,740
Mining, logging, and construction	8,200	8,250	8,390	-50	-190
Manufacturing	6,720	6,700	6,590	20	130
Durable goods	4,310	4,310	4,160	0	150
Trade, transportation, and utilities	16,330	16,260	17,000	70	-670
Wholesale trade	2,420	2,430	2,510	-10	-90
Retail trade	11,530	11,500	11,900	30	-370
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,380	2,330	2,590	50	-210
Information	1,930	1,930	1,840	0	90
Financial activities	5,370	5,360	5,480	10	-110
Professional and business services	11,670	11,600	12,060	70	-390
Private education and health services	18,090	17,890	17,500	200	590
Leisure and hospitality	15,640	15,610	16,770	30	-1,130
Accommodation and food services	12,830	12,750	13,430	80	-600
Other services	3,480	3,440	3,540	40	-60
Government	9,410	9,180	9,090	230	320
Federal government	1,020	1,090	1,130	-70	-110
State government	1,160	1,160	1,150	0	10
Local government	7,230	6,930	6,810	300	420
Local education	3,370	3,070	3,160	300	210

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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.



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Jefferson County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,549	11,529	11,267	20	282
Unemployed	681	686	526	-5	155
Unemployment rate	5.9%	6.0%	4.7%	-0.1	1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Employed	10,868	10,843	10,741	25	127
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	6,630	6,630	6,650	0	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6,690</i>	<i>6,650</i>	<i>6,710</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>-20</i>
Total private	4,480	4,460	4,500	20	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	210	210	170	0	40
Mining and logging	20	20	10	0	10
Construction	190	190	160	0	30
Manufacturing	1,160	1,150	1,170	10	-10
Wood product manufacturing	890	890	870	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	940	930	990	10	-50
Wholesale trade	160	160	180	0	-20
Retail trade	680	670	700	10	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	100	100	110	0	-10
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	130	130	130	0	0
Professional and business services	300	300	260	0	40
Private education and health services	800	790	780	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	720	730	770	-10	-50
Other services	180	180	190	0	-10
Government	2,150	2,170	2,150	-20	0
Federal government	100	100	100	0	0
State government	390	390	380	0	10
Local government	1,660	1,680	1,670	-20	-10
Indian tribal	820	850	850	-30	-30

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