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Employment in South Central Oregon: January 2026

South Central Oregon industries registered seasonal losses over the month, as losses outpaced gains and total nonfarm employment declined in both counties, while seasonally adjusted unemployment rates held steady over the month.

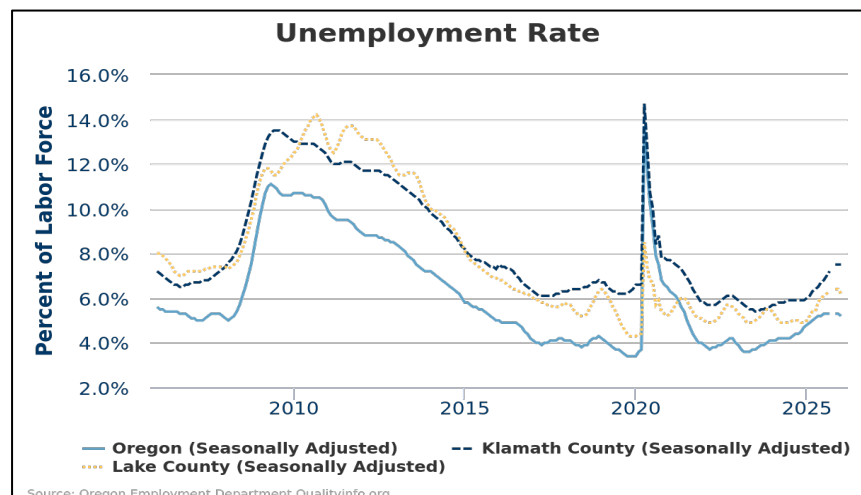
Klamath County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 7.5% in January 2026, up 1.5 percentage points from the previous year.

Klamath County lost 520 jobs in January, a 2.2% decrease. Losses occurred within the private sector, primarily within trade, transportation, and utilities (-160 jobs). Construction shed 90 jobs in January. Leisure and hospitality employment declined 70 in January. The public sector shed 130 jobs (-2.4%) in January.

Klamath County shed 160 jobs in the past year (-0.7%) losses concentrated in manufacturing (-90 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (-120 jobs). The public sector shed 50 jobs over the past 12 months. Of the jobs lost in manufacturing, all 90 of them were shed in durable goods manufacturing with 60 of those in wood product manufacturing. Private-sector job gains were sparse.

Lake County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 6.2% in January 2026, down from a revised 6.4% in December. Lake County's unemployment rate is up 1.2 percentage points from the previous year.

Total nonfarm employment decreased by 60 jobs (-2.8%) from December to January. Losses were concentrated within the public sector (-30 jobs), federal government (-20 jobs) and local government



(-10 jobs), and construction (-20 jobs) within the private sector. No sectors gained employment in January. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment levels remain 190 jobs (-7.9%) below the pre-pandemic employment levels, as of January.

Lake County's total nonfarm employment declined by 10 jobs (-0.5%) since January 2025. Over-the-year losses were concentrated within the private sector (-30 jobs). Private-sector declines occurred within private education and health services (-30 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-10 jobs) and financial activities (-10 jobs). No sectors saw job growth in January.

Next Press Releases

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



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

April 7, 2026

Klamath 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	29,211	29,385	29,221	-174	-10
Unemployed	2,661	2,188	2,496	473	165
Unemployment rate	9.1%	7.4%	8.5%	1.7	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.5%	7.5%	6.0%	0.0	1.5
Employed	26,550	27,197	26,725	-647	-175
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	23,110	23,630	23,270	-520	-160
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	23,720	23,940	23,870	-220	-150
Total private	17,770	18,160	17,880	-390	-110
Mining, logging, and construction	1,150	1,250	1,160	-100	-10
Mining and logging	90	100	100	-10	-10
Construction	1,060	1,150	1,060	-90	0
Manufacturing	1,500	1,500	1,590	0	-90
Durable goods	1,390	1,390	1,480	0	-90
Wood product manufacturing	1,120	1,120	1,180	0	-60
Nondurable goods	110	110	110	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,550	4,710	4,530	-160	20
Wholesale trade	710	730	720	-20	-10
Retail trade	3,050	3,130	3,070	-80	-20
Food and beverage retailers	630	630	630	0	0
General merchandise retailers	900	910	880	-10	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	790	850	740	-60	50
Information	100	100	110	0	-10
Financial activities	840	850	800	-10	40
Professional and business services	1,490	1,530	1,490	-40	0
Private education and health services	4,810	4,800	4,730	10	80
Leisure and hospitality	2,440	2,510	2,560	-70	-120
Other services	890	910	910	-20	-20
Government	5,340	5,470	5,390	-130	-50
Federal government	590	690	650	-100	-60
State government	610	610	620	0	-10
Local government	4,140	4,170	4,120	-30	20
Local education	2,540	2,550	2,530	-10	10

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.



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April 7, 2026

Lake 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	3,412	3,453	3,422	-41	-10
Unemployed	252	211	247	41	5
Unemployment rate	7.4%	6.1%	7.2%	1.3	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	6.4%	5.0%	-0.2	1.2
Employed	3,160	3,242	3,175	-82	-15
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,110	2,170	2,120	-60	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,200	2,240	2,210	-40	-10
Total private	1,100	1,130	1,130	-30	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	120	150	100	-30	20
Mining and logging	30	40	30	-10	0
Construction	90	110	70	-20	20
Manufacturing	200	200	200	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	340	340	0	0
Retail trade	240	240	240	0	0
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	40	40	50	0	-10
Professional and business services	70	70	70	0	0
Private education and health services	110	110	140	0	-30
Leisure and hospitality	130	130	140	0	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,010	1,040	990	-30	20
Federal government	150	170	170	-20	-20
State government	210	210	190	0	20
Local government	650	660	630	-10	20

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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.

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

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