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Employment in South 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. In Lake County, that represents 197 covered federal jobs. Although the federal government accounts for a much smaller portion of total employment in Klamath County (3%), there were nearly 730 federal jobs.

More recently, and not directly comparable due to seasonal differences between quarters, Klamath County averaged 753 federal payroll jobs in the second quarter of 2025. By June 2025, there were 792 federal jobs, 28 fewer than in the same month the previous year. In June, federal payroll employment in Lake County was 216, an increase of one 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. In both Lake and Klamath counties, the wage gap was significantly larger. In 2024, federal government payroll jobs in Klamath County paid an average annual wage that was 71% higher than the average for all jobs in the county. Similarly, government payroll jobs in Lake County paid an average of 67% more than the countywide average for all jobs. [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.

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. OED provides free help so you can use our services. Some examples are sign language and spoken-language interpreters, written materials in other languages, large print, audio, and other formats. To get help, please call 503-947-1444. TTY users call 711. You can also send an email to communications@employ.oregon.gov.

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Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

September 23, 2025

Klamath 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	29,664	29,457	29,365	207	299
Unemployed	2,174	2,154	1,735	20	439
Unemployment rate	7.3%	7.3%	5.9%	0.0	1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7.0%</i>	<i>6.8%</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>1.1</i>
Employed	27,490	27,303	27,630	187	-140
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	23,610	23,550	23,880	60	-270
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>23,450</i>	<i>23,550</i>	<i>23,720</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>-270</i>
Total private	18,470	18,510	18,830	-40	-360
Mining, logging, and construction	1,390	1,360	1,440	30	-50
Mining and logging	100	100	90	0	10
Construction	1,290	1,260	1,350	30	-60
Manufacturing	1,510	1,530	1,600	-20	-90
Durable goods	1,430	1,430	1,500	0	-70
Wood product manufacturing	1,140	1,140	1,180	0	-40
Nondurable goods	80	100	100	-20	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,520	4,500	4,660	20	-140
Wholesale trade	740	730	730	10	10
Retail trade	3,040	3,030	3,120	10	-80
Food and beverage retailers	610	610	630	0	-20
General merchandise retailers	850	830	890	20	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	740	740	810	0	-70
Information	120	120	120	0	0
Financial activities	860	870	870	-10	-10
Professional and business services	1,500	1,480	1,640	20	-140
Private education and health services	4,590	4,700	4,650	-110	-60
Leisure and hospitality	3,070	3,050	2,860	20	210
Other services	910	900	990	10	-80
Government	5,140	5,040	5,050	100	90
Federal government	840	850	840	-10	0
State government	670	670	630	0	40
Local government	3,630	3,520	3,580	110	50
Local education	1,990	1,890	1,930	100	60

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

QualityInfo.org

September 23, 2025

Lake 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	3,630	3,597	3,704	33	-74
Unemployed	199	203	167	-4	32
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.6%	4.5%	-0.1	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.2%</i>	<i>6.1%</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>1.2</i>
Employed	3,431	3,394	3,537	37	-106
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,220	2,160	2,300	60	-80
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,180</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>2,260</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>-80</i>
Total private	1,170	1,160	1,200	10	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	140	130	120	10	20
Mining and logging	40	40	30	0	10
Construction	100	90	90	10	10
Manufacturing	200	200	210	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	350	340	0	10
Retail trade	240	240	240	0	0
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	40	40	50	0	-10
Professional and business services	60	60	80	0	-20
Private education and health services	110	100	120	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	150	150	160	0	-10
Other services	100	110	100	-10	0
Government	1,050	1,000	1,100	50	-50
Federal government	230	230	240	0	-10
State government	200	190	200	10	0
Local government	620	580	660	40	-40

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