Northwest Oregon Economic Indicators

October 2026 (September 2026 data)

State of Oregon Employment Department

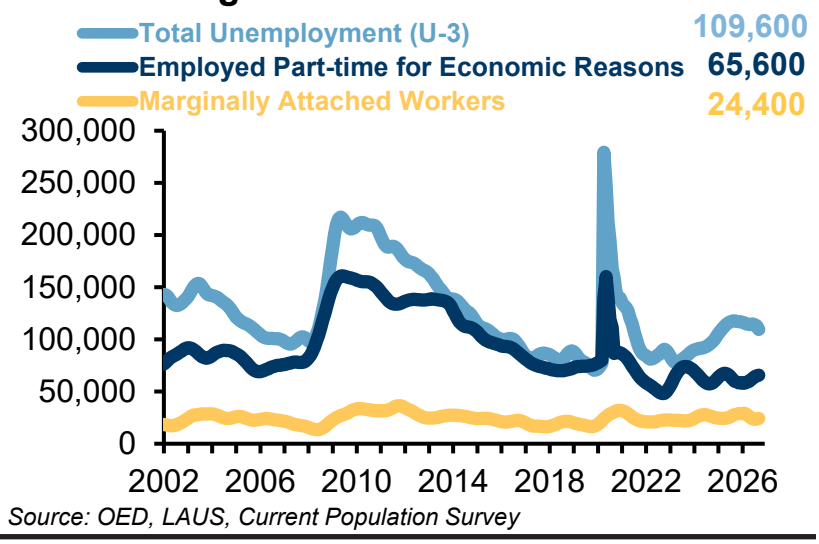
Labor Market Information

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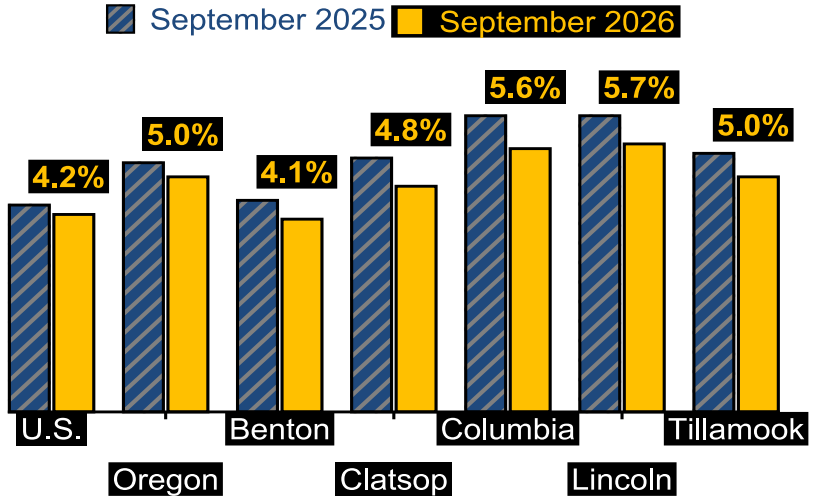
For Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, & Tillamook Counties

Oregon's Labor Underutilization



Source: OED, LAUS, Current Population Survey

Local Area Unemployment Rates



Source: OED, LAUS

Graph of the Month

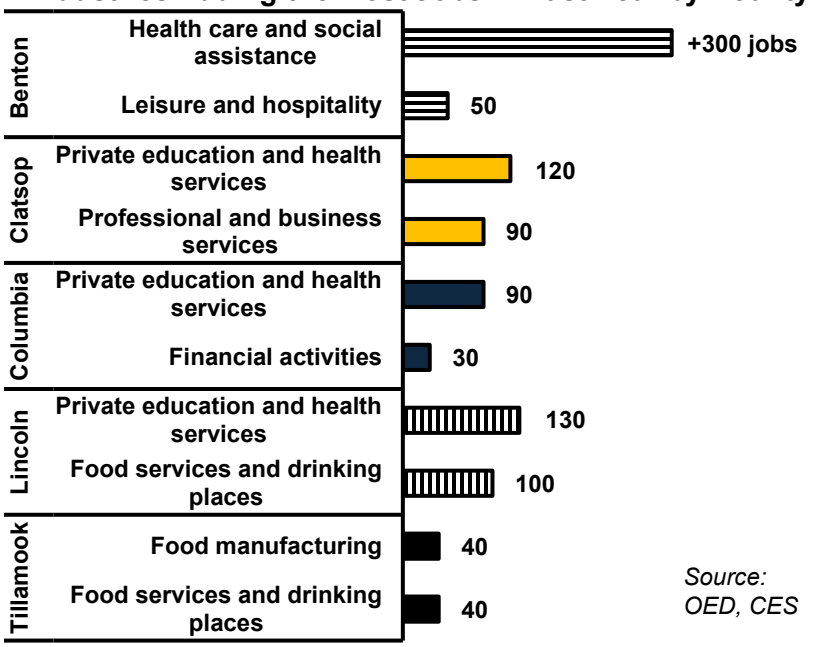
Oregon's unemployment rate tells only part of the labor market story. In September 2026, about 66,000 Oregonians worked part time for economic reasons, meaning they wanted full-time work but could not find it or had their hours reduced. Another 24,000 were marginally attached to the labor force. These residents wanted work and have searched in the last year but have not searched for a job in the past four weeks, so they were not counted as unemployed in the standard "U-3".

Key Takeaways

All five counties had lower unemployment rates than in September 2025. Columbia fell from 6.3% to 5.6%, Clatsop from 5.4% to 4.8%, Lincoln from 6.3% to 5.7%, Tillamook from 5.5% to 5.0%, and Benton from 4.5% to 4.1%.

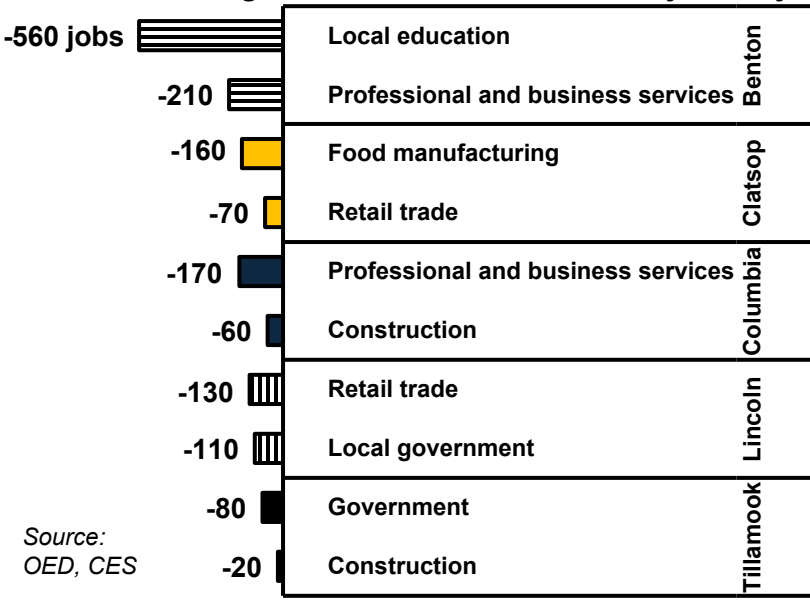
Total nonfarm payroll employment declined over the year in all five counties. The largest losses were in Benton (-630 jobs), Clatsop (-250 jobs), and Columbia (-250 jobs). Private education and health services added jobs in four counties, while losses occurred in local education, professional and business services, food manufacturing, and retail trade.

Industries Adding the Most Jobs in Past Year by County



Source: OED, CES

Industries Losing the Most Jobs in Past Year by County



Source: OED, CES

For more economic or labor market data, or to be added to this monthly email list, contact:

Brannigan Vogt, Workforce Analyst / Economist
(503) 396-7355
Brannigan.T.Vogt@employ.oregon.gov