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Employment in Central Oregon: April 2026

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in Central Oregon saw very little movement from March to April, holding steady in Deschutes County and increasing slightly in Jefferson and Crook counties.

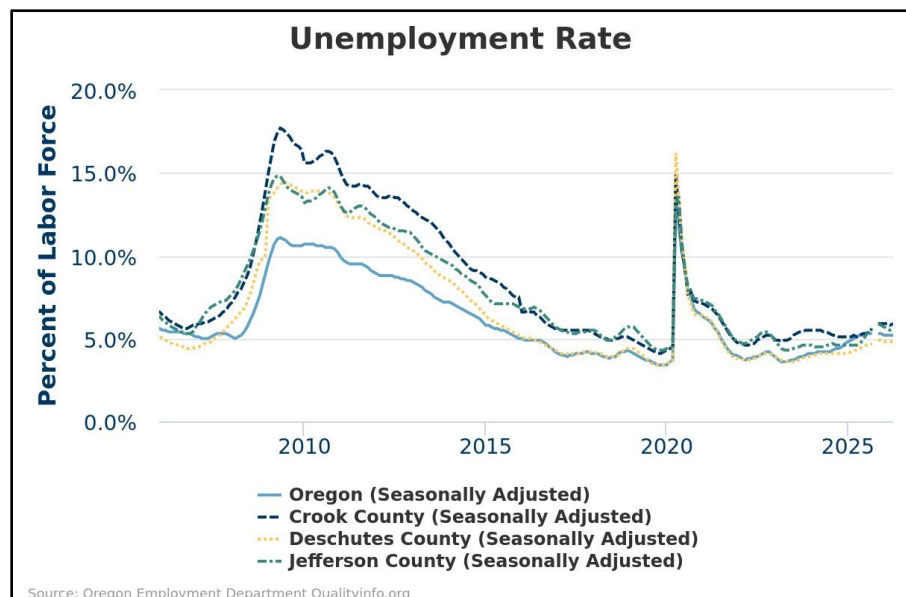
Bend MSA (Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties): The Bend MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in April, unchanged from the March rate of 4.9%. Last year in April the unemployment rate was 4.4%, or 0.5 percentage point lower.

The Bend MSA's employment gains in April were less than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 420 during the month (+1.2%), when an employment increase of 520 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 100 (-0.1%) between March and April.

The largest gains occurred in leisure and hospitality (+300 jobs); mining,

logging, and construction (-290 jobs); and the public sector (+150 jobs). Smaller but noticeable gains were also seen in trade, transportation, and utilities (+70 jobs), with the majority of those gains taking place in retail trade (+60 jobs); private education and health services (+50 jobs); and other services (+40 jobs). Manufacturing and information also gained 20 jobs over the month. Losses occurred in two industries with the vast majority occurring in professional and business services (-510 jobs), followed by financial activities (-10 jobs).

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 960 jobs (-0.9%) over the year. While a loss of 370 jobs was expected, total nonfarm employment decreased by 1,330 (-1.2%) jobs from April 2025 to April 2026. Over the year, job losses were widespread with the largest losses seen in the public sector (-



770 jobs) specifically within local government education (-870 jobs); professional and business services (-520 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-390 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (-280 jobs). Other noticeable losses occurred in manufacturing (-110 jobs); information (-100 jobs); and financial activities (-60 jobs). Gains were not as widespread and concentrated within a handful of industries with 480 jobs gained in private education and health services; 210 jobs gained in other services; and 210 jobs gained in mining, logging, and construction.

Crook County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.9% in April 2026, essentially unchanged from the March rate of 5.8%. Crook County's unemployment rate has increased 0.8 percentage point from the previous year.

Crook County's employment gains in April were smaller than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 50 (+0.7%) during the month, when an employment increase of 90 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 40 (-0.6%) between March and April.

Gains were concentrated within leisure and hospitality (+30 jobs), construction (+20 jobs), and trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs). Marginal gains were also seen in the public sector (+10 jobs) and professional and business services (+10 jobs). Losses occurred within private education and health services (-20 jobs), information (-10 jobs), and manufacturing (-10 jobs). All other major industries saw little to no change over the month.

Over the past year Crook County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has lost 310 jobs (-4.2%); while no change was expected, Crook County's total nonfarm decreased by 310 jobs. Private-sector losses were concentrated within the manufacturing industry (-130 jobs) with wood product manufacturing losing 120 jobs over the year. Similar losses were seen within the public sector, which lost 120 jobs from April 2025 to April 2026. Losses within the private sector also occurred in construction (-70 jobs); professional and business services (-40 jobs); information (-30 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (-10 jobs). Within the public sector, the federal government lost 60 jobs over the year while local government lost 70 jobs during this time. State government gained 10 jobs. Over the year job gains were not as widespread and were concentrated within private education and health services (+50 jobs), financial activities (+20 jobs), and other services (+20 jobs).

Deschutes County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8% in April 2026, unchanged from March's rate. A year ago, in April 2025, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3%.

Deschutes County's employment gains in April were less than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 290 (+0.3%) during the month, when an employment increase of 450 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 160 (-0.2%) between March and April.

Losses were concentrated in professional and business services (-520 jobs) with minor losses in financial activities (-10 jobs). Gains were more widespread with mining, logging, and construction (+280 jobs), leisure and hospitality (+230 jobs), and the public sector (+130 jobs) gaining the most jobs over the month. Job gains also occurred in private education and health services (+60); trade, transportation, and utilities (+60 jobs); information (+30 jobs); other services (+20 jobs); and

manufacturing (+10 jobs). Within the trade, transportation, and utilities industry, retail trade gained the most jobs in April (+60 jobs) while transportation, warehousing, and utilities lost 10 jobs.

Over the past year Deschutes County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment shed 730 jobs (-0.8%). Unadjusted nonfarm employment was down 1,040 jobs when a loss of 310 jobs was expected. From April 2025 to April 2026, private job gains were concentrated in mining, logging, and construction (+390 jobs); private education and health services (+320 jobs); and other services (+100 jobs). Smaller gains were also seen in manufacturing (+30 jobs). Over the year, private-sector losses were more widespread and concentrated in professional and business services (-480 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-290 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-190 jobs). Smaller job losses also occurred in financial activities (-90 jobs) and information (-50 jobs). The public sector shed 780 jobs over the year with most losses occurring at the local government level (-750 jobs). Federal government employment decreased by 20 jobs over the year while state government employment was down 10 jobs.

Jefferson County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.6% in April 2026, up slightly from 5.5% in March and 1.0 percentage point from April 2025. Shortly before the first impacts from COVID-19 pandemic were felt, the rate was 4.3%.

Jefferson County's employment gains in April were higher than normal; total nonfarm employment gained 90 (+1.3%) during the month, when an employment increase of 30 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 60 (+0.9%) between March and April.

The only losses occurred within the public sector with a decline of 10 jobs over the month, specifically at the local level (-10 jobs). Gains were strongest in leisure and hospitality (+40 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs); and manufacturing (+20 jobs). Smaller gains were also observed in private education and health services and construction (+10 jobs each). Very little movement was seen otherwise with little to no change in all other industries.

Over the past year Jefferson County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has added 140 jobs (+2.1%). While no gains were expected, Jefferson County's total nonfarm employment increased by 140 jobs over the past year (+2.1%). Gains were minimal and concentrated within the public sector (+100 jobs) with local government gaining 80 jobs over the year. Private-sector gains were also recorded in other services (+70 jobs); private education and health services (+50 jobs); construction (+20 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (+10 jobs). Private-sector losses were concentrated in trade, transportation, and utilities (-90 jobs) with retail trade being affected the most (-80 jobs). Smaller losses were also recorded in manufacturing (-10 jobs) and professional and business services (-10 jobs).

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Wednesday, June 17 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, June 23.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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May 27, 2026

Bend MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	133,842	134,450	133,692	-608	150
Unemployed	6,125	7,139	5,802	-1,014	323
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.3%	4.3%	-0.7	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	4.9%	4.4%	0.0	0.5
Employed	127,717	127,311	127,890	406	-173
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	109,170	108,750	110,500	420	-1,330
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	109,520	109,620	110,480	-100	-960
Total private	94,950	94,680	95,510	270	-560
Mining, logging, and construction	9,260	8,970	9,050	290	210
Manufacturing	8,390	8,370	8,500	20	-110
Durable goods	5,860	5,840	5,940	20	-80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	18,140	18,070	18,530	70	-390
Wholesale trade	2,860	2,850	2,960	10	-100
Retail trade	12,650	12,590	12,910	60	-260
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,630	2,630	2,660	0	-30
Information	1,960	1,940	2,060	20	-100
Financial activities	5,480	5,490	5,540	-10	-60
Professional and business services	12,120	12,630	12,640	-510	-520
Private education and health services	20,120	20,070	19,640	50	480
Leisure and hospitality	15,230	14,930	15,510	300	-280
Accommodation and food services	12,790	12,510	12,610	280	180
Other services	4,250	4,210	4,040	40	210
Government	14,220	14,070	14,990	150	-770
Federal government	1,310	1,240	1,410	70	-100
State government	1,720	1,720	1,670	0	50
Local government	11,190	11,110	11,910	80	-720
Local education	5,680	5,620	6,550	60	-870

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.

The Bend MSA includes Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties.



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Crook County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,021	13,084	12,914	-63	107
Unemployed	739	832	654	-93	85
Unemployment rate	5.7%	6.4%	5.1%	-0.7	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.9%	5.8%	5.1%	0.1	0.8
Employed	12,282	12,252	12,260	30	22
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	7,060	7,010	7,370	50	-310
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7,110	7,150	7,420	-40	-310
Total private	5,800	5,760	5,990	40	-190
Mining, logging, and construction	850	830	920	20	-70
Mining and logging	30	30	30	0	0
Construction	820	800	890	20	-70
Manufacturing	610	620	740	-10	-130
Wood product manufacturing	210	210	330	0	-120
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,210	1,190	1,210	20	0
Wholesale trade	360	360	360	0	0
Retail trade	610	600	620	10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	230	230	10	10
Information	220	230	250	-10	-30
Financial activities	250	250	230	0	20
Professional and business services	590	580	630	10	-40
Private education and health services	930	950	880	-20	50
Leisure and hospitality	850	820	860	30	-10
Other services	290	290	270	0	20
Government	1,260	1,250	1,380	10	-120
Federal government	240	230	300	10	-60
State government	140	140	130	0	10
Local government	880	880	950	0	-70

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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Deschutes County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	109,799	110,309	109,819	-510	-20
Unemployed	4,841	5,656	4,661	-815	180
Unemployment rate	4.4%	5.1%	4.2%	-0.7	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.8%	4.3%	0.0	0.5
Employed	104,958	104,653	105,158	305	-200
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	95,320	95,030	96,360	290	-1,040
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	95,630	95,790	96,360	-160	-730
Total private	84,890	84,730	85,150	160	-260
Mining, logging, and construction	8,320	8,040	7,930	280	390
Manufacturing	6,610	6,600	6,580	10	30
Durable goods	4,350	4,340	4,290	10	60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	16,180	16,120	16,370	60	-190
Wholesale trade	2,360	2,350	2,430	10	-70
Retail trade	11,540	11,480	11,620	60	-80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,280	2,290	2,320	-10	-40
Information	1,720	1,690	1,770	30	-50
Financial activities	5,090	5,100	5,180	-10	-90
Professional and business services	11,280	11,800	11,760	-520	-480
Private education and health services	18,280	18,220	17,960	60	320
Leisure and hospitality	13,710	13,480	14,000	230	-290
Accommodation and food services	11,350	11,130	11,180	220	170
Other services	3,700	3,680	3,600	20	100
Government	10,430	10,300	11,210	130	-780
Federal government	990	940	1,010	50	-20
State government	1,150	1,150	1,160	0	-10
Local government	8,290	8,210	9,040	80	-750
Local education	4,450	4,390	5,280	60	-830

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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Jefferson County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,022	11,057	10,959	-35	63
Unemployed	545	651	487	-106	58
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.9%	4.4%	-1.0	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6%	5.5%	4.6%	0.1	1.0
Employed	10,477	10,406	10,472	71	5
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	6,910	6,820	6,770	90	140
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6,880	6,820	6,740	60	140
Total private	4,410	4,310	4,370	100	40
Mining, logging, and construction	220	210	200	10	20
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	210	200	190	10	20
Manufacturing	1,170	1,150	1,180	20	-10
Wood product manufacturing	890	880	900	10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	860	840	950	20	-90
Wholesale trade	160	150	170	10	-10
Retail trade	590	590	670	0	-80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	110	100	110	10	0
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	130	130	130	0	0
Professional and business services	240	240	250	0	-10
Private education and health services	850	840	800	10	50
Leisure and hospitality	660	620	650	40	10
Other services	240	240	170	0	70
Government	2,500	2,510	2,400	-10	100
Federal government	90	90	100	0	-10
State government	410	410	380	0	30
Local government	2,000	2,010	1,920	-10	80
Indian tribal	920	920	840	0	80

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.

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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