

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 20, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

Employment in Central Oregon: September 2026

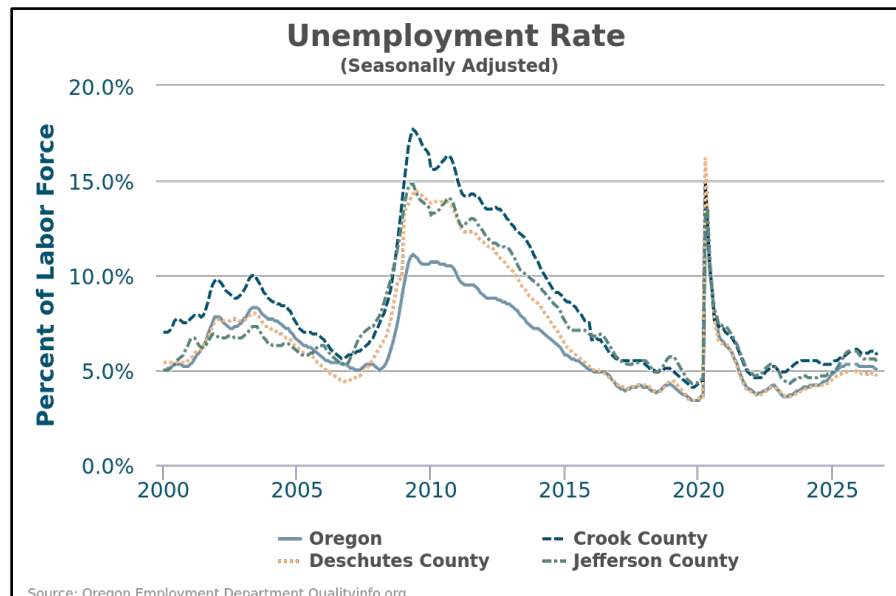
Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates declined across Central Oregon in September.

Bend MSA (Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties): The Bend MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8% in September, down from August's rate of 4.9%. One year earlier, the rate stood at 5.1%.

The Bend MSA's employment gains were marginally weaker than normal this September; total nonfarm employment was up by 560 jobs during the month (+0.5%), when an employment increase of 610 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 50 jobs between August and September.

Private-sector employment fell by 870 jobs (-0.9%) over the month, with the largest declines concentrated in leisure and hospitality (-710 jobs) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-100 jobs). Smaller losses appeared in information (-60 jobs); private education and health services (-60 jobs); financial activities (-50 jobs); manufacturing (-50 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (-30 jobs); and other services (-20 jobs). Private-sector gains were concentrated in professional and business services (+210 jobs). Public-sector employment increased by 1,430 jobs, primarily driven by a seasonal increase in local government education (+1,460), with state government down 10 and federal government down 20 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment in the Bend MSA has grown by 50 jobs over the year. While a decline of roughly 1,670 jobs was anticipated, total nonfarm employment instead fell by 1,620 jobs (-1.4%) on an unadjusted basis over the year, resulting in our seasonally adjusted number. The private sector experienced a net loss of 1,710 jobs (-1.7%), with the largest declines in professional and



business services (-1,250 jobs), leisure and hospitality (-740 jobs), and trade, transportation, and utilities (-340 jobs) which experienced losses in all three subsectors. Smaller losses occurred in financial activities (-170 jobs) and information (-80 jobs). Private-sector gains were concentrated in private education and health services (+680 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (+80 jobs); other services (+60 jobs); and manufacturing (+50 jobs). Public-sector employment increased by 90 jobs, primarily driven by local government (+100 jobs), with state government up 40 and federal government down 50 over the year.

Crook County: Crook County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from 6.0% in August to 5.8% in September. The unemployment rate is now 0.2 percentage point lower than a year ago and a month ago.

Employment losses came in slightly larger than typical for September. Total nonfarm employment fell by 40 jobs (-0.6%), compared with an expected decrease of around 30 jobs. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 10 jobs (-0.1%) from August to September.

Public-sector employment decreased by 10 jobs, all at the local level. Private-sector employment declined by 30 jobs, with losses occurring in construction (-30); leisure and hospitality (-20); professional and business services (-20 jobs); and information (-10 jobs). All other industries saw little to no change during the month.

Crook County's seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 250 jobs (-3.4%) over the past year; total nonfarm employment shed 260 jobs when a decline of 10 jobs was expected. Private-sector losses were concentrated in construction (-130 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-50 jobs); and information (-50 jobs). Additional smaller losses occurred in professional and business services (-20 jobs), mining and logging (-20 jobs), and other services (-10 jobs). Private-sector gains were limited to private education and health services (+20 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+20); financial activities (+10 jobs); and manufacturing (+10 jobs). Public employment declined by 40 jobs year over year, with local government down 30 jobs and federal government down 10 jobs.

Deschutes County: Deschutes County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage point over the month and is now 4.7%. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage point higher at 5.0%.

Employment gains were not as strong as expected in September. Total nonfarm employment rose by 530 jobs (+0.5%), opposite the usual August increase of about 540 jobs. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 10 jobs between August and September.

The public sector was responsible for most of the month's gains (+1,260 jobs), entirely driven by a 1,290-job seasonal increase in local government. Both state (-10 jobs) and federal government (-20 jobs) lost jobs over the month. On the private side, employment declined by 730 jobs, with leisure and hospitality posting the largest losses (-660 jobs), followed by private education and health services (-90 jobs) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-90 jobs). Smaller pullbacks occurred in information (-60

jobs), financial activities (-50 jobs), and manufacturing (-30 jobs). Offsetting gains were limited to professional and business services (+250 jobs).

Deschutes County lost 60 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs (-0.1%) over the year. Total nonfarm employment declined by 1,520 jobs (-1.5%) on an unadjusted basis, compared with an expected loss of roughly 1,460. Private-sector employment fell by 1,630 jobs (-1.9%), with the largest declines in professional and business services (-1,290 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-810 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-390 jobs). Additional losses occurred in financial activities (-200 jobs), information (-20 jobs), and manufacturing (-20 jobs). Gains were strongest in private education and health services (+700 jobs), with smaller increases in mining, logging, and construction (+280 jobs) and other services (+120 jobs). Public-sector employment rose by 110 jobs, mainly due to growth in local government (+160 jobs). State government added 30 jobs, while federal government lost 80.

Jefferson County: Jefferson County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined from 5.6% in August to 5.4% in September. The rate is now 0.6 percentage point lower than it was in September 2025, when it stood at 6.0%.

Employment growth fell short of expectations in September. Total nonfarm employment rose by 40 jobs (+0.6%), compared with the typical expectation of 80 jobs. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 40 jobs in September.

All of the month's gains came from the public sector (+190 jobs), originating entirely from local government. Total private employment was down 150 jobs with the largest losses seen in leisure and hospitality (-40 jobs) and manufacturing (-30 jobs). Additional but smaller losses were also seen in retail trade (-20 jobs); professional and business services (-20 jobs); private education and health services (-20 jobs); financial activities (-10 jobs); and other services (-10 jobs).

Over the year, Jefferson County added 80 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs (+1.2%). Manufacturing accounted for the bulk of the increase (+50 jobs). Smaller increases were seen in the public sector (+20 jobs), private education and health services (+20 jobs), and leisure and hospitality (+10 jobs). Losses were recorded in professional and business services, information, and mining and logging (each down 10 jobs).

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October on Wednesday, Nov. 18 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Nov. 24.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

October 20, 2026

Bend MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	--Change From--	
				August 2026	September 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	136,409	137,086	136,172	-677	237
Unemployed	5,484	6,432	6,624	-948	-1,140
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.7%	4.9%	-0.7	-0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.9%	5.1%	-0.1	-0.3
Employed	130,925	130,654	129,548	271	1,377
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	111,240	110,680	112,860	560	-1,620
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	111,840	111,890	111,790	-50	50
Total private	96,130	97,000	97,840	-870	-1,710
Mining, logging, and construction	9,530	9,560	9,450	-30	80
Manufacturing	8,400	8,450	8,350	-50	50
Durable goods	5,960	6,010	5,740	-50	220
Trade, transportation, and utilities	18,420	18,520	18,760	-100	-340
Wholesale trade	2,830	2,840	2,980	-10	-150
Retail trade	12,950	13,060	13,070	-110	-120
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,640	2,620	2,710	20	-70
Information	1,930	1,990	2,010	-60	-80
Financial activities	5,490	5,540	5,660	-50	-170
Professional and business services	11,390	11,180	12,640	210	-1,250
Private education and health services	20,280	20,340	19,600	-60	680
Leisure and hospitality	16,460	17,170	17,200	-710	-740
Accommodation and food services	13,690	14,160	14,320	-470	-630
Other services	4,230	4,250	4,170	-20	60
Government	15,110	13,680	15,020	1,430	90
Federal government	1,450	1,470	1,500	-20	-50
State government	1,730	1,740	1,690	-10	40
Local government	11,930	10,470	11,830	1,460	100
Local education	6,390	4,930	6,310	1,460	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: 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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

October 20, 2026

Crook County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	--Change From--	
				August 2026	September 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,232	13,284	13,229	-52	3
Unemployed	626	737	744	-111	-118
Unemployment rate	4.7%	5.5%	5.6%	-0.8	-0.9
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	5.8%	6.0%	6.0%	-0.2	-0.2
Employed	12,606	12,547	12,485	59	121
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	7,180	7,220	7,440	-40	-260
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	7,090	7,100	7,340	-10	-250
Total private	5,890	5,920	6,110	-30	-220
Mining, logging, and construction	860	890	1,010	-30	-150
Mining and logging	30	30	50	0	-20
Construction	830	860	960	-30	-130
Manufacturing	620	620	610	0	10
Wood product manufacturing	220	220	230	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,190	1,190	1,240	0	-50
Wholesale trade	350	360	370	-10	-20
Retail trade	620	620	630	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	220	210	240	10	-20
Information	180	190	230	-10	-50
Financial activities	260	260	250	0	10
Professional and business services	630	650	650	-20	-20
Private education and health services	890	840	870	50	20
Leisure and hospitality	950	970	930	-20	20
Other services	310	310	320	0	-10
Government	1,290	1,300	1,330	-10	-40
Federal government	350	350	360	0	-10
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	800	810	830	-10	-30

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

October 20, 2026

Deschutes County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	August 2026	September 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	111,956	112,450	111,694	-494	262
Unemployed	4,373	5,068	5,253	-695	-880
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.5%	4.7%	-0.6	-0.8
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.7%	4.8%	5.0%	-0.1	-0.3
Employed	107,583	107,382	106,441	201	1,142
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	97,150	96,620	98,670	530	-1,520
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	97,670	97,680	97,730	-10	-60
Total private	85,710	86,440	87,340	-730	-1,630
Mining, logging, and construction	8,500	8,500	8,220	0	280
Manufacturing	6,600	6,630	6,620	-30	-20
Durable goods	4,430	4,460	4,280	-30	150
Trade, transportation, and utilities	16,180	16,270	16,570	-90	-390
Wholesale trade	2,290	2,300	2,460	-10	-170
Retail trade	11,540	11,640	11,750	-100	-210
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,350	2,330	2,360	20	-10
Information	1,720	1,780	1,740	-60	-20
Financial activities	5,080	5,130	5,280	-50	-200
Professional and business services	10,460	10,210	11,750	250	-1,290
Private education and health services	18,650	18,740	17,950	-90	700
Leisure and hospitality	14,750	15,410	15,560	-660	-810
Accommodation and food services	12,090	12,520	12,790	-430	-700
Other services	3,770	3,770	3,650	0	120
Government	11,440	10,180	11,330	1,260	110
Federal government	960	980	1,040	-20	-80
State government	1,190	1,200	1,160	-10	30
Local government	9,290	8,000	9,130	1,290	160
Local education	5,380	4,110	5,270	1,270	110

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

October 20, 2026

Jefferson County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	August 2026	September 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,221	11,352	11,249	-131	-28
Unemployed	485	627	627	-142	-142
Unemployment rate	4.3%	5.5%	5.6%	-1.2	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.4%	5.6%	6.0%	-0.2	-0.6
Employed	10,736	10,725	10,622	11	114
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	6,820	6,780	6,750	40	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6,760	6,800	6,680	-40	80
Total private	4,440	4,590	4,390	-150	50
Mining, logging, and construction	210	210	220	0	-10
Mining and logging	10	10	20	0	-10
Construction	200	200	200	0	0
Manufacturing	1,170	1,200	1,120	-30	50
Wood product manufacturing	900	910	840	-10	60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	950	970	950	-20	0
Wholesale trade	160	160	150	0	10
Retail trade	680	700	690	-20	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	110	110	110	0	0
Information	30	30	40	0	-10
Financial activities	130	140	130	-10	0
Professional and business services	230	250	240	-20	-10
Private education and health services	800	820	780	-20	20
Leisure and hospitality	720	760	710	-40	10
Other services	200	210	200	-10	0
Government	2,380	2,190	2,360	190	20
Federal government	90	90	100	0	-10
State government	410	410	390	0	20
Local government	1,880	1,690	1,870	190	10
Indian tribal	900	910	850	-10	50

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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe, enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit QualityInfo.org, select Tools, and choose LAUS or CES from the dropdown menu. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

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

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

###