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Employment in Columbia County: April 2026

Seasonally adjusted payroll employment down by 20 in April

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1% in April, unchanged from March, and above the rate of 5.3% in April 2025. The statewide unemployment rate was 5.2% in April, and the national rate was 4.3%.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 20 in April to 12,340 jobs. Seasonally adjusted figures compare expected changes with actual changes. A gain of 70 jobs was expected for the month, and the county's payroll employment increased by 50. Private-sector employment increased by 60, and government employment decreased by 10. Construction and retail trade each added 20 jobs (+2.8% and +1.3%, respectively). Other industries experienced little to no change.

April's total nonfarm employment was up from the previous year by 70 jobs, an increase of 0.6%. Some broad sectors gained jobs over the past year. The largest gain occurred in private education and health services, which added 170 jobs (+9.6%). Professional and business services was down 70 jobs over the year (-5.5%). Local education was up 50 jobs over the year (+4.3%).

Next News Releases

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

Columbia 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	26,267	26,451	26,657	-184	-390
Unemployed	1,465	1,684	1,447	-219	18
Unemployment rate	5.6%	6.4%	5.4%	-0.8	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	6.1%	5.3%	0.0	0.8
Employed	24,802	24,767	25,210	35	-408
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,430	12,380	12,360	50	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,340	12,360	12,280	-20	60
Total private	10,240	10,180	10,220	60	20
Mining, logging, and construction	900	880	940	20	-40
Mining and logging	170	170	190	0	-20
Construction	730	710	750	20	-20
Manufacturing	1,470	1,470	1,490	0	-20
Durable goods	1,080	1,080	1,110	0	-30
Wood product manufacturing	230	230	230	0	0
Nondurable goods	390	390	380	0	10
Paper manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0 ¹
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,280	2,260	2,310	20	-30
Retail trade	1,580	1,560	1,590	20	-10
Information	60	60	50	0	10
Financial activities	470	460	500	10	-30
Professional and business services	1,210	1,200	1,280	10	-70
Private education and health services	1,940	1,950	1,770	-10	170
Leisure and hospitality	1,440	1,430	1,400	10	40
Other services	470	470	480	0	-10
Government	2,190	2,200	2,140	-10	50
Federal government	80	80	80	0	0
State government	220	220	220	0	0
Local government	1,890	1,900	1,840	-10	50
Local education	1,220	1,230	1,170	-10	50
Local government excluding educational services	670	670	670	0	0

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.

Oregon Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates by Area (1)

	<u>April 2026</u>	<u>March 2026</u>	<u>April 2025</u>
United States	4.3	4.3	4.2
State of Oregon	5.2	5.2	5.1
<u>Metropolitan Statistical Areas:</u>			
Albany (Linn County)	5.4	5.4	5.0
Bend (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties)	4.9	4.9	4.4
Corvallis (Benton County)	4.2	4.4	3.9
Eugene-Springfield (Lane County)	5.1	5.2	4.5
Grants Pass (Josephine County)	6.7	6.8	6.2
Medford (Jackson County)	5.7	5.7	5.1
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro (2)	5.1	5.1	4.4
Salem (Marion and Polk counties)	4.9	5.0	4.4
<u>Counties (1):</u>			
Baker	5.3	5.4	4.8
Benton	4.2	4.4	3.9
Clackamas	4.9	4.9	4.3
Clatsop	4.9	5.0	4.5
Columbia	6.1	6.1	5.3
Coos	5.6	5.7	5.1
Crook	5.9	5.8	5.1
Curry	6.3	6.4	5.6
Deschutes	4.8	4.8	4.3
Douglas	6.2	6.2	5.6
Gilliam	5.5	5.5	4.6
Grant	6.9	7.1	6.4
Harney	4.6	4.7	4.5
Hood River	4.0	4.0	3.7
Jackson	5.7	5.7	5.1
Jefferson	5.6	5.5	4.6
Josephine	6.7	6.8	6.2
Klamath	7.2	7.2	6.4
Lake	5.8	5.8	5.4
Lane	5.1	5.2	4.5
Lincoln	5.8	5.9	5.2
Linn	5.4	5.4	5.0
Malheur	4.4	4.5	4.2
Marion	5.0	5.0	4.4
Morrow	4.3	4.5	4.8
Multnomah	5.2	5.1	4.5
Polk	4.8	4.9	4.3
Sherman	4.7	4.9	3.8
Tillamook	5.2	5.3	4.7
Umatilla	5.1	5.2	5.0
Union	5.1	5.3	5.2
Wallowa	6.0	6.0	5.0
Wasco	5.0	5.0	4.5
Washington	5.0	5.0	4.2
Wheeler	4.7	4.7	4.2
Yamhill	4.8	4.9	4.3

(1) Seasonally adjusted rates for the United States and Oregon are official Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) series. Source of Metro data is BLS and LAUS. Source of county data is OED.

(2) Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro MSA includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in Oregon and Clark and Skamania counties in Washington.

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.

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.

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For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

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