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Employment in Columbia County: August 2026

Seasonally adjusted employment increased by 60 in August

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.9% in August, down from 6.0% in July and slightly below the rate of 6.2% in August 2025. The statewide unemployment rate was 5.1% in August, and the national rate was 4.1%.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment increased in August by 60 to 12,070 jobs (+0.5%). Seasonally adjusted figures compare expected changes with actual changes. A gain of 30 jobs was expected for the month, and the county's payroll employment increased by 90. Private-sector employment was unchanged, and government employment increased by 90. Local education added 100 jobs (+13.3%). Other industries had little to no change in employment.

August's total nonfarm employment was down from the previous year by 190 jobs, a decrease of 1.6%. Some broad sectors gained jobs over the past year. The largest gain occurred in private education and health services, which added 130 jobs (+7.0%). Professional and business services was down 140 jobs over the year (-12.1%). Local government, including education, was down 50 jobs over the year (-3.1%).

Next News Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, Oct. 14, and September county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Columbia County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	26,761	26,476	26,892	285	-131
Unemployed	1,537	1,599	1,736	-62	-199
Unemployment rate	5.7%	6.0%	6.5%	-0.3	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.9%	6.0%	6.2%	-0.1	-0.3
Employed	25,224	24,877	25,156	347	68
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,860	11,770	12,050	90	-190
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,070	12,010	12,270	60	-200
Total private	10,010	10,010	10,170	0	-160
Mining, logging, and construction	850	840	930	10	-80
Mining and logging	170	170	190	0	-20
Construction	680	670	740	10	-60
Manufacturing	1,480	1,470	1,470	10	10
Durable goods	1,090	1,090	1,100	0	-10
Wood product manufacturing	220	230	220	-10	0
Nondurable goods	390	380	370	10	20
Paper manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0 ¹
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,170	2,180	2,220	-10	-50
Retail trade	1,540	1,560	1,550	-20	-10
Information	60	60	60	0	0
Financial activities	500	500	490	0	10
Professional and business services	1,020	1,020	1,160	0	-140
Private education and health services	2,000	1,980	1,870	20	130
Leisure and hospitality	1,500	1,520	1,490	-20	10
Other services	430	440	480	-10	-50
Government	1,850	1,760	1,880	90	-30
Federal government	80	80	70	0	10
State government	230	230	220	0	10
Local government	1,540	1,450	1,590	90	-50
Local education	850	750	880	100	-30
Local government excluding educational services	690	700	710	-10	-20

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)

	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025
United States	4.1	4.1	4.3
State of Oregon	5.1	5.2	5.3
<u>Metropolitan Statistical Areas:</u>			
Albany (Linn County)	5.3	5.3	5.7
Bend (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties)	5.0	5.0	5.1
Corvallis (Benton County)	4.1	4.2	4.4
Eugene-Springfield (Lane County)	5.1	5.1	5.2
Grants Pass (Josephine County)	7.0	7.0	7.4
Medford (Jackson County)	5.7	5.7	5.8
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro (2)	4.8	4.9	5.0
Salem (Marion and Polk counties)	4.9	4.9	5.1
<u>Counties (1):</u>			
Baker	5.4	5.4	5.9
Benton	4.1	4.2	4.4
Clackamas	4.8	4.8	5.1
Clatsop	4.9	5.0	5.3
Columbia	5.9	6.0	6.2
Coos	5.6	5.7	6.1
Crook	6.0	6.0	5.9
Curry	6.1	6.2	6.9
Deschutes	4.8	4.8	4.9
Douglas	6.1	6.1	6.4
Gilliam	4.8	5.1	5.7
Grant	6.8	6.7	7.9
Harney	5.0	4.9	5.0
Hood River	3.9	3.9	4.3
Jackson	5.7	5.7	5.8
Jefferson	5.6	5.6	6.0
Josephine	7.0	7.0	7.4
Klamath	7.2	7.2	7.4
Lake	6.1	6.0	6.3
Lane	5.1	5.1	5.2
Lincoln	5.8	5.8	6.3
Linn	5.3	5.3	5.7
Malheur	4.4	4.5	4.9
Marion	5.0	5.0	5.2
Morrow	4.6	4.6	5.2
Multnomah	5.1	5.1	5.3
Polk	4.8	4.8	5.1
Sherman	4.7	4.8	5.4
Tillamook	5.2	5.2	5.4
Umatilla	5.3	5.3	5.7
Union	5.0	5.0	5.8
Wallowa	6.1	6.0	6.0
Wasco	5.1	5.1	5.4
Washington	4.8	4.9	5.1
Wheeler	4.2	4.3	4.3
Yamhill	4.7	4.8	5.0

(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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