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Employment in South Central Oregon: August 2026

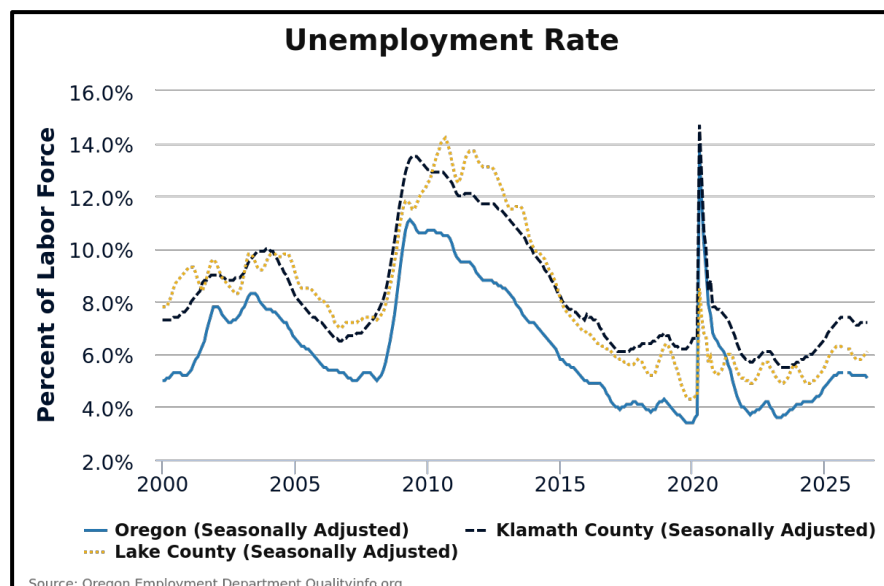
The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in South Central Oregon continued to see very little movement over the month, holding steady in Klamath County and increasing in Lake County.

Klamath County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in August, holding at 7.2%. Compared with the previous year, the unemployment rate is down 0.2 percentage point.

Klamath County's employment gains in August were smaller than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 80 (+0.3%) during the month, when an employment increase of 150 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 70 jobs (-0.3%) between July and August.

Losses were primarily coincentred within leisure and hospitality (-30 jobs), with smaller losses in professional and business services (-10 jobs), and state government (-10 jobs). Overall the public sector gained 60 jobs with the majority of gains registered at the local level (+60 jobs) and smaller gains at the federal level (+10 jobs). Private-sector gains were seen in private education and health services (+30

jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+10 jobs); other services (+10 jobs); and construction (+10 jobs) while all other industries saw little to no change over the month.



Over the past year Klamath County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 310 jobs (-1.3%); while a decline of 10 jobs was expected, nonfarm employment declined by 320 jobs. The majority of losses occurred within the private sector with losses seen in manufacturing (-90 jobs), primarily within durable goods (-60 jobs); professional and business services (-70 jobs); other services

(-60 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-40 jobs); private education and health services (-20 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-20 jobs). Private-sector gains were not as widespread and occurred in construction (+10 jobs) and financial activities (+10 jobs). Within the public sector (-40 jobs), losses occurred in both federal (-30 jobs) and local government (-10 jobs) while remaining unchanged at the state level.

Lake County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1% in August 2026, up from a rate of 6.0% in July. Over the year the unemployment rate is down 0.2 percentage point.

Lake County's employment losses were slightly larger than normal this August. Total nonfarm employment was down 20 (-0.9%) during the month, when an employment decrease of 10 jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 10 (-0.5%) between July and August.

Overall, industry employment showed very little change in August, with only minor losses occurring in leisure and hospitality (-10 jobs) and other services (-10 jobs). No industries recorded measurable gains during the month. Aside from these small shifts, activity across sectors remained largely flat.

Over the past year Lake County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has declined by 40 jobs (-1.8%); while no change was expected, total nonfarm employment has declined by 40 jobs. The public sector was down 90 jobs with local government losing 60 jobs, federal government losing 20 jobs, and state government down 10 jobs. Private-sector losses were minimal and occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (-10 jobs); financial activities (-10 jobs); and manufacturing (-10 jobs). Gains occurred in other services (+30 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (+30 jobs); and private education and health services (+20 jobs). Over the year, private-sector employment posted a net gain of 50 jobs, with gains outpacing losses.

Next Press Releases

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



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

September 22, 2026

Klamath 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	29,978	29,517	30,093	461	-115
Unemployed	2,037	2,067	2,165	-30	-128
Unemployment rate	6.8%	7.0%	7.2%	-0.2	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.2%	7.2%	7.4%	0.0	-0.2
Employed	27,941	27,450	27,928	491	13
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	23,500	23,420	23,820	80	-320
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	23,360	23,430	23,670	-70	-310
Total private	18,470	18,450	18,750	20	-280
Mining, logging, and construction	1,480	1,470	1,470	10	10
Mining and logging	100	100	100	0	0
Construction	1,380	1,370	1,370	10	10
Manufacturing	1,450	1,450	1,540	0	-90
Durable goods	1,370	1,370	1,430	0	-60
Wood product manufacturing	1,070	1,070	1,120	0	-50
Nondurable goods	80	80	110	0	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,600	4,590	4,620	10	-20
Wholesale trade	670	670	700	0	-30
Retail trade	3,120	3,130	3,070	-10	50
Food and beverage retailers	720	710	630	10	90
General merchandise retailers	840	830	870	10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	810	790	850	20	-40
Information	100	100	100	0	0
Financial activities	840	840	830	0	10
Professional and business services	1,540	1,550	1,610	-10	-70
Private education and health services	4,770	4,740	4,790	30	-20
Leisure and hospitality	2,800	2,830	2,840	-30	-40
Other services	890	880	950	10	-60
Government	5,030	4,970	5,070	60	-40
Federal government	790	780	820	10	-30
State government	640	650	640	-10	0
Local government	3,600	3,540	3,610	60	-10
Local education	1,960	1,910	1,980	50	-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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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September 22, 2026

Lake 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	3,710	3,680	3,661	30	49
Unemployed	204	209	195	-5	9
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.7%	5.3%	-0.2	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.1%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>6.3%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Employed	3,506	3,471	3,466	35	40
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,170	2,190	2,210	-20	-40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,120</i>	<i>2,130</i>	<i>2,160</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>-40</i>
Total private	1,190	1,210	1,140	-20	50
Mining, logging, and construction	160	160	130	0	30
Mining and logging	50	50	30	0	20
Construction	110	110	100	0	10
Manufacturing	200	200	210	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	340	350	0	-10
Retail trade	240	240	250	0	-10
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	30	30	40	0	-10
Professional and business services	70	70	70	0	0
Private education and health services	110	110	90	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	150	160	150	-10	0
Other services	110	120	80	-10	30
Government	980	980	1,070	0	-90
Federal government	210	210	230	0	-20
State government	210	210	220	0	-10
Local government	560	560	620	0	-60

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.

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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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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.

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