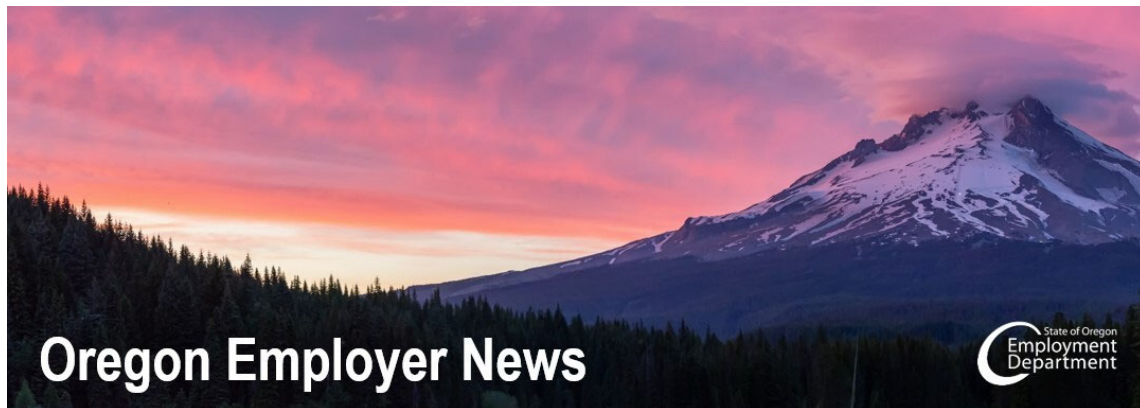




September 10, 2026

DCBS proposes workers' compensation rates for 2027

Under a proposal from the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), Oregon employers will, on average, pay 92 cents per \$100 of payroll for workers' compensation insurance in 2027.

- The **pure premium rate** would increase by **2.1%**. The rise is due to Senate Bill 1519 (2025) increasing benefits for workers injured on the job.
- The **premium assessment** would stay the same at **9.8%**.
- The **Workers' Benefit Fund (WBF) assessment** would increase to **2.2 cents per hour worked** in 2027.
- A new component of the WBF assessment is the **BOLI Expenses Fund (BEF)**, created by House Bill 4027 (2026). That component is **0.2 cents per hour worked** in 2027.
- The combination of the WBF and BEF components results in a total assessment of **2.4 cents per hour worked**.

You can provide comment on the proposed rates during public hearings on the [premium assessment](#) and the [WBF assessment](#) on **Thursday, Sept. 17**, at **3 p.m.** and **4 p.m.**, respectively. DCBS will accept written comments by **5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24**, by contacting the DCBS Director's Office at P.O. Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405.

DCBS will announce the final 2027 rates shortly after the public comment period closes.

Oregon Department of Revenue offers free payroll tax training



The Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR) offers free online payroll tax training each quarter for employers who want to learn more about payroll taxes.

The next training is **Tuesday, Sept. 15**, from **9 to 11:30 a.m.** via Zoom. [Register online](#) by 5 p.m. on **Monday, Sept. 14**.

Visit DOR's [payroll outreach and training webpage](#) for more information.

Local workforce analysts (economists) are available to help your business

Need local labor market data to support your business decisions? Whether you want to compare wages, understand hiring trends, or stay informed about your county's economy, your local workforce analysts can help.



Located throughout the state, the Employment Department's workforce analysts have recently shifted their regional assignments to better serve employers in counties across Oregon. Because our economists live and work in the regions they serve, they understand local labor markets and can provide timely, reliable information, often within one business day and at no cost.

Several workforce analysts have recently taken on new county assignments. Find your local economist below:

- [Brannigan Vogt](#) – Northwest Oregon (Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, and Benton)
- [Brittany Hjelte](#) – Washington County
- [Clare McGrady](#) – Central and North Central Oregon (Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco, and Wheeler)
- [Sofia Al-Bawani](#) – Eastern Multnomah County and the Mid-Valley (Linn, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill) until a new economist is hired
- [Nelson Gomes](#) – Western Multnomah County
- [Lynn Wallis](#) – Clackamas County
- [Jeff McAllister](#) – Southern and Southwest Oregon (Coos, Curry, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lake)
- [Jeremy Robertson](#) – Eastern Oregon (Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa)

- [Henry Fields](#) – Lane and Douglas Counties

Visit our [staff directory](#) to connect with the economist serving your area.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Join **Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation** and the **Oregon Commission for the Blind** for a free virtual Lunch and Learn on **Oct. 6** during [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#).



Hear from guest speakers who will share personal experiences, challenge common misconceptions about disability in the workplace, and highlight how inclusive hiring benefits everyone. You'll leave with practical insights and a fresh perspective on building a more inclusive workforce.

[Lunch and Learn for Business: Celebrating Talent and Transforming Workplaces](#)

- **When:** Tuesday, 6, noon–1 p.m.
- **Who:** Business owners, executives, HR professionals, hiring managers, department managers, recruiters, and employees
- **Where:** Virtual via Zoom (statewide)
- [Register today](#)

Save the Date: Oregon GOSH Conference, March 1–4, 2027

Mark your calendar for the [Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety and Health \(GOSH\) Conference](#), taking place **March 1–4, 2027**, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

The Pacific Northwest's largest workplace safety and health conference features **more than 160 workshops and educational sessions** designed to help employers build safer workplaces, reduce injuries, and strengthen their safety and health programs. Whether you're a safety committee member, supervisor, business leader, or safety professional, you'll find practical training and resources to take back to your workplace.

The 2027 keynote speaker is [Hoan Do](#), an international speaker, author, and finalist on NBC's *American Ninja Warrior*.



Conference registration is expected to open in early 2027, but you can get involved now. **[Nominations for the 2027 GOSH Awards are open through Oct. 12, 2026.](#)** The awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to workplace safety and health.

You can also sign up to receive [GOSH email updates](#) so you'll be the first to know when conference registration opens.

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. OED provides free help so you can use our services. Some examples are sign language and spoken-language interpreters, written materials in other languages, large print, audio, and other formats. To get help, please call 503-947-1444. TTY users call 711. You can also send an email to communications@employ.oregon.gov.

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