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Employment in Jackson County: January 2026 Payroll Employment Rose Slightly Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Jackson County fell by 1,650 jobs in December. Seasonally typical declines were estimated in retail trade (-870), construction (-200), and leisure and hospitality (-40). Other estimated job changes were minor, but mostly on the negative side. Other services added 30 jobs in January, the only published private-sector industry showing a gain. Government employment fell by 80 jobs over the month with losses in federal government (-60) and local government education (-40) and accounting for the loss.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) rose by 120 jobs, for a gain of 0.1%. Private education and health services posted the largest gain, adding 690 jobs. Job growth was also estimated in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+190); retail trade (+180); and leisure and hospitality (+130). Job losses were estimated in construction (-210); professional and business services (-200); financial activities (-100); information (-60); and wholesale trade (-50). Government employment declined by 470 jobs over the year. Losses were posted in local government education (-530) and federal government (-80)

Jackson County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.9% in January, unchanged from December and up slightly from 5.1% in January 2025.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, April 21st, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for February on Wednesday, April 15th.

Notes:

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. These preliminary estimates of jobs and other labor force data are produced in cooperation with the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, are based largely on a survey of businesses and a survey of households, and are subject to later revision.

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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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Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

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Medford-Ashland MSA (Jackson County) Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025	January 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	106,456	107,132	106,223	-676	233
Unemployed	6,988	5,820	6,531	1,168	457
Unemployment rate	6.6%	5.4%	6.1%	1.2	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.9%	5.9%	5.1%	0.0	0.8
Employed	99,468	101,312	99,692	-1,844	-224
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	89,880	91,530	89,760	-1,650	120
Total private	78,250	79,820	77,660	-1,570	590
Mining, logging, and construction	5,270	5,500	5,480	-230	-210
Mining and logging	420	450	420	-30	0
Construction	4,850	5,050	5,060	-200	-210
Manufacturing	6,620	6,640	6,590	-20	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	19,480	20,470	19,160	-990	320
Wholesale trade	2,530	2,550	2,580	-20	-50
Retail trade	13,160	14,030	12,980	-870	180
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,790	3,890	3,600	-100	190
Information	840	860	900	-20	-60
Financial activities	3,510	3,530	3,610	-20	-100
Professional and business services	8,070	8,210	8,270	-140	-200
Private education and health services	21,170	21,310	20,480	-140	690
Health care and social assistance	20,240	20,250	19,450	-10	790
Leisure and hospitality	10,600	10,640	10,470	-40	130
Accommodation and food services	8,880	9,030	8,790	-150	90
Other services	2,690	2,660	2,700	30	-10
Government	11,630	11,710	12,100	-80	-470
Federal government	1,790	1,850	1,870	-60	-80
State government	1,330	1,330	1,330	0	0
State education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local government	8,510	8,530	8,900	-20	-390
Local education	5,170	5,210	5,700	-40	-530

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.

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