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Employment in Jackson County: April 2026 Payroll Employment Slips Slightly Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Jackson County climbed by 440 jobs in April. Employment gains were estimated in leisure and hospitality (+250); construction (+80); health care and social assistance (+50); professional and business services (+50); and other services (+40). On the other hand, losses were posted in retail trade (-80) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-20). Government employment showed little change, with local government education dropping by 20 jobs in April.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) fell by 110 jobs, for a loss of -0.1%. Private education and health services posted the largest gain, adding 1,300 jobs. Job growth was also estimated in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+270), and other services (+50). Industries showing job declines since April 2025 included professional and business services (-480); manufacturing (-190); financial activities (-160); and retail trade (-100). Government employment declined by 690 jobs over the year. Losses were posted in local government education (-580), and federal government (-150).

Jackson County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.7% in April, unchanged from March and up slightly from 5.1% in April 2025.

Next Press Releases

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

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

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Medford-Ashland MSA (Jackson 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	107,196	107,295	106,894	-99	302
Unemployed	5,626	6,408	5,388	-782	238
Unemployment rate	5.2%	6.0%	5.0%	-0.8	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.7%	5.7%	5.1%	0.0	0.6
Employed	101,570	100,887	101,506	683	64
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	90,580	90,140	90,690	440	-110
Total private	78,980	78,550	78,400	430	580
Mining, logging, and construction	5,640	5,550	5,680	90	-40
Mining and logging	410	400	440	10	-30
Construction	5,230	5,150	5,240	80	-10
Manufacturing	6,430	6,400	6,620	30	-190
Trade, transportation, and utilities	18,960	19,040	18,830	-80	130
Wholesale trade	2,600	2,580	2,640	20	-40
Retail trade	12,520	12,600	12,620	-80	-100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,840	3,860	3,570	-20	270
Information	870	860	920	10	-50
Financial activities	3,480	3,490	3,640	-10	-160
Professional and business services	7,890	7,840	8,370	50	-480
Private education and health services	22,100	22,050	20,800	50	1,300
Health care and social assistance	21,140	21,090	19,760	50	1,380
Leisure and hospitality	10,860	10,610	10,840	250	20
Accommodation and food services	8,970	8,810	9,080	160	-110
Other services	2,750	2,710	2,700	40	50
Government	11,600	11,590	12,290	10	-690
Federal government	1,740	1,740	1,890	0	-150
State government	1,320	1,320	1,320	0	0
State education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local government	8,540	8,530	9,080	10	-540
Local education	5,240	5,260	5,820	-20	-580

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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