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Employment in Jackson County: September 2026

Payroll Employment Falls Slightly Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Jackson rose by 420 jobs in September. Job gains were estimated in retail trade (+200); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+40). The largest increase was due to seasonally typical increases in local government education (+680). Numerous industries shed jobs, but most changes were minor with the exception being the seasonally typical loss of 310 leisure and hospitality jobs.

Over the year, Jackson County payroll employment fell by 320 jobs, a loss of 0.3%. Private education and health services added 1,020 jobs. Smaller increases were estimated in wholesale trade (+70); information (+50); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+50); and other services (+40). Industries losing jobs over the year included retail trade (-700); manufacturing (-390); construction (-140); leisure and hospitality (-110); mining and logging (-100); and financial activities (-80).

Government employment slipped by 30 jobs over the year. The loss of 110 federal government jobs was offset by an increase of 160 jobs in local government education.

Jackson County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.6% in September, little changed from the August rate and down just slightly from the year ago rate of 5.9% in September 2025.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Nov. 24, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

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

October 20, 2026

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

	--Change From--				
	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	August 2026	September 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	109,826	110,852	109,060	-1,026	766
Unemployed	5,144	6,565	5,946	-1,421	-802
Unemployment rate	4.7%	5.9%	5.5%	-1.2	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.6%</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>-0.3</i>
Employed	104,682	104,287	103,114	395	1,568
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	91,920	91,500	92,240	420	-320
Total private	80,090	80,290	80,380	-200	-290
Mining, logging, and construction	5,710	5,700	5,950	10	-240
Mining and logging	320	320	420	0	-100
Construction	5,390	5,380	5,530	10	-140
Manufacturing	6,310	6,320	6,700	-10	-390
Trade, transportation, and utilities	19,690	19,470	20,270	220	-580
Wholesale trade	2,640	2,660	2,570	-20	70
Retail trade	13,040	12,840	13,740	200	-700
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	4,010	3,970	3,960	40	50
Information	940	950	890	-10	50
Financial activities	3,500	3,520	3,580	-20	-80
Professional and business services	8,160	8,180	8,160	-20	0
Private education and health services	22,110	22,150	21,090	-40	1,020
Health care and social assistance	21,190	21,220	20,100	-30	1,090
Leisure and hospitality	10,930	11,240	11,040	-310	-110
Accommodation and food services	9,140	9,330	9,310	-190	-170
Other services	2,740	2,760	2,700	-20	40
Government	11,830	11,210	11,860	620	-30
Federal government	1,790	1,780	1,900	10	-110
State government	1,340	1,340	1,340	0	0
State education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local government	8,700	8,090	8,620	610	80
Local education	5,450	4,770	5,290	680	160

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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