

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 27, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Guy Tauer, Regional Economist
Guy.R.Tauer@employ.oregon.gov
(541) 816-8396

Employment in Josephine County: April 2026 Job Losses Estimated in Most Industries Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Josephine County rose by 190 jobs in April. Job gains were estimated in leisure and hospitality (+90); private education and health services (+40); construction (+30); and retail trade (+20). Employment was essentially flat in other published industries. Government employment also showed little movement in April.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Grants Pass MSA (Josephine County) decreased by 130 jobs, a loss of -0.5%. Employment fell over the year in most private-sector industries, excluding private education and health services, which gained 310 jobs. Job declines occurred in retail trade (-70); manufacturing (-50); construction (-40); information (-40); professional and business services (-40); and wholesale trade (-40). Transportation, warehousing, and utilities employment decreased by 30 jobs since April 2025.

Government employment fell by 110 jobs over the year. Losses occurred in local government education (-90) while federal government lost 20 jobs over the year.

Josephine County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 6.7% in April, little changed over the month and up slightly from the April 2025 rate of 6.2%.

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.

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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe, enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit QualityInfo.org, select Tools, and choose LAUS or CES from the dropdown menu. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

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.

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

May 27, 2026

Grants Pass MSA (Josephine 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	34,904	35,001	35,171	-97	-267
Unemployed	2,161	2,459	2,207	-298	-46
Unemployment rate	6.2%	7.0%	6.3%	-0.8	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.7%	6.8%	6.2%	-0.1	0.5
Employed	32,743	32,542	32,964	201	-221
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	26,910	26,720	27,040	190	-130
Total private	23,440	23,250	23,460	190	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	1,220	1,190	1,260	30	-40
Mining and logging	90	90	90	0	0
Construction	1,130	1,100	1,170	30	-40
Manufacturing	2,700	2,710	2,750	-10	-50
Wood product manufacturing	500	500	540	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	5,000	4,980	5,130	20	-130
Wholesale trade	540	540	570	0	-30
Retail trade	3,990	3,970	4,060	20	-70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	470	470	500	0	-30
Information	220	220	260	0	-40
Financial activities	1,440	1,440	1,480	0	-40
Professional and business services	1,760	1,750	1,780	10	-20
Private education and health services	6,810	6,770	6,500	40	310
Leisure and hospitality	3,260	3,170	3,270	90	-10
Other services	1,030	1,020	1,030	10	0
Government	3,470	3,470	3,580	0	-110
Federal government	270	260	290	10	-20
State government	500	510	500	-10	0
Local government	2,700	2,700	2,790	0	-90
Local education	1,840	1,850	1,930	-10	-90
Local government excluding educational services	860	850	860	10	0

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.

###