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## **Employment in Jackson County: February 2024 Declines in Retail Trade Offset by Gain in Other Industries**

Total payroll employment in Jackson County rose by 270 jobs in February as many industries added jobs over the month. The notable exceptions were retail trade (-110) and manufacturing (-60). On the positive side, jobs were added in construction (+130), private education and health services (+120), leisure and hospitality (+60), and professional and business services (+30). Government employment gained jobs in local (+80), federal (+30), and state government (+10). Most of the local government rise was in local education.

Over the past year, payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) lost 130 jobs, a decrease of -0.1%. Since February 2023, industries adding jobs included private education and health services (+780) and construction (+150). Industries showing over-the-year losses were professional and business services (-580); financial activities (-200); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-140); other services (-120); leisure and hospitality (-100); retail trade (-80); information (-80); and wholesale trade (-50). Jackson County payroll employment is 1,620 jobs below the total reached in February 2020, prior to the pandemic.

Government employment was up by 300 jobs over the year. State government (+120), local government (+110), and federal government (+70) all gained jobs over the past 12 months. Jackson County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 4.0% in February, edging up from 3.8% in January and down from 4.9% in February 2023.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**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](http://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](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

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Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

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

	--Change From--				
	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	January 2024	February 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	107,016	105,990	104,938	1,026	2,078
Unemployed	6,089	6,102	5,217	-13	872
Unemployment rate	5.7%	5.8%	5.0%	-0.1	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.3%	5.4%	0.2	-0.9
Employed	100,927	99,888	99,721	1,039	1,206
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	88,550	88,280	88,680	270	-130
Total private	76,430	76,280	76,860	150	-430
Mining, logging, and construction	5,730	5,600	5,590	130	140
Mining and logging	440	440	450	0	-10
Construction	5,290	5,160	5,140	130	150
Manufacturing	7,080	7,140	7,080	-60	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	19,250	19,360	19,520	-110	-270
Wholesale trade	2,540	2,520	2,590	20	-50
Retail trade	13,330	13,440	13,410	-110	-80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,380	3,400	3,520	-20	-140
Information	890	890	970	0	-80
Financial activities	3,620	3,620	3,820	0	-200
Professional and business services	7,780	7,750	8,360	30	-580
Private education and health services	19,260	19,140	18,480	120	780
Health care and social assistance	18,310	18,210	17,370	100	940
Leisure and hospitality	10,270	10,210	10,370	60	-100
Accommodation and food services	8,780	8,730	8,900	50	-120
Other services	2,550	2,570	2,670	-20	-120
Government	12,120	12,000	11,820	120	300
Federal government	1,900	1,870	1,830	30	70
State government	1,340	1,330	1,220	10	120
State education	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	8,880	8,800	8,770	80	110
Local education	5,770	5,710	5,770	60	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.

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