STATE OF OREGON EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

GUY R. TAUER, REGIONAL ECONOMIST
WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH DIVISION **April 23, 2013**

WORKSOURCE OREGON EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

News

State of Oregon • Employment Department • www.QualityInfo.org

Next Release Date May 20, 2013

In the Medford MSA (Jackson County), total payroll employment rose by 60 jobs in March, according to estimates produced by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Over the year, the county gained 460 nonfarm payroll jobs.

The goods producing sectors of construction and manufacturing gained 80 and 70 jobs, respectively, in March. Retail trade employment dropped by 110 jobs over the month. Professional and business services posted an estimated decline of 220 jobs. Leisure and hospitality employment continued its seasonal upturn gaining 140 jobs. Health care and social assistance also added employment in March, up by 50. Government employment had a net gain of 60 jobs over the month. Increases in federal government (+30) and state government (+50) were slightly countered by a loss of 20 in local government education.

Over the year gains were confined to the private sector. Construction employment may be finally emerging from its long retrenchment, adding 140 jobs since March 2012. Manufacturing gained 90 jobs over that time. Transportation, warehousing and utilities, an eclectic amalgamation of industries, gained 170 jobs over the past year. Health care and social assistance (+330) and accommodations and food services (+280) both posted notable job increases. Wholesale trade and other services were the underperforming private-sector industries since March 2012, with employment down by 60 and 80 jobs, respectively.

Government employment was generally down over the year. State (-70), and local government (-170) showed reduced job counts since March 2012, while federal employment was unchanged.

Equal Opportunity program - auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities

Unemployment Rates

	March 2013	Feb 2012	March 2012
Jackson County ("raw")	10.7	11.4	12.2
Seasonally Adjusted	10.0	10.3	10.6
Josephine County ("raw")	12.0	12.8	12.9
Seasonally Adjusted	11.4	11.6	11.5
Oregon ("raw")	8.7	9.1	9.5
Seasonally Adjusted	8.2	8.3	8.8
United States ("raw")	7.6	8.1	8.4
Seasonally Adjusted	7.6	7.7	8.2

Current Labor Force and Industry Employment
MEDFORD-ASHLAND MSA (JACKSON COUNTY)

Labor Force Status	Mar 2013	Feb 2013	Mar 2012	-Change from- Feb 2013	Mar 2012
Civilian Labor Force	96,525	97,799	100,301	-1,274	-3,776
Unemployed	10,339	11,104	12,187	-765	-1,848
Unemployment Rate	10.7%	11.4%	12.2%	-0.6	-1.4
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate	10.0%	10.3%	10.6%	-0.3	-0.6
Employed	86,186	86,695	88,114	-509	-1,928

Nonfarm Payroll Employment	Mar 2013	Feb 2013	Mar 2012	-Change from- Feb 2013	Mar 2012
Total Nonfarm Payroll Employment	74,290	74,230	73,830	60	460
Total private	61,850	61,850	61,150	0	700
Mining and logging	280	260	290	20	-10
Construction	2,700	2,620	2,560	80	140
Manufacturing	6,670	6,600	6,580	70	90
Trade, transportation, and utilities	16,130	16,260	16,030	-130	100
Wholesale trade	2,040	2,050	2,100	-10	-60
Retail trade	11,270	11,380	11,280	-110	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,820	2,830	2,650	-10	170
Information	1,610	1,600	1,620	10	-10
Financial activities	3,420	3,450	3,420	-30	0
Professional and business services	6,420	6,640	6,360	-220	60
Educational and health services	13,520	13,460	13,170	60	350
Health care and social assistance	12,740	12,690	12,410	50	330
Health care	11,350	11,310	10,990	40	360
Leisure and hospitality	8,760	8,620	8,700	140	60
Accomodation and food services	7,570	7,440	7,290	130	280
Other services	2,340	2,340	2,420	0	-80
Government	12,440	12,380	12,680	60	-240
Federal government	1,670	1,640	1,670	30	0
State government	3,030	2,980	3,100	50	-70
State education	1,510	1,490	1,550	20	-40
Local government	7,740	7,760	7,910	-20	-170
Local education	5,140	5,160	5,170	-20	-30
Labor/Management Disputants	0	0	0	0	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.

Labor Force Status: Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Employed includes nonfarm 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: 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.

STATE OF OREGON EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

GUY R. TAUER, REGIONAL ECONOMIST
WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH DIVISION **April 23, 2013**

For many years, monthly employment estimates for Oregon and its metropolitan areas were developed by Oregon Employment Department economists. These economists were also responsible for revising the initial sample-based estimates annually, based on more complete information from Oregon businesses. This revisions process is known as benchmarking.

In March 2011, responsibility for the monthly employment estimates for Oregon and its metropolitan areas shifted to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The estimates developed by BLS are more heavily dependent on the sample of businesses and less reliant on knowledge of local economic events. They are also likely to demonstrate increased month-to-month variability.

BLS staff is also taking over responsibility for the annual benchmarking process. The results of this process are reflected in the revised data for 2010 and 2011.

Comments or questions should be directed to Graham Slater, Administrator of the Oregon Employment Department's Workforce and Economic Research Division, at (503) 947-1212.