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## **Employment in Jackson County: December 2019**

### **Seasonal Retail Trade Losses Reduce Payroll Employment**

Total payroll employment fell by 720 jobs in December. The loss was due to typical seasonal reductions in retail trade (-720) and in construction (-100). Local government education employment fell by 110 jobs over the month while there were also smaller estimated declines in professional and business services (-40); manufacturing (-20); and mining and logging (-20). Offsetting those losses, a few sectors saw job gains in the last month of the decade. Those included private education and health services (+110); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+40); and other services (+20).

Over the past year, payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) added 690 jobs for a growth rate of 0.8 percent, slightly slower than Oregon's overall job growth at 1.1 percent. Since December 2018, estimates show the largest declines were in accommodation and food services, and mining, logging, and construction, both down by 120 jobs. Another "goods-producing" industry with a job loss over the year was manufacturing (-60). More than offsetting those losses, job growth was estimated in private educational and health services (+490); other services (+140); wholesale trade (+90); retail trade (+80); and financial activities (+60). Government employment increased by 170 jobs over the year, with gains in local government education (+110); state government (+50); and federal government (+30).

Looking ahead to 2020, many forecasts are calling for continued, but slower job growth as this economic expansion grows long in the tooth entering its 11<sup>th</sup> year. Our current stretch of historically low unemployment rates and slower labor force growth in recent months are headwinds to job growth in the coming year.

#### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Notes:**

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted.

The Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly Oregon payroll employment and labor force data. 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. This press release incorporates, for the first time, the annual revisions to the data for 2016 and prior years.

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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For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.





Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

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

|  | --Change From--  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  | December<br>2019 | November<br>2019 | December<br>2018 | November<br>2019 | December<br>2018 |
| <b>Labor Force Status</b>                      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Civilian labor force                           | 104,932          | 106,287          | 105,313          | -1,355           | -381             |
| Unemployed                                     | 3,216            | 3,417            | 5,086            | -201             | -1,870           |
| Unemployment rate                              | 3.1%             | 3.2%             | 4.8%             | -0.1             | -1.7             |
| <i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i> | 4.1%             | 4.4%             | 5.0%             | -0.3             | -0.9             |
| Employed                                       | 101,716          | 102,870          | 100,227          | -1,154           | 1,489            |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Total nonfarm employment                       | 90,730           | 91,450           | 90,040           | -720             | 690              |
| Total private                                  | 78,810           | 79,370           | 78,290           | -560             | 520              |
| Mining, logging, and construction              | 5,120            | 5,240            | 5,240            | -120             | -120             |
| Mining and logging                             | 430              | 450              | 480              | -20              | -50              |
| Construction                                   | 4,690            | 4,790            | 4,760            | -100             | -70              |
| Manufacturing                                  | 7,840            | 7,860            | 7,900            | -20              | -60              |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities           | 21,150           | 21,640           | 20,970           | -490             | 180              |
| Wholesale trade                                | 2,570            | 2,570            | 2,480            | 0                | 90               |
| Retail trade                                   | 15,150           | 15,680           | 15,070           | -530             | 80               |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities     | 3,430            | 3,390            | 3,420            | 40               | 10               |
| Information                                    | 1,270            | 1,290            | 1,290            | -20              | -20              |
| Financial activities                           | 4,100            | 4,100            | 4,040            | 0                | 60               |
| Professional and business services             | 7,600            | 7,640            | 7,630            | -40              | -30              |
| Education and health services                  | 17,720           | 17,610           | 17,230           | 110              | 490              |
| Health care and social assistance              | 16,730           | 16,700           | 16,360           | 30               | 370              |
| Leisure and hospitality                        | 11,090           | 11,090           | 11,210           | 0                | -120             |
| Accommodation and food services                | 9,780            | 9,780            | 9,730            | 0                | 50               |
| Other services                                 | 2,920            | 2,900            | 2,780            | 20               | 140              |
| Government                                     | 11,920           | 12,080           | 11,750           | -160             | 170              |
| Federal government                             | 1,790            | 1,800            | 1,760            | -10              | 30               |
| State government                               | 1,020            | 1,060            | 970              | -40              | 50               |
| State education                                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                |
| Local government                               | 9,110            | 9,220            | 9,020            | -110             | 90               |
| Local education                                | 6,280            | 6,390            | 6,170            | -110             | 110              |

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.

