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Employment in Jackson County: May 2020 Phase 2 Reopening Brings a Few Jobs Back

Total payroll employment in Jackson County rose by 3,170 jobs in May, a gain of 4.1 percent over the month. Leisure and hospitality had the largest gain with 1,660 jobs added. The start of Phase 2 re-opening allowing restaurants to again serve meals inside their doors allowed some recall of laid-off workers. Other sectors with estimated gains during the infancy of re-opening included retail trade (+560); health care and social assistance (+550); professional and business services (+250); construction (+240); and other services (+100). These were the sectors that have generally seen large employment losses in March and especially in April as a response to the stay-at-home and executive orders while the pandemic gripped the economy. Government employment fell by 300 jobs in May, mostly as a result of losses in local government education.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) fell by 9,650, a drop of 10.8 percent. All published private-sector industries continue to show over-the-year losses in Jackson County. Since May 2019, estimates show the largest declines were in many of the industries where initial claims for unemployment insurance surged during the past few months. Leisure and hospitality accounts for more than one-half of total job losses, down by 5,300 jobs. Other industries with substantial declines include manufacturing (-820); health care and social assistance (-730); and other services (-460). Government employment declined by 1,170 jobs over the year, with local government education accounting for most of that loss and down by 1,040 jobs since May 2019. Mining, logging, and construction employment fell by only 30 jobs over the year.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the June county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, July 21st, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Tuesday, July 14th.

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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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 www.QualityInfo.org, select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. 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 coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19. For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.
Data and analysis related to COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.qualityinfo.org/covid-19>

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

	--Change From--				
	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	April 2020	May 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	105,133	102,887	102,918	2,246	2,215
Unemployed	14,917	16,412	4,170	-1,495	10,747
Unemployment rate	14.2%	16.0%	4.1%	-1.8	10.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	14.4%	15.6%	4.6%	-1.2	9.8
Employed	90,216	86,475	98,748	3,741	-8,532
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	79,760	76,590	89,410	3,170	-9,650
Total private	68,970	65,500	77,450	3,470	-8,480
Mining, logging, and construction	5,170	4,890	5,200	280	-30
Mining and logging	450	410	470	40	-20
Construction	4,720	4,480	4,730	240	-10
Manufacturing	7,210	7,170	8,030	40	-820
Trade, transportation, and utilities	19,130	18,450	19,330	680	-200
Wholesale trade	2,560	2,480	2,560	80	0
Retail trade	13,400	12,840	13,460	560	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,170	3,130	3,310	40	-140
Information	1,050	1,100	1,270	-50	-220
Financial activities	3,840	3,820	4,070	20	-230
Professional and business services	7,290	7,040	7,550	250	-260
Education and health services	16,400	15,910	17,360	490	-960
Health care and social assistance	15,720	15,170	16,450	550	-730
Leisure and hospitality	6,580	4,920	11,880	1,660	-5,300
Accommodation and food services	5,490	4,340	10,130	1,150	-4,640
Other services	2,300	2,200	2,760	100	-460
Government	10,790	11,090	11,960	-300	-1,170
Federal government	1,810	1,790	1,830	20	-20
State government	980	1,020	990	-40	-10
State education	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	8,000	8,280	9,140	-280	-1,140
Local education	5,180	5,480	6,220	-300	-1,040

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.

