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## **Employment in Jackson County: October 2020 Most Industries Remain Below Pre-pandemic Levels**

Total payroll employment in Jackson County rose by 850 jobs in October. Local government education employment increased by 440 jobs. The other sectors contributing to the month's job gains were retail trade (+450) and health care and social assistance (+320). Slight job gains were also tallied in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+50) and in wholesale trade (+40). Seasonally expected losses were estimated in leisure and hospitality (-300) and construction (-60). Government employment climbed by 380 jobs in October. The increase in local government education was slightly countered by a loss of 50 jobs in federal government.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) fell by 4,530, a drop of 4.9 percent. Many published private-sector industries continue to show over-the-year losses in Jackson County with the exceptions being health care and social assistance (+470); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+90). Since October 2019, leisure and hospitality accounts for more than half of total job losses, down by 2,300 jobs. Other industries with substantial declines include professional and business services (-680); retail trade (-550); other services (-320); manufacturing (-180); information (-120); and financial activities (-90). Government employment fell by 460 jobs over the year with losses in local government education (-530) slightly offset by gains in federal government (+100) and state government (+40).

As the recent two-week or possibly longer freeze orders that will impact operations and likely employment at restaurants, bars, gyms, movie theaters, among others, didn't occur until late in the month, employment impacts may not be fully represented in the November employment data.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the

statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Tuesday, December 15<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 coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit [https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment\\_COVID19](https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

Data and analysis related to COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.qualityinfo.org/covid-19>

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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--				
	October 2020	September 2020	October 2019	September 2020	October 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	106,754	101,690	104,139	5,064	2,615
Unemployed	6,768	7,505	3,311	-737	3,457
Unemployment rate	6.3%	7.4%	3.2%	-1.1	3.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.6%	8.7%	3.8%	-1.1	3.8
Employed	99,986	94,185	100,828	5,801	-842
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	87,240	86,390	91,770	850	-4,530
Total private	75,960	75,490	80,030	470	-4,070
Mining, logging, and construction	5,250	5,310	5,370	-60	-120
Mining and logging	480	480	500	0	-20
Construction	4,770	4,830	4,870	-60	-100
Manufacturing	7,870	7,870	8,050	0	-180
Trade, transportation, and utilities	20,350	19,810	20,900	540	-550
Wholesale trade	2,500	2,460	2,590	40	-90
Retail trade	14,390	13,940	14,940	450	-550
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,460	3,410	3,370	50	90
Information	1,060	1,060	1,180	0	-120
Financial activities	4,060	4,070	4,150	-10	-90
Professional and business services	7,610	7,600	8,290	10	-680
Education and health services	18,040	17,750	17,750	290	290
Health care and social assistance	17,310	16,990	16,840	320	470
Leisure and hospitality	9,240	9,540	11,540	-300	-2,300
Accommodation and food services	8,410	8,470	9,840	-60	-1,430
Other services	2,480	2,480	2,800	0	-320
Government	11,280	10,900	11,740	380	-460
Federal government	1,970	2,020	1,870	-50	100
State government	1,040	1,030	1,000	10	40
State education	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	8,270	7,850	8,870	420	-600
Local education	5,480	5,040	6,010	440	-530

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.

