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Employment in Josephine County: August 2020 Pandemic Recovery Continues into Summer

Total payroll employment in Josephine County rose by 90 jobs in August. A few industries had estimated job gains including retail trade (+80); professional and business services (+30); and construction (+20). Employment losses occurred in local government education (-270); financial activities (-50); and manufacturing (-30). Effects from the fires ravaging our area may begin to show up in the September figures, as the fires impacted the local area during the monthly survey reference period. While the fires have so far not impacted the major urban area of Grants Pass directly, the area is dealing with the impacts of the smoke and some road closures. Localized impacts may be felt in the Illinois Valley area businesses where the fires have been.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Grants Pass MSA (Josephine County) fell by 2,610, a drop of 9.5 percent. Since August 2019 estimates show the largest declines were in industries where initial unemployment insurance claims surged in the spring. Industries losing the most jobs included leisure and hospitality (-890); education and health services (-750); retail trade (-220); professional and business services (-240); and manufacturing (-110). The only published industries showing gains over the year were wholesale trade (+40) and wood product manufacturing (+30).

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, October 20th, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, October 13th.

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.

The department also makes the BLS-produced nonfarm payroll employment series for metropolitan areas available. These are revised annually by BLS.

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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.

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 & Economic Research Division

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Grants Pass MSA (Josephine County) Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	July 2020	August 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	34,373	34,384	36,275	-11	-1,902
Unemployed	2,799	3,691	1,833	-892	966
Unemployment rate	8.1%	10.7%	5.1%	-2.6	3.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	8.2%	10.6%	4.8%	-2.4	3.4
Employed	31,574	30,693	34,442	881	-2,868
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	24,950	24,860	27,560	90	-2,610
Total private	22,140	22,080	24,490	60	-2,350
Mining, logging, and construction	1,250	1,220	1,270	30	-20
Mining and logging	90	80	90	10	0
Construction	1,160	1,140	1,180	20	-20
Manufacturing	3,010	3,040	3,120	-30	-110
Wood product manufacturing	550	540	520	10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	5,280	5,190	5,450	90	-170
Wholesale trade	810	820	770	-10	40
Retail trade	3,970	3,890	4,190	80	-220
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	500	480	490	20	10
Information	250	250	260	0	-10
Financial activities	1,500	1,550	1,620	-50	-120
Professional and business services	2,020	1,990	2,260	30	-240
Education and health services	4,940	4,930	5,690	10	-750
Leisure and hospitality	2,970	2,990	3,860	-20	-890
Other services	920	920	960	0	-40
Government	2,810	2,780	3,070	30	-260
Federal government	290	300	310	-10	-20
State government	450	460	450	-10	0
Local government	2,070	2,020	2,310	50	-240
Local education	1,190	1,130	1,460	60	-270
Local government excluding educational services	880	890	850	-10	30

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.

