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Employment in Jackson County: February 2026 Payroll Employment Rose Slightly Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Jackson County was unchanged in February. Job losses were estimated in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-90); leisure and hospitality (-40); and retail trade (-40). Jobs were added in a few industries including construction (+50); manufacturing (+50); and professional and business services (+40). Government employment rose by 60 jobs. A gain was posted in local government education (+70) and that was slightly offset by a loss of 20 in federal government.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) rose by 300 jobs, for a gain of 0.3%. Private education and health services posted the largest gain, adding 800 jobs. Job growth was also estimated in leisure and hospitality (+240); manufacturing (+80); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+80). Losses were estimated in professional and business services (-210); construction (-130); information (-80); financial activities (-70); and wholesale trade (-40). Government employment declined by 580 jobs over the year. Losses were posted in local government education (-510) and federal government (-90).

Jackson County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.8% in February, little changed from January and up slightly from 5.1% in February 2025.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, May 5th, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Friday, May 1st.

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 help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

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Workforce & Economic Research Division

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

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	107,062	106,314	106,019	748	1,043
Unemployed	6,805	6,986	6,321	-181	484
Unemployment rate	6.4%	6.6%	6.0%	-0.2	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.8%	5.9%	5.1%	-0.1	0.7
Employed	100,257	99,328	99,698	929	559
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	89,750	89,750	89,450	0	300
Total private	78,060	78,120	77,180	-60	880
Mining, logging, and construction	5,320	5,280	5,450	40	-130
Mining and logging	420	430	420	-10	0
Construction	4,900	4,850	5,030	50	-130
Manufacturing	6,670	6,620	6,590	50	80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	19,240	19,370	18,970	-130	270
Wholesale trade	2,530	2,530	2,570	0	-40
Retail trade	13,010	13,050	12,780	-40	230
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,700	3,790	3,620	-90	80
Information	820	840	900	-20	-80
Financial activities	3,510	3,520	3,580	-10	-70
Professional and business services	8,060	8,020	8,270	40	-210
Private education and health services	21,230	21,220	20,430	10	800
Health care and social assistance	20,270	20,260	19,410	10	860
Leisure and hospitality	10,530	10,580	10,290	-50	240
Accommodation and food services	8,770	8,890	8,660	-120	110
Other services	2,680	2,670	2,700	10	-20
Government	11,690	11,630	12,270	60	-580
Federal government	1,770	1,790	1,860	-20	-90
State government	1,330	1,330	1,340	0	-10
State education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local government	8,590	8,510	9,070	80	-480
Local education	5,240	5,170	5,850	70	-610

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.

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