

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Guy Tauer, Regional Economist  
Guy.R.Tauer@employ.oregon.gov  
(541) 816-8396

## **Employment in Jackson County: March 2026 Payroll Employment Rose Slightly Over the Year**

Total payroll employment in Jackson County inched up by 110 jobs in March. Employment gains were estimated in leisure and hospitality (+140); manufacturing (+20); construction (+20); and health care and social assistance (+20). Job declines were posted in retail trade (-50); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-30); and financial activities (-30). Government employment showed little change, with local government education gaining 20 jobs in March.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) rose by 230 jobs, for a gain of 0.3%. Private education and health services posted the largest gain, adding 730 jobs. Job growth was also estimated in retail trade (+290); leisure and hospitality (+160); manufacturing (+110); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+70). Losses were estimated in construction (-240); professional and business services (-150); wholesale trade (-70); and information (-60). Government employment declined by 600 jobs over the year. Losses were posted in local government education (-620) and federal government (-90).

Jackson County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.8% in March, unchanged from February and up slightly from 5.2% in March 2025.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 20<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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to [www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe](http://www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe), enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at [www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit QualityInfo.org, select Tools, and choose LAUS or CES from the dropdown menu. 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 help finding jobs and training resources, go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://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](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a [OED\\_Communications@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

May 5, 2026

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

	--Change From--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	107,303	107,053	106,514	250	789
Unemployed	6,422	6,800	6,336	-378	86
Unemployment rate	6.0%	6.4%	5.9%	-0.4	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.8%	5.8%	5.2%	0.0	0.6
Employed	100,881	100,253	100,178	628	703
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	89,860	89,750	89,630	110	230
Total private	78,160	78,060	77,330	100	830
Mining, logging, and construction	5,350	5,320	5,600	30	-250
Mining and logging	430	420	440	10	-10
Construction	4,920	4,900	5,160	20	-240
Manufacturing	6,690	6,670	6,580	20	110
Trade, transportation, and utilities	19,150	19,240	18,860	-90	290
Wholesale trade	2,520	2,530	2,590	-10	-70
Retail trade	12,960	13,010	12,670	-50	290
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,670	3,700	3,600	-30	70
Information	830	820	890	10	-60
Financial activities	3,480	3,510	3,450	-30	30
Professional and business services	8,070	8,060	8,220	10	-150
Private education and health services	21,240	21,230	20,540	10	700
Health care and social assistance	20,290	20,270	19,560	20	730
Leisure and hospitality	10,670	10,530	10,510	140	160
Accommodation and food services	8,870	8,770	8,820	100	50
Other services	2,680	2,680	2,680	0	0
Government	11,700	11,690	12,300	10	-600
Federal government	1,780	1,770	1,870	10	-90
State government	1,320	1,330	1,330	-10	-10
State education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local government	8,600	8,590	9,100	10	-500
Local education	5,260	5,240	5,880	20	-620

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.

###