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Employment in Josephine County: January 2026 Job Losses Estimated in Most Industries Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Josephine County fell by 320 jobs in January, mostly due to seasonally typical losses in retail trade (-110); construction (-30); and leisure and hospitality (-20). There were also job declines in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-20), and professional and business services (-20). Government employment slipped by 90 jobs in January. Job losses were posted in federal government (-40), local government (-40), and state government (-10).

Over the past year payroll employment in the Grants Pass MSA (Josephine County) dipped by 160 jobs, a loss of -0.6%. Employment fell over the year in most private-sector industries, excluding private education and health services, and leisure and hospitality which gained 220 and 80 jobs, respectively. Job declines occurred in retail trade (-120); construction (-50); wholesale trade (-50); manufacturing (-40); financial activities (-40); and professional and business services (-30).

Government employment fell by 120 jobs over the year. Losses occurred in local government education (-110), and local government excluding educational services (-20). State government added 10 jobs over the year.

Josephine County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 7.1% in January, little changed over the month and up from the January 2025 rate of 6.0%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, April 21st, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for February on Wednesday, April 15th.

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

	--Change From--				
	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025	January 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	34,890	34,935	35,077	-45	-187
Unemployed	2,774	2,322	2,642	452	132
Unemployment rate	8.0%	6.6%	7.5%	1.4	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.1%	7.2%	6.0%	-0.1	1.1
Employed	32,116	32,613	32,435	-497	-319
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	26,510	26,830	26,670	-320	-160
Total private	23,060	23,290	23,100	-230	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	1,180	1,220	1,240	-40	-60
Mining and logging	80	90	90	-10	-10
Construction	1,100	1,130	1,150	-30	-50
Manufacturing	2,700	2,710	2,740	-10	-40
Wood product manufacturing	500	510	550	-10	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,950	5,080	5,090	-130	-140
Wholesale trade	520	520	570	0	-50
Retail trade	3,900	4,010	4,020	-110	-120
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	530	550	500	-20	30
Information	220	220	240	0	-20
Financial activities	1,450	1,460	1,490	-10	-40
Professional and business services	1,740	1,760	1,770	-20	-30
Private education and health services	6,660	6,670	6,440	-10	220
Leisure and hospitality	3,170	3,190	3,090	-20	80
Other services	990	980	1,000	10	-10
Government	3,450	3,540	3,570	-90	-120
Federal government	260	300	260	-40	0
State government	520	530	510	-10	10
Local government	2,670	2,710	2,800	-40	-130
Local education	1,800	1,850	1,910	-50	-110
Local government excluding educational services	870	860	890	10	-20

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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