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

Total payroll employment in Josephine County fell by 50 jobs in February, mostly due to losses in leisure and hospitality (-20) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-20). Other sectors showed little employment change in February.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Grants Pass MSA (Josephine County) dipped by 150 jobs, a loss of -0.6%. Employment fell over the year in most private-sector industries but increased in private education and health services (+190) and leisure and hospitality (+40). Job declines occurred in retail trade (-110), wholesale trade (-50), information (-40), manufacturing (-30), and professional and business services (-20).

Government employment fell by 110 jobs over the year. Losses occurred in local government education (-90) and federal government (-20). State government added 10 jobs over the year.

Josephine County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 7.0% in February, little changed over the month and up slightly from the February 2025 rate of 6.1%.

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.

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--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	34,921	34,871	34,887	50	34
Unemployed	2,625	2,773	2,575	-148	50
Unemployment rate	7.5%	8.0%	7.4%	-0.5	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.0%	7.1%	6.1%	-0.1	0.9
Employed	32,296	32,098	32,312	198	-16
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	26,440	26,490	26,590	-50	-150
Total private	22,990	23,030	23,030	-40	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	1,190	1,190	1,200	0	-10
Mining and logging	80	90	80	-10	0
Construction	1,110	1,100	1,120	10	-10
Manufacturing	2,710	2,700	2,740	10	-30
Wood product manufacturing	500	500	550	0	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,950	4,960	5,100	-10	-150
Wholesale trade	520	520	570	0	-50
Retail trade	3,920	3,910	4,030	10	-110
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	510	530	500	-20	10
Information	210	220	250	-10	-40
Financial activities	1,450	1,460	1,440	-10	10
Professional and business services	1,740	1,730	1,760	10	-20
Private education and health services	6,610	6,620	6,420	-10	190
Leisure and hospitality	3,140	3,160	3,100	-20	40
Other services	990	990	1,020	0	-30
Government	3,450	3,460	3,560	-10	-110
Federal government	250	260	270	-10	-20
State government	520	520	510	0	10
Local government	2,680	2,680	2,780	0	-100
Local education	1,820	1,810	1,910	10	-90
Local government excluding educational services	860	870	870	-10	-10

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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