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

Total payroll employment in Josephine County rose by 130 jobs in March. The only notable job changes to private-sector industries were private education and health services (+40), and leisure and hospitality (+30). Other sectors had little employment change. Government employment added 60 jobs over the month. Gains were posted in local education (+30), federal government (+20), and non-education local government (+10).

Over the past year payroll employment in the Grants Pass MSA (Josephine County) decreased by 80 jobs, a loss of -0.3%. Employment fell over the year in most private-sector industries, excluding private education and health services, and leisure and hospitality, which gained 190 and 60 jobs, respectively. Job declines occurred in retail trade (-100), professional and business services (-50), wholesale trade (-40), manufacturing (-40), and information (-30).

Government employment fell by 80 jobs over the year. Losses occurred in local government education (-90) while state government added 10 jobs over the year.

Josephine County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 6.8% in March, little changed over the month and slightly above the March 2025 rate of 6.3%.

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 27th, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 20th.

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

QualityInfo.org

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

	--Change From--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	34,997	34,921	35,115	76	-118
Unemployed	2,462	2,626	2,546	-164	-84
Unemployment rate	7.0%	7.5%	7.3%	-0.5	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.8%	7.0%	6.3%	-0.2	0.5
Employed	32,535	32,295	32,569	240	-34
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	26,570	26,440	26,650	130	-80
Total private	23,060	22,990	23,060	70	0
Mining, logging, and construction	1,200	1,190	1,210	10	-10
Mining and logging	90	80	80	10	10
Construction	1,110	1,110	1,130	0	-20
Manufacturing	2,720	2,710	2,760	10	-40
Wood product manufacturing	500	500	550	0	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,940	4,950	5,070	-10	-130
Wholesale trade	520	520	560	0	-40
Retail trade	3,920	3,920	4,020	0	-100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	500	510	490	-10	10
Information	210	210	240	0	-30
Financial activities	1,440	1,450	1,440	-10	0
Professional and business services	1,740	1,740	1,790	0	-50
Private education and health services	6,650	6,610	6,460	40	190
Leisure and hospitality	3,170	3,140	3,110	30	60
Other services	990	990	980	0	10
Government	3,510	3,450	3,590	60	-80
Federal government	270	250	270	20	0
State government	520	520	510	0	10
Local government	2,720	2,680	2,810	40	-90
Local education	1,850	1,820	1,940	30	-90
Local government excluding educational services	870	860	870	10	0

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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