

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 23, 2026

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Employment in Jackson County: May 2026 Payroll Employment Drops Slightly Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Jackson County climbed by 490 jobs in May. Employment gains were estimated in leisure and hospitality (+210); professional and business services (+90); financial activities (+40); and private education and health services (+30). Job declines were posted in retail trade (-30), and construction (-20). Government employment rose by 70 jobs in May with gains in local (+50), and federal government (+20).

Over the past year, payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) fell by 450 jobs, for a loss of -0.5%. Private education and health services posted the largest gain, adding 1,120 jobs. Job growth was also estimated in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+250), and other services (+80). Industries showing job declines since May 2025 included professional and business services (-380); manufacturing (-240); retail trade (-180); financial activities (-120); and leisure and hospitality (-50). Government employment declined by 690 jobs over the year. Losses were posted in local government education (-590), and federal government (-130).

Jackson County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.6% in May, little changed from April and the same as the year ago rate of 5.6% in May 2025.

Next Press Releases

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

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

QualityInfo.org

June 23, 2026

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

	--Change From--				
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	108,155	107,128	107,552	1,027	603
Unemployed	5,682	5,585	5,677	97	5
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.2%	5.3%	0.1	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6%	5.7%	5.6%	-0.1	0.0
Employed	102,473	101,543	101,875	930	598
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	91,050	90,560	91,500	490	-450
Total private	79,380	78,960	79,140	420	240
Mining, logging, and construction	5,660	5,670	5,810	-10	-150
Mining and logging	420	410	450	10	-30
Construction	5,240	5,260	5,360	-20	-120
Manufacturing	6,410	6,410	6,650	0	-240
Trade, transportation, and utilities	18,940	18,960	18,920	-20	20
Wholesale trade	2,590	2,600	2,640	-10	-50
Retail trade	12,500	12,530	12,680	-30	-180
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,850	3,830	3,600	20	250
Information	870	870	910	0	-40
Financial activities	3,520	3,480	3,640	40	-120
Professional and business services	7,980	7,890	8,360	90	-380
Private education and health services	22,120	22,090	21,000	30	1,120
Health care and social assistance	21,130	21,150	19,950	-20	1,180
Leisure and hospitality	11,050	10,840	11,100	210	-50
Accommodation and food services	9,160	8,970	9,290	190	-130
Other services	2,830	2,750	2,750	80	80
Government	11,670	11,600	12,360	70	-690
Federal government	1,760	1,740	1,890	20	-130
State government	1,320	1,320	1,310	0	10
State education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local government	8,590	8,540	9,160	50	-570
Local education	5,270	5,240	5,860	30	-590

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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