

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 25, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

Employment in Jackson County: July 2026

Payroll Employment Rises Slightly Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Jackson County decreased by 1,440 jobs in July, mostly due to seasonally expected declines totaling 1,420 in local government education. Industries adding jobs over the month were construction (+130) and leisure and hospitality (+50). A few industries showed estimated jobs losses including retail trade (-130); private education and health services (-60); other services (-20); and wholesale trade (-20). Government employment fell by 1,400 jobs in July, with seasonally typical losses in local government education accounting for the drop.

Over the past year, payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) rose by 240 jobs, for a gain of 0.3%. Private education and health services posted the largest gain, adding 1,450 jobs. Job growth was also estimated in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+150); information (+60); and wholesale trade (+50). Industries showing job declines since July 2025 included retail trade (-450); manufacturing (-410); construction (-170); financial activities (-90); and other services (-40). Government employment declined by 230 jobs over the year. Losses were posted in federal government (-120), and local government education (-80).

Jackson County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.7% in July, unchanged from the June rate and little changed from the year ago rate of 5.8% in July 2025.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Sep. 22nd, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for August on Wednesday, Sep. 16th.

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, 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/. 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.

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.

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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

August 25, 2026

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

	--Change From--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	109,202	109,313	108,712	-111	490
Unemployed	6,889	6,610	6,953	279	-64
Unemployment rate	6.3%	6.0%	6.4%	0.3	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>5.8%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-0.1</i>
Employed	102,313	102,703	101,759	-390	554
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	90,360	91,800	90,120	-1,440	240
Total private	79,660	79,700	79,190	-40	470
Mining, logging, and construction	5,680	5,550	5,960	130	-280
Mining and logging	320	320	430	0	-110
Construction	5,360	5,230	5,530	130	-170
Manufacturing	6,320	6,310	6,730	10	-410
Trade, transportation, and utilities	18,940	19,100	19,190	-160	-250
Wholesale trade	2,650	2,670	2,600	-20	50
Retail trade	12,330	12,460	12,780	-130	-450
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,960	3,970	3,810	-10	150
Information	960	960	900	0	60
Financial activities	3,530	3,520	3,620	10	-90
Professional and business services	8,170	8,170	8,140	0	30
Private education and health services	22,020	22,080	20,570	-60	1,450
Health care and social assistance	21,170	21,170	19,710	0	1,460
Leisure and hospitality	11,280	11,230	11,280	50	0
Accommodation and food services	9,390	9,360	9,440	30	-50
Other services	2,760	2,780	2,800	-20	-40
Government	10,700	12,100	10,930	-1,400	-230
Federal government	1,790	1,780	1,910	10	-120
State government	1,340	1,340	1,360	0	-20
State education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local government	7,570	8,980	7,660	-1,410	-90
Local education	4,220	5,640	4,300	-1,420	-80

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.

###