

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 22, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

Employment in Jackson County: August 2026

Payroll Employment Falls Slightly Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Jackson rose by 1,100 jobs in August. The largest job gains were estimated in local government education (+520) and retail trade (+440). Employment also increased in private education and health services (+150), construction (+80), other services (+30), and professional and business services (+30). Industries showing job loss in August included leisure and hospitality (-60), manufacturing (-30), and financial activities (-30).

Over the past year, payroll employment in Medford MSA (Jackson County) fell by 200 jobs, for a loss of 0.2%. Private education and health services posted the largest gain, adding 1,400 jobs. Job growth was also estimated in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+80); wholesale trade (+80); and information (+70). Industries showing job declines since August 2025 included retail trade (-710); manufacturing (-390); construction (-140); financial activities (-100); and leisure and hospitality (-80). Government employment declined by 270 jobs over the year. Losses were posted in federal government (-100), and local government education (-100).

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

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Oct. 20, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

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

September 22, 2026

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

	--Change From--				
	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	110,823	109,198	109,465	1,625	1,358
Unemployed	6,587	6,844	6,564	-257	23
Unemployment rate	5.9%	6.3%	6.0%	-0.4	-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	104,236	102,354	102,901	1,882	1,335
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	91,410	90,310	91,610	1,100	-200
Total private	80,220	79,590	80,150	630	70
Mining, logging, and construction	5,720	5,640	5,970	80	-250
Mining and logging	320	320	430	0	-110
Construction	5,400	5,320	5,540	80	-140
Manufacturing	6,310	6,340	6,700	-30	-390
Trade, transportation, and utilities	19,400	18,940	19,950	460	-550
Wholesale trade	2,670	2,660	2,590	10	80
Retail trade	12,760	12,320	13,470	440	-710
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,970	3,960	3,890	10	80
Information	960	960	890	0	70
Financial activities	3,520	3,550	3,620	-30	-100
Professional and business services	8,170	8,140	8,190	30	-20
Private education and health services	22,140	21,990	20,740	150	1,400
Health care and social assistance	21,240	21,160	19,830	80	1,410
Leisure and hospitality	11,220	11,280	11,300	-60	-80
Accommodation and food services	9,310	9,390	9,480	-80	-170
Other services	2,780	2,750	2,790	30	-10
Government	11,190	10,720	11,460	470	-270
Federal government	1,780	1,790	1,880	-10	-100
State government	1,340	1,340	1,340	0	0
State education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local government	8,070	7,590	8,240	480	-170
Local education	4,760	4,240	4,860	520	-100

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.

###