State of Oregon
Employment Department

NEWS

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

Employment in Jackson County: October 2026

Payroll Employment Falls Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Jackson County rose by 740 jobs in October. The largest gain was posted in local government education, which added 470 jobs over the month. Other industries with estimated job increases were health care and social assistance (+100); retail trade; professional and business services (+60); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+40). Slight losses were noted in construction (-30), mining and logging (-20), and financial activities (-20). Government employment increased by 420 jobs over the month with the seasonally typical gain in local government education accounting for the gain. Federal government shed 30 jobs in October.

Over the year, Jackson County payroll employment fell by 1,560 jobs, a decline of 1.7%. Declines were estimated in retail trade (-920), construction (-300), professional and business services (-240), financial activities (-160), mining and logging (-90), and leisure and hospitality (-50). Government employment rose by 280 jobs over the year, with the gain occurring in the local government education component. Other government sectors showed little job change since October 2025.

Jackson County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.5% in October, little changed from the September rate.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Dec. 22, and the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

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.

There are no household survey estimates for October 2025. Household survey data, which provide the primary inputs to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, were not collected for October 2025 due to the federal government shutdown and were not collected retroactively. Therefore, this release does not include the typical analysis of over-the-year unemployment rate changes from October 2025 to October 2026.

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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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.

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State of Oregon Employment Department

Workforce & Economic Research Division
QualityInfo.org
November 24, 2026

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

				--Change From--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	110,765	109,488	NA	1,277	NA
Unemployed	5,274	5,113	NA	161	NA
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.7%	NA	0.1	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*5.5%*	*5.6%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	105,491	104,375	NA	1,116	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	91,500	90,760	93,060	740	-1,560
Total private	79,260	78,940	81,100	320	-1,840
Mining, logging, and construction	5,640	5,690	6,030	-50	-390
Mining and logging	300	320	390	-20	-90
Construction	5,340	5,370	5,640	-30	-300
Manufacturing	6,480	6,460	6,480	20	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	19,430	19,290	20,420	140	-990
Wholesale trade	2,620	2,630	2,650	-10	-30
Retail trade	12,810	12,700	13,730	110	-920
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	4,000	3,960	4,040	40	-40
Information	900	900	920	0	-20
Financial activities	3,480	3,500	3,640	-20	-160
Professional and business services	7,950	7,890	8,190	60	-240
Private education and health services	21,850	21,690	21,690	160	160
Health care and social assistance	20,830	20,650	20,620	180	210
Leisure and hospitality	10,870	10,860	10,920	10	-50
Accommodation and food services	9,070	9,070	9,240	0	-170
Other services	2,660	2,660	2,810	0	-150
Government	12,240	11,820	11,960	420	280
Federal government	1,800	1,830	1,810	-30	-10
State government	1,310	1,320	1,310	-10	0
State education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local government	9,130	8,670	8,840	460	290
Local education	5,870	5,400	5,580	470	290

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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