

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 23, 2026

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Employment in Josephine County: May 2026 **Josephine County Had 2nd Highest Unemployment Rate in Oregon**

Total payroll employment in Josephine County rose by 200 jobs in May. Job gains were estimated in leisure and hospitality (+140); other services (+30); and financial activities (+20). Employment was essentially flat in other published industries. Government employment also showed little movement in May. Local government education employment fell by 20 jobs and federal government added 20 jobs over the month.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Grants Pass MSA (Josephine County) decreased by 180 jobs, a loss of -0.7%. Employment fell over the year in most private-sector industries, excluding private education and health services, which gained 290 jobs. Job declines occurred in retail trade (-90); leisure and hospitality (-80); manufacturing (-70); information (-40); and construction (-30). Transportation, warehousing, and utilities employment decreased by 60 jobs since May 2025.

Government employment fell by 140 jobs over the year. Losses occurred in local government education (-120) while federal government also lost 20 jobs over the year.

Josephine County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 6.7% in May, unchanged over the month and down slightly from the May 2025 rate of 7.1%.

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.

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

June 23, 2026

Grants Pass MSA (Josephine 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	35,262	34,905	35,348	357	-86
Unemployed	2,199	2,150	2,271	49	-72
Unemployment rate	6.2%	6.2%	6.4%	0.0	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.7%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0	-0.4
Employed	33,063	32,755	33,077	308	-14
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	27,130	26,930	27,310	200	-180
Total private	23,660	23,460	23,700	200	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	1,230	1,230	1,270	0	-40
Mining and logging	90	90	100	0	-10
Construction	1,140	1,140	1,170	0	-30
Manufacturing	2,680	2,700	2,750	-20	-70
Wood product manufacturing	500	500	540	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	5,030	5,010	5,200	20	-170
Wholesale trade	540	540	560	0	-20
Retail trade	4,010	4,000	4,100	10	-90
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	480	470	540	10	-60
Information	220	220	260	0	-40
Financial activities	1,460	1,440	1,480	20	-20
Professional and business services	1,770	1,760	1,730	10	40
Private education and health services	6,820	6,820	6,530	0	290
Leisure and hospitality	3,390	3,250	3,470	140	-80
Other services	1,060	1,030	1,010	30	50
Government	3,470	3,470	3,610	0	-140
Federal government	290	270	310	20	-20
State government	500	500	500	0	0
Local government	2,680	2,700	2,800	-20	-120
Local education	1,820	1,840	1,940	-20	-120
Local government excluding educational services	860	860	860	0	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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