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Employment in Josephine County: August 2026

Josephine County Shows Slight Job Loss Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Josephine County was unchanged in August over the month and was estimated at 26,830. In August, local government education had the largest estimated increase, up by 70 jobs. Private education and health services added 20 jobs as well. Job losses were posted in leisure and hospitality (-40), retail trade (-20), and financial activities (-20). Government had a net gain of 50 jobs with the increase in local government education slightly offset by a loss of 10 jobs in both federal and non-education local government.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Grants Pass MSA (Josephine County) fell by 70 jobs, a loss of 0.3%. Private education and health services had the largest gain, up by 360 jobs. Job growth was also estimated in professional and business services (+80), and other services (+30). Job declines were estimated in leisure and hospitality (-220); financial activities (-60); retail trade (-50); manufacturing (-40); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-40); and construction (-20).

Government employment fell by 110 jobs over the year. Losses occurred in local government education (-130), while state (-20) and federal government (-20) also lost jobs over the year. Non-education local government added 60 jobs since August 2025.

Josephine County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 7.0% in August, unchanged over the month and slightly below the August 2025 rate of 7.4%.

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.

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.

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Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

September 22, 2026

Grants Pass MSA (Josephine 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	35,688	35,753	35,739	-65	-51
Unemployed	2,562	2,746	2,742	-184	-180
Unemployment rate	7.2%	7.7%	7.7%	-0.5	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7.0%</i>	<i>7.0%</i>	<i>7.4%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-0.4</i>
Employed	33,126	33,007	32,997	119	129
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	26,830	26,830	26,900	0	-70
Total private	23,950	24,000	23,910	-50	40
Mining, logging, and construction	1,310	1,300	1,330	10	-20
Mining and logging	90	90	90	0	0
Construction	1,220	1,210	1,240	10	-20
Manufacturing	2,710	2,710	2,750	0	-40
Wood product manufacturing	510	510	510	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,990	5,010	5,080	-20	-90
Wholesale trade	540	540	540	0	0
Retail trade	3,970	3,990	4,020	-20	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	480	480	520	0	-40
Information	240	250	240	-10	0
Financial activities	1,440	1,460	1,500	-20	-60
Professional and business services	1,800	1,800	1,720	0	80
Private education and health services	6,960	6,940	6,600	20	360
Leisure and hospitality	3,460	3,500	3,680	-40	-220
Other services	1,040	1,030	1,010	10	30
Government	2,880	2,830	2,990	50	-110
Federal government	290	300	310	-10	-20
State government	510	510	530	0	-20
Local government	2,080	2,020	2,150	60	-70
Local education	1,190	1,120	1,320	70	-130
Local government excluding educational services	890	900	830	-10	60

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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