State of Oregon
Employment Department

NEWS

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Employment in Josephine County: October 2026

Josephine County Shows Slight Job Gain Over the Year

Total payroll employment in Josephine County rose by 40 jobs in October. Job losses were estimated in leisure and hospitality, down by 20 jobs. Local government education posted the largest job gain over the month, adding 50 jobs. Job increases were also estimated in private education and health services (+30) while other published sectors showed little employment change over the month.

Over the past year payroll employment in the Grants Pass MSA (Josephine County) rose by 270 jobs, or a gain of 1.0%. Private education and health services had the largest gain, increasing by 400 jobs. Job growth was also estimated in leisure and hospitality (+80); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+30); and other services (+20). Job declines were estimated in retail trade (-70); construction (-70), manufacturing (-30); wholesale trade (-30); and financial activities (-30). Government employment fell by 20 jobs over the year. Losses occurred in local government education (-30) and state government (-20). Non-education local government (+20), and federal government (+10) each had slight job gains since October 2025.

Josephine County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 6.8% in October, little changed over the month.

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.

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.

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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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

Grants Pass MSA (Josephine 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	35,603	35,419	NA	184	NA
Unemployed	2,092	1,967	NA	125	NA
Unemployment rate	5.9%	5.6%	NA	0.3	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*6.8%*	*6.9%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	33,511	33,452	NA	59	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	27,430	27,390	27,160	40	270
Total private	23,980	23,980	23,690	0	290
Mining, logging, and construction	1,220	1,230	1,310	-10	-90
Mining and logging	80	80	100	0	-20
Construction	1,140	1,150	1,210	-10	-70
Manufacturing	2,690	2,700	2,720	-10	-30
Wood product manufacturing	490	490	500	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,980	4,970	5,050	10	-70
Wholesale trade	520	520	550	0	-30
Retail trade	3,930	3,920	4,000	10	-70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	530	530	500	0	30
Information	230	230	230	0	0
Financial activities	1,440	1,450	1,470	-10	-30
Professional and business services	1,770	1,760	1,760	10	10
Private education and health services	7,230	7,200	6,830	30	400
Leisure and hospitality	3,380	3,400	3,300	-20	80
Other services	1,040	1,040	1,020	0	20
Government	3,450	3,410	3,470	40	-20
Federal government	290	300	280	-10	10
State government	500	500	520	0	-20
Local government	2,660	2,610	2,670	50	-10
Local education	1,780	1,730	1,810	50	-30
Local government excluding educational services	880	880	860	0	20

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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