

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 22, 2021

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Employment in Jackson County: May 2021 **Gains in Leisure and Hospitality Boost Payroll Employment**

Total payroll employment in Jackson County rose by 1,000 jobs in May. Leisure and hospitality had the largest gain with 590 jobs added over the month. The return of live performances at the Britt Music Festival and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival this summer are other positive signs that the light at the end of the tunnel for the pandemic's end is now in sight. The reopening of these and other entertainment venues will likely spur additional job gains in the months ahead. As the state inches closer to 70 percent of the eligible population vaccinated, a more complete reopening for the economy is looking likely soon. Jackson County also added jobs in retail trade (+140); manufacturing (+80); local government education (+60); mining and logging (+40); and federal government (+30).

Over the past year payroll employment in the Medford MSA (Jackson County) rose by 6,950 jobs, an increase of 8.6%. While that jump is notable, the county is still an estimated 2,500 jobs below the pre-pandemic peak employment in February 2020. Since May 2020, just after the worst point during the pandemic in terms of job losses, leisure and hospitality showed the largest gain, up by 1,910 jobs. Other industries adding the most jobs over the year included retail trade (+1,780); health care and social assistance (+670); professional and business services (+580); construction (+500); manufacturing (+500); and other services (+470). Government employment rose by 170 jobs with gains in local government (+70) and state government (+50). Local government education has not shown the employment recovery seen in many private-sector industries, in part due to less in-person learning in most educational institutions.

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 20th, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Tuesday, July 13th.

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.

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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 www.QualityInfo.org, select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. 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 coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit

https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19. For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

Data and analysis related to COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.qualityinfo.org/covid-19>

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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

	--Change From--				
	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	April 2021	May 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	108,763	107,810	105,982	953	2,781
Unemployed	6,224	6,573	12,503	-349	-6,279
Unemployment rate	5.7%	6.1%	11.8%	-0.4	-6.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.3%	6.4%	12.3%	-0.1	-6.0
Employed	102,539	101,237	93,479	1,302	9,060
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	87,670	86,670	80,720	1,000	6,950
Total private	76,180	75,290	69,400	890	6,780
Mining, logging, and construction	5,580	5,550	5,020	30	560
Mining and logging	520	480	460	40	60
Construction	5,060	5,070	4,560	-10	500
Manufacturing	7,860	7,780	7,360	80	500
Trade, transportation, and utilities	19,880	19,720	18,100	160	1,780
Wholesale trade	2,460	2,440	2,440	20	20
Retail trade	13,970	13,830	12,420	140	1,550
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	3,450	3,450	3,240	0	210
Information	1,000	980	1,070	20	-70
Financial activities	4,130	4,100	3,950	30	180
Professional and business services	7,720	7,730	7,140	-10	580
Education and health services	18,220	18,220	17,350	0	870
Health care and social assistance	17,220	17,240	16,550	-20	670
Leisure and hospitality	9,180	8,590	7,270	590	1,910
Accommodation and food services	7,930	7,370	6,470	560	1,460
Other services	2,610	2,620	2,140	-10	470
Government	11,490	11,380	11,320	110	170
Federal government	1,890	1,860	1,840	30	50
State government	1,040	1,050	990	-10	50
State education	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	8,560	8,470	8,490	90	70
Local education	5,650	5,590	5,670	60	-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.

