

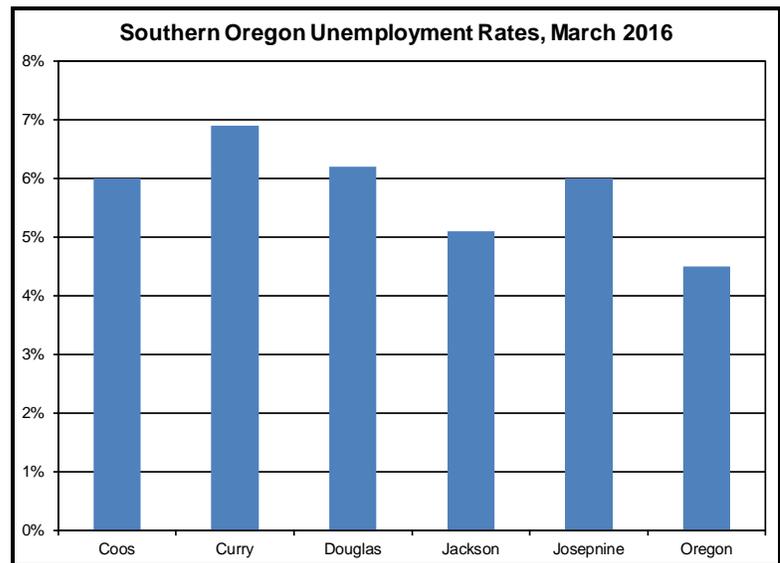
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Brian Rooney, Regional Economist
(541) 359-9546

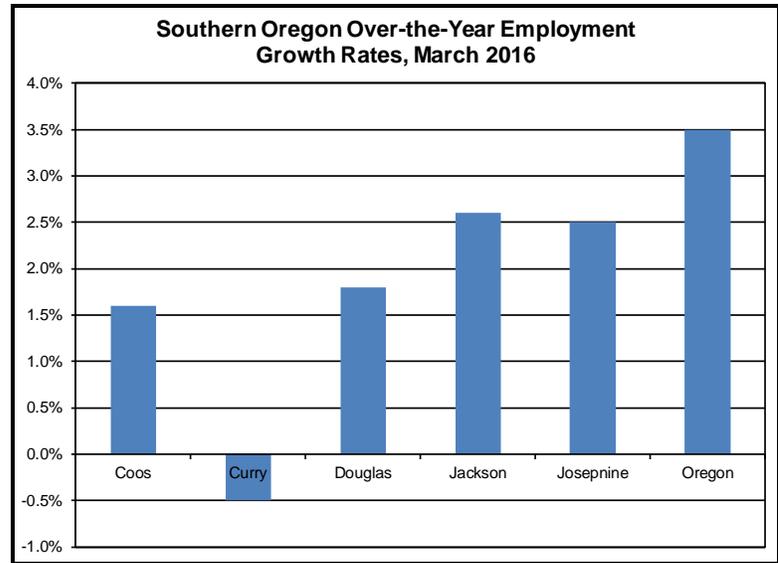
Brian.T.Rooney@oregon.gov

Ten Key Points about the Southern Oregon Economy

- Unemployment rates in Southern Oregon are generally higher than the state. March 2016 unemployment rates were 6.0 percent for Coos County, 6.9 percent for Curry County, 6.2 percent for Douglas County and 6.0 percent for Josephine County, compared with 4.5 percent statewide. The unemployment rate for Jackson County is closer to the state at 5.1 percent in March 2016.
- Employment growth in Southern Oregon is generally slower than the state. Over the year ending in March, Curry County employment declined 0.5 percent, while the growth rate was 1.6 percent in Coos County, 1.8 percent in Douglas County, 2.6 percent in Jackson County and 2.5 percent in Josephine, compared with 3.5 percent statewide.
- According to Census Bureau data, all counties in Southern Oregon had net out-migration of young people 20 to 29 years of age between 2000 and 2010. Coos and Curry counties also had out-migration of older people 75 years of age and older, while Douglas, Jackson and Josephine counties did not.
- The health care industry had strong employment growth in all counties from 2001 to 2015. Douglas added 693 jobs (16%), Coos added 713 (28%), Curry added 335 (63%), Jackson added 3,966 (44%), and Josephine added 1,182 (45%).



- The health care industry is expected to continue to grow between 2012 and 2022. The private education and health services sector is expected to add 1,310 jobs or 17 percent in Southwest Oregon (Douglas, Coos and Curry), mostly due to growth in health care. Private health care is expected to add 3,390 jobs or 23 percent in the Rogue Valley (Jackson and Josephine) over the 10-year period.



- Wood product manufacturing is still a major employer in Southern Oregon, although the industry has declined in most counties. Between 2001 and 2015, Josephine County lost 317 jobs (-34%) to reach 617 workers, Douglas County lost 1,422 (-32%) to reach 2,965, Jackson County lost 688 (-25%) to reach 2,086, and Curry County lost 72 jobs (-15%) to reach 406 workers. Coos was the only county to gain jobs in wood product manufacturing, adding 63 (8%).
- Some of the loss in wood products jobs is due to greater efficiency through mechanization and technology. The production per worker at Oregon sawmills increased from 806 thousand board feet per worker in 2000 to 1,018 in 2013.
- Population grew between 2010 and 2015, except in Coos County, which dropped 53. Jackson County added the most at 7,769 and grew the fastest at 3.8 percent. Net migration drove growth in the four counties that had population growth.
- Combining all Southern Oregon counties, the industries adding the most jobs between 2014 and 2015 were private education and health services (+923) and leisure and hospitality (+889). The fastest growing were other services at 9.3 percent and construction at 6.8 percent. These are all industries that benefit from local population growth.
- All five counties have an older population compared with the state. In Coos County, 25 percent of the population is 65 years of age and older, while in Curry it is 32 percent, in Douglas it is 25 percent, in Jackson it is 21 percent and in Josephine it is 26 percent, compared with 16 percent statewide. Curry is tied with Wheeler County with the highest percentage of people 65 years of age and older.