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Employment in Salem MSA (Marion and Polk Counties): January 2025

Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate up to 5.1%

Employment losses in the Salem MSA in January were less than normal; total nonfarm employment decreased by 2,300 jobs, when an employment decrease of 3,000 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 700 between December and January. With January's gains, employment is up 7.6% or 13,300 jobs above the pre-pandemic employment level in February 2020.

Overall, private-sector employment was down 1,900 in January. The largest private-sector job losses in January were reported in retail trade (-600 jobs, -3.1%) and construction (-500 jobs, -3.8%).

The public sector shed 400 jobs in January. Local government was down 500 jobs in January. State government employment was up 100 and federal government employment was unchanged in January.

The Salem MSA's unadjusted unemployment rate was 5.1% in January, up from its revised rate of 4.2% in December. Oregon's statewide unadjusted unemployment rate in January was 5.4%, up from its revised December rate of 4.3%.

Labor force statistics for Oregon metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) are produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Through June 2025, seasonally adjusted data are not available for Oregon MSAs or other MSAs around the country. New MSA definitions resulting from the 2020 Census are being incorporated into the history of the data series back to 1990, as well as other updates to the processing of labor force estimates for substate areas. Read more on this pause in seasonally adjusted metro area data [here](#).

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 1 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, March 26.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	223,383	223,868	215,805	-485	7,578
Unemployed	11,383	9,352	10,096	2,031	1,287
Unemployment rate	5.1%	4.2%	4.7%	0.9	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	212,000	214,516	205,709	-2,516	6,291
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	186,000	188,300	180,400	-2,300	5,600
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>187,800</i>	<i>187,100</i>	<i>183,200</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>4,600</i>
Total private	140,200	142,100	135,800	-1,900	4,400
Mining, logging, and construction	13,400	13,900	13,200	-500	200
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	12,800	13,300	12,600	-500	200
Manufacturing	11,400	11,700	11,400	-300	0
Durable goods	5,800	5,900	6,000	-100	-200
Nondurable goods	5,600	5,800	5,400	-200	200
Food manufacturing	3,800	3,900	3,500	-100	300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	29,900	30,700	30,100	-800	-200
Wholesale trade	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0
Retail trade	18,500	19,100	18,800	-600	-300
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	7,200	7,400	7,100	-200	100
Information	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
Financial activities	5,900	6,000	6,200	-100	-300
Professional and business services	18,500	18,800	17,500	-300	1,000
Administrative and support services	8,900	9,300	9,000	-400	-100
Private education and health services	37,900	37,500	34,600	400	3,300
Health care and social assistance	33,200	33,200	31,000	0	2,200
Leisure and hospitality	15,700	16,000	15,500	-300	200
Accommodation and food services	14,000	14,300	14,000	-300	0
Other services	5,700	5,700	5,600	0	100
Government	45,800	46,200	44,600	-400	1,200
Federal government	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
State government	23,500	23,400	22,600	100	900
State education	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Local government	20,800	21,300	20,500	-500	300
Indian tribal	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
Local education	12,000	12,400	12,000	-400	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.

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.

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.

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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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