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

Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Increased to 4.9%

The Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in August, up from its July rate of 4.7%. Oregon's statewide unemployment rate in August was 5.0%, up from its July rate of 4.9%.

Employment gains in the Salem MSA in August were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment increased by 1,600 jobs, when an employment increase of 1,300 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 300 between July and August. With August's gains, employment is up 6.7% or 11,700 jobs above the pre-pandemic employment level in February 2020.

Overall, the private sector added 1,000 jobs in August. The largest private-sector job gains in August were reported in private education and health services (+1,100 jobs, +3.0%). Other services and trade, transportation, and utilities each added 100 jobs in August.

The public sector added 600 jobs in August. Local government was up 500 jobs in August. State government employment was unchanged. Federal government added 100 jobs.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Oct. 21, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Wednesday, Oct. 15.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

September 23, 2025

Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	230,329	228,445	225,624	1,884	4,705
Unemployed	12,385	12,309	9,763	76	2,622
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.4%	4.3%	0.0	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	4.7%	4.1%	0.2	0.8
Employed	217,944	216,136	215,861	1,808	2,083
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	184,000	182,400	181,600	1,600	2,400
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	186,200	185,900	184,000	300	2,200
Total private	141,700	140,700	139,600	1,000	2,100
Mining, logging, and construction	13,800	13,800	14,600	0	-800
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	13,200	13,200	14,000	0	-800
Manufacturing	11,700	11,700	12,600	0	-900
Durable goods	5,800	5,900	6,100	-100	-300
Nondurable goods	5,900	5,800	6,500	100	-600
Food manufacturing	3,800	3,800	4,400	0	-600
Trade, transportation, and utilities	29,800	29,700	29,900	100	-100
Wholesale trade	4,100	4,100	4,200	0	-100
Retail trade	18,500	18,500	18,700	0	-200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	7,200	7,100	7,000	100	200
Information	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Financial activities	6,300	6,300	6,200	0	100
Professional and business services	17,900	18,200	16,400	-300	1,500
Administrative and support services	9,600	9,700	7,800	-100	1,800
Private education and health services	37,400	36,300	35,500	1,100	1,900
Health care and social assistance	34,800	34,400	32,400	400	2,400
Leisure and hospitality	17,400	17,400	16,900	0	500
Accommodation and food services	15,400	15,300	14,800	100	600
Other services	5,600	5,500	5,700	100	-100
Government	42,300	41,700	42,000	600	300
Federal government	1,500	1,400	1,600	100	-100
State government	23,600	23,600	23,200	0	400
State education	1,000	1,000	1,200	0	-200
Local government	17,200	16,700	17,200	500	0
Indian tribal	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	-100
Local education	8,300	7,700	8,500	600	-200

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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