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## **Employment in Salem MSA (Marion and Polk Counties): April 2026**

### **Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.9%**

The Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in April, essentially unchanged from March's revised unemployment rate of 5.0%. The Salem MSA's unemployment rate has increased from 4.4% to 4.9% over the past year. Oregon's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April was 5.2%.

Employment gains in the Salem MSA in April were less than normal; total nonfarm employment increased by 800 jobs, when an employment increase of 900 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment declined 100 between March and April. Employment is up 9.4% or 16,400 jobs above the pre-pandemic employment level in February 2020.

Over the past year the Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is up 3,100 jobs or +1.7%.

Overall, the private sector added 900 jobs in April. The largest private-sector job gains in April were reported in professional and business services (+500 jobs, +2.8%); leisure and hospitality (+200 jobs, +1.3%); and construction (+200 jobs, +1.6%).

The public sector overall shed 100 jobs in April. State government was down 100 jobs in April. State and federal government employment were both unchanged in April.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, June 23 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, June 17.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

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## Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	226,281	227,087	223,858	-806	2,423
Unemployed	10,264	11,473	9,998	-1,209	266
Unemployment rate	4.5%	5.1%	4.5%	-0.6	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	5.0%	4.4%	-0.1	0.5
Employed	216,017	215,614	213,860	403	2,157
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	191,400	190,600	189,100	800	2,300
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>190,900</i>	<i>191,000</i>	<i>187,800</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>3,100</i>
Total private	144,200	143,300	142,900	900	1,300
Mining, logging, and construction	13,100	12,900	13,400	200	-300
Mining and logging	600	600	700	0	-100
Construction	12,500	12,300	12,700	200	-200
Manufacturing	11,300	11,300	11,400	0	-100
Durable goods	5,900	5,900	5,900	0	0
Nondurable goods	5,400	5,400	5,500	0	-100
Food manufacturing	3,500	3,600	3,600	-100	-100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	32,500	32,500	29,900	0	2,600
Wholesale trade	4,000	4,000	4,200	0	-200
Retail trade	18,000	18,000	18,400	0	-400
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	10,500	10,500	7,300	0	3,200
Information	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Financial activities	6,600	6,600	6,700	0	-100
Professional and business services	18,100	17,600	18,900	500	-800
Private education and health services	39,000	39,100	38,600	-100	400
Health care and social assistance	35,200	35,300	34,500	-100	700
Leisure and hospitality	15,900	15,700	16,500	200	-600
Other services	5,900	5,800	5,700	100	200
Government	47,200	47,300	46,200	-100	1,000
Federal government	1,400	1,400	1,500	0	-100
State government	23,800	23,900	23,800	-100	0
State education	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	-100
Local government	22,000	22,000	20,900	0	1,100
Indian tribal	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Local education	13,200	13,200	12,000	0	1,200

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 Salem MSA includes Marion and Polk counties.

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/](http://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](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at [OED.Communications@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:OED.Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

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