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Employment in Salem MSA (Marion and Polk Counties): July 2026

Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Remains at 4.9%

The Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in July, unchanged from June's revised unemployment rate of 4.9%. The Salem MSA's unemployment rate has been essentially unchanged over the past year, decreasing from 5.1% to 4.9%. Oregon's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in July was 5.2%.

Employment losses in the Salem MSA in July were more than normal; total nonfarm employment decreased by 7,000 jobs, when an employment decrease of 6,000 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment decreased 1,000 between June and July. Employment is up 9.7% or 16,900 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 3,500 jobs or +1.9%.

Overall, the private sector shed 2,100 jobs in July. The largest private-sector job losses in July were reported in professional and business services (-2,400 jobs, -11.5%); private education and health care (-400 jobs, -1.0%); and other services (-100 jobs, -1.7%).

The public sector overall shed 4,900 jobs in July. Federal and state government were both unchanged in July. Local government employment decreased 4,900.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Sep. 22 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, Sep. 16.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

August 25, 2026

Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	230,668	231,697	231,358	-1,029	-690
Unemployed	12,200	11,870	12,667	330	-467
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.1%	5.5%	0.2	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Employed	218,468	219,827	218,691	-1,359	-223
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	187,000	194,000	184,900	-7,000	2,100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>191,400</i>	<i>192,400</i>	<i>187,900</i>	<i>-1,000</i>	<i>3,500</i>
Total private	145,500	147,600	142,700	-2,100	2,800
Mining, logging, and construction	13,500	13,200	13,900	300	-400
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	12,900	12,600	13,300	300	-400
Manufacturing	12,100	11,900	12,600	200	-500
Durable goods	6,200	6,200	6,100	0	100
Nondurable goods	5,900	5,700	6,500	200	-600
Food manufacturing	4,000	3,900	4,600	100	-600
Trade, transportation, and utilities	32,000	31,900	31,000	100	1,000
Wholesale trade	3,900	3,900	4,100	0	-200
Retail trade	18,300	18,200	18,300	100	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	9,800	9,800	8,600	0	1,200
Information	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0
Financial activities	6,900	6,900	6,800	0	100
Professional and business services	18,400	20,800	16,800	-2,400	1,600
Private education and health services	38,400	38,800	37,400	-400	1,000
Health care and social assistance	34,900	35,000	34,600	-100	300
Leisure and hospitality	16,700	16,500	16,900	200	-200
Other services	5,800	5,900	5,600	-100	200
Government	41,500	46,400	42,200	-4,900	-700
Federal government	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
State government	23,800	23,800	24,000	0	-200
State education	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Local government	16,300	21,200	16,800	-4,900	-500
Indian tribal	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	-100
Local education	7,400	12,100	7,900	-4,700	-500

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/. 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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