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

Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Remains at 4.9%

The Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in August, unchanged from July'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 August was 5.1%.

Employment gains in the Salem MSA in August were less than normal; total nonfarm employment increased by 600 jobs, when an employment increase of 800 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment decreased 200 between July and August. Employment is up 9.6% or 16,700 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 2,800 jobs or +1.5%.

Overall, the private sector shed 300 jobs in August. The largest private-sector job losses in August were reported in professional and business services (-400 jobs, -2.2%); food manufacturing (-100 jobs, -2.4%); and financial activities (-100 jobs, -1.4%).

The public sector overall added 900 jobs in August. Federal and state government were both unchanged in August. Local government employment increased 900.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Oct. 20 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, Oct. 14.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

September 22, 2026

Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	233,391	230,942	231,428	2,449	1,963
Unemployed	11,858	12,114	12,307	-256	-449
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.2%	5.3%	-0.1	-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	221,533	218,828	219,121	2,705	2,412
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	187,700	187,100	186,400	600	1,300
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>191,200</i>	<i>191,400</i>	<i>188,400</i>	<i>-200</i>	<i>2,800</i>
Total private	145,300	145,600	143,900	-300	1,400
Mining, logging, and construction	13,600	13,400	14,100	200	-500
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	13,000	12,800	13,500	200	-500
Manufacturing	12,200	12,300	12,500	-100	-300
Durable goods	6,200	6,200	6,100	0	100
Nondurable goods	6,000	6,100	6,400	-100	-400
Food manufacturing	4,100	4,200	4,400	-100	-300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	31,900	31,900	31,600	0	300
Wholesale trade	3,900	3,900	4,000	0	-100
Retail trade	18,100	18,200	18,300	-100	-200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	9,900	9,800	9,300	100	600
Information	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	-100
Financial activities	6,900	7,000	6,800	-100	100
Professional and business services	17,800	18,200	16,600	-400	1,200
Private education and health services	38,700	38,600	37,900	100	800
Health care and social assistance	35,100	35,000	34,700	100	400
Leisure and hospitality	16,600	16,700	17,000	-100	-400
Other services	5,900	5,800	5,600	100	300
Government	42,400	41,500	42,500	900	-100
Federal government	1,400	1,400	1,500	0	-100
State government	23,800	23,800	23,700	0	100
State education	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Local government	17,200	16,300	17,300	900	-100
Indian tribal	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Local education	8,300	7,400	8,400	900	-100

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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