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

Salem MSA's Employment Gains 700 Jobs

Employment gains in the Salem MSA in February were more than normal; total nonfarm employment increased by 1,500 jobs, when an employment increase of 800 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 700 between January and February. With February's gains, employment is up 8.2% or 14,300 jobs above the pre-pandemic employment level in February 2020.

Overall, private-sector employment was up 1,500 in February. The largest private-sector job gains in February were reported in professional and business services (+800 jobs, +4.3%) and health care and social assistance (+600 jobs, +1.8%).

The public sector added 200 jobs in February. Local government was up 200 jobs in February. State and federal government employment were both unchanged in February.

The Salem MSA's unadjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in February, down from its revised rate of 5.1% in January. Oregon's statewide unadjusted unemployment rate in February was 5.2%, down from its revised January rate of 5.3%.

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 March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 22 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, April 16.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	225,147	223,254	218,858	1,893	6,289
Unemployed	11,189	11,358	9,904	-169	1,285
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.1%	4.5%	-0.1	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	213,958	211,896	208,954	2,062	5,004
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	187,600	186,100	182,800	1,500	4,800
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>188,800</i>	<i>188,100</i>	<i>183,800</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>5,000</i>
Total private	141,600	140,300	137,600	1,300	4,000
Mining, logging, and construction	13,600	13,600	13,600	0	0
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	13,000	13,000	13,000	0	0
Manufacturing	11,500	11,400	11,500	100	0
Durable goods	5,900	5,800	6,000	100	-100
Nondurable goods	5,600	5,600	5,500	0	100
Food manufacturing	3,800	3,800	3,500	0	300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	29,600	29,800	29,700	-200	-100
Wholesale trade	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0
Retail trade	18,300	18,500	18,500	-200	-200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	7,100	7,100	7,000	0	100
Information	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Financial activities	5,800	5,900	6,100	-100	-300
Professional and business services	19,300	18,500	18,100	800	1,200
Administrative and support services	9,200	8,900	9,400	300	-200
Private education and health services	38,500	37,900	35,400	600	3,100
Health care and social assistance	33,800	33,200	31,300	600	2,500
Leisure and hospitality	15,800	15,700	15,700	100	100
Accommodation and food services	14,000	14,000	14,200	0	-200
Other services	5,700	5,700	5,700	0	0
Government	46,000	45,800	45,200	200	800
Federal government	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
State government	23,500	23,500	22,900	0	600
State education	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Local government	21,000	20,800	20,800	200	200
Indian tribal	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
Local education	12,200	12,000	12,300	200	-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 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.

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.

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