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Employment in Salem MSA (Marion and Polk Counties): October 2018

Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Up to 4.5 Percent

The Salem metropolitan statistical area's (MSA) unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in October, edging up from its revised September rate of 4.3 percent. Oregon's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in October, unchanged from its revised rate in September of 3.8 percent.

Salem's October employment gains were larger than normal. Salem gained an estimated 2,100 jobs in October when an increase of roughly 1,400 would be expected, meaning seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased 700. Salem's employment was 16,700, or 10.9 percent, above its pre-recession employment peak, which occurred in February 2008.

Employment in the Salem MSA grew 6,400 over the past year, a 3.8 percent increase. Salem's growth outpaced the state and the nation. Oregon's employment grew 2.0 percent over the past year. Nationally, employment was up 1.7 percent over the past 12 months. Salem's private sector added 7,900 jobs over the past year, growing 6.4 percent. The public sector shed 1,500 jobs, declining 3.5 percent.

Much of the drop in public sector jobs is caused by the reclassification of approximately 1,700 home care workers from state government to private-sector health care and social assistance. The reclassification will affect private-sector and government over-the-year change figures through December 2018. It does not affect total payroll employment levels.

The fastest-growing major private-sector industries over the past year included: information (+100 jobs, or 8.3%) and construction (+900 jobs, or 7.8%).

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Thursday, December 27 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Tuesday, December 18.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	September 2018	October 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	203,555	203,370	203,944	185	-389
Unemployed	8,544	7,875	8,247	669	297
Unemployment rate	4.2%	3.9%	4.0%	0.3	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.3%	4.4%	0.2	0.1
Employed	195,011	195,495	195,697	-484	-686
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	173,500	171,400	167,100	2,100	6,400
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	170,600	169,900	165,300	700	5,300
Total private	131,600	130,900	123,700	700	7,900
Mining, logging, and construction	12,400	12,500	11,500	-100	900
Mining and logging	600	600	700	0	-100
Construction	11,800	11,900	10,800	-100	1,000
Manufacturing	13,900	14,000	13,500	-100	400
Durable goods	6,500	6,600	6,300	-100	200
Nondurable goods	7,400	7,400	7,200	0	200
Food manufacturing	5,300	5,400	5,000	-100	300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	29,100	28,700	28,200	400	900
Wholesale trade	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	200
Retail trade	19,600	19,200	19,100	400	500
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	5,200	5,200	5,000	0	200
Information	1,300	1,300	1,200	0	100
Financial activities	7,200	7,300	7,100	-100	100
Professional and business services	15,800	15,600	14,700	200	1,100
Administrative and support services	8,200	8,200	7,800	0	400
Education and health services	30,700	29,700	26,700	1,000	4,000
Health care and social assistance	26,700	26,000	23,200	700	3,500
Leisure and hospitality	15,400	16,100	15,300	-700	100
Accommodation and food services	13,800	14,200	13,600	-400	200
Other services	5,800	5,700	5,500	100	300
Government	41,900	40,500	43,400	1,400	-1,500
Federal government	1,500	1,500	1,400	0	100
State government	19,800	19,800	21,000	0	-1,200
State education	800	800	700	0	100
Local government	20,600	19,200	21,000	1,400	-400
Indian tribal	1,400	1,400	1,500	0	-100
Local education	12,400	11,000	12,800	1,400	-400

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 www.QualityInfo.org, select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

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For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.