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

Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Remains at 4.5 Percent

The Salem metropolitan statistical area's (MSA) unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in December, matching its revised November rate of 4.5 percent. Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in December, up from its revised rate in November of 3.9 percent.

Salem's December employment losses were slightly smaller than normal. Salem's employment declined 2,100 in December when a decrease of 2,200 would be expected, meaning seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased 100. Salem's employment was 17,400, or 11.3 percent, above its pre-recession employment peak, which occurred in February 2008.

Employment in the Salem MSA grew 4,800 over the past year, a 2.9 percent increase. Salem's growth outpaced the state and the nation. Oregon's employment grew 1.5 percent over the past year. Nationally, employment was up 1.8 percent over the past 12 months. Salem's private sector added 6,300 jobs over the past year, growing 5.1 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: construction (+900 jobs, or 8.6%) and information (+100 jobs, or 8.3%).

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, March 12 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Tuesday, March 5.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	November 2018	December 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	199,854	203,156	202,072	-3,302	-2,218
Unemployed	8,582	8,487	7,930	95	652
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.2%	3.9%	0.1	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.5%	4.1%	0.0	0.4
Employed	191,272	194,669	194,142	-3,397	-2,870
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	171,500	173,600	166,700	-2,100	4,800
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	171,300	171,200	166,600	100	4,700
Total private	129,700	131,300	123,400	-1,600	6,300
Mining, logging, and construction	12,000	12,200	11,100	-200	900
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	11,400	11,600	10,500	-200	900
Manufacturing	12,900	13,500	12,800	-600	100
Durable goods	6,700	6,600	6,400	100	300
Nondurable goods	6,200	6,900	6,400	-700	-200
Food manufacturing	4,600	4,900	4,300	-300	300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	29,600	29,900	29,100	-300	500
Wholesale trade	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	200
Retail trade	20,000	20,400	19,700	-400	300
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	5,300	5,200	5,300	100	0
Information	1,300	1,300	1,200	0	100
Financial activities	7,200	7,300	7,100	-100	100
Professional and business services	15,500	15,700	14,500	-200	1,000
Administrative and support services	8,000	8,100	7,500	-100	500
Education and health services	30,200	30,400	26,800	-200	3,400
Health care and social assistance	26,200	26,200	23,400	0	2,800
Leisure and hospitality	15,300	15,300	15,300	0	0
Accommodation and food services	13,600	13,600	13,600	0	0
Other services	5,700	5,700	5,500	0	200
Government	41,800	42,300	43,300	-500	-1,500
Federal government	1,500	1,500	1,400	0	100
State government	19,800	20,000	20,900	-200	-1,100
State education	800	800	700	0	100
Local government	20,500	20,800	21,000	-300	-500
Indian tribal	1,500	1,400	1,500	100	0
Local education	12,300	12,500	12,900	-200	-600

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.