

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 28, 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Patrick O'Connor, Regional Economist  
[Patrick.s.Oconnor@oregon.gov](mailto:Patrick.s.Oconnor@oregon.gov)  
(503) 400-4374

## **Employment in Salem MSA (Marion and Polk Counties): December 2019**

### **Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate at 4.0 Percent**

The Salem metropolitan statistical area's (MSA) unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in December, down from its revised November rate of 4.2 percent. Oregon's statewide unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in December, down from its revised rate in November of 3.9 percent.

Salem's December employment losses were less than normal. Salem shed an estimated 1,300 jobs in December when a decrease of roughly 2,100 would be expected, meaning seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased 800 jobs in December. Salem's employment was 17,200, or 11.2 percent, above its pre-recession employment peak, which occurred in February 2008.

Employment in the Salem MSA grew 1,100 over the past year, a 0.6 percent increase. Salem's growth was outpaced by the nation and the state. Oregon's job growth over the past year was 1.4 percent and the U.S. also grew 1.4 percent.

Salem's private sector added 1,300 jobs over the past year, growing 1.0 percent. Public sector employment is down 200 over the past 12 months. .

The fastest-growing major private-sector industries over the past year included: professional and business services (+1,100 jobs, or 7.2%); other services (+200 jobs, or 3.6%); and education and health services (+900 jobs, or 3.1%).

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, March 10 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Tuesday, March 3.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

January 28, 2020

## Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	November 2019	December 2018
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	198,434	200,449	199,988	-2,015	-1,554
Unemployed	6,144	6,519	8,913	-375	-2,769
Unemployment rate	3.1%	3.3%	4.5%	-0.2	-1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>-0.5</i>
Employed	192,290	193,930	191,075	-1,640	1,215
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	172,000	173,300	170,900	-1,300	1,100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>171,100</i>	<i>170,300</i>	<i>170,700</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>400</i>
Total private	130,200	131,000	128,900	-800	1,300
Mining, logging, and construction	12,300	12,700	12,300	-400	0
Mining and logging	500	500	700	0	-200
Construction	11,800	12,200	11,600	-400	200
Manufacturing	12,400	12,900	12,800	-500	-400
Durable goods	6,500	6,500	6,500	0	0
Nondurable goods	5,900	6,400	6,300	-500	-400
Food manufacturing	3,900	4,200	4,100	-300	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	29,700	29,600	29,500	100	200
Wholesale trade	4,100	4,100	4,300	0	-200
Retail trade	19,800	19,800	19,600	0	200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	5,800	5,700	5,600	100	200
Information	1,300	1,300	1,600	0	-300
Financial activities	7,100	7,100	7,300	0	-200
Professional and business services	16,300	15,900	15,200	400	1,100
Administrative and support services	8,500	8,700	8,200	-200	300
Education and health services	30,000	30,500	29,100	-500	900
Health care and social assistance	26,700	26,700	26,100	0	600
Leisure and hospitality	15,400	15,300	15,600	100	-200
Accommodation and food services	13,500	13,500	13,800	0	-300
Other services	5,700	5,700	5,500	0	200
Government	41,800	42,300	42,000	-500	-200
Federal government	1,500	1,500	1,400	0	100
State government	19,600	19,900	19,800	-300	-200
State education	800	800	800	0	0
Local government	20,700	20,900	20,800	-200	-100
Indian tribal	1,500	1,500	1,400	0	100
Local education	12,400	12,600	12,600	-200	-200

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/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org). To subscribe, go to [www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm](http://www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm), enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you would like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your selected preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

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