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## Employment in Salem MSA (Marion and Polk Counties): March 2020

### COVID-19 Impact

March data from the Salem MSA's establishment and household surveys do not reflect the early effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the labor market. This is because the data used for today's report was collected prior to public health measures related to social distancing began on March 17<sup>th</sup>. We expect the April data, published on May 27<sup>th</sup>, to show the early effects on employment and the unemployment rate in the Salem MSA. Please see the [Weekly New Unemployment Insurance Claims](#) report for the latest information on initial claims for unemployment insurance. Data and analysis related to COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.qualityinfo.org/covid-19>

### Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate at 3.6 Percent

The Salem Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in March, essentially unchanged from its revised February rate of 3.7 percent. Oregon's statewide unemployment rate was 3.3 percent in March, unchanged from its revised rate in February of 3.3 percent.

Salem's March employment gains were less than normal. Salem shed an estimated 100 jobs in March when an increase of roughly 500 would be expected, meaning seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased 600 jobs in March.

Employment in the Salem MSA grew 2,400 over the past year, a 1.4 percent increase. Salem's growth outpaced the nation and the state. Oregon's job growth over the past year was 0.9 percent and the U.S. grew 1.1 percent.

Salem's private sector added 1,900 jobs over the past year, growing 1.5 percent. Public-sector employment is up 500, growing 1.2 percent over the past 12 months.

### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Wednesday, May 27 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Tuesday, May 19.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

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### Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2020	February 2020	March 2019	February 2020	March 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	201,902	201,531	200,439	371	1,463
Unemployed	8,125	8,015	9,414	110	-1,289
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.0%	4.7%	0.0	-0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.6%	3.7%	4.4%	-0.1	-0.8
Employed	193,777	193,516	191,025	261	2,752
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	172,400	172,500	170,000	-100	2,400
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	173,100	173,700	170,600	-600	2,500
Total private	129,400	129,700	127,500	-300	1,900
Mining, logging, and construction	12,700	12,700	12,100	0	600
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	12,100	12,100	11,500	0	600
Manufacturing	11,700	11,900	12,900	-200	-1,200
Durable goods	6,200	6,300	6,600	-100	-400
Nondurable goods	5,500	5,600	6,300	-100	-800
Food manufacturing	3,700	3,700	4,000	0	-300
Trade, transportation, and utilities	28,900	29,100	28,200	-200	700
Wholesale trade	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	100
Retail trade	18,500	18,600	18,700	-100	-200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	6,200	6,300	5,400	-100	800
Information	1,400	1,400	1,300	0	100
Financial activities	7,100	7,100	7,000	0	100
Professional and business services	15,800	15,800	15,300	0	500
Administrative and support services	7,900	7,900	8,200	0	-300
Education and health services	30,600	30,700	30,000	-100	600
Health care and social assistance	27,000	27,100	26,600	-100	400
Leisure and hospitality	15,700	15,600	15,300	100	400
Accommodation and food services	13,800	13,700	13,500	100	300
Other services	5,500	5,400	5,400	100	100
Government	43,000	42,800	42,500	200	500
Federal government	1,500	1,500	1,400	0	100
State government	20,600	20,400	20,200	200	400
State education	900	900	800	0	100
Local government	20,900	20,900	20,900	0	0
Indian tribal	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
Local education	12,800	12,800	12,700	0	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/](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.

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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 coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit [https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment\\_COVID19](https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, 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.