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

Salem MSA's Employment Gains 300 Jobs

Employment gains in the Salem MSA in March were more than normal; total nonfarm employment increased by 1,300 jobs, when an employment increase of 1,000 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 300 between February and March. With March's gains, employment is up 8.3% or 14,500 jobs above the pre-pandemic employment level in February 2020.

Overall, private sector employment was up 900 in March. The largest private-sector job gains in March were reported in professional and business services (+400 jobs, +2.1%) and health care and social assistance (+300 jobs, +0.9%).

The public sector added 400 jobs in March. Local government was up 400 jobs in March. State and federal government employment were both unchanged in March.

The Salem MSA's unadjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in March, up from its revised rate of 4.9% in February. Oregon's statewide unadjusted unemployment rate in March was 5.2%, unchanged from its revised February rate of 5.2%.

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 April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, May 20 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, May 14.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	226,054	225,117	220,167	937	5,887
Unemployed	11,207	11,143	9,428	64	1,779
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.9%	4.3%	0.1	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	214,847	213,974	210,739	873	4,108
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	188,800	187,500	184,200	1,300	4,600
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>189,000</i>	<i>188,700</i>	<i>184,200</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>4,800</i>
Total private	142,400	141,500	138,700	900	3,700
Mining, logging, and construction	13,700	13,600	13,800	100	-100
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	13,100	13,000	13,200	100	-100
Manufacturing	11,500	11,500	11,600	0	-100
Durable goods	5,900	5,900	6,100	0	-200
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	29,600	29,900	0	-300
Wholesale trade	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0
Retail trade	18,300	18,300	18,600	0	-300
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	7,100	7,100	7,100	0	0
Information	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
Financial activities	5,800	5,800	6,100	0	-300
Professional and business services	19,600	19,200	18,400	400	1,200
Administrative and support services	9,400	9,200	9,800	200	-400
Private education and health services	38,800	38,500	35,600	300	3,200
Health care and social assistance	34,000	33,700	31,400	300	2,600
Leisure and hospitality	15,900	15,800	15,900	100	0
Accommodation and food services	14,100	14,000	14,200	100	-100
Other services	5,700	5,700	5,700	0	0
Government	46,400	46,000	45,500	400	900
Federal government	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
State government	23,500	23,500	23,000	0	500
State education	1,200	1,100	1,100	100	100
Local government	21,400	21,000	21,000	400	400
Indian tribal	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0
Local education	12,600	12,200	12,400	400	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/. 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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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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