

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 27, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Patrick O'Connor, Regional Economist

[Patrick.s.oconnor@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:Patrick.s.oconnor@employ.oregon.gov)

(503) 400-4374

## **Employment in Salem MSA (Marion and Polk Counties): December 2025**

### **Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Remains at 5.1%**

The Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1% in December, matching November's revised unemployment rate. The Salem MSA's unemployment rate has increased from 4.2% to 5.1% over the past year. Oregon's statewide unadjusted unemployment rate in December was 5.2%.

Employment losses in the Salem MSA in December were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment decreased by 500 jobs, when an employment decrease of 400 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 100 between November and December. With December's loss, employment is up 9.1% or 15,900 jobs above the pre-pandemic employment level in February 2020.

Over the past year the Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is up 4,500 jobs or +2.4%.

Overall, the private sector shed 400 jobs in December. The largest private-sector job losses in December were reported in construction (-700 jobs, -5.4%). Leisure and hospitality shed 200 jobs in December.

The public sector shed 100 jobs in December. Local government was down 100 jobs in December. State and federal government employment were both unchanged.

### **Next Press Releases**

We are awaiting notification from the Bureau of Labor Statistics regarding publication dates for the rest of the year and will update our [schedule of future releases](#) as dates become available.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

January 27, 2026

### Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	228,411	230,525	223,861	-2,114	4,550
Unemployed	11,114	10,577	9,352	537	1,762
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.6%	4.2%	0.3	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Employed	217,297	219,948	214,509	-2,651	2,788
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	192,400	192,900	187,100	-500	5,300
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>190,400</i>	<i>190,500</i>	<i>185,900</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>4,500</i>
Total private	145,800	146,200	141,300	-400	4,500
Mining, logging, and construction	12,900	13,600	13,400	-700	-500
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	12,300	13,000	12,800	-700	-500
Manufacturing	11,800	11,800	11,500	0	300
Durable goods	6,000	6,000	5,900	0	100
Nondurable goods	5,800	5,800	5,600	0	200
Food manufacturing	3,900	4,000	3,700	-100	200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	31,100	31,100	30,600	0	500
Wholesale trade	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	-100
Retail trade	18,900	18,900	18,900	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	8,200	8,200	7,600	0	600
Information	1,700	1,700	2,100	0	-400
Financial activities	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0
Professional and business services	20,700	20,100	18,700	600	2,000
Administrative and support services	10,100	10,100	10,000	0	100
Private education and health services	39,800	39,800	37,200	0	2,600
Health care and social assistance	35,800	35,800	33,200	0	2,600
Leisure and hospitality	15,900	16,100	15,900	-200	0
Accommodation and food services	14,300	14,400	14,400	-100	-100
Other services	5,700	5,800	5,700	-100	0
Government	46,600	46,700	45,800	-100	800
Federal government	1,400	1,400	1,500	0	-100
State government	23,700	23,700	23,400	0	300
State education	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Local government	21,500	21,600	20,900	-100	600
Indian tribal	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
Local education	12,700	12,800	12,000	-100	700

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 Salem MSA includes Marion and Polk counties.

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 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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to [www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe](http://www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe), 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'd 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 preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

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 help finding jobs and training resources, go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

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](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a [OED\\_Communications@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

###