

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 7, 2026

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Employment in Salem MSA (Marion and Polk Counties): January 2026

Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.0%

The Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in January, down from December's revised unemployment rate of 5.1%. The Salem MSA's unemployment rate has increased from 4.3% to 5.0% over the past year. Oregon's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January was 5.2%.

Employment losses in the Salem MSA in January were less than normal; total nonfarm employment decreased by 2,900 jobs, when an employment decrease of 3,100 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 200 between December and January. With January's loss, employment is up 8.8% or 15,300 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 3,200 jobs or +1.7%.

Overall, the private sector shed 2,700 jobs in January. The largest private-sector job losses in January were reported in professional and business services (-1,200 jobs, -6.7%). Retail trade shed 700 jobs in January.

The public sector shed 200 jobs in January. Local government was down 200 jobs in January. State and federal government employment were both unchanged.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 21 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, April 15.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

April 7, 2026

Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025	January 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	226,277	229,051	221,227	-2,774	5,050
Unemployed	12,764	11,103	11,658	1,661	1,106
Unemployment rate	5.6%	4.8%	5.3%	0.8	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.1%	4.3%	0.1	0.7
Employed	213,513	217,948	209,569	-4,435	3,944
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	188,000	190,900	184,300	-2,900	3,700
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>189,800</i>	<i>189,600</i>	<i>186,600</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>3,200</i>
Total private	141,100	143,800	138,800	-2,700	2,300
Mining, logging, and construction	12,500	12,700	13,100	-200	-600
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	11,900	12,100	12,500	-200	-600
Manufacturing	11,500	11,800	11,300	-300	200
Durable goods	5,900	6,000	5,800	-100	100
Nondurable goods	5,600	5,800	5,500	-200	100
Food manufacturing	3,700	3,900	3,600	-200	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	31,500	32,500	29,700	-1,000	1,800
Wholesale trade	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	-100
Retail trade	18,000	18,700	18,300	-700	-300
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	9,500	9,800	7,300	-300	2,200
Information	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	-100
Financial activities	6,600	6,600	6,600	0	0
Professional and business services	16,800	18,000	17,900	-1,200	-1,100
Private education and health services	39,100	39,100	37,300	0	1,800
Health care and social assistance	34,900	34,900	33,500	0	1,400
Leisure and hospitality	15,700	15,800	15,500	-100	200
Other services	5,700	5,600	5,600	100	100
Government	46,900	47,100	45,500	-200	1,400
Federal government	1,400	1,400	1,500	0	-100
State government	23,600	23,600	23,400	0	200
State education	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Local government	21,900	22,100	20,600	-200	1,300
Indian tribal	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
Local education	13,000	13,100	11,800	-100	1,200

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 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/. 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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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.

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