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

### **Federal Government Shutdown Pauses Employment Reports**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) suspended the monthly employment and unemployment reports for the nation, states, and metropolitan areas as of Oct. 1, 2025. Oregon's monthly jobs and unemployment rate for September are unavailable at this time. In the meantime, we will highlight data that we continue to produce and share as it becomes available. One such topic is federal government employment.

#### **Federal Government Jobs in the Salem MSA**

The Salem MSA had an average of 1,539 federal government jobs covered by unemployment benefits during the first half of 2025. That accounted for about 0.8% of all jobs in the Salem MSA. Federal employment comprises 1.5% of Oregon total employment. The federal government share of all jobs was much higher in some rural counties. The top 10 counties by share of all jobs in federal government were rural areas. More than 15% of all jobs in Sherman County were in federal government. The next-largest shares were in Grant (9%), Harney (8%), and Lake (8%) counties.

Federal government jobs also tend to pay relatively high wages. Looking at annual average wages, jobs on federal government payrolls in Oregon paid nearly \$98,500 in 2024. That was 38% higher than the average annual wage for all jobs in Oregon. In the Salem MSA the average annual wage for federal government was \$91,820 in 2024. That was 49% higher than the average annual wage for all jobs in the Salem MSA. The Salem MSA's federal government average annual wage was roughly \$6,600 or 7% less than the statewide average wage in federal government. [Read more about federal government jobs in Oregon.](#)

#### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next update on local trends on Tuesday, Nov. 25, and the statewide trends on Wednesday, Nov. 19. We will update our [schedule of future releases](#) as federal services return.

**Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment**

	<b>--Change From--</b>				
	<b>August 2025</b>	<b>July 2025</b>	<b>August 2024</b>	<b>July 2025</b>	<b>August 2024</b>
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	230,329	228,445	225,624	1,884	4,705
Unemployed	12,385	12,309	9,763	76	2,622
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.4%	4.3%	0.0	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.8</i>
Employed	217,944	216,136	215,861	1,808	2,083
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	184,000	182,400	181,600	1,600	2,400
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>186,200</i>	<i>185,900</i>	<i>184,000</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>2,200</i>
Total private	141,700	140,700	139,600	1,000	2,100
Mining, logging, and construction	13,800	13,800	14,600	0	-800
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	13,200	13,200	14,000	0	-800
Manufacturing	11,700	11,700	12,600	0	-900
Durable goods	5,800	5,900	6,100	-100	-300
Nondurable goods	5,900	5,800	6,500	100	-600
Food manufacturing	3,800	3,800	4,400	0	-600
Trade, transportation, and utilities	29,800	29,700	29,900	100	-100
Wholesale trade	4,100	4,100	4,200	0	-100
Retail trade	18,500	18,500	18,700	0	-200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	7,200	7,100	7,000	100	200
Information	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Financial activities	6,300	6,300	6,200	0	100
Professional and business services	17,900	18,200	16,400	-300	1,500
Administrative and support services	9,600	9,700	7,800	-100	1,800
Private education and health services	37,400	36,300	35,500	1,100	1,900
Health care and social assistance	34,800	34,400	32,400	400	2,400
Leisure and hospitality	17,400	17,400	16,900	0	500
Accommodation and food services	15,400	15,300	14,800	100	600
Other services	5,600	5,500	5,700	100	-100
Government	42,300	41,700	42,000	600	300
Federal government	1,500	1,400	1,600	100	-100
State government	23,600	23,600	23,200	0	400
State education	1,000	1,000	1,200	0	-200
Local government	17,200	16,700	17,200	500	0
Indian tribal	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	-100
Local education	8,300	7,700	8,500	600	-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 [QualityInfo.org](http://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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