

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dec. 16, 2025

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): September 2025**

### **Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Increased to 5.0%**

The Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in September, up from its August rate of 4.9%. Oregon's statewide unemployment rate in September was 5.2%, up from its August rate of 5.0%.

Employment gains in the Salem MSA in September were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment increased by 3,500 jobs, when an employment increase of 2,700 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 800 between August and September. With September's gains, employment is up 8.6% or 15,000 jobs above the pre-pandemic employment level in February 2020.

Overall, the private sector added 1,300 jobs in September. The largest private-sector job gains in September were reported in professional and business services (+1,600 jobs, +8.7%). Health care and social assistance added 600 jobs in September.

The public sector added 2,200 jobs in September. Local government was up 2,300 jobs in September. State government employment was down 100 jobs. Federal government employment was unchanged.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Jan. 13, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Wednesday, Jan. 7.



### Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	--Change From--	
				August 2025	September 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	233,228	229,890	227,179	3,338	6,049
Unemployed	11,347	12,280	8,599	-933	2,748
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.3%	3.8%	-0.4	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	4.9%	4.2%	0.1	0.8
Employed	221,881	217,610	218,580	4,271	3,301
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	190,200	186,700	185,900	3,500	4,300
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	189,500	188,700	185,200	800	4,300
Total private	145,600	144,300	141,400	1,300	4,200
Mining, logging, and construction	14,000	14,200	14,300	-200	-300
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	13,400	13,600	13,700	-200	-300
Manufacturing	12,200	12,200	12,200	0	0
Durable goods	6,000	6,100	6,000	-100	0
Nondurable goods	6,200	6,100	6,200	100	0
Food manufacturing	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30,400	30,500	29,900	-100	500
Wholesale trade	4,000	4,100	4,200	-100	-200
Retail trade	18,400	18,400	18,600	0	-200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	8,000	8,000	7,100	0	900
Information	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	-100
Financial activities	6,200	6,300	6,200	-100	0
Professional and business services	19,900	18,300	17,800	1,600	2,100
Administrative and support services	10,100	9,800	9,100	300	1,000
Private education and health services	39,000	38,300	36,600	700	2,400
Health care and social assistance	35,600	35,000	32,600	600	3,000
Leisure and hospitality	16,500	17,000	16,800	-500	-300
Accommodation and food services	14,600	14,800	14,800	-200	-200
Other services	5,700	5,800	5,800	-100	-100
Government	44,600	42,400	44,500	2,200	100
Federal government	1,500	1,500	1,600	0	-100
State government	23,600	23,700	23,200	-100	400
State education	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Local government	19,500	17,200	19,700	2,300	-200
Indian tribal	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
Local education	10,700	8,400	10,800	2,300	-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 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).

###