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

Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Remains at 4.9%

The Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in May, unchanged from April's revised unemployment rate of 4.9%. The Salem MSA's unemployment rate has been essentially unchanged, decreasing from 5.0% to 4.9% over the past year. Oregon's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May was 5.2%.

Employment gains in the Salem MSA in May were more than normal; total nonfarm employment increased by 1,600 jobs, when an employment increase of 1,200 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment increased 400 between April and May. Employment is up 9.6% or 16,700 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 3,100 jobs or +1.7%.

Overall, the private sector added 1,300 jobs in May. The largest private-sector job gains in May were reported in professional and business services (+900 jobs, +5.1%); leisure and hospitality (+400 jobs, +2.5%); and other services (+200 jobs, +3.4%).

The public sector overall added 300 jobs in May. Federal government was up 100 jobs in May. Local government employment increased 200. State government employment was unchanged in May.

Next Press Releases

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



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

June 23, 2026

Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	228,569	225,981	224,926	2,588	3,643
Unemployed	10,641	10,186	10,661	455	-20
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.5%	4.7%	0.2	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	4.9%	5.0%	0.0	-0.1
Employed	217,928	215,795	214,265	2,133	3,663
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	192,800	191,200	189,800	1,600	3,000
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>191,200</i>	<i>190,800</i>	<i>187,800</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>3,400</i>
Total private	145,300	144,000	143,300	1,300	2,000
Mining, logging, and construction	13,200	13,200	13,500	0	-300
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	12,600	12,600	12,900	0	-300
Manufacturing	11,300	11,300	11,600	0	-300
Durable goods	5,900	5,900	6,000	0	-100
Nondurable goods	5,400	5,400	5,600	0	-200
Food manufacturing	3,500	3,500	3,600	0	-100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	32,500	32,600	30,200	-100	2,300
Wholesale trade	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	-100
Retail trade	18,100	18,100	18,600	0	-500
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	10,400	10,500	7,500	-100	2,900
Information	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
Financial activities	6,700	6,600	6,700	100	0
Professional and business services	18,600	17,700	19,000	900	-400
Private education and health services	38,800	39,000	38,200	-200	600
Health care and social assistance	35,100	35,200	34,600	-100	500
Leisure and hospitality	16,300	15,900	16,600	400	-300
Other services	6,100	5,900	5,800	200	300
Government	47,500	47,200	46,500	300	1,000
Federal government	1,500	1,400	1,500	100	0
State government	23,800	23,800	23,900	0	-100
State education	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Local government	22,200	22,000	21,100	200	1,100
Indian tribal	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Local education	13,300	13,200	12,200	100	1,100

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 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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