State of Oregon
Employment Department

NEWS

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CONTACT INFORMATION:
Patrick O'Connor, Regional Economist
Patrick.s.oconnor@employ.oregon.gov
(503) 400-4374

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

Salem MSA's Unemployment Rate Essentially Unchanged at 4.7%

The Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7% in October, essentially unchanged from September's revised unemployment rate of 4.8%. Oregon's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October was 4.9%.

Employment gains in the Salem MSA in October were more than normal; total nonfarm employment increased by 2,900 jobs, when an employment increase of 2,300 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment increased 600 between September and October. Employment is up 8.9% or 15,500 jobs above the pre-pandemic employment level in February 2020.

Over the past year the Salem MSA's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is down 2,400 jobs or -1.2%.

Overall, the private sector added 2,200 jobs in October. Professional and business services (+2,300 jobs, +12.4%) had the largest employment growth. The largest private-sector job losses in October were reported in leisure and hospitality (-200 jobs, -1.2%); food manufacturing (-100 jobs, -2.3%); and construction (-100 jobs, -0.8%).

The public sector overall added 700 jobs in October. State and federal government employment were both unchanged in October. Local government employment increased 700.

Next Press Releases
The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Dec. 22 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

State of Oregon Employment Department

Workforce & Economic Research Division
QualityInfo.org
November 24, 2026

Salem MSA Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	234,240	234,608	NA	-368	NA
Unemployed	9,706	9,408	NA	298	NA
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.0%	NA	0.1	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*4.7%*	*4.8%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	224,534	225,200	NA	-666	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	192,800	189,900	193,300	2,900	-500
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*190,000*	*189,400*	*192,400*	*600*	*-2,400*
Total private	147,500	145,300	147,200	2,200	300
Mining, logging, and construction	13,500	13,600	13,500	-100	0
Mining and logging	600	600	600	0	0
Construction	12,900	13,000	12,900	-100	0
Manufacturing	12,400	12,500	12,200	-100	200
Durable goods	6,100	6,100	6,100	0	0
Nondurable goods	6,300	6,400	6,100	-100	200
Food manufacturing	4,300	4,400	4,100	-100	200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	32,000	31,900	32,300	100	-300
Wholesale trade	3,900	3,900	4,000	0	-100
Retail trade	18,000	17,900	18,300	100	-300
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	10,100	10,100	10,000	0	100
Information	1,800	1,700	1,700	100	100
Financial activities	6,700	6,700	6,800	0	-100
Professional and business services	20,800	18,500	19,900	2,300	900
Private education and health services	38,600	38,500	38,800	100	-200
Health care and social assistance	35,200	35,300	34,700	-100	500
Leisure and hospitality	16,100	16,300	16,200	-200	-100
Other services	5,600	5,600	5,800	0	-200
Government	45,300	44,600	46,100	700	-800
Federal government	1,600	1,600	1,400	0	200
State government	23,900	23,900	23,600	0	300
State education	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Local government	19,800	19,100	21,100	700	-1,300
Indian tribal	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Local education	11,100	10,300	12,200	800	-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.

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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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