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From Associated Press reports

Oregon's jobless rate 11.4 percent

SALEM
Oregon's unemployment rate climbed to 11.4 percent last month from 11.1 percent in November, the state Employment Division said Wednesday.

The agency said employment dropped in almost all segments

of industry and that Christmas season job gains in retail trade were far below normal.

An estimated 154,500 job seekers were out of work in December. The division said both that number and the jobless rate exceeded the highest levels reached during the 1974-75 recession.

"I'm not encouraged by these December figures," said Employment Administrator Ray Thorne. "Based on recent

interest rate increases and economic forecasts for 1982, Oregon's recovery is likely to be painfully slow."

Both the construction and wood products industries reported larger than normal job decreases in December.

State asks for surplus cheese

SALEM

State officials today said they have asked the federal government for 348,100 pounds of surplus cheese to distribute to low income Oregonians next month.

The state plans to store the American pasteurized cheese in six major cold storage facilities around the state and then transport it to about 150 local food banks for distribution.

Program manager Ellen Schneider said individuals or families must have incomes at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level to be eligible for the cheese.

For example, she said a three-member family would be eligible if its income was \$8,838 per year or less.

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