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Employment in Central Oregon: March 2021

The recovery surged in March behind significant job gains across all three counties. The region posted the strongest monthly job gains since last summer.

We are now one year out from the first pandemic impacts captured in the employment and labor force data. It is important to note that looking at over-the-year change is no longer a reflection of pre-COVID trends.

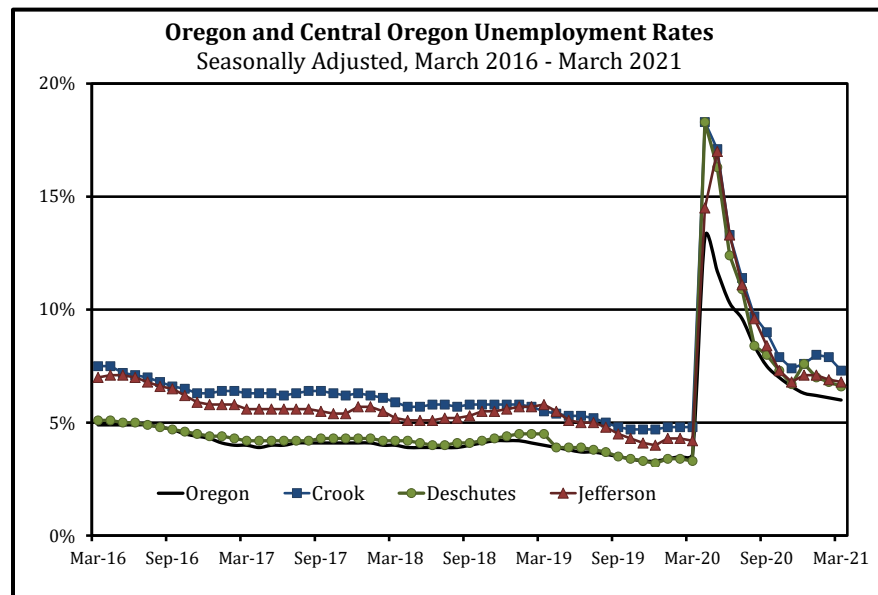
Crook County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped significantly in March to 7.3%, down from 7.9% in February. The unemployment rate remains higher than in March 2020 when it was 4.8%.

Employment levels rose significantly in March, up 120 jobs (+1.9%) on a seasonally adjusted basis. The monthly gains in March were the second highest in our current recovery, only trailing the June 2020 gain of 170 jobs after the initial lockdowns eased.

Monthly job gains were spread across a variety of industries with the largest in leisure and hospitality (+60 jobs) and construction (+50 jobs). There were also notable gains in education, health services, and professional and business services.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment in March 2021 was down by only 90 jobs (-1.3%) from before the first COVID-19 impacts in February 2020.

Deschutes County (Bend-Redmond MSA): The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 6.6% in March, down from 6.8% in February. The rate remains up from March 2020 when it was 3.3%.



Hiring surged in March across Deschutes County with 1,880 jobs (+2.2%) jobs added on a seasonally adjusted basis from February. The gains in March were the largest since last July when the county added 2,760 jobs in a single month.

Those monthly gains were largely concentrated in leisure and hospitality (+1,120 jobs) as many restaurants reopened for indoor dining. However, there were also strong gains in retail trade, local government education, private education and health services, and manufacturing.

Compared with the Pre-COVID peak in February 2020 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment in Deschutes County remained down just 3.4% (-3,030 jobs). Just three months ago the county was down by 6.7%, an amazing pace of recovery over the past two months.

Jefferson County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped slightly to 6.8% in March, down from 6.9% in February. The rate was 4.2% in March 2020.

Jefferson County posted a gain of 40 jobs (~1%) on a seasonally adjusted basis in March, a slightly slower pace of growth than neighboring counties. Those monthly gains were almost entirely in local government and leisure and hospitality.

Despite a slower pace of recovery in March, Jefferson County is the nearest of the Central Oregon counties to a complete recovery from the COVID-19 shock. Seasonally adjusted employment levels were only down 0.8% (-60 jobs) from the pre-COVID peak in February 2020.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, May 25 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Tuesday, May 18.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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April 20, 2021

Crook County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021	March 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	10,678	10,568	9,942	110	736
Unemployed	891	986	593	-95	298
Unemployment rate	8.3%	9.3%	6.0%	-1.0	2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.3%	7.9%	4.8%	-0.6	2.5
Employed	9,787	9,582	9,349	205	438
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	6,380	6,200	6,410	180	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6,560	6,440	6,590	120	-30
Total private	5,170	5,020	5,190	150	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	730	680	800	50	-70
Mining and logging	40	40	50	0	-10
Construction	690	640	750	50	-60
Manufacturing	620	630	660	-10	-40
Wood product manufacturing	360	360	360	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,080	1,070	1,090	10	-10
Wholesale trade	300	300	330	0	-30
Retail trade	570	570	560	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	210	200	200	10	10
Information	290	290	250	0	40
Financial activities	220	220	190	0	30
Professional and business services	520	500	460	20	60
Education and health services	800	780	790	20	10
Leisure and hospitality	630	570	690	60	-60
Other services	280	280	260	0	20
Government	1,210	1,180	1,220	30	-10
Federal government	230	220	230	10	0
State government	130	130	120	0	10
Local government	850	830	870	20	-20

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: 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.



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Bend-Redmond MSA (Deschutes County) Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021	March 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	101,820	100,564	96,547	1,256	5,273
Unemployed	7,022	7,432	4,216	-410	2,806
Unemployment rate	6.9%	7.4%	4.4%	-0.5	2.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.6%	6.8%	3.3%	-0.2	3.3
Employed	94,798	93,132	92,331	1,666	2,467
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	84,530	82,520	87,230	2,010	-2,700
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	86,320	84,440	89,090	1,880	-2,770
Total private	75,280	73,500	77,100	1,780	-1,820
Mining, logging, and construction	7,020	6,970	7,140	50	-120
Manufacturing	5,340	5,230	5,660	110	-320
Durable goods	3,220	3,200	3,530	20	-310
Trade, transportation, and utilities	16,540	16,170	15,930	370	610
Wholesale trade	2,280	2,280	2,250	0	30
Retail trade	11,960	11,600	11,480	360	480
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,300	2,290	2,200	10	100
Information	1,710	1,720	1,800	-10	-90
Financial activities	4,930	4,900	4,870	30	60
Professional and business services	9,810	9,820	10,450	-10	-640
Education and health services	14,790	14,670	15,020	120	-230
Leisure and hospitality	12,280	11,160	13,150	1,120	-870
Accommodation and food services	9,890	8,890	10,530	1,000	-640
Other services	2,860	2,860	3,080	0	-220
Government	9,250	9,020	10,130	230	-880
Federal government	890	880	890	10	0
State government	940	930	920	10	20
Local government	7,420	7,210	8,320	210	-900
Local education	4,350	4,130	4,940	220	-590

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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.



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Jefferson County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021	March 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	10,908	10,668	10,171	240	737
Unemployed	896	920	585	-24	311
Unemployment rate	8.2%	8.6%	5.8%	-0.4	2.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.8%	6.9%	4.2%	-0.1	2.6
Employed	10,012	9,748	9,586	264	426
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	6,550	6,470	6,550	80	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6,690	6,650	6,690	40	0
Total private	4,130	4,100	4,160	30	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	130	130	130	0	0
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	120	120	120	0	0
Manufacturing	1,270	1,270	1,260	0	10
Wood product manufacturing	900	890	880	10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	890	890	840	0	50
Wholesale trade	190	190	180	0	10
Retail trade	610	610	560	0	50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	100	0	-10
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	140	150	140	-10	0
Professional and business services	190	200	180	-10	10
Education and health services	730	720	750	10	-20
Leisure and hospitality	580	530	640	50	-60
Other services	170	180	190	-10	-20
Government	2,420	2,370	2,390	50	30
Federal government	130	120	130	10	0
State government	280	290	300	-10	-20
Local government	2,010	1,960	1,960	50	50
Indian tribal	920	900	890	20	30

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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 www.QualityInfo.org, select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. 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 coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment COVID19](http://Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.