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Employment in Eastern Oregon: February 2021

Light Employment Changes in February

Comparing February 2021 with February 2020 reveals elevated unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year increase came in Union County where the raw rate rose 3.5 percentage points to hit 8.7%. The smallest increase came in Wallowa County where the raw rate rose just 0.4 percentage point to 7.4%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in five Eastern Oregon counties and decreased in one. Union County saw the largest increase, jumping 2.9 percentage points to 7.1%. Harney County saw the smallest increase over the year, rising 0.5 percentage point to 4.8%. Wallowa County saw a decrease of 0.3 percentage point, dropping to 4.6%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment fell by 200 since February 2020. Employment dropped by 130 jobs in the private sector and 70 jobs in the public sector. Local government took the largest hit overall, down 80. Leisure and hospitality took the largest hit in the private sector, down 60. Both industries have struggled to regain pre-pandemic employment levels: local government due to restrictions on in-person school instruction; and leisure and hospitality due to restrictions on indoor dining and capacity limitations. Overall employment change was relatively tame over the month. Losses outweighed gains by 20 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down 0.1 percentage point in February to 5.6%. The raw rate slid by 0.3 percentage point to 7.1%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 70 over the year. Losses came primarily from the private sector, which saw small cuts in several industries including mining and logging (-20), and construction (-20). Local government decreased by 30 jobs while state government increased by 20 jobs. Over the month, total employment rose by 20 as gains outnumbered losses. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased 0.4 percentage point in February to 6.5%. The raw unemployment rate decreased 0.6 percentage point to 9.9%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 20 jobs over the year. The private sector showed a gain of 30 while the public sector slipped by 10. Gains were seen mainly in education and health services (+20) and professional and business services (+20). Total employment slipped by 10 in February with a loss in wholesale trade. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slipped by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.8%. The raw unemployment rate slid 0.3 percentage point to 7.0%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 290 over the year. Private-sector employment dropped by 180 while public-sector employment dropped by 110. Education and health services fell by 130, as did local government. The two industries accounted for the majority of losses. Retail trade countered with an upswing of 140 jobs and accounted for the majority of gains. Over the month, total employment rose by 70 jobs. Gains occurred mainly in local government and state government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched up 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.5%. The raw unemployment rate was unchanged for the month at 5.6%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 670 over the year. The private sector dropped by 550. Leisure and hospitality led losses, down 250 jobs. Manufacturing fell by 220 jobs. Local government took the only loss in the public sector, dropping 130 jobs. These three industries have taken the brunt of Union's pandemic induced losses over the year due to a variety of factors. Total employment rose by 70 over the month, however, even as manufacturing shed 50 jobs. Local government picked up 50 jobs, leisure and hospitality added 30 jobs, and small gains appeared in other industries to counter losses. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 1.1 percentage points in February to 7.1%. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.9 percentage point to 8.7%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 50 from February 2020 to February 2021. Gains were spread across several private-sector industries. Education and health services added 30 jobs. Public-sector employment shed 30 jobs. Total nonfarm employment dipped by 20 over the month as cuts came in information, as well as mining, logging, and construction. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage point for the month to 4.6%. The raw unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.4% in February.

For info on Unemployment Insurance benefits: [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19](https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19)

For more data and analysis related to COVID-19: Qualityinfo.org/covid-19

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 20 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Tuesday, April 13.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	Feb. 2021	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020	--Change From--	
				Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,360	7,392	7,071	-32	289
Unemployed	521	550	354	-29	167
Unemployment rate	7.1%	7.4%	5.0%	-0.3	2.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6%	5.7%	4.1%	-0.1	1.5
Employed	6,839	6,842	6,717	-3	122
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,230	5,250	5,430	-20	-200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,430	5,440	5,640	-10	-210
Total private	4,150	4,150	4,280	0	-130
Mining, logging, and construction	240	250	240	-10	0
Mining and logging	20	20	20	0	0
Construction	220	230	220	-10	0
Manufacturing	550	570	550	-20	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,140	1,140	1,100	0	40
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	820	820	790	0	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	230	0	10
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	150	150	170	0	-20
Professional and business services	300	290	350	10	-50
Education and health services	1,030	1,020	1,040	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	510	500	570	10	-60
Other services	190	190	210	0	-20
Government	1,080	1,100	1,150	-20	-70
Federal government	160	160	150	0	10
State government	220	220	220	0	0
Local government	700	720	780	-20	-80

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.

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2021	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,202	3,218	3,091	-16	111
Unemployed	316	339	275	-23	41
Unemployment rate	9.9%	10.5%	8.9%	-0.6	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.5%	6.9%	5.7%	-0.4	0.8
Employed	2,886	2,879	2,816	7	70
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,240	2,220	2,310	20	-70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,400	2,390	2,480	10	-80
Total private	1,280	1,280	1,340	0	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	180	170	220	10	-40
Mining and logging	120	120	140	0	-20
Construction	60	50	80	10	-20
Manufacturing	100	100	110	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	340	310	-10	20
Wholesale trade	40	40	30	0	10
Retail trade	230	240	230	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	50	0	10
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	50	60	60	-10	-10
Professional and business services	120	120	120	0	0
Education and health services	210	210	220	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	190	190	190	0	0
Other services	60	50	60	10	0
Government	960	940	970	20	-10
Federal government	190	180	190	10	0
State government	130	130	110	0	20
Local government	640	630	670	10	-30

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.

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2021	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,729	3,735	3,487	-6	242
Unemployed	261	274	207	-13	54
Unemployment rate	7.0%	7.3%	5.9%	-0.3	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	5.0%	4.3%	-0.2	0.5
Employed	3,468	3,461	3,280	7	188
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,270	2,280	2,250	-10	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,390	2,420	2,370	-30	20
Total private	1,270	1,280	1,240	-10	30
Goods-producing	90	90	90	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	440	440	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	50	60	60	-10	-10
Retail trade	330	330	330	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	50	50	60	0	-10
Professional and business services	130	130	110	0	20
Education and health services	250	250	230	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	250	250	250	0	0
Other services	60	60	50	0	10
Government	1,000	1,000	1,010	0	-10
Federal government	180	180	190	0	-10
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	700	700	710	0	-10

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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: 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.

Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2021	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,824	12,748	12,227	76	597
Unemployed	716	716	520	0	196
Unemployment rate	5.6%	5.6%	4.3%	0.0	1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.4%	3.5%	0.1	1.0
Employed	12,108	12,032	11,707	76	401
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,910	11,840	12,200	70	-290
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>11,980</i>	<i>11,990</i>	<i>12,270</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>-290</i>
Total private	8,480	8,460	8,660	20	-180
Mining, logging, and construction	380	370	370	10	10
Manufacturing	1,160	1,160	1,150	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,030	3,030	2,920	0	110
Wholesale trade	510	510	540	0	-30
Retail trade	2,140	2,140	2,000	0	140
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	380	0	0
Information	160	160	200	0	-40
Financial activities	280	280	310	0	-30
Professional and business services	370	370	400	0	-30
Education and health services	1,690	1,680	1,820	10	-130
Leisure and hospitality	1,080	1,080	1,130	0	-50
Other services	330	330	360	0	-30
Government	3,430	3,380	3,540	50	-110
Federal government	180	190	180	-10	0
State government	1,240	1,220	1,220	20	20
Local government	2,010	1,970	2,140	40	-130

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.

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2021	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,327	12,184	11,958	143	369
Unemployed	1,070	953	627	117	443
Unemployment rate	8.7%	7.8%	5.2%	0.9	3.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.1%	6.0%	4.2%	1.1	2.9
Employed	11,257	11,231	11,331	26	-74
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,890	9,820	10,560	70	-670
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,010</i>	<i>10,020</i>	<i>10,690</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>-680</i>
Total private	7,470	7,460	8,020	10	-550
Mining, logging, and construction	500	510	530	-10	-30
Mining and logging	30	30	30	0	0
Construction	470	480	500	-10	-30
Manufacturing	1,080	1,130	1,300	-50	-220
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,050	2,040	2,060	10	-10
Wholesale trade	250	250	260	0	-10
Retail trade	1,420	1,410	1,410	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	390	0	-10
Information	80	80	90	0	-10
Financial activities	310	300	310	10	0
Professional and business services	570	550	530	20	40
Education and health services	1,760	1,770	1,820	-10	-60
Leisure and hospitality	830	800	1,080	30	-250
Other services	290	280	300	10	-10
Government	2,420	2,360	2,540	60	-120
Federal government	190	190	180	0	10
State government	350	340	350	10	0
Local government	1,880	1,830	2,010	50	-130

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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: 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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2021	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,508	3,514	3,273	-6	235
Unemployed	261	260	230	1	31
Unemployment rate	7.4%	7.4%	7.0%	0.0	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	5.0%	4.9%	-0.4	-0.3
Employed	3,247	3,254	3,043	-7	204
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,440	2,460	2,390	-20	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,660	2,700	2,600	-40	60
Total private	1,800	1,830	1,720	-30	80
Mining, logging, and construction	210	230	190	-20	20
Mining and logging	60	70	60	-10	0
Construction	150	160	130	-10	20
Manufacturing	140	140	140	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	460	440	0	20
Wholesale and retail trade	370	370	370	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	70	0	20
Information	10	20	20	-10	-10
Financial activities	120	120	120	0	0
Professional and business services	100	100	100	0	0
Education and health services	450	450	420	0	30
Leisure and hospitality	200	200	180	0	20
Other services	110	110	110	0	0
Government	640	630	670	10	-30
Federal government	60	60	70	0	-10
State government	80	80	90	0	-10
Local government	500	490	510	10	-10

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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.

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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.

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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.

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. 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.