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CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Chris Rich, Regional Economist  
Christopher.M.Rich@oregon.gov  
(541) 519-0315

## **Employment in Eastern Oregon: March 2021**

### **Most Counties Below Last Year's March Employment Levels**

Comparing March 2021 with March 2020 reveals elevated unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year increase came in Baker and Union counties where the raw rate rose 1.4 percentage points to hit 7.1% and 7.4%, respectively. The smallest increase came in Wallowa County where the raw rate rose just 0.3 percentage point to 8.2%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in all Eastern Oregon counties as well. Union County saw the largest increase, jumping 2.0 percentage points to 6.2%. Wallowa County saw the smallest increase over the year, rising 0.3 percentage point to 5.1%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment fell by 120 since March 2020. Employment dropped by 70 jobs in the private sector and 50 jobs in the public sector. Local government took the largest hit overall, down 60. Leisure and hospitality took the largest hit in the private sector, down 50. 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 rose by 60 over the month. Gains were light in several industries. Manufacturing added the most, up 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched up 0.1 percentage point in March to 5.7%. The raw rate was unchanged at 7.1%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 100 over the year. Losses were evenly split between the private sector and the public sector, each down 50 jobs. Local government saw the largest loss, decreasing by 70. Cuts were made in several other industries including mining and logging (-20), and construction (-20). Over the month, total employment rose by 20 as gains outnumbered losses. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.8 percentage point in March to 7.5%. The raw unemployment rate increased 0.5 percentage point to 10.5%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 10 jobs over the year. The small increase came in the private sector while the public sector was unchanged. Small gains and losses were seen in several industries. Total employment rose by 50 in March as federal government, leisure and hospitality, and professional and business services began to pick up workers. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 5.2%. The raw unemployment rate slipped 0.2 percentage point to 7.0%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 170 over the year. Private-sector employment dropped by 130 while public-sector employment dropped by 40. Education and health services fell by 110 and local government fell by 90. 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 80 jobs with gains seen in a few industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate slid 0.3 percentage point for the month to 5.3%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 550 over the year. The private sector shouldered the majority of the loss, down 480. Manufacturing led losses, down 210. Leisure and hospitality fell by 190 jobs. Local government took the only loss in the public sector, dropping by 70. 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 100 over the month with local government, leisure and hospitality, and education and health services adding the most. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage point in March to 6.2%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 1.3 percentage points to 7.4%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 20 from March 2020 to March 2021. Gains were largest in education and health services, up 40 jobs. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities garnered honorable mention, up 20. The public sector shed 40 jobs. Total nonfarm employment was unchanged over the month with small gains in two industries and losses in one. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point for the month to 5.1%. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.7 percentage point to 8.2% in March.

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](https://Qualityinfo.org/covid-19)

### **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.

## Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020	--Change From--	
				Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	7,438	7,356	7,067	82	371
Unemployed	525	521	404	4	121
Unemployment rate	7.1%	7.1%	5.7%	0.0	1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.7%	5.6%	4.1%	0.1	1.6
Employed	6,913	6,835	6,663	78	250
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,290	5,230	5,410	60	-120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,470	5,430	5,600	40	-130
Total private	4,200	4,150	4,270	50	-70
Mining, logging, and construction	240	240	240	0	0
Mining and logging	20	20	20	0	0
Construction	220	220	220	0	0
Manufacturing	570	550	550	20	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,130	1,140	1,090	-10	40
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	810	820	780	-10	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	230	0	10
Information	50	40	50	10	0
Financial activities	150	150	170	0	-20
Professional and business services	300	300	350	0	-50
Education and health services	1,040	1,030	1,050	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	520	510	570	10	-50
Other services	200	190	200	10	0
Government	1,090	1,080	1,140	10	-50
Federal government	160	160	160	0	0
State government	220	220	210	0	10
Local government	710	700	770	10	-60

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--				
	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,246	3,204	3,135	42	111
Unemployed	340	320	302	20	38
Unemployment rate	10.5%	10.0%	9.6%	0.5	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7.5%</i>	<i>6.7%</i>	<i>5.8%</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>1.7</i>
Employed	2,906	2,884	2,833	22	73
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,260	2,240	2,360	20	-100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>2,510</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-110</i>
Total private	1,290	1,280	1,340	10	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	170	180	210	-10	-40
Mining and logging	110	120	130	-10	-20
Construction	60	60	80	0	-20
Manufacturing	100	100	120	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	330	320	10	20
Wholesale trade	40	40	30	0	10
Retail trade	240	230	230	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	60	0	0
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	60	50	60	10	0
Professional and business services	120	120	120	0	0
Education and health services	210	210	210	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	200	190	190	10	10
Other services	50	60	60	-10	-10
Government	970	960	1,020	10	-50
Federal government	200	190	200	10	0
State government	130	130	110	0	20
Local government	640	640	710	0	-70

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--				
	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,784	3,734	3,529	50	255
Unemployed	266	268	218	-2	48
Unemployment rate	7.0%	7.2%	6.2%	-0.2	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	5.0%	4.3%	0.2	0.9
Employed	3,518	3,466	3,311	52	207
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,320	2,270	2,310	50	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,390	2,390	2,380	0	10
Total private	1,300	1,270	1,290	30	10
Goods-producing	90	90	100	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	430	430	0	0
Wholesale trade	50	50	60	0	-10
Retail trade	330	330	320	0	10
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	150	130	140	20	10
Education and health services	250	250	240	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	260	250	260	10	0
Other services	60	60	50	0	10
Government	1,020	1,000	1,020	20	0
Federal government	200	180	200	20	0
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	700	700	710	0	-10

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.

## Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,080	12,819	12,396	261	684
Unemployed	688	716	526	-28	162
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.6%	4.2%	-0.3	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.5%	3.5%	-0.1	0.9
Employed	12,392	12,103	11,870	289	522
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,990	11,910	12,160	80	-170
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,960	11,980	12,130	-20	-170
Total private	8,520	8,480	8,650	40	-130
Mining, logging, and construction	380	380	400	0	-20
Manufacturing	1,160	1,160	1,140	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,050	3,030	2,920	20	130
Wholesale trade	510	510	520	0	-10
Retail trade	2,160	2,140	2,020	20	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	1,700	1,690	1,810	10	-110
Leisure and hospitality	1,090	1,080	1,110	10	-20
Other services	330	330	360	0	-30
Government	3,470	3,430	3,510	40	-40
Federal government	190	180	180	10	10
State government	1,240	1,240	1,200	0	40
Local government	2,040	2,010	2,130	30	-90

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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.

## Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,300	12,330	11,994	-30	306
Unemployed	916	1,072	714	-156	202
Unemployment rate	7.4%	8.7%	6.0%	-1.3	1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	7.1%	4.2%	-0.9	2.0
Employed	11,384	11,258	11,280	126	104
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,000	9,900	10,550	100	-550
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,040	10,020	10,590	20	-550
Total private	7,550	7,480	8,030	70	-480
Mining, logging, and construction	490	500	530	-10	-40
Mining and logging	20	30	10	-10	10
Construction	470	470	520	0	-50
Manufacturing	1,080	1,080	1,290	0	-210
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,060	2,060	2,090	0	-30
Wholesale trade	250	250	260	0	-10
Retail trade	1,430	1,430	1,440	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	390	0	-10
Information	90	80	100	10	-10
Financial activities	310	310	310	0	0
Professional and business services	580	570	540	10	40
Education and health services	1,790	1,760	1,820	30	-30
Leisure and hospitality	870	830	1,060	40	-190
Other services	280	290	290	-10	-10
Government	2,450	2,420	2,520	30	-70
Federal government	190	190	190	0	0
State government	350	350	350	0	0
Local government	1,910	1,880	1,980	30	-70

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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--				
	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,532	3,509	3,301	23	231
Unemployed	289	264	262	25	27
Unemployment rate	8.2%	7.5%	7.9%	0.7	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	4.8%	4.8%	0.3	0.3
Employed	3,243	3,245	3,039	-2	204
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,440	2,440	2,420	0	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,680	2,660	2,660	20	20
Total private	1,800	1,800	1,740	0	60
Mining, logging, and construction	200	210	210	-10	-10
Mining and logging	40	60	50	-20	-10
Construction	160	150	160	10	0
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	10	20	0	-10
Financial activities	120	120	120	0	0
Professional and business services	110	100	110	10	0
Education and health services	450	450	410	0	40
Leisure and hospitality	200	200	190	0	10
Other services	110	110	100	0	10
Government	640	640	680	0	-40
Federal government	60	60	70	0	-10
State government	80	80	90	0	-10
Local government	500	500	520	0	-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.



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/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://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](http://Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://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.