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Employment in Eastern Oregon: April 2021

Counties Close in on Overall Jobs Recovery

Comparing April 2021 with April 2020 reveals marked improvement in unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. Unemployment jumped dramatically at the start of the pandemic, but continued to decrease over the year. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Union County where the raw rate dropped 9.8 percentage points to reach 6.5% after charting 16.3% the previous April. The smallest decrease came in Harney County where the raw rate dropped 2.2 percentage points to 6.1%. Harney had seen a comparatively small increase in April 2020, rising to 8.3%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in all Eastern Oregon counties as well. Union County saw the largest decrease, dropping 9.8 percentage points to 6.5%. Harney County saw the smallest decrease over the year, falling 2.3 percentage points to 5.5%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 290 since April 2020. Employment increased by 310 jobs in the private sector while dipping by 20 jobs in the public sector. The overall gain represents a near recovery from the 360-job loss incurred in April 2020 at the start of the pandemic. Leisure and hospitality showed the largest gain, adding back 140 jobs; the industry remains 70 jobs below its March 2020 level. Retail trade added 100 jobs, showing the second largest gain. Overall employment rose by 110 over the month as gains were seen in several industries. Retail trade added the most, up 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down 0.2 percentage point in April to 6.0%. The raw rate dropped 1.3 percentage points to 5.9%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 120 over the year. Gains were seen mainly in the private sector while the public sector rose by 10 jobs. The overall increase brings the county 60 jobs shy of its pre-pandemic employment level. Leisure and hospitality booked the largest gain over the year, which represents jobs recovery rather than industry growth. The industry lost 100 jobs in April 2020 at the start of the pandemic, but recovered the majority of the loss over the next few months. Over the month, total employment rose by 70 as federal government (+50) hiring began to ramp up for the season. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage point in April to 7.7%. The raw unemployment rate fell 1.6 percentage points to 9.2%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 180 jobs over the year. The increase came largely in the private sector while the public sector rose by 40. The overall increase represents a full recovery of the 140 jobs lost in April 2020. Leisure and hospitality, the industry hit hardest by the pandemic showed the largest gain, adding back 70 jobs; the industry actually hit full recovery in July.

Total employment rose by 50 over the month as federal government (+30) began to pick up workers for the season. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 5.5%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 1.1 percentage points to 6.1%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 950 over the year. Private-sector employment added 730 jobs while public-sector employment added 220. The overall increase represents the recovery of nearly all jobs lost in April 2020 at the start of the pandemic and brings Malheur's total job count to 90 above the April 2019 mark. Leisure and hospitality added back 290 jobs but remains below the pre-pandemic mark. Retail trade added 270 jobs, nearly all from actual industry growth. Local government added back 180 over the year. Over the month, total employment rose by 100 jobs with gains seen in a few industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched up 0.1 percentage point over the month to 5.0%. The raw unemployment rate slid 0.6 percentage point for the month to 4.6%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1,060 over the year. The private sector added 850 while the public sector added 210. The overall gain still leaves the county 340 jobs below the pre-pandemic March level and 430 jobs below the April 2019 level; Union lost 1,400 jobs at the start of the pandemic. Leisure and hospitality regained 310 jobs, 150 shy of recovery. Manufacturing regained 280 jobs, roughly 130 shy of recovery. Local government regained 210 jobs for a full recovery. Total employment rose by 130 over the month with gains seen mainly in seasonal hiring. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in April at 6.5%. The raw unemployment rate decreased 1.1 percentage points to 6.5%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 260 from April 2020 to April 2021. The overall gain represents a full recovery. The county dropped 200 jobs at the start of the pandemic and seasonal hiring slowed. Wallowa saw total employment return to its previous level by September. Leisure and hospitality showed the largest gain over the year, up 60, a near full recovery. Education and health services took the second spot, up 50, a slight growth in the industry. Several other industries showed gains as well. Total nonfarm employment rose by 70 over the month, with small gains in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged for the month at 5.6%. The raw unemployment rate fell 1.3 percentage points to 7.0% in April.

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 May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, June 22 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Tuesday, June 15.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Apr. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,435	7,393	7,150	42	285
Unemployed	442	535	799	-93	-357
Unemployment rate	5.9%	7.2%	11.2%	-1.3	-5.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>6.2%</i>	<i>11.2%</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>-5.2</i>
Employed	6,993	6,858	6,351	135	642
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,340	5,230	5,050	110	290
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,410</i>	<i>5,410</i>	<i>5,120</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>290</i>
Total private	4,210	4,130	3,900	80	310
Mining, logging, and construction	280	250	230	30	50
Mining and logging	30	20	20	10	10
Construction	250	230	210	20	40
Manufacturing	580	590	530	-10	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,180	1,140	1,060	40	120
Wholesale trade	80	70	80	10	0
Retail trade	860	830	760	30	100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	220	0	20
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	130	120	160	10	-30
Professional and business services	300	290	350	10	-50
Education and health services	1,000	1,020	1,000	-20	0
Leisure and hospitality	500	480	360	20	140
Other services	200	200	170	0	30
Government	1,130	1,100	1,150	30	-20
Federal government	180	160	170	20	10
State government	220	220	210	0	10
Local government	730	720	770	10	-40

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--				
	Apr. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,278	3,232	3,108	46	170
Unemployed	302	350	406	-48	-104
Unemployment rate	9.2%	10.8%	13.1%	-1.6	-3.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.7%	7.8%	11.4%	-0.1	-3.7
Employed	2,976	2,882	2,702	94	274
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,300	2,230	2,180	70	120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,410	2,370	2,290	40	120
Total private	1,260	1,260	1,150	0	110
Mining, logging, and construction	170	170	160	0	10
Mining and logging	100	120	100	-20	0
Construction	70	50	60	20	10
Manufacturing	100	100	110	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	350	310	-10	30
Wholesale trade	40	40	30	0	10
Retail trade	240	250	230	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	50	0	10
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	120	120	120	0	0
Education and health services	200	200	200	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	170	160	90	10	80
Other services	60	60	50	0	10
Government	1,040	970	1,030	70	10
Federal government	250	200	230	50	20
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	670	650	690	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.

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Apr. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,799	3,770	3,468	29	331
Unemployed	230	272	287	-42	-57
Unemployment rate	6.1%	7.2%	8.3%	-1.1	-2.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.5%	5.5%	7.8%	0.0	-2.3
Employed	3,569	3,498	3,181	71	388
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,350	2,300	2,170	50	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,380	2,370	2,200	10	180
Total private	1,320	1,280	1,180	40	140
Goods-producing	100	90	90	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	420	410	10	20
Wholesale trade	60	60	50	0	10
Retail trade	320	320	310	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	40	50	10	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	50	50	60	0	-10
Professional and business services	160	150	150	10	10
Education and health services	250	260	220	-10	30
Leisure and hospitality	260	240	190	20	70
Other services	60	60	50	0	10
Government	1,030	1,020	990	10	40
Federal government	220	190	220	30	0
State government	130	130	110	0	20
Local government	680	700	660	-20	20

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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--				
	Apr. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,334	13,154	12,071	180	1,263
Unemployed	615	689	860	-74	-245
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.2%	7.1%	-0.6	-2.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	4.9%	7.7%	0.1	-2.7
Employed	12,719	12,465	11,211	254	1,508
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,130	12,030	11,180	100	950
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,030	12,000	11,090	30	940
Total private	8,630	8,590	7,900	40	730
Mining, logging, and construction	380	360	400	20	-20
Manufacturing	1,120	1,120	1,140	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,090	3,130	2,820	-40	270
Wholesale trade	460	500	470	-40	-10
Retail trade	2,260	2,250	1,990	10	270
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	370	380	360	-10	10
Information	150	150	170	0	-20
Financial activities	290	290	290	0	0
Professional and business services	510	450	390	60	120
Education and health services	1,760	1,780	1,680	-20	80
Leisure and hospitality	980	960	690	20	290
Other services	350	350	320	0	30
Government	3,500	3,440	3,280	60	220
Federal government	190	180	180	10	10
State government	1,220	1,220	1,190	0	30
Local government	2,090	2,040	1,910	50	180

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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--				
	Apr. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,477	12,388	11,965	89	512
Unemployed	807	940	1,948	-133	-1,141
Unemployment rate	6.5%	7.6%	16.3%	-1.1	-9.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.5%	6.5%	16.3%	0.0	-9.8
Employed	11,670	11,448	10,017	222	1,653
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,210	10,080	9,150	130	1,060
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,210	10,120	9,150	90	1,060
Total private	7,630	7,610	6,780	20	850
Mining, logging, and construction	540	530	510	10	30
Mining and logging	20	20	10	0	10
Construction	520	510	500	10	20
Manufacturing	1,180	1,210	900	-30	280
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,020	2,030	1,950	-10	70
Wholesale trade	250	250	250	0	0
Retail trade	1,380	1,380	1,340	0	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	400	360	-10	30
Information	90	90	90	0	0
Financial activities	300	290	310	10	-10
Professional and business services	590	560	540	30	50
Education and health services	1,740	1,760	1,640	-20	100
Leisure and hospitality	900	870	590	30	310
Other services	270	270	250	0	20
Government	2,580	2,470	2,370	110	210
Federal government	240	190	240	50	0
State government	350	350	350	0	0
Local government	1,990	1,930	1,780	60	210

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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Apr. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,544	3,515	3,260	29	284
Unemployed	248	293	413	-45	-165
Unemployment rate	7.0%	8.3%	12.7%	-1.3	-5.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6%	5.6%	11.0%	0.0	-5.4
Employed	3,296	3,222	2,847	74	449
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,480	2,410	2,220	70	260
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,630	2,650	2,350	-20	280
Total private	1,790	1,740	1,580	50	210
Mining, logging, and construction	220	210	200	10	20
Mining and logging	50	50	40	0	10
Construction	170	160	160	10	10
Manufacturing	140	130	100	10	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	450	440	410	10	40
Wholesale and retail trade	370	360	340	10	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	80	80	70	0	10
Information	10	10	20	0	-10
Financial activities	120	120	130	0	-10
Professional and business services	120	110	120	10	0
Education and health services	430	440	380	-10	50
Leisure and hospitality	180	160	120	20	60
Other services	120	120	100	0	20
Government	690	670	640	20	50
Federal government	70	60	80	10	-10
State government	110	100	90	10	20
Local government	510	510	470	0	40

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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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.