

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 20, 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tony Wendel, Regional Economist  
Tony.A.Wendel@employ.oregon.gov  
(541) 667-7027

## **Employment in Eastern Oregon: April 2025**

The April seasonally adjusted unemployment rates held steady over the year in Baker and Harney counties and increased in the other four Eastern Oregon counties. Baker County's April 2025 rate tied for its second lowest April rate since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Harney, Malheur, and Wallowa counties, they are the third lowest April rates. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.2 percentage point higher in Malheur County to reach 4.2% for the smallest increase. The largest increase came in Grant County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 0.8 percentage point to reach 6.4%.

Between April 2024 and April 2025, unadjusted unemployment rates decreased in Harney and Malheur counties and increased in the other four counties. Harney and Malheur counties' April 2025 unadjusted rates are their second lowest unadjusted April unemployment rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Wallowa County, the April 2025 rate is its third lowest April rate. The April 2025 rates are the fourth lowest April rates in Baker, Grant, and Union counties. Harney County's raw rate fell by 0.4 percentage point to reach 4.0% for the largest decrease. The largest increase came in Wallowa County, where the raw rate increased by 1.1 percentage points to reach 5.8%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 50 jobs since April 2024. Employment increased by 20 jobs in the private sector and added 30 jobs in the public sector. Retail trade led gains, up 60 jobs. Leisure and hospitality led losses, down 30. Total nonfarm employment increased by 50 jobs over the month led by gains in leisure and hospitality, and other services, up 20 jobs each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.8%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 1.6 percentage points to 4.4%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 jobs over the year. The private sector added 20 jobs while the public sector decreased by 10. State government added 40 jobs to lead gains, followed by construction, up 30. Manufacturing dropped 40 jobs to lead losses, followed by federal government, down 30. Over the month, total nonfarm employment increased by 20 jobs. Construction and leisure and hospitality each added 20 jobs and mining and logging dropped 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 6.4%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 1.5 percentage points to 7.1%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 20 jobs, and the public sector added 30. Gains were led by local government, up 50 jobs. Losses were led by retail trade, down 40 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 20 jobs over the

month, with small gains in goods-producing, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality, up 10 each. The only industry to lose jobs was private education and health services, down 10. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.5%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 1.7 percentage points to 4.0%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 110 jobs over the year. The private sector fell by 40, and the public sector added 150 jobs. Local government added 110 jobs to lead gains, followed by a gain of 80 jobs in manufacturing. Mining, logging, and construction dropped 70 jobs to lead losses, followed by leisure and hospitality, down 50. Total nonfarm employment increased by 40 jobs over the month, led by a gain of 40 jobs in retail trade. Wholesale trade led losses, down 40. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.2%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 1.5 percentage points to 3.4%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 110 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 250 jobs, and the public sector increased by 140 jobs. Local government led gains, up 130 jobs. Manufacturing and financial activities dropped 50 jobs each to lead losses, followed by professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality, down 40 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment increased by 30 jobs over the month, with construction, and leisure and hospitality leading gains, up 30 each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 5.2%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 1.6 percentage points to 4.9%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 jobs from April 2024 to April 2025. The private sector added 20 jobs, and the public sector increased by 30. State government led gains, up 20 jobs. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities led losses, down 20. Total nonfarm employment increased by 100 jobs over the month led by a gain of 30 jobs in leisure and hospitality, followed by gains of 20 jobs each in professional and business services, and federal government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 5.0%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 1.5 percentage points to 5.8%.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, June 24, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Wednesday, June 18.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

May 20, 2025

## Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	6,725	6,779	6,717	-54	8
Unemployed	294	407	287	-113	7
Unemployment rate	4.4%	6.0%	4.3%	-1.6	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Employed	6,431	6,372	6,430	59	1
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,530	5,480	5,480	50	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,550</i>	<i>5,550</i>	<i>5,510</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>40</i>
Total private	4,280	4,240	4,260	40	20
Mining, logging, and construction	270	260	270	10	0
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	260	250	260	10	0
Manufacturing	560	570	560	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,210	1,210	1,130	0	80
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	890	890	830	0	60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	230	0	20
Information	60	50	60	10	0
Financial activities	140	140	160	0	-20
Professional and business services	330	330	340	0	-10
Private education and health services	1,000	1,010	1,010	-10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	490	470	520	20	-30
Other services	220	200	210	20	10
Government	1,250	1,240	1,220	10	30
Federal government	190	190	190	0	0
State government	250	250	230	0	20
Local government	810	800	800	10	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.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

May 20, 2025

### Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,076	3,096	3,072	-20	4
Unemployed	219	267	198	-48	21
Unemployment rate	7.1%	8.6%	6.4%	-1.5	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.4%	6.5%	5.6%	-0.1	0.8
Employed	2,857	2,829	2,874	28	-17
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,370	2,350	2,360	20	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,440	2,440	2,430	0	10
Total private	1,340	1,320	1,320	20	20
Mining, logging, and construction	210	210	170	0	40
Mining and logging	90	110	80	-20	10
Construction	120	100	90	20	30
Manufacturing	60	60	100	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	350	310	0	40
Wholesale trade	40	40	30	0	10
Retail trade	250	250	240	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	40	0	20
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	130	130	130	0	0
Private education and health services	210	210	210	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	190	170	210	20	-20
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,030	1,030	1,040	0	-10
Federal government	210	210	240	0	-30
State government	170	170	130	0	40
Local government	650	650	670	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.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

May 20, 2025

## Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,578	3,596	3,588	-18	-10
Unemployed	142	205	159	-63	-17
Unemployment rate	4.0%	5.7%	4.4%	-1.7	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Employed	3,436	3,391	3,429	45	7
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,430	2,410	2,420	20	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,410</i>	<i>2,460</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>-50</i>	<i>10</i>
Total private	1,310	1,290	1,330	20	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	390	390	430	0	-40
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	300	300	340	0	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	60	0	10
Professional and business services	120	110	120	10	0
Private education and health services	270	280	250	-10	20
Leisure and hospitality	280	270	290	10	-10
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,120	1,120	1,090	0	30
Federal government	200	200	220	0	-20
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	780	780	730	0	50

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.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

May 20, 2025

### Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,952	12,931	13,106	21	-154
Unemployed	445	632	467	-187	-22
Unemployment rate	3.4%	4.9%	3.6%	-1.5	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>4.3%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Employed	12,507	12,299	12,639	208	-132
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	12,640	12,600	12,530	40	110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,590</i>	<i>12,590</i>	<i>12,480</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>110</i>
Total private	8,870	8,840	8,910	30	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	400	400	470	0	-70
Manufacturing	1,140	1,140	1,060	0	80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,090	3,100	3,120	-10	-30
Wholesale trade	460	500	460	-40	0
Retail trade	2,270	2,230	2,260	40	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	360	370	400	-10	-40
Information	80	80	80	0	0
Financial activities	250	240	270	10	-20
Professional and business services	430	410	440	20	-10
Private education and health services	1,950	1,950	1,890	0	60
Leisure and hospitality	1,260	1,250	1,310	10	-50
Other services	270	270	270	0	0
Government	3,770	3,760	3,620	10	150
Federal government	180	180	180	0	0
State government	1,430	1,430	1,390	0	40
Local government	2,160	2,150	2,050	10	110

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.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

May 20, 2025

## Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	11,976	12,081	12,039	-105	-63
Unemployed	590	781	500	-191	90
Unemployment rate	4.9%	6.5%	4.2%	-1.6	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	5.2%	4.5%	0.0	0.7
Employed	11,386	11,300	11,539	86	-153
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,630	10,600	10,740	30	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,600	10,650	10,710	-50	-110
Total private	8,010	7,980	8,260	30	-250
Mining, logging, and construction	600	570	630	30	-30
Mining and logging	20	20	30	0	-10
Construction	580	550	600	30	-20
Manufacturing	1,190	1,200	1,240	-10	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,030	2,060	2,070	-30	-40
Wholesale trade	240	250	240	-10	0
Retail trade	1,400	1,420	1,430	-20	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	390	400	0	-10
Information	80	80	90	0	-10
Financial activities	330	340	380	-10	-50
Professional and business services	560	540	600	20	-40
Private education and health services	1,880	1,880	1,860	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,050	1,020	1,090	30	-40
Other services	290	290	300	0	-10
Government	2,620	2,620	2,480	0	140
Federal government	230	220	240	10	-10
State government	440	440	420	0	20
Local government	1,950	1,960	1,820	-10	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.



Workforce &amp; Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

May 20, 2025

### Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,601	3,552	3,511	49	90
Unemployed	210	261	166	-51	44
Unemployment rate	5.8%	7.3%	4.7%	-1.5	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Employed	3,391	3,291	3,345	100	46
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,690	2,590	2,640	100	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,810</i>	<i>2,780</i>	<i>2,760</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>50</i>
Total private	1,900	1,820	1,880	80	20
Mining, logging, and construction	210	200	210	10	0
Mining and logging	40	40	30	0	10
Construction	170	160	180	10	-10
Manufacturing	150	140	140	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	480	470	490	10	-10
Wholesale and retail trade	440	430	430	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	60	0	-20
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	110	100	100	10	10
Professional and business services	150	130	160	20	-10
Private education and health services	390	390	390	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	250	220	240	30	10
Other services	130	140	120	-10	10
Government	790	770	760	20	30
Federal government	90	70	90	20	0
State government	120	120	100	0	20
Local government	580	580	570	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.



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/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [QualityInfo.org](http://QualityInfo.org), select Tools, and choose LAUS or CES from the dropdown menu. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from [QualityInfo.org](http://QualityInfo.org). To subscribe, go to [www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe](http://www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe), enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

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 help finding jobs and training resources, go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at [OED\\_Communications@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a [OED\\_Communications@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

###