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Employment in Eastern Oregon: August 2025

The August seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in all six Eastern Oregon counties over the year. Harney County's August 2025 rate was its fourth lowest August rate since comparable statistics began in 1990. Wallowa County's was its fourth lowest August rate. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.3 percentage point higher in Harney County to reach 4.8% for the smallest increase. The largest increase came in Wallowa County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 1.1 percentage points to reach 5.7%.

Between August 2024 and August 2025, unadjusted unemployment rates increased in all six Eastern Oregon counties. Harney County's August 2025 unadjusted rate ties for its third lowest unadjusted August unemployment rate since comparable statistics began in 1990. Harney County's raw rate rose by 0.5 percentage point to reach 4.3% for the smallest increase. The largest increase came in Baker County, where the raw rate increased by 1.4 percentage points to reach 5.6%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has decreased by 70 jobs since August 2024. Employment decreased by 50 jobs in the private sector and dropped by 20 jobs in the public sector. Federal government led losses, down 30 jobs, followed by manufacturing, financial activities, and professional and business services, down 20 each. Private education and health services led gains, up 20 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 60 jobs over the month led by a gain of 40 jobs in local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 5.5%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 5.6%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 20 jobs while the public sector decreased by 30. Manufacturing dropped 70 jobs to lead losses, followed by federal government, down 30. Construction led gains, up 30 jobs. Over the month, total nonfarm employment increased by 30 jobs. Construction, financial activities, and local government each added 10 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point over the month to 7.3%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 6.3%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 30 jobs, and the public sector added 20. Retail trade led losses, down 20 jobs. Gains were led by goods-producing and local government, up 20 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment saw a net change of zero jobs over the month, with small losses offsetting small gains across industries. The

seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.8%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 4.3%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 130 jobs over the year. The private sector fell by 60, and the public sector dropped 70 jobs. Local government dropped 110 jobs to lead losses, followed by a loss of 60 jobs in leisure and hospitality. Private education and health services led gains, up 60 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 160 jobs over the month, led by gains of 60 jobs each in private education and health services, and local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.7%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 1.4 percentage points to 4.5%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 110 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 60 jobs, and the public sector decreased by 50. Retail trade dropped 40 jobs to lead losses, followed by federal government, down 30. Private education and health services led gains, up 40 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 30 jobs over the month, with retail trade, and private education and health services leading gains, up 20 jobs each. Other services led losses, down 20 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 5.6%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 5.3%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 60 jobs from August 2024 to August 2025. The private sector dropped 40 jobs, and the public sector decreased by 20. Wholesale and retail trade led losses, down 50. Financial activities led gains, up 50 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 20 jobs over the month, led by a loss of 20 jobs in financial activities. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 5.7%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 4.8%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Oct. 21, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Wednesday, Oct. 15.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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September 23, 2025

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,847	6,800	6,822	47	25
Unemployed	384	391	284	-7	100
Unemployment rate	5.6%	5.8%	4.2%	-0.2	1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.5%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.8</i>
Employed	6,463	6,409	6,538	54	-75
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,550	5,490	5,620	60	-70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,530</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>5,600</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>-70</i>
Total private	4,380	4,360	4,430	20	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	260	260	280	0	-20
Mining and logging	10	10	20	0	-10
Construction	250	250	260	0	-10
Manufacturing	560	560	580	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,240	1,230	1,240	10	0
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	920	910	910	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	260	0	-10
Information	60	60	60	0	0
Financial activities	150	150	170	0	-20
Professional and business services	330	330	350	0	-20
Private education and health services	1,060	1,030	1,040	30	20
Leisure and hospitality	530	550	520	-20	10
Other services	190	190	190	0	0
Government	1,170	1,130	1,190	40	-20
Federal government	220	220	250	0	-30
State government	250	250	240	0	10
Local government	700	660	700	40	0

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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Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,088	3,080	3,127	8	-39
Unemployed	193	200	164	-7	29
Unemployment rate	6.3%	6.5%	5.2%	-0.2	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.3%	7.0%	6.4%	0.3	0.9
Employed	2,895	2,880	2,963	15	-68
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,350	2,320	2,400	30	-50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,290	2,280	2,340	10	-50
Total private	1,380	1,360	1,400	20	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	260	250	230	10	30
Mining and logging	120	120	120	0	0
Construction	140	130	110	10	30
Manufacturing	30	30	100	0	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	330	320	0	10
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	230	230	240	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	40	0	20
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	80	70	70	10	10
Professional and business services	130	130	130	0	0
Private education and health services	210	210	210	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	220	220	220	0	0
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	970	960	1,000	10	-30
Federal government	270	270	300	0	-30
State government	160	160	160	0	0
Local government	540	530	540	10	0

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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Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,661	3,655	3,675	6	-14
Unemployed	156	164	139	-8	17
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.5%	3.8%	-0.2	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Employed	3,505	3,491	3,536	14	-31
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,460	2,460	2,470	0	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,390</i>	<i>2,450</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>-60</i>	<i>-10</i>
Total private	1,330	1,350	1,360	-20	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	420	420	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	310	320	330	-10	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	40	0	10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	70	70	-10	-10
Professional and business services	90	90	100	0	-10
Private education and health services	250	250	260	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	310	320	310	-10	0
Other services	60	60	70	0	-10
Government	1,130	1,110	1,110	20	20
Federal government	250	250	260	0	-10
State government	150	150	140	0	10
Local government	730	710	710	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.



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Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,167	13,205	13,289	-38	-122
Unemployed	596	781	517	-185	79
Unemployment rate	4.5%	5.9%	3.9%	-1.4	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.6%	4.0%	0.1	0.7
Employed	12,571	12,424	12,772	147	-201
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,340	12,180	12,470	160	-130
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,390	12,400	12,520	-10	-130
Total private	8,930	8,830	8,990	100	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	440	430	450	10	-10
Manufacturing	1,110	1,100	1,110	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,130	3,110	3,170	20	-40
Wholesale trade	490	460	480	30	10
Retail trade	2,260	2,270	2,280	-10	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	410	0	-30
Information	80	80	80	0	0
Financial activities	280	280	270	0	10
Professional and business services	390	400	410	-10	-20
Private education and health services	1,970	1,910	1,910	60	60
Leisure and hospitality	1,270	1,250	1,330	20	-60
Other services	260	270	260	-10	0
Government	3,410	3,350	3,480	60	-70
Federal government	230	230	210	0	20
State government	1,430	1,430	1,410	0	20
Local government	1,750	1,690	1,860	60	-110

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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.



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Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,078	12,059	12,105	19	-27
Unemployed	639	650	529	-11	110
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.4%	4.4%	-0.1	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6%	5.6%	4.7%	0.0	0.9
Employed	11,439	11,409	11,576	30	-137
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,540	10,510	10,650	30	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,520	10,520	10,640	0	-120
Total private	8,200	8,170	8,260	30	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	660	660	690	0	-30
Mining and logging	30	30	40	0	-10
Construction	630	630	650	0	-20
Manufacturing	1,230	1,230	1,200	0	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,970	1,940	2,040	30	-70
Wholesale trade	210	210	230	0	-20
Retail trade	1,390	1,370	1,430	20	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	370	360	380	10	-10
Information	70	70	80	0	-10
Financial activities	370	370	390	0	-20
Professional and business services	630	620	640	10	-10
Private education and health services	1,890	1,870	1,850	20	40
Leisure and hospitality	1,060	1,070	1,050	-10	10
Other services	320	340	320	-20	0
Government	2,340	2,340	2,390	0	-50
Federal government	280	280	310	0	-30
State government	450	450	450	0	0
Local government	1,610	1,610	1,630	0	-20

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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.

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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Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,888	3,910	3,898	-22	-10
Unemployed	188	181	142	7	46
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.6%	3.6%	0.2	1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.7%	5.5%	4.6%	0.2	1.1
Employed	3,700	3,729	3,756	-29	-56
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	3,000	3,020	3,060	-20	-60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,770	2,760	2,820	10	-50
Total private	2,240	2,270	2,280	-30	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	250	250	280	0	-30
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	200	200	220	0	-20
Manufacturing	180	180	180	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	490	480	510	10	-20
Wholesale and retail trade	370	370	430	0	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	120	110	80	10	40
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	170	190	120	-20	50
Professional and business services	160	170	190	-10	-30
Private education and health services	400	400	390	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	430	440	430	-10	0
Other services	130	130	150	0	-20
Government	760	750	780	10	-20
Federal government	110	110	130	0	-20
State government	120	120	140	0	-20
Local government	530	520	510	10	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.

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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 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.

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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 help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

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