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Employment in Eastern Oregon: September 2025

Federal Government Shutdown Pauses Employment Reports

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) suspended the monthly employment and unemployment reports for the nation, states, and metropolitan areas as of Oct. 1, 2025. Eastern Oregon's monthly jobs and unemployment rate for September are unavailable at this time. In the meantime, we will highlight data that we continue to produce and share as it becomes available. One such topic is federal government employment.

Federal Government Jobs in Oregon

Oregon had approximately 29,500 federal government jobs covered by unemployment benefits in the fourth quarter of 2024. That accounted for about 1.5% of all jobs in the state. The federal government share of all jobs varied across counties in Oregon, but most of the counties in Eastern Oregon had a higher share of federal government jobs.

Grant (8.8%) and Harney (8.4%) counties had the second and third highest shares of federal government jobs in Oregon. Baker and Wallowa counties tied for the seventh highest share, with federal jobs making up 3.6% of all jobs. Union County (2.2%) also had a higher share, ranking 12th. Malheur County (1.4%) had a lower share of federal employment than Oregon overall, ranking in a tie for 18th in the state.

Federal government jobs also tend to pay relatively high wages. Looking at annual average wages, jobs on federal government payrolls in Oregon paid nearly \$98,500 in 2024. That was 38% higher than the average annual wage for all jobs in Oregon. This was even more the case in Eastern Oregon's counties. Baker County's 2024 federal wage was \$84,595 (+68%). Grant County's was \$84,498 (+56%). Harney County's was \$89,780 (+75%). Malheur County's was \$85,493 (+76%). Union County's was \$93,728 (+79%). Wallowa County's was \$80,350 (+53%). [Read more about federal government jobs in Oregon.](#)

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to publish the latest Oregon Job Vacancy Survey report on Oct. 23, and the next update on statewide trends on Wednesday, Nov. 19. We will update our [schedule of future releases](#) as federal services return.

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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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