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Employment in Eastern Oregon: April 2026

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in five of the six Eastern Oregon counties are up over the year ending April 2026. Malheur County's rate continues to rank among the lowest of Oregon's 36 counties, with the April 2026 rate ranking fourth lowest in the state. Since March, all six counties' rates were unchanged or decreased slightly. Collectively, the Eastern Oregon counties' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in April 2026, up from 4.9% in April 2025. The Oregon rate held steady at 5.2%, and the national rate was 4.3%.

Baker County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3% in April and 5.4% in March. This rate is up from 4.8% in April 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 70. Collectively, the private sector added 10 jobs over the month, and government employment was flat. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 40 over the 12-month period ending April 2026. There were significant losses in trade, transportation, and utilities (-90), with the bulk of those losses occurring in retail trade (-60). There were also losses in professional and business services (-30). Over the year, the largest gains occurred in private education and health services (+120). There was no change in total government employment.

Grant County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.9% in April and 7.1% in March. This rate is up from 6.4% in April 2025. Since March, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 40. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there were gains in leisure and hospitality (+30), and construction (+20). Public-sector employment lost 10 jobs over the month, with a loss of 40 in local government offset by a gain of 30 in federal government. Over the year ending April 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 40. In the private sector, total employment decreased by 10. The largest gains were in construction (+30), and the largest losses occurred in manufacturing (-20). Total public-sector employment decreased by 20 over the 12-month period.

Harney County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.6% in April and 4.7% in March. This rate is up from 4.5% in April 2025. Since March, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 50. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively added 30 jobs, and government employment was flat. Over the year ending April 2026, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 100 jobs. The private sector collectively dropped 30 jobs. Public-sector employment decreased by 70, with the bulk of those losses occurring in federal government (-50).

Malheur County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4% in April and 4.5% in March. This rate is up from 4.2% in April 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was flat.

In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there was a loss of 30 jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities. The largest gains were in professional and business services (+20). Total public-sector employment increased by 20. Over the year, total nonfarm employment increased by 30. In the private sector, the largest losses occurred in professional and business services (-40). There were significant gains in private education and health services (+100), and trade, transportation, and utilities (+70). Total public-sector employment decreased by 100, with the largest losses occurring in federal government (-50).

Union County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1% in April and 5.3% in March. This rate is down slightly from 5.2% in April 2025. Since March, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 30. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively added 20 jobs. Total public-sector employment decreased by 10. Over the year ending April 2026, seasonally adjusted employment increased by 160. In the private sector, the largest losses occurred in leisure and hospitality (-50). There were significant gains in financial activities (+100); trade, transportation, and utilities (+50); and construction (+40). Over the year, total government employment decreased by 20.

Wallowa County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 6.0% in April. This rate is up from 5.0% in April 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 30. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there were gains in leisure and hospitality (+20), and professional and business services (+20). Total public-sector employment was flat. Over the year ending April 2026, total nonfarm employment decreased by 60 jobs. Overall, the private sector dropped 40 jobs. Public-sector employment decreased by 20, with those losses occurring in federal government.

Next News Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, June 17, and May county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, June 23.



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May 27, 2026

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,830	6,852	6,765	-22	65
Unemployed	330	375	324	-45	6
Unemployment rate	4.8%	5.5%	4.8%	-0.7	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	5.4%	4.8%	-0.1	0.5
Employed	6,500	6,477	6,441	23	59
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,510	5,500	5,550	10	-40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,530	5,600	5,570	-70	-40
Total private	4,240	4,230	4,280	10	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	250	240	260	10	-10
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	240	230	250	10	-10
Manufacturing	560	570	570	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,080	1,080	1,170	0	-90
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	790	780	850	10	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	220	230	250	-10	-30
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	160	160	160	0	0
Professional and business services	290	280	320	10	-30
Private education and health services	1,170	1,180	1,050	-10	120
Leisure and hospitality	490	480	500	10	-10
Other services	190	190	200	0	-10
Government	1,270	1,270	1,270	0	0
Federal government	180	170	190	10	-10
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	840	850	830	-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.



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May 27, 2026

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,037	3,051	3,061	-14	-24
Unemployed	221	263	240	-42	-19
Unemployment rate	7.3%	8.6%	7.8%	-1.3	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.9%	7.1%	6.4%	-0.2	0.5
Employed	2,816	2,788	2,821	28	-5
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,280	2,270	2,310	10	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,310	2,350	2,350	-40	-40
Total private	1,270	1,250	1,280	20	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	250	240	220	10	30
Mining and logging	90	100	90	-10	0
Construction	160	140	130	20	30
Manufacturing	10	10	30	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	320	320	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	30	30	40	0	-10
Retail trade	230	240	220	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	60	0	-10
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	70	80	70	-10	0
Professional and business services	120	120	130	0	-10
Private education and health services	220	220	210	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	190	160	190	30	0
Other services	60	60	70	0	-10
Government	1,010	1,020	1,030	-10	-20
Federal government	210	180	210	30	0
State government	170	170	160	0	10
Local government	630	670	660	-40	-30

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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May 27, 2026

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,565	3,553	3,623	12	-58
Unemployed	162	201	155	-39	7
Unemployment rate	4.5%	5.7%	4.3%	-1.2	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.7%	4.5%	-0.1	0.1
Employed	3,403	3,352	3,468	51	-65
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,390	2,360	2,490	30	-100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,360	2,410	2,460	-50	-100
Total private	1,320	1,290	1,350	30	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	400	400	410	0	-10
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	310	310	310	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	100	90	110	10	-10
Private education and health services	300	290	280	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	300	290	300	10	0
Other services	50	50	60	0	-10
Government	1,070	1,070	1,140	0	-70
Federal government	150	150	200	0	-50
State government	140	150	160	-10	-20
Local government	780	770	780	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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May 27, 2026

Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,343	13,150	13,184	193	159
Unemployed	503	565	490	-62	13
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.3%	3.7%	-0.5	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.5%	4.2%	-0.1	0.2
Employed	12,840	12,585	12,694	255	146
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,570	12,560	12,550	10	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,560	12,560	12,530	0	30
Total private	8,920	8,930	8,800	-10	120
Mining, logging, and construction	390	390	400	0	-10
Manufacturing	1,080	1,090	1,080	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,130	3,160	3,060	-30	70
Wholesale trade	520	540	470	-20	50
Retail trade	2,240	2,240	2,210	0	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	370	380	380	-10	-10
Information	70	70	80	0	-10
Financial activities	270	270	280	0	-10
Professional and business services	400	380	440	20	-40
Private education and health services	2,040	2,030	1,940	10	100
Leisure and hospitality	1,260	1,260	1,240	0	20
Other services	280	280	280	0	0
Government	3,650	3,630	3,750	20	-100
Federal government	130	130	180	0	-50
State government	1,410	1,400	1,420	10	-10
Local government	2,110	2,100	2,150	10	-40

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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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May 27, 2026

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,313	12,353	12,110	-40	203
Unemployed	569	684	656	-115	-87
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.5%	5.4%	-0.9	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	5.3%	5.2%	-0.2	-0.1
Employed	11,744	11,669	11,454	75	290
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,830	10,820	10,660	10	170
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,780	10,810	10,620	-30	160
Total private	8,280	8,260	8,090	20	190
Mining, logging, and construction	600	590	550	10	50
Mining and logging	20	30	10	-10	10
Construction	580	560	540	20	40
Manufacturing	1,220	1,240	1,190	-20	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,020	2,010	1,970	10	50
Wholesale trade	230	230	220	0	10
Retail trade	1,410	1,400	1,390	10	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	360	0	20
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	580	590	480	-10	100
Professional and business services	580	580	580	0	0
Private education and health services	1,850	1,840	1,820	10	30
Leisure and hospitality	1,050	1,030	1,100	20	-50
Other services	310	310	330	0	-20
Government	2,550	2,560	2,570	-10	-20
Federal government	220	210	220	10	0
State government	420	430	430	-10	-10
Local government	1,910	1,920	1,920	-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.



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May 27, 2026

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,575	3,569	3,588	6	-13
Unemployed	233	269	226	-36	7
Unemployment rate	6.5%	7.5%	6.3%	-1.0	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1.0</i>
Employed	3,342	3,300	3,362	42	-20
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,640	2,600	2,700	40	-60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,750</i>	<i>2,780</i>	<i>2,810</i>	<i>-30</i>	<i>-60</i>
Total private	1,850	1,810	1,890	40	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	210	210	220	0	-10
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Construction	170	170	180	0	-10
Manufacturing	130	130	140	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	450	440	460	10	-10
Wholesale and retail trade	350	340	350	10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	100	100	110	0	-10
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	140	150	140	-10	0
Professional and business services	140	120	140	20	0
Private education and health services	380	380	390	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	250	230	250	20	0
Other services	120	120	120	0	0
Government	790	790	810	0	-20
Federal government	70	70	90	0	-20
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	600	600	610	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/. 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.

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.

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