

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 25, 2026

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Employment in Eastern Oregon: July 2026

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in five of the six Eastern Oregon counties were down over the year ending July 2026. Malheur County's rate continues to rank among the lowest of Oregon's 36 counties, with the July 2026 rate ranking fourth lowest in the state. Since June, all six counties' rates were unchanged or ticked up slightly. Collectively, the Eastern Oregon counties' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2% in July 2026, down from 5.6% in July 2025. The Oregon rate held steady at 5.2%, and the national rate was 4.1%.

Baker County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 5.4% in July. This rate is down from 5.8% in July 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 10. Collectively, the private sector added 10 jobs over the month. Government employment decreased by 150, with a seasonal loss of 170 jobs in local government. Total nonfarm employment increased by 20 over the 12-month period ending July 2026. The largest losses were in trade, transportation, and utilities (-30), and leisure and hospitality (-30). Over the year, the largest gains occurred in private education and health services (+90), and other services (+30). Public-sector employment decreased by 10 over the year.

Grant County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7% in July and 6.6% in June. This rate is down from 7.8% in July 2025. Since June, there has been no change in seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment. Overall, the private sector added 20 jobs over the month, and government dropped 100, with a seasonal loss of 110 jobs in local government. Over the year ending July 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 80. In the private sector, total employment decreased by 40. The largest losses were in mining logging, and construction (-40). The largest gains were in private education and health services (+20). Total public-sector employment decreased by 40 over the 12-month period.

Harney County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in July and 4.8% in June. This rate is down slightly from 5.0% in July 2025. Since June, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 20. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector dropped 10 jobs, and the public sector dropped 30 jobs, with a seasonal loss of 40 jobs in local government. Over the year ending July 2026, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 160 jobs. The private sector collectively dropped 90 jobs. Public-sector employment decreased by 70, with the bulk of those losses occurring in local government (-50).

Malheur County's seasonally adjusted unemployment held steady at 4.5% in July. This rate is down from 4.8% in July 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was flat. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively dropped 30 jobs. Total public-sector employment decreased by 150, due to a seasonal loss of 140 jobs in local government. Over the year, total nonfarm employment increased by 80. In the private sector, the largest loss occurred in retail trade (-60). There were significant gains in private education and health services (+120). Total private-sector employment increased by 60 over the year, with a 40-job loss in state government offset by a gain of 90 in federal government.

Union County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0% in July. This rate is down from 5.8% in July 2025. Since June, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 60. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively added 70 jobs. There was a seasonal loss of 240 jobs in local government over the month. Over the year ending July 2026, seasonally adjusted employment increased by 50. In the private sector, the largest gains were in financial activities (+80); private education and health services (+30); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+30). Over the year, total government employment decreased by 90, with the largest loss in local government (-60).

Wallowa County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1% in July and 6.0% in June. This rate is up slightly from 5.9% in July 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 60. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector added 80 jobs over the month, while government had a seasonal loss of 100 jobs. Over the year ending July 2026, total nonfarm employment decreased by 230. The largest losses in the private sector were in mining, logging, and construction (-190); trade, transportation, and utilities (-80); and professional and business services (-60). The public sector lost 60 jobs over the year, with the bulk of those losses in local government (-40).

Next News Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, Sep. 16, and August county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Sep. 22.



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August 25, 2026

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,885	6,948	6,842	-63	43
Unemployed	386	363	400	23	-14
Unemployment rate	5.6%	5.2%	5.8%	0.4	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>5.8%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-0.4</i>
Employed	6,499	6,585	6,442	-86	57
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,540	5,680	5,520	-140	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,580</i>	<i>5,590</i>	<i>5,560</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>20</i>
Total private	4,380	4,370	4,350	10	30
Mining, logging, and construction	280	280	300	0	-20
Mining and logging	20	20	20	0	0
Construction	260	260	280	0	-20
Manufacturing	590	580	580	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,090	1,090	1,120	0	-30
Wholesale trade	60	60	70	0	-10
Retail trade	800	800	820	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	230	230	230	0	0
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	310	310	330	0	-20
Private education and health services	1,170	1,170	1,080	0	90
Leisure and hospitality	520	520	550	0	-30
Other services	200	200	170	0	30
Government	1,160	1,310	1,170	-150	-10
Federal government	230	210	220	20	10
State government	250	250	260	0	-10
Local government	680	850	690	-170	-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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Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,930	2,969	3,083	-39	-153
Unemployed	175	177	203	-2	-28
Unemployment rate	6.0%	6.0%	6.6%	0.0	-0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.7%</i>	<i>6.6%</i>	<i>7.8%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-1.1</i>
Employed	2,755	2,792	2,880	-37	-125
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,200	2,280	2,280	-80	-80
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>2,280</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-80</i>
Total private	1,270	1,250	1,310	20	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	200	190	240	10	-40
Mining and logging	100	100	120	0	-20
Construction	100	90	120	10	-20
Manufacturing	10	10	20	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	320	320	0	0
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	220	220	220	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	60	0	0
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	80	0	-10
Professional and business services	130	130	120	0	10
Private education and health services	230	230	210	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	210	200	220	10	-10
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	930	1,030	970	-100	-40
Federal government	250	240	270	10	-20
State government	170	170	180	0	-10
Local government	510	620	520	-110	-10

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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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Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,578	3,586	3,717	-8	-139
Unemployed	166	164	167	2	-1
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.6%	4.5%	0.0	0.1
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.9%	4.8%	5.0%	0.1	-0.1
Employed	3,412	3,422	3,550	-10	-138
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,380	2,420	2,540	-40	-160
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,370	2,390	2,530	-20	-160
Total private	1,320	1,330	1,410	-10	-90
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	410	420	0	-10
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	320	320	320	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	70	0	-10
Professional and business services	100	100	90	0	10
Private education and health services	270	290	270	-20	0
Leisure and hospitality	330	320	340	10	-10
Other services	50	50	80	0	-30
Government	1,060	1,090	1,130	-30	-70
Federal government	230	220	250	10	-20
State government	150	150	150	0	0
Local government	680	720	730	-40	-50

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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--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,448	13,537	13,529	-89	-81
Unemployed	636	701	804	-65	-168
Unemployment rate	4.7%	5.2%	5.9%	-0.5	-1.2
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.5%	4.5%	4.8%	0.0	-0.3
Employed	12,812	12,836	12,725	-24	87
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,250	12,430	12,170	-180	80
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	12,460	12,460	12,380	0	80
Total private	8,710	8,740	8,690	-30	20
Mining, logging, and construction	370	380	400	-10	-30
Manufacturing	1,090	1,090	1,070	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,010	3,030	3,030	-20	-20
Wholesale trade	480	490	460	-10	20
Retail trade	2,150	2,160	2,210	-10	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	360	0	20
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	260	260	280	0	-20
Professional and business services	390	390	380	0	10
Private education and health services	1,980	1,980	1,860	0	120
Leisure and hospitality	1,290	1,290	1,320	0	-30
Other services	250	250	280	0	-30
Government	3,540	3,690	3,480	-150	60
Federal government	330	340	240	-10	90
State government	1,400	1,400	1,440	0	-40
Local government	1,810	1,950	1,800	-140	10

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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--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,095	12,168	12,148	-73	-53
Unemployed	564	608	665	-44	-101
Unemployment rate	4.7%	5.0%	5.5%	-0.3	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>5.8%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-0.8</i>
Employed	11,531	11,560	11,483	-29	48
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,570	10,740	10,530	-170	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,600</i>	<i>10,660</i>	<i>10,550</i>	<i>-60</i>	<i>50</i>
Total private	8,300	8,230	8,170	70	130
Mining, logging, and construction	650	630	660	20	-10
Mining and logging	20	20	40	0	-20
Construction	630	610	620	20	10
Manufacturing	1,220	1,220	1,200	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,980	1,990	1,970	-10	10
Wholesale trade	200	200	210	0	-10
Retail trade	1,380	1,390	1,390	-10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	400	370	0	30
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	590	580	510	10	80
Professional and business services	600	580	620	20	-20
Private education and health services	1,810	1,790	1,780	20	30
Leisure and hospitality	1,040	1,040	1,020	0	20
Other services	340	330	340	10	0
Government	2,270	2,510	2,360	-240	-90
Federal government	260	260	270	0	-10
State government	440	440	460	0	-20
Local government	1,570	1,810	1,630	-240	-60

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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Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,708	3,702	3,935	6	-227
Unemployed	186	193	183	-7	3
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.2%	4.7%	-0.2	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.1%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Employed	3,522	3,509	3,752	13	-230
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,780	2,800	3,030	-20	-250
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,550</i>	<i>2,610</i>	<i>2,780</i>	<i>-60</i>	<i>-230</i>
Total private	2,080	2,000	2,270	80	-190
Mining, logging, and construction	240	220	270	20	-30
Mining and logging	40	40	50	0	-10
Construction	200	180	220	20	-20
Manufacturing	160	150	170	10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	430	510	0	-80
Wholesale and retail trade	330	330	380	0	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	100	100	130	0	-30
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	150	130	190	20	-40
Private education and health services	370	370	380	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	410	380	420	30	-10
Other services	120	120	130	0	-10
Government	700	800	760	-100	-60
Federal government	100	100	110	0	-10
State government	120	120	130	0	-10
Local government	480	580	520	-100	-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.

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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.

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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