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Employment in Eastern Oregon: August 2026

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in four of the six Eastern Oregon counties were down over the year ending August 2026. Malheur County's rate continues to rank among the lowest of Oregon's 36 counties, with the August 2026 rate ranking fourth lowest in the state. Since July, five counties' rates were unchanged or ticked up slightly. Collectively, the Eastern Oregon counties' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2% in August 2026, down from 5.6% in August 2025. The Oregon rate was 5.1%, and the national rate was 4.1%.

Baker County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 5.4% in August. This rate is down from 5.9% in August 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 20. Collectively, the private sector added 50 jobs in the not seasonally adjusted industries. Total public-sector employment increased by 10. Over the year ending August 2026, total nonfarm employment decreased by 10. The largest losses were in trade, transportation, and utilities (-50), with the bulk of those losses occurring in the retail trade component (-30). Construction also lost 30 jobs over the year. The largest gains were in private education and health services (+80), and other services (+40). Public-sector employment decreased by 20 over the year, with all those losses occurring in local government.

Grant County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8% in August and 6.7% in July. This rate is down from 7.9% in August 2025. Since July, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 30. Overall, the private sector added 10 jobs over the month, and government employment increased by 20. Over the year ending August 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 60. In the private sector, total employment decreased by 40. The largest losses were in mining logging, and construction (-50). The largest gains were in private education and health services (+20). Total public-sector employment decreased by 20 over the 12-month period.

Harney County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in August and 4.9% in July. This rate is unchanged from 5.0% in August 2025. Since July, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 60. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector dropped 20 jobs, and the public sector added 10 jobs. Over the year ending August 2026, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 160 jobs. The private sector collectively dropped 110 jobs. The largest loss was in private education and health services (-30). Public-sector employment decreased by 60, with losses in federal government (-30), and local government (-30).

Malheur County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4% in August and 4.5% in July. This rate is down from 4.9% in August 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 130. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively added 60 jobs. Total public-sector employment increased by 50. Over the year ending August 2026, total nonfarm employment decreased by 170. In the private sector, the largest losses occurred in retail trade (-60), and mining, logging, and construction (-50). There were significant gains in private education and health services (+90). Total public-sector employment decreased by 90 over the year. The largest loss was in local government (-170), and the largest gain was in federal government (+100).

Union County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0% in August. This rate is down from 5.8% in August 2025. Since July, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 50. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively dropped 20 jobs. Total government employment also decreased by 20 jobs over the month. Over the year ending August 2026, seasonally adjusted employment increased by 70. In the private sector, the largest loss was in retail trade (-30). There were significant gains in financial activities (+100). There were also gains in private education and health services (+30), transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+30), and manufacturing (+30). Over the year, total government employment decreased by 100, with the largest loss in local government (-80).

Wallowa County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1% in August and 6.0% in July. This rate is up slightly from 6.0% in August 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 30. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector dropped 20 jobs over the month, while government had a gain of 10 jobs. Over the year ending August 2026, total nonfarm employment decreased by 210. The largest losses in the private sector were in trade, transportation, and utilities (-90). In the public sector, local government lost 50 jobs over the year.

Next News Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, Oct. 14, and September county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Oct. 20.



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September 22, 2026

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	--Change From--	
				July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,002	6,889	6,925	113	77
Unemployed	353	383	375	-30	-22
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.4%	5.9%	0.0	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10.0%</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>1.0</i>
Employed	6,649	6,506	6,550	143	99
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,610	5,550	5,610	60	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,590</i>	<i>5,580</i>	<i>-20</i>	<i>-10</i>
Total private	4,440	4,390	4,420	50	20
Mining, logging, and construction	290	280	320	10	-30
Mining and logging	20	20	20	0	0
Construction	270	260	300	10	-30
Manufacturing	590	590	580	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,090	1,090	1,140	0	-50
Wholesale trade	60	60	70	0	-10
Retail trade	800	800	830	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	230	230	240	0	-10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	320	310	330	10	-10
Private education and health services	1,190	1,170	1,110	20	80
Leisure and hospitality	530	530	550	0	-20
Other services	210	200	170	10	40
Government	1,170	1,160	1,190	10	-20
Federal government	220	230	220	-10	0
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	700	680	720	20	-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.



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Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	2,974	2,942	3,060	32	-86
Unemployed	168	174	190	-6	-22
Unemployment rate	5.6%	5.9%	6.2%	-0.3	-0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.8%</i>	<i>6.7%</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-1.1</i>
Employed	2,806	2,768	2,870	38	-64
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,230	2,200	2,290	30	-60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,230</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>2,290</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>-60</i>
Total private	1,280	1,270	1,320	10	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	200	200	250	0	-50
Mining and logging	100	100	120	0	-20
Construction	100	100	130	0	-30
Manufacturing	10	10	20	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	320	320	0	0
Wholesale trade	40	40	30	0	10
Retail trade	220	220	230	0	-10
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	210	210	0	0
Other services	70	60	70	10	0
Government	950	930	970	20	-20
Federal government	250	250	270	0	-20
State government	170	170	180	0	-10
Local government	530	510	520	20	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--				
	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,604	3,594	3,732	10	-128
Unemployed	155	165	153	-10	2
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.6%	4.1%	-0.3	0.2
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	5.0%	4.9%	5.0%	0.1	0.0
Employed	3,449	3,429	3,579	20	-130
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,380	2,390	2,550	-10	-170
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,320	2,380	2,480	-60	-160
Total private	1,300	1,320	1,410	-20	-110
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	410	410	0	0
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	320	320	320	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
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	260	270	290	-10	-30
Leisure and hospitality	320	330	340	-10	-20
Other services	50	50	70	0	-20
Government	1,080	1,070	1,140	10	-60
Federal government	220	230	250	-10	-30
State government	150	150	150	0	0
Local government	710	690	740	20	-30

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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 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,684	13,463	13,578	221	106
Unemployed	548	630	592	-82	-44
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.7%	4.4%	-0.7	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.4%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>-0.5</i>
Employed	13,136	12,833	12,986	303	150
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,370	12,260	12,530	110	-160
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,340</i>	<i>12,470</i>	<i>12,510</i>	<i>-130</i>	<i>-170</i>
Total private	8,770	8,710	8,840	60	-70
Mining, logging, and construction	360	370	410	-10	-50
Manufacturing	1,090	1,090	1,080	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,020	3,010	3,080	10	-60
Wholesale trade	510	480	520	30	-10
Retail trade	2,130	2,150	2,190	-20	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	370	0	10
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	260	260	270	0	-10
Professional and business services	390	390	390	0	0
Private education and health services	2,030	1,980	1,940	50	90
Leisure and hospitality	1,300	1,290	1,320	10	-20
Other services	250	250	280	0	-30
Government	3,600	3,550	3,690	50	-90
Federal government	330	330	230	0	100
State government	1,410	1,400	1,430	10	-20
Local government	1,860	1,820	2,030	40	-170

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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 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,223	12,115	12,103	108	120
Unemployed	558	559	632	-1	-74
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.6%	5.2%	0.0	-0.6
<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	11,665	11,556	11,471	109	194
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,560	10,590	10,500	-30	60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,570</i>	<i>10,620</i>	<i>10,500</i>	<i>-50</i>	<i>70</i>
Total private	8,300	8,320	8,140	-20	160
Mining, logging, and construction	650	650	660	0	-10
Mining and logging	20	20	40	0	-20
Construction	630	630	620	0	10
Manufacturing	1,220	1,220	1,190	0	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,990	2,000	2,000	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	200	200	210	0	-10
Retail trade	1,390	1,400	1,420	-10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	400	370	0	30
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	590	590	490	0	100
Professional and business services	600	600	600	0	0
Private education and health services	1,820	1,810	1,790	10	30
Leisure and hospitality	1,040	1,040	1,020	0	20
Other services	320	340	320	-20	0
Government	2,260	2,270	2,360	-10	-100
Federal government	260	260	270	0	-10
State government	440	440	450	0	-10
Local government	1,560	1,570	1,640	-10	-80

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--				
	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,700	3,708	3,918	-8	-218
Unemployed	168	184	184	-16	-16
Unemployment rate	4.5%	5.0%	4.7%	-0.5	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.1%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Employed	3,532	3,524	3,734	8	-202
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,770	2,780	2,990	-10	-220
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,580</i>	<i>2,550</i>	<i>2,790</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>-210</i>
Total private	2,060	2,080	2,230	-20	-170
Mining, logging, and construction	250	240	270	10	-20
Mining and logging	50	40	50	10	0
Construction	200	200	220	0	-20
Manufacturing	160	160	170	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	430	520	0	-90
Wholesale and retail trade	330	330	390	0	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	100	100	130	0	-30
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	160	170	170	-10	-10
Professional and business services	140	150	160	-10	-20
Private education and health services	370	370	370	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	410	410	410	0	0
Other services	110	120	130	-10	-20
Government	710	700	760	10	-50
Federal government	110	100	110	10	0
State government	120	120	120	0	0
Local government	480	480	530	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.

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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