



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 23, 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION: Tony Wendel, Workforce Analyst Tony.A.Wendel@employ.oregon.gov (541) 667-7027

Employment in Eastern Oregon: April 2023 Unemployment Rate Decreases as Seasonal Hiring Begins

Comparing April 2023 with April 2022 shows decreasing unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant County where the raw rate dropped by 1.3 percentage points to reach 5.3%. The smallest decrease came in Baker County where the raw rate decreased by 0.5 percentage point to reach 3.3%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in five Eastern Oregon counties. Grant County's rate was unchanged. Harney County saw the largest increase, rising 0.6 percentage point to 4.7%, followed by Malheur and Wallowa counties' 0.5 percentage point increase to 4.3% and 5.5%, respectively.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 since April 2022. Employment decreased by 80 jobs in the private sector and increased by 70 jobs in the public sector. The largest decrease came in manufacturing, which dropped by 60. Leisure and hospitality added 20 over the year, to lead gains. Overall employment increased by 40 jobs over the month; industry gains were relatively small. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage point over the month to 4.6%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points to 3.3% in April.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 90 jobs over the year. The private sector added 60 jobs while the public sector increased by 30. Manufacturing and local government each rose by 40 to lead gains. Leisure and hospitality led losses, dropping 30 jobs. Over the month, total employment was flat. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid by 0.5 percentage point in April to 5.6%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 1.0 percentage point to 5.3%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 60 over the year. The private sector dropped by 20 as the public sector rose by 80. Local government led gains, up 60. Goods-producing and wholesale trade saw the largest decrease, down 20 each. Total employment climbed by 60 over the month, led by gains in leisure and hospitality. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.5 percentage point over the month to 4.7%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 1.5 percentage points to 3.2%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 110 over the year. The private sector rose by 110 as the public sector saw a net change of zero. Private education and health services added 80 to lead gains. Retail trade dropped by 70 to lead losses. Total employment increased by 10 over the

month, with gains slightly overcoming losses across industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage point over the month to 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate decreased 0.7 percentage point to 2.8%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 90 over the year. The private sector added 70 jobs while the public sector added 20. Professional and business services showed the largest gain, up 40. Leisure and hospitality incurred the largest loss, down 50. Total employment increased by 10 over the month, with gains and losses mostly offsetting each other across industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage point in April to 4.5%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points to 3.1%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 90 from April 2022 to April 2023. The private sector added 40 jobs and the public sector increased by 50. Construction led gains, up 40. Wholesale and retail trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities were the only industries to lose jobs, dropping 20 each. Total nonfarm employment increased by 70 over the month, with leisure and hospitality (+30) leading the way. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.3 percentage point over the month to 5.5%. The raw unemployment rate decreased 1.3 percentage points for the month to 4.8%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Wednesday, June 21, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Wednesday, June 14.



Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				Change F	rom
	April	March	April	March	April
	2023	2023	2022	2023	2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,186	7,280	7,467	-94	-281
Unemployed	236	335	285	-99	-49
Unemployment rate	3.3%	4.6%	3.8%	-1.3	-0.5
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.6%	5.0%	4.2%	-0.4	0.4
Employed	6,950	6,945	7,182	5	-232
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,650	5,610	5,660	40	-10
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	5,690	5,720	5,700	-30	-10
Total private	4,410	4,370	4,490	40	-80
Mining, logging, and construction	320	300	310	20	10
Mining and logging	20	20	20	0	0
Construction	300	280	290	20	10
Manufacturing	570	580	630	-10	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,120	1,110	1,150	10	-30
Wholesale trade	60	70	70	-10	-10
Retail trade	810	800	820	10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	240	260	10	-10
Information	70	70	60	0	10
Financial activities	160	160	160	0	0
Professional and business services	370	370	380	0	-10
Private education and health services	990	990	1,000	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	600	590	580	10	20
Other services	210	200	220	10	-10
Government	1,240	1,240	1,170	0	70
Federal government	190	190	180	0	10
State government	230	230	220	0	10
Local government	820	820	770	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.



Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				Change From		
	April	March	April	March	April	
	2023	2023	2022	2023	2022	
Labor Force Status						
Civilian labor force	3,120	3,143	3,127	-23	-7	
Unemployed	166	199	205	-33	-39	
Unemployment rate	5.3%	6.3%	6.6%	-1.0	-1.3	
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	5.6%	6.1%	5.6%	-0.5	0.0	
Employed	2,954	2,944	2,922	10	32	
Nonfarm Payroll Employment						
Total nonfarm employment	2,430	2,430	2,340	0	90	
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,510	2,530	2,420	-20	90	
Total private	1,390	1,400	1,330	-10	60	
Mining, logging, and construction	160	180	170	-20	-10	
Mining and logging	100	120	110	-20	-10	
Construction	60	60	60	0	0	
Manufacturing	140	140	100	0	40	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	350	340	0	10	
Wholesale trade	50	50	40	0	10	
Retail trade	260	260	250	0	10	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10	
Information	60	60	50	0	10	
Financial activities	80	80	70	0	10	
Professional and business services	140	140	130	0	10	
Private education and health services	200	200	190	0	10	
Leisure and hospitality	180	170	210	10	-30	
Other services	80	80	70	0	10	
Government	1,040	1,030	1,010	10	30	
Federal government	230	220	240	10	-10	
State government	130	130	130	0	0	
Local government	680	680	640	0	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.

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.



Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				Change From	
	April	March	April	March	April
	2023	2023	2022	2023	2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,746	3,741	3,855	5	-109
Unemployed	118	174	149	-56	-31
Unemployment rate	3.2%	4.7%	3.9%	-1.5	-0.7
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.7%	5.2%	4.1%	-0.5	0.6
Employed	3,628	3,567	3,706	61	-78
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,610	2,550	2,550	60	60
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,650	2,640	2,590	10	60
Total private	1,490	1,460	1,510	30	-20
Goods-producing	100	100	120	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	500	510	500	-10	0
Wholesale trade	60	70	80	-10	-20
Retail trade	390	390	370	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	50	50	60	0	-10
Professional and business services	200	190	200	10	0
Private education and health services	240	240	240	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	310	280	320	30	-10
Other services	80	80	60	0	20
Government	1,120	1,090	1,040	30	80
Federal government	220	210	210	10	10
State government	130	130	120	0	10
Local government	770	750	710	20	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.



Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				Change From	
	April 2023	March 2023	April 2022	March 2023	April 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,508	12,521	12,797	-13	-289
Unemployed	355	444	448	-89	-93
Unemployment rate	2.8%	3.5%	3.5%	-0.7	-0.7
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.3%	4.6%	3.8%	-0.3	0.5
Employed	12,153	12,077	12,349	76	-196
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,250	12,240	12,140	10	110
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	12,180	12,280	12,080	-100	100
Total private	8,740	8,730	8,630	10	110
Mining, logging, and construction	370	370	360	0	10
Manufacturing	1,050	1,060	1,010	-10	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,150	3,170	3,170	-20	-20
Wholesale trade	440	480	450	-40	-10
Retail trade	2,290	2,260	2,360	30	-70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	420	430	360	-10	60
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	270	270	290	0	-20
Professional and business services	450	450	460	0	-10
Private education and health services	1,810	1,800	1,730	10	80
Leisure and hospitality	1,250	1,230	1,260	20	-10
Other services	320	310	280	10	40
Government	3,510	3,510	3,510	0	0
Federal government	180	170	180	10	0
State government	1,330	1,330	1,290	0	40
Local government	2,000	2,010	2,040	-10	-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.

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.



Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				Change F	rom
	April	March	April	March	April
	2023	2023	2022	2023	2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,805	11,943	12,207	-138	-402
Unemployed	370	522	509	-152	-139
Unemployment rate	3.1%	4.4%	4.2%	-1.3	-1.1
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.5%	4.9%	4.3%	-0.4	0.2
Employed	11,435	11,421	11,698	14	-263
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,580	10,570	10,490	10	90
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	10,610	10,690	10,520	-80	90
Total private	8,070	8,050	8,000	20	70
Mining, logging, and construction	600	590	620	10	-20
Mining and logging	20	30	20	-10	0
Construction	580	560	600	20	-20
Manufacturing	1,250	1,260	1,270	-10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,180	2,200	2,120	-20	60
Wholesale trade	230	230	230	0	0
Retail trade	1,520	1,530	1,490	-10	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	430	440	400	-10	30
Information	110	100	100	10	10
Financial activities	360	370	330	-10	30
Professional and business services	590	570	550	20	40
Private education and health services	1,660	1,670	1,660	-10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,000	980	1,050	20	-50
Other services	320	310	300	10	20
Government	2,510	2,520	2,490	-10	20
Federal government	250	220	240	30	10
State government	370	370	360	0	10
Local government	1,890	1,930	1,890	-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.



Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				Change F	e From	
	April	March	April	March	April	
	2023	2023	2022	2023	2022	
Labor Force Status						
Civilian labor force	3,494	3,461	3,514	33	-20	
Unemployed	148	191	174	-43	-26	
Unemployment rate	4.2%	5.5%	5.0%	-1.3	-0.8	
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	5.5%	5.8%	5.0%	-0.3	0.5	
Employed	3,346	3,270	3,340	76	6	
Nonfarm Payroll Employment						
Total nonfarm employment	2,700	2,630	2,610	70	90	
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,830	2,860	2,740	-30	90	
Total private	1,930	1,860	1,890	70	40	
Mining, logging, and construction	270	260	230	10	40	
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0	
Construction	230	220	190	10	40	
Manufacturing	160	160	160	0	0	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	430	480	10	-40	
Wholesale and retail trade	380	370	400	10	-20	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	80	0	-20	
Information	30	30	20	0	10	
Financial activities	120	120	110	0	10	
Professional and business services	140	120	120	20	20	
Private education and health services	390	400	390	-10	0	
Leisure and hospitality	250	220	250	30	0	
Other services	130	120	130	10	0	
Government	770	770	720	0	50	
Federal government	80	80	70	0	10	
State government	130	120	100	10	30	
Local government	560	570	550	-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.





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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe, enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

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.

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

###