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Employment in Eastern Oregon: July 2023

Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Reach New July Lows

Comparing July 2023 with July 2022 shows decreasing unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. In all six counties, the July 2023 rates are the lowest unadjusted July unemployment rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. The largest over-the-year decreases came in Harney and Union counties where the raw rates dropped by 0.9 percentage point to reach 3.5% and 3.6%, respectively. The smallest decrease came in Baker County where the raw rate decreased by 0.4 percentage point to reach 4.1%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates also decreased over the year in all six Eastern Oregon counties and are the lowest July rates since 1990. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant County where the seasonally adjusted rate lowered by 1.2 percentage points to reach 5.1%. The smallest decreases came in Malheur and Baker counties where the seasonally adjusted rates dropped 0.7 percentage point to reach 3.7% and 4.1%, respectively. For Grant (5.1%), Harney (3.9%), Union (3.9%), and Wallowa (4.7%) counties, the July 2023 seasonally adjusted unemployment rates represent not only the lowest July rates but the lowest rates for any month since 1990.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 40 since July 2022. Employment decreased by 100 jobs in the private sector and increased by 60 jobs in the public sector. The largest decreases came in manufacturing and leisure and hospitality, which dropped by 50 each. Local government led gains, up 70. Overall employment decreased by 110 jobs over the month; losses were led by local government, down 150 jobs with schools out for summer. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage point in July to 4.1%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.3 percentage point to 4.1%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 90 jobs over the year. The private sector added 70 jobs while the public sector increased by 20. Local government added 50 jobs and manufacturing rose by 40 to lead gains. Federal government led losses, down 40. Over the month, total employment dropped by 30 jobs, led by a loss of 110 in local government with summer vacation for schools. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid by 0.1 percentage point in July to 5.1%. The raw unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 jobs over the year. The private sector decreased by 90 jobs while the public sector climbed by 110. Local government led gains, up 80.

Professional and business services led losses, down 50. Total employment increased by 20 jobs over the month, led by a gain of 40 jobs in federal government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percentage point over the month to 3.9%. The raw unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.5%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 160 over the year. The private sector rose by 10 and the public sector added 150 jobs. State government added 80 to lead gains. Retail trade dropped by 80 to lead losses. Total employment decreased by 280 over the month, with local government leading the way, down 190 jobs with schools out for summer. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.7%. The raw unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage point to 4.1%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 80 over the year. The private sector added 110 jobs and the public sector dropped by 30. Private education and health services showed the largest gain, up 80. Local government incurred the largest loss, down 80. Total employment decreased by 90 over the month, with local government leading losses, down 200 with schools on summer vacation. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage point in July to 3.9%. The raw unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.6%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 160 jobs from July 2022 to July 2023. The private sector added 90 jobs and the public sector increased by 70. Construction and other services led gains, up 40 each. Wholesale and retail trade led losses, dropping 60 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 80 over the month, with leisure and hospitality leading the way, up 40. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.7%. The raw unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage point for the month to 3.4%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Sep. 19, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for August on Wednesday, Sep. 13.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,042	7,078	7,342	-36	-300
Unemployed	291	269	331	22	-40
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.8%	4.5%	0.3	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.2%	4.8%	-0.1	-0.7
Employed	6,751	6,809	7,011	-58	-260
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,510	5,620	5,550	-110	-40
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	5,490	5,490	5,530	0	-40
Total private	4,450	4,430	4,550	20	-100
Mining and logging	30	30	20	0	10
Mining, logging, and construction	350	350	320	0	30
Construction	320	320	300	0	20
Manufacturing	580	570	630	10	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,160	1,160	1,140	0	20
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	840	840	810	0	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	260	0	-10
Information	50	60	60	-10	-10
Financial activities	170	170	180	0	-10
Professional and business services	370	370	380	0	-10
Private education and health services	980	980	1,010	0	-30
Leisure and hospitality	600	580	650	20	-50
Other services	190	190	180	0	10
Government	1,060	1,190	1,000	-130	60
Federal government	230	210	240	20	-10
State government	230	230	230	0	0
Local government	600	750	530	-150	70

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.

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,256	3,261	3,261	-5	-5
Unemployed	134	134	159	0	-25
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.1%	4.9%	0.0	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	5.2%	6.3%	-0.1	-1.2
Employed	3,122	3,127	3,102	-5	20
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,550	2,580	2,460	-30	90
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,450	2,420	2,360	30	90
Total private	1,500	1,440	1,430	60	70
Mining and logging	120	120	130	0	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	190	190	200	0	-10
Construction	70	70	70	0	0
Manufacturing	160	160	120	0	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	330	360	20	-10
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	270	250	270	20	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	140	130	130	10	10
Private education and health services	200	200	180	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	260	240	250	20	10
Other services	80	70	70	10	10
Government	1,050	1,140	1,030	-90	20
Federal government	290	270	330	20	-40
State government	180	180	170	0	10
Local government	580	690	530	-110	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.

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,634	3,593	3,784	41	-150
Unemployed	127	124	166	3	-39
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.5%	4.4%	0.0	-0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	4.1%	4.9%	-0.2	-1.0
Employed	3,507	3,469	3,618	38	-111
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,500	2,480	2,480	20	20
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,420	2,400	2,400	20	20
Total private	1,370	1,370	1,460	0	-90
Goods-producing	100	100	130	0	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	460	500	10	-30
Wholesale trade	50	50	70	0	-20
Retail trade	380	370	380	10	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	100	150	0	-50
Private education and health services	220	240	210	-20	10
Leisure and hospitality	320	320	330	0	-10
Other services	90	80	70	10	20
Government	1,130	1,110	1,020	20	110
Federal government	290	250	270	40	20
State government	130	130	120	0	10
Local government	710	730	630	-20	80

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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.

Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,508	12,504	12,818	4	-310
Unemployed	514	473	617	41	-103
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.8%	4.8%	0.3	-0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.8%	4.4%	-0.1	-0.7
Employed	11,994	12,031	12,201	-37	-207
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,900	12,180	11,740	-280	160
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	12,110	12,070	11,960	40	150
Total private	8,640	8,730	8,630	-90	10
Mining, logging, and construction	420	430	410	-10	10
Manufacturing	1,000	1,030	990	-30	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,180	3,190	3,220	-10	-40
Wholesale trade	430	440	430	-10	0
Retail trade	2,320	2,340	2,400	-20	-80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	430	410	390	20	40
Information	80	70	80	10	0
Financial activities	270	270	280	0	-10
Professional and business services	390	380	460	10	-70
Private education and health services	1,710	1,790	1,660	-80	50
Leisure and hospitality	1,290	1,280	1,280	10	10
Other services	300	290	250	10	50
Government	3,260	3,450	3,110	-190	150
Federal government	220	220	210	0	10
State government	1,350	1,350	1,270	0	80
Local government	1,690	1,880	1,630	-190	60

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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.

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,876	11,847	12,301	29	-425
Unemployed	427	432	550	-5	-123
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.6%	4.5%	0.0	-0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	4.0%	4.8%	-0.1	-0.9
Employed	11,449	11,415	11,751	34	-302
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,580	10,670	10,500	-90	80
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	10,550	10,490	10,480	60	70
Total private	8,270	8,190	8,160	80	110
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Mining, logging, and construction	660	630	700	30	-40
Construction	620	590	660	30	-40
Manufacturing	1,330	1,310	1,310	20	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,060	2,080	2,110	-20	-50
Wholesale trade	250	260	230	-10	20
Retail trade	1,460	1,460	1,480	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	350	360	400	-10	-50
Information	100	100	100	0	0
Financial activities	370	360	370	10	0
Professional and business services	650	630	590	20	60
Private education and health services	1,710	1,730	1,630	-20	80
Leisure and hospitality	1,010	1,000	1,010	10	0
Other services	380	350	340	30	40
Government	2,310	2,480	2,340	-170	-30
Federal government	300	280	270	20	30
State government	400	390	380	10	20
Local government	1,610	1,810	1,690	-200	-80

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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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,864	3,758	3,841	106	23
Unemployed	131	121	159	10	-28
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.2%	4.1%	0.2	-0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.9%	5.5%	-0.2	-0.8
Employed	3,733	3,637	3,682	96	51
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	3,110	3,030	2,950	80	160
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,830	2,800	2,680	30	150
Total private	2,330	2,200	2,240	130	90
Mining and logging	90	80	60	10	30
Mining, logging, and construction	350	320	280	30	70
Construction	260	240	220	20	40
Manufacturing	210	190	200	20	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	460	520	0	-60
Wholesale and retail trade	380	380	440	0	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	80	80	80	0	0
Information	30	30	20	0	10
Financial activities	150	140	150	10	0
Professional and business services	140	130	140	10	0
Private education and health services	390	380	400	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	440	400	410	40	30
Other services	160	150	120	10	40
Government	780	830	710	-50	70
Federal government	120	110	110	10	10
State government	150	150	120	0	30
Local government	510	570	480	-60	30

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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.

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