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Employment in Eastern Oregon: December 2023

Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Reach December Lows

Between December 2022 and December 2023, unemployment rates decreased in all Eastern Oregon counties. In Grant, Harney, and Wallowa counties, the December 2023 rates are the lowest unadjusted December unemployment rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Baker, Malheur, and Union counties, they are the third lowest December rates behind only December 2019 and December 2021. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant and Wallowa counties where the raw rates dropped by 2.6 percentage points to reach 4.9% and 4.6%, respectively. The smallest decrease came in Union County, where the raw rate decreased by 1.0 percentage point to reach 4.4%.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased over the year in all six Eastern Oregon counties. In Baker, Grant, Harney, Union, and Wallowa counties, they are the lowest December rates since 1990. In Malheur County, the December 2023 rate ties with the December 2019 rate for the lowest December rate. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant County where the seasonally adjusted rate lowered by 2.2 percentage points to reach 4.7%. The smallest decrease came in Baker County where the seasonally adjusted rate dropped 1.3 percentage points to reach 4.1%. For Baker (4.1%), Grant (4.7%), Harney (3.9%), and Wallowa (4.1%) counties, the December 2023 seasonally adjusted unemployment rates represent not only the lowest December rates but the lowest rates for any month since 1990.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 since December 2022. Employment decreased by 30 jobs in the private sector and increased by 70 jobs in the public sector. Local government led gains, up 90. The largest decrease came in leisure and hospitality, which was down 30; followed by transportation, warehousing, and utilities and state government, each dropping 20 jobs. Overall employment increased by 10 jobs over the month with private education and health services leading gains, up 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.1%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.9 percentage point to 4.7%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 jobs over the year. The private sector saw a net change of zero jobs while the public sector increased by 20. Local government added 70 jobs and manufacturing rose by 20 to lead gains. State government led losses, down 30. Over the month, total employment dropped 40 jobs led by a loss in leisure and hospitality, down 20. The seasonally adjusted

unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.7%. The raw unemployment rate climbed 0.9 percentage point to 4.9%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector decreased by 70 jobs and the public sector added 20. Professional and business services led losses, down 50. Small gains were spread across industries. Total employment decreased by 10 jobs over the month, with small losses and small gains nearly balancing across industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 3.9%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.8 percentage point to 4.5%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 30 over the year. The private sector dropped by 190 and the public sector added 220 jobs. Local government added 160 to lead gains. Retail trade dropped 130 jobs to lead losses. Total employment decreased by 90 over the month, with retail trade, and transportation, warehousing, and utilities leading the losses, down 30 jobs each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.6%. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.7 percentage point to 3.8%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 110 jobs over the year. The private sector added 60 jobs and the public sector increased by 50. Manufacturing added 50 jobs and private education and health services added 40 to lead gains. Losses were led by transportation, warehousing, and utilities, down 40. Total employment decreased by 50 over the month, with construction leading losses, down 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.8%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 1.0 percentage point to 4.4%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 jobs from December 2022 to December 2023. The private sector added 20 jobs and the public sector increased by 30. Local government led gains, up 40 jobs. Losses were led by construction and manufacturing, each down 20. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 50 over the month, led by a loss of 20 jobs in leisure and hospitality. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.1%. The raw unemployment rate climbed 0.8 percentage point to 4.6%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, March 5, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Tuesday, March 5.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,159	7,131	7,337	28	-178
Unemployed	337	273	435	64	-98
Unemployment rate	4.7%	3.8%	5.9%	0.9	-1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.1%	5.4%	0.0	-1.3
Employed	6,822	6,858	6,902	-36	-80
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,560	5,550	5,520	10	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,580	5,540	5,540	40	40
Total private	4,400	4,380	4,430	20	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	310	320	310	-10	0
Mining and logging	20	20	20	0	0
Construction	290	300	290	-10	0
Manufacturing	570	570	570	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,160	1,140	1,160	20	0
Wholesale trade	80	70	70	10	10
Retail trade	840	840	830	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	230	260	10	-20
Information	60	50	60	10	0
Financial activities	160	160	170	0	-10
Professional and business services	370	370	370	0	0
Private education and health services	1,010	990	1,010	20	0
Leisure and hospitality	550	570	580	-20	-30
Other services	210	210	200	0	10
Government	1,160	1,170	1,090	-10	70
Federal government	190	200	190	-10	0
State government	210	210	230	0	-20
Local government	760	760	670	0	90

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--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,133	3,151	3,162	-18	-29
Unemployed	155	126	237	29	-82
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.0%	7.5%	0.9	-2.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.8%	6.9%	-0.1	-2.2
Employed	2,978	3,025	2,925	-47	53
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,480	2,520	2,460	-40	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,580	2,540	2,560	40	20
Total private	1,410	1,440	1,410	-30	0
Mining, logging, and construction	180	190	200	-10	-20
Mining and logging	110	110	130	0	-20
Construction	70	80	70	-10	0
Manufacturing	160	150	140	10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	360	360	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	40	40	50	0	-10
Retail trade	260	270	260	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	80	0	-10
Professional and business services	150	150	140	0	10
Private education and health services	210	210	200	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	180	200	170	-20	10
Other services	60	60	70	0	-10
Government	1,070	1,080	1,050	-10	20
Federal government	220	230	240	-10	-20
State government	110	120	140	-10	-30
Local government	740	730	670	10	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.

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,551	3,563	3,696	-12	-145
Unemployed	160	131	237	29	-77
Unemployment rate	4.5%	3.7%	6.4%	0.8	-1.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	3.9%	5.8%	0.0	-1.9
Employed	3,391	3,432	3,459	-41	-68
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,420	2,430	2,470	-10	-50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,500	2,440	2,560	60	-60
Total private	1,320	1,350	1,390	-30	-70
Goods-producing	90	100	100	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	480	490	-10	-20
Wholesale trade	40	40	60	0	-20
Retail trade	380	390	380	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	50	0	10
Professional and business services	90	90	140	0	-50
Private education and health services	240	240	230	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	270	280	290	-10	-20
Other services	90	90	80	0	10
Government	1,100	1,080	1,080	20	20
Federal government	220	210	210	10	10
State government	140	140	130	0	10
Local government	740	730	740	10	0

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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--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,487	12,639	12,458	-152	29
Unemployed	479	396	643	83	-164
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.1%	5.2%	0.7	-1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.6%	3.5%	5.1%	0.1	-1.5
Employed	12,008	12,243	11,815	-235	193
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,280	12,370	12,250	-90	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,280	12,220	12,240	60	40
Total private	8,660	8,730	8,850	-70	-190
Mining, logging, and construction	450	460	380	-10	70
Manufacturing	1,020	1,030	1,060	-10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,210	3,250	3,350	-40	-140
Wholesale trade	490	470	490	20	0
Retail trade	2,290	2,320	2,420	-30	-130
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	430	460	440	-30	-10
Information	80	80	70	0	10
Financial activities	280	270	280	10	0
Professional and business services	390	390	430	0	-40
Private education and health services	1,750	1,750	1,770	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	1,180	1,200	1,220	-20	-40
Other services	300	300	290	0	10
Government	3,620	3,640	3,400	-20	220
Federal government	190	180	180	10	10
State government	1,370	1,390	1,320	-20	50
Local government	2,060	2,070	1,900	-10	160

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.

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,959	11,930	12,013	29	-54
Unemployed	529	405	643	124	-114
Unemployment rate	4.4%	3.4%	5.4%	1.0	-1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.7%	5.4%	0.1	-1.6
Employed	11,430	11,525	11,370	-95	60
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,690	10,740	10,580	-50	110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,710	10,610	10,600	100	110
Total private	8,260	8,290	8,200	-30	60
Mining, logging, and construction	630	660	620	-30	10
Mining and logging	30	30	40	0	-10
Construction	600	630	580	-30	20
Manufacturing	1,340	1,330	1,290	10	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,160	2,170	2,230	-10	-70
Wholesale trade	240	240	240	0	0
Retail trade	1,490	1,500	1,520	-10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	430	430	470	0	-40
Information	90	90	90	0	0
Financial activities	350	350	380	0	-30
Professional and business services	590	600	580	-10	10
Private education and health services	1,740	1,720	1,700	20	40
Leisure and hospitality	1,030	1,030	1,010	0	20
Other services	330	340	300	-10	30
Government	2,430	2,450	2,380	-20	50
Federal government	200	220	200	-20	0
State government	380	380	360	0	20
Local government	1,850	1,850	1,820	0	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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,463	3,497	3,479	-34	-16
Unemployed	159	133	251	26	-92
Unemployment rate	4.6%	3.8%	7.2%	0.8	-2.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.2%	6.2%	-0.1	-2.1
Employed	3,304	3,364	3,228	-60	76
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,700	2,750	2,650	-50	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,870	2,840	2,810	30	60
Total private	1,920	1,960	1,900	-40	20
Mining, logging, and construction	280	290	300	-10	-20
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	220	230	240	-10	-20
Manufacturing	150	150	170	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	470	440	0	30
Wholesale and retail trade	380	390	370	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	80	70	10	20
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	130	130	110	0	20
Professional and business services	110	120	110	-10	0
Private education and health services	380	380	390	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	240	260	240	-20	0
Other services	140	140	120	0	20
Government	780	790	750	-10	30
Federal government	80	90	80	-10	0
State government	100	100	110	0	-10
Local government	600	600	560	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.

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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