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## **Employment in Eastern Oregon: March 2024**

### **Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Remain Low**

The March seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased over the year in all six Eastern Oregon counties. In Grant and Wallowa counties, they are the lowest March rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. The March 2024 rates are the second lowest March rates in Harney, Malheur, and Union counties and the third lowest in Baker County. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Wallowa County where the seasonally adjusted rate moved 1.6 percentage points lower to reach 4.2%. The smallest decrease came in Baker County where the seasonally adjusted rate dropped 0.5 percentage point to reach 4.5%.

Between March 2023 and March 2024, unadjusted unemployment rates increased in all six Eastern Oregon counties. In Baker, Grant, and Wallowa counties, the March 2024 rates are the second lowest unadjusted March unemployment rates since 1990. In Harney, Malheur, and Union counties, the only lower March rates were in 2022 and 2023. The smallest over-the-year increase came in Baker and Wallowa counties where the raw rates increased by 0.5 percentage point to reach 5.4% and 6.1%, respectively. The largest increase came in Grant County, where the raw rate increased by 0.9 percentage point to reach 7.3%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 60 since March 2023. Employment decreased by 70 jobs in the private sector and increased by 10 jobs in the public sector. Construction and leisure and hospitality led losses, down 50 each. The largest increases came in professional and business services, and private education and health services, which were up 30 and 20 jobs, respectively. Overall employment increased by 50 jobs over the month with leisure and hospitality and federal government leading gains, up 20 each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.5%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 5.4%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector saw a net change of zero jobs while the public sector increased by 50. Local government added 50 jobs and construction rose by 30 to lead gains. Wholesale trade and retail trade led losses, each down 20. Over the month, total employment saw a net change of zero jobs with small losses offsetting small gains across industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.7%. The raw unemployment rate rose 1.0 percentage point to 7.3%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 jobs over the year. The private sector decreased by 10 jobs and the public sector added 30. Losses were confined to retail trade, down 10. Gains were seen in federal government, state government, and local government, each up 10 jobs. Total employment increased by 50 jobs over the month, led by a gain in federal government, up 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage point to 5.7%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 300 jobs over the year. The private sector rose by 10 and the public sector added 290 jobs. Local government added 230 to lead gains followed by private education and health services, up 90. Retail trade dropped 50 jobs to lead losses. Total employment increased by 110 over the month, with leisure and hospitality leading the gains, up 30 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.8%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percentage point to 4.3%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 70 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 110 jobs and the public sector increased by 40. Retail trade dropped 50 jobs to lead losses. Private education and health services, and local government led gains, each adding 20. Total employment increased by 20 jobs over the month, with construction, federal government, and local government leading the way, up 20 each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.5 percentage point to 5.1%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 30 jobs from March 2023 to March 2024. The private sector dropped 40 jobs and the public sector increased by 10. Construction and mining and logging led losses, down 30 and 20 jobs, respectively. Gains were led by wholesale and retail trade, up 20. Total nonfarm employment increased by 40 over the month, with small gains across several industries overcoming losses in mining and logging, and local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.2%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.5 percentage point to 6.1%.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, May 21, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 15.



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## Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

|   |               |                  | --Change From-- |                  |               |
|---|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
|   | March<br>2024 | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023   | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023 |
| <b>Labor Force Status</b>                             |               |                  |                 |                  |               |
| Civilian labor force                                  | 7,182         | 7,146            | 7,132           | 36               | 50            |
| Unemployed  | 387           | 403              | 346             | -16              | 41            |
| Unemployment rate                                     | 5.4%          | 5.6%             | 4.9%            | -0.2             | 0.5           |
| <i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>        | 4.5%          | 4.4%             | 5.0%            | 0.1              | -0.5          |
| Employed  | 6,795         | 6,743            | 6,786           | 52               | 9             |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>                     |               |                  |                 |                  |               |
| Total nonfarm employment                              | 5,430         | 5,380            | 5,490           | 50               | -60           |
| <i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i> | 5,510         | 5,530            | 5,570           | -20              | -60           |
| Total private   | 4,240         | 4,190            | 4,310           | 50               | -70           |
| Mining, logging, and construction                     | 260           | 250              | 310             | 10               | -50           |
| Mining and logging                                    | 20            | 20               | 20              | 0                | 0             |
| Construction  | 240           | 230              | 290             | 10               | -50           |
| Manufacturing   | 590           | 580              | 590             | 10               | 0             |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities                  | 1,130         | 1,130            | 1,150           | 0                | -20           |
| Wholesale trade                                       | 80            | 80               | 70              | 0                | 10            |
| Retail trade  | 820           | 820              | 830             | 0                | -10           |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities            | 230           | 230              | 250             | 0                | -20           |
| Information   | 50            | 50               | 50              | 0                | 0             |
| Financial activities                                  | 160           | 160              | 170             | 0                | -10           |
| Professional and business services                    | 390           | 380              | 360             | 10               | 30            |
| Private education and health services                 | 1,000         | 1,000            | 980             | 0                | 20            |
| Leisure and hospitality                               | 460           | 440              | 510             | 20               | -50           |
| Other services  | 200           | 200              | 190             | 0                | 10            |
| Government  | 1,190         | 1,190            | 1,180           | 0                | 10            |
| Federal government                                    | 190           | 170              | 180             | 20               | 10            |
| State government                                      | 220           | 220              | 220             | 0                | 0             |
| Local government                                      | 780           | 800              | 780             | -20              | 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.

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-- |                  |               |
|---|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
|   | March<br>2024 | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023   | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023 |
| <b>Labor Force Status</b>                             |               |                  |                 |                  |               |
| Civilian labor force                                  | 3,273         | 3,227            | 3,150           | 46               | 123           |
| Unemployed  | 238           | 202              | 203             | 36               | 35            |
| Unemployment rate                                     | 7.3%          | 6.3%             | 6.4%            | 1.0              | 0.9           |
| <i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>        | 4.7%          | 4.5%             | 6.1%            | 0.2              | -1.4          |
| Employed  | 3,035         | 3,025            | 2,947           | 10               | 88            |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>                     |               |                  |                 |                  |               |
| Total nonfarm employment                              | 2,470         | 2,470            | 2,420           | 0                | 50            |
| <i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i> | 2,550         | 2,580            | 2,500           | -30              | 50            |
| Total private   | 1,380         | 1,390            | 1,380           | -10              | 0             |
| Mining, logging, and construction                     | 200           | 210              | 170             | -10              | 30            |
| Mining and logging                                    | 110           | 120              | 110             | -10              | 0             |
| Construction  | 90            | 90               | 60              | 0                | 30            |
| Manufacturing   | 160           | 160              | 160             | 0                | 0             |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities                  | 300           | 300              | 340             | 0                | -40           |
| Wholesale trade                                       | 30            | 30               | 50              | 0                | -20           |
| Retail trade  | 230           | 230              | 250             | 0                | -20           |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities            | 40            | 40               | 40              | 0                | 0             |
| Information   | 50            | 50               | 60              | 0                | -10           |
| Financial activities                                  | 80            | 80               | 70              | 0                | 10            |
| Professional and business services                    | 130           | 130              | 140             | 0                | -10           |
| Private education and health services                 | 220           | 220              | 210             | 0                | 10            |
| Leisure and hospitality                               | 180           | 170              | 170             | 10               | 10            |
| Other services  | 60            | 70               | 60              | -10              | 0             |
| Government  | 1,090         | 1,080            | 1,040           | 10               | 50            |
| Federal government                                    | 230           | 220              | 220             | 10               | 10            |
| State government                                      | 130           | 130              | 140             | 0                | -10           |
| Local government                                      | 730           | 730              | 680             | 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.



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## Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

|   | --Change From-- |                  |               |                  |               |
|---|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
|   | March<br>2024   | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023 | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023 |
| <b>Labor Force Status</b>                             |                 |                  |               |                  |               |
| Civilian labor force                                  | 3,680           | 3,623            | 3,588         | 57               | 92            |
| Unemployed  | 208             | 224              | 180           | -16              | 28            |
| Unemployment rate                                     | 5.7%            | 6.2%             | 5.0%          | -0.5             | 0.7           |
| <i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>        | 4.3%            | 4.2%             | 5.2%          | 0.1              | -0.9          |
| Employed  | 3,472           | 3,399            | 3,408         | 73               | 64            |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>                     |                 |                  |               |                  |               |
| Total nonfarm employment                              | 2,400           | 2,350            | 2,380         | 50               | 20            |
| <i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i> | 2,450           | 2,460            | 2,430         | -10              | 20            |
| Total private   | 1,290           | 1,260            | 1,300         | 30               | -10           |
| Goods-producing                                       | 90              | 90               | 90            | 0                | 0             |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities                  | 440             | 450              | 450           | -10              | -10           |
| Wholesale trade                                       | 40              | 40               | 40            | 0                | 0             |
| Retail trade  | 360             | 370              | 370           | -10              | -10           |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities            | 40              | 40               | 40            | 0                | 0             |
| Information   | 10              | 10               | 10            | 0                | 0             |
| Financial activities                                  | 60              | 60               | 60            | 0                | 0             |
| Professional and business services                    | 100             | 90               | 100           | 10               | 0             |
| Private education and health services                 | 240             | 230              | 240           | 10               | 0             |
| Leisure and hospitality                               | 270             | 260              | 270           | 10               | 0             |
| Other services  | 80              | 70               | 80            | 10               | 0             |
| Government  | 1,110           | 1,090            | 1,080         | 20               | 30            |
| Federal government                                    | 210             | 190              | 200           | 20               | 10            |
| State government                                      | 140             | 140              | 130           | 0                | 10            |
| Local government                                      | 760             | 760              | 750           | 0                | 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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## Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

|   | --Change From-- |                  |               |                  |               |
|---|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
|   | March<br>2024   | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023 | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023 |
| <b>Labor Force Status</b>                             |                 |                  |               |                  |               |
| Civilian labor force                                  | 13,182          | 12,955           | 12,486        | 227              | 696           |
| Unemployed  | 563             | 587              | 456           | -24              | 107           |
| Unemployment rate                                     | 4.3%            | 4.5%             | 3.7%          | -0.2             | 0.6           |
| <i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>        | 3.8%            | 3.7%             | 4.6%          | 0.1              | -0.8          |
| Employed  | 12,619          | 12,368           | 12,030        | 251              | 589           |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>                     |                 |                  |               |                  |               |
| Total nonfarm employment                              | 12,540          | 12,430           | 12,240        | 110              | 300           |
| <i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i> | 12,560          | 12,540           | 12,260        | 20               | 300           |
| Total private   | 8,730           | 8,640            | 8,720         | 90               | 10            |
| Mining, logging, and construction                     | 390             | 370              | 390           | 20               | 0             |
| Manufacturing   | 1,020           | 1,020            | 1,040         | 0                | -20           |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities                  | 3,140           | 3,130            | 3,210         | 10               | -70           |
| Wholesale trade                                       | 510             | 520              | 500           | -10              | 10            |
| Retail trade  | 2,240           | 2,220            | 2,290         | 20               | -50           |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities            | 390             | 390              | 420           | 0                | -30           |
| Information   | 70              | 70               | 80            | 0                | -10           |
| Financial activities                                  | 270             | 270              | 270           | 0                | 0             |
| Professional and business services                    | 440             | 430              | 420           | 10               | 20            |
| Private education and health services                 | 1,860           | 1,840            | 1,770         | 20               | 90            |
| Leisure and hospitality                               | 1,280           | 1,250            | 1,250         | 30               | 30            |
| Other services  | 260             | 260              | 290           | 0                | -30           |
| Government  | 3,810           | 3,790            | 3,520         | 20               | 290           |
| Federal government                                    | 180             | 170              | 170           | 10               | 10            |
| State government                                      | 1,380           | 1,380            | 1,330         | 0                | 50            |
| Local government                                      | 2,250           | 2,240            | 2,020         | 10               | 230           |

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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## Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

|   | --Change From-- |                  |               |                  |               |
|---|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
|   | March<br>2024   | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023 | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023 |
| <b>Labor Force Status</b>                             |                 |                  |               |                  |               |
| Civilian labor force                                  | 12,259          | 12,244           | 12,031        | 15               | 228           |
| Unemployed  | 626             | 681              | 534           | -55              | 92            |
| Unemployment rate                                     | 5.1%            | 5.6%             | 4.4%          | -0.5             | 0.7           |
| <i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>        | 4.3%            | 4.1%             | 4.9%          | 0.2              | -0.6          |
| Employed  | 11,633          | 11,563           | 11,497        | 70               | 136           |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>                     |                 |                  |               |                  |               |
| Total nonfarm employment                              | 10,500          | 10,480           | 10,570        | 20               | -70           |
| <i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i> | 10,590          | 10,630           | 10,670        | -40              | -80           |
| Total private   | 7,980           | 8,000            | 8,090         | -20              | -110          |
| Mining, logging, and construction                     | 560             | 550              | 560           | 10               | 0             |
| Mining and logging                                    | 20              | 30               | 20            | -10              | 0             |
| Construction  | 540             | 520              | 540           | 20               | 0             |
| Manufacturing   | 1,270           | 1,270            | 1,280         | 0                | -10           |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities                  | 2,080           | 2,100            | 2,160         | -20              | -80           |
| Wholesale trade                                       | 240             | 240              | 250           | 0                | -10           |
| Retail trade  | 1,440           | 1,450            | 1,500         | -10              | -60           |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities            | 400             | 410              | 410           | -10              | -10           |
| Information   | 90              | 90               | 100           | 0                | -10           |
| Financial activities                                  | 340             | 350              | 350           | -10              | -10           |
| Professional and business services                    | 580             | 580              | 600           | 0                | -20           |
| Private education and health services                 | 1,760           | 1,760            | 1,740         | 0                | 20            |
| Leisure and hospitality                               | 1,020           | 1,010            | 1,010         | 10               | 10            |
| Other services  | 280             | 290              | 290           | -10              | -10           |
| Government  | 2,520           | 2,480            | 2,480         | 40               | 40            |
| Federal government                                    | 220             | 200              | 210           | 20               | 10            |
| State government                                      | 420             | 420              | 410           | 0                | 10            |
| Local government                                      | 1,880           | 1,860            | 1,860         | 20               | 20            |

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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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**Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment**

|   | --Change From-- |                  |               |                  |               |
|---|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
|   | March<br>2024   | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023 | February<br>2024 | March<br>2023 |
| <b>Labor Force Status</b>                             |                 |                  |               |                  |               |
| Civilian labor force                                  | 3,545           | 3,532            | 3,480         | 13               | 65            |
| Unemployed  | 218             | 232              | 196           | -14              | 22            |
| Unemployment rate                                     | 6.1%            | 6.6%             | 5.6%          | -0.5             | 0.5           |
| <i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>        | 4.2%            | 4.1%             | 5.8%          | 0.1              | -1.6          |
| Employed  | 3,327           | 3,300            | 3,284         | 27               | 43            |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>                     |                 |                  |               |                  |               |
| Total nonfarm employment                              | 2,610           | 2,570            | 2,640         | 40               | -30           |
| <i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i> | 2,820           | 2,760            | 2,860         | 60               | -40           |
| Total private   | 1,850           | 1,820            | 1,890         | 30               | -40           |
| Mining, logging, and construction                     | 230             | 250              | 280           | -20              | -50           |
| Mining and logging                                    | 40              | 60               | 60            | -20              | -20           |
| Construction  | 190             | 190              | 220           | 0                | -30           |
| Manufacturing   | 140             | 130              | 150           | 10               | -10           |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities                  | 480             | 470              | 450           | 10               | 30            |
| Wholesale and retail trade                            | 410             | 400              | 380           | 10               | 30            |
| Transportation, warehousing, and utilities            | 70              | 70               | 70            | 0                | 0             |
| Information   | 30              | 30               | 30            | 0                | 0             |
| Financial activities                                  | 120             | 110              | 110           | 10               | 10            |
| Professional and business services                    | 120             | 110              | 130           | 10               | -10           |
| Private education and health services                 | 390             | 380              | 380           | 10               | 10            |
| Leisure and hospitality                               | 210             | 210              | 220           | 0                | -10           |
| Other services  | 130             | 130              | 140           | 0                | -10           |
| Government  | 760             | 750              | 750           | 10               | 10            |
| Federal government                                    | 80              | 70               | 80            | 10               | 0             |
| State government                                      | 100             | 90               | 90            | 10               | 10            |
| Local government                                      | 580             | 590              | 580           | -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.



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/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [QualityInfo.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

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