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Employment in Eastern Oregon: May 2024

Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Remain Comparatively Low

The May seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased over the year in Grant and Wallowa counties while increasing in the other four Eastern Oregon counties. In Grant and Wallowa counties, they have the lowest May rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. Malheur County's May 2024 rate ties May 2022 for its second lowest May rate behind only May 2023. In Baker, Harney, and Union counties, only 2023 and 2022 had lower May rates. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.2 percentage point lower in both Grant and Wallowa counties to reach 4.9% and 4.3%, respectively. The largest increase came in Union County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 0.9 percentage point to reach 4.6%.

Between May 2023 and May 2024, unadjusted unemployment rates increased in four of six Eastern Oregon counties. Grant and Wallowa counties were the only counties to see a decrease in the raw unemployment rate. Grant County's fell 0.2 percentage point to 4.8%, and Wallowa County's slipped 0.1 percentage point to 4.0%. These represented the lowest May unadjusted rate for the counties since 1990. In Malheur County, the May 2024 rate ties for the second lowest unadjusted May unemployment rates since 1990, behind only May 2023. In Baker and Harney counties, the only lower May rates were in 2022 and 2023. The smallest over-the-year increase came in Baker County, where the raw rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to reach 3.7%. The largest increase came in Union County, where the raw rate increased by 1.5 percentage points to reach 4.8%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 10 since May 2023. Employment decreased by 10 jobs in the private sector and added 20 jobs in the public sector. Leisure and hospitality led losses, down 20. Small gains and losses were spread across industries. Overall employment increased by 120 jobs over the month led by gains in local government and leisure and hospitality, up 40 and 30 jobs, respectively. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.5%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 3.7%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 70 jobs while the public sector increased by 90. Local government added 80 jobs to lead gains. Retail trade and wholesale trade led losses, down 30 and 20 jobs, respectively. Over the month, total employment rose by 40 jobs led by gains of 20 jobs each in leisure and hospitality and federal

government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.9%. The raw unemployment rate fell 1.0 percentage point to 4.8%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 70 jobs over the year. The private sector decreased by 90 jobs, and the public sector added 20. Losses were led by retail trade and goods-producing, down 30 and 20 jobs, respectively. Gains were confined to state government and local government, each up 10 jobs. Total employment saw a net change of zero jobs over the month, with small gains offset by small losses across industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage point to 3.8%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 330 jobs over the year. The private sector rose by 80, and the public sector added 250 jobs. Local government added 190 to lead gains, followed by private education and health services, up 80. Retail trade dropped 40 jobs to lead losses. Total employment increased by 90 over the month, with local government leading the gains, up 40 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 3.9%. The raw unemployment rate held steady at 3.4%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 170 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 220 jobs, and the public sector increased by 50. Manufacturing led losses, down 230 jobs. Construction and local government led gains, each up 40, followed by financial activities, up 30 jobs. Total employment decreased by 70 jobs over the month, with manufacturing leading losses, down 180. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage point over the month to 4.6%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.8 percentage point to 4.8%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 jobs from May 2023 to May 2024. The private sector dropped 10 jobs, and the public sector increased by 20. Gains were led by wholesale and retail trade and leisure and hospitality, each up 20 jobs. Construction led losses, down 30 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 140 over the month, led by gains in leisure and hospitality, up 70 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage point to 4.0%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the June county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, July 23, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Wednesday, July 17.



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Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,149	7,106	7,076	43	73
Unemployed	267	276	255	-9	12
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.9%	3.6%	-0.2	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.5%	4.2%	0.0	0.3
Employed	6,882	6,830	6,821	52	61
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,550	5,430	5,540	120	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,470	5,470	5,460	0	10
Total private	4,310	4,250	4,320	60	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	290	270	310	20	-20
Mining and logging	10	10	20	0	-10
Construction	280	260	290	20	-10
Manufacturing	570	580	560	-10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,150	1,130	1,130	20	20
Wholesale trade	80	80	70	0	10
Retail trade	820	810	820	10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	240	240	10	10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	150	150	160	0	-10
Professional and business services	380	380	370	0	10
Private education and health services	970	970	970	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	540	510	560	30	-20
Other services	210	210	210	0	0
Government	1,240	1,180	1,220	60	20
Federal government	210	190	200	20	10
State government	230	230	220	0	10
Local government	800	760	800	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.

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--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,211	3,216	3,129	-5	82
Unemployed	154	188	156	-34	-2
Unemployment rate	4.8%	5.8%	5.0%	-1.0	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	4.9%	5.1%	0.0	-0.2
Employed	3,057	3,028	2,973	29	84
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,490	2,450	2,470	40	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,500	2,520	2,480	-20	20
Total private	1,350	1,330	1,420	20	-70
Mining, logging, and construction	190	180	180	10	10
Mining and logging	100	90	90	10	10
Construction	90	90	90	0	0
Manufacturing	150	150	160	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	300	300	350	0	-50
Wholesale trade	30	30	50	0	-20
Retail trade	230	230	260	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	130	140	140	-10	-10
Private education and health services	210	210	210	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	220	200	210	20	10
Other services	50	50	60	0	-10
Government	1,140	1,120	1,050	20	90
Federal government	260	240	250	20	10
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	740	740	660	0	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.



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Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,649	3,678	3,668	-29	-19
Unemployed	137	153	132	-16	5
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.2%	3.6%	-0.4	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.4%	3.9%	0.0	0.5
Employed	3,512	3,525	3,536	-13	-24
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,450	2,450	2,520	0	-70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,390	2,420	2,460	-30	-70
Total private	1,330	1,350	1,420	-20	-90
Goods-producing	100	100	120	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	430	460	0	-30
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	350	350	380	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Information	10	10	20	0	-10
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	110	120	120	-10	-10
Private education and health services	250	250	250	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	300	310	310	-10	-10
Other services	70	70	80	0	-10
Government	1,120	1,100	1,100	20	20
Federal government	230	220	230	10	0
State government	140	140	130	0	10
Local government	750	740	740	10	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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Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,322	13,386	12,714	-64	608
Unemployed	447	449	395	-2	52
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.4%	3.1%	0.0	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	3.9%	3.5%	0.0	0.4
Employed	12,875	12,937	12,319	-62	556
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,780	12,690	12,450	90	330
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,630	12,600	12,310	30	320
Total private	8,920	8,890	8,840	30	80
Mining, logging, and construction	440	420	440	20	0
Manufacturing	1,070	1,060	1,040	10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,210	3,210	3,200	0	10
Wholesale trade	500	510	460	-10	40
Retail trade	2,290	2,280	2,330	10	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	420	420	410	0	10
Information	70	70	80	0	-10
Financial activities	290	290	270	0	20
Professional and business services	430	450	460	-20	-30
Private education and health services	1,890	1,880	1,810	10	80
Leisure and hospitality	1,260	1,250	1,260	10	0
Other services	260	260	280	0	-20
Government	3,860	3,800	3,610	60	250
Federal government	200	180	200	20	0
State government	1,420	1,420	1,360	0	60
Local government	2,240	2,200	2,050	40	190

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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--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,246	12,279	12,045	-33	201
Unemployed	586	496	394	90	192
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.0%	3.3%	0.8	1.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.3%	3.7%	0.3	0.9
Employed	11,660	11,783	11,651	-123	9
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,600	10,670	10,770	-70	-170
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,460	10,660	10,630	-200	-170
Total private	8,000	8,150	8,220	-150	-220
Mining, logging, and construction	690	650	650	40	40
Mining and logging	30	20	30	10	0
Construction	660	630	620	30	40
Manufacturing	1,050	1,230	1,280	-180	-230
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,130	2,130	2,150	0	-20
Wholesale trade	250	250	250	0	0
Retail trade	1,480	1,480	1,480	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	400	420	0	-20
Information	100	100	100	0	0
Financial activities	380	380	350	0	30
Professional and business services	610	600	600	10	10
Private education and health services	1,750	1,760	1,750	-10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,000	1,020	1,040	-20	-40
Other services	290	280	300	10	-10
Government	2,600	2,520	2,550	80	50
Federal government	270	240	270	30	0
State government	420	410	410	10	10
Local government	1,910	1,870	1,870	40	40

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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--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,694	3,596	3,602	98	92
Unemployed	146	158	148	-12	-2
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.4%	4.1%	-0.4	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.3%	4.5%	0.0	-0.2
Employed	3,548	3,438	3,454	110	94
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,850	2,710	2,840	140	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,810	2,820	2,800	-10	10
Total private	2,030	1,930	2,040	100	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	250	240	280	10	-30
Mining and logging	50	40	50	10	0
Construction	200	200	230	0	-30
Manufacturing	170	160	160	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	480	470	480	10	0
Wholesale and retail trade	420	420	400	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	50	80	10	-20
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	110	110	130	0	-20
Professional and business services	160	160	150	0	10
Private education and health services	380	380	370	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	330	260	310	70	20
Other services	120	120	130	0	-10
Government	820	780	800	40	20
Federal government	100	90	100	10	0
State government	110	100	100	10	10
Local government	610	590	600	20	10

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 Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.
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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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