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

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

The July seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased over the year in Wallowa County while increasing in the other five Eastern Oregon counties. Wallowa County has the lowest July rate since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Baker, Grant, Harney, and Malheur counties, the July 2024 rates are the second lowest July rates. In Union County, only 2023 and 2019 had lower July rates. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.1 percentage point lower in Wallowa County to reach 4.3%. The largest increase came in Union County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 0.8 percentage point to reach 4.6%.

Between July 2023 and July 2024, unadjusted unemployment rates increased in five of six Eastern Oregon counties. Baker County's raw unemployment rate was unchanged over the year. In Baker County, the July 2024 rate tied July 2023 for the lowest unadjusted July unemployment rate, at 4.2%. In Harney, Malheur, and Wallowa counties, the only lower July rates were in 2023. The smallest over-the-year increase came in Wallowa County, where the raw rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to reach 3.5%. The largest increase came in Union County, where the raw rate increased by 1.0 percentage point to reach 4.5%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has decreased by 60 jobs since July 2023. Employment decreased by 80 jobs in the private sector and added 20 jobs in the public sector. Professional and business services led losses, down 60. Private education and health services led gains, up 40 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 110 jobs over the month led by a loss of 160 jobs in local government as schools shut down for summer. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point to 4.2%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 110 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 100 jobs while the public sector decreased by 10. Manufacturing dropped 50 jobs to lead losses. Construction led gains, up 20 jobs. Over the month, total nonfarm employment fell by 80 jobs led by a loss of 130 jobs in local government as schools closed for the summer break. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 5.2%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage point to 4.9%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 120 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 50 jobs, and the public sector decreased by 70. Losses were led by local government and retail trade, down 50 and 40 jobs, respectively. Gains were confined to private education and health services, up 30 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 50 jobs over the month, led by a drop of 50 jobs in local government. Gains were confined to federal government and retail trade, up 20 and 10 jobs, respectively. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point to 4.1%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 150 jobs over the year. The private sector rose by 110, and the public sector added 40 jobs. Private education and health services added 70 jobs to lead gains, followed by wholesale trade, up 40. Leisure and hospitality and federal government each dropped 20 jobs to lead losses. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 210 over the month, with local government leading the losses, down 160 jobs as schools shut down for summer. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 3.9%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 4.2%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 210 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 230 jobs, and the public sector increased by 20. Manufacturing led losses, down 210 jobs, followed by retail trade, down 80. Private education and health services led gains, up 60 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 140 jobs over the month, with local government leading losses, down 230 as schools shuttered jobs for summer. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.6%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point to 4.5%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 jobs from July 2023 to July 2024. The private sector dropped 40 jobs, and the public sector increased by 30. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities led losses, down 30 jobs. Leisure and hospitality led gains, up 40 jobs, followed by wholesale and retail trade, up 30. Total nonfarm employment increased by 90 over the month, led by gains in leisure and hospitality, up 40 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 3.5%.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Sept. 24, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for July on Wednesday, Sept. 18.



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August 20, 2024

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

	--Change From--				
	July 2024	June 2024	July 2023	June 2024	July 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	7,049	7,117	7,051	-68	-2
Unemployed	299	277	294	22	5
Unemployment rate	4.2%	3.9%	4.2%	0.3	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.4%	4.3%	0.0	0.1
Employed	6,750	6,840	6,757	-90	-7
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,430	5,540	5,490	-110	-60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,420	5,410	5,480	10	-60
Total private	4,310	4,280	4,390	30	-80
Mining, logging, and construction	270	270	310	0	-40
Mining and logging	20	20	20	0	0
Construction	250	250	290	0	-40
Manufacturing	560	560	550	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,140	1,130	1,170	10	-30
Wholesale trade	80	70	80	10	0
Retail trade	820	810	850	10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	250	240	-10	0
Information	60	60	60	0	0
Financial activities	160	150	160	10	0
Professional and business services	320	330	380	-10	-60
Private education and health services	1,030	1,020	990	10	40
Leisure and hospitality	570	560	580	10	-10
Other services	200	200	190	0	10
Government	1,120	1,260	1,100	-140	20
Federal government	240	220	240	20	0
State government	230	230	220	0	10
Local government	650	810	640	-160	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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### Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2024	June 2024	July 2023	June 2024	July 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,144	3,168	3,218	-24	-74
Unemployed	153	143	133	10	20
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.5%	4.1%	0.4	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Employed	2,991	3,025	3,085	-34	-94
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,370	2,450	2,480	-80	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>2,340</i>	<i>2,410</i>	<i>-40</i>	<i>-110</i>
Total private	1,370	1,350	1,470	20	-100
Mining, logging, and construction	210	200	200	10	10
Mining and logging	110	100	120	10	-10
Construction	100	100	80	0	20
Manufacturing	100	100	150	0	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	310	350	0	-40
Wholesale trade	30	30	40	0	-10
Retail trade	240	240	260	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	130	130	130	0	0
Private education and health services	200	200	210	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	240	230	250	10	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,000	1,100	1,010	-100	-10
Federal government	300	270	290	30	10
State government	170	170	170	0	0
Local government	530	660	550	-130	-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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## Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2024	June 2024	July 2023	June 2024	July 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,562	3,578	3,660	-16	-98
Unemployed	146	132	129	14	17
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.7%	3.5%	0.4	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.4%	4.0%	0.0	0.4
Employed	3,416	3,446	3,531	-30	-115
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,350	2,400	2,470	-50	-120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,320	2,380	2,430	-60	-110
Total private	1,300	1,320	1,350	-20	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	420	470	10	-40
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	350	340	390	10	-40
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	80	80	100	0	-20
Private education and health services	230	250	200	-20	30
Leisure and hospitality	310	320	320	-10	-10
Other services	70	70	80	0	-10
Government	1,050	1,080	1,120	-30	-70
Federal government	270	250	290	20	-20
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	640	690	690	-50	-50

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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--				
	July 2024	June 2024	July 2023	June 2024	July 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,379	13,306	12,975	73	404
Unemployed	566	530	510	36	56
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.0%	3.9%	0.2	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	3.9%	3.6%	0.0	0.3
Employed	12,813	12,776	12,465	37	348
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	12,290	12,500	12,140	-210	150
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,570	12,420	12,420	150	150
Total private	8,950	9,010	8,840	-60	110
Mining, logging, and construction	490	490	470	0	20
Manufacturing	1,030	1,050	1,020	-20	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,210	3,210	3,180	0	30
Wholesale trade	490	490	450	0	40
Retail trade	2,310	2,320	2,310	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	410	400	420	10	-10
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	280	280	280	0	0
Professional and business services	430	420	420	10	10
Private education and health services	1,880	1,920	1,810	-40	70
Leisure and hospitality	1,290	1,300	1,310	-10	-20
Other services	270	270	280	0	-10
Government	3,340	3,490	3,300	-150	40
Federal government	200	190	220	10	-20
State government	1,420	1,420	1,390	0	30
Local government	1,720	1,880	1,690	-160	30

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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--				
	July 2024	June 2024	July 2023	June 2024	July 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,113	12,131	12,296	-18	-183
Unemployed	547	508	430	39	117
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.2%	3.5%	0.3	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.6%	3.8%	0.0	0.8
Employed	11,566	11,623	11,866	-57	-300
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,420	10,560	10,630	-140	-210
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,400	10,400	10,610	0	-210
Total private	8,070	8,020	8,300	50	-230
Mining, logging, and construction	740	720	730	20	10
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Construction	700	680	690	20	10
Manufacturing	1,080	1,070	1,290	10	-210
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,990	2,000	2,110	-10	-120
Wholesale trade	230	230	240	0	-10
Retail trade	1,390	1,390	1,470	0	-80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	370	380	400	-10	-30
Information	100	100	100	0	0
Financial activities	390	380	360	10	30
Professional and business services	620	600	630	20	-10
Private education and health services	1,770	1,790	1,710	-20	60
Leisure and hospitality	1,060	1,050	1,050	10	10
Other services	320	310	320	10	0
Government	2,350	2,540	2,330	-190	20
Federal government	310	280	300	30	10
State government	440	430	440	10	0
Local government	1,600	1,830	1,590	-230	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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## Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2024	June 2024	July 2023	June 2024	July 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,882	3,757	3,822	125	60
Unemployed	134	124	128	10	6
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.3%	3.3%	0.2	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.2%	4.4%	0.1	-0.1
Employed	3,748	3,633	3,694	115	54
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	3,050	2,960	3,060	90	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,800	2,750	2,800	50	0
Total private	2,290	2,190	2,330	100	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	260	250	300	10	-40
Mining and logging	40	40	60	0	-20
Construction	220	210	240	10	-20
Manufacturing	180	170	190	10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	500	490	500	10	0
Wholesale and retail trade	440	430	410	10	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	90	0	-30
Information	40	40	30	0	10
Financial activities	130	120	150	10	-20
Professional and business services	170	160	190	10	-20
Private education and health services	390	380	380	10	10
Leisure and hospitality	490	450	450	40	40
Other services	130	130	140	0	-10
Government	760	770	730	-10	30
Federal government	130	130	110	0	20
State government	130	120	120	10	10
Local government	500	520	500	-20	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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