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Employment in Eastern Oregon: August 2024

Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Remain Comparatively Low

The August seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased over the year in Baker County, held steady in Wallowa County, and increased in the other four Eastern Oregon counties. Baker and Wallowa counties' August 2024 rates tie for their lowest August rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Grant, Harney, and Malheur counties, they are the second lowest August rates. In Union County, only 2023 and 2019 had lower August rates. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.2 percentage point lower in Baker County to reach 4.2%. The largest increase came in Union County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 0.7 percentage point to reach 4.6%.

Between August 2023 and August 2024, unadjusted unemployment rates decreased in three of six Eastern Oregon counties and increased in three. In Baker (3.6%), Malheur (3.5%), and Wallowa (3.3%) counties, the August 2024 rates were the lowest unadjusted August unemployment rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Harney and Union counties, the only lower August rates were in 2023. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Baker County, where the raw rate decreased by 0.6 percentage point to reach 3.6%. The largest increase came in Grant County, where the raw rate increased by 1.0 percentage point to reach 4.8%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has decreased by 20 jobs since August 2023. Employment decreased by 70 jobs in the private sector and added 50 jobs in the public sector. Professional and business services led losses, down 70. Private education and health services led gains, up 50 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 60 jobs over the month led by a gain of 40 jobs in local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.2%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage point to 3.6%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 100 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 110 jobs while the public sector increased by 10. Manufacturing dropped 50 jobs to lead losses. Gains were confined to construction and federal government, up 10 jobs each. Over the month, total nonfarm employment saw a net change of zero jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point over the month to 5.5%. The raw unemployment rate held steady at 4.8%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 120 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 70 jobs, and the public sector decreased by 50. Losses were led by retail trade and local

government, down 50 and 30 jobs, respectively. Gains were confined to private education and health services, up 20 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 30 jobs over the month, led by a gain of 20 jobs in private education and health services. Losses were confined to leisure and hospitality and federal government, down 10 jobs each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point to 3.6%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 jobs over the year. The private sector rose by 150, and the public sector dropped 130 jobs. Mining, logging, and construction added 80 jobs to lead gains, followed by wholesale trade, retail trade, private education and health services, and state government, each up 40. Local government dropped 140 jobs to lead losses. Total nonfarm employment increased by 70 jobs over the month, with private education and health services leading the gains, up 30 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.7%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage point to 3.5%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 260 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 230 jobs, and the public sector decreased by 30. Manufacturing led losses, down 200 jobs, followed by retail trade, down 60. Private education and health services led gains, up 60 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 20 jobs over the month, with private education and health services leading gains, up 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.6%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point to 4.2%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment saw a net change of zero jobs from August 2023 to August 2024. The private sector dropped 20 jobs, and the public sector increased by 20. Leisure and hospitality led gains, up 60 jobs, followed by wholesale and retail trade and federal government, each up 30. Mining and logging; construction; and transportation, warehousing, and utilities led losses, down 30 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 40 jobs over the month with small losses and no gains spread across major industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.3%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Oct. 22, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Wednesday, Oct. 16.



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Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,083	7,049	7,126	34	-43
Unemployed	253	295	298	-42	-45
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.2%	4.2%	-0.6	-0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.4%	4.4%	-0.2	-0.2
Employed	6,830	6,754	6,828	76	2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,490	5,430	5,510	60	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,450	5,420	5,470	30	-20
Total private	4,320	4,310	4,390	10	-70
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	560	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,150	1,140	1,160	10	-10
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	820	820	850	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	240	230	10	20
Information	60	60	60	0	0
Financial activities	150	160	170	-10	-20
Professional and business services	320	320	390	0	-70
Private education and health services	1,040	1,030	990	10	50
Leisure and hospitality	570	570	560	0	10
Other services	200	200	190	0	10
Government	1,170	1,120	1,120	50	50
Federal government	250	240	230	10	20
State government	230	230	220	0	10
Local government	690	650	670	40	20

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--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,169	3,157	3,222	12	-53
Unemployed	152	151	123	1	29
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.8%	3.8%	0.0	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.5%	5.2%	5.1%	0.3	0.4
Employed	3,017	3,006	3,099	11	-82
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,390	2,390	2,490	0	-100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,320	2,320	2,410	0	-90
Total private	1,370	1,370	1,480	0	-110
Mining, logging, and construction	210	210	220	0	-10
Mining and logging	110	110	130	0	-20
Construction	100	100	90	0	10
Manufacturing	100	100	150	0	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	310	350	10	-30
Wholesale trade	30	30	40	0	-10
Retail trade	250	240	260	10	-10
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	230	240	240	-10	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,020	1,020	1,010	0	10
Federal government	300	300	290	0	10
State government	170	170	170	0	0
Local government	550	550	550	0	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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Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,617	3,578	3,726	39	-109
Unemployed	131	144	129	-13	2
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.0%	3.5%	-0.4	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.4%	4.1%	-0.1	0.2
Employed	3,486	3,434	3,597	52	-111
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,390	2,360	2,510	30	-120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,320	2,330	2,440	-10	-120
Total private	1,320	1,290	1,390	30	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	420	480	10	-50
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	350	340	400	10	-50
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	90	80	100	10	-10
Private education and health services	250	230	230	20	20
Leisure and hospitality	300	310	310	-10	-10
Other services	70	70	80	0	-10
Government	1,070	1,070	1,120	0	-50
Federal government	260	270	280	-10	-20
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	670	660	700	10	-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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Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,438	13,387	13,119	51	319
Unemployed	474	555	507	-81	-33
Unemployment rate	3.5%	4.1%	3.9%	-0.6	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.8%	3.6%	-0.1	0.1
Employed	12,964	12,832	12,612	132	352
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,380	12,310	12,360	70	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,490	12,590	12,480	-100	10
Total private	9,010	8,960	8,860	50	150
Mining, logging, and construction	500	490	420	10	80
Manufacturing	1,040	1,030	1,030	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,230	3,220	3,150	10	80
Wholesale trade	510	490	470	20	40
Retail trade	2,310	2,320	2,270	-10	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	410	410	410	0	0
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	280	280	280	0	0
Professional and business services	420	430	440	-10	-20
Private education and health services	1,910	1,880	1,870	30	40
Leisure and hospitality	1,300	1,290	1,330	10	-30
Other services	260	270	270	-10	-10
Government	3,370	3,350	3,500	20	-130
Federal government	200	200	230	0	-30
State government	1,430	1,420	1,390	10	40
Local government	1,740	1,730	1,880	10	-140

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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--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,154	12,118	12,229	36	-75
Unemployed	506	543	449	-37	57
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.5%	3.7%	-0.3	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.6%	3.9%	0.0	0.7
Employed	11,648	11,575	11,780	73	-132
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,440	10,420	10,700	20	-260
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,440	10,400	10,700	40	-260
Total private	8,090	8,070	8,320	20	-230
Mining, logging, and construction	740	740	730	0	10
Mining and logging	40	40	50	0	-10
Construction	700	700	680	0	20
Manufacturing	1,070	1,080	1,270	-10	-200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,010	1,990	2,110	20	-100
Wholesale trade	230	230	240	0	-10
Retail trade	1,400	1,390	1,460	10	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	370	410	10	-30
Information	100	100	100	0	0
Financial activities	390	390	380	0	10
Professional and business services	620	620	630	0	-10
Private education and health services	1,790	1,770	1,730	20	60
Leisure and hospitality	1,060	1,060	1,070	0	-10
Other services	310	320	300	-10	10
Government	2,350	2,350	2,380	0	-30
Federal government	320	310	310	10	10
State government	440	440	440	0	0
Local government	1,590	1,600	1,630	-10	-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.



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Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,867	3,881	3,777	-14	90
Unemployed	127	132	128	-5	-1
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.4%	3.4%	-0.1	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0	0.0
Employed	3,740	3,749	3,649	-9	91
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	3,010	3,050	3,010	-40	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,770	2,800	2,770	-30	0
Total private	2,260	2,290	2,280	-30	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	260	260	320	0	-60
Mining and logging	40	40	70	0	-30
Construction	220	220	250	0	-30
Manufacturing	180	180	200	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	490	500	500	-10	-10
Wholesale and retail trade	430	440	410	-10	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	90	0	-30
Information	30	40	30	-10	0
Financial activities	120	130	130	-10	-10
Professional and business services	170	170	160	0	10
Private education and health services	390	390	380	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	490	490	430	0	60
Other services	130	130	130	0	0
Government	750	760	730	-10	20
Federal government	130	130	110	0	20
State government	120	130	120	-10	0
Local government	500	500	500	0	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.

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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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