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Employment in Eastern Oregon: September 2024 Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Remain Comparatively Low

The September 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. Wallowa County's September 2024 rate ties for its lowest September rate since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Baker, Grant, and Malheur counties, they are the second lowest September rates. In Harney and Union counties, only 2023 and 2019 had lower September rates. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.2 percentage point lower in Baker County to reach 4.2%. The largest increase came in Grant County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 0.7 percentage point to reach 5.7%.

Between September 2023 and September 2024, unadjusted unemployment rates held steady in Baker County and increased in the other five Eastern Oregon counties. In Harney (3.6%) and Wallowa (3.2%) counties, the September 2024 rates were the second lowest unadjusted September unemployment rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. Baker County's September 2024 unadjusted rate of 3.7% tied for its second lowest. The smallest over-the-year increase came in Wallowa County, where the raw rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to reach 3.2%. The largest increase came in Grant County, where the raw rate increased by 1.1 percentage points to reach 4.6%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has decreased by 50 jobs since September 2023. Employment decreased by 70 jobs in the private sector and added 20 jobs in the public sector. Professional and business services led losses, down 90. Private education and health services led gains, up 60 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 80 jobs over the month led by a gain of 130 jobs in local government as schools started back up. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.2%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 3.7%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 90 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 120 jobs while the public sector increased by 30. Manufacturing dropped 50 jobs to lead losses. Gains were confined to local government and federal government, up 30 and 10 jobs, respectively. Over the month, total nonfarm employment increased by 50 jobs led by a gain of 90 jobs in local government with the start of a new school year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 5.7%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.6%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 50 jobs, and the public sector saw a net change of zero jobs. Losses were led by retail trade, down 40 jobs. Gains were confined to private education and health services and state government, up 20 and 10 jobs, respectively. Total nonfarm employment increased by 30 jobs over the month, led by a gain of 50 jobs in local government. Losses were confined to goods-producing and federal government, down 10 jobs each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 3.6%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 120 jobs over the year. The private sector rose by 170, and the public sector dropped 50 jobs. Private education and health services added 70 jobs to lead gains, followed by mining, logging, and construction, up 60. Retail trade and state government also added jobs, each up 40. Local government dropped 70 jobs to lead losses. Total nonfarm employment increased by 40 jobs over the month, with wholesale trade and private education and health services leading the gains, up 40 jobs each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 3.7%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 3.3%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 190 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 190 jobs, and the public sector saw a net change of zero jobs. Manufacturing led losses, down 210 jobs, followed by retail trade, down 50. Construction and private education and health services led gains, each up 50 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 70 jobs over the month, with construction leading losses, down 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.6%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 4.2%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 20 jobs from September 2023 to September 2024. The private sector dropped 40 jobs, and the public sector increased by 20. Manufacturing led losses, down 30 jobs. Leisure and hospitality led gains, up 40 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 80 jobs over the month with leisure and hospitality leading losses, down 70. Local government added 60 jobs to lead gains. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.2%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Nov. 19, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October on Thursday, Nov. 14.



Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

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				Chang	je From
	September 2024	August 2024	September 2023	August 2024	September 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,154	7,092	7,162	62	-8
Unemployed	264	252	264	12	0
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.6%	3.7%	0.1	0.0
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.2%	4.2%	4.4%	0.0	-0.2
Employed	6,890	6,840	6,898	50	-8
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,570	5,490	5,620	80	-50
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	5,460	5,450	5,510	10	-50
Total private	4,280	4,320	4,350	-40	-70
Mining, logging, and construction	260	270	290	-10	-30
Mining and logging	10	20	20	-10	-10
Construction	250	250	270	0	-20
Manufacturing	540	550	570	-10	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,150	1,150	1,140	0	10
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	820	820	830	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	230	0	20
Information	60	60	50	0	10
Financial activities	150	150	160	0	-10
Professional and business services	320	320	410	0	-90
Private education and health services	1,050	1,050	990	0	60
Leisure and hospitality	550	570	540	-20	10
Other services	200	200	200	0	0
Government	1,290	1,170	1,270	120	20
Federal government	240	250	230	-10	10
State government	230	230	220	0	10
Local government	820	690	820	130	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.



Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

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				Chang	je From
	September 2024	August 2024	September 2023	August 2024	September 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,176	3,169	3,236	7	-60
Unemployed	146	150	113	-4	33
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.7%	3.5%	-0.1	1.1
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	5.7%	5.5%	5.0%	0.2	0.7
Employed	3,030	3,019	3,123	11	-93
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,440	2,390	2,530	50	-90
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,350	2,320	2,440	30	-90
Total private	1,350	1,370	1,470	-20	-120
Mining, logging, and construction	210	210	230	0	-20
Mining and logging	110	110	120	0	-10
Construction	100	100	110	0	-10
Manufacturing	100	100	150	0	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	320	330	-10	-20
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	240	250	250	-10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	70	0	-10
Professional and business services	130	130	130	0	0
Private education and health services	200	200	210	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	220	230	230	-10	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,090	1,020	1,060	70	30
Federal government	290	300	280	-10	10
State government	160	170	170	-10	-10
Local government	640	550	610	90	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.



Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				Chang	Change From	
	September 2024	August 2024	September 2023	August 2024	September 2023	
Labor Force Status						
Civilian labor force	3,613	3,641	3,648	-28	-35	
Unemployed	131	129	118	2	13	
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.5%	3.2%	0.1	0.4	
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.4%	4.3%	4.1%	0.1	0.3	
Employed	3,482	3,512	3,530	-30	-48	
Nonfarm Payroll Employment						
Total nonfarm employment	2,440	2,410	2,490	30	-50	
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,380	2,340	2,420	40	-40	
Total private	1,310	1,320	1,360	-10	-50	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	430	470	0	-40	
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0	
Retail trade	350	350	390	0	-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	90	90	100	0	-10	
Private education and health services	250	250	230	0	20	
Leisure and hospitality	300	300	310	0	-10	
Other services	70	70	80	0	-10	
Government	1,130	1,090	1,130	40	0	
Federal government	250	260	260	-10	-10	
State government	140	140	130	0	10	
Local government	740	690	740	50	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.



Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

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				Chang	je From
	September 2024	August 2024	September 2023	August 2024	September 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,441	13,529	13,045	-88	396
Unemployed	443	471	400	-28	43
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.5%	3.1%	-0.2	0.2
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	0.0	0.0
Employed	12,998	13,058	12,645	-60	353
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,540	12,500	12,420	40	120
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	12,530	12,620	12,400	-90	130
Total private	9,020	9,020	8,850	0	170
Mining, logging, and construction	480	500	420	-20	60
Manufacturing	1,030	1,040	1,010	-10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,240	3,240	3,180	0	60
Wholesale trade	550	510	530	40	20
Retail trade	2,280	2,320	2,240	-40	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	430	420	440	10	-10
Private education and health services	1,950	1,910	1,880	40	70
Leisure and hospitality	1,280	1,300	1,310	-20	-30
Other services	260	260	260	0	0
Government	3,520	3,480	3,570	40	-50
Federal government	210	200	230	10	-20
State government	1,430	1,430	1,390	0	40
Local government	1,880	1,850	1,950	30	-70

The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants. Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.



Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

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				Chang	e From
	September 2024	August 2024	September 2023	August 2024	September 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,970	12,150	12,009	-180	-39
Unemployed	505	500	416	5	89
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.1%	3.5%	0.1	0.7
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.6%	4.6%	4.0%	0.0	0.6
Employed	11,465	11,650	11,593	-185	-128
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,360	10,430	10,550	-70	-190
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	10,410	10,430	10,590	-20	-180
Total private	8,000	8,080	8,190	-80	-190
Mining, logging, and construction	710	740	660	-30	50
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Construction	670	700	620	-30	50
Manufacturing	1,050	1,070	1,260	-20	-210
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,000	2,000	2,100	0	-100
Wholesale trade	230	230	250	0	-20
Retail trade	1,390	1,390	1,440	0	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	410	0	-30
Information	100	100	100	0	0
Financial activities	390	390	360	0	30
Professional and business services	630	620	640	10	-10
Private education and health services	1,780	1,790	1,730	-10	50
Leisure and hospitality	1,040	1,060	1,040	-20	0
Other services	300	310	300	-10	0
Government	2,360	2,350	2,360	10	0
Federal government	310	320	300	-10	10
State government	430	440	430	-10	0
Local government	1,620	1,590	1,630	30	-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.



Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				Chang	je From
	September 2024	August 2024	September 2023	August 2024	September 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,742	3,865	3,696	-123	46
Unemployed	119	127	113	-8	6
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.3%	3.1%	-0.1	0.1
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0	0.0
Employed	3,623	3,738	3,583	-115	40
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,930	3,010	2,950	-80	-20
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,760	2,770	2,780	-10	-20
Total private	2,130	2,260	2,170	-130	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	260	260	300	0	-40
Mining and logging	40	40	60	0	-20
Construction	220	220	240	0	-20
Manufacturing	150	180	180	-30	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	500	490	510	10	-10
Wholesale and retail trade	430	430	420	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	70	60	90	10	-20
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	110	120	120	-10	-10
Professional and business services	160	170	150	-10	10
Private education and health services	380	390	380	-10	0
Leisure and hospitality	420	490	380	-70	40
Other services	120	130	120	-10	0
Government	800	750	780	50	20
Federal government	120	130	110	-10	10
State government	120	120	120	0	0
Local government	560	500	550	60	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.

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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