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

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

The October seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased over the year in Baker County, held steady in Malheur County, and increased in the other four Eastern Oregon counties. Baker, Malheur, and Wallowa counties' October 2024 rates are their second lowest October rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Grant, Harney, and Union counties, they are the third lowest October 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 1.0 percentage point to reach 5.9%.

Between October 2023 and October 2024, unadjusted unemployment rates decreased in Baker County, held steady in Harney, Malheur, and Wallowa counties, and increased in Grant and Union counties. Wallowa County's October 2024 unadjusted rate of 3.3% tied for its lowest unadjusted October unemployment rate since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Baker (3.5%) and Harney (3.3%) counties, the October 2024 rates tied for the second lowest. Baker County's raw rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to reach 3.5%. The largest increase came in Grant County, where the raw rate increased by 1.1 percentage points to reach 4.5%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 100 jobs since October 2023. Employment increased by 80 jobs in the private sector and added 20 jobs in the public sector. Retail trade, and private education and health services led gains, up 60 jobs each. Professional and business services led losses, down 40. Total nonfarm employment held steady over the month with small losses offsetting small gains across industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.2%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 3.5%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 100 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 40 jobs while the public sector decreased by 60. Manufacturing dropped 40 jobs to lead losses. Gains were confined to financial activities and other services, up 10 jobs each. Over the month, total nonfarm employment decreased by 40 jobs led by a loss of 40 jobs in federal government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 5.9%. The raw unemployment held steady at 4.5%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector saw a net change of zero jobs, and the public sector added 50 jobs. Gains were led by local government, up 40 jobs. Losses were led by retail trade, down 40. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 20 jobs over the month, led by a loss of 20 jobs in federal government. Gains were confined to local government, up 10 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 3.3%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 180 jobs over the year. The private sector rose by 220, and the public sector dropped 40 jobs. Manufacturing added 100 jobs to lead gains, followed by private education and health services, up 80. Local government dropped 30 jobs to lead losses. Total nonfarm employment increased by 220 jobs over the month, led by a gain of 150 jobs in local education. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 3.7%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.2%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector added 10 jobs, and the public sector increased by 40 jobs. Private education and health services led gains, up 100 jobs, followed by local government, up 40. Manufacturing dropped 80 jobs to lead losses, followed by construction, down 70. Total nonfarm employment increased by 160 jobs over the month, with local government leading gains, up 240. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.7%. The raw unemployment rate held steady at 4.1%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 jobs from October 2023 to October 2024. The private sector dropped 20 jobs, and the public sector increased by 10. Manufacturing and construction led losses, down 20 jobs each. Wholesale and retail trade led gains, up 40 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 70 jobs over the month with leisure and hospitality leading losses, down 50. Local government added 20 jobs to lead gains. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.3%.

### **Next Press Releases**

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



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## Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	7,228	7,193	7,142	35	86
Unemployed	250	262	261	-12	-11
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.6%	3.7%	-0.1	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.2%	4.4%	0.0	-0.2
Employed	6,978	6,931	6,881	47	97
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,610	5,610	5,510	0	100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,540	5,500	5,440	40	100
Total private	4,330	4,330	4,250	0	80
Mining, logging, and construction	260	260	280	0	-20
Mining and logging	10	20	20	-10	-10
Construction	250	240	260	10	-10
Manufacturing	570	570	560	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,210	1,210	1,150	0	60
Wholesale trade	70	70	80	0	-10
Retail trade	890	890	830	0	60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	240	0	10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	160	160	150	0	10
Professional and business services	330	340	370	-10	-40
Private education and health services	1,040	1,030	980	10	60
Leisure and hospitality	510	520	520	-10	-10
Other services	200	190	190	10	10
Government	1,280	1,280	1,260	0	20
Federal government	220	240	210	-20	10
State government	220	230	220	-10	0
Local government	840	810	830	30	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--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,126	3,174	3,224	-48	-98
Unemployed	141	144	111	-3	30
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.5%	3.4%	0.0	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.9%	5.7%	4.9%	0.2	1.0
Employed	2,985	3,030	3,113	-45	-128
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,410	2,450	2,510	-40	-100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,340	2,360	2,440	-20	-100
Total private	1,370	1,390	1,410	-20	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	220	220	220	0	0
Mining and logging	120	120	120	0	0
Construction	100	100	100	0	0
Manufacturing	100	100	140	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	330	330	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	240	250	240	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	60	0	10
Professional and business services	140	140	140	0	0
Private education and health services	200	200	200	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	200	210	210	-10	-10
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	1,040	1,060	1,100	-20	-60
Federal government	250	290	260	-40	-10
State government	130	140	150	-10	-20
Local government	660	630	690	30	-30

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--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,647	3,670	3,590	-23	57
Unemployed	122	130	120	-8	2
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.5%	3.3%	-0.2	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.3%	4.2%	0.0	0.1
Employed	3,525	3,540	3,470	-15	55
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,480	2,500	2,430	-20	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,450	2,440	2,400	10	50
Total private	1,350	1,360	1,350	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	430	460	0	-30
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	340	340	380	0	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	40	0	10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	100	100	100	0	0
Private education and health services	240	250	230	-10	10
Leisure and hospitality	290	290	300	0	-10
Other services	100	100	80	0	20
Government	1,130	1,140	1,080	-10	50
Federal government	230	250	230	-20	0
State government	140	140	130	0	10
Local government	760	750	720	10	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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## Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,593	13,492	13,143	101	450
Unemployed	432	439	416	-7	16
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.3%	3.2%	-0.1	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	0.0	0.0
Employed	13,161	13,053	12,727	108	434
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	12,650	12,430	12,470	220	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,490	12,420	12,300	70	190
Total private	9,050	8,950	8,830	100	220
Mining, logging, and construction	420	430	420	-10	0
Manufacturing	1,100	1,090	1,000	10	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,250	3,180	3,210	70	40
Wholesale trade	520	520	510	0	10
Retail trade	2,270	2,250	2,250	20	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	460	410	450	50	10
Information	80	80	70	0	10
Financial activities	270	270	280	0	-10
Professional and business services	460	440	460	20	0
Private education and health services	1,920	1,900	1,840	20	80
Leisure and hospitality	1,280	1,300	1,280	-20	0
Other services	270	260	270	10	0
Government	3,600	3,480	3,640	120	-40
Federal government	190	220	190	-30	0
State government	1,390	1,390	1,400	0	-10
Local government	2,020	1,870	2,050	150	-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--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,269	12,166	12,051	103	218
Unemployed	505	500	421	5	84
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.1%	3.5%	0.0	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.6%	4.1%	0.1	0.6
Employed	11,764	11,666	11,630	98	134
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,720	10,560	10,670	160	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,620	10,610	10,570	10	50
Total private	8,150	8,190	8,140	-40	10
Mining, logging, and construction	640	680	710	-40	-70
Mining and logging	40	50	40	-10	0
Construction	600	630	670	-30	-70
Manufacturing	1,180	1,180	1,260	0	-80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,070	2,050	2,080	20	-10
Wholesale trade	230	230	250	0	-20
Retail trade	1,460	1,440	1,430	20	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	400	0	-20
Information	90	90	90	0	0
Financial activities	380	380	360	0	20
Professional and business services	610	630	610	-20	0
Private education and health services	1,820	1,820	1,720	0	100
Leisure and hospitality	1,050	1,050	1,010	0	40
Other services	310	310	300	0	10
Government	2,570	2,370	2,530	200	40
Federal government	270	300	270	-30	0
State government	420	430	420	-10	0
Local government	1,880	1,640	1,840	240	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--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,649	3,726	3,599	-77	50
Unemployed	122	118	117	4	5
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%	0.1	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.3%	4.3%	0.1	0.1
Employed	3,527	3,608	3,482	-81	45
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,860	2,930	2,870	-70	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,810	2,760	2,820	50	-10
Total private	2,060	2,130	2,080	-70	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	280	270	290	10	-10
Mining and logging	70	60	60	10	10
Construction	210	210	230	0	-20
Manufacturing	150	160	170	-10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	520	530	480	-10	40
Wholesale and retail trade	440	450	400	-10	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	80	80	80	0	0
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	110	110	120	0	-10
Professional and business services	140	150	150	-10	-10
Private education and health services	380	380	390	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	320	370	330	-50	-10
Other services	130	130	120	0	10
Government	800	800	790	0	10
Federal government	120	120	100	0	20
State government	90	110	100	-20	-10
Local government	590	570	590	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.



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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