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Employment in Eastern Oregon: December 2024

Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Remain Comparatively Low

The December seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased over the year in Baker County, held steady in Harney County, and increased in the other four Eastern Oregon counties. Baker and Harney counties' December 2024 rates are their lowest December rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Wallowa and Malheur counties, they are the second and third lowest December rates, respectively. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.3 percentage point lower in Baker County to reach 4.1%. The largest increase came in Grant County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 1.2 percentage points to reach 6.1%.

Between December 2023 and December 2024, unadjusted unemployment rates decreased in Baker and Harney counties, held steady in Wallowa County, and increased in Grant, Malheur, and Union counties. Harney County's December 2024 unadjusted rate of 4.5% was its lowest unadjusted December unemployment rate since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Wallowa County, the December 2024 rate (4.7%) tied with December 2019 and 2023 for lowest December rate. Baker County's raw rate fell by 0.6 percentage point to reach 4.4% for the largest decrease. The largest increase came in Grant County, where the raw rate increased by 1.2 percentage points to reach 6.3%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 30 jobs since December 2023. Employment increased by 20 jobs in the private sector and added 10 jobs in the public sector. Retail trade, and private education and health services led gains, up 70 jobs each. Professional and business services led losses, down 60. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 20 jobs over the month led by losses in leisure and hospitality, and federal government, down 20 jobs each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.1%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage point to 4.4%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 100 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 20 jobs while the public sector decreased by 80. Local government dropped 50 jobs to lead losses, followed by a loss of 40 jobs in manufacturing. Small gains were spread across several industries. Over the month, total nonfarm employment decreased by 60 jobs led by losses of 20 jobs each in leisure and hospitality, and local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 6.1%. The raw unemployment increased by 1.1 percentage points to 6.3%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector increased by 20 jobs, and the public sector added 30 jobs. Gains were led by other services and local government, up 30 jobs each. Losses were led by leisure and hospitality, down 20. Total nonfarm employment increased by 20 jobs over the month, with small gains in private education and health services, other services, and federal government overcoming a small loss in leisure and hospitality. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.2%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.8 percentage point to 4.5%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 110 jobs over the year. The private sector rose by 160, and the public sector dropped 50 jobs. Manufacturing added 110 jobs to lead gains, followed by private education and health services, and leisure and hospitality, up 40 each. Local government dropped 50 jobs to lead losses. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 70 jobs over the month, led by a loss of 20 jobs in professional and business services. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.8%. The raw unemployment rate increase by 0.9 percentage point to 4.1%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 50 jobs, and the public sector increased by 40 jobs. Construction dropped 60 jobs to lead losses, followed by manufacturing, down 50. Private education and health services led gains, up 110 jobs, followed by leisure and hospitality, up 60. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 60 jobs over the month, with local government leading losses, down 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.7%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.8 percentage point to 4.9%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 jobs from December 2023 to December 2024. The private sector added 10 jobs, and the public sector increased by 40. Wholesale and retail trade, other services, and local government led gains, up 20 jobs each. Manufacturing led losses, down 20 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 60 jobs over the month with leisure and hospitality leading losses, down 20. The only industry to add jobs over the month was private education and health services, up 10 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.9 percentage point to 4.7%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, March 11, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Monday, March 10.



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January 28, 2025

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,106	7,147	7,096	-41	10
Unemployed	311	264	354	47	-43
Unemployment rate	4.4%	3.7%	5.0%	0.7	-0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.1%	4.4%	0.0	-0.3
Employed	6,795	6,883	6,742	-88	53
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,550	5,570	5,520	-20	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,540	5,560	5,510	-20	30
Total private	4,300	4,300	4,280	0	20
Mining, logging, and construction	240	240	260	0	-20
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	230	230	250	0	-20
Manufacturing	580	580	580	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,230	1,220	1,160	10	70
Wholesale trade	70	70	80	0	-10
Retail trade	900	900	830	0	70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	260	250	250	10	10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	160	150	160	10	0
Professional and business services	320	330	380	-10	-60
Private education and health services	1,050	1,040	980	10	70
Leisure and hospitality	470	490	510	-20	-40
Other services	200	200	200	0	0
Government	1,250	1,270	1,240	-20	10
Federal government	190	210	190	-20	0
State government	230	220	230	10	0
Local government	830	840	820	-10	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--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,019	3,068	3,178	-49	-159
Unemployed	191	160	161	31	30
Unemployment rate	6.3%	5.2%	5.1%	1.1	1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	6.0%	4.9%	0.1	1.2
Employed	2,828	2,908	3,017	-80	-189
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,320	2,380	2,420	-60	-100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,390	2,370	2,500	20	-110
Total private	1,350	1,390	1,370	-40	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	210	220	210	-10	0
Mining and logging	120	120	120	0	0
Construction	90	100	90	-10	0
Manufacturing	110	110	150	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	340	320	-10	10
Wholesale trade	40	40	30	0	10
Retail trade	240	250	240	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
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	210	210	200	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	160	180	180	-20	-20
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	970	990	1,050	-20	-80
Federal government	200	200	220	0	-20
State government	130	130	140	0	-10
Local government	640	660	690	-20	-50

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--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,591	3,608	3,551	-17	40
Unemployed	160	134	170	26	-10
Unemployment rate	4.5%	3.7%	4.8%	0.8	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.3%	4.2%	-0.1	0.0
Employed	3,431	3,474	3,381	-43	50
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,450	2,430	2,400	20	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,490	2,440	2,450	50	40
Total private	1,320	1,310	1,300	10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	430	430	0	0
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	340	340	350	0	-10
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	90	90	100	0	-10
Private education and health services	250	240	240	10	10
Leisure and hospitality	270	280	290	-10	-20
Other services	100	90	70	10	30
Government	1,130	1,120	1,100	10	30
Federal government	220	210	220	10	0
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	770	770	740	0	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--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,171	13,283	12,925	-112	246
Unemployed	535	420	502	115	33
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.2%	3.9%	0.9	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.7%	3.7%	0.1	0.1
Employed	12,636	12,863	12,423	-227	213
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,550	12,620	12,440	-70	110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,460	12,480	12,360	-20	100
Total private	8,950	9,020	8,790	-70	160
Mining, logging, and construction	410	410	430	0	-20
Manufacturing	1,120	1,120	1,010	0	110
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,210	3,230	3,240	-20	-30
Wholesale trade	490	490	510	0	-20
Retail trade	2,280	2,290	2,280	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	440	450	450	-10	-10
Information	70	80	70	-10	0
Financial activities	270	270	280	0	-10
Professional and business services	420	440	410	-20	10
Private education and health services	1,910	1,920	1,870	-10	40
Leisure and hospitality	1,270	1,280	1,230	-10	40
Other services	270	270	250	0	20
Government	3,600	3,600	3,650	0	-50
Federal government	190	190	190	0	0
State government	1,400	1,390	1,400	10	0
Local government	2,010	2,020	2,060	-10	-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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Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,095	12,131	11,960	-36	135
Unemployed	593	498	551	95	42
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.1%	4.6%	0.8	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.6%	4.1%	0.1	0.6
Employed	11,502	11,633	11,409	-131	93
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,640	10,700	10,650	-60	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,660	10,660	10,670	0	-10
Total private	8,130	8,140	8,180	-10	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	620	630	670	-10	-50
Mining and logging	50	50	40	0	10
Construction	570	580	630	-10	-60
Manufacturing	1,200	1,190	1,250	10	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,070	2,070	2,160	0	-90
Wholesale trade	230	230	250	0	-20
Retail trade	1,450	1,450	1,490	0	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	390	420	0	-30
Information	80	90	90	-10	-10
Financial activities	380	380	390	0	-10
Professional and business services	570	590	590	-20	-20
Private education and health services	1,850	1,840	1,740	10	110
Leisure and hospitality	1,060	1,040	1,000	20	60
Other services	300	310	290	-10	10
Government	2,510	2,560	2,470	-50	40
Federal government	200	220	210	-20	-10
State government	420	420	410	0	10
Local government	1,890	1,920	1,850	-30	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--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,456	3,509	3,430	-53	26
Unemployed	162	134	162	28	0
Unemployment rate	4.7%	3.8%	4.7%	0.9	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.4%	4.3%	0.0	0.1
Employed	3,294	3,375	3,268	-81	26
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,680	2,740	2,630	-60	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,820	2,830	2,770	-10	50
Total private	1,900	1,950	1,890	-50	10
Mining, logging, and construction	260	280	260	-20	0
Mining and logging	60	70	60	-10	0
Construction	200	210	200	-10	0
Manufacturing	140	140	160	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	500	510	470	-10	30
Wholesale and retail trade	430	440	410	-10	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	70	70	60	0	10
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	100	100	100	0	0
Professional and business services	120	130	130	-10	-10
Private education and health services	380	370	380	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	240	260	250	-20	-10
Other services	130	130	110	0	20
Government	780	790	740	-10	40
Federal government	90	100	80	-10	10
State government	100	100	90	0	10
Local government	590	590	570	0	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.

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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