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Employment in Eastern Oregon: January 2025

Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Remain Comparatively Low

The January 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 and Wallowa counties' January 2025 rates tie for their lowest January rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Harney and Malheur counties, they tie for the second lowest January rates. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.3 percentage point lower in Baker County to reach 4.2%. The largest increase came in Grant County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 1.3 percentage points to reach 6.2%.

Between January 2024 and January 2025, unadjusted unemployment rates decreased in Baker County and increased in the other five counties. Baker County's January 2025 unadjusted rate of 6.2% tied for its third lowest unadjusted January unemployment rate since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Harney County (6.8%), Malheur County (5.2%), and Wallowa County (7.3%), the January 2025 rates their fourth lowest January rates. Baker County's raw rate fell by 0.3 percentage point to reach 6.2% for the largest decrease. The largest increase came in Grant County, where the raw rate increased by 3.0 percentage points to reach 10.1%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 60 jobs since January 2024. Employment increased by 40 jobs in the private sector and added 20 jobs in the public sector. Retail trade, and private education and health services led gains, up 70 and 60 jobs, respectively. Leisure and hospitality led losses, down 50. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 180 jobs over the month led by losses in construction, leisure and hospitality, and local government, down 30 jobs each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.2%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 1.4 percentage points to 6.2%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 110 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 50 jobs while the public sector decreased by 60. Manufacturing dropped 60 jobs to lead losses, followed by a loss of 40 jobs in local government. Small gains were spread across several industries. Over the month, total nonfarm employment decreased by 60 jobs with small losses spread across industries. No industries added jobs over the month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 6.2%. The raw unemployment increased by 3.5 percentage points to 10.1%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 jobs over the year. The private sector saw a net change of zero jobs, and the public sector added 40 jobs. Gains were led by local government, up 50 jobs. Losses were led by retail trade, and leisure and hospitality, down 20 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 70 jobs over the month, led by losses in leisure and hospitality, and federal government, down 20 jobs each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 2.2 percentage points to 6.8%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 120 jobs over the year. The private sector rose by 50, and the public sector added 70 jobs. Manufacturing added 110 jobs to lead gains, followed by local government and retail trade, up 70 and 60 jobs, respectively. Leisure and hospitality dropped 50 jobs to lead losses. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 150 jobs over the month, led by a loss of 40 jobs in mining, logging, and construction. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 3.8%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.9 percentage point to 5.2%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment saw a net change of zero jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 70 jobs, and the public sector increased by 70 jobs. Private education and health services led gains, up 90 jobs, followed by local government, up 60. Professional and business services dropped 60 jobs to lead losses, followed by construction, down 50. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 160 jobs over the month, with construction leading losses, down 40. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.8%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 1.7 percentage points to 6.7%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 30 jobs from January 2024 to January 2025. The private sector dropped 50 jobs, and the public sector increased by 20. Manufacturing led losses, down 20 jobs. State government led gains, up 20 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 100 jobs over the month with leisure and hospitality leading losses, down 40. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 2.4 percentage points to 7.3%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 1, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for February on Wednesday, March 26.



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Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,714	6,786	6,717	-72	-3
Unemployed	415	326	435	89	-20
Unemployment rate	6.2%	4.8%	6.5%	1.4	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.1%	4.5%	0.1	-0.3
Employed	6,299	6,460	6,282	-161	17
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,430	5,610	5,370	-180	60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,600	5,600	5,530	0	70
Total private	4,200	4,330	4,160	-130	40
Mining, logging, and construction	200	230	240	-30	-40
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	190	220	230	-30	-40
Manufacturing	570	580	560	-10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,220	1,240	1,120	-20	100
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	890	910	820	-20	70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	260	260	230	0	30
Information	50	60	50	-10	0
Financial activities	150	160	160	-10	-10
Professional and business services	310	310	340	0	-30
Private education and health services	1,050	1,060	990	-10	60
Leisure and hospitality	440	470	490	-30	-50
Other services	210	220	210	-10	0
Government	1,230	1,280	1,210	-50	20
Federal government	180	190	180	-10	0
State government	230	240	220	-10	10
Local government	820	850	810	-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--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,053	2,993	3,100	60	-47
Unemployed	308	198	221	110	87
Unemployment rate	10.1%	6.6%	7.1%	3.5	3.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	6.1%	4.9%	0.1	1.3
Employed	2,745	2,795	2,879	-50	-134
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,260	2,320	2,370	-60	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,360	2,350	2,480	10	-120
Total private	1,300	1,330	1,350	-30	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	200	220	210	-20	-10
Mining and logging	120	130	120	-10	0
Construction	80	90	90	-10	-10
Manufacturing	90	90	150	0	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	320	310	0	10
Wholesale trade	40	40	30	0	10
Retail trade	230	230	240	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	40	0	10
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	70	70	60	0	10
Professional and business services	150	150	140	0	10
Private education and health services	200	200	200	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	150	160	170	-10	-20
Other services	80	80	60	0	20
Government	960	990	1,020	-30	-60
Federal government	190	200	220	-10	-30
State government	140	150	130	-10	10
Local government	630	640	670	-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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Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,540	3,529	3,509	11	31
Unemployed	239	162	216	77	23
Unemployment rate	6.8%	4.6%	6.2%	2.2	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.2%	4.2%	0.1	0.1
Employed	3,301	3,367	3,293	-66	8
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,330	2,400	2,290	-70	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,440	2,420	2,400	20	40
Total private	1,250	1,300	1,250	-50	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	420	420	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	50	50	40	0	10
Retail trade	320	330	340	-10	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	60	0	10
Professional and business services	80	90	90	-10	-10
Private education and health services	260	260	240	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	250	270	270	-20	-20
Other services	60	70	60	-10	0
Government	1,080	1,100	1,040	-20	40
Federal government	190	210	200	-20	-10
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	750	750	700	0	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--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,746	12,829	12,628	-83	118
Unemployed	663	548	634	115	29
Unemployment rate	5.2%	4.3%	5.0%	0.9	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	0.0	0.0
Employed	12,083	12,281	11,994	-198	89
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,450	12,600	12,330	-150	120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,630	12,550	12,510	80	120
Total private	8,740	8,880	8,690	-140	50
Mining, logging, and construction	380	420	420	-40	-40
Manufacturing	1,120	1,140	1,010	-20	110
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,190	3,210	3,160	-20	30
Wholesale trade	500	490	520	10	-20
Retail trade	2,290	2,290	2,230	0	60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	430	410	-30	-10
Information	80	80	70	0	10
Financial activities	260	270	270	-10	-10
Professional and business services	380	380	400	0	-20
Private education and health services	1,880	1,900	1,860	-20	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,190	1,220	1,240	-30	-50
Other services	260	260	260	0	0
Government	3,710	3,720	3,640	-10	70
Federal government	180	180	180	0	0
State government	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0
Local government	2,130	2,140	2,060	-10	70

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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.



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Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,924	11,854	11,857	70	67
Unemployed	796	587	680	209	116
Unemployment rate	6.7%	5.0%	5.7%	1.7	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.7%	4.2%	0.1	0.6
Employed	11,128	11,267	11,177	-139	-49
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,450	10,610	10,450	-160	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,620	10,620	10,620	0	0
Total private	7,970	8,100	8,040	-130	-70
Mining, logging, and construction	570	610	610	-40	-40
Mining and logging	50	50	40	0	10
Construction	520	560	570	-40	-50
Manufacturing	1,220	1,220	1,240	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,020	2,050	2,050	-30	-30
Wholesale trade	240	240	230	0	10
Retail trade	1,390	1,410	1,420	-20	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	400	400	-10	-10
Information	80	80	100	0	-20
Financial activities	370	380	370	-10	0
Professional and business services	530	540	590	-10	-60
Private education and health services	1,880	1,890	1,790	-10	90
Leisure and hospitality	1,010	1,030	1,020	-20	-10
Other services	290	300	270	-10	20
Government	2,480	2,510	2,410	-30	70
Federal government	190	190	210	0	-20
State government	440	440	410	0	30
Local government	1,850	1,880	1,790	-30	60

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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--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,462	3,480	3,499	-18	-37
Unemployed	254	172	238	82	16
Unemployment rate	7.3%	4.9%	6.8%	2.4	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	0.0	0.0
Employed	3,208	3,308	3,261	-100	-53
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,530	2,630	2,560	-100	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,760	2,770	2,800	-10	-40
Total private	1,760	1,850	1,810	-90	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	220	240	220	-20	0
Mining and logging	50	60	50	-10	0
Construction	170	180	170	-10	0
Manufacturing	130	130	150	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	450	450	-10	-10
Wholesale and retail trade	390	400	390	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	60	0	-10
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	100	100	100	0	0
Professional and business services	120	130	120	-10	0
Private education and health services	380	390	390	-10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	220	260	230	-40	-10
Other services	120	120	120	0	0
Government	770	780	750	-10	20
Federal government	80	90	80	-10	0
State government	120	120	100	0	20
Local government	570	570	570	0	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/. 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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