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Employment in Eastern Oregon: February 2025

Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Remain Comparatively Low

The February 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' February 2025 rates are their second lowest February rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Harney and Malheur counties, they tie for the third lowest February rates. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.3 percentage point lower in Baker County to reach 4.3%. The largest increase came in Grant County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 1.5 percentage points to reach 6.3%.

Between February 2024 and February 2025, unadjusted unemployment rates decreased in Baker and Harney counties and increased in the other four counties. Baker, Harney, and Malheur counties' February 2025 unadjusted rates are their third lowest unadjusted February unemployment rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Grant and Wallowa counties, the February 2025 rates are their fourth lowest February rates. Harney 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 1.2 percentage points to reach 8.9%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 40 jobs since February 2024. Employment increased by 10 jobs in the private sector and added 30 jobs in the public sector. Retail trade, and private education and health services led gains, up 60 and 50 jobs, respectively. Leisure and hospitality led losses, down 60. Total nonfarm employment increased by 40 jobs over the month led by a gain in local government, up 30 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 6.0%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 60 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 20 jobs while the public sector decreased by 40. Manufacturing and local government dropped 40 jobs each to lead losses. Professional and business services, and state government led gains, each up 20 jobs. Over the month, total nonfarm employment increased by 40 led by a gain of 20 jobs in local government. No industries lost jobs over the month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 6.3%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points to 8.9%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 10 jobs, and the public sector added 30. Gains were led by local government, up 30 jobs. Losses were led by retail trade, and professional and business services, down 20 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment increased by 20 jobs over the month, with gains in leisure and hospitality and other services, up 10 jobs each. All other industries held steady over the month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage point to 6.2%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 30 jobs over the year. The private sector fell by 40, and the public sector added 10 jobs. Mining, logging, and construction dropped 50 jobs to lead losses, followed by professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality, down 40 each. Manufacturing added 100 jobs to lead gains. Total nonfarm employment saw a net change of zero jobs over the month, led by a gain of 20 jobs in leisure and hospitality. Local government led losses, down 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.9%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 5.0%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 110 jobs, and the public sector increased by 100 jobs. Local government led gains, up 90 jobs, followed by private education and health services, up 70. Professional and business services dropped 60 jobs to lead losses, followed by manufacturing, down 50. Total nonfarm employment increased by 100 jobs over the month, with local government leading gains, up 80. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.9%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 6.6%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment saw a net change of zero jobs from February 2024 to February 2025. The private sector dropped 40 jobs, and the public sector increased by 40. Manufacturing led losses, down 20 jobs. State government led gains, up 30 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 50 jobs over the month with local government leading gains, up 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.6%. The raw unemployment rate held steady at 7.3%.

Next Press Releases

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



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Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,772	6,709	6,779	63	-7
Unemployed	407	414	412	-7	-5
Unemployment rate	6.0%	6.2%	6.1%	-0.2	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.2%	4.6%	0.1	-0.3
Employed	6,365	6,295	6,367	70	-2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,470	5,430	5,430	40	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,600	5,600	5,560	0	40
Total private	4,210	4,200	4,200	10	10
Mining, logging, and construction	210	200	240	10	-30
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	200	190	230	10	-30
Manufacturing	580	570	570	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,210	1,220	1,130	-10	80
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	890	890	830	0	60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	260	230	-10	20
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	160	150	160	10	0
Professional and business services	300	310	340	-10	-40
Private education and health services	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Leisure and hospitality	440	440	500	0	-60
Other services	210	210	210	0	0
Government	1,260	1,230	1,230	30	30
Federal government	180	180	170	0	10
State government	230	230	230	0	0
Local government	850	820	830	30	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--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,038	3,053	3,085	-15	-47
Unemployed	270	307	237	-37	33
Unemployment rate	8.9%	10.1%	7.7%	-1.2	1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.3%	6.2%	4.8%	0.1	1.5
Employed	2,768	2,746	2,848	22	-80
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,300	2,260	2,360	40	-60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,390	2,360	2,450	30	-60
Total private	1,310	1,300	1,330	10	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	200	200	190	0	10
Mining and logging	120	120	110	0	10
Construction	80	80	80	0	0
Manufacturing	90	90	130	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	320	310	0	10
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	230	230	230	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	40	0	10
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	150	150	130	0	20
Private education and health services	200	200	200	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	160	150	180	10	-20
Other services	80	80	70	0	10
Government	990	960	1,030	30	-40
Federal government	200	190	220	10	-20
State government	140	140	120	0	20
Local government	650	630	690	20	-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--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,540	3,539	3,561	1	-21
Unemployed	221	239	232	-18	-11
Unemployment rate	6.2%	6.8%	6.5%	-0.6	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.3%	4.3%	0.1	0.1
Employed	3,319	3,300	3,329	19	-10
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,350	2,330	2,330	20	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,450	2,440	2,430	10	20
Total private	1,270	1,250	1,280	20	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	410	420	0	-10
Wholesale trade	50	50	40	0	10
Retail trade	320	320	340	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	80	80	100	0	-20
Private education and health services	260	260	240	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	260	250	270	10	-10
Other services	70	60	70	10	0
Government	1,080	1,080	1,050	0	30
Federal government	190	190	190	0	0
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	750	750	720	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--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,785	12,735	12,775	50	10
Unemployed	645	660	568	-15	77
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.2%	4.4%	-0.2	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	3.8%	3.9%	0.1	0.0
Employed	12,140	12,075	12,207	65	-67
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,450	12,450	12,480	0	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,510	12,630	12,560	-120	-50
Total private	8,760	8,740	8,800	20	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	380	380	430	0	-50
Manufacturing	1,130	1,120	1,030	10	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,190	3,190	3,190	0	0
Wholesale trade	510	500	520	10	-10
Retail trade	2,280	2,290	2,260	-10	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	400	410	0	-10
Information	80	80	70	0	10
Financial activities	250	260	270	-10	-20
Professional and business services	380	380	420	0	-40
Private education and health services	1,880	1,880	1,880	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,210	1,190	1,250	20	-40
Other services	260	260	260	0	0
Government	3,690	3,710	3,680	-20	10
Federal government	180	180	170	0	10
State government	1,400	1,400	1,420	0	-20
Local government	2,110	2,130	2,090	-20	20

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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--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,022	11,916	11,959	106	63
Unemployed	794	794	663	0	131
Unemployment rate	6.6%	6.7%	5.5%	-0.1	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	4.8%	4.3%	0.1	0.6
Employed	11,228	11,122	11,296	106	-68
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,550	10,450	10,560	100	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,650	10,620	10,660	30	-10
Total private	8,000	7,970	8,110	30	-110
Mining, logging, and construction	570	570	600	0	-30
Mining and logging	40	50	30	-10	10
Construction	530	520	570	10	-40
Manufacturing	1,210	1,220	1,260	-10	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,030	2,020	2,070	10	-40
Wholesale trade	240	240	240	0	0
Retail trade	1,400	1,390	1,430	10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	390	400	0	-10
Information	80	80	100	0	-20
Financial activities	380	370	360	10	20
Professional and business services	530	530	590	0	-60
Private education and health services	1,880	1,880	1,810	0	70
Leisure and hospitality	1,020	1,010	1,050	10	-30
Other services	300	290	270	10	30
Government	2,550	2,480	2,450	70	100
Federal government	180	190	200	-10	-20
State government	440	440	410	0	30
Local government	1,930	1,850	1,840	80	90

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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--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,509	3,460	3,515	49	-6
Unemployed	256	254	238	2	18
Unemployment rate	7.3%	7.3%	6.8%	0.0	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.5%	4.4%	0.1	0.2
Employed	3,253	3,206	3,277	47	-24
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,580	2,530	2,580	50	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,780	2,760	2,780	20	0
Total private	1,800	1,760	1,840	40	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	220	220	220	0	0
Mining and logging	50	50	40	0	10
Construction	170	170	180	0	-10
Manufacturing	130	130	150	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	450	440	460	10	-10
Wholesale and retail trade	400	390	400	10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	60	0	-10
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	100	100	110	0	-10
Professional and business services	130	120	130	10	0
Private education and health services	380	380	390	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	230	220	230	10	0
Other services	130	120	120	10	10
Government	780	770	740	10	40
Federal government	70	80	70	-10	0
State government	120	120	90	0	30
Local government	590	570	580	20	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.

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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