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## Employment in Morrow & Umatilla Counties: March 2020

### Initial Unemployment Claims Detail COVID-19 Impacts

During the week of April 5 to April 11, the Oregon Employment Department received 53,800 initial claims for unemployment benefits. That's in addition to a revised total of 243,000 initial claims filed during the prior three weeks.

During the week of March 29 to April 4, the Employment Department paid \$23 million in benefits to Oregonians. During the week of April 5 to April 11, that more than quadrupled to \$97 million in benefits paid. More benefits measures are on the agency's COVID-19 page.

[https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment\\_COVID19](https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19)

### Oregon Unemployment Insurance Weekly Initial Claims by Sector

Sector	Week Beginning		Change
	March 8	March 15	
<b>Natural Resources and Mining</b>	156	225	69
<b>Construction</b>	858	1,246	388
<b>Manufacturing</b>	428	1,313	885
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	614	2,312	1,698
Retail Trade	299	1,359	1,060
Wholesale Trade	108	227	119
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	207	726	519
<b>Information</b>	112	319	207
<b>Financial Activities</b>	155	276	121
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	539	1,296	757
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	396	2,695	2,299
Educational Services	78	561	483
Health Care and Social Assistance	318	2,134	1,816
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	599	10,654	10,055
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	78	654	576
Accommodation and Food Services	521	10,000	9,479
<b>Other Services</b>	144	915	771
<b>Unclassified</b>	21	49	28

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Industry details are not available for all processed claims.

The Employment Department has detailed information for 47,700 of the initial claims processed during the week starting April 5. The leisure and hospitality sector, which includes hotels and restaurants, continued to see the greatest number of initial claims for unemployment benefits (12,300). This reflects ongoing impacts of public health and safety measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 15, there have been about 52,900 initial claims filed in the leisure and hospitality sector. Health care and social assistance (25,800) and retail trade (19,700) are other sectors with large totals of initial weekly claims in the past four weeks, but every sector has seen additional claims activity.

Here in the Columbia Basin, the number of initial unemployment claims processed during the week of April 5 dialed back somewhat to about 720, a drop of around 120 compared with the week of March 29. Over the four-week period of March 21 to April 11, the Columbia Basin amassed close to 2,500 initial claims. However, the actual number of claims filed by Columbia Basin residents was likely significantly higher than the 2,500 claims processed.

Accommodation and food services represented 30 percent of the region's initial claims, followed closely by manufacturing, also with about 30 percent. Health care and social assistance (11%), retail trade (8%), construction (4%), and transportation and warehousing (3%) together represented one out of four initial claims.

In March, prior to the economic effects of COVID-19, Umatilla County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 4.1 percent. Ranked among Oregon's 36 counties, Umatilla County placed 20<sup>th</sup> in March. In March 2019, Umatilla County's 5.3 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Umatilla County's nonfarm employment total rose to 28,020 in March, an increase of 210 jobs. Private industry produced all of Umatilla County's employment gain in March, rising to 20,600, while government held steady at 7,420. Mining, logging, and construction led private industry in March, rising by 50 jobs to 1,220. Retail trade also rose by 50 jobs to reach 3,210.

Umatilla County's total private employment fell by 210 jobs over the year ending in March and government rose by 170. Education and health services led private industry, rising by 130 jobs over the year to total 3,910. Information performed well, rising by 70 jobs to reach 460. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities cut 220 jobs, falling to 2,390. Manufacturing trimmed its payrolls by 170, cutting its total to 3,200. Local government led the public sector, with local education rising by 70 jobs and other local government chipping in 50.

Morrow County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in March to 3.7 percent, ranking 13<sup>th</sup> (out of 36 counties), tied with Wheeler. Morrow County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in March 2019, at 4.7 percent.

Morrow County's nonfarm employment fell to 5,040 in March, a loss of 10 jobs. Private industry rose by 20 jobs, climbing to 4,010, but government cut 30, falling to 1,030.

Morrow County's private-industry employment rose by 170 over the year ending in March. Manufacturing led private industry, rising by 50 jobs over the year (+2.7%) to total 1,930. Professional and business services also increased its total by 50 jobs, rising to 290. Local government led the public sector, rising by 40 jobs to total 920.

### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April 2020 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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 [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org), select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. 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 coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment COVID19](http://Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org)

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

## Morrow County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2020	February 2020	March 2019	February 2020	March 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	5,597	5,588	5,564	9	33
Unemployed	237	261	282	-24	-45
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.7%	5.1%	-0.5	-0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.8%	4.7%	-0.1	-1.0
Employed	5,360	5,327	5,282	33	78
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,040	5,050	4,830	-10	210
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,090	5,080	4,880	10	210
Total private	4,010	3,990	3,840	20	170
Mining and logging	20	30	20	-10	0
Construction	60	60	90	0	-30
Manufacturing	1,930	1,920	1,880	10	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	680	680	660	0	20
Wholesale trade	120	120	110	0	10
Retail trade	250	250	250	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	310	310	300	0	10
Financial activities	90	90	90	0	0
Professional and business services	290	290	240	0	50
Education and health services	260	250	260	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	210	200	210	10	0
Government	1,030	1,060	990	-30	40
Federal government	50	50	50	0	0
State government	60	60	60	0	0
Local government	920	950	880	-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.

## Umatilla County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2020	February 2020	March 2019	February 2020	March 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	35,952	35,698	35,802	254	150
Unemployed	1,665	1,833	2,106	-168	-441
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.1%	5.9%	-0.5	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.2%	5.3%	-0.1	-1.2
Employed	34,287	33,865	33,696	422	591
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	28,020	27,810	28,060	210	-40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	28,130	28,220	28,180	-90	-50
Total private	20,600	20,390	20,810	210	-210
Mining, logging, and construction	1,220	1,170	1,170	50	50
Manufacturing	3,200	3,180	3,370	20	-170
Durable goods	1,390	1,370	1,440	20	-50
Nondurable goods	1,810	1,810	1,930	0	-120
Food manufacturing	1,570	1,550	1,630	20	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	6,550	6,470	6,780	80	-230
Wholesale trade	950	950	990	0	-40
Retail trade	3,210	3,160	3,180	50	30
Food and beverage stores	650	640	680	10	-30
General merchandise stores	780	770	740	10	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,390	2,360	2,610	30	-220
Information	460	460	390	0	70
Financial activities	840	840	830	0	10
Professional and business services	1,170	1,170	1,230	0	-60
Education and health services	3,910	3,880	3,780	30	130
Nursing and residential care facilities	970	960	950	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	2,530	2,500	2,510	30	20
Accommodation and food services	2,400	2,380	2,370	20	30
Other services	720	720	750	0	-30
Government	7,420	7,420	7,250	0	170
Federal government	460	460	460	0	0
State government	1,500	1,500	1,460	0	40
Local government	5,460	5,460	5,330	0	130
Indian tribal	1,710	1,730	1,700	-20	10
Local education	2,620	2,630	2,550	-10	70
Local government excluding education and tribal	1,130	1,100	1,080	30	50

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