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Employment in Eastern Oregon: October 2020

Employment Losses Linger in Education and Food Service

Comparing October 2020 with October 2019 reveals elevated unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year increase came in Baker County where the raw rate jumped 2.3 percentage points to hit 5.7 percent. Union County was second with a raw rate increase of 2.1 percentage points to hit 5.5 percent. The smallest increase came in Grant and Malheur counties where the raw rate rose by 1.1 percentage points to reach 5.1 percent and 3.9 percent, respectively. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased as well in all Eastern Oregon counties. Baker County saw the largest increase, jumping 2.5 percentage points to 6.6 percent. Grant and Wallowa (+1.5 percentage points) saw the smallest increase over the year, rising to 7.4 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment fell by 200 since October 2019. Employment dropped by 130 jobs in the private sector and 70 jobs in the public sector. Leisure and hospitality took the largest hit in the private sector; employment fell by 70 jobs for the industry. Other services took the second largest hit, falling by 60 jobs. Local government saw the largest loss overall, falling by 90 jobs, primarily in education. Employment decreased by 70 jobs over the month, with losses in a few industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.9 percentage point in October to 6.6 percent. The raw rate dropped 0.5 percentage point to 5.7 percent in October.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 70 over the year. Losses occurred in the public sector as well as the private sector. Local government decreased by 30 jobs for the largest public-sector loss. Leisure and hospitality decreased by 20, as did mining and logging; the two industries tied for largest private-sector loss. Over the month, total employment rose by 20, largely from gains in local government education. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 1.1 percentage points in October to 7.4 percent. The raw rate dropped 0.6 percentage point in October to 5.1 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 100 over the year. The loss came from the private sector as total employment in the public sector went unchanged. Leisure and hospitality shed the most jobs, down 30. Total employment decreased by 50 in October. Seasonal losses appeared in federal government (-40 jobs) and in leisure and hospitality (-20). Local government added 20 jobs for the month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.6 percentage point over the month to 6.3 percent. The raw rate was virtually unchanged, down 0.1 percentage point to 4.8 percent.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 90 over the year. The private sector slid by 50 while the public sector slid by 40. Local government (-150), leisure and hospitality (-60), and education and health services (-60) accounted for the largest losses. Retail trade gained 120 and state government gained 80 to help counter the losses. Over the month, total employment increased by 150 jobs, largely from gains in local government and in transportation, warehousing, and utilities. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.6 percentage point over the month to 5.2 percent. The raw rate dropped 0.6 percentage point for the month to 3.9 percent.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 500 over the year. The private sector dropped by 320 while the public sector dropped by 180. Local government led losses, down 160. Leisure and hospitality fell by 140 jobs. Construction and financial activities were the only two industries to see gains, up 50 jobs and 20 jobs respectively. Total employment rose by 140 over the month as local government tacked on 200 jobs, primarily in education. The private sector was virtually unchanged in October with small losses canceling small gains throughout. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.7 percentage point to 6.2 percent in October. The raw rate decreased 0.4 percentage point in October to 5.5 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 30 from October 2019 to October 2020. The largest loss occurred in the public sector: local government, down 30 jobs. Total nonfarm employment dropped by 90 over the month as seasonal losses occurred in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 1.0 percentage point for the month to 6.6 percent. The raw rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent in October.

For info on Unemployment Insurance benefits: [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19](https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19)

For more data and analysis related to COVID-19: Qualityinfo.org/covid-19

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, December 22 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Tuesday, December 15.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	--Change From--	
				Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,481	7,117	7,256	364	225
Unemployed	423	440	249	-17	174
Unemployment rate	5.7%	6.2%	3.4%	-0.5	2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.6%	7.5%	4.1%	-0.9	2.5
Employed	7,058	6,677	7,007	381	51
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,420	5,490	5,620	-70	-200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,300	5,370	5,500	-70	-200
Total private	4,310	4,330	4,440	-20	-130
Mining, logging, and construction	300	300	300	0	0
Mining and logging	20	20	30	0	-10
Construction	280	280	270	0	10
Manufacturing	590	600	560	-10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,140	1,130	1,150	10	-10
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	820	810	830	10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	240	0	0
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	350	340	360	10	-10
Education and health services	960	960	970	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	590	620	660	-30	-70
Other services	160	160	220	0	-60
Government	1,110	1,160	1,180	-50	-70
Federal government	210	240	200	-30	10
State government	210	220	200	-10	10
Local government	690	700	780	-10	-90

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.

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	--Change From--	
				Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,301	3,176	3,181	125	120
Unemployed	168	180	127	-12	41
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.7%	4.0%	-0.6	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.4%	8.5%	5.9%	-1.1	1.5
Employed	3,133	2,996	3,054	137	79
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,450	2,430	2,520	20	-70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,360	2,300	2,430	60	-70
Total private	1,350	1,340	1,390	10	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	210	200	240	10	-30
Mining and logging	130	130	150	0	-20
Construction	80	70	90	10	-10
Manufacturing	110	100	110	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	330	320	0	10
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	250	250	240	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	50	40	40	10	10
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	110	110	110	0	0
Education and health services	200	200	210	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	220	240	240	-20	-20
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,100	1,090	1,130	10	-30
Federal government	310	340	320	-30	-10
State government	140	150	130	-10	10
Local government	650	600	680	50	-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.

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,700	3,543	3,584	157	116
Unemployed	176	173	111	3	65
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.9%	3.1%	-0.1	1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.3%	6.9%	4.1%	-0.6	2.2
Employed	3,524	3,370	3,473	154	51
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,340	2,390	2,440	-50	-100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,290	2,300	2,390	-10	-100
Total private	1,280	1,310	1,380	-30	-100
Goods-producing	110	120	110	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	440	470	0	-30
Wholesale trade	50	50	60	0	-10
Retail trade	340	340	350	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	60	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	110	110	130	0	-20
Education and health services	210	210	230	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	280	300	310	-20	-30
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,060	1,080	1,060	-20	0
Federal government	250	290	250	-40	0
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	690	670	700	20	-10

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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.

Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,108	12,476	12,478	632	630
Unemployed	513	566	347	-53	166
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.5%	2.8%	-0.6	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	5.8%	3.6%	-0.6	1.6
Employed	12,595	11,910	12,131	685	464
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,130	11,980	12,220	150	-90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,870	11,920	11,960	-50	-90
Total private	8,710	8,600	8,760	110	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	450	460	470	-10	-20
Manufacturing	1,120	1,130	1,120	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,120	3,010	2,970	110	150
Wholesale trade	520	510	550	10	-30
Retail trade	2,120	2,100	2,000	20	120
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	480	400	420	80	60
Information	160	160	190	0	-30
Financial activities	280	280	300	0	-20
Professional and business services	430	410	450	20	-20
Education and health services	1,690	1,680	1,750	10	-60
Leisure and hospitality	1,100	1,110	1,160	-10	-60
Other services	360	360	350	0	10
Government	3,420	3,380	3,460	40	-40
Federal government	250	300	220	-50	30
State government	1,230	1,230	1,150	0	80
Local government	1,940	1,850	2,090	90	-150

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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.

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,300	11,612	11,981	688	319
Unemployed	671	690	407	-19	264
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.9%	3.4%	-0.4	2.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	6.9%	4.1%	-0.7	2.1
Employed	11,629	10,922	11,574	707	55
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,270	10,130	10,770	140	-500
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,100</i>	<i>10,210</i>	<i>10,590</i>	<i>-110</i>	<i>-490</i>
Total private	7,850	7,840	8,170	10	-320
Mining, logging, and construction	620	630	570	-10	50
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Construction	580	590	530	-10	50
Manufacturing	1,260	1,270	1,290	-10	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,170	2,160	2,250	10	-80
Wholesale trade	260	250	260	10	0
Retail trade	1,470	1,460	1,510	10	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	440	450	480	-10	-40
Information	90	100	90	-10	0
Financial activities	330	330	310	0	20
Professional and business services	520	530	560	-10	-40
Education and health services	1,680	1,660	1,740	20	-60
Leisure and hospitality	910	900	1,050	10	-140
Other services	270	260	310	10	-40
Government	2,420	2,290	2,600	130	-180
Federal government	250	310	250	-60	0
State government	340	350	360	-10	-20
Local government	1,830	1,630	1,990	200	-160

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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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,555	3,477	3,378	78	177
Unemployed	178	173	124	5	54
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.0%	3.7%	0.0	1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.6%	7.6%	5.1%	-1.0	1.5
Employed	3,377	3,304	3,254	73	123
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,610	2,700	2,640	-90	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,530	2,500	2,560	30	-30
Total private	1,940	2,020	1,940	-80	0
Mining, logging, and construction	260	270	250	-10	10
Mining and logging	80	80	80	0	0
Construction	180	190	170	-10	10
Manufacturing	140	160	140	-20	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	480	470	-10	0
Wholesale and retail trade	380	380	380	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	100	90	-10	0
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	130	130	130	0	0
Professional and business services	130	130	120	0	10
Education and health services	400	400	410	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	280	320	290	-40	-10
Other services	110	110	110	0	0
Government	670	680	700	-10	-30
Federal government	80	100	90	-20	-10
State government	100	110	90	-10	10
Local government	490	470	520	20	-30

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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.

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.

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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 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.

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. For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: 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.