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## **Employment in Eastern Oregon: April 2018**

### **Light Spring Growth Beginning to Show**

Preliminary estimates for April show an uptick in the raw unemployment rate in five Eastern Oregon counties over the year. Harney County (+0.4 percentage point) saw the largest increase while Union and Wallowa (+0.1 percentage point) saw the smallest increase. Grant County saw the raw unemployment rate decrease 0.2 percentage point from April 2017 to April 2018. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went unchanged in Union County. This measure of unemployment rose 0.2 percentage point in Baker, Grant, Harney, and Malheur counties and 0.3 percentage point in Wallowa.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 since April 2017. The private sector added 100 jobs while the public sector dropped 50. Private education and health services had 60 more jobs in April 2018 and state government had 60 fewer compared with April 2017. Construction (+30) was a private-sector bright spot for the county with the second largest gain over the year. Over the month, total nonfarm employment gained 70 with construction, retail trade, and leisure and hospitality adding 20 jobs apiece. Baker's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged for the month at 5.6 percent. The raw rate fell 1.1 percentage points to reach 5.6 percent as well.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment was unchanged over the year. The private sector added 10 jobs while the public sector shed 10. Over the month, nonfarm employment added 70 jobs. Gains were small and seen in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was virtually unchanged from March to April at 7.2 percent. The raw rate fell 1.9 percentage points to reach 8.1 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 30 over the year. The private sector added 90 jobs while the public sector dropped 60. The reclassification of home care workers from public to private education and health services was the main driver of state government losses and private education and health services gains. Moving into the new month, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 jobs even as government employment dropped 30. Private-sector gains came mainly in leisure and hospitality, and the goods producing industry. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 6.3 percent. The raw rate fell 1.1 percentage points to reach 6.6 percent.

Nonfarm payroll employment in Malheur County fell by 410 jobs over the year. Losses were seen across the board in both public and private industries. Wholesale trade (-120) showed the largest loss in the private sector. State and local government saw similar losses in the public sector, down 140 jobs and 120 jobs, respectively. The loss in state government was driven by the home care worker reclassification. Manufacturing gained 70 jobs over the year as did mining, logging, and construction. Over the month, growth was spread across a few industries as nonfarm payroll employment grew by 50 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was virtually unchanged for the month at 4.6 percent. The raw rate fell 0.7 percentage point to 4.1 percent.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 90 jobs over the year. Growth in the private sector accounted for the overall gain. Education and health services (+130) led gains in private employment, driven by the addition of home care workers. Leisure and hospitality (+60) followed suit with the opening of new eateries. State government (-140) saw the home care worker switch add to losses. Over the month, nonfarm employment picked up by 80 jobs with light gains in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was virtually unchanged at 5.3 percent for the month. The raw rate fell 0.8 percentage point to 5.2 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment slipped by 40 from April 2017 to April 2018. The private sector added jobs while the public sector saw a decrease. A gain of 80 in education and health services led private-sector growth as state government decreased by 80. Over the month, total nonfarm employment gained 80 jobs. Leisure and hospitality (+30) led growth while small gains occurred in four other industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged for the month at 5.9 percent. The raw rate fell 1.8 percentage points to 7.1 percent.

For more on the home care worker reclassification, see the notes on the last page of this release.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, June 19 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Tuesday, June 12.

**BAKER COUNTY CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT**

	Change From				
	Apr. 2018	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017
<b>Labor Force Status (Household Data)</b>					
Civilian labor force	6,945	6,987	6,974	-42	-29
Unemployed	392	469	375	-77	17
Unemployment rate	5.6	6.7	5.4	-1.1	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6	5.6	5.4	0.0	0.2
Employed	6,553	6,518	6,599	35	-46
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	5,330	5,260	5,280	70	50
Total private	4,200	4,140	4,100	60	100
Mining and logging	50	50	30	0	20
Construction	250	230	220	20	30
Manufacturing	540	540	540	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,060	1,040	1,100	20	-40
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	770	750	810	20	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	210	210	210	0	0
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	180	180	160	0	20
Professional and business services	300	290	310	10	-10
Education and health services	940	950	880	-10	60
Leisure and hospitality	580	560	580	20	0
Other services	250	250	230	0	20
Government	1,130	1,120	1,180	10	-50
Federal government	180	170	190	10	-10
State government	200	200	260	0	-60
Local government	750	750	730	0	20
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

The most recent month is preliminary; the prior month is revised.

Labor Force Status: Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Employed includes nonfarm payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants. Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

	Change From				
	Apr. 2018	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017
<b>Labor Force Status (Household Data)</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,025	3,054	3,074	-29	-49
Unemployed	245	304	254	-59	-9
Unemployment rate	8.1	10.0	8.3	-1.9	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.2	7.3	7.0	-0.1	0.2
Employed	2,780	2,750	2,820	30	-40
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	2,250	2,180	2,250	70	0
Total private	1,250	1,210	1,240	40	10
Mining and logging	80	90	70	-10	10
Construction	60	60	60	0	0
Manufacturing	130	120	130	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	300	290	310	10	-10
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	220	220	240	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	40	40	10	10
Information	50	40	50	10	0
Financial activities	60	60	70	0	-10
Professional and business services	110	110	110	0	0
Education and health services	210	200	190	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	180	170	180	10	0
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,000	970	1,010	30	-10
Federal government	220	210	230	10	-10
State government	110	110	140	0	-30
Local government	670	650	640	20	30
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

The most recent month is preliminary; the prior month is revised.

Labor Force Status: Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Employed includes nonfarm payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants. Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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				
	Apr. 2018	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017
<b>Labor Force Status (Household Data)</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,435	3,425	3,396	10	39
Unemployed	225	264	211	-39	14
Unemployment rate	6.6	7.7	6.2	-1.1	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.3	6.3	6.1	0.0	0.2
Employed	3,210	3,161	3,185	49	25
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	2,240	2,200	2,210	40	30
Total private	1,260	1,190	1,170	70	90
Goods producing	110	90	110	20	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	430	410	10	30
Wholesale trade	60	60	60	0	0
Retail trade	330	320	300	10	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	80	70	90	10	-10
Education and health services	240	240	180	0	60
Leisure and hospitality	250	220	250	30	0
Other services	60	60	50	0	10
Government	980	1,010	1,040	-30	-60
Federal government	180	190	200	-10	-20
State government	100	100	140	0	-40
Local government	700	720	700	-20	0
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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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.

**MALHEUR COUNTY CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT**

	Change From				
	Apr. 2018	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017
<b>Labor Force Status (Household Data)</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,450	12,264	12,765	186	-315
Unemployed	510	587	501	-77	9
Unemployment rate	4.1	4.8	3.9	-0.7	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6	4.5	4.4	0.1	0.2
Employed	11,940	11,677	12,264	263	-324
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	11,810	11,760	12,220	50	-410
Total private	8,590	8,520	8,730	70	-140
Mining, logging, and construction	460	430	390	30	70
Manufacturing	1,140	1,130	1,070	10	70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,840	2,850	3,040	-10	-200
Wholesale trade	600	640	720	-40	-120
Retail trade	1,860	1,830	1,910	30	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	410	0	-30
Information	190	190	200	0	-10
Financial activities	290	300	310	-10	-20
Professional and business services	440	400	490	40	-50
Education and health services	1,680	1,670	1,700	10	-20
Leisure and hospitality	1,230	1,230	1,190	0	40
Other services	320	320	340	0	-20
Government	3,220	3,240	3,490	-20	-270
Federal government	190	190	200	0	-10
State government	1,130	1,130	1,270	0	-140
Local government	1,900	1,920	2,020	-20	-120
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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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.

## UNION COUNTY CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

	Change From				
	Apr. 2018	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017
<b>Labor Force Status (Household Data)</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,009	12,094	11,985	-85	24
Unemployed	624	720	612	-96	12
Unemployment rate	5.2	6.0	5.1	-0.8	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3	5.4	5.3	-0.1	0.0
Employed	11,385	11,374	11,373	11	12
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	10,360	10,280	10,270	80	90
Total private	7,870	7,790	7,680	80	190
Mining and logging	30	40	30	-10	0
Construction	420	400	440	20	-20
Manufacturing	1,350	1,340	1,320	10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,140	2,120	2,130	20	10
Wholesale trade	230	230	230	0	0
Retail trade	1,380	1,370	1,420	10	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	530	520	480	10	50
Information	110	100	110	10	0
Financial activities	310	310	310	0	0
Professional and business services	430	410	460	20	-30
Education and health services	1,750	1,750	1,620	0	130
Leisure and hospitality	1,050	1,040	990	10	60
Other services	280	280	270	0	10
Government	2,490	2,490	2,590	0	-100
Federal government	210	190	200	20	10
State government	330	330	470	0	-140
Local government	1,950	1,970	1,920	-20	30
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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## WALLOWA COUNTY CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

	Change From				
	Apr. 2018	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2017
<b>Labor Force Status (Household Data)</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,204	3,194	3,254	10	-50
Unemployed	228	283	228	-55	0
Unemployment rate	7.1	8.9	7.0	-1.8	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.9	5.9	5.6	0.0	0.3
Employed	2,976	2,911	3,026	65	-50
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)</b>					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	2,360	2,280	2,400	80	-40
Total private	1,740	1,670	1,700	70	40
Mining and logging	40	40	50	0	-10
Construction	170	160	170	10	0
Manufacturing	140	140	140	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	420	450	10	-20
Wholesale and retail trade	340	340	350	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	80	100	10	-10
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	130	130	130	0	0
Professional and business services	130	110	130	20	0
Education and health services	370	370	290	0	80
Leisure and hospitality	210	180	220	30	-10
Other services	100	100	100	0	0
Government	620	610	700	10	-80
Federal government	70	60	80	10	-10
State government	60	60	140	0	-80
Local government	490	490	480	0	10
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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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.



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.

**Note on Home Care Workers:**

Effective January 2018, Oregon home care workers who receive payments through the Department of Human Services are now counted in private education and health services instead of state government. This change affects the classification of approximately 17,000 home care workers in Oregon. The change was due to legislative action clarifying that for purposes of workforce and labor market information, home care workers are not employees of state government. The reclassification affects private sector and government monthly change figures for January 2018 and will affect over-the-year change figures through December 2018. It does not affect total payroll employment levels.

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For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or 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.