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Employment in Eastern Oregon: December 2018

Over-the-year Nonfarm Employment: Three Up, One Down

Preliminary estimates for December show the raw unemployment rate increased in four Eastern Oregon counties over the year. Grant and Wallowa saw an increase of 0.9 percentage point while Malheur and Union saw an increase of 0.6 percentage point. Baker County's raw rate decreased 0.3 percentage point while Harney County's rate decreased 0.1 percentage point. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased as well in four counties. Grant County (+0.8 percentage point) was on the high end of the increase while Union County (+0.4 percentage point) was on the low end. Baker County's seasonally adjusted rate decreased 0.3 percentage point over the year while Harney County's seasonally adjusted rate fell 0.6 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment gained ground in three counties over the year, went unchanged in two counties, and decreased slightly in one county.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 100 since December 2017. The private sector gained 160 jobs while the public sector dropped 60. Private education and health services picked up 90 jobs over the year to lead gains. Professional and business services (-30) led losses in the private sector while state government (-50) led losses in the public sector. Over the month, total employment slipped by 30 with relatively small losses in a few industries. Leisure and hospitality showed the largest loss, down 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched up 0.1 percentage point in December to 5.3 percent. The raw rate rose 0.4 percentage point to 5.5 percent.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment was flat over the year. The private sector added 20 jobs while the public sector dropped 20. The big news came from leisure and hospitality, which rose by 20 to lead gains. Over the month, nonfarm employment scaled back by 40 as more seasonal losses came in federal government, and leisure and hospitality. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage point in December to reach 7.4 percent. The raw rate jumped 1.8 percentage points to 8.6 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 over the year. The private sector added 70 jobs while the public sector dropped 30. Education and health services led growth, up 30 jobs. State government led losses, down 30 jobs. Moving into the new month, nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 60 with more seasonal shedding in a few industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage point over the month to 6.2 percent. The raw rate increased 1.2 percentage points to 7.0 percent.

Nonfarm payroll employment in Malheur County grew by 180 over the year. The private sector gained 110 jobs while the public sector gained 70. On the private side, education and health services (+130) showed the predominant growth. On the public side, local government added 180 jobs while state government dropped 90. Nonfarm employment fell by 170 over the month, with large seasonal cuts in trade, transportation, and utilities, as well as smaller cuts in a few other industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.9 percent. The raw rate rose 0.9 percentage point to reach 5.2 percent.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment was unchanged over the year. The private sector added 90 jobs, but the public sector dropped 90 to cancel the gain. Education and health services led gains, increasing by 100. Leisure and hospitality rose by 70 for the second largest gain. Manufacturing and state government both saw a shift in the opposite direction with losses of 130 and 120, respectively. Over the month, nonfarm employment dipped by 20. December saw gains and losses in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage point to 5.6 percent in December. The raw rate increased 0.5 percentage point to 5.9 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment dipped by 10 from December 2017 to December 2018. The private sector picked up 60 jobs while the public sector shed 70. A gain of 70 in education and health services led growth. State government led losses, down 50. Over the month, total nonfarm employment fell by 90 with more seasonal losses in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched up 0.1 percentage point for the month to 6.2 percent. The raw rate increased 0.6 percentage point to 7.1 percent.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, March 12 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Tuesday, March 5.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,932	7,008	7,053	-76	-121
Unemployed	382	355	407	27	-25
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.1%	5.8%	0.4	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	5.2%	5.6%	0.1	-0.3
Employed	6,550	6,653	6,646	-103	-96
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,450	5,480	5,350	-30	100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,450	5,440	5,350	10	100
Total private	4,320	4,330	4,160	-10	160
Mining, logging, and construction	310	320	310	-10	0
Mining and logging	30	30	50	0	-20
Construction	280	290	260	-10	20
Manufacturing	560	560	520	0	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,140	1,140	1,100	0	40
Wholesale trade	70	70	80	0	-10
Retail trade	830	840	800	-10	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	230	220	10	20
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	190	180	190	10	0
Professional and business services	270	270	300	0	-30
Education and health services	990	980	900	10	90
Leisure and hospitality	590	610	560	-20	30
Other services	220	220	230	0	-10
Government	1,130	1,150	1,190	-20	-60
Federal government	180	190	180	-10	0
State government	210	210	260	0	-50
Local government	740	750	750	-10	-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.

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,050	3,076	3,098	-26	-48
Unemployed	263	209	239	54	24
Unemployment rate	8.6%	6.8%	7.7%	1.8	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7.4%</i>	<i>7.1%</i>	<i>6.6%</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.8</i>
Employed	2,787	2,867	2,859	-80	-72
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,270	2,310	2,270	-40	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>2,310</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>0</i>
Total private	1,300	1,300	1,280	0	20
Mining, logging, and construction	190	190	190	0	0
Mining and logging	120	120	120	0	0
Construction	70	70	70	0	0
Manufacturing	120	120	130	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	310	310	10	10
Wholesale trade	20	20	30	0	-10
Retail trade	240	240	230	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	50	50	10	10
Information	50	40	50	10	0
Financial activities	60	60	70	0	-10
Professional and business services	100	100	100	0	0
Education and health services	190	190	180	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	200	220	180	-20	20
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	970	1,010	990	-40	-20
Federal government	190	230	200	-40	-10
State government	130	130	140	0	-10
Local government	650	650	650	0	0

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--				
	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,349	3,379	3,369	-30	-20
Unemployed	233	197	238	36	-5
Unemployment rate	7.0%	5.8%	7.1%	1.2	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	5.9%	6.8%	0.3	-0.6
Employed	3,116	3,182	3,131	-66	-15
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,240	2,300	2,200	-60	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,290	2,300	2,250	-10	40
Total private	1,230	1,280	1,160	-50	70
Goods-producing	110	130	110	-20	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	440	430	-10	0
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	330	340	330	-10	0
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	70	70	60	0	10
Education and health services	220	220	190	0	30
Leisure and hospitality	250	270	230	-20	20
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	1,010	1,020	1,040	-10	-30
Federal government	200	210	190	-10	10
State government	120	120	150	0	-30
Local government	690	690	700	0	-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

	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017	--Change From--	
				Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,296	12,537	12,417	-241	-121
Unemployed	634	543	572	91	62
Unemployment rate	5.2%	4.3%	4.6%	0.9	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	4.7%	4.3%	0.2	0.6
Employed	11,662	11,994	11,845	-332	-183
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,020	12,190	11,840	-170	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,930	11,960	11,750	-30	180
Total private	8,530	8,680	8,420	-150	110
Mining, logging, and construction	440	460	440	-20	0
Manufacturing	1,060	1,040	1,100	20	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,880	3,000	2,850	-120	30
Wholesale trade	560	600	540	-40	20
Retail trade	1,910	1,930	1,900	-20	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	410	470	410	-60	0
Information	190	190	200	0	-10
Financial activities	320	320	300	0	20
Professional and business services	370	390	410	-20	-40
Education and health services	1,730	1,740	1,600	-10	130
Leisure and hospitality	1,220	1,220	1,200	0	20
Other services	320	320	320	0	0
Government	3,490	3,510	3,420	-20	70
Federal government	180	190	200	-10	-20
State government	1,170	1,170	1,260	0	-90
Local government	2,140	2,150	1,960	-10	180

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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--				
	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,890	11,949	12,010	-59	-120
Unemployed	699	650	638	49	61
Unemployment rate	5.9%	5.4%	5.3%	0.5	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6%	5.4%	5.2%	0.2	0.4
Employed	11,191	11,299	11,372	-108	-181
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,380	10,400	10,380	-20	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,290</i>	<i>10,260</i>	<i>10,290</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>0</i>
Total private	7,910	7,900	7,820	10	90
Mining, logging, and construction	480	510	490	-30	-10
Mining and logging	50	50	50	0	0
Construction	430	460	440	-30	-10
Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,330	0	-130
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,240	2,240	2,190	0	50
Wholesale trade	220	220	230	0	-10
Retail trade	1,480	1,490	1,440	-10	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	540	530	520	10	20
Information	110	110	110	0	0
Financial activities	310	310	320	0	-10
Professional and business services	440	450	420	-10	20
Education and health services	1,750	1,730	1,650	20	100
Leisure and hospitality	1,090	1,060	1,020	30	70
Other services	290	290	290	0	0
Government	2,470	2,500	2,560	-30	-90
Federal government	180	190	180	-10	0
State government	350	350	470	0	-120
Local government	1,940	1,960	1,910	-20	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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,171	3,244	3,241	-73	-70
Unemployed	226	212	202	14	24
Unemployment rate	7.1%	6.5%	6.2%	0.6	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	6.1%	5.5%	0.1	0.7
Employed	2,945	3,032	3,039	-87	-94
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,370	2,460	2,380	-90	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,490	2,500	2,500	-10	-10
Total private	1,750	1,800	1,690	-50	60
Mining, logging, and construction	230	240	250	-10	-20
Mining and logging	70	70	80	0	-10
Construction	160	170	170	-10	-10
Manufacturing	140	140	150	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	460	450	0	10
Wholesale and retail trade	370	370	360	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	90	0	0
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	150	150	130	0	20
Professional and business services	100	110	100	-10	0
Education and health services	360	360	290	0	70
Leisure and hospitality	200	220	200	-20	0
Other services	90	100	100	-10	-10
Government	620	660	690	-40	-70
Federal government	70	80	70	-10	0
State government	80	80	130	0	-50
Local government	470	500	490	-30	-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.

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.

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.