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CONTACT INFORMATION:
Chris Rich, Regional Economist
Christopher.M.Rich@oregon.gov
(541) 963-7111 ext. 226

Employment in Eastern Oregon: February 2019

Grant and Harney Fall More in Line With Seasonal Trend

Eastern Oregon counties saw raw unemployment rates fall lower over the month as upward pressure from the partial federal shutdown in January backed off. Grant and Harney counties saw their raw rate drop roughly 3.0 percentage points. The raw unemployment rate for each of the two counties in February fell more in line with seasonal expectations of the past few years.

Estimates for February show the raw unemployment rate increased in three Eastern Oregon counties over the year. Grant County's raw rate rose the most with an increase of 0.9 percentage point. Two counties saw the raw rate decrease as Baker County led the charge, down 0.5 percentage point. Wallowa County's raw rate was unchanged over the year at 9.3 percent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in all six Eastern Oregon counties. Grant County (+1.7 percentage points) was on the high end of the increase while Baker County (+0.1 percentage point) was on the low end.

Total nonfarm employment gained ground in five counties over the year. Harney County's nonfarm employment remained unchanged. The civilian labor force grew by 3.3 percent in Wallowa County to reach 3,274 in February 2019. Labor force growth was 1.2 percent in Grant County, 0.6 percent in Baker County, and 0.4 percent in Union County. The labor force was virtually unchanged over the year in Malheur and Harney counties.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 100 since February 2018. The private sector added 120 jobs while the public sector dropped 20. Manufacturing shared the top spot for growth with education and health services; both industries added 40 jobs over the year. Leisure and hospitality trailed slightly with a gain of 30 jobs. Over the month, total employment picked up by 20 with gains in government employment. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked up 0.1 percentage point in February to 5.7 percent. The raw rate fell by 0.8 percentage point to 6.8 percent.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 over the year. The private sector shed 20 jobs while the public sector added 40. Local government led gains, up 20. Over the month, nonfarm employment rose by 40 primarily from gains in local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked up 0.2 percentage point in February to reach 8.7 percent. The raw rate fell 3.0 percentage points to 12.1 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment went unchanged over the year. The private sector added 10 jobs while the public sector dropped 10. Leisure and hospitality led private-sector growth while state government led public-sector growth, both up 20 jobs. Local government led losses, down 40 jobs. Moving into the new month, nonfarm payroll employment picked up by 30 with gains in government employment. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 7.1 percent. The raw rate fell 3.1 percentage points to 8.5 percent.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 30 over the year. The private sector fell by 140 jobs while the public sector gained 170. On the private side, manufacturing (-70) led losses. Wholesale trade fell by 40 jobs as did professional and business services; sizeable contributions to the overall loss. On the public side, local government added 140 jobs to lead growth. Nonfarm employment grew by 170 over the month, with large gains in local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched 0.1 percentage point lower over the month to 5.0 percent. The raw rate dropped 1.2 percentage points to 5.5 percent.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 over the year. The private sector slipped by 20 jobs as the public sector added 70. Leisure and hospitality led private-sector gains, increasing by 60. Local government led public-sector gains, up 50. Manufacturing encountered a large setback, losing 130 jobs since February 2018. Over the month, nonfarm employment grew by 150 primarily from gains in local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked up 0.1 percentage point to 6.1 percent in February. The raw rate slid 0.5 percentage point to 7.3 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 110 from February 2018 to February 2019. The private sector picked up 90 jobs while the public sector picked up 20. Growth occurred in several industries as wholesale and retail trade led the way, up 40. Over the month, total nonfarm employment ticked up by 30, mainly from gains in local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went unchanged for the month at 6.5 percent. The raw rate slipped 0.2 percentage point to 9.3 percent.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 23 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Tuesday, April 16.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2019	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,923	6,905	6,882	18	41
Unemployed	469	522	500	-53	-31
Unemployment rate	6.8%	7.6%	7.3%	-0.8	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.7%	5.6%	5.6%	0.1	0.1
Employed	6,454	6,383	6,382	71	72
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,270	5,250	5,170	20	100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,480	5,470	5,370	10	110
Total private	4,150	4,170	4,030	-20	120
Mining, logging, and construction	260	260	250	0	10
Mining and logging	30	30	30	0	0
Construction	230	230	220	0	10
Manufacturing	580	580	540	0	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,080	1,080	1,060	0	20
Wholesale trade	70	70	80	0	-10
Retail trade	780	780	760	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	230	230	220	0	10
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	260	270	290	-10	-30
Education and health services	980	990	940	-10	40
Leisure and hospitality	560	560	530	0	30
Other services	220	220	200	0	20
Government	1,120	1,080	1,140	40	-20
Federal government	180	170	170	10	10
State government	190	190	200	0	-10
Local government	750	720	770	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.

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2019	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,057	3,099	3,020	-42	37
Unemployed	370	469	339	-99	31
Unemployment rate	12.1%	15.1%	11.2%	-3.0	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	8.7%	8.5%	7.0%	0.2	1.7
Employed	2,687	2,630	2,681	57	6
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,180	2,140	2,160	40	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,350	2,300	2,320	50	30
Total private	1,190	1,200	1,210	-10	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	160	160	170	0	-10
Mining and logging	110	110	110	0	0
Construction	50	50	60	0	-10
Manufacturing	120	120	120	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	290	300	280	-10	10
Wholesale trade	20	20	20	0	0
Retail trade	230	230	220	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	50	40	-10	0
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	50	50	60	0	-10
Professional and business services	100	100	100	0	0
Education and health services	190	190	190	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	180	180	170	0	10
Other services	60	60	70	0	-10
Government	990	940	950	50	40
Federal government	200	190	190	10	10
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	670	630	650	40	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.

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2019	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,355	3,424	3,356	-69	-1
Unemployed	285	396	281	-111	4
Unemployment rate	8.5%	11.6%	8.4%	-3.1	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7.1%</i>	<i>7.1%</i>	<i>6.4%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Employed	3,070	3,028	3,075	42	-5
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,160	2,130	2,160	30	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,280</i>	<i>2,260</i>	<i>2,290</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>-10</i>
Total private	1,180	1,190	1,170	-10	10
Goods-producing	100	100	100	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	420	410	-10	0
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	320	320	310	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	50	50	-10	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	70	70	70	0	0
Education and health services	220	220	230	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	240	240	220	0	20
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	980	940	990	40	-10
Federal government	190	170	180	20	10
State government	120	110	100	10	20
Local government	670	660	710	10	-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.

Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2019	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,304	12,202	12,286	102	18
Unemployed	678	814	689	-136	-11
Unemployment rate	5.5%	6.7%	5.6%	-1.2	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.1%	4.6%	-0.1	0.4
Employed	11,626	11,388	11,597	238	29
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,850	11,680	11,820	170	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,880	11,820	11,860	60	20
Total private	8,380	8,320	8,520	60	-140
Mining, logging, and construction	430	410	440	20	-10
Manufacturing	1,030	1,020	1,100	10	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,840	2,840	2,830	0	10
Wholesale trade	500	510	540	-10	-40
Retail trade	1,910	1,890	1,880	20	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	430	440	410	-10	20
Information	190	190	190	0	0
Financial activities	310	310	310	0	0
Professional and business services	380	380	420	0	-40
Education and health services	1,700	1,680	1,720	20	-20
Leisure and hospitality	1,160	1,150	1,190	10	-30
Other services	340	340	320	0	20
Government	3,470	3,360	3,300	110	170
Federal government	180	180	160	0	20
State government	1,150	1,140	1,140	10	10
Local government	2,140	2,040	2,000	100	140

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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--				
	Feb. 2019	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,991	11,847	11,933	144	58
Unemployed	874	927	819	-53	55
Unemployment rate	7.3%	7.8%	6.9%	-0.5	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	6.0%	5.4%	0.1	0.7
Employed	11,117	10,920	11,114	197	3
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,230	10,080	10,180	150	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,330	10,300	10,280	30	50
Total private	7,700	7,670	7,720	30	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	470	470	450	0	20
Mining and logging	30	40	40	-10	-10
Construction	440	430	410	10	30
Manufacturing	1,190	1,200	1,320	-10	-130
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,110	2,120	2,090	-10	20
Wholesale trade	220	220	220	0	0
Retail trade	1,410	1,420	1,380	-10	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	480	480	490	0	-10
Information	100	100	110	0	-10
Financial activities	300	300	300	0	0
Professional and business services	430	420	410	10	20
Education and health services	1,750	1,740	1,730	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,080	1,060	1,020	20	60
Other services	270	260	290	10	-20
Government	2,530	2,410	2,460	120	70
Federal government	180	170	180	10	0
State government	360	350	340	10	20
Local government	1,990	1,890	1,940	100	50

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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--				
	Feb. 2019	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,274	3,245	3,169	29	105
Unemployed	306	307	294	-1	12
Unemployment rate	9.3%	9.5%	9.3%	-0.2	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.5%	6.5%	5.7%	0.0	0.8
Employed	2,968	2,938	2,875	30	93
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,400	2,370	2,290	30	110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,610	2,610	2,490	0	120
Total private	1,750	1,740	1,660	10	90
Mining, logging, and construction	220	220	210	0	10
Mining and logging	80	80	70	0	10
Construction	140	140	140	0	0
Manufacturing	140	140	130	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	450	410	10	50
Wholesale and retail trade	370	360	330	10	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	80	0	10
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	140	140	130	0	10
Professional and business services	110	110	110	0	0
Education and health services	380	380	360	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	190	190	190	0	0
Other services	90	90	100	0	-10
Government	650	630	630	20	20
Federal government	70	70	60	0	10
State government	80	80	70	0	10
Local government	500	480	500	20	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.

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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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.