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Employment in Eastern Oregon: March 2019

March Rates Slide in Most Eastern Oregon Counties

Estimates for March show the raw unemployment rate increased in four Eastern Oregon counties over the year. Wallowa County's raw rate rose the most with an increase of 0.8 percentage point. Two counties saw the raw rate decrease as Baker County led the charge, down 0.7 percentage point. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in five Eastern Oregon counties. Grant County (+1.1 percentage points) was on the high end of the increase while Malheur County (+0.5 percentage point) was on the low end. Baker County's seasonally adjusted rate dipped 0.1 percentage point over the year.

Total nonfarm employment gained ground in all six counties over the year. Wallowa County's nonfarm employment gained the most, up 100 jobs. The civilian labor force grew by 3.7 percent in Wallowa County to reach 3,296 in March 2019. The labor force changed little in all other Eastern Oregon counties.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 80 since March 2018. The private sector added 100 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. Other services trailed slightly with a gain of 30 jobs. Over the month, total employment picked up by 20 with construction leading the way. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage point in March to 5.5 percent. The raw rate fell by 0.5 percentage point to 6.3 percent.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 over the year. The private sector shed 10 jobs while the public sector added 30. Local government led gains, up 30. Over the month, nonfarm employment ticked up by 10 with a small gain in federal government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slipped 0.3 percentage point in March to 8.4 percent. The raw rate fell 1.4 percentage points to 10.6 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment picked up by 20 over the year. The private sector added 30 jobs while the public sector dropped 10. Leisure and hospitality led growth, up 30. Local government led losses, down 40. Moving into the new month, nonfarm employment picked up by 60 with gains in four industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.2 percentage point over the month to 6.9 percent. The raw rate fell 0.9 percentage point to 7.7 percent.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 90 over the year. The private sector fell by 50 jobs while the public sector gained 140. On the private side, losses occurred in six broad industries. Manufacturing, along with leisure and hospitality, fell by 30 to lead losses. On the public side, local government added 120 jobs to lead growth. Nonfarm employment grew by 120 over the month, with gains in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 5.0 percent. The raw rate dropped 0.4 percentage point to 5.2 percent.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 30 over the year. The private sector dropped by 50 jobs while the public sector added 80. Leisure and hospitality led private-sector gains, increasing by 50. Local government led public-sector gains, up 60. Manufacturing encountered a setback, losing 130 jobs since March 2018. Over the month, nonfarm employment grew by 90 with gains in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage point to 6.0 percent in March. The raw rate fell 0.8 percentage point to 6.5 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 100 from March 2018 to March 2019. The private sector picked up 70 jobs while the public sector picked up 30. Growth occurred in several industries as wholesale and retail trade led the way, up 40. Over the month, total nonfarm employment slipped by 10. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went unchanged for the month at 6.5 percent. The raw rate rose 0.6 percentage point to 10.0 percent.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, May 21 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Tuesday, May 14.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Mar. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,876	6,909	6,879	-33	-3
Unemployed	436	468	482	-32	-46
Unemployment rate	6.3%	6.8%	7.0%	-0.5	-0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.5%	5.6%	5.6%	-0.1	-0.1
Employed	6,440	6,441	6,397	-1	43
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,290	5,270	5,210	20	80
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,470	5,480	5,380	-10	90
Total private	4,190	4,150	4,090	40	100
Mining, logging, and construction	280	260	280	20	0
Mining and logging	30	30	40	0	-10
Construction	250	230	240	20	10
Manufacturing	590	580	550	10	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,060	1,080	1,060	-20	0
Wholesale trade	70	70	80	0	-10
Retail trade	760	780	760	-20	0
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	270	260	290	10	-20
Education and health services	980	980	940	0	40
Leisure and hospitality	570	560	550	10	20
Other services	230	220	200	10	30
Government	1,100	1,120	1,120	-20	-20
Federal government	170	180	170	-10	0
State government	190	190	200	0	-10
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--	
	Mar. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,043	3,058	3,028	-15	15
Unemployed	322	368	313	-46	9
Unemployment rate	10.6%	12.0%	10.3%	-1.4	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	8.4%	8.7%	7.3%	-0.3	1.1
Employed	2,721	2,690	2,715	31	6
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,200	2,190	2,180	10	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,350	2,360	2,330	-10	20
Total private	1,190	1,190	1,200	0	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	160	160	150	0	10
Mining and logging	110	110	100	0	10
Construction	50	50	50	0	0
Manufacturing	120	120	120	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	290	290	300	0	-10
Wholesale trade	20	20	30	0	-10
Retail trade	230	230	230	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	40	0	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	60	0	0
Government	1,010	1,000	980	10	30
Federal government	210	200	210	10	0
State government	120	120	120	0	0
Local government	680	680	650	0	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--				
	Mar. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,353	3,357	3,354	-4	-1
Unemployed	258	290	273	-32	-15
Unemployment rate	7.7%	8.6%	8.1%	-0.9	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.9%	7.1%	6.3%	-0.2	0.6
Employed	3,095	3,067	3,081	28	14
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,220	2,160	2,200	60	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,290	2,280	2,270	10	20
Total private	1,230	1,180	1,200	50	30
Goods-producing	100	100	100	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	410	410	0	0
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	320	320	310	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	90	70	90	20	0
Education and health services	230	220	230	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	260	240	230	20	30
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	990	980	1,000	10	-10
Federal government	200	190	190	10	10
State government	120	120	100	0	20
Local government	670	670	710	0	-40

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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--	
	Mar. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,497	12,287	12,418	210	79
Unemployed	651	682	609	-31	42
Unemployment rate	5.2%	5.6%	4.9%	-0.4	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Employed	11,846	11,605	11,809	241	37
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,960	11,840	11,870	120	90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>11,920</i>	<i>11,870</i>	<i>11,840</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>80</i>
Total private	8,470	8,390	8,520	80	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	430	430	440	0	-10
Manufacturing	1,050	1,030	1,080	20	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,880	2,850	2,860	30	20
Wholesale trade	520	510	540	10	-20
Retail trade	1,930	1,910	1,910	20	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	430	430	410	0	20
Information	190	190	180	0	10
Financial activities	320	310	310	10	10
Professional and business services	380	380	400	0	-20
Education and health services	1,700	1,700	1,720	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	1,180	1,160	1,210	20	-30
Other services	340	340	320	0	20
Government	3,490	3,450	3,350	40	140
Federal government	190	180	180	10	10
State government	1,150	1,150	1,140	0	10
Local government	2,150	2,120	2,030	30	120

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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--				
	Mar. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,910	11,978	11,916	-68	-6
Unemployed	775	878	739	-103	36
Unemployment rate	6.5%	7.3%	6.2%	-0.8	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.0%	6.1%	5.4%	-0.1	0.6
Employed	11,135	11,100	11,177	35	-42
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,300	10,210	10,270	90	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,340	10,310	10,310	30	30
Total private	7,750	7,680	7,800	70	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	500	470	470	30	30
Mining and logging	30	30	30	0	0
Construction	470	440	440	30	30
Manufacturing	1,200	1,190	1,330	10	-130
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,110	2,100	2,080	10	30
Wholesale trade	220	220	220	0	0
Retail trade	1,410	1,400	1,380	10	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	480	480	480	0	0
Information	90	90	110	0	-20
Financial activities	300	300	300	0	0
Professional and business services	440	430	420	10	20
Education and health services	1,750	1,750	1,760	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	1,090	1,080	1,040	10	50
Other services	270	270	290	0	-20
Government	2,550	2,530	2,470	20	80
Federal government	190	180	190	10	0
State government	360	360	340	0	20
Local government	2,000	1,990	1,940	10	60

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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--				
	Mar. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,296	3,274	3,176	22	120
Unemployed	328	307	293	21	35
Unemployment rate	10.0%	9.4%	9.2%	0.6	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.5%	6.5%	5.9%	0.0	0.6
Employed	2,968	2,967	2,883	1	85
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,390	2,400	2,290	-10	100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,610</i>	<i>2,610</i>	<i>2,500</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>110</i>
Total private	1,740	1,750	1,670	-10	70
Mining, logging, and construction	210	220	200	-10	10
Mining and logging	60	80	50	-20	10
Construction	150	140	150	10	0
Manufacturing	140	140	140	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	460	410	0	50
Wholesale and retail trade	370	370	330	0	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	120	110	110	10	10
Education and health services	370	380	370	-10	0
Leisure and hospitality	190	190	190	0	0
Other services	90	90	100	0	-10
Government	650	650	620	0	30
Federal government	70	70	60	0	10
State government	90	80	70	10	20
Local government	490	500	490	-10	0

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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.

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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.