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Employment in Eastern Oregon: December 2019

Cooling Labor Force Tightening Labor Supply

Estimates for December reveal the raw unemployment rate fell in all Eastern Oregon counties over the year. The largest decrease came in Grant County where the raw rate fell 2.8 percentage points to hit 6.2 percent. The smallest decrease came in Baker County as the rate dropped 1.8 percentage points to hit 3.9 percent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased as well in all Eastern Oregon counties. Harney County saw the largest decrease, dropping 1.6 percentage points to 4.9 percent. Wallowa (-0.5 percentage point) saw the smallest decrease over the year, dropping to 5.9 percent.

The civilian labor force decreased over the year by a combined 630 in the six counties, comparing December 2018 to December 2019. Meanwhile, the total number of employed increased by a combined 262. Malheur County saw the largest decrease in the labor force (-219) while adding just 27 to the number of employed. Harney County saw the smallest drop in the labor force (-14) while adding 75 to the number of employed. While the labor force slipped over the year, the trend for the past few years has been stagnation. This overall cooling is likely tied to aging populations and migration patterns. Correspondingly, employment growth appears hampered by a tightening labor supply.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 70 since December 2018. The private sector dropped 60 jobs while the public sector dipped by 10. Retail trade and manufacturing tied for the largest decrease, each down 40 jobs. Over the month, total employment dropped by 80. The private sector scaled back by 60 jobs in December with leisure and hospitality (-30) cutting the most. Other seasonal industries cut back as well. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage point in December to 4.7 percent. The raw rate also dropped 0.3 percentage point to 3.9 percent.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 over the year. The public sector accounted for the overall growth with gains in local and federal government. Local government picked up the most, adding 30. Losses outweighed gains in the private sector. Over the month, nonfarm employment dropped by 60 with the largest seasonal losses in federal government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage point in December to 6.6 percent. The raw rate increased 0.5 percentage point to 6.2 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 70 over the year. The private sector added 80 jobs while the public sector slipped by 10. The largest gains came in retail trade and in professional

and business services; both industries added 20 jobs. The goods-producing industry (-10) was the only private-sector industry to see a loss. Moving into the new month, nonfarm employment decreased by 50 jobs. The federal government (-20) led decreases. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slipped 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.9 percent. The raw rate jumped 1.1 percentage points to 4.7 percent.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 90 over the year. The private sector added 40 jobs while the public sector added 50. Strong growth occurred in manufacturing (+90) while transportation, warehousing, and utilities saw a large decrease, down 80. Nonfarm employment fell by 140 jobs over the month. Movement occurred in several industries in line with typical seasonal trends. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage point over the month to 4.0 percent. The raw rate rose 0.2 percentage point to 3.3 percent.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 over the year. The private sector accounted for the gain as the public sector was unchanged. Leisure and hospitality rose by 40 jobs to capture the top spot for growth. Retail trade fell by 50 for the largest loss, a portion of which reflects a recent change of ownership and a corresponding transition of employment. Over the month, nonfarm employment scaled back by 40. Losses were typical of seasonal transitions in the county. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slipped 0.2 percentage point to 4.6 percent in December. The raw rate climbed 0.2 percentage point to 3.9 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment grew by 40 jobs from December 2018 to December 2019. The private sector added 50 jobs while the public sector dipped by 10. Wholesale and retail trade showed the most growth (+40). Manufacturing showed the largest loss, down 30. Over the month, total nonfarm employment dropped by 30 with downward movement coming from seasonal cuts. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.3 percentage point for the month to 5.9 percent. The raw rate rose 0.2 percentage point to 4.7 percent.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, March 10 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Tuesday, March 3.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,797	6,899	6,931	-102	-134
Unemployed	264	288	396	-24	-132
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.2%	5.7%	-0.3	-1.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	5.0%	5.5%	-0.3	-0.8
Employed	6,533	6,611	6,535	-78	-2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,430	5,510	5,500	-80	-70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,450	5,470	5,520	-20	-70
Total private	4,280	4,340	4,340	-60	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	300	330	290	-30	10
Mining and logging	30	40	30	-10	0
Construction	270	290	260	-20	10
Manufacturing	550	560	590	-10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,120	1,110	1,160	10	-40
Wholesale trade	70	70	80	0	-10
Retail trade	810	810	850	0	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	230	230	10	10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	300	320	300	-20	0
Education and health services	1,010	990	990	20	20
Leisure and hospitality	590	620	580	-30	10
Other services	190	190	210	0	-20
Government	1,150	1,170	1,160	-20	-10
Federal government	170	180	180	-10	-10
State government	200	200	210	0	-10
Local government	780	790	770	-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

	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018	--Change From--	
				Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,027	3,092	3,050	-65	-23
Unemployed	188	176	275	12	-87
Unemployment rate	6.2%	5.7%	9.0%	0.5	-2.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.6%	6.9%	7.8%	-0.3	-1.2
Employed	2,839	2,916	2,775	-77	64
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,300	2,360	2,290	-60	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,370	2,360	2,360	10	10
Total private	1,290	1,300	1,320	-10	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	200	210	210	-10	-10
Mining and logging	130	130	140	0	-10
Construction	70	80	70	-10	0
Manufacturing	110	110	120	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	300	320	10	-10
Wholesale trade	30	30	20	0	10
Retail trade	220	220	240	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	50	60	10	0
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	110	110	110	0	0
Education and health services	200	200	190	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	200	210	200	-10	0
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,010	1,060	970	-50	40
Federal government	210	240	190	-30	20
State government	110	110	120	0	-10
Local government	690	710	660	-20	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--				
	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,362	3,403	3,376	-41	-14
Unemployed	157	122	246	35	-89
Unemployment rate	4.7%	3.6%	7.3%	1.1	-2.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	5.1%	6.5%	-0.2	-1.6
Employed	3,205	3,281	3,130	-76	75
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,340	2,390	2,270	-50	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,400	2,400	2,330	0	70
Total private	1,330	1,350	1,250	-20	80
Goods-producing	90	100	100	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	460	420	0	40
Wholesale trade	60	60	50	0	10
Retail trade	340	340	320	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	50	0	10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	60	0	10
Professional and business services	110	110	90	0	20
Education and health services	230	230	230	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	290	300	280	-10	10
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	1,010	1,040	1,020	-30	-10
Federal government	200	220	200	-20	0
State government	110	110	110	0	0
Local government	700	710	710	-10	-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--	
	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,105	12,304	12,324	-199	-219
Unemployed	403	385	649	18	-246
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.1%	5.3%	0.2	-2.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.3%	5.0%	-0.3	-1.0
Employed	11,702	11,919	11,675	-217	27
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,980	12,120	11,890	-140	90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,940	11,910	11,850	30	90
Total private	8,500	8,600	8,460	-100	40
Mining, logging, and construction	400	410	410	-10	-10
Manufacturing	1,100	1,090	1,010	10	90
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,770	2,870	2,850	-100	-80
Wholesale trade	500	510	540	-10	-40
Retail trade	1,950	1,980	1,910	-30	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	320	380	400	-60	-80
Information	200	200	200	0	0
Financial activities	320	310	320	10	0
Professional and business services	440	440	440	0	0
Education and health services	1,680	1,690	1,700	-10	-20
Leisure and hospitality	1,230	1,230	1,190	0	40
Other services	360	360	340	0	20
Government	3,480	3,520	3,430	-40	50
Federal government	210	210	190	0	20
State government	1,170	1,190	1,160	-20	10
Local government	2,100	2,120	2,080	-20	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.

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,714	11,750	11,870	-36	-156
Unemployed	462	434	713	28	-251
Unemployment rate	3.9%	3.7%	6.0%	0.2	-2.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.8%	5.8%	-0.2	-1.2
Employed	11,252	11,316	11,157	-64	95
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,510	10,550	10,470	-40	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,450	10,430	10,410	20	40
Total private	8,050	8,070	8,010	-20	40
Mining, logging, and construction	530	560	530	-30	0
Mining and logging	30	30	40	0	-10
Construction	500	530	490	-30	10
Manufacturing	1,310	1,290	1,310	20	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,180	2,190	2,210	-10	-30
Wholesale trade	260	260	240	0	20
Retail trade	1,440	1,460	1,490	-20	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	480	470	480	10	0
Information	90	90	100	0	-10
Financial activities	300	300	310	0	-10
Professional and business services	520	530	500	-10	20
Education and health services	1,760	1,770	1,750	-10	10
Leisure and hospitality	1,060	1,040	1,020	20	40
Other services	300	300	280	0	20
Government	2,460	2,480	2,460	-20	0
Federal government	180	190	180	-10	0
State government	340	340	350	0	-10
Local government	1,940	1,950	1,930	-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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,148	3,200	3,232	-52	-84
Unemployed	149	145	236	4	-87
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.5%	7.3%	0.2	-2.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.9%	6.2%	6.4%	-0.3	-0.5
Employed	2,999	3,055	2,996	-56	3
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,500	2,530	2,460	-30	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,630	2,580	2,590	50	40
Total private	1,870	1,890	1,820	-20	50
Mining, logging, and construction	230	240	250	-10	-20
Mining and logging	70	70	90	0	-20
Construction	160	170	160	-10	0
Manufacturing	140	140	170	0	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	470	430	0	40
Wholesale and retail trade	380	380	340	0	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	90	0	0
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	190	190	160	0	30
Professional and business services	110	110	110	0	0
Education and health services	410	400	400	10	10
Leisure and hospitality	210	230	190	-20	20
Other services	90	90	90	0	0
Government	630	640	640	-10	-10
Federal government	70	80	70	-10	0
State government	80	80	80	0	0
Local government	480	480	490	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.

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.