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Employment in Eastern Oregon: May 2020

Job Loss Continues at a Slower Pace

Initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits surged in Eastern Oregon since March 15. The majority of claims have come from five industries: accommodation and food services, health care and social assistance, manufacturing, retail trade, and construction. This had a significant impact on April employment and unemployment levels. May employment estimates show that job loss continued over the month at a much slower pace.

Estimates reveal the raw unemployment rate increased substantially in all Eastern Oregon counties over the year. This was the result of large declines in employment over the last two months resulting from COVID-19 restrictions, precautionary measures, and falling consumer demand. The largest unemployment rate increase came in Union County where the raw rate vaulted 12.2 percentage points to hit 16.2 percent. The smallest increase came in Harney County as the rate hopped 4.5 percentage points to hit 9.0 percent. May seasonally adjusted unemployment rates are not currently available due to processing delays caused by large changes in unemployment in recent months. Seasonally adjusted rates for May will be available on Qualityinfo.org or by request at a later date.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment fell by 810 since May 2019. Employment fell by 120 over the month with the majority of over-the-year loss seen in April. The private sector accounted for nearly all of the loss. Leisure and hospitality took the brunt, cutting another 50 jobs in May and bringing the industry's employment to 320 below the May 2019 level. Education and health services tied for largest over-the-month loss (-50) while manufacturing took the second largest over-the-year loss (-120). Historically businesses add workers as we transition toward summer; Baker, on average since 2010, has added 220 jobs from March to May excluding 2020. The raw unemployment rate eased down 0.4 percentage point to 12.8 percent in May.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 220 over the year. The private sector saw the majority of loss with cuts coming primarily in April. Industry losses were lighter in May and overall losses were offset by additions in federal government, state government, and mining and logging. The federal government tacked on 40 jobs over the month, primarily in the Forest Service. Grant, on average since 2010, has added 130 jobs from March to May excluding 2020. The raw unemployment rate dropped 1.6 percentage points in May to 13.2 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 260 jobs over the year. This was not entirely due to COVID, as local government and the goods-producing industry saw small declines earlier in the year. The majority of COVID-related job losses came in April with only one industry showing a loss in May; however, spring hiring was largely hindered in the county. Harney, on average since 2010, has added 100 jobs from March to May excluding 2020. The raw unemployment rate slipped back 0.6 percentage point over the month to 9.0 percent.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 760 over the year. The majority of losses came in April because of COVID with the largest losses in leisure and hospitality, and in education and health services. May losses were lighter at 140 overall with education and health services (-70) shedding the most. Malheur, on average since 2010, has seen only a small uptick in employment from March to May. The raw unemployment rate inched up 0.2 percentage point for the month to 8.3 percent.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 2,200 over the year. Total nonfarm fell largely in April as a swath of firms curtailed operations and drastically downsized the workforce. The trend continued in May at a comparatively slower pace. Education and health services (-120) dropped the most over the month, primarily in health services. Leisure and hospitality dropped the second most (-110) and manufacturing (-90) was third as both industries continued to shed jobs as well. Union, on average since 2010, has added 180 jobs from March to May excluding 2020. The raw unemployment rate dropped 2.4 percentage points in May to 16.2 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 430 from May 2019 to May 2020. While the largest losses came in April, employment fell another 50 jobs in May. Firms continued to hold off on hiring for the summer season. While this doesn't appear in over-the-month changes, the lack of spring hiring does show in the deepening over-the-year changes. Leisure and hospitality took the largest hit, down 140 over the year. Local government took the second largest hit with reductions in education and in health care. Wallowa, on average since 2010, has added 220 jobs from March to May excluding 2020. The raw unemployment rate dropped 1.6 percentage points to 12.6 percent in May.

For info on Unemployment Insurance benefits: [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19](https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19)

For more data and analysis related to COVID-19: <https://Qualityinfo.org/covid-19>

Next Press Releases

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

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2019	Apr. 2020	May 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,971	7,129	7,083	-158	-112
Unemployed	890	938	287	-48	603
Unemployment rate	12.8%	13.2%	4.1%	-0.4	8.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	6,081	6,191	6,796	-110	-715
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	4,770	4,890	5,580	-120	-810
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4,700</i>	<i>4,960</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>-260</i>	<i>-800</i>
Total private	3,640	3,770	4,380	-130	-740
Mining, logging, and construction	230	230	300	0	-70
Mining and logging	20	20	30	0	-10
Construction	210	210	270	0	-60
Manufacturing	480	500	600	-20	-120
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,060	1,070	1,140	-10	-80
Wholesale trade	70	70	80	0	-10
Retail trade	750	760	820	-10	-70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	240	0	0
Information	50	50	60	0	-10
Financial activities	170	160	180	10	-10
Professional and business services	310	320	310	-10	0
Education and health services	850	900	950	-50	-100
Leisure and hospitality	320	370	640	-50	-320
Other services	170	170	200	0	-30
Government	1,130	1,120	1,200	10	-70
Federal government	190	170	200	20	-10
State government	220	210	220	10	0
Local government	720	740	780	-20	-60

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--				
	May 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2019	Apr. 2020	May 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,182	3,200	3,158	-18	24
Unemployed	421	474	180	-53	241
Unemployment rate	13.2%	14.8%	5.7%	-1.6	7.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	2,761	2,726	2,978	35	-217
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,190	2,190	2,410	0	-220
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,190</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>2,410</i>	<i>-110</i>	<i>-220</i>
Total private	1,150	1,170	1,320	-20	-170
Mining, logging, and construction	160	150	200	10	-40
Mining and logging	120	100	120	20	0
Construction	40	50	80	-10	-40
Manufacturing	100	110	110	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	300	310	310	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	220	230	230	-10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	50	50	60	0	-10
Professional and business services	120	120	120	0	0
Education and health services	180	180	200	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	140	150	220	-10	-80
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,040	1,020	1,090	20	-50
Federal government	270	230	280	40	-10
State government	120	110	130	10	-10
Local government	650	680	680	-30	-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--				
	May 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2019	Apr. 2020	May 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,487	3,501	3,594	-14	-107
Unemployed	315	335	163	-20	152
Unemployment rate	9.0%	9.6%	4.5%	-0.6	4.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	3,172	3,166	3,431	6	-259
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,150	2,150	2,410	0	-260
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,150</i>	<i>2,170</i>	<i>2,410</i>	<i>-20</i>	<i>-260</i>
Total private	1,160	1,180	1,360	-20	-200
Goods-producing	60	60	100	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	440	450	0	-10
Wholesale trade	60	60	60	0	0
Retail trade	330	330	340	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	100	130	130	-30	-30
Education and health services	210	210	230	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	210	200	320	10	-110
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	990	970	1,050	20	-60
Federal government	230	210	230	20	0
State government	120	120	100	0	20
Local government	640	640	720	0	-80

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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--				
	May 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2019	Apr. 2020	May 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,453	12,453	12,240	0	213
Unemployed	1,030	1,005	439	25	591
Unemployment rate	8.3%	8.1%	3.6%	0.2	4.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	11,423	11,448	11,801	-25	-378
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,190	11,330	11,950	-140	-760
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>11,100</i>	<i>11,240</i>	<i>11,860</i>	<i>-140</i>	<i>-760</i>
Total private	7,910	8,050	8,550	-140	-640
Mining, logging, and construction	440	440	410	0	30
Manufacturing	1,130	1,130	1,050	0	80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,720	2,750	2,810	-30	-90
Wholesale trade	450	470	460	-20	-10
Retail trade	1,950	1,960	1,980	-10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	320	320	370	0	-50
Information	180	180	190	0	-10
Financial activities	300	310	310	-10	-10
Professional and business services	410	410	500	0	-90
Education and health services	1,480	1,550	1,720	-70	-240
Leisure and hospitality	930	950	1,220	-20	-290
Other services	320	330	340	-10	-20
Government	3,280	3,280	3,400	0	-120
Federal government	200	190	210	10	-10
State government	1,200	1,180	1,170	20	30
Local government	1,880	1,910	2,020	-30	-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--				
	May 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2019	Apr. 2020	May 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,403	12,194	11,989	-791	-586
Unemployed	1,849	2,273	481	-424	1,368
Unemployment rate	16.2%	18.6%	4.0%	-2.4	12.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	9,554	9,921	11,508	-367	-1,954
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	8,520	8,950	10,720	-430	-2,200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	8,390	8,940	10,560	-550	-2,170
Total private	6,210	6,600	8,120	-390	-1,910
Mining, logging, and construction	440	420	540	20	-100
Mining and logging	30	20	30	10	0
Construction	410	400	510	10	-100
Manufacturing	650	740	1,330	-90	-680
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,000	2,050	2,190	-50	-190
Wholesale trade	250	250	250	0	0
Retail trade	1,330	1,360	1,490	-30	-160
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	420	440	450	-20	-30
Information	80	80	100	0	-20
Financial activities	270	290	300	-20	-30
Professional and business services	490	500	540	-10	-50
Education and health services	1,460	1,580	1,790	-120	-330
Leisure and hospitality	560	670	1,030	-110	-470
Other services	260	270	300	-10	-40
Government	2,310	2,350	2,600	-40	-290
Federal government	260	240	270	20	-10
State government	360	350	340	10	20
Local government	1,690	1,760	1,990	-70	-300

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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--				
	May 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2019	Apr. 2020	May 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,320	3,376	3,446	-56	-126
Unemployed	417	481	183	-64	234
Unemployment rate	12.6%	14.2%	5.3%	-1.6	7.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	2,903	2,895	3,263	8	-360
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,190	2,240	2,620	-50	-430
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,180</i>	<i>2,370</i>	<i>2,610</i>	<i>-190</i>	<i>-430</i>
Total private	1,580	1,630	1,900	-50	-320
Mining, logging, and construction	190	190	220	0	-30
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	140	140	160	0	-20
Manufacturing	120	130	160	-10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	420	430	460	-10	-40
Wholesale and retail trade	340	350	370	-10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	80	80	90	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	130	130	140	0	-10
Professional and business services	110	110	140	0	-30
Education and health services	370	390	400	-20	-30
Leisure and hospitality	130	140	270	-10	-140
Other services	100	100	100	0	0
Government	610	610	720	0	-110
Federal government	80	80	90	0	-10
State government	90	90	100	0	-10
Local government	440	440	530	0	-90

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Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

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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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To file an Unemployment Insurance claim, visit our online claims system or call our contact centers, where Employment Department staff are ready to help by phone, at 1-877-FILE-4-UI (1-877-345-3484). For coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19. For help finding jobs and training resources, 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.