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Employment in Eastern Oregon: June 2020 Counties Bounce Back Slightly with Job Gains

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 showed that job loss continued over the month at a much slower pace. June employment estimates brought a glimmer of hope with all six counties in Eastern Oregon adding jobs over the month.

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 April and May resulting from COVID-19 restrictions, precautionary measures, and falling consumer demand. While there are still significant increases in the unemployment rates from June 2019 to June 2020, the increases are smaller than they have been in the previous two months. The largest unemployment rate increase came in Grant and Wallowa counties where the raw rate rose 4.8 percentage points to hit 9.8 percent and 9.3 percent, respectively. The smallest increase came in Malheur County as the rate hopped 4.2 percentage points to hit 7.3 percent. Baker County (10.6%) and Union County (10.4%) had the highest June 2020 raw unemployment rates. June 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 June will be available on QualityInfo.org or by request at a later date.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment fell by 760 since June 2019. Employment rose by 40 over the month with the majority of over-the-year loss seen in April. The private sector accounted for most of the over-the-year loss. Leisure and hospitality added 40 jobs in June, bringing the industry's employment to 320 below the June 2019 level. Education and health services (-90) and manufacturing (-80) were second and third for largest over-the-year loss. The raw unemployment rate moved down 1.8 percentage points to 10.6 percent in June.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 270 over the year. The private sector saw the majority of loss with cuts coming primarily in April. Education and health services was the only private industry to lose jobs in June while mining and logging and construction added jobs. The federal government tacked on 90 jobs over the month, primarily in the Forest Service. The raw unemployment rate dropped 3.2 percentage points in June to 9.8 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 200 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. None of the major industries lost jobs in June. Federal government added 70 jobs in June with goods-producing and leisure and hospitality showing small gains. The raw unemployment rate dropped 1.7 percentage points over the month to 7.3 percent.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 670 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. June saw gains of 110 jobs overall with retail trade (+40), leisure and hospitality (+40), and education and health services (+30) adding the most. Local government dropped an additional 50 jobs in June bringing the over-the-year loss to 200 jobs. The raw unemployment rate decreased 1.0 percentage point for the month to 7.3 percent.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 1,610 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. June brought some bounce back, especially in manufacturing, which added 500 jobs to bring their over-the-year loss to 180, third highest in the county. Leisure and hospitality and education and health services each added 40 jobs in June bringing their over-the-year losses to 470 and 230, respectively, which kept them first and second in over-the-year losses in the county. The raw unemployment rate dropped 5.7 percentage points in June to 10.4 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 340 from June 2019 to June 2020. The largest losses came in April followed by smaller losses in May. June brought some bounce back with the addition of 210 jobs overall. Private industry was responsible for most of the gain. Leisure and hospitality led the way, adding 50 jobs over the month. Despite the gain, leisure and hospitality still fell 170 jobs below the June 2019 level to lead the county in over-the-year job losses. Local government held steady over the month, but still ranked second in over-the-year loss (-50). The raw unemployment rate dropped 3.3 percentage points to 9.3 percent in June.

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 July county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, August 25 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for July on Tuesday, August 18.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	June 2020	May 2020	June 2019	May 2020	June 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,974	6,970	7,131	4	-157
Unemployed	736	867	310	-131	426
Unemployment rate	10.6%	12.4%	4.3%	-1.8	6.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	6,238	6,103	6,821	135	-583
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	4,850	4,810	5,610	40	-760
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4,710	4,740	5,450	-30	-740
Total private	3,750	3,690	4,400	60	-650
Mining, logging, and construction	250	250	300	0	-50
Mining and logging	20	20	30	0	-10
Construction	230	230	270	0	-40
Manufacturing	510	500	590	10	-80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,080	1,070	1,150	10	-70
Wholesale trade	70	70	80	0	-10
Retail trade	770	760	830	10	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	240	0	0
Information	50	50	60	0	-10
Financial activities	160	170	160	-10	0
Professional and business services	320	310	320	10	0
Education and health services	860	850	950	10	-90
Leisure and hospitality	360	320	680	40	-320
Other services	160	170	190	-10	-30
Government	1,100	1,120	1,210	-20	-110
Federal government	220	190	220	30	0
State government	220	210	220	10	0
Local government	660	720	770	-60	-110

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--				
	June 2020	May 2020	June 2019	May 2020	June 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,264	3,158	3,324	106	-60
Unemployed	321	410	158	-89	163
Unemployment rate	9.8%	13.0%	4.8%	-3.2	5.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	2,943	2,748	3,166	195	-223
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,320	2,170	2,590	150	-270
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,150	2,170	2,410	-20	-260
Total private	1,160	1,150	1,350	10	-190
Mining, logging, and construction	180	160	200	20	-20
Mining and logging	130	120	130	10	0
Construction	50	40	70	10	-20
Manufacturing	100	100	110	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	300	300	310	0	-10
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	220	220	230	0	-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	110	0	10
Education and health services	170	180	200	-10	-30
Leisure and hospitality	140	140	250	0	-110
Other services	60	60	70	0	-10
Government	1,160	1,020	1,240	140	-80
Federal government	360	270	360	90	0
State government	150	110	170	40	-20
Local government	650	640	710	10	-60

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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--				
	June 2020	May 2020	June 2019	May 2020	June 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,574	3,475	3,597	99	-23
Unemployed	262	314	158	-52	104
Unemployment rate	7.3%	9.0%	4.4%	-1.7	2.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	3,312	3,161	3,439	151	-127
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,240	2,150	2,440	90	-200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,160</i>	<i>2,150</i>	<i>2,350</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>-190</i>
Total private	1,180	1,160	1,380	20	-200
Goods-producing	70	60	110	10	-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	100	120	0	-20
Education and health services	210	210	230	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	220	210	330	10	-110
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,060	990	1,060	70	0
Federal government	300	230	270	70	30
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	640	640	680	0	-40

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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.

Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	June 2020	May 2020	June 2019	May 2020	June 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,733	12,412	12,469	321	264
Unemployed	924	1,027	528	-103	396
Unemployment rate	7.3%	8.3%	4.2%	-1.0	3.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	11,809	11,385	11,941	424	-132
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,300	11,190	11,970	110	-670
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>11,260</i>	<i>11,100</i>	<i>11,930</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>-670</i>
Total private	8,060	7,920	8,560	140	-500
Mining, logging, and construction	450	440	430	10	20
Manufacturing	1,140	1,130	1,070	10	70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,770	2,730	2,770	40	0
Wholesale trade	450	450	450	0	0
Retail trade	2,000	1,960	1,960	40	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	320	320	360	0	-40
Information	180	180	190	0	-10
Financial activities	310	300	320	10	-10
Professional and business services	410	410	490	0	-80
Education and health services	1,510	1,480	1,700	30	-190
Leisure and hospitality	970	930	1,250	40	-280
Other services	320	320	340	0	-20
Government	3,240	3,270	3,410	-30	-170
Federal government	220	200	210	20	10
State government	1,190	1,190	1,170	0	20
Local government	1,830	1,880	2,030	-50	-200

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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.

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	June 2020	May 2020	June 2019	May 2020	June 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,492	11,343	12,077	149	-585
Unemployed	1,196	1,825	555	-629	641
Unemployment rate	10.4%	16.1%	4.6%	-5.7	5.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	10,296	9,518	11,522	778	-1,226
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,120	8,510	10,730	610	-1,610
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	8,930	8,380	10,500	550	-1,570
Total private	6,860	6,210	8,120	650	-1,260
Mining, logging, and construction	460	440	550	20	-90
Mining and logging	30	30	30	0	0
Construction	430	410	520	20	-90
Manufacturing	1,150	650	1,330	500	-180
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,030	2,000	2,180	30	-150
Wholesale trade	250	250	260	0	-10
Retail trade	1,350	1,330	1,470	20	-120
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	430	420	450	10	-20
Information	80	80	100	0	-20
Financial activities	270	270	300	0	-30
Professional and business services	500	490	550	10	-50
Education and health services	1,500	1,460	1,730	40	-230
Leisure and hospitality	600	560	1,070	40	-470
Other services	270	260	310	10	-40
Government	2,260	2,300	2,610	-40	-350
Federal government	290	260	290	30	0
State government	370	350	350	20	20
Local government	1,600	1,690	1,970	-90	-370

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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--				
	June 2020	May 2020	June 2019	May 2020	June 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,424	3,310	3,534	114	-110
Unemployed	317	416	171	-99	146
Unemployment rate	9.3%	12.6%	4.8%	-3.3	4.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	3,107	2,894	3,363	213	-256
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,400	2,190	2,740	210	-340
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,240	2,180	2,560	60	-320
Total private	1,750	1,580	2,020	170	-270
Mining, logging, and construction	220	190	240	30	-20
Mining and logging	70	50	70	20	0
Construction	150	140	170	10	-20
Manufacturing	150	120	150	30	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	450	420	480	30	-30
Wholesale and retail trade	360	340	390	20	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	80	90	10	0
Information	10	10	20	0	-10
Financial activities	160	130	160	30	0
Professional and business services	110	110	130	0	-20
Education and health services	370	370	390	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	180	130	350	50	-170
Other services	100	100	100	0	0
Government	650	610	720	40	-70
Federal government	110	80	110	30	0
State government	100	90	120	10	-20
Local government	440	440	490	0	-50

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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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The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit www.QualityInfo.org, select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

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.