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

Employment in Eastern Oregon: July 2020

Private Sector Shows Small Gains

Estimates reveal the unemployment rate increased substantially in all Eastern Oregon counties since March. This was predominately due to large declines in employment resulting from COVID-19 related restrictions, precautionary measures, and falling consumer demand. Employment levels began to pick up again in June. However, comparing July 2020 to July 2019 reveals that unemployment remains well above the previous year's mark.

The largest over-the-year unemployment rate increase came in Baker County where the raw rate leapt 5.4 percentage points to hit 9.7 percent. Union County was a close second with a raw rate that leapt 5.2 percentage points to hit 9.7 percent as well. The smallest increase came in Harney County as the rate hopped 2.6 percentage points to hit 6.9 percent. July seasonally adjusted unemployment rates are not currently available due to processing delays caused by the large changes in unemployment in recent months. Seasonally adjusted rates for July will be available on Qualityinfo.org or by request at a later date.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment fell by 410 since July 2019. Employment dropped by 400 jobs in the private sector. Leisure and hospitality took the largest hit with the industry's employment falling 160 jobs below the July 2019 level. Private-sector employment showed small gains over the month, rising by 90. Leisure and hospitality tacked on 60 jobs for the largest gain in July. Local government slid by 40 for the largest loss, primarily in education. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.8 percentage point to 9.7 percent in July.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 140 over the year. The public sector saw a slightly larger loss than the private sector. Losses occurred in several industries. Over the month, the private sector added a few jobs. However, local government dropped by 100 (primarily in education) bringing total employment down 40 jobs in July. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.9 percentage point in July to 8.9 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 190 over the year. The bulk of job loss came in the private sector with losses seen across the board. Leisure and hospitality shed the most jobs, down 60. Losses slowed in July as some firms added a few jobs, but total employment slipped by 20 over the month. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.5 percentage point over the month to 6.9 percent.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 370 over the year. All losses came in the private sector, which fell by 430. Leisure and hospitality (-260) and education and health services (-110) accounted for the bulk of the decrease. Over the month, private industry remained relatively flat with education and health services adding 60 jobs. However, local government dropped 340 jobs in July, primarily in education, lowering total nonfarm employment by 290. The raw unemployment rate inched up 0.2 percentage point for the month to 7.4 percent.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 780 over the year. More than 90 percent of the loss occurred in the private sector. Leisure and hospitality dropped the most, down 270 jobs. Two industries tied for the second largest drop: manufacturing and retail trade each shed 120 jobs. Growth was relatively flat in the private sector over the month. The public sector saw a loss in July as local government dropped 110 jobs, primarily in education. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage point in July to 9.7 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 230 from July 2019 to July 2020. All of the loss occurred in the private sector. More than half of the loss occurred in leisure and hospitality (-130), an industry which has struggled through various states of operation since the end of March. July brought some relief with total nonfarm employment rising by 50 jobs over the month. The private sector gained 90 as leisure and hospitality added 40 jobs and small gains occurred in several other industries. The public sector slipped, with local government shedding 50 jobs. The raw unemployment rate dropped 1.8 percentage points to 7.4 percent in July.

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: Qualityinfo.org/covid-19

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, September 22 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for August on Tuesday, September 15.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	--Change From--	
				June 2020	July 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,939	7,200	7,108	-261	-169
Unemployed	672	754	309	-82	363
Unemployment rate	9.7%	10.5%	4.3%	-0.8	5.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	6,267	6,446	6,799	-179	-532
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,130	5,060	5,540	70	-410
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,080</i>	<i>4,920</i>	<i>5,480</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>-400</i>
Total private	4,070	3,980	4,470	90	-400
Mining, logging, and construction	240	240	290	0	-50
Mining and logging	20	20	30	0	-10
Construction	220	220	260	0	-40
Manufacturing	500	490	600	10	-100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,090	1,090	1,150	0	-60
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	780	780	840	0	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	240	0	0
Information	50	50	60	0	-10
Financial activities	170	170	180	0	-10
Professional and business services	370	350	330	20	40
Education and health services	940	930	940	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	560	500	720	60	-160
Other services	150	160	200	-10	-50
Government	1,060	1,080	1,070	-20	-10
Federal government	240	220	230	20	10
State government	210	210	210	0	0
Local government	610	650	630	-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.

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	--Change From--	
				June 2020	July 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,157	3,322	3,264	-165	-107
Unemployed	282	325	149	-43	133
Unemployment rate	8.9%	9.8%	4.6%	-0.9	4.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	2,875	2,997	3,115	-122	-240
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,370	2,410	2,510	-40	-140
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,250</i>	<i>2,240</i>	<i>2,390</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>-140</i>
Total private	1,350	1,310	1,410	40	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	200	190	220	10	-20
Mining and logging	130	120	140	10	-10
Construction	70	70	80	0	-10
Manufacturing	100	110	110	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	310	310	0	0
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	230	220	230	10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	60	50	-10	0
Information	50	50	40	0	10
Financial activities	50	60	60	-10	-10
Professional and business services	120	120	110	0	10
Education and health services	190	190	200	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	250	220	270	30	-20
Other services	80	60	90	20	-10
Government	1,020	1,100	1,100	-80	-80
Federal government	350	330	360	20	-10
State government	130	130	170	0	-40
Local government	540	640	570	-100	-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--				
	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	June 2020	July 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,490	3,623	3,669	-133	-179
Unemployed	240	268	157	-28	83
Unemployment rate	6.9%	7.4%	4.3%	-0.5	2.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	3,250	3,355	3,512	-105	-262
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,270	2,290	2,460	-20	-190
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,180	2,200	2,360	-20	-180
Total private	1,230	1,240	1,390	-10	-160
Goods-producing	100	90	120	10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	430	430	470	0	-40
Wholesale trade	50	60	60	-10	-10
Retail trade	330	320	350	10	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	60	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	50	60	60	-10	-10
Professional and business services	130	130	140	0	-10
Education and health services	200	220	200	-20	0
Leisure and hospitality	260	250	320	10	-60
Other services	50	50	70	0	-20
Government	1,040	1,050	1,070	-10	-30
Federal government	300	300	300	0	0
State government	110	110	110	0	0
Local government	630	640	660	-10	-30

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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--				
	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	June 2020	July 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,240	12,783	12,414	-543	-174
Unemployed	906	926	569	-20	337
Unemployment rate	7.4%	7.2%	4.6%	0.2	2.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	11,334	11,857	11,845	-523	-511
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,090	11,380	11,460	-290	-370
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>11,480</i>	<i>11,340</i>	<i>11,870</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>-390</i>
Total private	8,120	8,100	8,550	20	-430
Mining, logging, and construction	420	420	430	0	-10
Manufacturing	1,080	1,090	1,050	-10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,890	2,910	2,830	-20	60
Wholesale trade	460	470	450	-10	10
Retail trade	2,060	2,070	2,010	-10	50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	370	370	370	0	0
Information	170	170	190	0	-20
Financial activities	310	310	320	0	-10
Professional and business services	380	390	460	-10	-80
Education and health services	1,580	1,520	1,690	60	-110
Leisure and hospitality	970	970	1,230	0	-260
Other services	320	320	350	0	-30
Government	2,970	3,280	2,910	-310	60
Federal government	250	220	250	30	0
State government	1,200	1,200	1,170	0	30
Local government	1,520	1,860	1,490	-340	30

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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

	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	--Change From--	
				June 2020	July 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,662	12,089	12,008	-427	-346
Unemployed	1,132	1,207	538	-75	594
Unemployment rate	9.7%	10.0%	4.5%	-0.3	5.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	10,530	10,882	11,470	-352	-940
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,670	9,730	10,450	-60	-780
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>9,780</i>	<i>9,520</i>	<i>10,570</i>	<i>260</i>	<i>-790</i>
Total private	7,450	7,410	8,160	40	-710
Mining, logging, and construction	550	530	580	20	-30
Mining and logging	30	30	40	0	-10
Construction	520	500	540	20	-20
Manufacturing	1,220	1,220	1,340	0	-120
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,050	2,050	2,200	0	-150
Wholesale trade	250	260	250	-10	0
Retail trade	1,400	1,390	1,520	10	-120
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	400	430	0	-30
Information	100	90	100	10	0
Financial activities	280	270	300	10	-20
Professional and business services	550	550	540	0	10
Education and health services	1,630	1,630	1,700	0	-70
Leisure and hospitality	800	800	1,070	0	-270
Other services	270	270	330	0	-60
Government	2,220	2,320	2,290	-100	-70
Federal government	300	290	300	10	0
State government	370	370	350	0	20
Local government	1,550	1,660	1,640	-110	-90

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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--				
	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	June 2020	July 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,442	3,579	3,644	-137	-202
Unemployed	253	328	157	-75	96
Unemployment rate	7.4%	9.2%	4.3%	-1.8	3.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	3,189	3,251	3,487	-62	-298
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,590	2,540	2,820	50	-230
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,370	2,370	2,580	0	-210
Total private	1,940	1,850	2,180	90	-240
Mining, logging, and construction	240	230	260	10	-20
Mining and logging	70	70	80	0	-10
Construction	170	160	180	10	-10
Manufacturing	160	160	160	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	460	500	10	-30
Wholesale and retail trade	380	380	400	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	80	100	10	-10
Information	10	20	20	-10	-10
Financial activities	150	140	170	10	-20
Professional and business services	120	110	130	10	-10
Education and health services	400	380	410	20	-10
Leisure and hospitality	290	250	420	40	-130
Other services	100	100	110	0	-10
Government	650	690	640	-40	10
Federal government	110	110	110	0	0
State government	120	110	120	10	0
Local government	420	470	410	-50	10

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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](http://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.