

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 22, 2020

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

## **Employment in Eastern Oregon: August 2020**

### **Unemployment Rates Easing Down**

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 and unemployment rates began to creep down. Comparing August 2020 to August 2019 reveals unemployment remains above the previous year's mark, but unemployment rates continue to ease back down.

The largest over-the-year unemployment rate increase came in Baker County where the raw rate jumped 2.9 percentage points to hit 7.0 percent. Union County was second with a raw rate increase of 2.4 percentage points to hit 6.8 percent. The smallest increase came in Harney and Wallowa counties; the raw rate rose by 1.1 percentage points to reach 5.3 percent in both counties. August 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 August will be available on Qualityinfo.org or by request at a later date.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment fell by 370 since August 2019. Employment dropped by 390 jobs in the private sector. Leisure and hospitality took the largest hit with the industry's employment falling 130 jobs below the August 2019 level. Retail trade, construction, and manufacturing each dropped by 60 jobs to tie for the second largest loss. Total employment showed some headway over the month, rising by 100. Manufacturing tacked on 30 jobs for the largest gain in August. Federal government and construction each added 20 jobs. The raw unemployment rate dropped 2.6 percentage points to 7.0 percent in August.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 130 over the year. The public sector saw a larger loss than the private sector. State government decreased by 40 jobs while local government decreased by 30 jobs. Over the month, total employment rose by 30 amid small August gains. The raw unemployment rate dropped 2.2 percentage points in August to 6.6 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 160 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. Total employment continued to gain in August, rising by 60 as small gains appeared in several industries. The raw unemployment rate dropped 1.5 percentage points over the month to 5.3 percent.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 600 over the year. The largest share of loss came from the private sector, which fell by 440. Leisure and hospitality (-250), local government (-220), and education and health services (-130) accounted for the bulk of the decrease. Over the month, total employment increased by 130 jobs with gains in several industries. The raw unemployment rate dropped 2.1 percentage points for the month to 5.3 percent.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 640 over the year. Nearly all of the loss occurred in the private sector. Leisure and hospitality dropped the most, down 260 jobs. Retail trade incurred the second largest drop, shedding 110 jobs. Growth was seen in several industries over the month as manufacturing (+40) approached pre-pandemic levels. Local government gained the most, up 70 jobs, primarily in education. The raw unemployment rate dropped 3.1 percentage points in August to 6.8 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 210 from August 2019 to August 2020. Nearly all of the loss occurred in the private sector. More than half of the loss occurred in leisure and hospitality (-110), an industry which has struggled through various states of operation since the end of March. August brought a little more relief with total nonfarm employment rising another 50 jobs over the month. Small gains occurred in several industries. The raw unemployment rate dropped 2.0 percentage points to 5.3 percent in August.

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](https://Qualityinfo.org/covid-19)

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, October 20 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, October 13.

## Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	Aug. 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2019	--Change From--	
				July 2020	Aug. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	7,042	6,965	7,202	77	-160
Unemployed	491	671	298	-180	193
Unemployment rate	7.0%	9.6%	4.1%	-2.6	2.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	6,551	6,294	6,904	257	-353
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,250	5,150	5,620	100	-370
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,150</i>	<i>5,100</i>	<i>5,520</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>-370</i>
Total private	4,140	4,070	4,530	70	-390
Mining, logging, and construction	260	240	330	20	-70
Mining and logging	20	20	30	0	-10
Construction	240	220	300	20	-60
Manufacturing	530	500	590	30	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,090	1,090	1,170	0	-80
Wholesale trade	70	70	80	0	-10
Retail trade	780	780	840	0	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	250	0	-10
Information	50	50	60	0	-10
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	360	370	340	-10	20
Education and health services	950	940	960	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	570	560	700	10	-130
Other services	160	150	210	10	-50
Government	1,110	1,080	1,090	30	20
Federal government	260	240	230	20	30
State government	220	210	210	10	10
Local government	630	630	650	0	-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

	Aug. 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2019	--Change From--	
				July 2020	Aug. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,197	3,155	3,304	42	-107
Unemployed	212	278	143	-66	69
Unemployment rate	6.6%	8.8%	4.3%	-2.2	2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	2,985	2,877	3,161	108	-176
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,400	2,370	2,530	30	-130
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,260</i>	<i>2,250</i>	<i>2,380</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>-120</i>
Total private	1,360	1,350	1,410	10	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	200	200	210	0	-10
Mining and logging	130	130	140	0	-10
Construction	70	70	70	0	0
Manufacturing	110	100	110	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	310	320	10	0
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	230	230	240	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	50	50	10	10
Information	50	50	40	0	10
Financial activities	60	50	60	10	0
Professional and business services	120	120	120	0	0
Education and health services	190	190	210	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	240	250	260	-10	-20
Other services	70	80	80	-10	-10
Government	1,040	1,020	1,120	20	-80
Federal government	360	350	370	10	-10
State government	130	130	170	0	-40
Local government	550	540	580	10	-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--				
	Aug. 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2019	July 2020	Aug. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,546	3,492	3,692	54	-146
Unemployed	188	239	155	-51	33
Unemployment rate	5.3%	6.8%	4.2%	-1.5	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	3,358	3,253	3,537	105	-179
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,330	2,270	2,490	60	-160
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,230</i>	<i>2,180</i>	<i>2,390</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>-160</i>
Total private	1,270	1,230	1,420	40	-150
Goods-producing	100	100	110	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	430	470	10	-30
Wholesale trade	60	50	60	10	0
Retail trade	330	330	350	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	60	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	50	60	10	0
Professional and business services	130	130	150	0	-20
Education and health services	210	200	230	10	-20
Leisure and hospitality	260	260	320	0	-60
Other services	60	50	70	10	-10
Government	1,060	1,040	1,070	20	-10
Federal government	310	300	300	10	10
State government	120	110	110	10	10
Local government	630	630	660	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.

## Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Aug. 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2019	July 2020	Aug. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,373	12,252	12,630	121	-257
Unemployed	657	908	504	-251	153
Unemployment rate	5.3%	7.4%	4.0%	-2.1	1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	11,716	11,344	12,126	372	-410
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,220	11,090	11,820	130	-600
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,410	11,480	12,020	-70	-610
Total private	8,230	8,120	8,670	110	-440
Mining, logging, and construction	430	420	450	10	-20
Manufacturing	1,100	1,080	1,090	20	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,960	2,890	2,890	70	70
Wholesale trade	480	460	470	20	10
Retail trade	2,100	2,060	2,040	40	60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	370	380	10	0
Information	170	170	190	0	-20
Financial activities	300	310	320	-10	-20
Professional and business services	400	380	460	20	-60
Education and health services	1,590	1,580	1,720	10	-130
Leisure and hospitality	960	970	1,210	-10	-250
Other services	320	320	340	0	-20
Government	2,990	2,970	3,150	20	-160
Federal government	270	250	250	20	20
State government	1,210	1,200	1,170	10	40
Local government	1,510	1,520	1,730	-10	-220

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--				
	Aug. 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2019	July 2020	Aug. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	11,656	11,632	11,978	24	-322
Unemployed	788	1,147	533	-359	255
Unemployment rate	6.8%	9.9%	4.4%	-3.1	2.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	10,868	10,485	11,445	383	-577
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	9,800	9,610	10,440	190	-640
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>9,940</i>	<i>9,710</i>	<i>10,590</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>-650</i>
Total private	7,530	7,430	8,190	100	-660
Mining, logging, and construction	570	550	620	20	-50
Mining and logging	30	30	40	0	-10
Construction	540	520	580	20	-40
Manufacturing	1,260	1,220	1,330	40	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,070	2,050	2,220	20	-150
Wholesale trade	250	250	250	0	0
Retail trade	1,410	1,400	1,520	10	-110
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	410	400	450	10	-40
Information	100	100	90	0	10
Financial activities	280	280	310	0	-30
Professional and business services	540	530	560	10	-20
Education and health services	1,640	1,630	1,690	10	-50
Leisure and hospitality	800	800	1,060	0	-260
Other services	270	270	310	0	-40
Government	2,270	2,180	2,250	90	20
Federal government	320	300	300	20	20
State government	370	370	350	0	20
Local government	1,580	1,510	1,600	70	-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.

## Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Aug. 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2019	July 2020	Aug. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,520	3,445	3,665	75	-145
Unemployed	187	253	154	-66	33
Unemployment rate	5.3%	7.3%	4.2%	-2.0	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	3,333	3,192	3,511	141	-178
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,640	2,590	2,850	50	-210
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,390</i>	<i>2,370</i>	<i>2,580</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>-190</i>
Total private	1,980	1,940	2,180	40	-200
Mining, logging, and construction	250	240	270	10	-20
Mining and logging	70	70	80	0	-10
Construction	180	170	190	10	-10
Manufacturing	170	160	160	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	470	510	0	-40
Wholesale and retail trade	380	380	410	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	100	0	-10
Information	20	10	20	10	0
Financial activities	140	150	150	-10	-10
Professional and business services	120	120	130	0	-10
Education and health services	400	400	410	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	320	290	430	30	-110
Other services	90	100	100	-10	-10
Government	660	650	670	10	-10
Federal government	110	110	110	0	0
State government	120	120	120	0	0
Local government	430	420	440	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.



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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org). To subscribe, go to [www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm](http://www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm), enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your selected preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at [www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://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](http://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.