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

### **Unemployment Rates Continue to Come Back Down**

The unemployment rate increased substantially in all Eastern Oregon counties in April. 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 September 2020 with September 2019, along with over-the-month change, reveals that unemployment remains elevated but continues to ease back down.

The largest over-the-year unemployment rate increase came in Baker County where the raw rate jumped 3.1 percentage points to hit 6.3 percent. Union County was second with a raw rate increase of 2.5 percentage points to hit 6.0 percent. The smallest increase came in Malheur County where the raw rate rose by 1.6 percentage points to reach 4.6 percent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased as well in all Eastern Oregon counties. Baker County saw the largest increase, jumping 3.4 percentage points to 7.6 percent. Malheur (+2.2 percentage point) saw the smallest increase over the year, hopping to 6.0 percent.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment fell by 320 since September 2019. Employment dropped by 330 jobs in the private sector and rose by 10 in the public sector. Leisure and hospitality took the largest hit with the industry's employment falling 130 jobs below the September 2019 level. Retail trade and manufacturing both dropped by 50 jobs to tie for the second largest loss. Total employment rose by 80 jobs over the month, almost entirely in local government education. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.5 percentage point in September to 7.6 percent. The raw rate dropped 1.0 percentage point to 6.3 percent in September.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 110 over the year. The public sector saw a larger loss than the private sector. State government and local government each decreased by 30 jobs. Leisure and hospitality decreased by 20. Over the month, total employment rose by 40, largely from gains in local government education. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage point in September to 8.7 percent. The raw rate dropped 1.0 percentage point in September to 5.8 percent.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 120 over the year. The bulk of job losses came in the private sector. Leisure and hospitality shed the most jobs, down 50. Total employment

ticked up by 10 in September. Local government added back 50 jobs, primarily in education. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slipped 0.1 percentage point over the month to 6.9 percent. The raw rate dropped 0.7 percentage point to 4.9 percent.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 520 over the year. The largest share of loss came from the private sector, which fell by 450. Leisure and hospitality (-240), local government (-120), and education and health services (-120) accounted for the bulk of the decrease. Over the month, total employment increased by 230 jobs with large gains in local government education. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slipped 0.1 percentage point over the month to 6.0 percent. The raw rate dropped 0.9 percentage point for the month to 4.6 percent.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 560 over the year. Nearly all of the loss occurred in the private sector. Leisure and hospitality dropped the most, down 220 jobs. Retail trade and local government dropped by 80 jobs apiece for the second largest loss. A small gain was seen in private-sector employment over the month as leisure and hospitality added on another 40 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.7 percentage point to 6.9 percent in September. The raw rate dropped 1.1 percentage points in September to 6.0 percent.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 110 from September 2019 to September 2020. The largest loss occurred in the private sector. Leisure and hospitality slipped the most, down 30 jobs. Total nonfarm employment remained nearly unchanged over the month as local government tacked on 40 jobs while small cuts occurred in the private sector. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.2 percentage point for the month to 7.7 percent. The raw rate dropped 0.4 percentage point to 5.1 percent in September.

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 October county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, November 24 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October on Tuesday, November 17.

## Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	Sept. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019	--Change From--	
				Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	7,058	7,067	7,171	-9	-113
Unemployed	447	513	233	-66	214
Unemployment rate	6.3%	7.3%	3.2%	-1.0	3.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.6%	8.1%	4.2%	-0.5	3.4
Employed	6,611	6,554	6,938	57	-327
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,320	5,240	5,640	80	-320
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,200</i>	<i>5,140</i>	<i>5,520</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>-320</i>
Total private	4,130	4,140	4,460	-10	-330
Mining, logging, and construction	270	260	300	10	-30
Mining and logging	20	20	30	0	-10
Construction	250	240	270	10	-20
Manufacturing	530	530	580	0	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,090	1,090	1,150	0	-60
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	780	780	830	0	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	250	0	-10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	350	360	350	-10	0
Education and health services	950	950	970	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	560	570	690	-10	-130
Other services	160	160	200	0	-40
Government	1,190	1,100	1,180	90	10
Federal government	240	260	220	-20	20
State government	210	210	210	0	0
Local government	740	630	750	110	-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

	Sept. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019	--Change From--	
				Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,188	3,206	3,240	-18	-52
Unemployed	185	219	113	-34	72
Unemployment rate	5.8%	6.8%	3.5%	-1.0	2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	8.7%	9.1%	5.9%	-0.4	2.8
Employed	3,003	2,987	3,127	16	-124
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,440	2,400	2,550	40	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,310	2,260	2,410	50	-100
Total private	1,360	1,360	1,400	0	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	200	200	220	0	-20
Mining and logging	130	130	150	0	-20
Construction	70	70	70	0	0
Manufacturing	110	110	110	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	320	320	10	10
Wholesale trade	40	30	30	10	10
Retail trade	230	230	240	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	50	0	10
Information	50	50	40	0	10
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	120	120	120	0	0
Education and health services	190	190	200	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	240	240	260	0	-20
Other services	60	70	70	-10	-10
Government	1,080	1,040	1,150	40	-70
Federal government	340	360	350	-20	-10
State government	130	130	160	0	-30
Local government	610	550	640	60	-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--				
	Sept. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,531	3,565	3,616	-34	-85
Unemployed	173	201	115	-28	58
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.6%	3.2%	-0.7	1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.9%	7.0%	4.5%	-0.1	2.4
Employed	3,358	3,364	3,501	-6	-143
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,340	2,330	2,460	10	-120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,260	2,230	2,370	30	-110
Total private	1,260	1,270	1,370	-10	-110
Goods-producing	100	100	100	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	440	460	0	-20
Wholesale trade	60	60	60	0	0
Retail trade	330	330	350	0	-20
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	130	130	140	0	-10
Education and health services	210	210	220	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	260	260	310	0	-50
Other services	50	60	70	-10	-20
Government	1,080	1,060	1,090	20	-10
Federal government	290	310	280	-20	10
State government	110	120	100	-10	10
Local government	680	630	710	50	-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--				
	Sept. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,326	12,454	12,515	-128	-189
Unemployed	570	681	380	-111	190
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.5%	3.0%	-0.9	1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.0%	6.1%	3.8%	-0.1	2.2
Employed	11,756	11,773	12,135	-17	-379
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,550	11,320	12,070	230	-520
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,490	11,510	12,000	-20	-510
Total private	8,260	8,240	8,710	20	-450
Mining, logging, and construction	440	430	480	10	-40
Manufacturing	1,060	1,100	1,100	-40	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,940	2,970	2,880	-30	60
Wholesale trade	510	480	520	30	-10
Retail trade	2,050	2,110	1,980	-60	70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	380	0	0
Information	170	170	190	0	-20
Financial activities	300	300	310	0	-10
Professional and business services	410	400	420	10	-10
Education and health services	1,630	1,590	1,750	40	-120
Leisure and hospitality	980	960	1,220	20	-240
Other services	330	320	360	10	-30
Government	3,290	3,080	3,360	210	-70
Federal government	270	270	240	0	30
State government	1,190	1,190	1,170	0	20
Local government	1,830	1,620	1,950	210	-120

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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--				
	Sept. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	11,540	11,735	11,804	-195	-264
Unemployed	692	836	411	-144	281
Unemployment rate	6.0%	7.1%	3.5%	-1.1	2.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.9%	7.6%	4.3%	-0.7	2.6
Employed	10,848	10,899	11,393	-51	-545
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	9,870	9,820	10,430	50	-560
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	9,950	9,960	10,510	-10	-560
Total private	7,600	7,530	8,120	70	-520
Mining, logging, and construction	560	570	580	-10	-20
Mining and logging	30	30	40	0	-10
Construction	530	540	540	-10	-10
Manufacturing	1,260	1,260	1,310	0	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,100	2,070	2,220	30	-120
Wholesale trade	260	250	260	10	0
Retail trade	1,410	1,410	1,490	0	-80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	430	410	470	20	-40
Information	100	100	90	0	10
Financial activities	290	280	320	10	-30
Professional and business services	530	540	530	-10	0
Education and health services	1,650	1,640	1,710	10	-60
Leisure and hospitality	840	800	1,060	40	-220
Other services	270	270	300	0	-30
Government	2,270	2,290	2,310	-20	-40
Federal government	310	320	290	-10	20
State government	360	370	340	-10	20
Local government	1,600	1,600	1,680	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.

## Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Sept. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,459	3,514	3,517	-55	-58
Unemployed	176	193	114	-17	62
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.5%	3.2%	-0.4	1.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.7%	7.9%	5.3%	-0.2	2.4
Employed	3,283	3,321	3,403	-38	-120
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,630	2,620	2,740	10	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,430	2,370	2,530	60	-100
Total private	1,950	1,980	2,030	-30	-80
Mining, logging, and construction	240	250	260	-10	-20
Mining and logging	70	70	80	0	-10
Construction	170	180	180	-10	-10
Manufacturing	160	170	150	-10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	470	490	0	-20
Wholesale and retail trade	380	380	390	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	100	0	-10
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	130	140	130	-10	0
Professional and business services	120	120	120	0	0
Education and health services	400	400	410	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	310	320	340	-10	-30
Other services	100	90	110	10	-10
Government	680	640	710	40	-30
Federal government	100	100	110	0	-10
State government	110	110	110	0	0
Local government	470	430	490	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.



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/](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.