

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 22, 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Chris Rich, Regional Economist
Christopher.M.Rich@oregon.gov
(541) 519-0315

Employment in Eastern Oregon: November 2020

Seasonal Shifting Continues

Comparing November 2020 with November 2019 reveals elevated unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year increase came in Baker County where the raw unemployment rate increased by 1.5 percentage points to hit 5.3%. Union County was a close second with a raw rate increase of 1.4 percentage points to hit 4.9%. The smallest increase came in Grant County where the raw rate rose by 0.5 percentage point to 5.9%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment fell by 90 since November 2019. Employment dropped by 30 jobs in the private sector and dropped 60 jobs in the public sector. Other services took the largest hit in the private sector; employment fell by 50 jobs for the industry. Local government saw the largest loss overall, falling by 70 jobs, primarily in education. Total employment rose by 20 jobs over the month, with gains primarily in local government education and small losses in a few industries. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage point to 5.3% in November.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 80 over the year. Losses occurred in the public sector as well as the private sector. Local government decreased by 20 jobs for the largest loss. The private sector saw small losses in several industries. Over the month, total employment fell by 80, largely from seasonal cuts in federal government. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.9 percentage point in November to 5.9%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 50 over the year. The loss came from the private sector as well as the public sector. Local government slipped by 20 for the largest loss. Small losses occurred in four private-sector industries. Total employment dipped by 10 in November entirely from seasonal cuts in federal government (-30 jobs). The raw unemployment rate dipped by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 90 over the year. Total private-sector employment showed the loss, down 90 jobs. Total public-sector employment was unchanged as state and federal government added a combined 100 jobs while local government fell by 100. Education and health services (-90) accounted for the largest loss in the private sector as two industries countered, each with gains above 60. Over the month, total employment increased by 30 jobs. The private sector rose by 60. Seasonal shifting was seen in federal government and professional and business services. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage point for the month to 3.6%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 350 over the year. The private sector dropped by 260 while the public sector dropped by 90. Leisure and hospitality led losses, down 140. Local government fell by 90 jobs. Construction put up a gain of 50, one of the few industries to see a gain over the year. Total employment rose by 50 over the month. Local government added another 60 jobs, primarily in education, as federal government dropped 50, primarily in the Forest Service. The private sector added 40 jobs in November with small gains in a few industries. The raw unemployment rate decreased 0.5 percentage point in November to 4.9%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 20 from November 2019 to November 2020. Industry level gains were small and mainly in the private sector. Total nonfarm employment dropped by 80 over the month as seasonal losses continued in leisure and hospitality and in professional and business services. The raw unemployment rate was virtually unchanged, up 0.1 percentage point to 5.0% in November.

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 December county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Jan. 26 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for December on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	--Change From--	
				October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,360	7,508	7,170	-148	190
Unemployed	392	417	272	-25	120
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.6%	3.8%	-0.3	1.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	6,968	7,091	6,898	-123	70
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,450	5,430	5,540	20	-90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,410</i>	<i>5,310</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>-90</i>
Total private	4,320	4,330	4,350	-10	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	290	300	270	-10	20
Mining and logging	20	20	20	0	0
Construction	270	280	250	-10	20
Manufacturing	590	590	560	0	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,150	1,140	1,160	10	-10
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	820	820	840	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	240	240	10	10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	340	350	340	-10	0
Education and health services	970	960	970	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	600	610	620	-10	-20
Other services	160	160	210	0	-50
Government	1,130	1,100	1,190	30	-60
Federal government	190	210	180	-20	10
State government	210	210	210	0	0
Local government	730	680	800	50	-70

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

	November		--Change From--		
	2020	October 2020	November 2019	October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,227	3,301	3,109	-74	118
Unemployed	192	166	167	26	25
Unemployment rate	5.9%	5.0%	5.4%	0.9	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	3,035	3,135	2,942	-100	93
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,360	2,440	2,440	-80	-80
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,390</i>	<i>2,350</i>	<i>2,460</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>-70</i>
Total private	1,330	1,340	1,380	-10	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	210	210	230	0	-20
Mining and logging	130	130	140	0	-10
Construction	80	80	90	0	-10
Manufacturing	100	100	110	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	330	330	10	10
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	250	250	240	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	50	60	10	0
Information	40	50	40	-10	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	110	110	110	0	0
Education and health services	200	200	210	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	210	220	220	-10	-10
Other services	60	60	70	0	-10
Government	1,030	1,100	1,060	-70	-30
Federal government	240	310	250	-70	-10
State government	120	140	120	-20	0
Local government	670	650	690	20	-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.

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,616	3,689	3,534	-73	82
Unemployed	164	173	117	-9	47
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.7%	3.3%	-0.2	1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	3,452	3,516	3,417	-64	35
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,320	2,330	2,370	-10	-50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,330	2,280	2,380	50	-50
Total private	1,290	1,280	1,330	10	-40
Goods-producing	110	110	110	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	440	470	0	-30
Wholesale trade	50	50	60	0	-10
Retail trade	340	340	350	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	60	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	110	110	110	0	0
Education and health services	220	210	230	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	280	280	280	0	0
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,030	1,050	1,040	-20	-10
Federal government	220	250	220	-30	0
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	690	680	710	10	-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.

Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,839	13,128	12,360	-289	479
Unemployed	463	511	363	-48	100
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.9%	2.9%	-0.3	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	12,376	12,617	11,997	-241	379
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,180	12,150	12,270	30	-90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>11,980</i>	<i>11,890</i>	<i>12,070</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>-90</i>
Total private	8,720	8,660	8,810	60	-90
Mining, logging, and construction	460	450	490	10	-30
Manufacturing	1,140	1,120	1,150	20	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,170	3,110	3,000	60	170
Wholesale trade	540	500	520	40	20
Retail trade	2,140	2,130	2,060	10	80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	490	480	420	10	70
Information	160	160	190	0	-30
Financial activities	280	280	300	0	-20
Professional and business services	400	430	440	-30	-40
Education and health services	1,650	1,650	1,740	0	-90
Leisure and hospitality	1,110	1,100	1,160	10	-50
Other services	350	360	340	-10	10
Government	3,460	3,490	3,460	-30	0
Federal government	220	250	180	-30	40
State government	1,220	1,230	1,160	-10	60
Local government	2,020	2,010	2,120	10	-100

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

	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	--Change From--	
				October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,127	12,298	11,758	-171	369
Unemployed	589	660	410	-71	179
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.4%	3.5%	-0.5	1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	11,538	11,638	11,348	-100	190
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,320	10,270	10,670	50	-350
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,230</i>	<i>10,100</i>	<i>10,570</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>-340</i>
Total private	7,890	7,850	8,150	40	-260
Mining, logging, and construction	610	620	560	-10	50
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Construction	570	580	520	-10	50
Manufacturing	1,280	1,260	1,300	20	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,200	2,170	2,240	30	-40
Wholesale trade	260	260	260	0	0
Retail trade	1,480	1,470	1,510	10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	460	440	470	20	-10
Information	90	90	100	0	-10
Financial activities	330	330	320	0	10
Professional and business services	520	520	540	0	-20
Education and health services	1,690	1,680	1,740	10	-50
Leisure and hospitality	900	910	1,040	-10	-140
Other services	270	270	310	0	-40
Government	2,430	2,420	2,520	10	-90
Federal government	200	250	190	-50	10
State government	340	340	350	0	-10
Local government	1,890	1,830	1,980	60	-90

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--				
	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,447	3,564	3,268	-117	179
Unemployed	172	175	137	-3	35
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.9%	4.2%	0.1	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Employed	3,275	3,389	3,131	-114	144
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,530	2,610	2,510	-80	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,590	2,530	2,570	60	20
Total private	1,860	1,940	1,830	-80	30
Mining, logging, and construction	260	260	250	0	10
Mining and logging	80	80	80	0	0
Construction	180	180	170	0	10
Manufacturing	130	140	130	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	470	450	0	20
Wholesale and retail trade	380	380	370	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	80	0	10
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	130	130	130	0	0
Professional and business services	110	130	100	-20	10
Education and health services	400	400	410	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	230	280	230	-50	0
Other services	110	110	110	0	0
Government	670	670	680	0	-10
Federal government	70	80	80	-10	-10
State government	100	100	90	0	10
Local government	500	490	510	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. To subscribe, go to 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/. 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.