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Employment in Eastern Oregon: December 2020

Unemployment Rates Rise as Employment Decreases

Comparing December 2020 with December 2019 reveals elevated unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year increase came in Baker and Union counties where the raw rate rose 2.3 percentage points to hit 6.1% and 6.3%, respectively. The smallest increase came in Harney County where the raw rate rose 0.5 percentage point to 5.1%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased as well in all Eastern Oregon counties. Baker County saw the largest increase, jumping 2.3 percentage points to 6.1%. Wallowa (+0.6 percentage point) saw the smallest increase over the year, rising to 5.3%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment fell by 80 since December 2019. Employment dropped by 60 jobs in the private sector and 20 jobs in the public sector. Leisure and hospitality took the largest hit as employment fell by 60 jobs for the industry. Manufacturing made positive strides, adding 50 jobs over the year. Employment slid by 30 jobs over the month, with small gains and small losses in several industries and a loss of 50 jobs in leisure and hospitality. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was virtually unchanged, up 0.1 percentage point in December to 6.1%. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.7 percentage point to 6.1% in December.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 70 over the year. Losses occurred in the public sector as well as the private sector. Local government decreased by 50 jobs for the largest loss. The private sector saw small losses in several industries. Over the month, total employment fell by 100 with seasonal cuts in federal government as well as declines in local government, leisure and hospitality, and construction. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage point in December to 7.5%. The raw unemployment rate rose 2.2 percentage points in December to 8.2%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 40 over the year. Small losses occurred in several industries in the private sector. The public sector gained 20 jobs overall. Total employment dropped by 50 in December as local government added 10 jobs and movement in the private sector was negative. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased 0.5 percentage point over the month to 5.0%. The raw unemployment rate increased 0.6 percentage point to 5.1%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 200 over the year. Total private-sector employment showed a loss, down 210. Total public-sector employment ticked up by 10 jobs although

local government fell by 100. Education and health services (-90) accounted for the largest loss in the private sector. Professional and business services dropped by 80 jobs, as did leisure and hospitality. Retail trade countered with a gain of 130. Over the month, total employment fell by 210 jobs. Losses came in several industries with the largest loss in transportation, warehousing, and utilities. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.6%. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.7 percentage point for the month to 4.4%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 490 over the year. The private sector dropped by 370 while the public sector dropped by 120. Leisure and hospitality led losses, down 230. Local government fell by 110 jobs. Total employment dropped by 240 over the month, with leisure and hospitality losing 100 jobs and smaller losses in several other industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.5 percentage point to 6.1% in December. The raw unemployment rate rose 1.3 percentage points in December to 6.3%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment slid by 20 from December 2019 to December 2020. Industry level gains and losses were relatively small and spread across several industries. Total nonfarm employment dropped by 70 over the month as seasonal losses continued. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.3 percentage point for the month to 5.3%. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.6 percentage point to 5.7% in December.

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 January county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, March 9 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Tuesday, March 2.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,471	7,425	7,056	46	415
Unemployed	456	399	268	57	188
Unemployment rate	6.1%	5.4%	3.8%	0.7	2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	6.0%	3.8%	0.1	2.3
Employed	7,015	7,026	6,788	-11	227
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,450	5,480	5,530	-30	-80
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,470	5,440	5,550	30	-80
Total private	4,300	4,340	4,360	-40	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	280	290	270	-10	10
Mining and logging	20	20	20	0	0
Construction	260	270	250	-10	10
Manufacturing	610	610	560	0	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,140	1,150	1,150	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	810	820	830	-10	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	240	0	10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	180	170	180	10	0
Professional and business services	340	340	350	0	-10
Education and health services	980	970	980	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	550	600	610	-50	-60
Other services	170	160	210	10	-40
Government	1,150	1,140	1,170	10	-20
Federal government	180	190	170	-10	10
State government	220	220	220	0	0
Local government	750	730	780	20	-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.

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,222	3,255	3,049	-33	173
Unemployed	265	195	190	70	75
Unemployment rate	8.2%	6.0%	6.2%	2.2	2.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7.5%</i>	<i>7.1%</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>1.8</i>
Employed	2,957	3,060	2,859	-103	98
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,270	2,370	2,340	-100	-70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,350</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>2,420</i>	<i>-50</i>	<i>-70</i>
Total private	1,310	1,330	1,340	-20	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	200	210	220	-10	-20
Mining and logging	130	130	140	0	-10
Construction	70	80	80	-10	-10
Manufacturing	100	100	110	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	340	320	0	20
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	250	250	230	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	60	0	0
Information	50	40	40	10	10
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	110	110	120	0	-10
Education and health services	200	200	210	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	190	210	200	-20	-10
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	960	1,040	1,000	-80	-40
Federal government	200	240	210	-40	-10
State government	130	130	110	0	20
Local government	630	670	680	-40	-50

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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.

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,619	3,644	3,481	-25	138
Unemployed	185	165	161	20	24
Unemployment rate	5.1%	4.5%	4.6%	0.6	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>5.5%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Employed	3,434	3,479	3,320	-45	114
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,280	2,330	2,320	-50	-40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,340</i>	<i>2,340</i>	<i>2,380</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-40</i>
Total private	1,230	1,290	1,290	-60	-60
Goods-producing	100	110	100	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	440	460	0	-20
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	340	340	350	0	-10
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	100	110	100	-10	0
Education and health services	210	220	230	-10	-20
Leisure and hospitality	260	280	270	-20	-10
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,050	1,040	1,030	10	20
Federal government	220	220	200	0	20
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	710	700	720	10	-10

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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--				
	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,812	12,923	12,116	-111	696
Unemployed	569	474	404	95	165
Unemployment rate	4.4%	3.7%	3.3%	0.7	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.6%	3.3%	0.0	1.3
Employed	12,243	12,449	11,712	-206	531
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,990	12,200	12,190	-210	-200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>11,940</i>	<i>12,000</i>	<i>12,140</i>	<i>-60</i>	<i>-200</i>
Total private	8,550	8,720	8,760	-170	-210
Mining, logging, and construction	440	460	460	-20	-20
Manufacturing	1,150	1,140	1,150	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,090	3,170	2,970	-80	120
Wholesale trade	520	540	530	-20	-10
Retail trade	2,160	2,140	2,030	20	130
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	410	490	410	-80	0
Information	160	160	200	0	-40
Financial activities	280	280	300	0	-20
Professional and business services	380	400	460	-20	-80
Education and health services	1,650	1,650	1,740	0	-90
Leisure and hospitality	1,050	1,110	1,130	-60	-80
Other services	350	350	350	0	0
Government	3,440	3,480	3,430	-40	10
Federal government	230	230	190	0	40
State government	1,210	1,230	1,140	-20	70
Local government	2,000	2,020	2,100	-20	-100

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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--				
	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,160	12,207	11,683	-47	477
Unemployed	766	615	467	151	299
Unemployment rate	6.3%	5.0%	4.0%	1.3	2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	5.6%	3.9%	0.5	2.2
Employed	11,394	11,592	11,216	-198	178
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,080	10,320	10,570	-240	-490
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,040	10,230	10,530	-190	-490
Total private	7,720	7,890	8,090	-170	-370
Mining, logging, and construction	570	610	550	-40	20
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Construction	530	570	510	-40	20
Manufacturing	1,280	1,280	1,310	0	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,190	2,200	2,210	-10	-20
Wholesale trade	260	260	260	0	0
Retail trade	1,470	1,480	1,480	-10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	460	460	470	0	-10
Information	80	90	100	-10	-20
Financial activities	330	330	320	0	10
Professional and business services	510	520	520	-10	-10
Education and health services	1,700	1,690	1,750	10	-50
Leisure and hospitality	800	900	1,030	-100	-230
Other services	260	270	300	-10	-40
Government	2,360	2,430	2,480	-70	-120
Federal government	190	210	180	-20	10
State government	320	330	340	-10	-20
Local government	1,850	1,890	1,960	-40	-110

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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--				
	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,440	3,459	3,224	-19	216
Unemployed	197	176	152	21	45
Unemployment rate	5.7%	5.1%	4.7%	0.6	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	5.6%	4.7%	-0.3	0.6
Employed	3,243	3,283	3,072	-40	171
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,450	2,520	2,470	-70	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,580	2,580	2,600	0	-20
Total private	1,820	1,860	1,810	-40	10
Mining, logging, and construction	240	260	250	-20	-10
Mining and logging	70	80	90	-10	-20
Construction	170	180	160	-10	10
Manufacturing	130	130	140	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	470	450	-10	10
Wholesale and retail trade	370	380	370	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	80	0	10
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	130	130	120	0	10
Professional and business services	110	110	90	0	20
Education and health services	410	400	410	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	220	230	220	-10	0
Other services	100	110	110	-10	-10
Government	630	660	660	-30	-30
Federal government	60	70	70	-10	-10
State government	80	80	80	0	0
Local government	490	510	510	-20	-20

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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.

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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.