

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 20, 2021

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

Employment in Eastern Oregon: June 2021

Unemployment Rates Near Pre-Pandemic Levels

Comparing June 2021 with June 2020 shows falling unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. Unemployment jumped dramatically at the start of the pandemic, but continued to decrease over the year. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Baker County where the raw rate dropped 3.7 percentage points to reach 5.1%. The smallest decrease came in Harney and Malheur counties where the raw rate dropped 1.8 percentage points to 4.4% and 4.3%, respectively. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in all Eastern Oregon counties as well. Wallowa County saw the largest decrease, dropping 3.4 percentage points to 5.5%. Malheur County saw the smallest decrease over the year, falling 1.3 percentage points to 4.6%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 110 since June 2020. Employment increased by 50 jobs in the private sector and 60 jobs in the public sector. The overall gain brings employment to where it was in March 2020, at the start of the pandemic, but leaves the county 280 jobs shy of where it was in June 2019. Leisure and hospitality accounted for half of this gap. The industry added 40 jobs over the year, but struggled to reach pre-pandemic levels and to meet seasonal expectations in June, remaining 130 jobs below the 2019 mark. Overall employment remained flat over the month as losses canceled gains. Leisure and hospitality added the most up 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.2 percentage point in June to 5.8%. The raw rate was unchanged at 5.1%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 over the year. Gains were seen in the public sector (+40) as losses canceled gains in the private sector. The overall increase brings the county 130 jobs above its pre-pandemic March 2020 level. Over the month, total employment rose by 120. Seasonal hiring continued as federal government and state government added 40 jobs each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down 0.1 percentage point in June to 7.2%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 1.2 percentage points to 5.3%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 60 jobs over the year. The increase was split evenly between the private sector and the public sector. The overall increase represents a full recovery of pandemic-induced losses. Local government led gains for the year, up 30. Total employment slipped by 10 jobs over the month as federal government, state government, and leisure and hospitality added seasonal jobs. Local government education saw a seasonal decrease. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down over the month to 5.2%. The raw unemployment rate dipped 0.2 percentage point to 4.4%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 550 over the year. Private-sector employment added 230 jobs while public-sector employment added 320. The overall increase represents recovery of all jobs lost at the start of the pandemic and makes Malheur's June job count the highest on record back through at least 2001. Retail trade added 120 jobs, marking sizeable industry growth over the year amid a 16.8% employment gain since 2019. Local government added 270 jobs for a full recovery. Leisure and hospitality recovered most of the jobs lost at the start of the pandemic, but the industry remains hampered by hiring difficulties and sits well below the seasonal expectation. Over the month, total employment rose by 110 jobs with gains in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.6%. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage point for the month to 4.3%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 560 over the year. The private sector added 250 while the public sector added 310. The overall gain leaves the county 170 jobs below the pre-pandemic March 2020 level and 450 jobs below the June 2019 level; Union lost 1,400 jobs at the start of the pandemic. Leisure and hospitality regained nearly two-thirds of jobs lost, but remained roughly 140 shy of recovery. Manufacturing regained 72% of jobs lost but the industry continues to tangle with structural changes. Local government made a full recovery. Total employment rose by 20 over the month with gains and losses related to seasonal shifts. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.2 percentage point in June to 6.2%. The raw unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.2%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 180 from June 2020 to June 2021. The overall gain represents a full recovery. The county's total employment in June was 40 jobs above the June 2019 level, making it the highest June level since at least 2001. Total nonfarm employment rose by 220 over the month, with seasonal gains in most industries. Leisure and hospitality added 60 jobs to lead seasonal hiring. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down 0.1 percentage point for the month to 5.5%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.8 percentage point to 4.8% in June.

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

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	June 2021	May 2021	June 2020	--Change From--	
				May 2021	June 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,442	7,458	7,446	-16	-4
Unemployed	378	379	655	-1	-277
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.1%	8.8%	0.0	-3.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.8%	6.0%	8.9%	-0.2	-3.1
Employed	7,064	7,079	6,791	-15	273
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,410	5,410	5,300	0	110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,270	5,330	5,160	-60	110
Total private	4,240	4,240	4,190	0	50
Mining, logging, and construction	310	310	280	0	30
Mining and logging	30	30	20	0	10
Construction	280	280	260	0	20
Manufacturing	550	570	550	-20	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,170	1,180	1,130	-10	40
Wholesale trade	70	80	80	-10	-10
Retail trade	860	860	820	0	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	230	0	10
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	130	130	170	0	-40
Professional and business services	300	290	350	10	-50
Education and health services	1,010	1,010	990	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	550	520	510	30	40
Other services	180	190	160	-10	20
Government	1,170	1,170	1,110	0	60
Federal government	230	210	220	20	10
State government	220	220	220	0	0
Local government	720	740	670	-20	50

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

	June 2021	May 2021	June 2020	--Change From--	
				May 2021	June 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,362	3,289	3,370	73	-8
Unemployed	177	215	283	-38	-106
Unemployment rate	5.3%	6.5%	8.4%	-1.2	-3.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.2%	7.3%	9.9%	-0.1	-2.7
Employed	3,185	3,074	3,087	111	98
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,490	2,370	2,450	120	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,310	2,370	2,270	-60	40
Total private	1,330	1,280	1,330	50	0
Mining, logging, and construction	210	180	190	30	20
Mining and logging	140	120	120	20	20
Construction	70	60	70	10	0
Manufacturing	100	100	100	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	340	330	0	10
Wholesale trade	40	40	30	0	10
Retail trade	250	240	250	10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	60	50	-10	0
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	50	60	60	-10	-10
Professional and business services	120	120	110	0	10
Education and health services	200	200	200	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	200	180	230	20	-30
Other services	70	60	60	10	10
Government	1,160	1,090	1,120	70	40
Federal government	330	290	330	40	0
State government	170	130	160	40	10
Local government	660	670	630	-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--				
	June 2021	May 2021	June 2020	May 2021	June 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,799	3,832	3,742	-33	57
Unemployed	167	177	233	-10	-66
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.6%	6.2%	-0.2	-1.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	5.3%	6.9%	-0.1	-1.7
Employed	3,632	3,655	3,509	-23	123
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,420	2,430	2,360	-10	60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,330	2,430	2,270	-100	60
Total private	1,340	1,330	1,310	10	30
Goods-producing	120	120	110	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	440	440	0	0
Wholesale trade	60	60	50	0	10
Retail trade	330	330	340	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	50	50	60	0	-10
Professional and business services	130	130	110	0	20
Education and health services	240	250	230	-10	10
Leisure and hospitality	290	270	290	20	0
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,080	1,100	1,050	-20	30
Federal government	270	230	290	40	-20
State government	130	120	110	10	20
Local government	680	750	650	-70	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--				
	June 2021	May 2021	June 2020	May 2021	June 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,486	13,382	13,061	104	425
Unemployed	583	544	803	39	-220
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.1%	6.1%	0.2	-1.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.7%	5.9%	-0.1	-1.3
Employed	12,903	12,838	12,258	65	645
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,330	12,220	11,780	110	550
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,290	12,130	11,740	160	550
Total private	8,730	8,660	8,500	70	230
Mining, logging, and construction	400	390	440	10	-40
Manufacturing	1,120	1,110	1,160	10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,130	3,080	2,970	50	160
Wholesale trade	440	440	430	0	10
Retail trade	2,290	2,270	2,170	20	120
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	370	370	30	30
Information	150	150	150	0	0
Financial activities	290	290	290	0	0
Professional and business services	480	480	400	0	80
Education and health services	1,790	1,790	1,660	0	130
Leisure and hospitality	1,020	1,010	1,080	10	-60
Other services	350	360	350	-10	0
Government	3,600	3,560	3,280	40	320
Federal government	230	200	230	30	0
State government	1,250	1,250	1,200	0	50
Local government	2,120	2,110	1,850	10	270

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--				
	June 2021	May 2021	June 2020	May 2021	June 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,414	12,481	12,087	-67	327
Unemployed	642	652	1,057	-10	-415
Unemployment rate	5.2%	5.2%	8.7%	0.0	-3.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	6.4%	9.0%	-0.2	-2.8
Employed	11,772	11,829	11,030	-57	742
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,380	10,360	9,820	20	560
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,170</i>	<i>10,200</i>	<i>9,620</i>	<i>-30</i>	<i>550</i>
Total private	7,730	7,700	7,480	30	250
Mining, logging, and construction	610	580	600	30	10
Mining and logging	30	20	30	10	0
Construction	580	560	570	20	10
Manufacturing	1,190	1,180	1,060	10	130
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,050	2,040	2,040	10	10
Wholesale trade	250	250	250	0	0
Retail trade	1,400	1,400	1,440	0	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	390	350	10	50
Information	90	90	100	0	-10
Financial activities	290	300	320	-10	-30
Professional and business services	590	590	550	0	40
Education and health services	1,730	1,760	1,720	-30	10
Leisure and hospitality	910	890	830	20	80
Other services	270	270	260	0	10
Government	2,650	2,660	2,340	-10	310
Federal government	310	280	290	30	20
State government	380	360	360	20	20
Local government	1,960	2,020	1,690	-60	270

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--				
	June 2021	May 2021	June 2020	May 2021	June 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,805	3,648	3,646	157	159
Unemployed	182	203	289	-21	-107
Unemployment rate	4.8%	5.6%	7.9%	-0.8	-3.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.5%	5.6%	8.9%	-0.1	-3.4
Employed	3,623	3,445	3,357	178	266
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,820	2,600	2,640	220	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,630	2,580	2,470	50	160
Total private	2,040	1,870	1,950	170	90
Mining, logging, and construction	260	240	260	20	0
Mining and logging	80	60	70	20	10
Construction	180	180	190	0	-10
Manufacturing	160	150	160	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	500	460	460	40	40
Wholesale and retail trade	410	380	380	30	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	80	80	10	10
Information	10	10	20	0	-10
Financial activities	140	120	150	20	-10
Professional and business services	130	120	130	10	0
Education and health services	430	430	390	0	40
Leisure and hospitality	290	230	270	60	20
Other services	120	110	110	10	10
Government	780	730	690	50	90
Federal government	110	90	110	20	0
State government	130	110	110	20	20
Local government	540	530	470	10	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.

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. 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.