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Employment in Eastern Oregon: August 2021

Total Employment Regains Its Footing

Comparing August 2021 with August 2020 shows decreasing unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Baker County where the raw rate dropped 2.9 percentage points to reach 4.0%. The smallest decrease came in Harney and Malheur counties where the raw rate dropped 1.3 percentage points to 4.0%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in all Eastern Oregon counties as well. Baker County saw the largest decrease, falling 2.3 percentage points to 5.1%. Malheur County saw the smallest decrease over the year, dropping 1.0 percentage point to 4.2%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 140 since August 2020. Employment increased by 200 jobs in the private sector and decreased by 60 jobs in the public sector. The overall gain brings employment to 150 jobs above where it was in March 2020, prior to the start of the pandemic, but leaves the county 110 jobs shy of where it was in August 2019. Leisure and hospitality accounted for the gap. The industry added 40 jobs over the year, but struggled to reach seasonal expectations in August, remaining 110 jobs below the 2019 mark. Overall employment increased by 80 jobs over the month as local government added 50. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased 0.3 percentage point in August to 5.1%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage point to 4.0%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 jobs over the year. The gain came in the private sector as the public sector dropped by 30. The overall increase brings the county 100 jobs above its pre-pandemic March 2020 level, but leaves the county 90 jobs shy of its August 2019 level. The August gap was dispersed across a few industries. Over the month, total employment dipped by 10. Local government slipped by 20 jobs. Small gains came in two private-sector industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.2 percentage point in August to 6.7%. The raw unemployment rate slid 0.2 percentage point to 4.3%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 70 jobs over the year. The increase came from the private sector as the public sector went unchanged. The overall increase represents a full recovery of pandemic-induced losses. Four industries each added 20 jobs while federal government dropped by 30. Total employment rose by 40 jobs over the month with the largest gain in education and health services, up 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 5.1%. The raw unemployment rate slid 0.2 percentage point to 4.0%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 80 over the year. Private-sector employment added 10 jobs while public-sector employment added 70. Overall employment recovered in the spring from the pandemic plunge. August 2021, however, was 180 jobs below the August 2019 mark, which was due to an uncharacteristically large seasonal increase in local government education in August 2019. Professional and business services added 70 jobs for the year to lead growth, marking a small gain above its August 2019 mark. Over the month, total employment rose by 120 jobs with gains in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.2%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage point for the month to 4.0%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 320 over the year. The private sector added 370 jobs while the public sector scaled back by 50. Leisure and hospitality increased by 110 as manufacturing increased by 100. Local government dropped by 70. Union is largely back on track, but not fully recovered from the 1,400 jobs lost at the start of the pandemic. Leisure and hospitality regained 85% of jobs lost, but remained roughly 70 shy of recovery. Education and health services remained roughly 6% below pre-pandemic levels due to small losses in individual firms industry-wide. Manufacturing regained nearly all jobs lost. Total employment inched up by 10 over the month, with gains in several industries countered primarily by a drop in local government education. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased 0.3 percentage point in August to 5.5%. The raw unemployment rate inched down 0.1 percentage point to 4.6%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 170 from August 2020 to August 2021. The overall gain represents a full recovery plus growth. The county's total employment in August was 90 jobs above the August 2019 level, making it the highest August level since at least 2001. Total nonfarm employment rose by 30 over the month, with light movement in three industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged for the month at 5.4%. The raw unemployment rate slid 0.3 percentage point to 3.6% 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

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Oct. 26 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Tuesday, Oct. 19.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	Aug. 2021	July 2021	Aug. 2020	--Change From--	
				July 2021	Aug. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,508	7,478	7,342	30	166
Unemployed	301	327	507	-26	-206
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.4%	6.9%	-0.4	-2.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	5.4%	7.4%	-0.3	-2.3
Employed	7,207	7,151	6,835	56	372
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,560	5,480	5,420	80	140
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,460</i>	<i>5,420</i>	<i>5,320</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>140</i>
Total private	4,490	4,460	4,290	30	200
Mining, logging, and construction	330	310	300	20	30
Mining and logging	10	10	20	0	-10
Construction	320	300	280	20	40
Manufacturing	600	600	570	0	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,210	1,210	1,170	0	40
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	880	880	850	0	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	240	0	10
Information	60	60	40	0	20
Financial activities	140	140	140	0	0
Professional and business services	350	360	320	-10	30
Education and health services	1,010	990	1,030	20	-20
Leisure and hospitality	590	600	550	-10	40
Other services	200	190	170	10	30
Government	1,070	1,020	1,130	50	-60
Federal government	250	250	260	0	-10
State government	220	220	220	0	0
Local government	600	550	650	50	-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

	Aug. 2021	July 2021	Aug. 2020	--Change From--	
				July 2021	Aug. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,357	3,395	3,290	-38	67
Unemployed	143	153	215	-10	-72
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.5%	6.5%	-0.2	-2.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.7%	6.9%	8.5%	-0.2	-1.8
Employed	3,214	3,242	3,075	-28	139
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,460	2,470	2,440	-10	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,320	2,340	2,300	-20	20
Total private	1,430	1,420	1,380	10	50
Mining, logging, and construction	210	210	210	0	0
Mining and logging	150	150	140	0	10
Construction	60	60	70	0	-10
Manufacturing	100	100	100	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	360	360	330	0	30
Wholesale trade	40	40	30	0	10
Retail trade	270	270	250	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	130	120	120	10	10
Education and health services	210	200	210	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	240	240	250	0	-10
Other services	80	90	60	-10	20
Government	1,030	1,050	1,060	-20	-30
Federal government	340	340	350	0	-10
State government	150	150	160	0	-10
Local government	540	560	550	-20	-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.

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Aug. 2021	July 2021	Aug. 2020	July 2021	Aug. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,886	3,878	3,756	8	130
Unemployed	157	161	198	-4	-41
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.2%	5.3%	-0.2	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	5.1%	6.3%	0.0	-1.2
Employed	3,729	3,717	3,558	12	171
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,500	2,460	2,430	40	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,390	2,360	2,330	30	60
Total private	1,440	1,400	1,370	40	70
Goods-producing	140	140	120	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	460	450	10	20
Wholesale trade	60	60	60	0	0
Retail trade	360	350	340	10	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	50	50	50	0	0
Professional and business services	140	130	130	10	10
Education and health services	230	210	240	20	-10
Leisure and hospitality	330	330	310	0	20
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	1,060	1,060	1,060	0	0
Federal government	280	280	310	0	-30
State government	130	120	120	10	10
Local government	650	660	630	-10	20

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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--				
	Aug. 2021	July 2021	Aug. 2020	July 2021	Aug. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,053	13,046	12,754	7	299
Unemployed	524	568	673	-44	-149
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.4%	5.3%	-0.4	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.3%	5.2%	-0.1	-1.0
Employed	12,529	12,478	12,081	51	448
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,720	11,600	11,640	120	80
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,920	12,020	11,840	-100	80
Total private	8,650	8,570	8,640	80	10
Mining, logging, and construction	410	400	420	10	-10
Manufacturing	1,110	1,090	1,140	20	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,030	2,980	3,040	50	-10
Wholesale trade	470	430	480	40	-10
Retail trade	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	360	350	360	10	0
Information	150	150	170	0	-20
Financial activities	270	280	290	-10	-20
Professional and business services	490	480	420	10	70
Education and health services	1,750	1,750	1,700	0	50
Leisure and hospitality	1,100	1,110	1,100	-10	0
Other services	340	330	360	10	-20
Government	3,070	3,030	3,000	40	70
Federal government	230	230	260	0	-30
State government	1,240	1,230	1,200	10	40
Local government	1,600	1,570	1,540	30	60

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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--				
	Aug. 2021	July 2021	Aug. 2020	July 2021	Aug. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,384	12,437	12,030	-53	354
Unemployed	565	588	834	-23	-269
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.7%	6.9%	-0.1	-2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.5%	5.8%	7.3%	-0.3	-1.8
Employed	11,819	11,849	11,196	-30	623
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,260	10,250	9,940	10	320
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,400</i>	<i>10,360</i>	<i>10,080</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>320</i>
Total private	8,060	7,980	7,690	80	370
Mining, logging, and construction	690	670	620	20	70
Mining and logging	50	50	40	0	10
Construction	640	620	580	20	60
Manufacturing	1,270	1,270	1,170	0	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,130	2,090	2,070	40	60
Wholesale trade	250	250	250	0	0
Retail trade	1,490	1,460	1,440	30	50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	380	380	10	10
Information	90	90	90	0	0
Financial activities	320	310	320	10	0
Professional and business services	590	580	570	10	20
Education and health services	1,710	1,720	1,700	-10	10
Leisure and hospitality	990	960	880	30	110
Other services	270	290	270	-20	0
Government	2,200	2,270	2,250	-70	-50
Federal government	310	310	310	0	0
State government	390	380	370	10	20
Local government	1,500	1,580	1,570	-80	-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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Aug. 2021	July 2021	Aug. 2020	July 2021	Aug. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,946	3,918	3,684	28	262
Unemployed	144	151	192	-7	-48
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.9%	5.2%	-0.3	-1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.4%	5.4%	7.0%	0.0	-1.6
Employed	3,802	3,767	3,492	35	310
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,960	2,930	2,790	30	170
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,680	2,670	2,530	10	150
Total private	2,220	2,210	2,130	10	90
Mining, logging, and construction	290	280	270	10	20
Mining and logging	90	90	70	0	20
Construction	200	190	200	10	0
Manufacturing	160	160	170	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	530	530	480	0	50
Wholesale and retail trade	430	430	390	0	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	100	100	90	0	10
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	140	140	150	0	-10
Professional and business services	140	140	130	0	10
Education and health services	420	420	410	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	410	410	380	0	30
Other services	110	110	120	0	-10
Government	740	720	660	20	80
Federal government	120	110	110	10	10
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	500	490	440	10	60

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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](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.