

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2022

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## **Employment in Eastern Oregon: March 2022**

### **Unemployment Low in March as Seasonal Upswing Begins**

Comparing March 2022 with March 2021 shows decreasing unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant County where the raw rate fell 3.2 percentage points to reach 7.2%. The smallest decrease came in Malheur County where the raw rate dropped 1.6 percentage points to 3.7%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in all Eastern Oregon counties as well. Grant County saw the largest decrease, falling 2.8 percentage points to 5.0%. Wallowa County saw the smallest decrease over the year, dropping 1.2 percentage points to 4.4%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 120 since March 2021. Employment increased by 70 jobs in the private sector and 50 jobs in the public sector. Local government (+40) tied with professional and business services to lead over-the-year gains. Leisure and hospitality added 30 jobs for the second largest increase. Overall employment rose by 30 jobs over the month with small gains in a few industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.2 percentage point in March to 3.9%. The raw unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.7%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 jobs over the year. The private sector was unchanged while the public sector showed all the gain. State government and federal government increased by 20 apiece. Over the month, total employment rose by 30. Light downward movement came in the private sector while government employment increased by 50. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage point in March to 5.0%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage point to 7.2%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 30 jobs over the year. The decrease came in the public sector as the private sector ticked up by 10. Local government saw the largest change, down 40. Total employment rose by 60 jobs over the month with a big seasonal boost in professional and business services and small gains in three industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.3 percentage point over the month to 4.0%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.7 percentage point to 5.0%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 60 over the year. The private sector ticked down by 10 as the public sector added 70. Leisure and hospitality showed a major gain, adding 180 jobs over the year. Leisure and hospitality has been above pre-pandemic levels since July 2021. The largest

losses came in manufacturing (-110) and information (-80); information lost an employer to Idaho in April 2021. Over the month, total employment rose by 130 jobs with gains in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked down 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.4%. The raw unemployment rate ticked down by 0.1 percentage point to 3.7%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 180 over the year. The private sector added 130 jobs while the public sector added 50. Leisure and hospitality (+80) and retail trade tied for the largest gain. Local government (+50) also had a strong showing. Total employment rose by 30 over the month, with the largest gains in construction and in leisure and hospitality. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.2 percentage point in March to 3.8%. The raw unemployment rate ticked up 0.1 percentage point to 4.7%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 from March 2021 to March 2022. Local government, driven by additions in the Wallowa County Health Care District, rose by 40 jobs to lead gains. Financial activities rose by 30 jobs for the second largest increase. Wholesale and retail trade dropped by 30 to lead losses. Total nonfarm employment ticked down by 10 over the month with a loss of 20 in local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.3 percentage point over the month to 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point for the month to 6.2%.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, May 24, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 18.

## Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Mar. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	7,572	7,497	7,478	75	94
Unemployed	358	356	518	2	-160
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.7%	6.9%	0.0	-2.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	4.1%	6.2%	-0.2	-2.3
Employed	7,214	7,141	6,960	73	254
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,470	5,440	5,350	30	120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,630	5,600	5,510	30	120
Total private	4,310	4,290	4,240	20	70
Mining, logging, and construction	240	250	260	-10	-20
Mining and logging	10	20	10	-10	0
Construction	230	230	250	0	-20
Manufacturing	600	590	610	10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,160	1,160	1,160	0	0
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	850	850	840	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	230	230	240	0	-10
Information	60	60	50	0	10
Financial activities	150	150	130	0	20
Professional and business services	370	360	330	10	40
Education and health services	1,010	1,000	1,020	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	520	520	490	0	30
Other services	200	200	190	0	10
Government	1,160	1,150	1,110	10	50
Federal government	170	160	160	10	10
State government	210	220	210	-10	0
Local government	780	770	740	10	40

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--				
	Mar. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,209	3,161	3,248	48	-39
Unemployed	231	241	337	-10	-106
Unemployment rate	7.2%	7.6%	10.4%	-0.4	-3.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.4%	7.8%	-0.4	-2.8
Employed	2,978	2,920	2,911	58	67
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,310	2,280	2,270	30	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,420	2,420	2,380	0	40
Total private	1,310	1,330	1,310	-20	0
Mining, logging, and construction	160	180	170	-20	-10
Mining and logging	110	120	120	-10	-10
Construction	50	60	50	-10	0
Manufacturing	100	100	110	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	340	340	10	10
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	260	250	250	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	50	50	40	0	10
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	140	140	130	0	10
Education and health services	200	200	210	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	190	190	190	0	0
Other services	60	70	60	-10	0
Government	1,000	950	960	50	40
Federal government	220	200	200	20	20
State government	140	130	120	10	20
Local government	640	620	640	20	0

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--				
	Mar. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,739	3,663	3,791	76	-52
Unemployed	188	208	263	-20	-75
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.7%	6.9%	-0.7	-1.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.3%	5.5%	-0.3	-1.5
Employed	3,551	3,455	3,528	96	23
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,350	2,290	2,380	60	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,450	2,440	2,480	10	-30
Total private	1,350	1,310	1,340	40	10
Goods-producing	90	90	100	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	460	450	0	10
Wholesale trade	60	60	60	0	0
Retail trade	350	350	340	0	10
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	150	120	160	30	-10
Education and health services	250	250	240	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	270	260	270	10	0
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	1,000	980	1,040	20	-40
Federal government	200	190	190	10	10
State government	120	120	130	0	-10
Local government	680	670	720	10	-40

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--				
	Mar. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,825	12,581	12,780	244	45
Unemployed	479	481	673	-2	-194
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.8%	5.3%	-0.1	-1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.4%	3.5%	4.9%	-0.1	-1.5
Employed	12,346	12,100	12,107	246	239
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,970	11,840	11,910	130	60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,970	11,940	11,910	30	60
Total private	8,610	8,510	8,620	100	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	350	330	360	20	-10
Manufacturing	990	990	1,100	0	-110
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,130	3,090	3,080	40	50
Wholesale trade	530	520	510	10	20
Retail trade	2,240	2,210	2,210	30	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	360	360	360	0	0
Information	70	70	150	0	-80
Financial activities	270	270	270	0	0
Professional and business services	440	440	460	0	-20
Education and health services	1,790	1,780	1,820	10	-30
Leisure and hospitality	1,230	1,210	1,050	20	180
Other services	340	330	330	10	10
Government	3,360	3,330	3,290	30	70
Federal government	170	160	180	10	-10
State government	1,260	1,260	1,220	0	40
Local government	1,930	1,910	1,890	20	40

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--				
	Mar. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,342	12,242	12,278	100	64
Unemployed	575	560	910	15	-335
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.6%	7.4%	0.1	-2.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	4.0%	6.5%	-0.2	-2.7
Employed	11,767	11,682	11,368	85	399
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,280	10,250	10,100	30	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,430	10,430	10,240	0	190
Total private	7,880	7,840	7,750	40	130
Mining, logging, and construction	540	530	560	10	-20
Mining and logging	20	30	30	-10	-10
Construction	520	500	530	20	-10
Manufacturing	1,270	1,270	1,280	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,120	2,110	2,050	10	70
Wholesale trade	240	240	250	0	-10
Retail trade	1,490	1,480	1,410	10	80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	390	390	0	0
Information	90	90	80	0	10
Financial activities	320	330	320	-10	0
Professional and business services	520	510	540	10	-20
Education and health services	1,740	1,740	1,740	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	990	970	910	20	80
Other services	290	290	270	0	20
Government	2,400	2,410	2,350	-10	50
Federal government	200	190	190	10	10
State government	350	350	360	0	-10
Local government	1,850	1,870	1,800	-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.

## Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Mar. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,499	3,507	3,464	-8	35
Unemployed	216	210	283	6	-67
Unemployment rate	6.2%	6.0%	8.2%	0.2	-2.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.7%	5.6%	-0.3	-1.2
Employed	3,283	3,297	3,181	-14	102
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,450	2,460	2,400	-10	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,690	2,680	2,630	10	60
Total private	1,760	1,750	1,750	10	10
Mining, logging, and construction	210	210	210	0	0
Mining and logging	40	50	50	-10	-10
Construction	170	160	160	10	10
Manufacturing	140	140	130	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	420	420	450	0	-30
Wholesale and retail trade	340	340	370	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	80	80	80	0	0
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	150	150	120	0	30
Professional and business services	120	110	110	10	10
Education and health services	400	400	410	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	180	180	190	0	-10
Other services	120	120	110	0	10
Government	690	710	650	-20	40
Federal government	70	70	60	0	10
State government	80	80	90	0	-10
Local government	540	560	500	-20	40

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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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 help finding jobs and training resources, go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org)

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at [OED.Communications@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:OED.Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

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