March Employment and Unemployment in Oregon’s Counties

**COVID-19 Impact**

March data from Oregon’s establishment and household surveys do not reflect the early effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the labor market. This is because the data used for today’s report was collected prior to public health measures related to social distancing began on March 17th. We expect the April data, published on May 27th, to show the early effects on employment and the unemployment rate in Oregon. Please see the Weekly New Unemployment Insurance Claims report for the latest information on initial claims for unemployment insurance.

**March Employment and Unemployment**

In March, Benton County had Oregon’s lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate at 2.6 percent. Other counties with some of the lowest unemployment rates in March include Washington County (2.8%), Hood River (2.8%), and Multnomah (3.0%). Twenty-nine counties had unemployment rates below the national rate of 4.4 percent. Six counties also had unemployment rates at or below the statewide rate of 3.3 percent.

Grant and Klamath counties registered the highest unemployment rates for the month at 6.0 percent. Other counties with some of the highest unemployment rates in March were Wallowa (5.1%) and Crook (4.9%).

*Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate, March 2020*
In March 2020, all but one of Oregon’s counties were at or below their unemployment rates for March 2019. Sherman County’s unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage point from March 2019 to 4.1 percent. Lake County’s unemployment rate decreased the most, dropping 2.3 percentage points from 6.5 percent in March 2019 to 4.2 percent in March 2020.

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose in five of Oregon’s broad regions between March 2019 and March 2020. The largest job gains occurred in the Willamette Valley (+1.7%). Central Oregon (+1.4%) and the Portland region (+0.9%) also experienced some of the largest over-the-year employment gains.

**Over-the-Year Employment Growth by Region**

March 2019 to March 2020, Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

[Graph showing employment growth by region]

**Next News Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department will release statewide unemployment rate and industry employment data for April 2020 on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. The April 2020 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates will be released on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.
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<th>Civilian Labor Force</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate (UR)</th>
<th>Seasonally Adjusted UR</th>
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</table>

**Metropolitan Statistical Areas:**

- **Albany (Linn County)**
- **Bend-Redmond (Deschutes County)**
- **Corvallis (Benton County)**
- **Eugene (Lane County)**
- **Grants Pass (Josephine County)**
- **Medford (Jackson County)**
- **Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro (2)**
- **Salem (Marion and Polk counties)**

**Counties:**

- **Baker**
- **Benton**
- **Clackamas**
- **Clatsop**
- **Columbia**
- **Coos**
- **Crock**
- **Curry**
- **Deschutes**
- **Douglas**
- **Gilliam**
- **Grant**
- **Harney**
- **Hood River**
- **Jackson**
- **Jefferson**
- **Josephine**
- **Klamath**
- **Lake**
- **Lane**
- **Lincoln**
- **Linn**
- **Malheur**
- **Marion**
- **Morrow**
- **Multnomah**
- **Polk**
- **Sherman**
- **Tillamook**
- **Umatilla**
- **Union**
- **Wallowa**
- **Wasco**
- **Washington**
- **Wheeler**
- **Yamhill**

(1) Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Employed includes nonfarm payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants. Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force. Data are not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise noted.


Next release: May 27, 2020