Unemployment Rate News

Union County’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2020 was 6.2 percent, while Baker and Wallowa counties came in at 6.6 percent. All three were below Oregon’s statewide rate of 6.9 percent which was the same as the national rate.

Union County’s rate ranked 14th lowest among Oregon’s 36 counties for the month while Baker and Wallowa counties’ ranked in a tie for 18th.

All three counties had higher seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in October 2020 than the previous October due to the effects of COVID-19.

Wallowa County (+1.5 percentage points) ranked in a four-way tie for second among Oregon’s counties for smallest over-the-year change. Union County (+2.1) ranked in a tie for ninth while Baker County (+2.5) sat at 16th.

Nonfarm Employment Change

October 2019 to October 2020

Baker County dropped an estimated 200 jobs over the year. The private sector lost 130 jobs. Losses were led by leisure and hospitality and other services. Manufacturing and construction were the only industries to add jobs. The public sector dropped 70 jobs with a loss in local government overwhelming small gains in federal and state government.

Union County employment decreased an estimated 500 jobs over the year. The private sector decreased by 320 jobs led by losses in leisure and hospitality and education and health services. The only industries to add jobs were construction and financial activities. The public sector dropped 180 jobs with losses in local and state government.

Wallowa County lost an estimated 30 jobs over the year. The private sector saw a net change of zero jobs. Gains in construction and professional and business services offset losses in education and health services and leisure and hospitality. The public sector dropped 30 jobs with losses in local and federal government overcoming a gain in state government.

Notable Industry Gains and Losses

Over-the-Year Employment Change from October 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baker</th>
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<th>Wallowa</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing (+30)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction (+50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government (+10)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Activities (+20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Government (+10)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other Services (-40)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government (-90)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other Services (-40)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leisure/Hospitality (-70)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Private Education/Health Services (-60)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Services (-60)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Professional/Utilities (-40)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mining/Logging (-10)</td>
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<td>Professional/Utilities (-40)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Trade (-10)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Transportation/ Warehousing/Utilities (-40)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional/Business Services (-10)</td>
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Unemployment rate dropping after sharp rise due to COVID-19

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