Unemployment Rate News
Malheur County’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2020 was 3.8 percent, while Harney County came in at 4.7 percent and Grant County at 6.3 percent. All three were above Oregon’s statewide rate of 3.3 percent and the national rate of 3.6 percent.

All three counties had lower seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in January 2020 than the previous January.

Harney County (-1.9 percentage points) ranked first among Oregon’s 36 counties in over-the-year improvement. Grant County (-1.6) ranked in a tie for second and Malheur County (-1.1) ranked in a four-way tie for sixth.

The January 2020 rates for all three counties are their lowest January rates since comparable statistics began in 1990.

Nonfarm Employment Change
January 2019 to January 2020
Grant County gained an estimated 60 jobs over the year. The private sector added 40 jobs with small gains overcoming small losses across industries. The public sector increased 20 jobs with a gain in local government outpacing a loss in state government while federal government was unchanged.

Harney County saw a net change of zero jobs over the year. The private sector gained 10 jobs with gains in retail trade, wholesale trade, and other services outpacing a loss in goods-producing. The public sector lost 10 jobs with losses in state and local government overcoming a gain in federal government.

Malheur County employment increased by an estimated 120 jobs over the year. The private sector added 70 jobs led by gains in manufacturing and mining, logging, and construction. Losses were led by transportation, warehousing, and utilities. The public sector added 50 jobs with gains in local and federal government overcoming a loss in state government.

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