Grant, Harney, and Malheur
May 2020 (April Data)

**Unemployment Rate News**

Malheur County’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2020 was 8.8 percent, while Harney County came in at 9.5 percent and Grant County at 13.1 percent. All three were below Oregon’s statewide rate of 14.2 percent and the national rate of 14.7 percent.

Malheur County’s rate ranked third lowest among Oregon’s 36 counties for the month while Harney County’s ranked in a tie for fourth and Grant County’s sat in a tie for 12th.

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

Harney County (+4.1 percentage points) ranked third among Oregon’s counties for smallest over-the-year change. Malheur County (+4.4) ranked fifth and Grant County (+6.0) sixth.

**Nonfarm Employment Change**

April 2019 to April 2020

Grant County lost an estimated 100 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 100 jobs led by losses in leisure and hospitality, construction, and education and health services. The public sector saw a net change of zero jobs with a gain in federal government offsetting a loss in state government while local government was unchanged.

Harney County dropped an estimated 200 jobs over the year. The private sector lost 130 jobs with losses led by leisure and hospitality and goods-producing. The public sector lost 70 jobs with a loss in local government overcoming a gain in federal government while state government was unchanged.

Malheur County employment decreased by an estimated 620 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 510 jobs led by losses in leisure and hospitality, education and health services, and professional and business services. Gains were led by manufacturing. The public sector lost 110 jobs with a loss in local government overcoming gains in state and federal government.

**Notable Industry Gains and Losses**

Over-the-Year Employment Change from April 2019

**Grant**  
Wholesale Trade (+10)  
Federal Government (+10)  
Leisure/Hospitality (-50)  
Construction (-20)  
Private Education/Health Services (-20)  
Financial Activities (-10)  
Professional/Business Services (-10)  
State Government (-10)

**Harney**  
Wholesale Trade (+10)  
Other Services (+10)  
Local Government (-80)  
Leisure/Hospitality (-70)  
Goods-producing (-40)  
Financial Activities (-10)  
Professional/Business Services (-10)  
Private Education/Health Services (-10)

**Malheur**  
Manufacturing (+90)  
Mining/Logging/Construction (+40)  
Local Government (-250)  
Leisure/Hospitality (-150)  
Private Education/Health Services (-140)  
Professional/Business Services (-120)  
Transportation/Warehousing/Utilities (-50)

**Unemployment Rate Spikes Sharply Up due to COVID-19**

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