Malheur County’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2020 was 5.2 percent, while Harney County came in at 6.3 percent and Grant County at 7.4 percent. Malheur and Harney counties’ rates were below Oregon’s statewide rate of 6.9 percent which was the same as the national rate.

Malheur County’s rate ranked third lowest among Oregon’s 36 counties for the month while Harney County’s ranked 15th and Grant County’s tied for 29th.

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

Grant County (+1.5 percentage points) ranked in a four-way tie for second among Oregon’s counties for smallest over-the-year change while Malheur County (+1.6) ranked sixth and Harney County (+2.2) ranked in a tie for 11th.

Grant County lost an estimated 70 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 40 jobs led by losses in leisure and hospitality and mining and logging. Retail trade and information added jobs. The public sector lost 30 jobs with losses led by leisure and hospitality.

Harney County dropped an estimated 100 jobs over the year. The private sector lost 100 jobs with losses led by leisure and hospitality. No industries added jobs. The public sector saw a net change of zero jobs with a loss in local government offsetting a gain in state government.

Malheur County employment decreased by an estimated 90 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 50 jobs led by losses in leisure and hospitality and education and health services. Retail trade; transportation, warehousing, and utilities; and other services added jobs. The public sector dropped 40 jobs with a loss in local government overcoming gains in state and federal government.

For more economic or labor market data about Grant, Harney or Malheur counties, contact:

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Unemployment rate dropping after sharp rise due to COVID-19

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