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Employment in Eastern Oregon: March 2025

The March seasonally adjusted unemployment rates held steady over the year in Baker and Harney counties and increased in the other four Eastern Oregon counties. Harney and Wallowa counties' March 2025 rates tie for their second lowest March rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Baker County, it ties for the third lowest March rate. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.3 percentage point higher in Malheur County to reach 4.3% for the smallest increase. The largest increase came in Grant County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 1.0 percentage point to reach 6.5%.

Between March 2024 and March 2025, unadjusted unemployment rates increased in all six counties. Baker, Grant, Harney, and Wallowa counties' March 2025 unadjusted rates are their fourth lowest unadjusted March unemployment rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Malheur and Union counties, the March 2025 rates are their sixth lowest March rates. Harney County's raw rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to reach 5.8% for the smallest increase. The largest increase came in Wallowa County, where the raw rate increased by 1.5 percentage points to reach 7.5%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 90 jobs since March 2024. Employment increased by 10 jobs in the private sector and added 80 jobs in the public sector. Retail trade and local government led gains, up 60 jobs each. Leisure and hospitality led losses, down 60. Total nonfarm employment increased by 40 jobs over the month led by a gain in local government, up 20 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.8%. The raw unemployment rate held steady at 6.0%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 jobs over the year. The private sector added 20 jobs while the public sector decreased by 10. Mining and logging, and state government led gains, each up 20 jobs. Manufacturing and federal government dropped 20 jobs each to lead losses. Over the month, total nonfarm employment increased by 30 led by gains of 10 jobs each in private education and health services, federal government, state government, and local government. Professional and business services was the only industry to lose jobs over the month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 6.5%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 8.8%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 30 jobs over the year. The private sector added 30 jobs, and the public sector saw a net change of zero jobs. Gains were led by private education and health services, up 30 jobs. Losses were led by retail trade, down 20 jobs. Total nonfarm

employment increased by 50 jobs over the month, led by a gain of 20 jobs in professional and business services. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.5%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point to 5.8%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector fell by 40, and the public sector added 90 jobs. Manufacturing added 100 jobs to lead gains, followed by a gain of 80 jobs in local government. Leisure and hospitality dropped 50 jobs to lead losses, followed by mining, logging, and construction, down 40. Total nonfarm employment increased by 140 jobs over the month, led by a gain of 60 jobs in local government. Wholesale trade led losses, down 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate held steady at 5.0%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 110 jobs, and the public sector increased by 100 jobs. Local government led gains, up 90 jobs, followed by private education and health services, up 60. Manufacturing dropped 60 jobs to lead losses, followed by construction, and professional and business services, down 40 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment increased by 70 jobs over the month, with federal government leading gains, up 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 5.2%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 6.5%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 30 jobs from March 2024 to March 2025. The private sector dropped 60 jobs, and the public sector increased by 30. Manufacturing led losses, down 20 jobs. State government and local government led gains, up 20 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment increased by 10 jobs over the month with small gains in wholesale and retail trade, and leisure and hospitality overcoming a small loss in mining and logging. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.9%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 7.5%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, May 20, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 14.



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April 22, 2025

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,822	6,771	6,768	51	54
Unemployed	409	406	388	3	21
Unemployment rate	6.0%	6.0%	5.7%	0.0	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Employed	6,413	6,365	6,380	48	33
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,510	5,470	5,420	40	90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,580</i>	<i>5,600</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>-20</i>	<i>80</i>
Total private	4,220	4,210	4,210	10	10
Mining, logging, and construction	220	210	240	10	-20
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	210	200	230	10	-20
Manufacturing	580	580	570	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,200	1,210	1,120	-10	80
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	880	890	820	-10	60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	230	0	20
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	150	160	150	-10	0
Professional and business services	310	300	340	10	-30
Private education and health services	1,060	1,050	1,030	10	30
Leisure and hospitality	440	440	500	0	-60
Other services	210	210	210	0	0
Government	1,290	1,260	1,210	30	80
Federal government	190	180	180	10	10
State government	230	230	220	0	10
Local government	870	850	810	20	60

The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.

Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics.



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Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,067	3,040	3,056	27	11
Unemployed	270	271	248	-1	22
Unemployment rate	8.8%	8.9%	8.1%	-0.1	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.5%</i>	<i>6.5%</i>	<i>5.5%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1.0</i>
Employed	2,797	2,769	2,808	28	-11
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,330	2,300	2,320	30	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,420</i>	<i>2,390</i>	<i>2,410</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>10</i>
Total private	1,310	1,310	1,290	0	20
Mining, logging, and construction	200	200	180	0	20
Mining and logging	120	120	100	0	20
Construction	80	80	80	0	0
Manufacturing	90	90	110	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	320	310	0	10
Wholesale trade	40	40	30	0	10
Retail trade	230	230	240	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	40	0	10
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	140	150	130	-10	10
Private education and health services	210	200	200	10	10
Leisure and hospitality	160	160	170	0	-10
Other services	80	80	70	0	10
Government	1,020	990	1,030	30	-10
Federal government	210	200	230	10	-20
State government	150	140	130	10	20
Local government	660	650	670	10	-10

The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.

Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics.



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Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,586	3,533	3,591	53	-5
Unemployed	207	219	203	-12	4
Unemployment rate	5.8%	6.2%	5.7%	-0.4	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Employed	3,379	3,314	3,388	65	-9
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,400	2,350	2,370	50	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,450</i>	<i>2,450</i>	<i>2,420</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>30</i>
Total private	1,310	1,270	1,280	40	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	410	430	0	-20
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	320	320	340	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	60	0	10
Professional and business services	100	80	90	20	10
Private education and health services	270	260	240	10	30
Leisure and hospitality	270	260	280	10	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,090	1,080	1,090	10	0
Federal government	200	190	210	10	-10
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	750	750	740	0	10

The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.

Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics.



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Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,983	12,772	13,017	211	-34
Unemployed	650	641	562	9	88
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.0%	4.3%	0.0	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.3%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Employed	12,333	12,131	12,455	202	-122
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,600	12,460	12,550	140	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,590</i>	<i>12,520</i>	<i>12,540</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>50</i>
Total private	8,840	8,760	8,880	80	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	400	380	440	20	-40
Manufacturing	1,140	1,130	1,040	10	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,170	3,190	3,170	-20	0
Wholesale trade	490	510	510	-20	-20
Retail trade	2,270	2,280	2,250	-10	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	410	400	410	10	0
Information	80	80	70	0	10
Financial activities	250	250	270	0	-20
Professional and business services	400	380	430	20	-30
Private education and health services	1,890	1,880	1,900	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	1,240	1,210	1,290	30	-50
Other services	270	260	270	10	0
Government	3,760	3,700	3,670	60	90
Federal government	180	180	170	0	10
State government	1,410	1,410	1,410	0	0
Local government	2,170	2,110	2,090	60	80

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Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.

Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics.



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Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,115	12,022	12,010	93	105
Unemployed	784	794	611	-10	173
Unemployment rate	6.5%	6.6%	5.1%	-0.1	1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Employed	11,331	11,228	11,399	103	-68
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,620	10,550	10,630	70	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,670</i>	<i>10,650</i>	<i>10,690</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>-20</i>
Total private	8,020	8,000	8,130	20	-110
Mining, logging, and construction	570	570	610	0	-40
Mining and logging	30	40	30	-10	0
Construction	540	530	580	10	-40
Manufacturing	1,210	1,210	1,270	0	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,030	2,030	2,040	0	-10
Wholesale trade	240	240	240	0	0
Retail trade	1,400	1,400	1,410	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	390	390	0	0
Information	80	80	100	0	-20
Financial activities	380	380	360	0	20
Professional and business services	540	530	580	10	-40
Private education and health services	1,880	1,880	1,820	0	60
Leisure and hospitality	1,040	1,020	1,060	20	-20
Other services	290	300	290	-10	0
Government	2,600	2,550	2,500	50	100
Federal government	210	180	220	30	-10
State government	440	440	420	0	20
Local government	1,950	1,930	1,860	20	90

The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.

Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics.



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Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,539	3,513	3,534	26	5
Unemployed	265	256	213	9	52
Unemployment rate	7.5%	7.3%	6.0%	0.2	1.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Employed	3,274	3,257	3,321	17	-47
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,590	2,580	2,620	10	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,780</i>	<i>2,780</i>	<i>2,810</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-30</i>
Total private	1,810	1,800	1,870	10	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	210	220	220	-10	-10
Mining and logging	40	50	40	-10	0
Construction	170	170	180	0	-10
Manufacturing	130	130	150	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	450	470	10	-10
Wholesale and retail trade	410	400	410	10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	60	0	-10
Information	30	30	40	0	-10
Financial activities	100	100	100	0	0
Professional and business services	130	130	130	0	0
Private education and health services	380	380	390	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	240	230	250	10	-10
Other services	130	130	120	0	10
Government	780	780	750	0	30
Federal government	70	70	80	0	-10
State government	120	120	100	0	20
Local government	590	590	570	0	20

The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

Employed includes payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants.

Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment: Data are by place of work and cover full- and part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestics.

The Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly payroll employment and labor force data for Oregon's metropolitan areas and counties. The estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. The estimates of unemployment are based on a survey of households and other sources.

The Oregon Employment Department payroll employment estimates are revised quarterly using information from unemployment insurance tax records. All department publications use data from this *official Oregon series* unless noted.

The department also makes the BLS-produced nonfarm payroll employment series for metropolitan areas available. These are revised annually by BLS.

The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit QualityInfo.org, select Tools, and choose LAUS or CES from the dropdown menu. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

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To file an Unemployment Insurance claim, visit our online claims system or call our contact centers, where Employment Department staff are ready to help by phone, at 1-877-FILE-4-UI (1-877-345-3484). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

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