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Employment in Eastern Oregon: December 2025

The December seasonally adjusted unemployment rates held steady over the year in three of the six Eastern Oregon counties. The rate was down in Harney and Union counties by 0.1% and up in Wallowa County by 0.1%. Rates are low compared to historic averages. The Oregon rate was 5.2% and the national rate was 4.4%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 jobs since December 2024. Employment decreased by 20 jobs in the private sector and gained 10 in the public sector. There was a significant loss in retail trade (-100) and a significant gain in private education and health services (90). Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment decreased by 10 in December. Baker County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.9% in December and 5.9% in November. The rate is up from 4.6% in December 2024.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 jobs since December 2024. Employment decreased by 60 jobs in the private sector and increased by 50 in the public sector. There was a significant drop in manufacturing (-40). There was a significant gain in financial activities (20). Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment gained 70 in December. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there was a seasonal loss of 20 in leisure and hospitality. Grant County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.9% in December and 7.9% in November. The rate is up from 6.4% in December 2024.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 90 jobs since December 2024. Employment increased by 80 jobs in the private sector and 10 jobs in the public sector. There were significant gains in leisure and hospitality (30) and state government (20). Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment decreased by 30 jobs in December. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there was a loss of 20 in government. Harney County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in December and 5.1% in November. The rate is up from 4.4% in December 2024.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 210 jobs since December 2024. Employment decreased by 80 jobs in the private sector and 130 jobs in the public sector. There were significant losses in local government (-130), manufacturing (-60), mining, logging, and construction (-40), and private education and health services (-40). There was a significant gain in leisure and hospitality (40). Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment decreased by 30 in December. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there were losses in local government (-30) and leisure and hospitality (-20). There was a seasonal gain of 20 in retail trade. Malheur County's seasonally adjusted

unemployment rate was 4.9% in December and 4.9% in November. The rate is up from 4.1% in December 2024.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 60 jobs since December 2024. There were significant gains in financial activities (140), federal government (50), and local government (30). There were significant losses in construction (-70), transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-60), and private education and health services (-30). Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased by 50 in December. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there were significant gains in retail trade (20) and federal government (20). There were significant losses in construction (-20) and local government (-20). Union County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.7% in December and 5.8% in November. The rate is up from 4.8% in December 2024.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 jobs since December 2024. Employment increased by 20 jobs in the private sector and was unchanged in the public sector. There were significant gains in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (30), financial activities (30), and construction (20). There was a loss of 50 in manufacturing. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased by 10 December. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there were significant losses in leisure and hospitality (-20) and local government (-20). Wallowa County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3% in December and 6.2% in November. The rate is up from 4.6% in December 2024.

Next Press Releases

We are awaiting notification from the Bureau of Labor Statistics regarding publication dates for the rest of the year and will update our [schedule of future releases](#) as dates become available.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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January 27, 2026

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,853	6,896	6,786	-43	67
Unemployed	401	361	326	40	75
Unemployment rate	5.9%	5.2%	4.8%	0.7	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1.3</i>
Employed	6,452	6,535	6,460	-83	-8
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,580	5,590	5,590	-10	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>5,580</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-10</i>
Total private	4,290	4,290	4,310	0	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	270	270	270	0	0
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	260	260	260	0	0
Manufacturing	580	580	560	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,140	1,140	1,240	0	-100
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	820	820	920	0	-100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	250	0	0
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	150	150	150	0	0
Professional and business services	320	320	330	0	-10
Private education and health services	1,100	1,090	1,010	10	90
Leisure and hospitality	490	500	490	-10	0
Other services	190	190	210	0	-20
Government	1,290	1,300	1,280	-10	10
Federal government	190	190	190	0	0
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	850	860	840	-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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January 27, 2026

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,071	3,083	2,993	-12	78
Unemployed	237	212	198	25	39
Unemployment rate	7.7%	6.9%	6.6%	0.8	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>6.4%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1.5</i>
Employed	2,834	2,871	2,795	-37	39
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,340	2,330	2,350	10	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,370</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>2,380</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>-10</i>
Total private	1,290	1,300	1,350	-10	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	240	250	240	-10	0
Mining and logging	120	120	120	0	0
Construction	120	130	120	-10	0
Manufacturing	20	20	60	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	320	350	10	-20
Wholesale trade	30	30	40	0	-10
Retail trade	240	230	250	10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	60	0	0
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	90	80	70	10	20
Professional and business services	130	130	130	0	0
Private education and health services	210	210	210	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	160	180	170	-20	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,050	1,030	1,000	20	50
Federal government	250	220	200	30	50
State government	150	150	170	0	-20
Local government	650	660	630	-10	20

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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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January 27, 2026

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,660	3,722	3,529	-62	131
Unemployed	182	172	162	10	20
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.6%	4.6%	0.4	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>4.4%</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Employed	3,478	3,550	3,367	-72	111
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,490	2,530	2,400	-40	90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,510</i>	<i>2,540</i>	<i>2,420</i>	<i>-30</i>	<i>90</i>
Total private	1,340	1,360	1,260	-20	80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	420	390	-10	20
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	320	330	310	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	40	0	10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	90	90	90	0	0
Private education and health services	260	260	260	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	300	310	270	-10	30
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	1,150	1,170	1,140	-20	10
Federal government	200	210	210	-10	-10
State government	160	160	140	0	20
Local government	790	800	790	-10	0

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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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January 27, 2026

Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,887	13,027	12,896	-140	-9
Unemployed	613	526	548	87	65
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.0%	4.2%	0.8	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.8</i>
Employed	12,274	12,501	12,348	-227	-74
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,350	12,420	12,560	-70	-210
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,300</i>	<i>12,330</i>	<i>12,510</i>	<i>-30</i>	<i>-210</i>
Total private	8,840	8,870	8,920	-30	-80
Mining, logging, and construction	380	370	420	10	-40
Manufacturing	1,090	1,090	1,150	0	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,180	3,180	3,140	0	40
Wholesale trade	530	540	510	-10	20
Retail trade	2,260	2,240	2,240	20	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	400	390	-10	0
Information	70	70	80	0	-10
Financial activities	250	250	270	0	-20
Professional and business services	410	420	390	-10	20
Private education and health services	1,930	1,940	1,970	-10	-40
Leisure and hospitality	1,270	1,290	1,230	-20	40
Other services	260	260	270	0	-10
Government	3,510	3,550	3,640	-40	-130
Federal government	180	190	190	-10	-10
State government	1,430	1,430	1,420	0	10
Local government	1,900	1,930	2,030	-30	-130

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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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January 27, 2026

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,978	12,035	11,853	-57	125
Unemployed	672	606	587	66	85
Unemployment rate	5.6%	5.0%	5.0%	0.6	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>5.8%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Employed	11,306	11,429	11,266	-123	40
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,610	10,590	10,550	20	60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,620</i>	<i>10,570</i>	<i>10,560</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>60</i>
Total private	8,010	7,990	8,020	20	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	530	550	600	-20	-70
Mining and logging	30	30	30	0	0
Construction	500	520	570	-20	-70
Manufacturing	1,170	1,180	1,200	-10	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,030	1,990	2,070	40	-40
Wholesale trade	220	210	240	10	-20
Retail trade	1,470	1,450	1,430	20	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	340	330	400	10	-60
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	480	480	340	0	140
Professional and business services	570	580	550	-10	20
Private education and health services	1,830	1,820	1,860	10	-30
Leisure and hospitality	990	980	1,010	10	-20
Other services	340	340	320	0	20
Government	2,600	2,600	2,530	0	70
Federal government	250	230	200	20	50
State government	430	430	440	0	-10
Local government	1,920	1,940	1,890	-20	30

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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January 27, 2026

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,600	3,678	3,480	-78	120
Unemployed	233	204	172	29	61
Unemployment rate	6.5%	5.5%	4.9%	1.0	1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.3%</i>	<i>6.2%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>1.7</i>
Employed	3,367	3,474	3,308	-107	59
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,700	2,760	2,680	-60	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,840</i>	<i>2,830</i>	<i>2,820</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>
Total private	1,900	1,940	1,880	-40	20
Mining, logging, and construction	260	250	240	10	20
Mining and logging	60	50	60	10	0
Construction	200	200	180	0	20
Manufacturing	110	120	160	-10	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	490	490	470	0	20
Wholesale and retail trade	370	370	380	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	120	120	90	0	30
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	120	120	90	0	30
Professional and business services	130	140	140	-10	-10
Private education and health services	390	390	390	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	250	270	240	-20	10
Other services	120	130	120	-10	0
Government	800	820	800	-20	0
Federal government	90	90	90	0	0
State government	110	110	120	0	-10
Local government	600	620	590	-20	10

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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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