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Employment in Eastern Oregon: January 2026

January's seasonally adjusted unemployment rates ticked up in all six Eastern Oregon counties over the year. Malheur County's rate continues to rank among the lowest of Oregon's 36 counties, with the January 2026 rate ranking third lowest in the state. Since December, all six counties' rates held steady or decreased slightly. Collectively, the Eastern Oregon counties' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.4% in January 2026, up from 4.6% in January 2025. The Oregon rate was 5.2%, and the national rate was 4.3%.

Baker County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.8% in January and 5.9% in December 2025. This rate is up from 4.6% in January 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 10. There were losses of 50 jobs in the public sector, with 30 occurring in local government, and 20 in federal government. Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 jobs over the 12-month period ending January 2026. There were significant losses in trade, transportation, and utilities (-70), and professional and business services (-20). Over the year, the largest gains occurred in private education and health services (+100), and manufacturing (+20). Government employment rose by 10, due to an increase of 20 jobs in local government.

Grant County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.6% in January and 7.9% in December 2025. This rate is up from 6.5% in January 2025. Since December, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 30. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively lost 40 jobs and government lost 70 over the month. Over the year ending January 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10. In the private sector, total employment decreased by 40. There were significant losses in manufacturing (-30); trade, transportation, and utilities (-20); and professional and business services (-20). There were 40 jobs added in the public sector, with an increase of 30 jobs in state government and 10 in federal government over the same 12-month period.

Harney County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in January and 5.0% in December 2025. This rate is up from 4.5% in January 2025. The private sector collectively dropped 40 jobs since December (not seasonally adjusted). Employment in the public sector decreased by 50 jobs over the month. Over the year ending January 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 30 jobs, with those gains occurring in the private sector. Employment in the public sector was flat over the year.

Malheur County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7% in January and 4.9% in December 2025. This rate is up from 4.1% in January 2025. Since December, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm

employment increased by 50 jobs. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there were losses in trade, transportation, and utilities (-40), manufacturing (-30), and government (-40). Over the year since January 2025, total nonfarm employment was flat. In the private sector, there were losses in professional and business services (-30), and gains in trade, transportation, and utilities (+30), and mining logging, and construction (+20). In the public sector, total employment decreased by 10, with a loss of 40 jobs in local government offset by a gain of 40 in state government.

Union County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.6% in January and 5.7% in December 2025. This rate is up from 4.9% in January 2025. Since December, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment dropped 120 jobs. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the largest losses occurred in government (-100); mining, logging, and construction (-50); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-50). Over the year ending January 2026, seasonally adjusted employment was flat. In the private sector, there were significant losses in leisure and hospitality (-50), private education and health services (-30), and construction (-20). The largest gains in the private sector occurred in manufacturing (+30), and other services (+30). Over the year, total government employment increased by 50.

Wallowa County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.2% in January and 6.3% in December 2025. This rate is up from 4.7% in January 2025. Since December, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment rose by 10 jobs. There was a seasonal loss of 40 jobs in leisure and hospitality, and a loss of 30 jobs in government over the month. Over the year ending January 2026, total nonfarm employment decreased by 10 jobs. The largest losses were in leisure and hospitality (-40), manufacturing (-30), and professional and business services (-20). There were job gains in trade, transportation, and utilities (+40) and construction (+30). Total government employment rose by 10 due to an increase in 20 jobs in local government over the year.



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Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025	January 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,841	6,939	6,746	-98	95
Unemployed	476	396	421	80	55
Unemployment rate	7.0%	5.7%	6.2%	1.3	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.8%	5.9%	4.6%	-0.1	1.2
Employed	6,365	6,543	6,325	-178	40
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,460	5,630	5,420	-170	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,610	5,620	5,570	-10	40
Total private	4,200	4,320	4,170	-120	30
Mining, logging, and construction	230	260	230	-30	0
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	220	250	220	-30	0
Manufacturing	570	580	550	-10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,110	1,140	1,180	-30	-70
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	800	820	860	-20	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	250	250	-10	-10
Information	50	50	60	0	-10
Financial activities	160	170	150	-10	10
Professional and business services	290	290	310	0	-20
Private education and health services	1,130	1,130	1,030	0	100
Leisure and hospitality	460	490	470	-30	-10
Other services	200	210	190	-10	10
Government	1,260	1,310	1,250	-50	10
Federal government	170	190	180	-20	-10
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	840	870	820	-30	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.



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Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025	January 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,050	3,125	3,063	-75	-13
Unemployed	289	233	310	56	-21
Unemployment rate	9.5%	7.5%	10.1%	2.0	-0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.6%	7.9%	6.5%	-0.3	1.1
Employed	2,761	2,892	2,753	-131	8
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,260	2,370	2,260	-110	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,340	2,370	2,350	-30	-10
Total private	1,250	1,290	1,290	-40	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	240	260	230	-20	10
Mining and logging	110	120	120	-10	-10
Construction	130	140	110	-10	20
Manufacturing	20	20	50	0	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	320	330	-10	-20
Wholesale trade	30	30	40	0	-10
Retail trade	220	230	230	-10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	60	0	0
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	80	80	70	0	10
Professional and business services	120	120	140	0	-20
Private education and health services	220	220	210	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	160	170	150	-10	10
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,010	1,080	970	-70	40
Federal government	200	250	190	-50	10
State government	180	180	150	0	30
Local government	630	650	630	-20	0

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--				
	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025	January 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,555	3,608	3,565	-53	-10
Unemployed	222	182	241	40	-19
Unemployment rate	6.2%	5.0%	6.8%	1.2	-0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	5.0%	4.5%	-0.1	0.4
Employed	3,333	3,426	3,324	-93	9
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,400	2,490	2,370	-90	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,510	2,520	2,480	-10	30
Total private	1,300	1,340	1,270	-40	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	400	410	410	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	310	320	310	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	60	0	10
Professional and business services	90	90	90	0	0
Private education and health services	290	280	270	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	270	300	260	-30	10
Other services	50	60	60	-10	-10
Government	1,100	1,150	1,100	-50	0
Federal government	180	220	190	-40	-10
State government	150	150	140	0	10
Local government	770	780	770	-10	0

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--		
	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025	January 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,917	13,263	12,909	-346	8
Unemployed	678	615	679	63	-1
Unemployment rate	5.2%	4.6%	5.3%	0.6	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.9%	4.1%	-0.2	0.6
Employed	12,239	12,648	12,230	-409	9
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,450	12,580	12,450	-130	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,600</i>	<i>12,550</i>	<i>12,600</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>0</i>
Total private	8,800	8,890	8,790	-90	10
Mining, logging, and construction	390	410	370	-20	20
Manufacturing	1,110	1,140	1,110	-30	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,140	3,180	3,110	-40	30
Wholesale trade	530	520	510	10	20
Retail trade	2,230	2,260	2,220	-30	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	400	380	-20	0
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	260	270	270	-10	-10
Professional and business services	370	370	400	0	-30
Private education and health services	1,960	1,950	1,960	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,240	1,240	1,230	0	10
Other services	260	260	270	0	-10
Government	3,650	3,690	3,660	-40	-10
Federal government	170	200	180	-30	-10
State government	1,430	1,440	1,390	-10	40
Local government	2,050	2,050	2,090	0	-40

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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Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

			--Change From--		
	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025	January 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,059	12,175	12,094	-116	-35
Unemployed	796	668	811	128	-15
Unemployment rate	6.6%	5.5%	6.7%	1.1	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6%	5.7%	4.9%	-0.1	0.7
Employed	11,263	11,507	11,283	-244	-20
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,550	10,720	10,540	-170	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,660</i>	<i>10,780</i>	<i>10,660</i>	<i>-120</i>	<i>0</i>
Total private	8,030	8,100	8,070	-70	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	540	590	560	-50	-20
Mining and logging	30	40	30	-10	0
Construction	510	550	530	-40	-20
Manufacturing	1,230	1,220	1,200	10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,970	2,020	1,980	-50	-10
Wholesale trade	220	220	230	0	-10
Retail trade	1,390	1,420	1,370	-30	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	360	380	380	-20	-20
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	520	520	500	0	20
Professional and business services	550	550	560	0	-10
Private education and health services	1,820	1,800	1,850	20	-30
Leisure and hospitality	1,000	1,000	1,050	0	-50
Other services	330	330	300	0	30
Government	2,520	2,620	2,470	-100	50
Federal government	200	250	190	-50	10
State government	440	450	440	-10	0
Local government	1,880	1,920	1,840	-40	40

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--		
	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025	January 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,564	3,592	3,531	-28	33
Unemployed	289	229	255	60	34
Unemployment rate	8.1%	6.4%	7.2%	1.7	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	6.3%	4.7%	-0.1	1.5
Employed	3,275	3,363	3,276	-88	-1
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,610	2,700	2,620	-90	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,840	2,830	2,850	10	-10
Total private	1,830	1,890	1,850	-60	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	240	260	220	-20	20
Mining and logging	40	50	50	-10	-10
Construction	200	210	170	-10	30
Manufacturing	120	120	150	0	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	470	430	0	40
Wholesale and retail trade	360	360	340	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	110	110	90	0	20
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	150	150	140	0	10
Professional and business services	130	130	130	0	0
Private education and health services	380	380	400	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	190	230	230	-40	-40
Other services	120	120	120	0	0
Government	780	810	770	-30	10
Federal government	70	90	80	-20	-10
State government	110	120	110	-10	0
Local government	600	600	580	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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