

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 21, 2026

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Employment in Eastern Oregon: February 2026

February'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; February's rate of 4.6% is tied with Benton and Morrow counties for the lowest rate in the state. Since January, all six counties' rates decreased slightly. Collectively, the Eastern Oregon counties' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3% in February 2026, up from 4.8% in February 2025. The Oregon rate held steady at 5.2%, and the national rate was 4.4%.

Baker County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.6% in February and 5.8% in January. This rate is up from 4.7% in February 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 10. The private sector added 50 jobs, and government added 20 jobs over the month. Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 jobs over the 12-month period ending February 2026. There were significant losses in trade, transportation, and utilities (-70), with the bulk of those losses occurring in retail trade (-50). Other losses were in professional and business services (-30), and leisure and hospitality (-20). Over the year, the largest gains occurred in private education and health services (+100), manufacturing (+20), and financial activities (+20). Public-sector employment was relatively flat except for a loss of 10 jobs in federal government.

Grant County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.3% in February and 7.6% in January. This rate is up from 6.5% in February 2025. Since January, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 10. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively lost 10 jobs, and government added 20 jobs over the month. Over the year ending February 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 20. In the private sector, total employment decreased by 40. There were significant losses in trade, transportation, and utilities (-30), and professional and business services (-20). The public sector added 20 jobs, with an increase of 30 jobs in state government and a loss of 10 in local government over the year.

Harney County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7% in February and 4.9% in January. This rate is up from 4.5% in February 2025. Since January, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 20. The private sector collectively added 20 jobs over the month. Government employment decreased by 10, with a 20-job gain in local government offset by a loss of 30 in federal government. Over the year ending February 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 jobs, with those gains occurring in the private sector. Employment in the public sector decreased by 20 jobs despite gains in local government (+20), owing to a loss of 40 in federal government.

Malheur County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.6% in February and 4.7% in January. This rate is up from 4.2% in February 2025. Since January, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment decreased by 30 jobs. The decrease occurred in the public sector, with 40 jobs lost in federal government. Over the year since February 2025, total nonfarm employment rose by 50. In the private sector, there were losses in professional and business services (-30), and financial activities (-20). The largest private-sector gains were in retail trade (+50), and private education and health services (+50). In the public sector, total employment decreased by 40, with a significant loss of 60 federal government jobs.

Union County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.5% in February and 5.6% in January. This rate is up from 5% in February 2025. Since January, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment added 20 jobs. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, private-sector employment was flat over the month. The public sector added 70 jobs, with 60 jobs added in local government. Over the year ending February 2026, seasonally adjusted employment increased by 40. In the private sector, there were significant losses in leisure and hospitality (-40) and private education and health services (-30). The largest gains in the private sector occurred in manufacturing (+50), and retail trade (+40). Over the year, total government employment increased by 30.

Wallowa County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1% in February and 6.2% in January. This rate is up from 4.8% in February 2025. Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was flat over the month. Over the year ending February 2026, total nonfarm employment increased by 20 jobs. The largest losses were in manufacturing (-30), and leisure and hospitality (-20). The largest private-sector gains were in trade, transportation, and utilities (+30). Total government employment rose by 30 due to an increase of 20 jobs in local government over the year.



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Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,913	6,842	6,817	71	96
Unemployed	440	476	412	-36	28
Unemployment rate	6.4%	7.0%	6.0%	-0.6	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6%	5.8%	4.7%	-0.2	0.9
Employed	6,473	6,366	6,405	107	68
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,520	5,450	5,490	70	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,610	5,600	5,590	10	20
Total private	4,250	4,200	4,210	50	40
Mining, logging, and construction	240	230	230	10	10
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	230	220	220	10	10
Manufacturing	580	570	560	10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,110	1,110	1,180	0	-70
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	800	800	850	0	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	260	0	-20
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	170	160	150	10	20
Professional and business services	280	280	310	0	-30
Private education and health services	1,140	1,140	1,040	0	100
Leisure and hospitality	470	460	490	10	-20
Other services	210	200	200	10	10
Government	1,270	1,250	1,280	20	-10
Federal government	170	170	180	0	-10
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	850	830	850	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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Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,058	3,056	3,045	2	13
Unemployed	272	289	272	-17	0
Unemployment rate	8.9%	9.5%	8.9%	-0.6	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.3%	7.6%	6.5%	-0.3	0.8
Employed	2,786	2,767	2,773	19	13
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,270	2,260	2,290	10	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,330	2,340	2,350	-10	-20
Total private	1,240	1,250	1,280	-10	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	230	240	230	-10	0
Mining and logging	110	110	120	0	-10
Construction	120	130	110	-10	10
Manufacturing	20	20	30	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	300	310	330	-10	-30
Wholesale trade	30	30	40	0	-10
Retail trade	210	220	230	-10	-20
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	170	160	160	10	10
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,030	1,010	1,010	20	20
Federal government	200	200	200	0	0
State government	180	180	150	0	30
Local government	650	630	660	20	-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--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,562	3,552	3,586	10	-24
Unemployed	210	222	219	-12	-9
Unemployment rate	5.9%	6.3%	6.1%	-0.4	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.9%	4.5%	-0.2	0.2
Employed	3,352	3,330	3,367	22	-15
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,400	2,390	2,390	10	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,480	2,500	2,470	-20	10
Total private	1,310	1,290	1,280	20	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	400	400	10	10
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	320	310	310	10	10
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	90	80	90	10	0
Private education and health services	280	280	270	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	280	280	280	0	0
Other services	50	50	60	0	-10
Government	1,090	1,100	1,110	-10	-20
Federal government	150	180	190	-30	-40
State government	150	150	150	0	0
Local government	790	770	770	20	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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Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,051	12,944	12,864	107	187
Unemployed	660	677	652	-17	8
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.2%	5.1%	-0.1	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.7%	4.2%	-0.1	0.4
Employed	12,391	12,267	12,212	124	179
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,490	12,460	12,440	30	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,580</i>	<i>12,610</i>	<i>12,530</i>	<i>-30</i>	<i>50</i>
Total private	8,840	8,810	8,750	30	90
Mining, logging, and construction	400	390	380	10	20
Manufacturing	1,120	1,110	1,110	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,140	3,130	3,080	10	60
Wholesale trade	520	520	510	0	10
Retail trade	2,240	2,230	2,190	10	50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	380	0	0
Information	70	70	80	0	-10
Financial activities	260	260	280	0	-20
Professional and business services	370	370	400	0	-30
Private education and health services	1,980	1,980	1,930	0	50
Leisure and hospitality	1,240	1,240	1,220	0	20
Other services	260	260	270	0	-10
Government	3,650	3,650	3,690	0	-40
Federal government	130	170	190	-40	-60
State government	1,430	1,430	1,410	0	20
Local government	2,090	2,050	2,090	40	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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Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,208	12,079	12,091	129	117
Unemployed	764	797	804	-33	-40
Unemployment rate	6.3%	6.6%	6.6%	-0.3	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.5%	5.6%	5.0%	-0.1	0.5
Employed	11,444	11,282	11,287	162	157
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,620	10,550	10,570	70	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,680	10,660	10,640	20	40
Total private	8,030	8,030	8,010	0	20
Mining, logging, and construction	530	550	510	-20	20
Mining and logging	30	40	20	-10	10
Construction	500	510	490	-10	10
Manufacturing	1,240	1,230	1,190	10	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,970	1,980	1,970	-10	0
Wholesale trade	210	220	230	-10	-20
Retail trade	1,410	1,400	1,370	10	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	350	360	370	-10	-20
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	530	520	510	10	20
Professional and business services	550	550	560	0	-10
Private education and health services	1,810	1,810	1,840	0	-30
Leisure and hospitality	1,000	1,000	1,040	0	-40
Other services	330	320	320	10	10
Government	2,590	2,520	2,560	70	30
Federal government	210	200	190	10	20
State government	440	440	440	0	0
Local government	1,940	1,880	1,930	60	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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Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026	February 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,585	3,557	3,544	28	41
Unemployed	272	289	255	-17	17
Unemployment rate	7.6%	8.1%	7.2%	-0.5	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	6.2%	4.8%	-0.1	1.3
Employed	3,313	3,268	3,289	45	24
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,640	2,600	2,620	40	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,830	2,830	2,810	0	20
Total private	1,830	1,810	1,840	20	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	230	230	220	0	10
Mining and logging	40	40	50	0	-10
Construction	190	190	170	0	20
Manufacturing	120	120	150	0	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	460	430	0	30
Wholesale and retail trade	350	350	330	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	110	110	100	0	10
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	370	390	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	200	200	220	0	-20
Other services	130	120	130	10	0
Government	810	790	780	20	30
Federal government	70	70	70	0	0
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	620	600	600	20	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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