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Employment in Eastern Oregon: March 2026

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in all six Eastern Oregon counties are up over the year ending March 2026. Malheur County's rate continues to rank among the lowest of Oregon's 36 counties, with the March 2026 rate ranking third lowest in the state. Since February, all six counties' rates decreased slightly. Collectively, the Eastern Oregon counties' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1% in March 2026, up from 4.9% in March 2025. The Oregon rate held steady at 5.2%, and the national rate was 4.3%.

Baker County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.4% in March and 5.6% in February. This rate is up from 4.8% in March 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 50. All industries added jobs or remained flat except financial activities, which lost 10 jobs over the month. Collectively, the public and private sectors added 20 jobs each over the month. Total nonfarm employment increased by 100 over the 12-month period ending March 2026. There were significant losses in trade, transportation, and utilities (-60), with the bulk of those losses occurring in retail trade (-50). Over the year, the largest gains occurred in private education and health services (+110). Public-sector employment rose by 30, with those jobs added in local government.

Grant County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.1% in March and 7.3% in February. This rate is up from 6.5% in March 2025. Since February, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 30. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively dropped 30 jobs, and government added 40 jobs over the month. Over the year ending March 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment increased by 30. In the private sector, total employment decreased by 30. Total public-sector employment increased by 60, with local government and state government adding 30 jobs each over the 12-month period.

Harney County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.6% in March and 4.7% in February. This rate is up from 4.5% in March 2025. Over the month, total nonfarm employment decreased by 40, with the bulk of those losses occurring in local government (-20). Employment in the private sector was flat. Over the year ending March 2026, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 20 jobs. The private sector collectively added 10 jobs. Public-sector employment decreased by 30 due to a loss of 40 jobs in federal government.

Malheur County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.5% in March and 4.6% in February. This rate is up from 4.3% in March 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was flat. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively added 70 jobs, and the

public sector added 20. Since March 2025, total nonfarm employment increased by 70. In the private sector, the largest losses occurred in professional and business services (-30). There were significant gains in private education and health services (+60), leisure and hospitality (+60), and trade, transportation, and utilities (+50). In the public sector, total employment decreased by 80 over the year, with a loss of 40 jobs in federal government and a loss of 50 jobs in local government.

Union County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3% in March and 5.5% in February. This rate is up slightly from 5.2% in March 2025. Since February, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 10 jobs. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively added 50 jobs, and the public sector added 30 jobs over the month. Over the year ending March 2026, seasonally adjusted employment increased by 30. In the private sector, the largest losses occurred in leisure and hospitality (-30). The largest gains in the private sector were in manufacturing (+40), retail trade (+30), and financial activities (+30). Over the year, total government employment increased by 20.

Wallowa County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.0% in March and 6.1% in February. This rate is up from 4.9% in March 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was flat. Over the year ending March 2026, total nonfarm employment increased by 40 jobs. Overall, private-sector employment was flat over the year. The largest gains occurred in construction (+30), and the largest losses occurred in manufacturing (-20). Public-sector employment increased by 30 over the year, with 10 jobs each added in federal, state, and local government.



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Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,877	6,908	6,759	-31	118
Unemployed	376	439	413	-63	-37
Unemployment rate	5.5%	6.4%	6.1%	-0.9	-0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.4%	5.6%	4.8%	-0.2	0.6
Employed	6,501	6,469	6,346	32	155
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,550	5,510	5,450	40	100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,650	5,600	5,550	50	100
Total private	4,260	4,240	4,190	20	70
Mining, logging, and construction	240	240	240	0	0
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	230	230	230	0	0
Manufacturing	570	570	560	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,110	1,110	1,170	0	-60
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	800	800	850	0	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	250	0	-10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	160	170	140	-10	20
Professional and business services	290	280	320	10	-30
Private education and health services	1,150	1,140	1,040	10	110
Leisure and hospitality	480	470	480	10	0
Other services	210	210	190	0	20
Government	1,290	1,270	1,260	20	30
Federal government	190	170	190	20	0
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	850	850	820	0	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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Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,092	3,071	3,019	21	73
Unemployed	263	271	272	-8	-9
Unemployment rate	8.5%	8.8%	9.0%	-0.3	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	7.1%	7.3%	6.5%	-0.2	0.6
Employed	2,829	2,800	2,747	29	82
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,290	2,280	2,260	10	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,370	2,340	2,340	30	30
Total private	1,220	1,250	1,250	-30	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	210	230	210	-20	0
Mining and logging	100	110	110	-10	-10
Construction	110	120	100	-10	10
Manufacturing	20	20	30	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	310	330	0	-20
Wholesale trade	30	30	40	0	-10
Retail trade	220	220	230	0	-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	130	0	-10
Private education and health services	220	220	210	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	160	170	160	-10	0
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,070	1,030	1,010	40	60
Federal government	210	200	210	10	0
State government	180	180	150	0	30
Local government	680	650	650	30	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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Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,555	3,556	3,589	-1	-34
Unemployed	200	209	209	-9	-9
Unemployment rate	5.6%	5.9%	5.8%	-0.3	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.7%	4.5%	-0.1	0.1
Employed	3,355	3,347	3,380	8	-25
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,380	2,390	2,400	-10	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,430	2,470	2,450	-40	-20
Total private	1,300	1,300	1,290	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	400	400	410	0	-10
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	310	310	310	0	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	280	280	270	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	290	280	290	10	0
Other services	50	50	60	0	-10
Government	1,080	1,090	1,110	-10	-30
Federal government	160	150	200	10	-40
State government	150	150	150	0	0
Local government	770	790	760	-20	10

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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--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,185	13,060	13,034	125	151
Unemployed	567	659	647	-92	-80
Unemployment rate	4.3%	5.0%	5.0%	-0.7	-0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.6%	4.3%	-0.1	0.2
Employed	12,618	12,401	12,387	217	231
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,590	12,500	12,520	90	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,590	12,590	12,520	0	70
Total private	8,920	8,850	8,770	70	150
Mining, logging, and construction	410	400	380	10	30
Manufacturing	1,120	1,120	1,100	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,170	3,140	3,120	30	50
Wholesale trade	520	520	510	0	10
Retail trade	2,270	2,240	2,230	30	40
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	2,000	1,980	1,940	20	60
Leisure and hospitality	1,260	1,250	1,200	10	60
Other services	260	260	270	0	-10
Government	3,670	3,650	3,750	20	-80
Federal government	140	130	180	10	-40
State government	1,430	1,430	1,420	0	10
Local government	2,100	2,090	2,150	10	-50

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--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,263	12,215	12,205	48	58
Unemployed	687	764	793	-77	-106
Unemployment rate	5.6%	6.3%	6.5%	-0.7	-0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	5.5%	5.2%	-0.2	0.1
Employed	11,576	11,451	11,412	125	164
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,710	10,630	10,670	80	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,700	10,690	10,670	10	30
Total private	8,090	8,040	8,070	50	20
Mining, logging, and construction	540	530	540	10	0
Mining and logging	20	30	20	-10	0
Construction	520	500	520	20	0
Manufacturing	1,250	1,240	1,210	10	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,970	1,970	1,970	0	0
Wholesale trade	210	210	220	0	-10
Retail trade	1,410	1,410	1,380	0	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	350	350	370	0	-20
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	530	530	500	0	30
Professional and business services	560	550	570	10	-10
Private education and health services	1,820	1,810	1,830	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	1,030	1,010	1,060	20	-30
Other services	320	330	320	-10	0
Government	2,620	2,590	2,600	30	20
Federal government	230	210	220	20	10
State government	440	440	440	0	0
Local government	1,950	1,940	1,940	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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Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2026	March 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,600	3,583	3,541	17	59
Unemployed	270	271	263	-1	7
Unemployment rate	7.5%	7.6%	7.4%	-0.1	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.0%	6.1%	4.9%	-0.1	1.1
Employed	3,330	3,312	3,278	18	52
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,640	2,640	2,610	0	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,830	2,830	2,790	0	40
Total private	1,830	1,830	1,830	0	0
Mining, logging, and construction	230	230	210	0	20
Mining and logging	30	40	40	-10	-10
Construction	200	190	170	10	30
Manufacturing	120	120	140	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	460	450	0	10
Wholesale and retail trade	350	350	350	0	0
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	380	390	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	210	200	220	10	-10
Other services	120	130	120	-10	0
Government	810	810	780	0	30
Federal government	80	70	70	10	10
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	610	620	600	-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.

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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