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Employment in Eastern Oregon: May 2025

The May seasonally adjusted unemployment rates held steady over the year in Harney County and increased in the other five Eastern Oregon counties. Harney and Wallowa counties' May 2025 rates tied for their third lowest May rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Baker, Grant, and Malheur counties, they are the fourth lowest May rates. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.1 percentage point higher in Baker County to reach 4.9% for the smallest increase. The largest increase came in Union County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 0.9 percentage point to reach 5.4%.

Between May 2024 and May 2025, unadjusted unemployment rates increased in all six Eastern Oregon counties. Harney County's May 2025 unadjusted rate is its third lowest unadjusted May unemployment rate since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Baker, Malheur, and Wallowa counties, the May 2025 rates are their fifth lowest May rates. Harney County's raw rate rose by 0.4 percentage point to reach 4.2% for the smallest increase. The largest increase came in Grant County, where the raw rate increased by 1.7 percentage points to reach 6.7%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has increased by 10 jobs since May 2024. Employment decreased by 20 jobs in the private sector and added 30 jobs in the public sector. Manufacturing, financial activities, education and health services, and leisure and hospitality led losses, down 20 jobs each. Retail trade led gains, up 70 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 70 jobs over the month led by gains in leisure and hospitality, federal government, and local government, up 20 jobs each. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.9%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point to 4.7%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector added 30 jobs while the public sector increased by 20. State government added 40 jobs to lead gains, followed by construction, up 30. Manufacturing dropped 50 jobs to lead losses, followed by local government, down 20. Over the month, total nonfarm employment increased by 90 jobs. Federal government added 40 jobs to lead gains. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 6.5%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage point to 6.7%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector saw a net change of zero jobs, and the public sector added 50. Gains were led by local government, up 70 jobs. Losses were led by retail trade, down 30 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 60 jobs

over the month, led by a gain of 20 jobs in wholesale trade. The only industry to lose jobs was professional and business services, down 10. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the month at 4.5%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 4.2%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 90 jobs over the year. The private sector rose by 10, and the public sector added 80 jobs. Manufacturing added 70 jobs to lead gains, followed by gains in education and health services and state government, up 40 each. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities; financial activities; and leisure and hospitality led losses, down 30 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 10 jobs over the month, led by a loss of 70 jobs in local government. Federal government led gains, up 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.7 percentage point to 4.1%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 110 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 210 jobs, and the public sector increased by 100 jobs. Retail trade dropped 60 jobs to lead losses, followed by leisure and hospitality, down 50. Local government led gains, up 80 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 60 jobs over the month, with federal government and construction leading gains, up 40 and 30 jobs, respectively. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 5.4%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 5.1%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 jobs from May 2024 to May 2025. The private sector added 20 jobs, and the public sector increased by 20. Wholesale and retail trade, and financial activities led gains, up 20 jobs each. Construction and transportation, warehousing, and utilities led losses, down 20 each. Total nonfarm employment increased by 160 jobs over the month led by a gain of 60 jobs in leisure and hospitality. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 5.1%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.5 percentage point to 5.2%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the June county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, July 22, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Wednesday, July 16.



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June 24, 2025

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,777	6,711	6,755	66	22
Unemployed	317	290	267	27	50
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.3%	4.0%	0.4	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Employed	6,460	6,421	6,488	39	-28
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,600	5,530	5,590	70	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,520</i>	<i>5,550</i>	<i>5,510</i>	<i>-30</i>	<i>10</i>
Total private	4,310	4,280	4,330	30	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	280	270	280	10	0
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	270	260	270	10	0
Manufacturing	550	560	570	-10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,220	1,210	1,140	10	80
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	900	890	830	10	70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	240	0	10
Information	60	60	60	0	0
Financial activities	140	140	160	0	-20
Professional and business services	340	330	350	10	-10
Private education and health services	1,000	1,000	1,020	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	510	490	530	20	-20
Other services	210	220	220	-10	-10
Government	1,290	1,250	1,260	40	30
Federal government	210	190	210	20	0
State government	250	250	220	0	30
Local government	830	810	830	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--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,128	3,070	3,065	58	63
Unemployed	210	217	152	-7	58
Unemployment rate	6.7%	7.1%	5.0%	-0.4	1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.5%</i>	<i>6.4%</i>	<i>5.8%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Employed	2,918	2,853	2,913	65	5
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,460	2,370	2,410	90	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,460</i>	<i>2,440</i>	<i>2,410</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>50</i>
Total private	1,390	1,340	1,360	50	30
Mining, logging, and construction	220	210	190	10	30
Mining and logging	100	90	100	10	0
Construction	120	120	90	0	30
Manufacturing	60	60	110	0	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	370	350	310	20	60
Wholesale trade	60	40	40	20	20
Retail trade	250	250	230	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	40	0	20
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	130	130	130	0	0
Private education and health services	210	210	210	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	210	190	220	20	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,070	1,030	1,050	40	20
Federal government	250	210	250	40	0
State government	170	170	130	0	40
Local government	650	650	670	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.



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Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,627	3,575	3,553	52	74
Unemployed	153	142	134	11	19
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.0%	3.8%	0.2	0.4
<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	3,474	3,433	3,419	41	55
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,490	2,430	2,440	60	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,440</i>	<i>2,410</i>	<i>2,390</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>50</i>
Total private	1,350	1,310	1,350	40	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	420	390	440	30	-20
Wholesale trade	70	50	50	20	20
Retail trade	310	300	340	10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	110	120	110	-10	0
Private education and health services	270	270	250	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	290	280	300	10	-10
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,140	1,120	1,090	20	50
Federal government	210	200	230	10	-20
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	790	780	720	10	70

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--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,888	12,927	12,880	-39	8
Unemployed	531	437	444	94	87
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.4%	3.4%	0.7	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	12,357	12,490	12,436	-133	-79
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,630	12,640	12,540	-10	90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,530</i>	<i>12,590</i>	<i>12,440</i>	<i>-60</i>	<i>90</i>
Total private	8,900	8,870	8,890	30	10
Mining, logging, and construction	430	400	430	30	0
Manufacturing	1,160	1,140	1,090	20	70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,090	3,090	3,120	0	-30
Wholesale trade	460	470	460	-10	0
Retail trade	2,270	2,260	2,270	10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	360	360	390	0	-30
Information	80	80	80	0	0
Financial activities	240	250	270	-10	-30
Professional and business services	420	430	430	-10	-10
Private education and health services	1,930	1,950	1,890	-20	40
Leisure and hospitality	1,280	1,260	1,310	20	-30
Other services	270	270	270	0	0
Government	3,730	3,770	3,650	-40	80
Federal government	210	180	200	30	10
State government	1,430	1,430	1,390	0	40
Local government	2,090	2,160	2,060	-70	30

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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--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,997	11,964	12,090	33	-93
Unemployed	617	588	561	29	56
Unemployment rate	5.1%	4.9%	4.6%	0.2	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Employed	11,380	11,376	11,529	4	-149
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,690	10,630	10,800	60	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,550</i>	<i>10,600</i>	<i>10,660</i>	<i>-50</i>	<i>-110</i>
Total private	8,020	8,010	8,230	10	-210
Mining, logging, and construction	640	600	660	40	-20
Mining and logging	30	20	40	10	-10
Construction	610	580	620	30	-10
Manufacturing	1,200	1,190	1,200	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,020	2,030	2,080	-10	-60
Wholesale trade	240	240	230	0	10
Retail trade	1,390	1,400	1,450	-10	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	390	400	0	-10
Information	80	80	90	0	-10
Financial activities	330	330	370	0	-40
Professional and business services	560	560	600	0	-40
Private education and health services	1,890	1,880	1,870	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,000	1,050	1,050	-50	-50
Other services	300	290	310	10	-10
Government	2,670	2,620	2,570	50	100
Federal government	270	230	260	40	10
State government	440	440	430	0	10
Local government	1,960	1,950	1,880	10	80

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--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,709	3,594	3,653	115	56
Unemployed	194	206	145	-12	49
Unemployment rate	5.2%	5.7%	4.0%	-0.5	1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Employed	3,515	3,388	3,508	127	7
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,850	2,690	2,810	160	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,810</i>	<i>2,810</i>	<i>2,770</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>40</i>
Total private	2,030	1,900	2,010	130	20
Mining, logging, and construction	230	210	250	20	-20
Mining and logging	50	40	50	10	0
Construction	180	170	200	10	-20
Manufacturing	150	150	160	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	500	480	500	20	0
Wholesale and retail trade	460	440	440	20	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	60	0	-20
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	120	110	100	10	20
Professional and business services	160	150	160	10	0
Private education and health services	390	390	380	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	310	250	300	60	10
Other services	140	130	130	10	10
Government	820	790	800	30	20
Federal government	100	90	100	10	0
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	600	580	590	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.

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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