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Employment in Eastern Oregon: September 2025

The September seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in all six Eastern Oregon counties over the year. Rates are low compared with historic averages. The seasonally adjusted rate moved 0.4 percentage point higher in Harney County to reach 4.9% for the smallest increase. The largest increase came in Wallowa County where the seasonally adjusted rate rose 1.3 percentage points to reach 5.9%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment has decreased by 70 jobs since September 2024. Employment decreased by 60 jobs in the private sector and dropped by 10 jobs in the public sector. Retail trade dropped 80 jobs to lead losses, followed by financial activities and other services, down 30 jobs each. Private education and health services led gains, up 70 jobs, followed by construction, up 40 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 120 jobs over the month. Local government led the way with a seasonal gain of 130 from the beginning of a new school year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point over the month to reach 5.7%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 110 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 70 jobs while the public sector decreased by 40. Manufacturing dropped 60 jobs to lead losses, followed by federal government, down 30. Construction led gains, up 30 jobs. Over the month, total nonfarm employment increased by 50 jobs. Local government led the way with a seasonal gain of 80 from the beginning of a new school year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point over the month to 7.6%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage point to 6.0%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 70 jobs over the year. The private sector added 30 jobs, and the public sector added 40. Wholesale trade and financial activities were down 10 jobs each. Gains were seen in local government, up 30 jobs, and leisure and hospitality and state government had gains of 20 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment was up 10 jobs over the month. Local government added 50 jobs from a seasonal gain in local education due to the beginning of a new school year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.9%. The raw unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 4.2%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 150 jobs over the year. The private sector fell by 150, and the public sector was unchanged. Retail trade dropped 80 jobs to lead losses, followed by 70 jobs in mining, logging, and construction, and 50 jobs in manufacturing. Professional and business services and leisure and hospitality had a loss of 30 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment

decreased by 30 jobs over the month. Leisure and hospitality led the way, dropping 50 jobs, followed by 20 each in mining, logging, and construction, and leisure and hospitality. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.8%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.5%.

Union County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 120 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 130 jobs, and the public sector gained 10. Construction dropped 80 jobs to lead losses, followed by a loss of 60 in transportation, warehousing, and utilities, and a loss of 40 in manufacturing. Financial activities led gains, up 100 jobs, followed by 50 in local government. Total nonfarm employment dropped 20 jobs over the month. Local government led gains with 50 jobs from the start of a new school year followed by a gain of 20 jobs in private education and health services. Manufacturing led losses, down 40 jobs, followed by 30 in construction. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point over the month to reach 5.7%. The raw unemployment rate held steady at 5.3%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20 jobs from September 2024 to September 2025. The private sector gained 40 jobs, and the public sector decreased by 20. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities led gains with 60 jobs, followed by financial activities with a gain of 30. Manufacturing, professional and business services, and federal government dropped 20 jobs each. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 40 jobs over the month, led by a loss of 50 jobs in leisure and hospitality, followed by manufacturing with a loss of 20 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point over the month to 5.9%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 5.0%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October and November county and metropolitan area unemployment rate and employment survey data on Tuesday, Jan. 13, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October and November on Wednesday, Jan. 7.



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December 16, 2025

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	6,944	6,776	6,822	168	122
Unemployed	385	378	277	7	108
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.6%	4.1%	-0.1	1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>5.5%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>1.1</i>
Employed	6,559	6,398	6,545	161	14
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,600	5,480	5,670	120	-70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>5,460</i>	<i>5,570</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>-70</i>
Total private	4,290	4,300	4,350	-10	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	280	280	240	0	40
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	270	270	230	0	40
Manufacturing	570	570	570	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,140	1,140	1,220	0	-80
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	820	830	900	-10	-80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	240	250	10	0
Information	50	60	60	-10	-10
Financial activities	140	140	170	0	-30
Professional and business services	320	310	330	10	-10
Private education and health services	1,090	1,090	1,020	0	70
Leisure and hospitality	520	530	530	-10	-10
Other services	180	180	210	0	-30
Government	1,310	1,180	1,320	130	-10
Federal government	220	220	240	0	-20
State government	250	250	240	0	10
Local government	840	710	840	130	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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December 16, 2025

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,109	3,065	3,133	44	-24
Unemployed	188	193	147	-5	41
Unemployment rate	6.0%	6.3%	4.7%	-0.3	1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>7.6%</i>	<i>7.3%</i>	<i>6.5%</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>1.1</i>
Employed	2,921	2,872	2,986	49	-65
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,380	2,330	2,490	50	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,290</i>	<i>2,270</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>-110</i>
Total private	1,330	1,350	1,400	-20	-70
Mining, logging, and construction	260	250	240	10	20
Mining and logging	120	120	130	0	-10
Construction	140	130	110	10	30
Manufacturing	20	20	80	0	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	340	330	-20	-10
Wholesale trade	30	40	40	-10	-10
Retail trade	230	240	240	-10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	50	0	10
Information	40	40	50	0	-10
Financial activities	80	80	70	0	10
Professional and business services	130	130	140	0	-10
Private education and health services	210	210	200	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	200	210	210	-10	-10
Other services	70	70	80	0	-10
Government	1,050	980	1,090	70	-40
Federal government	260	270	290	-10	-30
State government	160	160	160	0	0
Local government	630	550	640	80	-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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December 16, 2025

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,649	3,735	3,620	-86	29
Unemployed	158	154	133	4	25
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.1%	3.7%	0.2	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Employed	3,491	3,581	3,487	-90	4
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,550	2,540	2,480	10	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,490</i>	<i>2,470</i>	<i>2,420</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>70</i>
Total private	1,370	1,400	1,340	-30	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	420	420	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	40	40	50	0	-10
Retail trade	330	330	330	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	50	40	-10	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	70	0	-10
Professional and business services	100	100	90	0	10
Private education and health services	260	260	260	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	320	330	300	-10	20
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	1,180	1,140	1,140	40	40
Federal government	240	250	250	-10	-10
State government	160	160	140	0	20
Local government	780	730	750	50	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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December 16, 2025

Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	--Change From--	
				August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,266	13,366	13,098	-100	168
Unemployed	600	591	462	9	138
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.4%	3.5%	0.1	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.8</i>
Employed	12,666	12,775	12,636	-109	30
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,310	12,340	12,460	-30	-150
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,310</i>	<i>12,390</i>	<i>12,460</i>	<i>-80</i>	<i>-150</i>
Total private	8,780	8,800	8,930	-20	-150
Mining, logging, and construction	380	400	450	-20	-70
Manufacturing	1,060	1,070	1,110	-10	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,090	3,060	3,170	30	-80
Wholesale trade	540	490	520	50	20
Retail trade	2,170	2,190	2,250	-20	-80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	400	0	-20
Information	70	70	80	0	-10
Financial activities	250	250	260	0	-10
Professional and business services	430	430	400	0	30
Private education and health services	1,940	1,910	1,930	30	10
Leisure and hospitality	1,300	1,350	1,270	-50	30
Other services	260	260	260	0	0
Government	3,530	3,540	3,530	-10	0
Federal government	230	230	210	0	20
State government	1,420	1,420	1,400	0	20
Local government	1,880	1,890	1,920	-10	-40

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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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

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December 16, 2025

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	--Change From--	
				August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,977	12,034	11,902	-57	75
Unemployed	634	635	501	-1	133
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.3%	4.2%	0.0	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>5.6%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Employed	11,343	11,399	11,401	-56	-58
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,450	10,470	10,570	-20	-120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,530</i>	<i>10,450</i>	<i>10,650</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>-120</i>
Total private	8,060	8,130	8,190	-70	-130
Mining, logging, and construction	580	610	680	-30	-100
Mining and logging	30	30	50	0	-20
Construction	550	580	630	-30	-80
Manufacturing	1,160	1,200	1,200	-40	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,980	1,990	2,050	-10	-70
Wholesale trade	210	210	230	0	-20
Retail trade	1,440	1,450	1,430	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	330	330	390	0	-60
Information	70	70	80	0	-10
Financial activities	480	480	380	0	100
Professional and business services	620	620	600	0	20
Private education and health services	1,830	1,810	1,860	20	-30
Leisure and hospitality	1,000	1,010	1,020	-10	-20
Other services	340	340	320	0	20
Government	2,390	2,340	2,380	50	10
Federal government	270	270	300	0	-30
State government	440	440	450	0	-10
Local government	1,680	1,630	1,630	50	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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December 16, 2025

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	--Change From--	
				August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,831	3,899	3,766	-68	65
Unemployed	191	187	128	4	63
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.8%	3.4%	0.2	1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	<i>5.6%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>1.3</i>
Employed	3,640	3,712	3,638	-72	2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,970	3,010	2,950	-40	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,810</i>	<i>2,780</i>	<i>2,790</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>20</i>
Total private	2,160	2,260	2,120	-100	40
Mining, logging, and construction	260	260	260	0	0
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	210	210	200	0	10
Manufacturing	140	160	160	-20	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	530	530	480	0	50
Wholesale and retail trade	380	390	390	-10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	140	90	10	60
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	130	140	100	-10	30
Professional and business services	150	150	170	0	-20
Private education and health services	390	400	390	-10	0
Leisure and hospitality	400	450	400	-50	0
Other services	130	140	130	-10	0
Government	810	750	830	60	-20
Federal government	100	110	120	-10	-20
State government	120	120	130	0	-10
Local government	590	520	580	70	10

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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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