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## Employment in Eastern Oregon: May 2026

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in five of the six Eastern Oregon counties are down over the year ending May 2026. Malheur County's rate continues to rank among the lowest of Oregon's 36 counties, with the May 2026 rate ranking third lowest in the state. Since April, five counties' rates were unchanged or decreased slightly. Collectively, the Eastern Oregon counties' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in May 2026, down from 5.5% in May 2025. The Oregon rate held steady at 5.2%, and the national rate was 4.3%.

Baker County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 5.3% in May. This rate is down from 5.5% in May 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 20. Collectively, the private sector added 40 jobs over the month, and government added 10. Total nonfarm employment increased by 10 over the 12-month period ending May 2026. There were significant losses in retail trade (-40), professional and business services (-30), and leisure and hospitality (-30). Over the year, the largest gains occurred in private education and health services (+130). Total government employment decreased by 10 over the year.

Grant County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5% in May and 6.8% in April. This rate is down from 7.4% in May 2025. Since April, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 30. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there were gains in trade, transportation, and utilities (+20). The public sector also added 20 jobs over the month. Over the year ending May 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10. In the private sector, total employment increased by 50. The largest gains were in construction (+40). Total public-sector employment decreased by 40 over the 12-month period, with the bulk of those losses in local government (-30).

Harney County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7% in May and 4.6% in April. This rate is down from 4.8% in May 2025. Since April, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 10. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively added 10 jobs, and the public sector added 10 jobs. Over the year ending May 2026, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 130 jobs. The private sector collectively dropped 60 jobs. Public-sector employment decreased by 70, with the bulk of those losses occurring in federal government (-50).

Malheur County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 4.4% in May. This rate is down from 4.7% in May 2025. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 80. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there was a loss of 30 jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities. The largest gains were in leisure and hospitality (+20). Total public-sector employment

decreased by 20. Over the year, total nonfarm employment decreased by 10. In the private sector, the largest losses occurred in professional and business services (-30). There were significant gains in private education and health services (+100). There were also gains in wholesale trade (+40), and manufacturing (+30). Total public-sector employment decreased by 110, with the largest losses occurring in federal government (-80).

Union County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in May and 5.1% in April. This rate is down from 5.8% in May 2025. Since April, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 20. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there was a loss of 40 jobs in leisure and hospitality. The largest gains were in construction (+30). Total public-sector employment increased by 40, with those jobs added in federal government. Over the year ending May 2026, seasonally adjusted employment increased by 140. In the private sector, there were losses in leisure and hospitality (-30). There were significant gains in financial activities (+100), private education and health services (+40), construction (+30), and manufacturing (+30). Over the year, total government employment decreased by 40.

Wallowa County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 5.9% in May. This rate is up slightly from 5.7% in May 2025. Over the month, there was no change in seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, there were gains in leisure and hospitality (+60) and financial activities (+20). In the public sector, there were gains in federal government (+30) and local government (+20). Over the year ending May 2026, total nonfarm employment decreased by 60 jobs. The largest losses were in trade, transportation, and utilities (-30), and construction (-20). Public-sector employment was flat.

### **Next News Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the June statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, July 15, and June county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, July 21.



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### Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	6,874	6,824	6,788	50	86
Unemployed	334	327	332	7	2
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.8%	4.9%	0.1	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	5.3%	5.5%	0.0	-0.2
Employed	6,540	6,497	6,456	43	84
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,560	5,510	5,560	50	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,510	5,530	5,500	-20	10
Total private	4,280	4,240	4,270	40	10
Mining, logging, and construction	260	250	270	10	-10
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	250	240	260	10	-10
Manufacturing	560	560	560	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,090	1,080	1,130	10	-40
Wholesale trade	70	70	60	0	10
Retail trade	790	790	830	0	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	230	220	240	10	-10
Information	60	60	50	0	10
Financial activities	160	160	170	0	-10
Professional and business services	290	290	320	0	-30
Private education and health services	1,180	1,180	1,050	0	130
Leisure and hospitality	490	470	520	20	-30
Other services	190	190	200	0	-10
Government	1,280	1,270	1,290	10	-10
Federal government	190	180	200	10	-10
State government	250	250	240	0	10
Local government	840	840	850	0	-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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### Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

			--Change From--		
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,021	3,036	3,047	-15	-26
Unemployed	172	219	217	-47	-45
Unemployment rate	5.7%	7.2%	7.1%	-1.5	-1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.5%	6.8%	7.4%	-0.3	-0.9
Employed	2,849	2,817	2,830	32	19
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,340	2,280	2,330	60	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,340	2,310	2,330	30	10
Total private	1,310	1,270	1,260	40	50
Mining, logging, and construction	250	250	220	0	30
Mining and logging	90	90	100	0	-10
Construction	160	160	120	0	40
Manufacturing	10	10	20	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	310	310	20	20
Wholesale trade	40	30	30	10	10
Retail trade	230	230	220	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	50	60	10	0
Information	50	40	40	10	10
Financial activities	80	70	70	10	10
Professional and business services	120	120	130	0	-10
Private education and health services	220	220	220	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	190	190	190	0	0
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,030	1,010	1,070	20	-40
Federal government	230	210	250	20	-20
State government	170	170	160	0	10
Local government	630	630	660	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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## Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,565	3,559	3,650	6	-85
Unemployed	156	160	159	-4	-3
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.5%	4.4%	-0.1	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.6%	4.8%	0.1	-0.1
Employed	3,409	3,399	3,491	10	-82
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,410	2,390	2,540	20	-130
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,350	2,360	2,480	-10	-130
Total private	1,330	1,320	1,390	10	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	400	400	420	0	-20
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	310	310	320	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	90	100	100	-10	-10
Private education and health services	300	300	280	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	320	300	320	20	0
Other services	50	50	70	0	-20
Government	1,080	1,070	1,150	10	-70
Federal government	160	150	210	10	-50
State government	150	140	160	10	-10
Local government	770	780	780	-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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**Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment**

			--Change From--		
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,208	13,282	13,026	-74	182
Unemployed	565	498	561	67	4
Unemployment rate	4.3%	3.7%	4.3%	0.6	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.4%	4.7%	0.0	-0.3
Employed	12,643	12,784	12,465	-141	178
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	12,520	12,570	12,540	-50	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,480	12,560	12,490	-80	-10
Total private	8,890	8,920	8,800	-30	90
Mining, logging, and construction	390	380	410	10	-20
Manufacturing	1,090	1,080	1,060	10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,090	3,120	3,070	-30	20
Wholesale trade	510	520	470	-10	40
Retail trade	2,210	2,230	2,230	-20	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	370	370	370	0	0
Information	70	70	80	0	-10
Financial activities	260	270	270	-10	-10
Professional and business services	390	400	420	-10	-30
Private education and health services	2,040	2,060	1,940	-20	100
Leisure and hospitality	1,280	1,260	1,280	20	0
Other services	280	280	270	0	10
Government	3,630	3,650	3,740	-20	-110
Federal government	130	130	210	0	-80
State government	1,400	1,410	1,420	-10	-20
Local government	2,100	2,110	2,110	-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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## Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

			--Change From--		
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,354	12,307	12,127	47	227
Unemployed	556	565	648	-9	-92
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.6%	5.3%	-0.1	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.1%	5.8%	-0.1	-0.7
Employed	11,798	11,742	11,479	56	319
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,880	10,830	10,730	50	150
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,760	10,780	10,620	-20	140
Total private	8,290	8,280	8,100	10	190
Mining, logging, and construction	630	600	590	30	40
Mining and logging	20	20	10	0	10
Construction	610	580	580	30	30
Manufacturing	1,210	1,220	1,180	-10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,020	2,020	2,000	0	20
Wholesale trade	230	230	220	0	10
Retail trade	1,410	1,410	1,410	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	380	370	0	10
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	580	580	480	0	100
Professional and business services	590	580	590	10	0
Private education and health services	1,860	1,850	1,820	10	40
Leisure and hospitality	1,010	1,050	1,040	-40	-30
Other services	320	310	330	10	-10
Government	2,590	2,550	2,630	40	-40
Federal government	260	220	260	40	0
State government	420	420	440	0	-20
Local government	1,910	1,910	1,930	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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**Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment**

	--Change From--				
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,704	3,573	3,701	131	3
Unemployed	203	231	201	-28	2
Unemployment rate	5.5%	6.5%	5.4%	-1.0	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.9%	5.9%	5.7%	0.0	0.2
Employed	3,501	3,342	3,500	159	1
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,790	2,640	2,850	150	-60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,750	2,750	2,810	0	-60
Total private	1,950	1,850	2,010	100	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	230	210	250	20	-20
Mining and logging	50	40	50	10	0
Construction	180	170	200	10	-20
Manufacturing	130	130	140	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	450	450	480	0	-30
Wholesale and retail trade	350	350	360	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	100	100	120	0	-20
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	160	140	150	20	10
Professional and business services	140	140	150	0	-10
Private education and health services	380	380	380	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	310	250	300	60	10
Other services	120	120	130	0	-10
Government	840	790	840	50	0
Federal government	100	70	100	30	0
State government	120	120	120	0	0
Local government	620	600	620	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.

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/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [QualityInfo.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

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