State of Oregon
Employment Department

NEWS

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Employment in Eastern Oregon: October 2026

Since September, four of the six Eastern Oregon counties' seasonally adjusted unemployment rates ticked down slightly or were unchanged. Malheur County's rate continues to rank among the lowest of Oregon's 36 counties, with the October 2026 rate ranking fourth lowest in the state. Collectively, the Eastern Oregon counties' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0%, unchanged from 5.0% in September. The Oregon rate was 4.9% in October, and the U.S. rate was 4.1%.

Baker County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 5.3% in October. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 10. Collectively, the private sector lost 30 jobs in the not seasonally adjusted industries. Total public-sector employment increased by 20. Over the year ending October 2026, total nonfarm employment increased by 20. The largest loss was in financial activities (-20). The largest gains were in other services (+30), and private education and health services (+20). In the public sector, the largest loss was in local government (-20), and the largest gain was in federal government (+20).

Grant County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8% in October and 6.7% in September. Since September, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 10. Overall, the private sector lost 10 jobs over the month in the not seasonally adjusted industries. Total public-sector employment was flat. Over the year ending October 2026, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 50. In the private sector, total employment decreased by 100. The largest losses were in mining logging, and construction (-90). The largest gains were in private education and health services (+20). In the public sector, federal government added 50 jobs.

Harney County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in October and 4.9% in September. Since September, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 40. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, both private-sector and public-sector totals were flat over the month. Over the year ending October 2026, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 140 jobs. Private-sector industries collectively dropped 100 jobs. The largest loss was in private education and health services (-40). In the public sector, the largest loss was in local government (-30).

Malheur County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.2% in October and 4.3% in September. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 60. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively added 40 jobs. The largest gains were in trade, transportation, and utilities (+50). Total public-sector employment increased by 30, with the largest gain occurring in local government (+50). Over the year ending October 2026, total nonfarm

employment decreased by 40. In the private sector, the largest losses were in manufacturing (-40) and leisure and hospitality (-40). Total public-sector employment increased by 60 over the year. The largest gain was in local government (+60).

Union County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 4.8% in October. Since September, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 100. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector collectively dropped 20 jobs. Total public-sector employment increased by 250 over the month, with a seasonal gain of 260 jobs in local government. Over the year ending October 2026, seasonally adjusted employment increased by 70. In the private sector, the largest loss was in leisure and hospitality (-20). The largest gains were in retail trade (+40); private education and health services (+30); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+20); and construction (+20). Over the year, total government employment decreased by 20, with the largest loss in local government (-60).

Wallowa County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.9% in October and 6.0% in September. Over the month, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 30. In the not seasonally adjusted industries, the private sector dropped 80 jobs over the month. There was a seasonal loss of 60 jobs in leisure and hospitality. In the public sector, local government added 20 jobs. Over the year ending October 2026, total nonfarm employment increased by 30. The largest losses in the private sector were in wholesale and retail trade (-30); and the largest gains were in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+30). In the public sector, federal government added 20 jobs over the year.

Next News Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Wednesday, Dec. 16, and November county and metropolitan area unemployment and jobs data on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

State of Oregon Employment Department

Workforce & Economic Research Division
QualityInfo.org
November 24, 2026

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,062	7,024	NA	38	NA
Unemployed	310	297	NA	13	NA
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.2%	NA	0.2	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*5.3%*	*5.3%*	NA	*0.0*	NA
Employed	6,752	6,727	NA	25	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,690	5,700	5,670	-10	20
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*5,610*	*5,600*	*5,590*	*10*	*20*
Total private	4,360	4,390	4,350	-30	10
Mining, logging, and construction	280	280	280	0	0
Mining and logging	20	20	10	0	10
Construction	260	260	270	0	-10
Manufacturing	560	560	570	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,110	1,110	1,110	0	0
Wholesale trade	70	70	60	0	10
Retail trade	800	800	810	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	240	0	0
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	160	160	180	0	-20
Professional and business services	300	300	310	0	-10
Private education and health services	1,170	1,180	1,150	-10	20
Leisure and hospitality	520	530	520	-10	0
Other services	210	220	180	-10	30
Government	1,330	1,310	1,320	20	10
Federal government	210	210	190	0	20
State government	250	250	240	0	10
Local government	870	850	890	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.

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Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	--Change From-- September 2026	--Change From-- October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,035	3,043	NA	-8	NA
Unemployed	159	146	NA	13	NA
Unemployment rate	5.2%	4.8%	NA	0.4	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*6.8%*	*6.7%*	NA	*0.1*	NA
Employed	2,876	2,897	NA	-21	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,270	2,280	2,320	-10	-50
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*2,210*	*2,200*	*2,260*	*10*	*-50*
Total private	1,250	1,260	1,350	-10	-100
Mining, logging, and construction	200	200	290	0	-90
Mining and logging	100	100	110	0	-10
Construction	100	100	180	0	-80
Manufacturing	10	10	10	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	310	330	0	-20
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	220	220	240	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	60	60	60	0	0
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	80	0	-10
Professional and business services	110	110	120	0	-10
Private education and health services	230	230	210	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	220	230	210	-10	10
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,020	1,020	970	0	50
Federal government	230	240	180	-10	50
State government	170	170	170	0	0
Local government	620	610	620	10	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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Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,588	3,577	NA	11	NA
Unemployed	155	138	NA	17	NA
Unemployment rate	4.3%	3.9%	NA	0.4	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*5.0%*	*4.9%*	NA	*0.1*	NA
Employed	3,433	3,439	NA	-6	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,400	2,400	2,540	0	-140
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*2,380*	*2,340*	*2,520*	*40*	*-140*
Total private	1,290	1,290	1,390	0	-100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	400	400	420	0	-20
Wholesale trade	50	50	50	0	0
Retail trade	310	310	330	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	100	100	90	0	10
Private education and health services	250	250	290	0	-40
Leisure and hospitality	320	320	320	0	0
Other services	50	50	60	0	-10
Government	1,110	1,110	1,150	0	-40
Federal government	200	210	200	-10	0
State government	140	140	150	0	-10
Local government	770	760	800	10	-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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Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,685	13,601	NA	84	NA
Unemployed	494	483	NA	11	NA
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.6%	NA	0.0	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*4.2%*	*4.3%*	NA	*-0.1*	NA
Employed	13,191	13,118	NA	73	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,570	12,500	12,600	70	-30
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*12,400*	*12,460*	*12,440*	*-60*	*-40*
Total private	8,770	8,730	8,860	40	-90
Mining, logging, and construction	390	390	390	0	0
Manufacturing	1,040	1,040	1,080	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,160	3,110	3,180	50	-20
Wholesale trade	520	520	540	0	-20
Retail trade	2,220	2,200	2,220	20	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	420	390	420	30	0
Information	80	80	70	0	10
Financial activities	260	260	270	0	-10
Professional and business services	380	380	380	0	0
Private education and health services	1,960	1,960	1,950	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	1,230	1,240	1,270	-10	-40
Other services	270	270	270	0	0
Government	3,800	3,770	3,740	30	60
Federal government	200	210	190	-10	10
State government	1,410	1,420	1,420	-10	-10
Local government	2,190	2,140	2,130	50	60

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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--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,315	12,113	NA	202	NA
Unemployed	491	476	NA	15	NA
Unemployment rate	4.0%	3.9%	NA	0.1	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*4.8%*	*4.8%*	NA	*0.0*	NA
Employed	11,824	11,637	NA	187	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,810	10,580	10,730	230	80
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*10,740*	*10,640*	*10,670*	*100*	*70*
Total private	8,290	8,310	8,190	-20	100
Mining, logging, and construction	680	680	660	0	20
Mining and logging	30	30	30	0	0
Construction	650	650	630	0	20
Manufacturing	1,210	1,210	1,210	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,050	2,020	1,980	30	70
Wholesale trade	220	220	210	0	10
Retail trade	1,440	1,410	1,400	30	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	390	370	0	20
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	580	590	570	-10	10
Professional and business services	570	590	580	-20	-10
Private education and health services	1,830	1,840	1,800	-10	30
Leisure and hospitality	980	990	1,000	-10	-20
Other services	320	320	320	0	0
Government	2,520	2,270	2,540	250	-20
Federal government	250	260	190	-10	60
State government	430	430	450	0	-20
Local government	1,840	1,580	1,900	260	-60

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--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,731	3,811	NA	-80	NA
Unemployed	162	152	NA	10	NA
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.0%	NA	0.3	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*5.9%*	*6.0%*	NA	*-0.1*	NA
Employed	3,569	3,659	NA	-90	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,830	2,890	2,800	-60	30
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*2,780*	*2,750*	*2,750*	*30*	*30*
Total private	2,010	2,090	2,000	-80	10
Mining, logging, and construction	250	260	270	-10	-20
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	200	210	210	-10	-10
Manufacturing	150	150	140	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	450	440	-10	0
Wholesale and retail trade	310	320	340	-10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	130	130	100	0	30
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	150	150	150	0	0
Private education and health services	380	380	380	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	310	370	300	-60	10
Other services	130	130	120	0	10
Government	820	800	800	20	20
Federal government	100	100	80	0	20
State government	120	120	110	0	10
Local government	600	580	610	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.

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