Baker, Union, and Wallowa County Labor Market Information

August 2023 (July Data)

**Unemployment Rate News**

Union County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2023 was 3.9%, while Baker County came in at 4.1% and Wallowa County at 4.7%. All three counties' rates were above Oregon's statewide rate of 3.4% and the national rate of 3.5%.

Union County's rate ranked in a four-way tie for 18th lowest among Oregon's 36 counties for the month while Baker County's tied for 23rd and Wallowa County's ranked in a three-way tie for 31st.

All three counties' rates were below their July 2022 rates.

All three counties' July 2023 rates were their lowest July rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. Over the same period, Union and Wallowa counties' rates were their lowest rates for any month.

**Nonfarm Employment Change**

**July 2022 to July 2023**

Baker County lost an estimated 40 jobs over the year. The private sector decreased by 100 jobs. Manufacturing and leisure and hospitality led losses while retail trade led gains. The public sector added 60 jobs with a gain in local government overcoming a loss in federal government while state government was unchanged.

Union County employment increased an estimated 80 jobs over the year. The private sector added 110 jobs led by gains in education and health services and professional and business services. Losses were led by transportation, warehousing, and utilities and construction. The public sector dropped 30 jobs with a loss in local government overcoming gains in federal government and state government.

Wallowa County added an estimated 160 jobs over the year. The private sector increased by 90 jobs led by gains in construction and other services. Losses were led by wholesale and retail trade. The public sector added 70 jobs with gains in local government, state government, and federal government.

**Notable Industry Gains and Losses**

Over-the-Year Employment Change from July 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Union</th>
<th>Wallowa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Government (+70)</td>
<td>Private Education/Health Services (+80)</td>
<td>Construction (+40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade (+30)</td>
<td>Professional/Business Services (+60)</td>
<td>Other Services (+40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction (+20)</td>
<td>Other Services (+40)</td>
<td>Leisure/Hospitality (+30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining/Logging (+10)</td>
<td>Federal Government (+30)</td>
<td>Mining/Logging (+30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services (+10)</td>
<td>Manufacturing (+20)</td>
<td>State Government (+30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing (-50)</td>
<td>Local Government (-80)</td>
<td>Local Government (+30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure/Hospitality (-50)</td>
<td>Transportation/Warehousing/Utilities (-50)</td>
<td>Wholesale/Retail Trade (-60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Education/Health Services (-30)</td>
<td>Construction (-40)</td>
<td>Private Education/Health Services (-10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Unemployment rates at or near record lows since 1990**

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For more economic or labor market data about Baker, Union or Wallowa counties, contact:

**Tony Wendel, Workforce Analyst**  
Cell: 541-667-7027  
E-mail: Tony.A.Wendel@employ.oregon.gov

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E-mail me at: Tony.A.Wendel@employ.oregon.gov