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## **Employment in Eastern Oregon: August 2023**

### **Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Reach New August Lows**

Between August 2023 and August 2022, unemployment rates decreased in all Eastern Oregon counties. In all six counties, the August 2023 rates are the lowest unadjusted August unemployment rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Wallowa County where the raw rate dropped by 1.4 percentage points to reach 3.2%. The smallest decrease came in Baker County, where the raw rate decreased by 1.0 percentage point to reach 4.0%.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates also decreased over the year in all six Eastern Oregon counties and are the lowest August rates since 1990. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant County where the seasonally adjusted rate lowered by 1.6 percentage points to reach 5.0%. The smallest decrease came in Baker County where the seasonally adjusted rate dropped 1.0 percentage point to reach 4.1%. For Grant (5.0%), Harney (3.9%), Malheur (3.6%), Union (3.8%), and Wallowa (4.5%) counties, the August 2023 seasonally adjusted unemployment rates represent not only the lowest August rates but the lowest rates for any month since 1990.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 50 since August 2022. Employment decreased by 90 jobs in the private sector and increased by 40 jobs in the public sector. The largest decreases came in manufacturing and leisure and hospitality, which dropped 40 jobs and 30 jobs, respectively. Local government led gains, up 60. Overall employment increased by 10 jobs over the month with small gains overcoming small losses across industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.1%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.0%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 jobs over the year. The private sector added 60 jobs while the public sector decreased by 20. Manufacturing added 30 jobs and leisure and hospitality rose by 20 to lead gains. Federal government led losses, down 40. Over the month, total employment added 20 jobs with a gain in local government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid by 0.1 percentage point in August to 5.0%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage point to 3.7%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 30 jobs over the year. The private sector decreased by 90 jobs while the public sector climbed by 60. Local government led gains, up 40. Goods-

producing and professional and business services led losses, down 40 each. Total employment increased by 20 jobs over the month, led by a gain of 20 jobs in private education and health services. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 3.9%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.4%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 160 over the year. The private sector dropped by 70 and the public sector added 230 jobs. Local government added 120 to lead gains. Retail trade dropped by 90 to lead losses. Total employment increased by 110 over the month, with local government leading the way, up 70 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.6%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percentage point to 3.9%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment saw a net change of zero jobs over the year. The private sector added 40 jobs and the public sector dropped by 40. Private education and health services showed the largest gain, up 60. Local government incurred the largest loss, down 70. Total employment decreased by 30 over the month, with other services leading losses, down 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage point in August to 3.8%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.7%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 160 jobs from August 2022 to August 2023. The private sector added 110 jobs and the public sector increased by 50. Leisure and hospitality and other services led gains, up 40 each. Wholesale and retail trade led losses, dropping 50 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 20 over the month, with small losses outpacing small gains across industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.5%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point for the month to 3.2%.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Oct. 24, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

## Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	7,078	7,059	7,406	19	-328
Unemployed	285	292	367	-7	-82
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.1%	5.0%	-0.1	-1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.1%	5.1%	0.0	-1.0
Employed	6,793	6,767	7,039	26	-246
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,520	5,510	5,570	10	-50
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	5,450	5,490	5,500	-40	-50
Total private	4,440	4,450	4,530	-10	-90
Mining and logging	30	30	20	0	10
Mining, logging, and construction	350	350	320	0	30
Construction	320	320	300	0	20
Manufacturing	580	580	620	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,150	1,160	1,160	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	840	840	830	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	250	260	-10	-20
Information	50	50	60	0	-10
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	360	370	380	-10	-20
Private education and health services	990	980	1,010	10	-20
Leisure and hospitality	600	600	630	0	-30
Other services	190	190	180	0	10
Government	1,080	1,060	1,040	20	40
Federal government	220	230	240	-10	-20
State government	230	230	230	0	0
Local government	630	600	570	30	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.

## Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,266	3,261	3,323	5	-57
Unemployed	121	132	164	-11	-43
Unemployment rate	3.7%	4.0%	4.9%	-0.3	-1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.1%	6.6%	-0.1	-1.6
Employed	3,145	3,129	3,159	16	-14
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,570	2,550	2,530	20	40
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,450	2,450	2,410	0	40
Total private	1,500	1,500	1,440	0	60
Mining and logging	120	120	130	0	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	190	190	210	0	-20
Construction	70	70	80	0	-10
Manufacturing	160	160	130	0	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	350	350	0	0
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	270	270	260	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	140	140	130	0	10
Private education and health services	200	200	190	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	260	260	240	0	20
Other services	80	80	70	0	10
Government	1,070	1,050	1,090	20	-20
Federal government	290	290	330	0	-40
State government	180	180	170	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.

## Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,662	3,643	3,866	19	-204
Unemployed	125	129	180	-4	-55
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.5%	4.7%	-0.1	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	3.9%	5.3%	0.0	-1.4
Employed	3,537	3,514	3,686	23	-149
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,520	2,500	2,550	20	-30
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,400	2,420	2,430	-20	-30
Total private	1,390	1,370	1,480	20	-90
Goods-producing	100	100	140	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	470	510	0	-40
Wholesale trade	50	50	70	0	-20
Retail trade	380	380	380	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	60	0	-20
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	100	100	140	0	-40
Private education and health services	240	220	230	20	10
Leisure and hospitality	320	320	320	0	0
Other services	90	90	70	0	20
Government	1,130	1,130	1,070	0	60
Federal government	280	290	270	-10	10
State government	130	130	120	0	10
Local government	720	710	680	10	40

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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.

## Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,623	12,532	12,867	91	-244
Unemployed	495	509	667	-14	-172
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.1%	5.2%	-0.2	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.6%	3.7%	4.7%	-0.1	-1.1
Employed	12,128	12,023	12,200	105	-72
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	12,010	11,900	11,850	110	160
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	12,100	12,110	11,940	-10	160
Total private	8,660	8,640	8,730	20	-70
Mining, logging, and construction	430	420	410	10	20
Manufacturing	1,010	1,000	1,000	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,180	3,180	3,230	0	-50
Wholesale trade	440	430	440	10	0
Retail trade	2,310	2,320	2,400	-10	-90
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	430	430	390	0	40
Information	80	80	80	0	0
Financial activities	270	270	290	0	-20
Professional and business services	380	390	430	-10	-50
Private education and health services	1,720	1,710	1,720	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,290	1,290	1,310	0	-20
Other services	300	300	260	0	40
Government	3,350	3,260	3,120	90	230
Federal government	230	220	210	10	20
State government	1,360	1,350	1,270	10	90
Local government	1,760	1,690	1,640	70	120

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.

## Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	11,975	11,888	12,428	87	-453
Unemployed	438	428	600	10	-162
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.6%	4.8%	0.1	-1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.9%	5.0%	-0.1	-1.2
Employed	11,537	11,460	11,828	77	-291
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,550	10,580	10,550	-30	0
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	10,610	10,550	10,610	60	0
Total private	8,230	8,290	8,190	-60	40
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Mining, logging, and construction	650	660	710	-10	-60
Construction	610	620	670	-10	-60
Manufacturing	1,320	1,330	1,320	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,060	2,080	2,120	-20	-60
Wholesale trade	250	260	230	-10	20
Retail trade	1,460	1,460	1,490	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	350	360	400	-10	-50
Information	100	100	100	0	0
Financial activities	370	370	370	0	0
Professional and business services	650	650	600	0	50
Private education and health services	1,720	1,710	1,660	10	60
Leisure and hospitality	1,010	1,010	990	0	20
Other services	350	380	320	-30	30
Government	2,320	2,290	2,360	30	-40
Federal government	300	300	280	0	20
State government	400	400	390	0	10
Local government	1,620	1,590	1,690	30	-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.

## Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,853	3,871	3,853	-18	0
Unemployed	124	129	179	-5	-55
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.3%	4.6%	-0.1	-1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.7%	5.8%	-0.2	-1.3
Employed	3,729	3,742	3,674	-13	55
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	3,090	3,110	2,930	-20	160
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,810	2,830	2,670	-20	140
Total private	2,310	2,330	2,200	-20	110
Mining and logging	90	90	60	0	30
Mining, logging, and construction	350	350	290	0	60
Construction	260	260	230	0	30
Manufacturing	200	210	200	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	460	510	10	-40
Wholesale and retail trade	380	380	430	0	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	80	80	10	10
Information	20	30	20	-10	0
Financial activities	140	150	130	-10	10
Professional and business services	140	140	130	0	10
Private education and health services	390	390	400	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	440	440	400	0	40
Other services	160	160	120	0	40
Government	780	780	730	0	50
Federal government	110	120	110	-10	0
State government	150	150	120	0	30
Local government	520	510	500	10	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.



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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