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Employment in Eastern Oregon: September 2023

Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Reach New September Lows

Between September 2022 and September 2023, unemployment rates decreased in all Eastern Oregon counties. In Grant, Harney, Union, and Wallowa counties, the September 2023 rates are the lowest unadjusted September unemployment rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Baker and Malheur counties, they are the second lowest September rates. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Wallowa County where the raw rate dropped by 1.4 percentage points to reach 3.0%. The smallest decrease came in Baker County, where the raw rate decreased by 0.9 percentage point to reach 3.6%.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased over the year in all six Eastern Oregon counties and are the lowest September rates since 1990. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant and Harney counties where the seasonally adjusted rate lowered by 1.8 percentage points to reach 5.0% and 3.8%, respectively. The smallest decrease came in Baker County where the seasonally adjusted rate dropped 1.2 percentage points to reach 4.1%. For Grant (5.0%), Harney (3.8%), Malheur (3.6%), Union (3.7%), and Wallowa (4.4%) counties, the September 2023 seasonally adjusted unemployment rates represent not only the lowest September rates but the lowest rates for any month since 1990.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 20 since September 2022. Employment decreased by 60 jobs in the private sector and increased by 40 jobs in the public sector. The largest decrease came in professional and business services, which dropped 30 jobs. Local government led gains, up 50. Overall employment increased by 110 jobs over the month with local government leading the way as a new school year started. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.1%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage point to 3.6%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 80 jobs over the year. The private sector added 60 jobs while the public sector increased by 20. Leisure and hospitality added 30 jobs and manufacturing and private education and health services each rose by 20 to lead gains. Federal government led losses, down 40. Over the month, total employment added 60 jobs with a significant gain in local government as schools came back from summer break. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 5.0%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percentage point to 3.4%.

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 50. Professional and business services and goods-producing led losses, down 40 and 30 jobs, respectively. Total employment decreased by 10 jobs over the month, with losses across industries overcoming a gain in local government as a new school year started. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.8%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage point to 3.1%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 270 over the year. The private sector dropped by 30 and the public sector added 300 jobs. Local government added 210 to lead gains. Professional and business services and retail trade dropped by 70 and 60 jobs, respectively, to lead losses. Total employment increased by 70 over the month, with local government leading the way, up 80 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 3.6%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.7 percentage point to 3.1%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 70 jobs over the year. The private sector added 40 jobs and the public sector increased by 30. Private education and health services showed the largest gain, up 80. Retail trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities incurred the largest losses, down 50 jobs each. Total employment decreased by 40 over the month, with manufacturing leading losses, down 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage point in September to 3.7%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 3.4%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 130 jobs from September 2022 to September 2023. The private sector added 100 jobs and the public sector increased by 30. Mining and logging, and other services led gains, up 40 each. Wholesale and retail trade led losses, dropping 40 jobs. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 120 over the month, led by a loss of 60 jobs in leisure and hospitality. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point for the month to 3.0%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Nov. 21, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	--Change From--	
				August 2023	September 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,140	7,079	7,493	61	-353
Unemployed	258	285	335	-27	-77
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.0%	4.5%	-0.4	-0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.1%	5.3%	0.0	-1.2
Employed	6,882	6,794	7,158	88	-276
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,650	5,540	5,670	110	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,540	5,470	5,560	70	-20
Total private	4,450	4,460	4,510	-10	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	360	360	320	0	40
Mining and logging	30	30	10	0	20
Construction	330	330	310	0	20
Manufacturing	570	580	580	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,160	1,150	1,190	10	-30
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	840	840	850	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	240	270	10	-20
Information	50	50	60	0	-10
Financial activities	170	170	170	0	0
Professional and business services	370	370	400	0	-30
Private education and health services	980	990	1,000	-10	-20
Leisure and hospitality	600	600	620	0	-20
Other services	190	190	170	0	20
Government	1,200	1,080	1,160	120	40
Federal government	220	220	230	0	-10
State government	230	230	230	0	0
Local government	750	630	700	120	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.

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

			--Change From--		
	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	August 2023	September 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,276	3,267	3,293	9	-17
Unemployed	112	119	153	-7	-41
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.6%	4.6%	-0.2	-1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.0%	6.8%	0.0	-1.8
Employed	3,164	3,148	3,140	16	24
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,630	2,570	2,550	60	80
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,520	2,450	2,440	70	80
Total private	1,480	1,500	1,420	-20	60
Mining, logging, and construction	190	190	220	0	-30
Mining and logging	120	120	140	0	-20
Construction	70	70	80	0	-10
Manufacturing	160	160	140	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	360	350	350	10	10
Wholesale trade	50	40	40	10	10
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	180	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	240	260	210	-20	30
Other services	70	80	70	-10	0
Government	1,150	1,070	1,130	80	20
Federal government	280	290	320	-10	-40
State government	170	180	160	-10	10
Local government	700	600	650	100	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.

Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	--Change From--	
				August 2023	September 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,658	3,680	3,870	-22	-212
Unemployed	113	124	168	-11	-55
Unemployment rate	3.1%	3.4%	4.3%	-0.3	-1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.9%	5.6%	-0.1	-1.8
Employed	3,545	3,556	3,702	-11	-157
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,530	2,540	2,560	-10	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,420	2,420	2,450	0	-30
Total private	1,360	1,390	1,450	-30	-90
Goods-producing	90	100	120	-10	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	470	490	-10	-30
Wholesale trade	50	50	60	0	-10
Retail trade	370	380	380	-10	-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	100	100	140	0	-40
Private education and health services	240	240	240	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	310	320	320	-10	-10
Other services	90	90	70	0	20
Government	1,170	1,150	1,110	20	60
Federal government	250	280	250	-30	0
State government	130	130	120	0	10
Local government	790	740	740	50	50

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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--		
	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	August 2023	September 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,582	12,664	12,761	-82	-179
Unemployed	391	486	525	-95	-134
Unemployment rate	3.1%	3.8%	4.1%	-0.7	-1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.6%	3.6%	5.0%	0.0	-1.4
Employed	12,191	12,178	12,236	13	-45
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,170	12,100	11,900	70	270
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,090	12,190	11,820	-100	270
Total private	8,640	8,650	8,670	-10	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	420	430	390	-10	30
Manufacturing	980	990	1,010	-10	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,220	3,180	3,230	40	-10
Wholesale trade	500	440	500	60	0
Retail trade	2,290	2,310	2,350	-20	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	430	430	380	0	50
Information	70	80	70	-10	0
Financial activities	270	270	280	0	-10
Professional and business services	380	380	450	0	-70
Private education and health services	1,750	1,730	1,740	20	10
Leisure and hospitality	1,250	1,290	1,250	-40	0
Other services	300	300	250	0	50
Government	3,530	3,450	3,230	80	300
Federal government	230	230	200	0	30
State government	1,360	1,360	1,300	0	60
Local government	1,940	1,860	1,730	80	210

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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.

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

			--Change From--		
	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	August 2023	September 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,749	11,964	12,179	-215	-430
Unemployed	402	432	566	-30	-164
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.6%	4.6%	-0.2	-1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.8%	5.2%	-0.1	-1.5
Employed	11,347	11,532	11,613	-185	-266
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,490	10,530	10,420	-40	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,520	10,590	10,450	-70	70
Total private	8,190	8,210	8,150	-20	40
Mining, logging, and construction	640	650	680	-10	-40
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Construction	600	610	640	-10	-40
Manufacturing	1,300	1,320	1,280	-20	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,070	2,050	2,150	20	-80
Wholesale trade	260	250	240	10	20
Retail trade	1,450	1,450	1,500	0	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	360	350	410	10	-50
Information	100	100	100	0	0
Financial activities	360	360	370	0	-10
Professional and business services	650	650	620	0	30
Private education and health services	1,720	1,720	1,640	0	80
Leisure and hospitality	1,000	1,010	990	-10	10
Other services	350	350	320	0	30
Government	2,300	2,320	2,270	-20	30
Federal government	300	300	260	0	40
State government	390	400	380	-10	10
Local government	1,610	1,620	1,630	-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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

			--Change From--		
	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	August 2023	September 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,724	3,855	3,744	-131	-20
Unemployed	111	124	164	-13	-53
Unemployment rate	3.0%	3.2%	4.4%	-0.2	-1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.5%	6.0%	-0.1	-1.6
Employed	3,613	3,731	3,580	-118	33
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,980	3,100	2,850	-120	130
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,790	2,820	2,660	-30	130
Total private	2,180	2,320	2,080	-140	100
Mining, logging, and construction	340	350	280	-10	60
Mining and logging	90	90	50	0	40
Construction	250	260	230	-10	20
Manufacturing	180	200	180	-20	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	470	500	-10	-40
Wholesale and retail trade	370	380	410	-10	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	90	0	0
Information	20	30	20	-10	0
Financial activities	130	140	130	-10	0
Professional and business services	130	140	120	-10	10
Private education and health services	390	390	390	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	380	440	350	-60	30
Other services	150	160	110	-10	40
Government	800	780	770	20	30
Federal government	110	110	100	0	10
State government	140	150	120	-10	20
Local government	550	520	550	30	0

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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.

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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