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Employment in Eastern Oregon: February 2024

Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Remain Low

The February seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased over the year in all six Eastern Oregon counties. In Grant, Malheur, Union, and Wallowa counties, they are the lowest February rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Baker and Harney counties, the February 2024 rates are the second lowest February rates behind February 2022. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant County where the seasonally adjusted rate moved 2.1 percentage points lower to reach 4.5%. The smallest decrease came in Baker County where the seasonally adjusted rate dropped 1.0 percentage point to reach 4.4%. For Grant County (4.5%), the February 2024 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate represents not only the lowest February rate but the lowest rate for any month since 1990.

Between February 2023 and February 2024, unadjusted unemployment rates decreased in Grant and Wallowa counties while increasing in Baker, Harney, Malheur, and Union counties. In Grant County, the February 2024 rate is the lowest unadjusted February unemployment rate since 1990. In Wallowa County, it is the second lowest February rate behind only February 2022. In Harney County, the only lower February rates were in 2022 and 2023. Baker, Malheur, and Union counties had lower February rates in 2020, 2022, and 2023. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant County where the raw rate dropped by 0.4 percentage point to reach 6.2%. The largest increase came in Union County, where the raw rate increased by 0.8 percentage point to reach 5.7%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 since February 2023. Employment decreased by 60 jobs in the private sector and increased by 110 jobs in the public sector. Local government led gains, up 100, with professional and business services adding 30. The largest decreases came in leisure and hospitality and construction, which were down 50 and 40 jobs, respectively. Overall employment increased by 30 jobs over the month with local government leading gains, up 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.4%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage point to 5.9%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 70 jobs over the year. The private sector saw a net change of zero jobs while the public sector increased by 70. Local government added 70 jobs and construction rose by 30 to lead gains. Wholesale trade and retail trade led losses, each down 20. Over the month, total employment saw a net change of zero jobs with small losses offsetting small gains.

across industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.5%. The raw unemployment rate fell 0.8 percentage point to 6.2%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 jobs over the year. The private sector decreased by 30 jobs and the public sector added 20. Small losses were spread across industries. Gains were confined to local government and state government. Total employment increased by 30 jobs over the month, led by a gain in local government, up 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.2%. The raw unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 260 jobs over the year. The private sector dropped by 50 and the public sector added 310 jobs. Local government added 260 to lead gains. Retail trade dropped 100 jobs to lead losses. Total employment increased by 110 over the month, with local government leading the gains, up 60 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 3.7%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage point to 4.6%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment saw a net change of zero jobs over the year. The private sector dropped 30 jobs and the public sector increased by 30. Private education and health services added 50 jobs to lead gains and retail trade dropped 50 to lead losses. Total employment increased by 90 jobs over the month, with local government leading the way, up 50. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.1%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 5.7%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 jobs from February 2023 to February 2024. The private sector dropped 20 jobs and the public sector increased by 10. Manufacturing and construction led losses, down 30 and 20 jobs, respectively. Gains were led by wholesale and retail trade, and private education and health services, each up 20. Total nonfarm employment increased by 20 over the month, with small gains in leisure and hospitality, other services, and local government overcoming a small loss in federal government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point over the month to 4.2%. The raw unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.9%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 23, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Wednesday, April 17.



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Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	--Change From--	
				January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,154	7,085	7,009	69	145
Unemployed	420	436	375	-16	45
Unemployment rate	5.9%	6.2%	5.4%	-0.3	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.4%</i>	<i>4.3%</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-1.0</i>
Employed	6,734	6,649	6,634	85	100
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,380	5,350	5,330	30	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,530</i>	<i>5,530</i>	<i>5,480</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>50</i>
Total private	4,190	4,170	4,250	20	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	250	230	290	20	-40
Mining and logging	20	10	20	10	0
Construction	230	220	270	10	-40
Manufacturing	580	570	580	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,130	1,130	1,130	0	0
Wholesale trade	80	80	70	0	10
Retail trade	820	820	820	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	230	230	240	0	-10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	160	160	170	0	-10
Professional and business services	380	390	350	-10	30
Private education and health services	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	440	440	490	0	-50
Other services	200	200	190	0	10
Government	1,190	1,180	1,080	10	110
Federal government	170	180	160	-10	10
State government	220	220	220	0	0
Local government	800	780	700	20	100

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

	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	--Change From--	
				January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,223	3,216	3,139	7	84
Unemployed	201	224	206	-23	-5
Unemployment rate	6.2%	7.0%	6.6%	-0.8	-0.4
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.5%	4.6%	6.6%	-0.1	-2.1
Employed	3,022	2,992	2,933	30	89
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,470	2,470	2,400	0	70
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	2,580	2,600	2,510	-20	70
Total private	1,390	1,410	1,390	-20	0
Mining, logging, and construction	210	220	180	-10	30
Mining and logging	120	120	120	0	0
Construction	90	100	60	-10	30
Manufacturing	160	160	160	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	300	320	350	-20	-50
Wholesale trade	30	30	50	0	-20
Retail trade	230	240	250	-10	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	50	50	-10	-10
Information	50	50	60	0	-10
Financial activities	80	80	70	0	10
Professional and business services	130	130	140	0	-10
Private education and health services	220	210	200	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	170	170	170	0	0
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	1,080	1,060	1,010	20	70
Federal government	220	220	210	0	10
State government	130	130	140	0	-10
Local government	730	710	660	20	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.



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Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,614	3,562	3,595	52	19
Unemployed	222	218	214	4	8
Unemployment rate	6.1%	6.1%	6.0%	0.0	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>-1.5</i>
Employed	3,392	3,344	3,381	48	11
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,340	2,310	2,350	30	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,450</i>	<i>2,410</i>	<i>2,470</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>-20</i>
Total private	1,250	1,250	1,280	0	-30
Goods-producing	90	90	90	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	440	450	450	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	40	40	50	0	-10
Retail trade	360	370	360	-10	0
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	90	80	100	10	-10
Private education and health services	230	230	230	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	260	260	270	0	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	1,090	1,060	1,070	30	20
Federal government	190	200	200	-10	-10
State government	140	130	130	10	10
Local government	760	730	740	30	20

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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--				
	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,961	12,857	12,508	104	453
Unemployed	600	645	546	-45	54
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.0%	4.4%	-0.4	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.6%	5.0%	0.1	-1.3
Employed	12,361	12,212	11,962	149	399
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,440	12,330	12,180	110	260
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,550	12,530	12,290	20	260
Total private	8,640	8,600	8,690	40	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	370	370	360	0	10
Manufacturing	1,020	1,010	1,040	10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,130	3,140	3,240	-10	-110
Wholesale trade	520	510	510	10	10
Retail trade	2,220	2,240	2,320	-20	-100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	390	410	0	-20
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	270	270	270	0	0
Professional and business services	430	420	440	10	-10
Private education and health services	1,840	1,840	1,750	0	90
Leisure and hospitality	1,250	1,230	1,230	20	20
Other services	260	250	290	10	-30
Government	3,800	3,730	3,490	70	310
Federal government	170	180	170	-10	0
State government	1,380	1,360	1,330	20	50
Local government	2,250	2,190	1,990	60	260

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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--				
	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,238	12,113	12,005	125	233
Unemployed	692	707	592	-15	100
Unemployment rate	5.7%	5.8%	4.9%	-0.1	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>3.9%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>-1.1</i>
Employed	11,546	11,406	11,413	140	133
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,470	10,380	10,470	90	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,620</i>	<i>10,560</i>	<i>10,620</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>0</i>
Total private	7,990	7,940	8,020	50	-30
Mining, logging, and construction	550	550	560	0	-10
Mining and logging	30	40	30	-10	0
Construction	520	510	530	10	-10
Manufacturing	1,270	1,260	1,270	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,100	2,090	2,160	10	-60
Wholesale trade	240	240	250	0	-10
Retail trade	1,450	1,440	1,500	10	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	410	410	410	0	0
Information	90	90	100	0	-10
Financial activities	350	340	350	10	0
Professional and business services	580	570	580	10	0
Private education and health services	1,750	1,740	1,700	10	50
Leisure and hospitality	1,010	1,010	990	0	20
Other services	290	290	310	0	-20
Government	2,480	2,440	2,450	40	30
Federal government	200	210	190	-10	10
State government	420	420	410	0	10
Local government	1,860	1,810	1,850	50	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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Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,542	3,491	3,473	51	69
Unemployed	244	240	243	4	1
Unemployment rate	6.9%	6.9%	7.0%	0.0	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>6.2%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-2.0</i>
Employed	3,298	3,251	3,230	47	68
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,580	2,560	2,590	20	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2,770</i>	<i>2,790</i>	<i>2,790</i>	<i>-20</i>	<i>-20</i>
Total private	1,830	1,810	1,850	20	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	250	250	270	0	-20
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	190	190	210	0	-20
Manufacturing	130	130	160	0	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	470	450	0	20
Wholesale and retail trade	400	400	380	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	70	70	70	0	0
Information	30	30	30	0	0
Financial activities	110	110	110	0	0
Professional and business services	110	110	120	0	-10
Private education and health services	390	390	370	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	210	200	210	10	0
Other services	130	120	130	10	0
Government	750	750	740	0	10
Federal government	70	80	70	-10	0
State government	90	90	80	0	10
Local government	590	580	590	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.

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.

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.

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