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CONTACT INFORMATION:
Chris Rich, Regional Economist
Christopher.M.Rich@employ.oregon.gov
(541) 519-0315

Employment in Eastern Oregon: October 2021

Seasonal Patterns Push October Employment

Comparing October 2021 with October 2020 shows decreasing unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Baker County where the raw rate dropped 2.5 percentage points to reach 3.2%. The smallest decrease came in Harney and Malheur counties where the raw rate dropped 1.3 percentage points to 3.3% and 2.7%, respectively. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in all Eastern Oregon counties as well. Baker County saw the largest decrease, falling 1.8 percentage points to 4.7%. Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties saw the smallest decrease over the year, dropping 0.9 percentage point to 6.4%, 4.9%, and 3.9%, respectively.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 280 since October 2020. Employment increased by 170 jobs in the private sector and 110 jobs in the public sector. The overall gain brings employment to 280 jobs above the March 2020 level, prior to the start of the pandemic, and matches total employment in October 2019. Over-the-year gains were either light or flat in most industries. Local government added the most, up 110. Leisure and hospitality has yet to fully recover, remaining 90 jobs below the October 2019 mark. Overall employment decreased by 50 jobs over the month as leisure and hospitality, manufacturing, and federal government scaled back. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.2 percentage point in October to 4.7%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.6 percentage point to 3.2%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 50 jobs over the year. The private sector gained 20 while the public sector dropped by 70. The overall decrease leaves the county 120 jobs shy of its October 2019 mark. The gap was predominately from local government, which saw the largest decrease. Over the month, total employment fell by 90 as seasonal losses occurred in several industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.2 percentage point in October to 6.4%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.6 percentage point to 3.7%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 30 jobs over the year. The increase came from small gains in the private sector as well as the public sector. Local government added 30 jobs to lead growth. Retail trade along with leisure and hospitality added 20 jobs apiece. Total employment dropped by 40 jobs over the month. Seasonal losses came in four industries while most industries were unchanged for the month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.9%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.7 percentage point to 3.3%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 110 over the year. The private sector split the loss with the public sector. Manufacturing showed the largest loss, down 100. Local government dropped by 50. Retail trade added 70 jobs for the year to lead growth. The county's total employment recovered in spring 2021, hovering near 2019 levels through summer. However, Malheur has slipped below 2019 levels for the past couple of months, predominately seen in local government and in manufacturing. Over the month, total employment rose by 140 jobs. Local government added 110 while trade, transportation, and utilities added 80. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.2 percentage point over the month to 3.9%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage point for the month to 2.7%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 260 over the year. The private sector added 190 jobs while the public sector added 70. Local government increased by 80 to lead growth. Leisure and hospitality increased by 70, as did retail trade. The majority of industries saw growth over the year. Union was only 90 jobs shy of the 2019 mark in September. The October number puts the county 30 jobs above the pre-pandemic March 2020 level for the first time since, but leaves the county 290 jobs shy of the October 2019 level. The gap is largely a combination of leisure and hospitality losses and lagging student employment at Eastern Oregon University. Total employment rose by 150 over the month, boosted by large gains in local government education. Federal government dropped some seasonal employment while most industries saw light movement. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased 0.3 percentage point in October to 5.0%. The raw unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage point to 3.3%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 100 from October 2020 to October 2021. Local government added 50 jobs for the only growth in the public sector. Leisure and hospitality added 40 to lead growth in the private sector. Manufacturing dropped by 20, as did construction. Total nonfarm employment dropped by 120 over the month with seasonal decreases led by leisure and hospitality (-70). The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was virtually unchanged for the month at 5.3%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage point for the month to 3.4%.

For info on Unemployment Insurance benefits: [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19](https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19)

For more data and analysis related to COVID-19: Qualityinfo.org/covid-19

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Dec. 21 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	Oct. 2021	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020	--Change From--	
				Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,669	7,668	7,454	1	215
Unemployed	245	289	426	-44	-181
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.8%	5.7%	-0.6	-2.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.9%	6.5%	-0.2	-1.8
Employed	7,424	7,379	7,028	45	396
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,690	5,740	5,410	-50	280
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5,560</i>	<i>5,620</i>	<i>5,290</i>	<i>-60</i>	<i>270</i>
Total private	4,480	4,520	4,310	-40	170
Mining, logging, and construction	300	300	290	0	10
Mining and logging	10	20	20	-10	-10
Construction	290	280	270	10	20
Manufacturing	600	630	560	-30	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,210	1,210	1,190	0	20
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	880	880	870	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	240	0	10
Information	50	50	40	0	10
Financial activities	150	150	150	0	0
Professional and business services	360	350	310	10	50
Education and health services	1,030	1,020	1,040	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	570	600	540	-30	30
Other services	210	210	190	0	20
Government	1,210	1,220	1,100	-10	110
Federal government	210	230	210	-20	0
State government	210	210	210	0	0
Local government	790	780	680	10	110

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

	Oct. 2021	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020	--Change From--	
				Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,248	3,361	3,258	-113	-10
Unemployed	121	145	168	-24	-47
Unemployment rate	3.7%	4.3%	5.2%	-0.6	-1.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.4%	6.6%	7.3%	-0.2	-0.9
Employed	3,127	3,216	3,090	-89	37
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,410	2,500	2,460	-90	-50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,320	2,370	2,370	-50	-50
Total private	1,380	1,420	1,360	-40	20
Mining, logging, and construction	210	210	200	0	10
Mining and logging	140	150	130	-10	10
Construction	70	60	70	10	0
Manufacturing	110	110	100	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	350	340	0	10
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	260	260	250	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	110	120	120	-10	-10
Education and health services	200	200	210	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	240	260	230	-20	10
Other services	60	70	60	-10	0
Government	1,030	1,080	1,100	-50	-70
Federal government	280	320	300	-40	-20
State government	150	170	150	-20	0
Local government	600	590	650	10	-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

	--Change From--				
	Oct. 2021	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,899	3,878	3,834	21	65
Unemployed	129	154	178	-25	-49
Unemployment rate	3.3%	4.0%	4.6%	-0.7	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	5.1%	5.8%	-0.2	-0.9
Employed	3,770	3,724	3,656	46	114
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,460	2,500	2,430	-40	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,410	2,410	2,380	0	30
Total private	1,400	1,420	1,380	-20	20
Goods-producing	110	120	120	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	470	450	0	20
Wholesale trade	60	60	60	0	0
Retail trade	360	360	340	0	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	50	50	50	0	0
Professional and business services	120	130	140	-10	-20
Education and health services	250	240	250	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	320	330	300	-10	20
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	1,060	1,080	1,050	-20	10
Federal government	240	260	250	-20	-10
State government	110	110	120	0	-10
Local government	710	710	680	0	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.

Malheur County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Oct. 2021	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,029	12,972	13,099	57	-70
Unemployed	347	424	521	-77	-174
Unemployment rate	2.7%	3.3%	4.0%	-0.6	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	4.1%	4.8%	-0.2	-0.9
Employed	12,682	12,548	12,578	134	104
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,030	11,890	12,140	140	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,780	11,830	11,890	-50	-110
Total private	8,710	8,650	8,760	60	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	380	380	380	0	0
Manufacturing	1,040	1,050	1,140	-10	-100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,130	3,050	3,060	80	70
Wholesale trade	500	490	470	10	30
Retail trade	2,250	2,220	2,180	30	70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	380	340	410	40	-30
Information	170	170	150	0	20
Financial activities	260	260	290	0	-30
Professional and business services	480	450	470	30	10
Education and health services	1,760	1,760	1,770	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	1,150	1,180	1,150	-30	0
Other services	340	350	350	-10	-10
Government	3,320	3,240	3,380	80	-60
Federal government	200	220	220	-20	-20
State government	1,240	1,250	1,230	-10	10
Local government	1,880	1,770	1,930	110	-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.

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Oct. 2021	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,411	12,420	12,172	-9	239
Unemployed	415	497	675	-82	-260
Unemployment rate	3.3%	4.0%	5.5%	-0.7	-2.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.3%	6.4%	-0.3	-1.4
Employed	11,996	11,923	11,497	73	499
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,580	10,430	10,320	150	260
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,400	10,520	10,140	-120	260
Total private	8,120	8,130	7,930	-10	190
Mining, logging, and construction	670	680	610	-10	60
Mining and logging	50	50	30	0	20
Construction	620	630	580	-10	40
Manufacturing	1,280	1,290	1,260	-10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,140	2,130	2,090	10	50
Wholesale trade	250	250	260	0	-10
Retail trade	1,500	1,480	1,430	20	70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	390	400	400	-10	-10
Information	90	90	80	0	10
Financial activities	340	340	320	0	20
Professional and business services	560	580	590	-20	-30
Education and health services	1,720	1,700	1,760	20	-40
Leisure and hospitality	1,010	1,020	940	-10	70
Other services	310	300	280	10	30
Government	2,460	2,300	2,390	160	70
Federal government	250	300	260	-50	-10
State government	360	360	360	0	0
Local government	1,850	1,640	1,770	210	80

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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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Oct. 2021	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,700	3,842	3,589	-142	111
Unemployed	124	144	179	-20	-55
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.7%	5.0%	-0.3	-1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	5.4%	6.4%	-0.1	-1.1
Employed	3,576	3,698	3,410	-122	166
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,740	2,860	2,640	-120	100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,650	2,650	2,560	0	90
Total private	2,000	2,110	1,950	-110	50
Mining, logging, and construction	250	260	270	-10	-20
Mining and logging	80	80	80	0	0
Construction	170	180	190	-10	-20
Manufacturing	130	140	150	-10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	480	500	460	-20	20
Wholesale and retail trade	390	400	380	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	100	80	-10	10
Information	20	20	10	0	10
Financial activities	140	140	140	0	0
Professional and business services	130	130	130	0	0
Education and health services	420	420	410	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	310	380	270	-70	40
Other services	120	120	110	0	10
Government	740	750	690	-10	50
Federal government	90	110	90	-20	0
State government	100	110	100	-10	0
Local government	550	530	500	20	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.

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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.

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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 coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19. For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

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