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## **Employment in Eastern Oregon: December 2021**

### **Overall Losses Light in December**

Comparing December 2021 with December 2020 shows decreasing unemployment rates in all Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant County where the raw rate dropped 3.2 percentage points to reach 5.4%. The smallest decrease came in Harney County where the raw rate dropped 0.8 percentage point to 4.4%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in all Eastern Oregon counties as well. Baker County saw the largest decrease, falling 2.1 percentage points to 4.3%. Harney County saw the smallest decrease over the year, dropping 0.4 percentage point to 4.7%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 290 since December 2020. Employment increased by 240 jobs in the private sector and 50 jobs in the public sector. Leisure and hospitality (+80) led over-the-year gains in the private sector; however, the industry has yet to fully recover all employment losses, remaining 90 jobs below the December 2019 mark. Local government added 50 for the only growth in the public sector. Overall employment decreased by 20 jobs over the month with small seasonal movement in a few industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was virtually unchanged in December at 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.6 percentage point to 4.1%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 90 jobs over the year. The private sector gained 70 while the public sector gained 20. Apart from leisure and hospitality (+50) and state government (+30), industry growth was light or flat. The county was just 30 jobs shy of its December 2019 mark and 90 jobs above its December 2020 mark. Over the month, total employment dipped by 10 as light losses outweighed light gains. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate slid 0.3 percentage point in December to 5.9%. The raw unemployment rate increased 0.8 percentage point to 5.4%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 40 jobs over the year. The increase came from gains in the private sector led by leisure and hospitality (+40). Retail trade added 20 jobs for the second largest gain. Total employment slid by 30 jobs over the month with light movement in a few industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked down 0.2 percentage point over the month to 4.7%. The raw unemployment rate increased 0.7 percentage point to 4.4%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment ticked up by 10 over the year. The private sector slipped by 20 as the public sector rose by 30. Leisure and hospitality showed a major gain, adding 230 jobs over the year. The industry hit a rough patch for three months following the November 2020

indoor dining freeze, but showed strong headway since March 2021. Most other industries saw relatively small losses, although information saw a large drop after losing an employer to Idaho. Over the month, total employment dipped by 30 jobs as losses outweighed gains. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was virtually unchanged over the month at 3.7%. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage point to 3.2%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 400 over the year. The private sector added 340 jobs while the public sector added 60. The largest gain came in leisure and hospitality (+180) which has hovered 40 jobs below 2019 levels since August. Retail trade (+80), manufacturing (+60), and local government (+60) also had strong showings. Union is largely recovered, but remained 190 jobs below the December 2019 mark. Roughly half of the gap is from Eastern Oregon University where on campus enrollment is down 200 since fall 2019. The university's employment loss appears largely tied to student employment. Total employment dropped by 90 over the month, mainly from seasonal losses in local government and federal government. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked down 0.2 percentage point in December to 4.5%. The raw unemployment rate rose 0.6 percentage point to 4.1%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment rose by 130 from December 2020 to December 2021. Local government added 50 jobs, as did leisure and hospitality, to share the lead for growth. Total nonfarm employment dropped by 80 over the month, with small seasonal losses in six industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was virtually unchanged for the month at 5.0%. The raw unemployment rate increased by 1.0 percentage point for the month to 5.0%.

For info on Unemployment Insurance benefits: [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment\\_COVID19](http://Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19)

For more data and analysis related to COVID-19: [Qualityinfo.org/covid-19](http://Qualityinfo.org/covid-19)

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Mar. 8, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January, also on Tuesday, Mar. 8.

## Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	7,569	7,582	7,528	-13	41
Unemployed	307	264	478	43	-171
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.5%	6.3%	0.6	-2.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.4%	6.4%	-0.1	-2.1
Employed	7,262	7,318	7,050	-56	212
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,630	5,650	5,340	-20	290
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,640	5,620	5,350	20	290
Total private	4,430	4,450	4,190	-20	240
Mining, logging, and construction	270	280	280	-10	-10
Mining and logging	10	10	20	0	-10
Construction	260	270	260	-10	0
Manufacturing	620	620	590	0	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,210	1,200	1,200	10	10
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	880	880	870	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	240	250	10	0
Information	60	60	40	0	20
Financial activities	150	150	140	0	10
Professional and business services	340	350	290	-10	50
Education and health services	1,050	1,040	1,020	10	30
Leisure and hospitality	520	540	440	-20	80
Other services	210	210	190	0	20
Government	1,200	1,200	1,150	0	50
Federal government	180	190	180	-10	0
State government	210	210	210	0	0
Local government	810	800	760	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.

## Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,159	3,185	3,230	-26	-71
Unemployed	172	145	278	27	-106
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.6%	8.6%	0.8	-3.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.9%	6.2%	7.8%	-0.3	-1.9
Employed	2,987	3,040	2,952	-53	35
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,320	2,330	2,230	-10	90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,410	2,340	2,320	70	90
Total private	1,370	1,380	1,300	-10	70
Mining, logging, and construction	200	210	200	-10	0
Mining and logging	140	140	140	0	0
Construction	60	70	60	-10	0
Manufacturing	110	110	100	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	370	360	360	10	10
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	260	260	260	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	70	60	60	10	10
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	120	110	110	10	10
Education and health services	200	200	200	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	210	230	160	-20	50
Other services	60	60	70	0	-10
Government	950	950	930	0	20
Federal government	210	220	200	-10	10
State government	140	140	110	0	30
Local government	600	590	620	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.

## Harney County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,793	3,815	3,850	-22	-57
Unemployed	168	142	199	26	-31
Unemployment rate	4.4%	3.7%	5.2%	0.7	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.9%	5.1%	-0.2	-0.4
Employed	3,625	3,673	3,651	-48	-26
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,340	2,370	2,300	-30	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,400	2,390	2,360	10	40
Total private	1,330	1,370	1,290	-40	40
Goods-producing	100	110	110	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	470	440	-10	20
Wholesale trade	60	60	60	0	0
Retail trade	350	360	330	-10	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	40	50	50	-10	-10
Professional and business services	110	110	120	0	-10
Education and health services	250	250	250	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	290	300	250	-10	40
Other services	70	70	60	0	10
Government	1,010	1,000	1,010	10	0
Federal government	200	210	210	-10	-10
State government	120	110	120	10	0
Local government	690	680	680	10	10

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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--				
	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,427	12,615	12,790	-188	-363
Unemployed	399	349	601	50	-202
Unemployment rate	3.2%	2.8%	4.7%	0.4	-1.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.8%	4.8%	-0.1	-1.1
Employed	12,028	12,266	12,189	-238	-161
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,830	11,860	11,820	-30	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>11,740</i>	<i>11,680</i>	<i>11,730</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>10</i>
Total private	8,530	8,560	8,550	-30	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	370	380	370	-10	0
Manufacturing	1,070	1,050	1,120	20	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,090	3,090	3,120	0	-30
Wholesale trade	500	460	490	40	10
Retail trade	2,250	2,270	2,260	-20	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	340	360	370	-20	-30
Information	80	80	150	0	-70
Financial activities	260	260	290	0	-30
Professional and business services	440	440	450	0	-10
Education and health services	1,730	1,750	1,780	-20	-50
Leisure and hospitality	1,150	1,170	920	-20	230
Other services	340	340	350	0	-10
Government	3,300	3,300	3,270	0	30
Federal government	180	180	200	0	-20
State government	1,240	1,230	1,220	10	20
Local government	1,880	1,890	1,850	-10	30

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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.

## Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,298	12,381	12,288	-83	10
Unemployed	505	436	804	69	-299
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.5%	6.5%	0.6	-2.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.7%	6.5%	-0.2	-2.0
Employed	11,793	11,945	11,484	-152	309
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,490	10,580	10,090	-90	400
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,450</i>	<i>10,470</i>	<i>10,060</i>	<i>-20</i>	<i>390</i>
Total private	8,110	8,120	7,770	-10	340
Mining, logging, and construction	630	650	600	-20	30
Mining and logging	50	50	40	0	10
Construction	580	600	560	-20	20
Manufacturing	1,320	1,310	1,260	10	60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,170	2,160	2,120	10	50
Wholesale trade	250	250	250	0	0
Retail trade	1,520	1,520	1,440	0	80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	400	390	430	10	-30
Information	90	90	80	0	10
Financial activities	340	340	310	0	30
Professional and business services	520	530	550	-10	-30
Education and health services	1,750	1,730	1,770	20	-20
Leisure and hospitality	990	1,000	810	-10	180
Other services	300	310	270	-10	30
Government	2,380	2,460	2,320	-80	60
Federal government	190	220	190	-30	0
State government	350	350	350	0	0
Local government	1,840	1,890	1,780	-50	60

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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.

## Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,534	3,599	3,493	-65	41
Unemployed	176	145	209	31	-33
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.0%	6.0%	1.0	-1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.1%	5.7%	-0.1	-0.7
Employed	3,358	3,454	3,284	-96	74
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,580	2,660	2,450	-80	130
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,700	2,730	2,570	-30	130
Total private	1,890	1,930	1,810	-40	80
Mining, logging, and construction	240	250	260	-10	-20
Mining and logging	70	80	80	-10	-10
Construction	170	170	180	0	-10
Manufacturing	130	130	140	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	480	450	-10	20
Wholesale and retail trade	380	390	370	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	90	80	0	10
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	140	140	130	0	10
Professional and business services	110	110	110	0	0
Education and health services	430	430	410	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	230	250	180	-20	50
Other services	120	120	110	0	10
Government	690	730	640	-40	50
Federal government	60	80	60	-20	0
State government	80	90	80	-10	0
Local government	550	560	500	-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.



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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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 [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org), select *Economic Data*, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

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](http://Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://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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