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Employment in Eastern Oregon: February 2023

Raw Rate Rises Over the Year as Grant Sees Only Decrease

Comparing February 2023 with February 2022 shows increasing unemployment rates in five Eastern Oregon counties. The largest over-the-year increase came in Wallowa County where the raw rate jumped 1.6 percentage points to reach 8.0%. The smallest increase came in Baker County where the raw rate increased by 0.7 percentage point to reach 5.8%. Grant County saw the only decrease, falling 0.5 percentage point to 7.6%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in all Eastern Oregon counties. Malheur saw the largest increase, rising 1.1 percentage points to 4.7%. Union saw the smallest increase over the year, rising by 0.8 percentage point to 5.0%.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 since February 2022. Employment decreased by 10 jobs in the private sector while the public sector went unchanged. Decreases were mainly small with the exception of manufacturing, which dropped by 80. Professional and business services added 30 jobs over the year, as did construction. Overall employment increased by 20 jobs over the month; gains and losses were relatively small. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked up by 0.1 percentage point in February to 5.1%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.8 percentage point to 5.8%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 50 over the year. The private sector added 20 jobs while the public sector increased by 30. Local government led gains, up 30. Over the month, total employment increased by 10 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped by 0.2 percentage point in February to 6.5%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 1.9 percentage points to 7.6%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 70 over the year. The private sector dropped by 110 as the public sector rose by 40. Two industries accounted for the bulk of the decrease; professional and business services dropped by 60 while leisure and hospitality dropped by 30. Total employment increased by 50 over the month. Local government saw the largest gain, up 20. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched down 0.1 percentage point over the month to 5.4%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.8 percentage point to 6.6%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 over the year. The private sector was unchanged as the public sector ticked up by 10. Wholesale trade saw the largest decrease over the year, down 60. Retail trade picked up by 60 to counter the loss and lead gains. Total employment jumped by

110 over the month as local government added 70 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.7%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.7 percentage point to 5.1%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 over the year. The private sector decreased by 20 jobs as the public sector added 30. Most industries saw gains with construction in the lead, up 40. Leisure and hospitality dropped by 70 while manufacturing scaled back by 50. Total employment rose by 90 over the month. Local government led gains, up 40. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in February at 5.0%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage point to 5.7%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 10 from February 2022 to February 2023. The private sector slipped by 20 while the public sector added 10 jobs. Gains were largest in local government, up 20. Manufacturing decreased by 20, as did leisure and hospitality. Total nonfarm employment increased by 40 over the month as gains came in a few industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point over the month to 5.8%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage point for the month to 8.0%.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, April 25, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Wednesday, April 19.

Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2023	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	7,209	7,218	7,459	-9	-250
Unemployed	421	477	380	-56	41
Unemployment rate	5.8%	6.6%	5.1%	-0.8	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	5.0%	4.2%	0.1	0.9
Employed	6,788	6,741	7,079	47	-291
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	5,450	5,430	5,460	20	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,600	5,610	5,620	-10	-20
Total private	4,310	4,300	4,320	10	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	270	260	240	10	30
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	260	250	230	10	30
Manufacturing	560	550	640	10	-80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,150	1,170	1,140	-20	10
Wholesale trade	70	70	80	0	-10
Retail trade	820	830	810	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	260	270	250	-10	10
Information	70	70	60	0	10
Financial activities	160	160	160	0	0
Professional and business services	380	370	350	10	30
Education and health services	990	1,000	980	-10	10
Leisure and hospitality	530	530	550	0	-20
Other services	200	190	200	10	0
Government	1,140	1,130	1,140	10	0
Federal government	170	170	160	0	10
State government	220	220	220	0	0
Local government	750	740	760	10	-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.

Grant County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2023	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,051	3,130	3,142	-79	-91
Unemployed	232	296	256	-64	-24
Unemployment rate	7.6%	9.5%	8.1%	-1.9	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.5%	6.7%	5.6%	-0.2	0.9
Employed	2,819	2,834	2,886	-15	-67
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,310	2,300	2,260	10	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,440	2,450	2,390	-10	50
Total private	1,330	1,320	1,310	10	20
Mining, logging, and construction	200	210	190	-10	10
Mining and logging	130	140	130	-10	0
Construction	70	70	60	0	10
Manufacturing	100	100	100	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	340	340	0	0
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	250	250	250	0	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	60	50	50	10	10
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	130	130	130	0	0
Education and health services	200	190	190	10	10
Leisure and hospitality	160	160	170	0	-10
Other services	70	70	70	0	0
Government	980	980	950	0	30
Federal government	190	190	200	0	-10
State government	130	130	120	0	10
Local government	660	660	630	0	30

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--				
	Feb. 2023	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,675	3,667	3,846	8	-171
Unemployed	244	271	222	-27	22
Unemployment rate	6.6%	7.4%	5.8%	-0.8	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.4%	5.5%	4.5%	-0.1	0.9
Employed	3,431	3,396	3,624	35	-193
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,410	2,360	2,480	50	-70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,540	2,480	2,610	60	-70
Total private	1,350	1,330	1,460	20	-110
Goods-producing	90	90	110	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	490	490	480	0	10
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	370	370	360	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	50	60	10	0
Professional and business services	140	130	200	10	-60
Education and health services	240	240	250	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	260	260	290	0	-30
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	1,060	1,030	1,020	30	40
Federal government	200	190	190	10	10
State government	120	120	120	0	0
Local government	740	720	710	20	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--				
	Feb. 2023	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,258	12,240	12,531	18	-273
Unemployed	623	706	532	-83	91
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.8%	4.2%	-0.7	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.7%	3.6%	0.0	1.1
Employed	11,635	11,534	11,999	101	-364
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,840	11,730	11,830	110	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,000	11,970	11,990	30	10
Total private	8,440	8,410	8,440	30	0
Mining, logging, and construction	330	330	340	0	-10
Manufacturing	1,000	990	1,010	10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,110	3,100	3,120	10	-10
Wholesale trade	460	460	520	0	-60
Retail trade	2,300	2,290	2,240	10	60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	350	350	360	0	-10
Information	70	70	70	0	0
Financial activities	280	280	270	0	10
Professional and business services	440	450	420	-10	20
Education and health services	1,750	1,740	1,730	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,180	1,170	1,210	10	-30
Other services	280	280	270	0	10
Government	3,400	3,320	3,390	80	10
Federal government	160	160	160	0	0
State government	1,280	1,270	1,260	10	20
Local government	1,960	1,890	1,970	70	-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.

Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2023	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	11,922	11,932	12,198	-10	-276
Unemployed	674	722	588	-48	86
Unemployment rate	5.7%	6.1%	4.8%	-0.4	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.0%	4.2%	0.0	0.8
Employed	11,248	11,210	11,610	38	-362
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,380	10,290	10,370	90	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,520	10,500	10,520	20	0
Total private	7,920	7,880	7,940	40	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	610	600	570	10	40
Mining and logging	40	40	40	0	0
Construction	570	560	530	10	40
Manufacturing	1,240	1,230	1,290	10	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,170	2,150	2,140	20	30
Wholesale trade	240	240	230	0	10
Retail trade	1,520	1,500	1,520	20	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	410	410	390	0	20
Information	100	90	90	10	10
Financial activities	350	350	340	0	10
Professional and business services	530	530	520	0	10
Education and health services	1,650	1,650	1,660	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	950	960	1,020	-10	-70
Other services	320	320	310	0	10
Government	2,460	2,410	2,430	50	30
Federal government	180	180	190	0	-10
State government	380	370	360	10	20
Local government	1,900	1,860	1,880	40	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.

Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	Feb. 2023	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	3,455	3,454	3,512	1	-57
Unemployed	276	287	225	-11	51
Unemployment rate	8.0%	8.3%	6.4%	-0.3	1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.8%	5.6%	4.9%	0.2	0.9
Employed	3,179	3,167	3,287	12	-108
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	2,510	2,470	2,520	40	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,720	2,700	2,740	20	-20
Total private	1,790	1,770	1,810	20	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	230	240	240	-10	-10
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	180	190	180	-10	0
Manufacturing	140	140	160	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	460	450	450	10	10
Wholesale and retail trade	390	380	380	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	70	70	70	0	0
Information	20	20	20	0	0
Financial activities	100	100	100	0	0
Professional and business services	100	90	100	10	0
Education and health services	400	400	390	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	200	200	220	0	-20
Other services	140	130	130	10	10
Government	720	700	710	20	10
Federal government	60	60	70	0	-10
State government	90	90	90	0	0
Local government	570	550	550	20	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.

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