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## **Employment in Eastern Oregon: October 2023**

### **Eastern Oregon Unemployment Rates Reach or Near October Lows**

Between October 2022 and October 2023, unemployment rates decreased in all Eastern Oregon counties. In Grant, Union, and Wallowa counties, the October 2023 rates are the lowest unadjusted October unemployment rates since comparable statistics began in 1990. In Baker and Harney counties, they tie with October 2019 for the lowest October rates. Malheur County's rate is the second lowest October rate behind only October 2019. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Wallowa County where the raw rate dropped by 1.8 percentage points to reach 3.0%. The smallest decrease came in Baker County, where the raw rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points to reach 3.4%.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased over the year in all six Eastern Oregon counties. In Grant, Harney, Union, and Wallowa counties, they are the lowest October rates since 1990. In Malheur County, the October 2023 rate ties with the October 2019 rate for the lowest October rate. Baker County's rate is the second lowest October rate behind only October 2019. The largest over-the-year decrease came in Grant, Harney, and Wallowa counties where the seasonally adjusted rate lowered by 1.9 percentage points to reach 5.0%, 3.9%, and 4.3%, respectively. The smallest decrease came in Baker County where the seasonally adjusted rate dropped 1.3 percentage points to reach 4.1%. For Grant (5.0%), Harney (3.9%), Malheur (3.6%), Union (3.7%), and Wallowa (4.3%) counties, the October 2023 seasonally adjusted unemployment rates represent not only the lowest October rates but the lowest rates for any month since 1990.

Baker County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 since October 2022. Employment decreased by 40 jobs in the private sector and increased by 50 jobs in the public sector. Local government led gains, up 60. The largest decreases came in manufacturing; transportation, warehousing, and utilities; and private education and health services, each dropping 20 jobs. Overall employment decreased by 50 jobs over the month with leisure and hospitality leading losses, down 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 4.1%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 3.4%.

Grant County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10 jobs over the year. The private sector added 20 jobs while the public sector decreased by 10. Local government added 30 jobs and manufacturing and professional and business services each rose by 20 to lead gains. State government led losses, down 30. Over the month, total employment dropped 10 jobs with small losses slightly

overcoming small gains across industries. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 5.0%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percentage point to 3.3%.

Harney County's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 80 jobs over the year. The private sector decreased by 80 jobs while the public sector saw a net change of zero jobs. Professional and business services led losses, down 40. Gains were confined to state government, private education and health services, and other services. Total employment decreased by 30 jobs over the month, with federal government leading losses, down 30. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 3.9%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.1%.

Malheur County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 120 over the year. The private sector dropped by 120 and the public sector added 240 jobs. Local government added 160 to lead gains. Retail trade dropped 110 jobs to lead losses. Total employment increased by 190 over the month, with local government leading the way, up 160 jobs. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 3.6%. The raw unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage point to 3.0%.

Union County's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 280 jobs over the year. The private sector added 180 jobs and the public sector increased by 100. Private education and health services and local government showed the largest gains, each up 50. Losses were confined to financial activities, and mining and logging. Total employment increased by 170 over the month, with local government leading gains, up 260. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 3.7%. The raw unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.3%.

Wallowa County's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 80 jobs from October 2022 to October 2023. The private sector added 30 jobs and the public sector increased by 50. Local government led gains, up 30 jobs. Losses were confined to manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and private education and health services, down 10 each. 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 4.3%. The raw unemployment rate was unchanged for the month, at 3.0%.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Wednesday, Dec. 27, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

## Baker County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	7,179	7,150	7,493	29	-314
Unemployed	243	257	345	-14	-102
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.6%	4.6%	-0.2	-1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.1%	5.4%	0.0	-1.3
Employed	6,936	6,893	7,148	43	-212
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	5,600	5,650	5,590	-50	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5,520	5,540	5,510	-20	10
Total private	4,410	4,450	4,450	-40	-40
Mining, logging, and construction	330	340	340	-10	-10
Mining and logging	20	30	20	-10	0
Construction	310	310	320	0	-10
Manufacturing	550	560	570	-10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,140	1,130	1,150	10	-10
Wholesale trade	70	70	70	0	0
Retail trade	840	830	830	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	230	230	250	0	-20
Information	50	60	60	-10	-10
Financial activities	160	160	160	0	0
Professional and business services	380	380	370	0	10
Private education and health services	990	990	1,010	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	600	630	600	-30	0
Other services	210	200	190	10	20
Government	1,190	1,200	1,140	-10	50
Federal government	210	230	210	-20	0
State government	210	210	220	0	-10
Local government	770	760	710	10	60

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--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,126	3,154	3,233	-28	-107
Unemployed	104	110	162	-6	-58
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.5%	5.0%	-0.2	-1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.0%	6.9%	0.0	-1.9
Employed	3,022	3,044	3,071	-22	-49
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,510	2,520	2,500	-10	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,440	2,410	2,430	30	10
Total private	1,440	1,450	1,420	-10	20
Mining, logging, and construction	190	180	200	10	-10
Mining and logging	110	110	130	0	-20
Construction	80	70	70	10	10
Manufacturing	150	150	130	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	350	350	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	40	40	50	0	-10
Retail trade	260	270	250	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	40	40	50	0	-10
Information	50	50	50	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	80	0	-10
Professional and business services	150	150	130	0	20
Private education and health services	210	200	200	10	10
Leisure and hospitality	220	230	210	-10	10
Other services	60	70	70	-10	-10
Government	1,070	1,070	1,080	0	-10
Federal government	260	280	270	-20	-10
State government	130	140	160	-10	-30
Local government	680	650	650	30	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--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,578	3,614	3,781	-36	-203
Unemployed	111	115	178	-4	-67
Unemployment rate	3.1%	3.2%	4.7%	-0.1	-1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	3.9%	5.8%	0.0	-1.9
Employed	3,467	3,499	3,603	-32	-136
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,470	2,500	2,550	-30	-80
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,420	2,390	2,500	30	-80
Total private	1,360	1,370	1,440	-10	-80
Goods-producing	100	100	120	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	470	470	490	0	-20
Wholesale trade	50	50	60	0	-10
Retail trade	380	380	380	0	0
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	230	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	290	300	310	-10	-20
Other services	90	90	80	0	10
Government	1,110	1,130	1,110	-20	0
Federal government	230	260	240	-30	-10
State government	140	140	120	0	20
Local government	740	730	750	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--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,768	12,663	12,811	105	-43
Unemployed	385	389	564	-4	-179
Unemployment rate	3.0%	3.1%	4.4%	-0.1	-1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.6%	3.6%	5.1%	0.0	-1.5
Employed	12,383	12,274	12,247	109	136
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	12,360	12,170	12,240	190	120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,140	12,090	12,020	50	120
Total private	8,720	8,640	8,840	80	-120
Mining, logging, and construction	460	460	380	0	80
Manufacturing	1,010	1,000	1,050	10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	3,230	3,160	3,340	70	-110
Wholesale trade	480	500	490	-20	-10
Retail trade	2,280	2,240	2,420	40	-140
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	470	420	430	50	40
Information	80	80	70	0	10
Financial activities	270	280	280	-10	-10
Professional and business services	420	400	450	20	-30
Private education and health services	1,760	1,750	1,760	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,190	1,210	1,230	-20	-40
Other services	300	300	280	0	20
Government	3,640	3,530	3,400	110	240
Federal government	190	230	190	-40	0
State government	1,380	1,390	1,300	-10	80
Local government	2,070	1,910	1,910	160	160

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.

## Union County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,019	11,903	12,192	116	-173
Unemployed	397	407	609	-10	-212
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.4%	5.0%	-0.1	-1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.7%	5.4%	0.0	-1.7
Employed	11,622	11,496	11,583	126	39
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,860	10,690	10,580	170	280
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,690	10,720	10,410	-30	280
Total private	8,310	8,360	8,130	-50	180
Mining, logging, and construction	670	690	640	-20	30
Mining and logging	30	30	40	0	-10
Construction	640	660	600	-20	40
Manufacturing	1,310	1,320	1,290	-10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,160	2,160	2,140	0	20
Wholesale trade	250	250	240	0	10
Retail trade	1,490	1,480	1,480	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	420	430	420	-10	0
Information	90	100	90	-10	0
Financial activities	350	350	370	0	-20
Professional and business services	630	640	600	-10	30
Private education and health services	1,720	1,710	1,670	10	50
Leisure and hospitality	1,040	1,050	1,030	-10	10
Other services	340	340	300	0	40
Government	2,550	2,330	2,450	220	100
Federal government	270	300	230	-30	40
State government	380	390	370	-10	10
Local government	1,900	1,640	1,850	260	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.

## Wallowa County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	3,609	3,705	3,583	-96	26
Unemployed	109	111	173	-2	-64
Unemployment rate	3.0%	3.0%	4.8%	0.0	-1.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.4%	6.2%	-0.1	-1.9
Employed	3,500	3,594	3,410	-94	90
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	2,880	2,980	2,800	-100	80
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2,830	2,790	2,750	40	80
Total private	2,060	2,170	2,030	-110	30
Mining, logging, and construction	290	300	290	-10	0
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	230	240	230	-10	0
Manufacturing	160	170	170	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	480	500	480	-20	0
Wholesale and retail trade	390	400	400	-10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	90	100	80	-10	10
Information	20	30	20	-10	0
Financial activities	130	140	120	-10	10
Professional and business services	140	140	120	0	20
Private education and health services	380	380	390	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	320	370	320	-50	0
Other services	140	140	120	0	20
Government	820	810	770	10	50
Federal government	100	110	90	-10	10
State government	110	120	100	-10	10
Local government	610	580	580	30	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.



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/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [QualityInfo.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

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