

May 2015

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rates March 2015

Baker County	7.6%
<i>seasonally adjusted</i>	6.0%
Grant County	11.5%
<i>seasonally adjusted</i>	9.7%
Harney County	8.9%
<i>seasonally adjusted</i>	7.7%
Malheur County	7.0%
<i>seasonally adjusted</i>	6.9%
Union County	6.8%
<i>seasonally adjusted</i>	6.3%
Wallowa County	10.3%
<i>seasonally adjusted</i>	8.3%
Oregon	5.8%
<i>seasonally adjusted</i>	5.4%
United States	5.6%
<i>seasonally adjusted</i>	5.5%

Population – July 1, 2014

Baker County	16,325
Grant County	7,425
Harney County	7,265
Malheur County	31,470
Union County	26,485
Wallowa County	7,070
Oregon	3,962,710

Source: Population Research Center,
 Portland State University

Average Pay Per Job – 2014

Baker County	\$32,951
Grant County	\$35,293
Harney County	\$33,676
Malheur County	\$32,976
Union County	\$34,936
Wallowa County	\$30,872
Oregon	\$46,509
United States (2013)	\$49,804

Help Wanted Online Ads in Eastern Oregon

In March, there were 725 ads placed online for jobs in Oregon's six eastern counties, according to The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Series. This was slightly less than last year's March figure of 798. This number can fluctuate quite a bit from year to year but the overall trend in online ads is one of growth. Just five years ago, there were only 431 ads placed in eastern Oregon. Ten years ago, this number was around 100.

Similar to the state as a whole, occupations with the most ads in eastern Oregon in March included registered nurses (71), physical therapists (36), and truck drivers (23).

The increase in online ads placed in eastern Oregon has been driven by a growing economy, along with a change in employers' methods of advertising. Online ads are a way to measure labor demand in real time, but have limitations. For instance, employers may leave ads posted online when they do not have a vacancy or are not actively recruiting for a new position. They could be "collecting resumes" for when they do have a vacancy.

Of the six eastern counties, Malheur County had by far the most online ads placed, with 279. Wallowa County had the fewest, with 24 ads placed in March 2015.

Online Ads by County

	March 2015	March 2014	March 2010	Jobs with Most Ads, March 2015
Baker	150	113	93	Registered nurses
Grant	46	99	33	Physical therapists
				Police, fire, ambulance
Harney	67	95	41	dispatchers
Malheur	279	277	101	Registered nurses
Union	158	126	142	Truck drivers
Wallowa	24	52	21	Cashiers

Source: The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Series

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION – March 2015

In March, the unemployment rate held at 5.5 percent, and the number of unemployed persons was little changed at 8.6 million. Over the year, the unemployment rate and the number of unemployed persons were down by 1.1 percentage points and 1.8 million, respectively.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 126,000 in March, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.5 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Employment continued to trend up in professional and business services, health care, and retail trade, while mining lost jobs.

OREGON EMPLOYMENT SITUATION – March 2015

In March, Oregon's unemployment rate fell below the U.S. rate for the first time since 1996, dropping to 5.4 percent, from 5.8 percent in February. The U.S. unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in March. While the difference between the Oregon and the U.S. March unemployment rates was not statistically significant, the fact that Oregon's rate is below the nation's shows how much the state's economy has improved over the last year.

Reflecting an improving economy, Oregon's unemployment rate dropped substantially over the past 12 months; in March 2014, Oregon's rate was 7.1 percent.

This winter, two factors benefitted Oregon's economy relative to many states. First, Oregon's weather was unusually mild during much of the first three months of the year, while many economies in the northeastern U.S. were hit hard by severe winter weather. In the short term, the weather boosted Oregon's employment in weather-dependent industries above normal levels. And second, the plunge in oil prices since mid-2014 led to lower gasoline and other fuel prices, which benefitted Oregon consumers and likely led to greater demand for certain goods and services.

A primary reason for Oregon's declining unemployment rate is rapid job growth. Employment growth accelerated over the past two years, reflecting a strengthening economy and contributing to a tightening labor market. Total nonfarm payrolls grew by 56,100 jobs, or 3.3 percent, in the 12 months ending in March. Since March 2014, two major industries each added over 10,000 jobs: professional and business services (+11,500 jobs or +5.3%) and health care and social assistance (+10,300 jobs or +4.9%). Job gains were also above 3 percent in the following major industries: manufacturing; transportation, warehousing and utilities; and leisure and hospitality.

In March, payrolls grew by 4,300 jobs, about the average growth rate of the prior 12 months. Most major industries performed close to seasonal expectations, but health care and social assistance (+1,700 jobs) vigorously expanded.

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BAKER COUNTY

Employment in Baker County was unchanged between March 2014 and March 2015. Job gains in the public sector were offset by losses in the private sector.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.0 percent in March, down significantly from one year ago. Baker County's unemployment rate was higher than both the statewide rate (5.4%) and the national rate (5.5%).

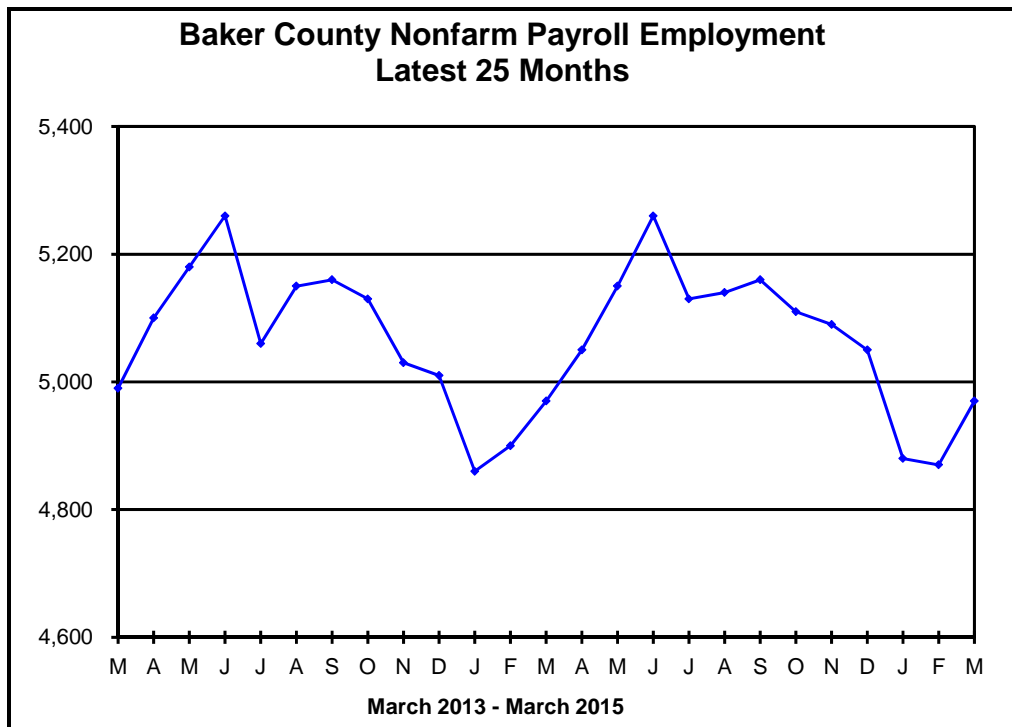
BAKER COUNTY CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

	Mar. 2015	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014	Change From	
				Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014
Labor Force Status (Household Data)					
Civilian labor force	6,546	6,514	6,759	32	-213
Unemployed	496	545	715	-49	-219
Unemployment rate	7.6	8.4	10.6	-0.8	-3.0
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	6.0	6.5	8.1	-0.5	-2.1
Employed	6,050	5,969	6,044	81	6
Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	4,970	4,870	4,970	100	0
Total private	3,790	3,690	3,810	100	-20
Mining and logging	10	10	10	0	0
Construction	180	170	160	10	20
Manufacturing	480	480	490	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,020	1,010	990	10	30
Wholesale trade	80	80	80	0	0
Retail trade	720	710	680	10	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	220	220	230	0	-10
Information	70	60	70	10	0
Financial activities	170	160	170	10	0
Professional and business services	330	320	300	10	30
Educational and health services	810	790	840	20	-30
Leisure and hospitality	520	500	550	20	-30
Other services	200	190	230	10	-30
Government	1,180	1,180	1,160	0	20
Federal government	180	180	190	0	-10
State government	280	270	250	10	30
Local government	720	730	720	-10	0
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

The most recent month is preliminary; the prior month is revised.

Labor Force Status: Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Employed includes nonfarm payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants. Unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployed by civilian labor force. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

Employment in Grant County increased by 90 jobs from March 2014 to March 2015. Both the private and public sectors saw gains.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March was 9.7 percent, up slightly from the year-ago rate. Grant County's unemployment rate remained significantly higher than both the statewide rate (5.4%) and the national rate (5.5%).

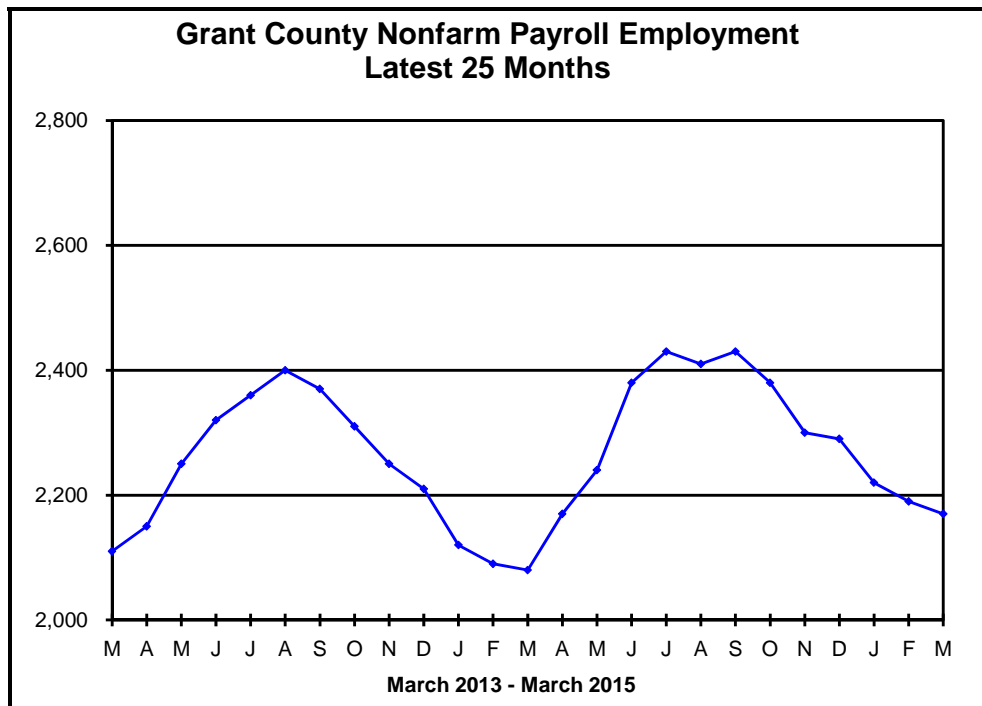
GRANT COUNTY CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

	Mar. 2015	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014	Change From	
				Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014
Labor Force Status (Household Data)					
Civilian labor force	2,999	3,115	3,018	-116	-19
Unemployed	344	424	438	-80	-94
Unemployment rate	11.5	13.6	14.5	-2.1	-3.0
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	9.7	10.1	10.3	-0.4	-0.6
Employed	2,655	2,691	2,580	-36	75
Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	2,170	2,190	2,080	-20	90
Total private	1,220	1,250	1,170	-30	50
Mining and logging	60	90	50	-30	10
Construction	50	50	50	0	0
Manufacturing	110	120	130	-10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	300	300	10	10
Wholesale trade	30	30	30	0	0
Retail trade	230	220	220	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	50	0	0
Information	40	40	40	0	0
Financial activities	70	70	70	0	0
Professional and business services	150	150	130	0	20
Educational and health services	180	180	180	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	190	190	160	0	30
Other services	60	60	60	0	0
Government	950	940	910	10	40
Federal government	210	200	200	10	10
State government	140	140	130	0	10
Local government	600	600	580	0	20
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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HARNEY COUNTY

Employment in Harney County increased by 30 jobs from March 2014 to March 2015. Job gains occurred in the private sector and were partially offset by losses in the public sector.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in March, down significantly from the year-ago rate. Harney County's unemployment rate remained significantly higher than both the statewide rate (5.4%) and the national rate (5.5%).

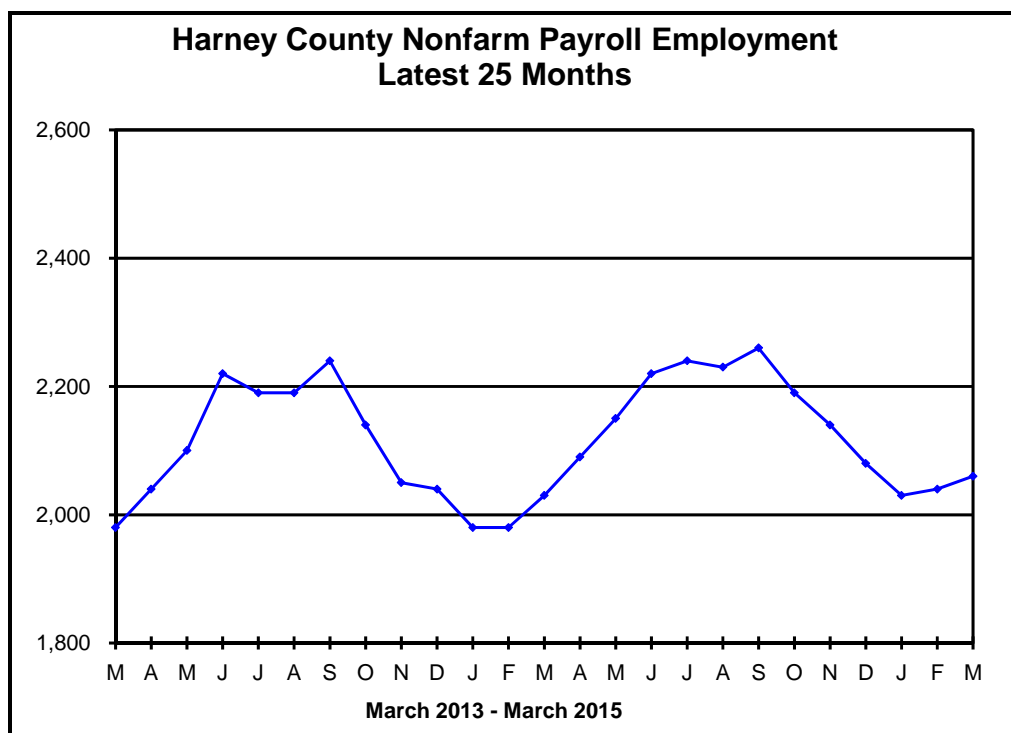
HARNEY COUNTY CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

	Mar. 2015	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014	Change From	
				Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014
Labor Force Status (Household Data)					
Civilian labor force	3,186	3,230	3,279	-44	-93
Unemployed	282	339	420	-57	-138
Unemployment rate	8.9	10.5	12.8	-1.6	-3.9
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	7.7	8.4	11.3	-0.7	-3.6
Employed	2,904	2,891	2,859	13	45
Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	2,060	2,040	2,030	20	30
Total private	1,060	1,040	1,000	20	60
Goods producing	90	90	70	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	370	370	370	0	0
Wholesale trade	40	40	40	0	0
Retail trade	280	280	270	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	50	50	60	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	60	60	60	0	0
Professional and business services	80	80	80	0	0
Educational and health services	190	180	180	10	10
Leisure and hospitality	210	200	190	10	20
Other services	50	50	40	0	10
Government	1,000	1,000	1,030	0	-30
Federal government	190	180	210	10	-20
State government	150	150	160	0	-10
Local government	660	670	660	-10	0
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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MALHEUR COUNTY

Employment in Malheur County increased by 50 jobs from March 2014 to March 2015. Jobs increased in both the public and private sectors.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.9 percent in March, down 1.1 percentage points from the year-ago rate. Malheur County's unemployment rate was higher than both the statewide rate (5.4%) and the national rate (5.5%).

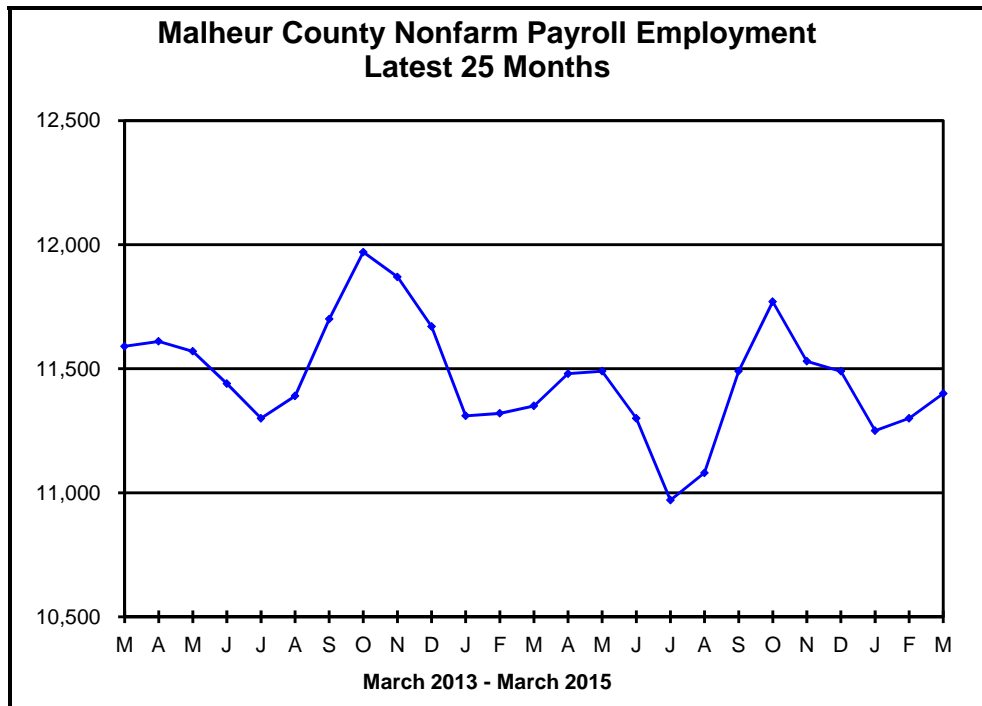
MALHEUR COUNTY CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

	Mar. 2015	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014	Change From Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014
Labor Force Status (Household Data)					
Civilian labor force	11,582	11,523	11,896	59	-314
Unemployed	810	854	1,069	-44	-259
Unemployment rate	7.0	7.4	9.0	-0.4	-2.0
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	6.9	7.3	8.0	-0.4	-1.1
Employed	10,772	10,669	10,827	103	-55
Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	11,400	11,300	11,350	100	50
Total private	7,940	7,880	7,900	60	40
Mining, logging, and construction	260	260	280	0	-20
Manufacturing	780	780	830	0	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,930	2,900	2,890	30	40
Wholesale trade	690	690	710	0	-20
Retail trade	1,820	1,790	1,780	30	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	420	420	400	0	20
Information	190	190	180	0	10
Financial activities	290	290	300	0	-10
Professional and business services	390	380	380	10	10
Educational and health services	1,670	1,680	1,650	-10	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,100	1,080	1,100	20	0
Other services	330	320	290	10	40
Government	3,460	3,420	3,450	40	10
Federal government	210	200	200	10	10
State government	1,250	1,260	1,220	-10	30
Local government	2,000	1,960	2,030	40	-30
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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UNION COUNTY

Employment in Union County increased by 20 jobs from March 2014 to March 2015. Job losses in the private sector were more than offset by gains in the public sector.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in March, down 1.1 percentage points from one year ago. Union County's unemployment rate was higher than both the statewide rate (5.4%) and the national rate (5.5%).

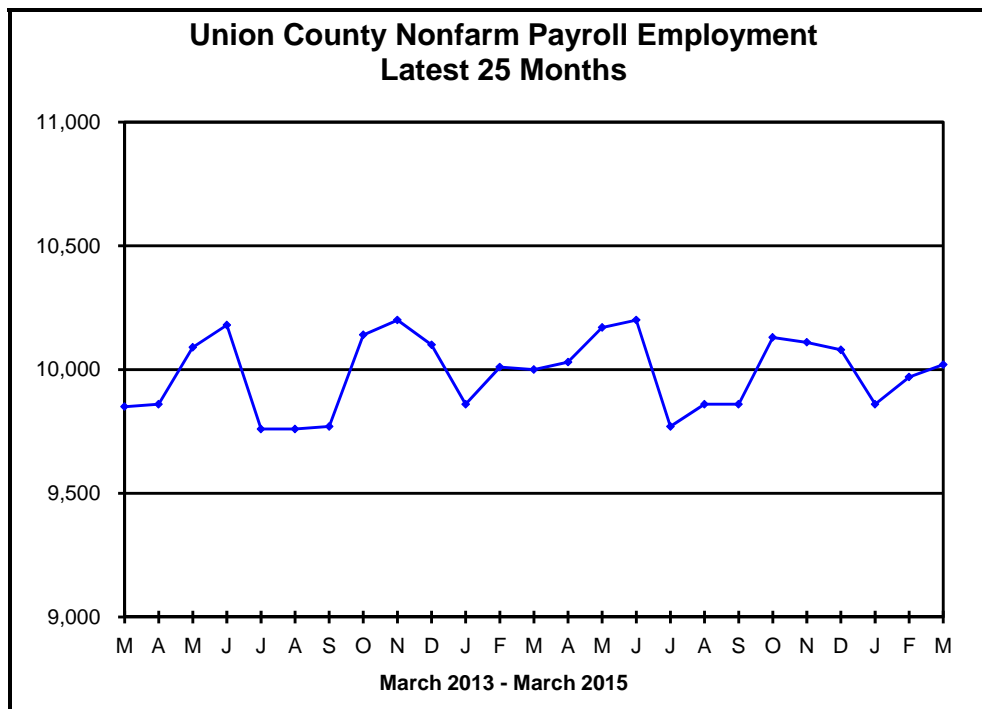
UNION COUNTY CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

	Mar. 2015	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014	Change From Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014
Labor Force Status (Household Data)					
Civilian labor force	11,450	11,542	11,745	-92	-295
Unemployed	782	866	1,048	-84	-266
Unemployment rate	6.8	7.5	8.9	-0.7	-2.1
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	6.3	6.6	7.4	-0.3	-1.1
Employed	10,668	10,676	10,697	-8	-29
Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	10,020	9,970	10,000	50	20
Total private	7,240	7,210	7,270	30	-30
Mining and logging	40	50	40	-10	0
Construction	350	330	340	20	10
Manufacturing	1,320	1,300	1,330	20	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,990	1,990	2,040	0	-50
Wholesale trade	260	260	270	0	-10
Retail trade	1,320	1,310	1,370	10	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	410	420	400	-10	10
Information	120	120	110	0	10
Financial activities	320	330	300	-10	20
Professional and business services	390	370	430	20	-40
Educational and health services	1,550	1,560	1,540	-10	10
Leisure and hospitality	880	880	850	0	30
Other services	280	280	290	0	-10
Government	2,780	2,760	2,730	20	50
Federal government	180	160	170	20	10
State government	1,480	1,470	1,390	10	90
Local government	1,120	1,130	1,170	-10	-50
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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WALLOWA COUNTY

Employment in Wallowa County increased by 60 jobs from March 2014 to March 2015. Jobs increased in both the public and private sectors.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.3 percent in March, down moderately from one year ago. Wallowa County's unemployment rate was higher than both the statewide rate (5.4%) and the national rate (5.5%).

WALLOWA COUNTY CURRENT LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

	Mar. 2015	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014	Change From	
				Feb. 2015	Mar. 2014
Labor Force Status (Household Data)					
Civilian labor force	3,008	3,103	3,115	-95	-107
Unemployed	310	378	476	-68	-166
Unemployment rate	10.3	12.2	15.3	-1.9	-5.0
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	8.3	8.8	9.5	-0.5	-1.2
Employed	2,698	2,725	2,639	-27	59
Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	2,150	2,180	2,090	-30	60
Total private	1,480	1,520	1,460	-40	20
Mining and logging	30	60	30	-30	0
Construction	110	110	120	0	-10
Manufacturing	140	140	120	0	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	400	400	400	0	0
Wholesale and retail trade	320	320	310	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	80	80	90	0	-10
Information	10	10	10	0	0
Financial activities	150	150	150	0	0
Professional and business services	100	110	80	-10	20
Educational and health services	300	310	300	-10	0
Leisure and hospitality	150	140	160	10	-10
Other services	90	90	90	0	0
Government	670	660	630	10	40
Federal government	70	60	70	10	0
State government	120	110	110	10	10
Local government	480	490	450	-10	30
Labor-management disputes	0	0	0	0	0

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