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## **Employment in the Columbia Gorge: March 2022**

### **Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Fall Again in March**

In March, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 3.0%. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate tied for second lowest among 36 Oregon counties, trailing Benton (2.9%) and tied with Wheeler. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 2.1 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by a scant 20 jobs in March to reach 12,060. Private industry held steady at 10,700, and government chipped in 20 to reach 1,360. Accommodation and food services led private industry in March, rising by 30 jobs to 1,500. Mining, logging, and construction (+20); manufacturing (+10); retail trade (+10); and professional and business services (+10) also rose in March. Arts, entertainment, and recreation cut 60 jobs in March, dropping to 1,020, and wholesale trade shed 20, falling to 530. Federal government (+10) and local government education (+10) led the public sector in March.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 4.7% over the year, adding 480 jobs. Accommodation and food services regained 160 jobs over the year to lead private industry, an increase of 11.9%. Retail trade grew by 120 jobs over the year, an increase of 8.8%. Education and health services (+50); other services (+50); and arts, entertainment, and recreation (+40) also added jobs over the year. Local education led government, rising by 100 jobs over the year (+17.2%) to reach 680.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in March to 3.9% while ranking 16<sup>th</sup>, tied with Baker and Umatilla. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 2.1 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment rose by 140 jobs in March to reach 10,070. Private industry increased its total by 150 jobs, climbing to 8,110, and government cut 10, falling to 1,960. Education and health services rose by 40 jobs in March to reach 2,310. Leisure and hospitality also chipped in 40, climbing to 1,160. Construction (+20); retail trade (+20); other services (+20); and mining and logging (+10) also rose in March. Federal government cut 10 jobs, falling to 260, while state and local held steady.

Wasco County's private industry employment rose by 100 jobs or 1.9% over the year ending in March. Leisure and hospitality led private industry jobs growth, rising by 120 jobs or 11.5% to total 1,160. Construction increased its payrolls by 50 jobs over the year, climbing to 410 (+13.9%), and information rose by 40 to reach 330 (13.8%). Other services (+30) and professional and business services (+10 jobs) also rose over the year. Education and health services cut its payrolls by 70 jobs, an over-the-year loss of 2.9%. Retail trade cut 30 jobs over the year, falling to 1,640 (-1.8%), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities shed 30 jobs, dropping to 280. In the public sector, local education rose by 110 jobs over the year, other local government chipped in 10, state government cut 20, and federal government shed 10.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in March to 3.3%, ranking sixth out of 36 Oregon counties, trailing Sherman (3.2%). Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 2.7 percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment held steady in March at 940. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 150 jobs to total 715, an increase of 26.5%. Government cut 10 jobs over the year, falling to 225 (-4.3%).

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in March to 3.2%, good enough to rank fifth in Oregon, trailing Washington (3.1%). Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.6 percentage points. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 20 jobs in March to reach 890. Private industry increased its total by five jobs, climbing to 580, and government chipped in 15 to reach 310. Over the year ending in March, private industry cut 10 jobs and government idled 25.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in March at 3.0%, tied with Hood River for Oregon's second lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.3 percentage points. Nonfarm employment totaled 300 in March, with private industry holding steady and government cutting five jobs. Over the year ending in March, private industry rose by 10 jobs to reach 165 and government cut five, falling to 135.

### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April 2022 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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 [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.

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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).

## Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2022	February 2022	March 2021	February 2022	March 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	1,034	1,024	928	10	106
Unemployed	39	31	60	8	-21
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.0%	6.5%	0.8	-2.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.3%	3.5%	6.0%	-0.2	-2.7
Employed	995	993	868	2	127
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	940	940	800	0	140
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	950	960	805	-10	145
Total private	715	710	565	5	150
Trade, transportation, and utilities	135	135	130	0	5
Professional and business services	245	245	245	0	0
Education and health services	65	60	75	5	-10
Leisure and hospitality	50	55	25	-5	25
Government	225	230	235	-5	-10
Federal government	10	15	10	-5	0
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	205	205	215	0	-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.

## Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2022	February 2022	March 2021	February 2022	March 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	14,710	14,352	14,284	358	426
Unemployed	477	450	790	27	-313
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.1%	5.5%	0.1	-2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>3.0%</i>	<i>3.2%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>-2.1</i>
Employed	14,233	13,902	13,494	331	739
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	12,060	12,040	11,490	20	570
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,110</i>	<i>12,070</i>	<i>11,540</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>570</i>
Total private	10,700	10,700	10,220	0	480
Mining, logging, and construction	500	480	520	20	-20
Manufacturing	1,750	1,740	1,740	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,180	2,190	2,040	-10	140
Wholesale trade	530	550	520	-20	10
Retail trade	1,480	1,470	1,360	10	120
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	170	170	160	0	10
Information	120	120	90	0	30
Financial activities	320	320	310	0	10
Professional and business services	1,020	1,010	1,010	10	10
Education and health services	1,920	1,920	1,870	0	50
Leisure and hospitality	2,520	2,550	2,320	-30	200
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,020	1,080	980	-60	40
Accommodation and food services	1,500	1,470	1,340	30	160
Accommodation	410	400	370	10	40
Food services and drinking places	1,090	1,070	970	20	120
Other services	370	370	320	0	50
Government	1,360	1,340	1,270	20	90
Federal government	100	90	100	10	0
State government	110	110	110	0	0
Local government	1,150	1,140	1,060	10	90
Local education	680	670	580	10	100
Local government excluding educational services	470	470	480	0	-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.

## Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2022	February 2022	March 2021	February 2022	March 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	955	937	985	18	-30
Unemployed	33	34	51	-1	-18
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.6%	5.2%	-0.1	-1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.2%	3.4%	4.8%	-0.2	-1.6
Employed	922	903	934	19	-12
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	890	870	925	20	-35
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	885	895	925	-10	-40
Total private	580	575	590	5	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	290	285	300	5	-10
Retail trade	125	120	130	5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	95	90	90	5	5
Government	310	295	335	15	-25
Federal government	120	125	130	-5	-10
State government	35	35	40	0	-5
Local government	155	135	165	20	-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.

## Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2022	February 2022	March 2021	February 2022	March 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,146	12,949	13,045	197	101
Unemployed	571	586	885	-15	-314
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.5%	6.8%	-0.2	-2.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	4.1%	6.0%	-0.2	-2.1
Employed	12,575	12,363	12,160	212	415
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,070	9,930	9,880	140	190
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,270	10,220	10,080	50	190
Total private	8,110	7,960	8,010	150	100
Mining, logging, and construction	470	440	420	30	50
Mining and logging	60	50	60	10	0
Construction	410	390	360	20	50
Manufacturing	540	540	550	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,100	2,080	2,160	20	-60
Wholesale trade	180	180	180	0	0
Retail trade	1,640	1,620	1,670	20	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	280	280	310	0	-30
Information	330	330	290	0	40
Financial activities	310	310	320	0	-10
Professional and business services	500	500	490	0	10
Education and health services	2,310	2,270	2,380	40	-70
Ambulatory health care services	490	480	470	10	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	490	490	540	0	-50
Leisure and hospitality	1,160	1,120	1,040	40	120
Accommodation and food services	1,110	1,070	1,000	40	110
Other services	390	370	360	20	30
Government	1,960	1,970	1,870	-10	90
Federal government	260	270	270	-10	-10
State government	240	240	260	0	-20
Local government	1,460	1,460	1,340	0	120
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	790	790	680	0	110
Local government excluding education and tribal	660	660	650	0	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.

## Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2022	February 2022	March 2021	February 2022	March 2021
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	742	747	726	-5	16
Unemployed	23	25	32	-2	-9
Unemployment rate	3.1%	3.3%	4.4%	-0.2	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.0%	3.0%	4.3%	0.0	-1.3
Employed	719	722	694	-3	25
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	300	305	290	-5	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	300	300	290	0	10
Total private	165	165	155	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	30	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	20	20	20	0	0
Government	135	140	135	-5	0
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	130	135	130	-5	0

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.

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