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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: February 2021

Employment and Unemployment Little Changed in February

In February, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 5.2%. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked ninth lowest out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Morrow. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.6 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment fell by 30 jobs in February to total 10,810. Private industry cut 30 jobs, dropping to 9,560, while government held steady at 1,250.

Hood River County's private industry employment fell by 1,240 jobs over the year ending in February, a loss of 11.3%. COVID-19 impacts in accommodation and food services idled 530 jobs, dropping the industry's total to 1,000 (-34.6%). Arts, entertainment, and recreation trimmed its payrolls by 160 jobs (-13.8%), dropping to 1,000. Manufacturing idled 150 jobs (-8.7%), cutting its total to 1,580. Professional and business services cut 140 jobs (-13.0%) over the year, falling to 940. Retail trade managed an over-the-year gain of 10 jobs, rising to 1,350.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in February, falling by a scant 0.1 percentage point to 6.1%, ranking 18th in Oregon. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.5 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment rose by 60 jobs in February to 9,590. Private industry rose by 30 jobs, climbing to 7,700 and government chipped in 30 to reach 1,890.

Over the year ending in February, Wasco County's private industry employment fell by 380 jobs (-4.7%). Accommodation and food services idled 270 jobs as a result of COVID-19 closures, cutting its total to 870, a loss of 23.7%. Education and health services lost 100 jobs (-4.1%), falling to 2,350. Professional and business services trimmed its payrolls by 40 jobs (-7.8%), falling to 470, and manufacturing cut 20 (-3.6%), dropping to 540. Information performed exceptionally well over the year, rising by 60 jobs or 28.6% to total 270.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point in February to 4.7%, ranking sixth out of 36 Oregon counties, trailing Wallowa (4.6%). Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage point. Gilliam County's nonfarm

employment fell by five jobs in February to total 900. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 25 jobs to reach 665. Government cut five jobs over the year, falling to 235.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in February to 4.1%, good enough to rank second in Oregon, trailing Wheeler (3.7%). Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment total rose by 10 jobs in February to 910. Private industry rose by five jobs to reach 595, while government chipped in five, rising to 315. Over the year ending in February, private industry rose by five jobs and government cut five.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point in February to 3.7%, boasting Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady. Nonfarm employment totaled 280 jobs in February, with an increase of five in private industry. Over the year ending in February, private industry cut five jobs, falling to 150 and government cut 15, dropping to 130.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March 2021 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on April 20th, 2021 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on April 13th, 2021.

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/. To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit 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 coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit

Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19. For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: 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.

Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	January 2021	February 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,001	1,012	945	-11	56
Unemployed	54	59	48	-5	6
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.8%	5.1%	-0.4	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	5.1%	4.1%	-0.4	0.6
Employed	947	953	897	-6	50
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	900	905	880	-5	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	905	920	885	-15	20
Total private	665	670	640	-5	25
Trade, transportation, and utilities	135	135	135	0	0
Professional and business services	240	245	235	-5	5
Education and health services	65	70	70	-5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	35	0	-5
Government	235	235	240	0	-5
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	215	215	220	0	-5

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--				
	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	January 2021	February 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,742	13,457	13,712	285	30
Unemployed	880	844	391	36	489
Unemployment rate	6.4%	6.3%	2.9%	0.1	3.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	5.2%	2.6%	0.0	2.6
Employed	12,862	12,613	13,321	249	-459
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,810	10,840	12,190	-30	-1,380
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,880	10,910	12,270	-30	-1,390
Total private	9,560	9,590	10,800	-30	-1,240
Mining, logging, and construction	460	460	490	0	-30
Manufacturing	1,580	1,570	1,730	10	-150
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,950	1,970	2,050	-20	-100
Wholesale trade	450	470	540	-20	-90
Retail trade	1,350	1,350	1,340	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	150	170	0	-20
Information	120	120	140	0	-20
Financial activities	320	320	330	0	-10
Professional and business services	940	930	1,080	10	-140
Education and health services	1,810	1,810	1,830	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	2,000	2,030	2,690	-30	-690
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,000	1,020	1,160	-20	-160
Accommodation and food services	1,000	1,010	1,530	-10	-530
Accommodation	280	290	400	-10	-120
Food services and drinking places	720	720	1,130	0	-410
Other services	380	380	460	0	-80
Government	1,250	1,250	1,390	0	-140
Federal government	100	100	100	0	0
State government	110	110	100	0	10
Local government	1,040	1,040	1,190	0	-150
Local education	580	580	680	0	-100
Local government excluding educational services	460	460	510	0	-50

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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--				
	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	January 2021	February 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	986	978	935	8	51
Unemployed	49	52	44	-3	5
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.3%	4.7%	-0.3	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.2%	3.8%	-0.1	0.3
Employed	937	926	891	11	46
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	910	900	910	10	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	950	935	950	15	0
Total private	595	590	590	5	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	305	245	5	65
Retail trade	140	135	100	5	40
Leisure and hospitality	75	75	80	0	-5
Government	315	310	320	5	-5
Federal government	130	130	120	0	10
State government	45	45	40	0	5
Local government	140	135	160	5	-20

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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--				
	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	January 2021	February 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,960	12,674	12,425	286	535
Unemployed	972	1,001	555	-29	417
Unemployment rate	7.5%	7.9%	4.5%	-0.4	3.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	6.2%	3.6%	-0.1	2.5
Employed	11,988	11,673	11,870	315	118
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,590	9,530	10,020	60	-430
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	9,850	9,890	10,290	-40	-440
Total private	7,700	7,670	8,080	30	-380
Mining, logging, and construction	370	380	380	-10	-10
Mining and logging	50	60	50	-10	0
Construction	320	320	330	0	-10
Manufacturing	540	530	560	10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,140	2,130	2,070	10	70
Wholesale trade	160	160	170	0	-10
Retail trade	1,690	1,690	1,650	0	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	290	280	250	10	40
Information	270	260	210	10	60
Financial activities	330	330	330	0	0
Professional and business services	470	460	510	10	-40
Education and health services	2,350	2,340	2,450	10	-100
Ambulatory health care services	450	450	450	0	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	550	550	580	0	-30
Leisure and hospitality	890	890	1,210	0	-320
Accommodation and food services	870	870	1,140	0	-270
Other services	340	350	360	-10	-20
Government	1,890	1,860	1,940	30	-50
Federal government	270	270	270	0	0
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	1,370	1,340	1,420	30	-50
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	700	680	740	20	-40
Local government excluding education and tribal	660	650	670	10	-10

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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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	January 2021	February 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	713	706	712	7	1
Unemployed	28	35	26	-7	2
Unemployment rate	3.9%	5.0%	3.7%	-1.1	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	4.1%	3.7%	-0.4	0.0
Employed	685	671	686	14	-1
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	280	275	300	5	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	285	285	305	0	-20
Total private	150	145	155	5	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	40	40	30	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	10	10	25	0	-15
Government	130	130	145	0	-15
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	125	125	140	0	-15

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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.