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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: March 2021

Employment and Unemployment Little Changed in March

In March, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 5.0%. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked sixth lowest out of 36 Oregon counties, trailing Benton (4.8%) and Morrow. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.4 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 30 jobs in March to total 10,840. Private industry chipped in 10 jobs, rising to 9,570, while government reached 1,270, climbing by 20.

Hood River County's private industry employment fell by 1,120 jobs over the year ending in March, a loss of 10.5%. COVID-19 impacts in accommodation and food services idled 450 jobs, dropping the industry's total to 1,070 (-29.6%). Arts, entertainment, and recreation trimmed its payrolls by 190 jobs (-17.4%), dropping to 900. Manufacturing idled 160 jobs (-9.2%), cutting its total to 1,580. Professional and business services cut 140 jobs (-12.8%) over the year, falling to 950. Retail trade managed an over-the-year gain of 40 jobs, rising to 1,370.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in March, to 5.9%, ranking 18th in Oregon. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.2 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment rose by 80 jobs in March to 9,670. Private industry rose by 70 jobs, climbing to 7,770 and government chipped in 10 to reach 1,900.

Over the year ending in March, Wasco County's private industry employment fell by 390 jobs (-4.8%). Accommodation and food services idled 240 jobs as a result of COVID-19 closures, cutting its total to 900, a loss of 21.1%. Education and health services lost 110 jobs (-4.4%), falling to 2,370. Professional and business services trimmed its payrolls by 60 jobs (-11.3%), falling to 470, and manufacturing cut 30 (-5.3%), 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 rose by 0.8 percentage point in March to 5.7%, ranking 14th out of 36 Oregon counties, trailing Lake (5.6%) and Marion. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 1.5 percentage points. Gilliam County's

nonfarm employment fell by 15 jobs in March to total 885. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 10 jobs to reach 655. Government cut 15 jobs over the year, falling to 230.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.5 percentage point in March to 4.6%, good enough to rank third in Oregon, trailing Malheur (4.4%). Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment total rose by 20 jobs in March to 930. Private industry held steady with 595 jobs, while government rose by 20 to 335. Over the year ending in March, private industry cut 20 jobs and government held steady.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point in March to 4.2%, boasting Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage point. Nonfarm employment totaled 285 jobs in March, with an increase of five in private industry. Over the year ending in March, private industry cut 5 jobs, falling to 155 and government cut 10, dropping to 125.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April 2021 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on May 25th, 2021 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on May 18th, 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--				
	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021	March 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	992	1,000	941	-8	51
Unemployed	60	56	49	4	11
Unemployment rate	6.0%	5.6%	5.2%	0.4	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.7%	4.9%	4.2%	0.8	1.5
Employed	932	944	892	-12	40
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	885	900	890	-15	-5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	890	905	895	-15	-5
Total private	655	665	645	-10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	130	135	135	-5	-5
Professional and business services	240	240	230	0	10
Education and health services	65	65	70	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	35	0	-5
Government	230	235	245	-5	-15
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	5	10	5	-5	0
Local government	215	215	230	0	-15

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 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021	March 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,839	13,716	13,815	123	24
Unemployed	800	880	460	-80	340
Unemployment rate	5.8%	6.4%	3.3%	-0.6	2.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>2.6%</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>2.4</i>
Employed	13,039	12,836	13,355	203	-316
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,840	10,810	12,120	30	-1,280
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,910</i>	<i>10,880</i>	<i>12,200</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>-1,290</i>
Total private	9,570	9,560	10,690	10	-1,120
Mining, logging, and construction	470	460	530	10	-60
Manufacturing	1,580	1,580	1,740	0	-160
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,950	1,950	2,010	0	-60
Wholesale trade	430	450	520	-20	-90
Retail trade	1,370	1,350	1,330	20	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	150	160	0	-10
Information	120	120	140	0	-20
Financial activities	330	320	330	10	0
Professional and business services	950	940	1,090	10	-140
Education and health services	1,820	1,810	1,790	10	30
Leisure and hospitality	1,970	2,000	2,610	-30	-640
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	900	1,000	1,090	-100	-190
Accommodation and food services	1,070	1,000	1,520	70	-450
Accommodation	300	280	410	20	-110
Food services and drinking places	770	720	1,110	50	-340
Other services	380	380	450	0	-70
Government	1,270	1,250	1,430	20	-160
Federal government	100	100	110	0	-10
State government	110	110	110	0	0
Local government	1,060	1,040	1,210	20	-150
Local education	590	580	710	10	-120
Local government excluding educational services	470	460	500	10	-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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021	March 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,002	985	969	17	33
Unemployed	53	48	54	5	-1
Unemployment rate	5.3%	4.9%	5.6%	0.4	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.1%	4.0%	0.5	0.6
Employed	949	937	915	12	34
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	930	910	950	20	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	940	950	960	-10	-20
Total private	595	595	615	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	305	310	280	-5	25
Retail trade	135	140	130	-5	5
Leisure and hospitality	75	75	75	0	0
Government	335	315	335	20	0
Federal government	130	130	115	0	15
State government	45	45	40	0	5
Local government	160	140	180	20	-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--				
	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021	March 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,969	12,942	12,545	27	424
Unemployed	905	964	647	-59	258
Unemployment rate	7.0%	7.4%	5.2%	-0.4	1.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.9%	6.1%	3.7%	-0.2	2.2
Employed	12,064	11,978	11,898	86	166
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,670	9,590	10,100	80	-430
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	9,860	9,850	10,300	10	-440
Total private	7,770	7,700	8,160	70	-390
Mining, logging, and construction	370	370	390	0	-20
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	320	320	330	0	-10
Manufacturing	540	540	570	0	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,140	2,140	2,060	0	80
Wholesale trade	160	160	160	0	0
Retail trade	1,690	1,690	1,650	0	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	290	290	250	0	40
Information	270	270	210	0	60
Financial activities	330	330	340	0	-10
Professional and business services	470	470	530	0	-60
Education and health services	2,370	2,350	2,480	20	-110
Ambulatory health care services	450	450	450	0	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	550	550	590	0	-40
Leisure and hospitality	930	890	1,210	40	-280
Accommodation and food services	900	870	1,140	30	-240
Other services	350	340	370	10	-20
Government	1,900	1,890	1,940	10	-40
Federal government	270	270	270	0	0
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	1,380	1,370	1,420	10	-40
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	720	700	750	20	-30
Local government excluding education and tribal	650	660	660	-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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021	March 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	721	714	702	7	19
Unemployed	33	29	26	4	7
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.1%	3.7%	0.5	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	3.8%	3.5%	0.4	0.7
Employed	688	685	676	3	12
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	285	280	300	5	-15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	280	285	295	-5	-15
Total private	155	150	160	5	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	40	40	35	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	10	10	25	0	-15
Government	130	130	140	0	-10
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	125	125	135	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.