

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 25th, 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dallas Fridley, Regional Economist
Dallas.W.Fridley@oregon.gov
(541) 645-0005

Employment in the Columbia Gorge: April 2021

Unemployment Rates Increase and Employment Also Rises

In April, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 5.3%. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked fifth lowest out of 36 Oregon counties. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 7.7 percentage points from its 13.0% April 2020 COVID high.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 80 jobs in April to total 11,650. Private industry rose to 10,330 jobs, an increase of 30, and government reached 1,320, rising by 50. Food services and drinking places led private industry in April, rising by 60 jobs to reach 1,040. Retail trade chipped in 30, rising to 1,400. Mining, logging, and construction (+20); manufacturing (+20); and professional and business services (+20) also added jobs in April. Arts, entertainment, and recreation pulled back in April, cutting 160 jobs and falling to 820. In the public sector, local government education rose by 40 jobs to reach 620 and federal government kicked in 10, rising to 110.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose sharply over the year, climbing by 2,340 jobs or 24.6% over April 2020's COVID-19 job losses. Arts, entertainment, and recreation led private industry, rising by 670 jobs. Food services and drinking places regained 530 jobs over the year and accommodation rose by 240. Education and health services welcomed back 290 jobs, manufacturing increased its total by 190, and retail trade added 190 jobs. Government cut 40 jobs over the year, with local education trimming its payrolls by 60, state government rising by 10, and other local chipping in 10.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in April, to 6.2%, ranking 18th in Oregon. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 6.0 percentage points from its 12.2% COVID high.

Wasco County rose by 80 nonfarm jobs in April, climbing to 9,940. Private industry increased its total by 50 jobs to reach 8,030, while government chipped in 30, climbing to 1,910. At the industry level, leisure and hospitality rose by 50 jobs in April to reach 1,090, an over-the-month increase of 4.8%. Private industry also added jobs in construction (+10), retail trade (+10), and professional and business services (+10). Transportation, warehousing, and utilities cut 30 jobs in April, falling to 290. Local government education led the public sector, rising by 20 jobs to reach 710.

Wasco County's private industry employment rose by 870 jobs or 12.2% over the year, with recovery from COVID losses well underway. Leisure and hospitality produced private industry's largest gain, rising by 360 jobs or 49.3%. Retail trade increased its payrolls by 210 jobs, climbing to 1,700 (+14.1%). Information (+70); other services (+70); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+50); professional and business services (+50); education and health services (+50); and construction (+40) also joined the recovery. In the public sector, state government rose by 30 jobs to reach 270 and local education increased its total by 20.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in April to 6.1%, ranking 14th out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Clackamas and Marion. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 2.4 percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose to 795 jobs in April, an increase of five. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total fell by 105 jobs, a loss of 15.9%, to total 555. Government rose by 15 jobs over the year to total 240 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in April to 5.0%, good enough to rank third in Oregon, trailing Benton (4.7%) and Wheeler (3.3%). Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 5.6 percentage points. Sherman County's nonfarm employment held steady in April with 910 jobs. Private industry rose by 15 jobs to reach 595, while government cut its total by 15, falling to 315. Over the year ending in April, private industry rose by 55 jobs (+10.2%) and government chipped in five.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by a full percentage point in April to 3.3%, boasting Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.9 percentage points. Nonfarm employment totaled 290 jobs in April, with private industry rising by five jobs and government cutting five. Over the year ending in April, private industry rose by 20 jobs to 160 and government cut five, falling to 130.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May 2021 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on June 22nd, 2021 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on June 15th, 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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from www.QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm, enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

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--				
	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	March 2021	April 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	911	915	973	-4	-62
Unemployed	56	60	83	-4	-27
Unemployment rate	6.1%	6.6%	8.5%	-0.5	-2.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.1%	6.0%	8.5%	0.1	-2.4
Employed	855	855	890	0	-35
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	795	790	885	5	-90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	790	795	880	-5	-90
Total private	555	555	660	0	-105
Trade, transportation, and utilities	140	135	120	5	20
Professional and business services	230	235	245	-5	-15
Education and health services	75	75	70	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	25	0	5
Government	240	235	225	5	15
Federal government	15	10	10	5	5
State government	5	10	5	-5	0
Local government	220	215	210	5	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--		
	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	March 2021	April 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,339	14,445	12,546	-106	1,793
Unemployed	787	815	1,666	-28	-879
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.6%	13.3%	-0.1	-7.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	5.1%	13.0%	0.2	-7.7
Employed	13,552	13,630	10,880	-78	2,672
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,650	11,570	9,350	80	2,300
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,660	11,640	9,360	20	2,300
Total private	10,330	10,300	7,990	30	2,340
Mining, logging, and construction	540	520	460	20	80
Manufacturing	1,760	1,740	1,520	20	240
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,090	2,040	1,780	50	310
Wholesale trade	520	510	430	10	90
Retail trade	1,400	1,370	1,210	30	190
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	170	160	140	10	30
Information	120	120	110	0	10
Financial activities	330	330	320	0	10
Professional and business services	1,020	1,000	1,070	20	-50
Education and health services	1,850	1,850	1,560	0	290
Leisure and hospitality	2,200	2,290	840	-90	1,360
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	820	980	150	-160	670
Accommodation and food services	1,380	1,310	690	70	690
Accommodation	340	330	180	10	160
Food services and drinking places	1,040	980	510	60	530
Other services	420	410	330	10	90
Government	1,320	1,270	1,360	50	-40
Federal government	110	100	110	10	0
State government	110	110	100	0	10
Local government	1,100	1,060	1,150	40	-50
Local education	620	580	680	40	-60
Local government excluding educational services	480	480	470	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--				
	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	March 2021	April 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	995	989	948	6	47
Unemployed	50	53	99	-3	-49
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.4%	10.4%	-0.4	-5.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	4.8%	10.6%	0.2	-5.6
Employed	945	936	849	9	96
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	910	910	850	0	60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	905	920	845	-15	60
Total private	595	580	540	15	55
Trade, transportation, and utilities	305	300	265	5	40
Retail trade	130	130	100	0	30
Leisure and hospitality	90	80	55	10	35
Government	315	330	310	-15	5
Federal government	130	130	120	0	10
State government	40	40	40	0	0
Local government	145	160	150	-15	-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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	March 2021	April 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,138	13,186	12,201	-48	937
Unemployed	830	915	1,568	-85	-738
Unemployment rate	6.3%	6.9%	12.9%	-0.6	-6.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	6.0%	12.2%	0.2	-6.0
Employed	12,308	12,271	10,633	37	1,675
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,940	9,860	9,020	80	920
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,000	10,050	9,070	-50	930
Total private	8,030	7,980	7,160	50	870
Mining, logging, and construction	420	410	370	10	50
Mining and logging	60	60	50	0	10
Construction	360	350	320	10	40
Manufacturing	540	540	580	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,150	2,170	1,900	-20	250
Wholesale trade	160	160	170	0	-10
Retail trade	1,700	1,690	1,490	10	210
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	290	320	240	-30	50
Information	270	270	200	0	70
Financial activities	330	330	320	0	10
Professional and business services	500	490	450	10	50
Education and health services	2,370	2,370	2,320	0	50
Ambulatory health care services	470	460	370	10	100
Nursing and residential care facilities	540	540	580	0	-40
Leisure and hospitality	1,090	1,040	730	50	360
Accommodation and food services	1,040	1,000	710	40	330
Other services	360	360	290	0	70
Government	1,910	1,880	1,860	30	50
Federal government	270	270	270	0	0
State government	270	260	240	10	30
Local government	1,370	1,350	1,350	20	20
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	710	690	690	20	20
Local government excluding education and tribal	650	650	650	0	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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	March 2021	April 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	722	730	671	-8	51
Unemployed	23	33	35	-10	-12
Unemployment rate	3.2%	4.5%	5.2%	-1.3	-2.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.3%	4.3%	5.2%	-1.0	-1.9
Employed	699	697	636	2	63
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	290	290	275	0	15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	280	285	270	-5	10
Total private	160	155	140	5	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	35	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	20	20	25	0	-5
Government	130	135	135	-5	-5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	125	130	130	-5	-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.