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## **Employment in the Columbia Gorge: March 2025**

**Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates saw little movement in the Gorge this March, with slight increases in two of the five counties.**

In March, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased marginally to 3.7%, up from a revised rate of 3.6%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest, just above Sherman's 3.9%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.4 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment increased by 40 (+0.3%) in March and was estimated at 11,920 jobs. Both private employment and public-sector employment increased by 20 over the month.

Hood River County's total nonfarm employment decreased by 310 jobs over the year ending in March, representing a loss of 2.5%. Job losses were concentrated within leisure and hospitality (-160 jobs), with all losses occurring in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-170 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-70 jobs), with losses taking place primarily within wholesale trade (-90 jobs). Gains were marginal and strongest primarily within professional and business services (+20 jobs) and mining, logging, and construction (+20 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in March, going from a revised rate of 4.4% to 4.5%. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.3 percentage point higher.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment increased by 40, totaling 10,300 as of March. Private industry employment gained 20 jobs, bringing employment up to 7,910. The public sector also gained 20 jobs over the month, with government employment now at 2,390. Supersector private job gains were seen in leisure and hospitality (+20 jobs); other services (+10 jobs); private education and health services (+10 jobs); and information (+10 jobs). Losses were minimal and took place in trade, transportation, and utilities (-30 jobs).

Wasco County's private industry employment rose by 110 (+1.1%) jobs over the year ending in March. Gains were mainly concentrated in the public sector (+200 jobs), with most employment gains taking place within local government (+140 jobs). Within the private sector, private education and health services (+40 jobs), other services (+10 jobs), and information (+10 jobs) were the only major sectors

to gain jobs over the year. Losses were strongest in trade, transportation, and utilities, which lost 70 jobs over the year, followed by mining, logging, and construction (-40 jobs). All other supersectors lost approximately 10 jobs over the year.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in March, remaining at 4.6%. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.5 percentage point lower. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment decreased by 10 jobs (-1.0%) from February to March and is now at 1,005 jobs. Over the year, the private sector gained 180 jobs, while government employment remained unchanged totaling 290 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in March at 3.9% and declined by 0.2 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment increased by 40 jobs (+4.2%) in March and stands at 985. Private-sector employment rose by 15 jobs with growth concentrated within the leisure and hospitality industry (+15 jobs). Public-sector employment growth was stronger and rose by 25 jobs, specifically within local government. Over the year ending in March, private industry lost five jobs and now stands at 630, down by 0.8%.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly from a revised rate of 4.4% to 4.3% in March. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.7 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment gained five jobs from February to March and now stands at 375 jobs. Over the year ending in March, private industry employment rose by 10 and was estimated at 185. Government employment declined by five to reach 190. Over the year seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is up by 10 jobs.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, May 20, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 14.

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 [QualityInfo.org](http://QualityInfo.org), select Tools, and choose LAUS or CES from the dropdown menu. 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).

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### Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,604	13,619	13,744	-15	-140
Unemployed	561	607	460	-46	101
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.5%	3.3%	-0.4	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.6%	3.3%	0.1	0.4
Employed	13,043	13,012	13,284	31	-241
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,920	11,880	12,230	40	-310
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,870	11,810	12,170	60	-300
Total private	10,400	10,380	10,700	20	-300
Mining, logging, and construction	570	550	550	20	20
Manufacturing	1,670	1,660	1,720	10	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,870	1,900	1,940	-30	-70
Wholesale trade	370	380	460	-10	-90
Retail trade	1,350	1,370	1,340	-20	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	150	140	0	10
Information	100	100	110	0	-10
Financial activities	330	330	320	0	10
Professional and business services	970	950	950	20	20
Private education and health services	2,000	1,920	2,040	80	-40
Leisure and hospitality	2,570	2,650	2,730	-80	-160
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	990	1,090	1,160	-100	-170
Accommodation and food services	1,580	1,560	1,570	20	10
Accommodation	460	440	450	20	10
Food services and drinking places	1,120	1,120	1,120	0	0
Other services	320	320	340	0	-20
Government	1,520	1,500	1,530	20	-10
Federal government	110	110	120	0	-10
State government	130	130	140	0	-10
Local government	1,280	1,260	1,270	20	10
Local education	760	750	760	10	0
Local government excluding educational services	520	510	510	10	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.



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### Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,582	12,517	12,434	65	148
Unemployed	709	710	588	-1	121
Unemployment rate	5.6%	5.7%	4.7%	-0.1	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.4%	4.2%	0.1	0.3
Employed	11,873	11,807	11,846	66	27
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,300	10,260	10,190	40	110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,410</i>	<i>10,480</i>	<i>10,300</i>	<i>-70</i>	<i>110</i>
Total private	7,910	7,890	8,000	20	-90
Mining, logging, and construction	470	470	510	0	-40
Mining and logging	50	60	50	-10	0
Construction	420	410	460	10	-40
Manufacturing	480	480	490	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,990	2,020	2,060	-30	-70
Wholesale trade	190	190	200	0	-10
Retail trade	1,520	1,520	1,580	0	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	280	310	280	-30	0
Information	280	270	270	10	10
Financial activities	270	270	280	0	-10
Professional and business services	560	560	570	0	-10
Private education and health services	2,270	2,260	2,230	10	40
Ambulatory health care services	490	490	500	0	-10
Nursing and residential care facilities	530	530	490	0	40
Leisure and hospitality	1,220	1,200	1,230	20	-10
Accommodation and food services	1,160	1,130	1,140	30	20
Other services	370	360	360	10	10
Government	2,390	2,370	2,190	20	200
Federal government	300	290	280	10	20
State government	320	320	280	0	40
Local government	1,770	1,760	1,630	10	140
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	1,020	1,010	880	10	140
Local government excluding education and tribal	740	740	740	0	0

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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.



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### Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	1,040	1,052	912	-12	128
Unemployed	53	57	57	-4	-4
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.4%	6.3%	-0.3	-1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.6%	5.1%	0.0	-0.5
Employed	987	995	855	-8	132
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	1,005	1,015	825	-10	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,040	1,045	855	-5	185
Total private	715	720	535	-5	180
Trade, transportation, and utilities	110	110	115	0	-5
Professional and business services	210	210	210	0	0
Private education and health services	75	70	75	5	0
Leisure and hospitality	30	35	30	-5	0
Government	290	295	290	-5	0
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	20	20	25	0	-5
Local government	260	265	250	-5	10

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### Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	974	948	968	26	6
Unemployed	43	42	46	1	-3
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.4%	4.8%	0.0	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	3.9%	4.1%	0.0	-0.2
Employed	931	906	922	25	9
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	985	945	960	40	25
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	995	975	970	20	25
Total private	630	615	635	15	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	350	370	0	-20
Retail trade	125	125	135	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	90	75	90	15	0
Government	355	330	325	25	30
Federal government	155	155	125	0	30
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	175	150	175	25	0

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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.



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### Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	February 2025	March 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	722	731	699	-9	23
Unemployed	30	43	30	-13	0
Unemployment rate	4.2%	5.9%	4.3%	-1.7	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.4%	3.6%	-0.1	0.7
Employed	692	688	669	4	23
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	375	370	365	5	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	375	380	365	-5	10
Total private	185	175	185	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	35	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	35	0	5
Government	190	195	180	-5	10
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	30	0	5
Local government	150	155	145	-5	5

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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.

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