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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: November 2025

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increase in all five Columbia Gorge counties over the year.

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.1% in September to 4.2% in November. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.7 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment increased by 200 (+1.7%) in November and was estimated at 12,080 jobs. Private-sector employment increased over the month (+230 jobs) with the largest gains occurring in leisure and hospitality (+160 jobs) and trade, transportation, and utilities (+130 jobs). Public-sector employment lost 30 jobs over the month with most losses recorded in federal government (-20 jobs).

Hood River County's total nonfarm employment decreased by 30 jobs over the year ending in November, representing a 0.2% decrease. Job losses occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (-110 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-80 jobs); and the public sector (-50 jobs). Over-the-year gains occurred in private education and health services (+60 jobs); manufacturing (+50 jobs); other services (+40 jobs); professional and business services (+30 jobs); financial activities (+20 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (+10 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.4% as of November, up from 5.2% in September. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.0 percentage point higher.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment decreased by 0.1%, a decrease of 10 jobs to total 10,300 as of November. Job losses occurred within the private sector (-40 jobs), bringing private employment down to 7,960. Government employment increased by 30 jobs and is now 2,340. Private job losses were concentrated within leisure and hospitality (-70 jobs). Private-sector gains were more widespread but smaller in magnitude with gains in trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs); information (+10 jobs); and private education and health services (+10 jobs).

Wasco County's private industry employment decreased by 30 (-0.3%) jobs over the year ending in November. Losses were strongest in trade, transportation, and utilities (-80 jobs); mining, logging, and

construction (-30 jobs); and professional and business services (-30 jobs). Smaller losses also occurred in information (-10 jobs) and the public sector (-10 jobs). Over-the-year gains occurred in manufacturing (+50 jobs); private education and health services (+40 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+20 jobs); and financial activities (+20 jobs).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from September, going from a rate of 5.2% to 5.5% in November. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.9 percentage point higher.

Gilliam County's nonfarm employment decreased by 10 jobs from October to November and now stands at 935 jobs. Losses occurred within the public sector (-10 jobs) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-5 jobs), with little to no movement in all other sectors. Over-the-year total private employment decreased by 145 jobs while government employment increased by five jobs for an over-the-year net loss of 140 total nonfarm jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from 5.0% in September to 5.3% in November and increased by 1.3 percentage points over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment decreased by 30 jobs (-3.3%) over the month of November and now stands at 885. Private-sector employment declined by 20 jobs while public-sector employment declined by 10 jobs. Over the year ending in November, private industry shed 40 jobs, bringing the total to 545, a 6.8% decrease from the previous year. Public-sector employment was unchanged over the year.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.1% in September to 4.7% this November. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.7 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment increased by five jobs (+1.4%) from October to November and now stands at 360 jobs. Over the year ending in November, total nonfarm employment declined by 10 (-2.7%) with the public sector losing 10 jobs.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for December on Thursday, Jan. 22 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

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 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

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Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	October 2025	November 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,564	NA	13,424	NA	140
Unemployed	520	NA	461	NA	59
Unemployment rate	3.8%	NA	3.4%	NA	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	NA	3.5%	NA	0.7
Employed	13,044	NA	12,963	NA	81
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,080	11,880	12,110	200	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,930	11,970	11,950	-40	-20
Total private	10,600	10,370	10,580	230	20
Mining, logging, and construction	560	570	550	-10	10
Manufacturing	1,770	1,800	1,720	-30	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,170	2,040	2,280	130	-110
Wholesale trade	440	450	410	-10	30
Retail trade	1,560	1,410	1,700	150	-140
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	170	180	170	-10	0
Information	80	80	80	0	0
Financial activities	360	370	340	-10	20
Professional and business services	980	990	950	-10	30
Private education and health services	2,020	2,020	1,960	0	60
Leisure and hospitality	2,290	2,130	2,370	160	-80
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	640	370	760	270	-120
Accommodation and food services	1,650	1,760	1,610	-110	40
Accommodation	480	510	450	-30	30
Food services and drinking places	1,170	1,250	1,160	-80	10
Other services	370	370	330	0	40
Government	1,480	1,510	1,530	-30	-50
Federal government	110	130	130	-20	-20
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	1,230	1,240	1,260	-10	-30
Local education	720	720	730	0	-10
Local government excluding educational services	510	520	530	-10	-20

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

	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	October 2025	November 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,869	NA	12,681	NA	188
Unemployed	671	NA	549	NA	122
Unemployment rate	5.2%	NA	4.3%	NA	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.4%	NA	4.4%	NA	1.0
Employed	12,198	NA	12,132	NA	66
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,300	10,310	10,330	-10	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,320	10,270	10,350	50	-30
Total private	7,960	8,000	7,980	-40	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	460	470	490	-10	-30
Mining and logging	40	50	60	-10	-20
Construction	420	420	430	0	-10
Manufacturing	500	500	450	0	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,980	1,960	2,060	20	-80
Wholesale trade	210	210	190	0	20
Retail trade	1,490	1,480	1,580	10	-90
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	280	270	290	10	-10
Information	270	260	280	10	-10
Financial activities	280	280	260	0	20
Professional and business services	570	570	600	0	-30
Private education and health services	2,260	2,250	2,220	10	40
Ambulatory health care services	490	490	490	0	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	530	520	510	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,290	1,360	1,270	-70	20
Accommodation and food services	1,200	1,250	1,180	-50	20
Other services	350	350	350	0	0
Government	2,340	2,310	2,350	30	-10
Federal government	320	320	300	0	20
State government	340	330	320	10	20
Local government	1,680	1,660	1,730	20	-50
Indian tribal	120	120	70	0	50
Local education	780	760	890	20	-110
Local government excluding education and tribal	780	780	770	0	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.



Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	October 2025	November 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,003	NA	1,057	NA	-54
Unemployed	51	NA	43	NA	8
Unemployment rate	5.1%	NA	4.1%	NA	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.5%	NA	4.6%	NA	0.9
Employed	952	NA	1,014	NA	-62
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	935	945	1,075	-10	-140
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	915	930	1,045	-15	-130
Total private	640	640	785	0	-145
Trade, transportation, and utilities	105	110	110	-5	-5
Professional and business services	225	225	205	0	20
Private education and health services	75	75	75	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	40	0	0
Government	295	305	290	-10	5
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	260	270	255	-10	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.



Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	October 2025	November 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	936	NA	962	NA	-26
Unemployed	49	NA	38	NA	11
Unemployment rate	5.2%	NA	4.0%	NA	1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	NA	4.0%	NA	1.3
Employed	887	NA	924	NA	-37
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	885	915	925	-30	-40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	910	920	955	-10	-45
Total private	545	565	585	-20	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	345	345	345	0	0
Retail trade	120	120	135	0	-15
Leisure and hospitality	70	90	85	-20	-15
Government	340	350	340	-10	0
Federal government	165	165	150	0	15
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	150	160	165	-10	-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.



Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	October 2025	November 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	708	NA	733	NA	-25
Unemployed	33	NA	25	NA	8
Unemployment rate	4.7%	NA	3.4%	NA	1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	NA	4.0%	NA	0.7
Employed	675	NA	708	NA	-33
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	360	355	370	5	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	360	350	370	10	-10
Total private	175	175	175	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	30	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	25	30	40	-5	-15
Government	185	180	195	5	-10
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	40	0	-5
Local government	145	140	150	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.

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