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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: August 2025

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates continued to increase in three of the five Columbia Gorge counties this August.

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged in August and stands at 4.0%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.6 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment decreased by 70 (0.6%) in August and was estimated at 11,500 jobs. Private-sector employment increased over the month (+80 jobs) with the largest gains occurring within trade, transportation, and utilities (+70 jobs). Within this sector, wholesale trade had the largest monthly gains (+50 jobs). Public-sector employment shed 150 jobs over the month.

Hood River County's total nonfarm employment decreased by 170 jobs over the year ending in August, representing a loss of 1.5%. Job losses were widespread and concentrated within manufacturing (-90 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-50 jobs); financial activities (-40 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (-40 jobs); and information (-10 jobs). The only over-the-year gains occurred in leisure and hospitality (+110 jobs). Government employment saw no change over the year.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 5.0% as of August, up from 4.9% in July. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.7 percentage point higher.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment decreased by 1.7%, a decline of 180 jobs to total 10,240 as of August. Private industry employment lost 10 jobs, bringing employment down to 8,230. Government employment fell by 170 jobs and is now 2,010. Private job gains were seen in private education and health services (+20 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (+10 jobs). Trade, transportation, and utilities; professional and business services; manufacturing; and construction all lost 10 jobs over the month, while all other industries saw little to no change.

Wasco County's private industry employment decreased by 60 (-0.6%) jobs over the year ending in August. The largest losses were in trade, transportation, and utilities (-100 jobs), specifically retail trade (-100 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (-40 jobs). Smaller losses also occurred in information (-20 jobs), other services (-20 jobs), and financial activities (-10 jobs). Over-the-year gains

occurred in leisure and hospitality (+90 jobs), private education and health services (+20 jobs), and manufacturing (+20 jobs). The public sector remained unchanged over the year.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased over the month, going from a rate of 4.6% in July to 4.8% in August. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.1 percentage point higher.

Gilliam County's nonfarm employment remained the same from July to August and stands at 1,000 jobs. Over the month, the private sector gained 10 jobs and government employment decreased by 10 jobs with local government shedding those 10 jobs. Over the year, total private employment increased by 30 jobs while government employment decreased by 20 jobs for an over-the-year net gain of 10 total nonfarm jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from 4.4% in July to 4.7% in August and increased by 0.9 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment decreased by 10 jobs (-1.0%) in August and stands at 985. Private-sector employment declined by 10 jobs while public-sector employment remained unchanged. Over the year ending in August, private industry added 20 jobs, bringing the total to 650, a 3.2% increase. Public-sector employment lost 15 jobs over the year, representing a 4.3% decrease.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from July to August and remains 3.9%. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.1 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment increased by five jobs (+1.5%) from July to August and now stands at 335 jobs. Over the year ending in August, private industry employment declined by 25 and was estimated to be 175. Government employment also declined, losing 15 jobs during the same period.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Oct. 21, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

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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Workforce & Economic Research Division

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September 23, 2025

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,452	14,774	14,067	-322	385
Unemployed	647	624	498	23	149
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.2%	3.5%	0.3	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Employed	13,805	14,150	13,569	-345	236
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,500	11,570	11,670	-70	-170
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>11,680</i>	<i>11,660</i>	<i>11,840</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>-160</i>
Total private	10,280	10,200	10,450	80	-170
Mining, logging, and construction	560	560	600	0	-40
Manufacturing	1,720	1,720	1,810	0	-90
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,900	1,830	1,950	70	-50
Wholesale trade	320	270	350	50	-30
Retail trade	1,380	1,370	1,430	10	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	200	190	170	10	30
Information	90	90	100	0	-10
Financial activities	350	350	390	0	-40
Professional and business services	950	950	950	0	0
Private education and health services	1,940	1,940	1,990	0	-50
Leisure and hospitality	2,420	2,410	2,310	10	110
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	420	410	350	10	70
Accommodation and food services	2,000	2,000	1,960	0	40
Accommodation	560	550	530	10	30
Food services and drinking places	1,440	1,450	1,430	-10	10
Other services	350	350	350	0	0
Government	1,220	1,370	1,220	-150	0
Federal government	130	130	170	0	-40
State government	140	140	130	0	10
Local government	950	1,100	920	-150	30
Local education	380	540	380	-160	0
Local government excluding educational services	570	560	540	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.



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Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,810	17,407	12,633	-4,597	177
Unemployed	712	707	560	5	152
Unemployment rate	5.6%	4.1%	4.4%	1.5	1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.3%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Employed	12,098	16,700	12,073	-4,602	25
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,240	10,420	10,300	-180	-60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,160</i>	<i>10,330</i>	<i>10,220</i>	<i>-170</i>	<i>-60</i>
Total private	8,230	8,240	8,290	-10	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	470	480	510	-10	-40
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	420	430	450	-10	-30
Manufacturing	490	500	470	-10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,960	1,970	2,060	-10	-100
Wholesale trade	200	200	190	0	10
Retail trade	1,500	1,520	1,600	-20	-100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	260	250	270	10	-10
Information	250	250	270	0	-20
Financial activities	270	270	280	0	-10
Professional and business services	580	590	580	-10	0
Private education and health services	2,260	2,240	2,240	20	20
Ambulatory health care services	500	510	470	-10	30
Nursing and residential care facilities	500	490	510	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	1,600	1,590	1,510	10	90
Accommodation and food services	1,400	1,370	1,350	30	50
Other services	350	350	370	0	-20
Government	2,010	2,180	2,010	-170	0
Federal government	320	320	320	0	0
State government	330	330	330	0	0
Local government	1,360	1,530	1,360	-170	0
Indian tribal	60	60	110	0	-50
Local education	490	660	490	-170	0
Local government excluding education and tribal	810	810	760	0	50

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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Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,053	1,036	1,039	17	14
Unemployed	58	52	52	6	6
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.0%	5.0%	0.5	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Employed	995	984	987	11	8
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,000	1,000	990	0	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>975</i>	<i>990</i>	<i>965</i>	<i>-15</i>	<i>10</i>
Total private	715	705	685	10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	115	115	115	0	0
Professional and business services	220	220	210	0	10
Private education and health services	70	65	75	5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	40	0	0
Government	285	295	305	-10	-20
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	25	25	20	0	5
Local government	250	260	270	-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.



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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,005	1,008	995	-3	10
Unemployed	52	53	33	-1	19
Unemployment rate	5.2%	5.3%	3.3%	-0.1	1.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>4.4%</i>	<i>3.8%</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Employed	953	955	962	-2	-9
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	985	995	980	-10	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>955</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>950</i>	<i>-5</i>	<i>5</i>
Total private	650	660	630	-10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	410	415	375	-5	35
Retail trade	130	135	135	-5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	95	100	90	-5	5
Government	335	335	350	0	-15
Federal government	150	150	160	0	-10
State government	30	30	30	0	0
Local government	155	155	160	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.



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Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	July 2025	August 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	672	673	716	-1	-44
Unemployed	29	30	27	-1	2
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.5%	3.8%	-0.2	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	3.9%	3.8%	0.0	0.1
Employed	643	643	689	0	-46
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	335	330	375	5	-40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	335	325	380	10	-45
Total private	175	175	200	0	-25
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	35	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	40	45	45	-5	-5
Government	160	155	175	5	-15
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	40	0	-5
Local government	120	115	130	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.

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