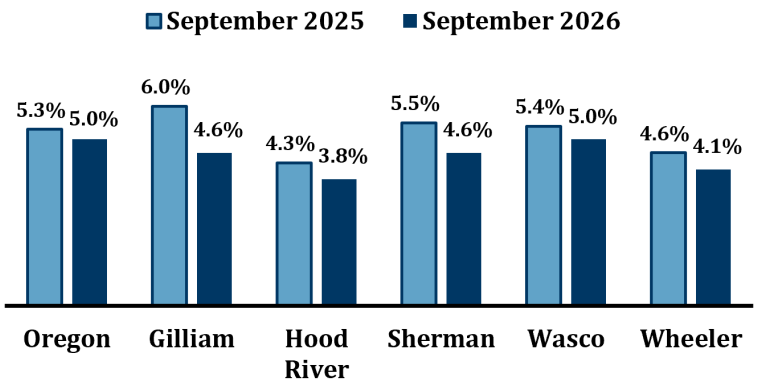
Columbia Gorge Economic Indicators

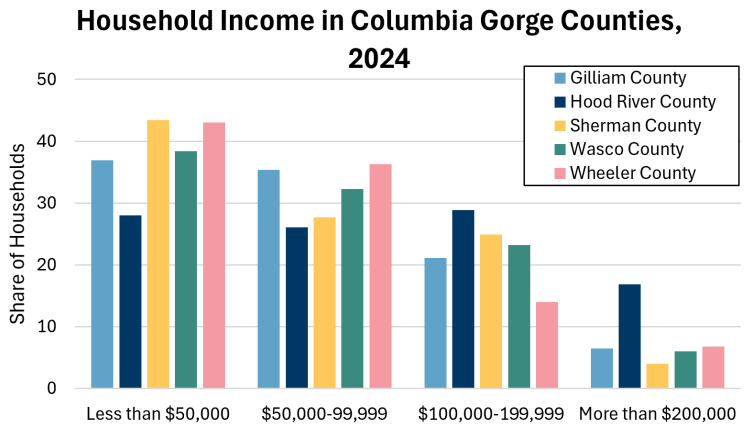
State of Oregon Employment Department
QualityInfo.org

October 2026

Local Area Unemployment Rates
(Seasonally adjusted)



Graph of the Month
Household Income in the Columbia Gorge, 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, S1901

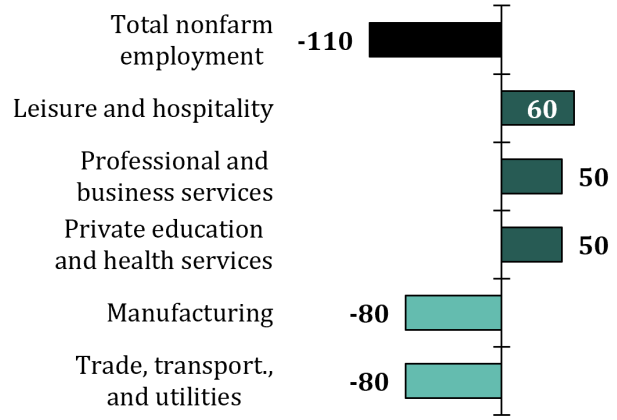
In 2024, Hood River County had the highest average household income in the Columbia Gorge region at $124,850, surpassing not only other counties in the region but also the nation ($114,300) and Oregon ($110,900). Household income disparity is more intensely experienced in Hood River County, which had a significantly higher share of households who made more than $200,000 over the past 12 months compared to neighboring counties. The average household income in Wasco County was $93,060, $82,810 in Wheeler County, $81,670 in Gilliam County, and $73,750 in Sherman County.

Another way to analyze income trends is to look at the median household income for an area. For data that is heavily skewed towards one side or is organized in intervals that don't have a limit (such as "More than $200,000"), the median provides a clearer insight to the "average" household's experience since it dampens the effect outliers, like extremely high earners, have on the data. In Hood River County, the median household income was $88,950. The median household income in Gilliam County was $66,920, $64,180 in Wasco County, $60,160 in Sherman County, and $55,280 in Wheeler County.

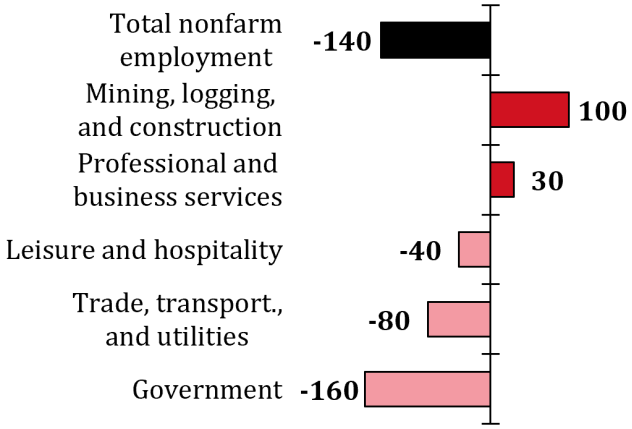
In the past ten years, the average household income has increased significantly, about 30%, in Wheeler County. Other counties in the region have seen modest growth; Hood River County's average household income increased about 22%, and Wasco County's has grown about 19%. There was slight growth of about 5% in Gilliam County's average household income. Sherman County was the only county in the region to see a decline in average household income, with the average falling about 6% over the past ten years.

Select Industry Gains and Losses
(Over-the-year net employment change, September 2026)

Hood River County



Wasco County



Notable Over-the-Year Changes

Gilliam
Total nonfarm employment (+45)
Private education and health services (+5)
Professional and business services (-10)

Sherman
Total nonfarm employment (-55)
Trade, transportation, and utilities (-10)
Government (-20)

Wheeler
Total nonfarm employment (+10)
Government (+20)
Leisure and hospitality (-5)

Want to join the distribution list? Contact:
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