

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 27, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Nicole Ramos, Regional Economist  
Nicole.S.Ramos@employ.oregon.gov  
(541) 706-0779

## **Employment in the Columbia Gorge: April 2026**

### **Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates continue to hold steady in all five Columbia Gorge counties over the month of April.**

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0% in April, essentially unchanged from its March rate. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.3 percentage point.

Hood River County's employment gains in April were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 240 (+2.0%) during the month, when an employment increase of only 70 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 170 (1.4%) between March and April.

The private sector overall gained 240 jobs over the month. Gains were concentrated in leisure and hospitality, which added 120 jobs in April with all gains occurring in accommodation and food services. Other notable gains were seen in trade, transportation, and utilities (+50 jobs); professional and business services (+30 jobs); and manufacturing (+30 jobs).

Over the past year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 30 jobs or -0.2%.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% as of April, unchanged from 5.0% in March. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.5 percentage points.

Wasco County's employment gains in April were smaller than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 100 (+1.0%) during the month, when an employment increase of 120 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 20 (-0.2%) between March and April.

Private-sector employment overall was up 130 over the month. The largest gains were recorded in leisure and hospitality (+40 jobs), private education and health services (+20 jobs), professional and business services (+20 jobs), and mining, logging, and construction (+20 jobs).

Public-sector employment lost 30 in April. Local government employment dropped 20 in April. Federal government also lost 10 jobs and state government employment was unchanged in April.

Over the past year Wasco County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 180 jobs or -1.7% with the largest losses occurring in construction (-140 jobs), the public sector (-90 jobs), and trade, transportation, and utilities (-70 jobs)

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.5% in April, unchanged from March's unemployment rate. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.9 percentage point.

Gilliam County's employment losses in April were as expected; total nonfarm employment was up 15 during the month, when an employment increase of 15 jobs was expected. As a result, there was no change in seasonally adjusted employment. Over the year, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment was down 160 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7% in April, down from the March rate of 4.9%. The unemployment rate increased by 0.9 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 25 jobs (-2.8%) in April and now stands at 870. Private-sector employment remained unchanged over the month, while public-sector employment declined by 25 for the month.

Over the year ending in April, private industry shed 15 jobs, bringing the total to 575, a 2.5% decrease from the previous year. Public-sector employment lost 20 jobs over the year for a net loss of 35 total nonfarm jobs over the year.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7% in April, unchanged from March's rate of 4.7%. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.5 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment increased by five jobs (+1.4%) from March to April and now stands at 355 jobs. Over the year ending in April, total nonfarm employment increased by 10 (+2.9%). The private sector was unchanged over the year, while the public sector added 10 jobs.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Wednesday, June 17 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, June 23.

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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Workforce & Economic Research Division

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May 27, 2026

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

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,795	13,682	13,623	113	172
Unemployed	497	525	493	-28	4
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.8%	3.6%	-0.2	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.0%	3.7%	0.0	0.3
Employed	13,298	13,157	13,130	141	168
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	12,050	11,810	12,060	240	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,980	11,810	12,010	170	-30
Total private	10,540	10,300	10,540	240	0
Mining, logging, and construction	510	500	550	10	-40
Manufacturing	1,710	1,680	1,740	30	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,030	1,980	1,910	50	120
Wholesale trade	490	470	410	20	80
Retail trade	1,380	1,340	1,340	40	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	170	160	-10	0
Information	90	90	80	0	10
Financial activities	310	310	330	0	-20
Professional and business services	1,030	1,000	960	30	70
Private education and health services	1,960	1,960	2,020	0	-60
Leisure and hospitality	2,600	2,480	2,630	120	-30
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	950	950	970	0	-20
Accommodation and food services	1,650	1,530	1,660	120	-10
Accommodation	490	460	490	30	0
Food services and drinking places	1,160	1,070	1,170	90	-10
Other services	300	300	320	0	-20
Government	1,510	1,510	1,520	0	-10
Federal government	100	100	110	0	-10
State government	160	170	150	-10	10
Local government	1,250	1,240	1,260	10	-10
Local education	740	730	740	10	0
Local government excluding educational services	510	510	520	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.



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### Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,700	12,569	12,677	131	23
Unemployed	610	687	581	-77	29
Unemployment rate	4.8%	5.5%	4.6%	-0.7	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.0%	4.5%	0.0	0.5
Employed	12,090	11,882	12,096	208	-6
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,200	10,100	10,370	100	-170
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,180	10,200	10,360	-20	-180
Total private	8,060	7,930	8,140	130	-80
Mining, logging, and construction	430	410	570	20	-140
Mining and logging	50	40	50	10	0
Construction	380	370	520	10	-140
Manufacturing	500	500	490	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,960	1,950	2,030	10	-70
Wholesale trade	210	210	220	0	-10
Retail trade	1,500	1,490	1,540	10	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	270	0	-20
Information	270	270	260	0	10
Financial activities	300	290	270	10	30
Professional and business services	570	550	600	20	-30
Private education and health services	2,360	2,340	2,270	20	90
Ambulatory health care services	510	520	520	-10	-10
Nursing and residential care facilities	590	580	520	10	70
Leisure and hospitality	1,320	1,280	1,330	40	-10
Accommodation and food services	1,200	1,180	1,220	20	-20
Other services	350	340	320	10	30
Government	2,140	2,170	2,230	-30	-90
Federal government	260	270	270	-10	-10
State government	320	320	330	0	-10
Local government	1,560	1,580	1,630	-20	-70
Indian tribal	40	30	70	10	-30
Local education	730	770	800	-40	-70
Local government excluding education and tribal	790	780	760	10	30

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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.



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### Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	939	928	1,041	11	-102
Unemployed	48	48	43	0	5
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.2%	4.1%	-0.1	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.5%	5.5%	4.6%	0.0	0.9
Employed	891	880	998	11	-107
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	860	845	1,015	15	-155
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	865	865	1,025	0	-160
Total private	565	560	720	5	-155
Trade, transportation, and utilities	105	100	110	5	-5
Professional and business services	225	225	225	0	0
Private education and health services	65	65	75	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	35	35	40	0	-5
Government	295	285	295	10	0
Federal government	10	15	10	-5	0
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	260	245	260	15	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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### Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	904	929	925	-25	-21
Unemployed	37	48	40	-11	-3
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.2%	4.3%	-1.1	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.9%	3.8%	-0.2	0.9
Employed	867	881	885	-14	-18
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	875	900	910	-25	-35
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	870	895	910	-25	-40
Total private	575	575	590	0	-15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	355	360	-5	-10
Retail trade	125	125	135	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	90	85	85	5	5
Government	300	325	320	-25	-20
Federal government	115	115	130	0	-15
State government	30	30	30	0	0
Local government	155	180	160	-25	-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--				
	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026	April 2025
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	702	702	685	0	17
Unemployed	29	35	24	-6	5
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.0%	3.5%	-0.9	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.7%	4.2%	0.0	0.5
Employed	673	667	661	6	12
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	355	350	345	5	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	355	355	345	0	10
Total private	165	160	165	5	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	30	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	25	20	30	5	-5
Government	190	190	180	0	10
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	30	0	5
Local government	150	150	145	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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