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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: August 2026

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates declined across the Columbia Gorge with only Wasco and Hood River counties remaining unchanged.

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.9% in August, unchanged from July's rate. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down by 0.4 percentage point.

Hood River County's employment losses in August were larger than expected; total nonfarm employment was down 100 (-0.9%) during the month, when an employment decrease of 70 jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 30 jobs (-0.3%) from July to August.

The largest losses occurred within the public sector (-150 jobs) at the local level (-160 jobs). Smaller losses were also seen in professional and business services (-10 jobs). Gains were concentrated within the private sector (+50 jobs) with the largest gains seen in wholesale trade (+20 jobs) and manufacturing (+20 jobs). Smaller gains were also seen in private education and health services (+10 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (+10 jobs).

Over the past year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment shed 160 jobs or -1.3%. Unadjusted losses were largest in manufacturing (-70 jobs); financial activities (-60 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (-50 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-40 jobs). Gains were largest in leisure and hospitality (+40 jobs) and professional and business services (+40 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1% in August, unchanged from its rate in July. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage point.

Wasco County's employment gains in August were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 70 (+0.7%) during the month, when a decrease of 40 jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 110 (+1.1%) between July and August.

Private-sector employment was up 170 over the month. The largest gains were recorded in construction (+150 jobs), with smaller gains recorded in private education and health services (+20 jobs), manufacturing (+10 jobs), and leisure and hospitality (+10 jobs). Private losses were recorded in

retail trade (-10 jobs) and information (-10 jobs). Public-sector employment lost 100 jobs in August, specifically within local government (-100 jobs). Both federal and state government were unchanged in August.

Over the past year Wasco County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment was up 50 jobs or 0.5% with the largest gains occurring in construction (+150 jobs), private education and health services (+70 jobs), and professional and business services (+40 jobs). Smaller gains also occurred in the public sector (+20 jobs) and information (+10 jobs). The largest losses occurred in leisure and hospitality (-90 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-70 jobs); and manufacturing (-40 jobs), with smaller losses seen in mining and logging (-20 jobs) and other services (-20 jobs).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 5.1% in July to 4.8% in August. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined by 0.9 percentage point.

Gilliam County's employment gains in August were larger than expected; total nonfarm employment was up 35 jobs (+3.9%) during the month, when an employment increase of 15 jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 20 jobs between July and August. Over the year, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment was up 35 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7% in August, down from 4.8% in July. The unemployment rate declined by 0.7 percentage point over the year.

Sherman County's employment gains in August were as expected; total nonfarm employment was down five jobs and stands at 870. Private-sector employment decreased by five jobs over the month, while public-sector employment remained unchanged. Over the year ending in August, private industry lost 30 jobs, bringing the total to 565, a 5.0% decrease from the previous year. Public-sector employment lost 20 jobs over the year for a net loss of 50 total nonfarm jobs over the year.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.2% in August, down from a rate of 4.3% in July. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down by 0.1 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment was unchanged from July to August and is now at 345 jobs. Over the year ending in August, total nonfarm employment was up by 25 jobs. The private sector declined by 15 jobs over the year, while the public sector added 40 jobs, with the majority added at the local level (+30 jobs).

Next Press Releases

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

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 22, 2026

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,629	15,192	14,689	-563	-60
Unemployed	548	600	641	-52	-93
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.9%	4.4%	-0.2	-0.7
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	3.9%	3.9%	4.3%	0.0	-0.4
Employed	14,081	14,592	14,048	-511	33
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,530	11,630	11,690	-100	-160
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	11,750	11,780	11,910	-30	-160
Total private	10,310	10,260	10,470	50	-160
Mining, logging, and construction	540	540	590	0	-50
Manufacturing	1,780	1,760	1,850	20	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,870	1,850	1,910	20	-40
Wholesale trade	340	320	340	20	0
Retail trade	1,350	1,350	1,380	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	180	180	190	0	-10
Information	70	70	90	0	-20
Financial activities	310	310	370	0	-60
Professional and business services	1,050	1,060	1,010	-10	40
Private education and health services	2,030	2,020	2,020	10	10
Leisure and hospitality	2,340	2,330	2,300	10	40
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	390	380	340	10	50
Accommodation and food services	1,950	1,950	1,960	0	-10
Accommodation	570	570	540	0	30
Food services and drinking places	1,380	1,380	1,420	0	-40
Other services	320	320	330	0	-10
Government	1,220	1,370	1,220	-150	0
Federal government	140	130	130	10	10
State government	160	160	150	0	10
Local government	920	1,080	940	-160	-20
Local education	370	530	380	-160	-10
Local government excluding educational services	550	550	560	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--				
	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,013	17,261	12,865	-4,248	148
Unemployed	685	707	703	-22	-18
Unemployment rate	5.3%	4.1%	5.5%	1.2	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	5.1%	5.4%	0.0	-0.3
Employed	12,328	16,554	12,162	-4,226	166
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,310	10,240	10,260	70	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,280	10,170	10,230	110	50
Total private	8,260	8,090	8,230	170	30
Mining, logging, and construction	580	430	450	150	130
Mining and logging	20	20	40	0	-20
Construction	560	410	410	150	150
Manufacturing	440	430	480	10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,920	1,930	1,990	-10	-70
Wholesale trade	220	220	220	0	0
Retail trade	1,450	1,460	1,510	-10	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	260	0	-10
Information	270	280	260	-10	10
Financial activities	290	290	290	0	0
Professional and business services	590	590	550	0	40
Private education and health services	2,370	2,350	2,300	20	70
Ambulatory health care services	520	520	500	0	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	580	560	560	20	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,440	1,430	1,530	10	-90
Accommodation and food services	1,270	1,260	1,360	10	-90
Other services	360	360	380	0	-20
Government	2,050	2,150	2,030	-100	20
Federal government	300	300	280	0	20
State government	320	320	330	0	-10
Local government	1,430	1,530	1,420	-100	10
Indian tribal	80	80	120	0	-40
Local education	530	620	500	-90	30
Local government excluding education and tribal	820	830	800	-10	20

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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--				
	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	995	958	966	37	29
Unemployed	41	48	56	-7	-15
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.0%	5.8%	-0.9	-1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>-0.9</i>
Employed	954	910	910	44	44
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	925	890	890	35	35
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>925</i>	<i>905</i>	<i>890</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>35</i>
Total private	640	610	600	30	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	115	115	105	0	10
Professional and business services	220	220	225	0	-5
Private education and health services	80	80	75	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	45	45	50	0	-5
Government	285	280	290	5	-5
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	250	245	255	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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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	924	918	952	6	-28
Unemployed	38	42	53	-4	-15
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.6%	5.6%	-0.5	-1.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>-0.7</i>
Employed	886	876	899	10	-13
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	870	875	920	-5	-50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>895</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-45</i>
Total private	565	570	595	-5	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	355	350	360	5	-5
Retail trade	115	115	150	0	-35
Leisure and hospitality	85	85	90	0	-5
Government	305	305	325	0	-20
Federal government	120	120	130	0	-10
State government	25	25	30	0	-5
Local government	160	160	165	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 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026	August 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	688	687	697	1	-9
Unemployed	26	25	29	1	-3
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.6%	4.2%	0.2	-0.4
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.2%	4.3%	4.3%	-0.1	-0.1
Employed	662	662	668	0	-6
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	345	345	320	0	25
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	340	340	315	0	25
Total private	170	170	185	0	-15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	30	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	35	0	-5
Government	175	175	135	0	40
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	45	45	35	0	10
Local government	125	125	95	0	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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