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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: December 2022

Unemployment Rates Rise over Five Month Period Ending in December

In December, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 3.6%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's fourth lowest, tied with Benton. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 260 jobs to 12,650 in December. Private industry rose by 280 jobs to 11,290 and government cut 20, falling to 1,360. Arts, entertainment, and recreation led private industry, adding 370 jobs to reach 1,100. Education and health services chipped in 20 jobs, rising to 1,900. Retail trade cut 40 jobs, falling to 1,720, and wholesale trade shed 30, dropping to 550. Manufacturing (-20 jobs) and food services and drinking places (-20) also cut jobs in December.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 2.5% over the year, adding 290 jobs. Arts, entertainment, and recreation led private industry, rising by 130 jobs over the year. Other industries adding jobs included other services (+50), manufacturing (+40), and food services and drinking places (+30).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 4.2% in December, low enough to rank ninth, tied with Morrow and Multnomah. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell by 50 jobs in December, dropping to 10,150. Private industry cut 30 jobs in December, falling to 8,140, and government shed 20, dropping to 2,010. Information led private industry, rising by 40 jobs to reach 350. Leisure and hospitality cut 20 jobs in December, dropping its total to 1,180. Federal government and state government each cut 10 jobs in December. Wasco County remains about 140 jobs or 1.4% shy of its pre-pandemic high.

Wasco County's private-industry employment fell by 10 jobs or 0.1% over the year ending in December. Accommodation and food services (+3.6%) joined professional and business services (+5.3%) and other services (+8.3%), increasing payrolls by 40 jobs each. Retail trade rose by 30 jobs to reach 1,640 (+1.9%). Education and health services cut 130 jobs, an over-the-year loss of 5.6%. In the public sector, local education rose by 30 jobs over the year (+3.9%).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in December to 4.1%, ranking eighth out of 36 Oregon counties. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose to 795 in December, an increase of 10. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total fell by 130 jobs to 555, a loss of 19%, and government held its own with 240.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in December to 3.4%, ranking second in Oregon, just ahead of Washington County. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 10 jobs in December, climbing to 915. Over the year ending in December, private industry rose by 35 jobs to 610 (+6.1%) and government held its own with 305.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 3.2% in December, ranking as Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point. Nonfarm employment totaled 300 in December, with private industry cutting five jobs and government losing 10. Over the year ending in December, private industry rose to 165 (+10) and government dropped to 135 (-5).

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January 2023 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on March 7th, 2023.

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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Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	November 2022	December 2021
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	857	855	989	2	-132
Unemployed	36	32	33	4	3
Unemployment rate	4.2%	3.7%	3.3%	0.5	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.0%	3.9%	0.1	0.2
Employed	821	823	956	-2	-135
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	795	785	925	10	-130
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	825	805	960	20	-135
Total private	555	550	685	5	-130
Trade, transportation, and utilities	115	115	135	0	-20
Professional and business services	245	245	245	0	0
Education and health services	65	65	60	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	50	50	55	0	-5
Government	240	235	240	5	0
Federal government	15	10	15	5	0
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	215	215	215	0	0

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.

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	November 2022	December 2021
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,960	13,743	13,965	217	-5
Unemployed	511	476	399	35	112
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.5%	2.9%	0.2	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.6%	3.4%	3.7%	0.2	-0.1
Employed	13,449	13,267	13,566	182	-117
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,650	12,390	12,340	260	310
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,170	12,110	11,880	60	290
Total private	11,290	11,010	11,000	280	290
Mining, logging, and construction	510	520	500	-10	10
Manufacturing	1,830	1,850	1,790	-20	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,450	2,520	2,450	-70	0
Wholesale trade	550	580	550	-30	0
Retail trade	1,720	1,760	1,710	-40	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	180	180	190	0	-10
Information	140	130	130	10	10
Financial activities	320	320	320	0	0
Professional and business services	1,030	1,030	1,020	0	10
Education and health services	1,900	1,880	1,890	20	10
Leisure and hospitality	2,710	2,360	2,550	350	160
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,100	730	970	370	130
Accommodation and food services	1,610	1,630	1,580	-20	30
Accommodation	420	420	420	0	0
Food services and drinking places	1,190	1,210	1,160	-20	30
Other services	400	400	350	0	50
Government	1,360	1,380	1,340	-20	20
Federal government	110	120	90	-10	20
State government	110	110	110	0	0
Local government	1,140	1,150	1,140	-10	0
Local education	660	660	660	0	0
Local government excluding educational services	480	490	480	-10	0

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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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	November 2022	December 2021
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	930	924	931	6	-1
Unemployed	33	30	31	3	2
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.2%	3.3%	0.3	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.4%	3.2%	3.8%	0.2	-0.4
Employed	897	894	900	3	-3
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	915	905	880	10	35
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	930	945	895	-15	35
Total private	610	620	575	-10	35
Trade, transportation, and utilities	335	340	300	-5	35
Retail trade	130	130	120	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	85	90	90	-5	-5
Government	305	285	305	20	0
Federal government	120	120	120	0	0
State government	30	30	30	0	0
Local government	155	135	155	20	0

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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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	November 2022	December 2021
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,799	12,900	13,050	-101	-251
Unemployed	678	646	521	32	157
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.0%	4.0%	0.3	1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.0%	4.5%	0.2	-0.3
Employed	12,121	12,254	12,529	-133	-408
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,150	10,200	10,130	-50	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,200	10,180	10,170	20	30
Total private	8,140	8,170	8,150	-30	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	460	470	490	-10	-30
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	400	410	430	-10	-30
Manufacturing	530	530	530	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,140	2,150	2,110	-10	30
Wholesale trade	170	180	180	-10	-10
Retail trade	1,640	1,650	1,610	-10	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	330	320	320	10	10
Information	350	310	340	40	10
Financial activities	300	300	300	0	0
Professional and business services	590	600	550	-10	40
Education and health services	2,210	2,220	2,340	-10	-130
Ambulatory health care services	510	510	490	0	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	510	500	510	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,180	1,200	1,150	-20	30
Accommodation and food services	1,140	1,150	1,100	-10	40
Other services	380	390	340	-10	40
Government	2,010	2,030	1,980	-20	30
Federal government	270	280	270	-10	0
State government	260	270	260	-10	0
Local government	1,480	1,480	1,450	0	30
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	800	800	770	0	30
Local government excluding education and tribal	670	670	670	0	0

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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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	November 2022	December 2021
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	700	732	715	-32	-15
Unemployed	24	22	18	2	6
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.0%	2.5%	0.4	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.2%	3.0%	3.0%	0.2	0.2
Employed	676	710	697	-34	-21
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	300	315	295	-15	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	310	310	305	0	5
Total private	165	170	155	-5	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	35	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	20	25	10	-5	10
Government	135	145	140	-10	-5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	130	140	135	-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.

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