

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 22nd, 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dallas Fridley, Regional Economist
Dallas.W.Fridley@oregon.gov
(541) 645-0005

Employment in the Columbia Gorge: July 2023

Unemployment Rates Fall Again in July

In July, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 2.7%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest, tied with Benton. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 50 jobs to 11,840 in July. Private industry increased its total by 210, rising to 10,450 jobs, and government cut 160, falling to 1,390. Food services and drinking places led private industry in July, rising to 1,470, an increase of 80 jobs. Retail trade increased its total by 30 jobs, climbing to 1,420. Mining, logging, and construction (+20); professional and business services (+20); education and health services (+20); and arts, entertainment, and recreation (+20) also rose in July. Local government education cut 200 jobs with the start of summer break, falling to 570.

Hood River County's private industry employment fell by 180 jobs or 1.7% over the year ending in July. Wholesale trade cut 120 jobs over the year, falling to 310. Manufacturing shed 40 jobs, and transportation, warehousing, and utilities also cut 40. Other services led private industry with an over-the-year increase of 60 jobs. Local government rose by 30 jobs over the year, and state government chipped in 20.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in July to 3.8%, ranking 15th. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell to 10,520 in July, a loss of 40 jobs. Private industry increased its total by 190 to reach 8,520, and government slashed 230 jobs, falling to 2,000. Leisure and hospitality led private industry, rising by 150 jobs to reach 1,630. Construction (+10); manufacturing (+10); wholesale trade (+10); education and health services (+10); and other services (+10) also rose in July. In the public sector, local government education cut 240 job, falling to 680.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 10 jobs over the year ending in July. Leisure and hospitality led private industry, rising by 80 jobs. Other services also performed well, rising by 50 jobs

to reach 440. Construction (-40 jobs); education and health services (-40); financial activities (-30); and professional and business services (-20) cut jobs. Local education led the public sector, rising by 90 jobs, and other local government chipped in 30.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in July to 3.8%, ranking 15th out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Wasco and Sherman. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment fell to 865 in July, a loss of 20 jobs. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry employment fell to 585 jobs, a loss of 25 or 4.1%, while government rose by 35 to reach 280.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in July to 3.8%, ranking 15th. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.5 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by five jobs in July, climbing to 970. Over the year ending in July, private industry rose by five jobs to 665 (+0.8%) and government held steady with 305.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in July to 3.0%, ranking third in Oregon behind Benton and Hood River. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point. Nonfarm employment totaled 330 jobs in July, with private industry rising by five and government cutting 15. Over the year ending in July, private industry cut 25 jobs, falling to 180, and government rose by 30 to reach 150.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the August 2023 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Sep. 19th, 2023 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Sep. 13th, 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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe, enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in.

Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

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

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.

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	914	914	927	0	-13
Unemployed	43	39	37	4	6
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.3%	4.0%	0.4	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.6%	4.1%	0.2	-0.3
Employed	871	875	890	-4	-19
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	865	885	855	-20	10
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	870	870	855	0	15
Total private	585	580	610	5	-25
Trade, transportation, and utilities	130	130	125	0	5
Professional and business services	230	235	240	-5	-10
Private education and health services	90	90	90	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	50	45	55	5	-5
Government	280	305	245	-25	35
Federal government	15	15	10	0	5
State government	20	20	10	0	10
Local government	245	270	225	-25	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.

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,669	13,646	15,290	1,023	-621
Unemployed	469	400	513	69	-44
Unemployment rate	3.2%	2.9%	3.4%	0.3	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2.7%	2.8%	3.6%	-0.1	-0.9
Employed	14,200	13,246	14,777	954	-577
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,840	11,790	11,970	50	-130
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	12,030	11,930	12,160	100	-130
Total private	10,450	10,240	10,630	210	-180
Mining, logging, and construction	560	540	560	20	0
Manufacturing	1,860	1,850	1,900	10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,890	1,870	2,070	20	-180
Wholesale trade	310	330	430	-20	-120
Retail trade	1,420	1,390	1,440	30	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	150	200	10	-40
Information	150	140	150	10	0
Financial activities	310	310	330	0	-20
Professional and business services	1,020	1,000	1,050	20	-30
Private education and health services	1,930	1,910	1,920	20	10
Leisure and hospitality	2,300	2,190	2,280	110	20
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	320	300	320	20	0
Accommodation and food services	1,980	1,890	1,960	90	20
Accommodation	510	500	510	10	0
Food services and drinking places	1,470	1,390	1,450	80	20
Other services	430	430	370	0	60
Government	1,390	1,550	1,340	-160	50
Federal government	150	140	150	10	0
State government	130	120	110	10	20
Local government	1,110	1,290	1,080	-180	30
Local education	570	770	550	-200	20
Local government excluding educational services	540	520	530	20	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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	970	961	996	9	-26
Unemployed	41	38	31	3	10
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.0%	3.1%	0.2	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.6%	3.3%	0.2	0.5
Employed	929	923	965	6	-36
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	970	980	965	-10	5
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	940	935	935	5	5
Total private	665	650	660	15	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	370	365	355	5	15
Retail trade	140	140	140	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	105	105	105	0	0
Government	305	330	305	-25	0
Federal government	125	130	120	-5	5
State government	35	35	45	0	-10
Local government	145	165	140	-20	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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	17,271	15,923	17,431	1,348	-160
Unemployed	520	473	551	47	-31
Unemployment rate	3.0%	3.0%	3.2%	0.0	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.9%	4.1%	-0.1	-0.3
Employed	16,751	15,450	16,880	1,301	-129
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,520	10,560	10,370	-40	150
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	10,340	10,330	10,200	10	140
Total private	8,520	8,330	8,510	190	10
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Mining, logging, and construction	470	460	510	10	-40
Construction	410	400	450	10	-40
Manufacturing	520	510	510	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,130	2,130	2,130	0	0
Wholesale trade	190	180	180	10	10
Retail trade	1,630	1,640	1,640	-10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	310	310	310	0	0
Information	260	260	260	0	0
Financial activities	300	300	330	0	-30
Professional and business services	560	560	580	0	-20
Private education and health services	2,210	2,200	2,250	10	-40
Ambulatory health care services	500	500	470	0	30
Nursing and residential care facilities	470	470	480	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	1,630	1,480	1,550	150	80
Accommodation and food services	1,460	1,330	1,390	130	70
Other services	440	430	390	10	50
Government	2,000	2,230	1,860	-230	140
Federal government	290	280	290	10	0
State government	290	290	270	0	20
Local government	1,420	1,660	1,300	-240	120
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	680	920	590	-240	90
Local government excluding education and tribal	730	730	700	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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2023	June 2023	July 2022	June 2023	July 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	747	762	754	-15	-7
Unemployed	24	23	24	1	0
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.0%	3.2%	0.2	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.0%	2.8%	3.4%	0.2	-0.4
Employed	723	739	730	-16	-7
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	330	340	325	-10	5
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	330	330	325	0	5
Total private	180	175	205	5	-25
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	30	40	5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	45	45	45	0	0
Government	150	165	120	-15	30
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	25	25	0	0	25
Local government	120	135	115	-15	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.

###