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## **Employment in the Columbia Gorge: September 2023**

### **Summer Season Gives Way to a New School Year**

In September, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 2.8%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest, just ahead of Benton's 2.9%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.3 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 60 jobs to 11,940 in September. Private industry lost 230 jobs, falling to 10,450 jobs, and government rose by 290 to reach 1,490. Private industry job losses were concentrated in leisure and hospitality, where a drop of 130 cut its total to 2,200. Retail trade cut 30 jobs, falling to 1,380 and wholesale trade shed 20 dropping to 480. An increase of 320 jobs in local government education lifted its total to 700, while other local government cut 30, falling to 510.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 70 jobs over the year ending in September. Leisure and hospitality led private industry with an over-the-year increase of 90 jobs. Other services also performed well, rising by 70 jobs to reach 440, and wholesale trade chipped in 50. Manufacturing (-40); retail trade (-40); professional and business services (-40); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-30) cut jobs. Government rose by 30 jobs over the year, with federal, state, and local each chipping in 10.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in September at 3.7%, ranking 14<sup>th</sup>. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage point.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment rose to 10,590 in September, an increase of 120 jobs. Private industry cut 80 jobs, falling to 8,420, while government increased its total by 200 to reach 2,170. Leisure and hospitality idled 90 jobs in September, falling to 1,550. Manufacturing (-10) and professional and business services (-10) also cut jobs. Private industry job gains were limited to retail trade (+20), education and health services (+10), and wholesale trade (+10). In the public sector, local government education rose by 190 jobs to 830 and other local government chipped in 20.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 70 jobs over the year ending in September. Leisure and hospitality led private industry, rising by 140 jobs (+9.9%). Other services rose by 40 jobs

to reach 430. Construction (-60 jobs), education and health services (-30), and professional and business services (-20) cut jobs. Local government led the public sector, with education and other local each rising by 50 jobs.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in September to 4.2%, ranking 26<sup>th</sup> out of 36 Oregon counties. Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point over the year ending in September. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment fell to 850 in September, a loss of 25 jobs. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry employment fell to 590 jobs, a loss of 150, while government rose by 25 to reach 260.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in September at 3.8%, ranking 18<sup>th</sup>. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell to 965 jobs in September, a loss of five. Over the year ending in September, private industry held steady at 650 and government remained at 305.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in September to 3.1%, ranking fourth in Oregon. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point. Nonfarm employment rose by 20 jobs in September to reach 350. Over the year ending in September, private industry cut 15 jobs, falling to 175, and government rose by 30 to reach 175.

### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October 2023 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 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/](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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## Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	--Change From--	
				August 2023	September 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	897	932	1,026	-35	-129
Unemployed	35	40	34	-5	1
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.3%	3.3%	-0.4	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.0%	3.9%	0.2	0.3
Employed	862	892	992	-30	-130
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	850	875	975	-25	-125
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	835	855	960	-20	-125
Total private	590	590	740	0	-150
Trade, transportation, and utilities	130	130	135	0	-5
Professional and business services	230	230	235	0	-5
Private education and health services	95	95	95	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	50	50	45	0	5
Government	260	285	235	-25	25
Federal government	10	15	10	-5	0
State government	20	20	10	0	10
Local government	230	250	215	-20	15

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--		
	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	August 2023	September 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	14,572	14,576	15,284	-4	-712
Unemployed	371	463	501	-92	-130
Unemployment rate	2.5%	3.2%	3.3%	-0.7	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2.8%	2.7%	4.1%	0.1	-1.3
Employed	14,201	14,113	14,783	88	-582
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,940	11,880	11,840	60	100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,050	11,950	11,940	100	110
Total private	10,450	10,680	10,380	-230	70
Mining, logging, and construction	550	560	540	-10	10
Manufacturing	1,860	1,870	1,900	-10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,020	2,070	2,040	-50	-20
Wholesale trade	480	500	430	-20	50
Retail trade	1,380	1,410	1,420	-30	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	160	190	0	-30
Information	140	150	140	-10	0
Financial activities	310	310	320	0	-10
Professional and business services	1,010	1,020	1,050	-10	-40
Private education and health services	1,920	1,930	1,910	-10	10
Leisure and hospitality	2,200	2,330	2,110	-130	90
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	310	330	310	-20	0
Accommodation and food services	1,890	2,000	1,800	-110	90
Accommodation	490	520	470	-30	20
Food services and drinking places	1,400	1,480	1,330	-80	70
Other services	440	440	370	0	70
Government	1,490	1,200	1,460	290	30
Federal government	150	150	140	0	10
State government	130	130	120	0	10
Local government	1,210	920	1,200	290	10
Local education	700	380	690	320	10
Local government excluding educational services	510	540	510	-30	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

	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	--Change From--	
				August 2023	September 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	957	979	980	-22	-23
Unemployed	32	40	30	-8	2
Unemployment rate	3.3%	4.1%	3.1%	-0.8	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.8%	3.5%	0.0	0.3
Employed	925	939	950	-14	-25
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	965	970	965	-5	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	945	930	945	15	0
Total private	650	665	650	-15	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	365	375	340	-10	25
Retail trade	135	140	130	-5	5
Leisure and hospitality	100	105	115	-5	-15
Government	315	305	315	10	0
Federal government	125	125	125	0	0
State government	30	35	35	-5	-5
Local government	160	145	155	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.

## Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

			--Change From--		
	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	August 2023	September 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,845	13,804	13,191	-959	-346
Unemployed	462	517	542	-55	-80
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.7%	4.1%	-0.1	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.7%	4.6%	0.0	-0.9
Employed	12,383	13,287	12,649	-904	-266
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,590	10,470	10,370	120	220
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,410	10,330	10,200	80	210
Total private	8,420	8,500	8,290	-80	130
Mining, logging, and construction	460	460	510	0	-50
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	400	400	450	0	-50
Manufacturing	510	520	490	-10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,140	2,110	2,120	30	20
Wholesale trade	190	180	180	10	10
Retail trade	1,640	1,620	1,630	20	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	310	310	310	0	0
Information	260	260	270	0	-10
Financial activities	300	300	320	0	-20
Professional and business services	550	560	560	-10	-10
Private education and health services	2,230	2,220	2,240	10	-10
Ambulatory health care services	500	500	470	0	30
Nursing and residential care facilities	480	480	510	0	-30
Leisure and hospitality	1,550	1,640	1,410	-90	140
Accommodation and food services	1,390	1,460	1,270	-70	120
Other services	420	430	370	-10	50
Government	2,170	1,970	2,080	200	90
Federal government	290	290	280	0	10
State government	280	290	260	-10	20
Local government	1,600	1,390	1,540	210	60
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	830	640	820	190	10
Local government excluding education and tribal	760	740	710	20	50

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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

	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	--Change From--	
				August 2023	September 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	770	756	760	14	10
Unemployed	22	25	23	-3	-1
Unemployment rate	2.9%	3.3%	3.0%	-0.4	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.1%	3.0%	3.5%	0.1	-0.4
Employed	748	731	737	17	11
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	350	330	335	20	15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	340	340	325	0	15
Total private	175	180	190	-5	-15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	35	35	-5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	45	45	40	0	5
Government	175	150	145	25	30
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	25	25	0	0	25
Local government	145	120	140	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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