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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: March 2024

Job Growth Mostly Positive Over the Year

In March, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.1 percentage point to 3.0%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's second lowest, trailing Wheeler but just ahead of Benton's 3.4%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment was little changed in March at 12,170 jobs. Private industry edged lower to 10,660 jobs, and government had a total of 1,510. Leisure and hospitality lost 100 jobs and wholesale trade employment slipped by 20 jobs. Manufacturing and government both added 30 jobs over the month.

Hood River County's private-industry employment grew by 130 jobs over the year ending in March, a gain of 1.1%. Leisure and hospitality led private industries with an over-the-year increase of 80 jobs, rising to 2,640. Employment in private education and health services (+70); wholesale trade (+50); and professional and business services (+20) also rose over the year. Local and federal government both added 20 jobs since March 2023.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up in March to 4.0%, ranking eighth tied with Multnomah and Tillamook counties. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage point.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment increased to reach 10,280 in March, a gain of 60 jobs. Private industry added 40 jobs, rising to 8,830, while government grew to 2,220, an increase of 20. Leisure and hospitality and private education and health services added 20 jobs each. Government added 20 jobs.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 180 jobs over the year ending in March. Gains were estimated in private education and health services (+80); leisure and hospitality (+30); and professional and business services (+20). Construction lost 30 jobs over the year. Government had a net gain of 80 jobs over the year with increases posted in local (+40), state (+30), and federal government (+10).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point in March to 5.4%, ranking third highest out of 36 Oregon counties. Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 1.9 percentage points over the year ending in March. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment was little changed in March with 805 jobs. Over the year, the private sector lost 55 jobs (-9.2%), while government cut 15, falling to 265.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in March at 4.3%. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 50 in March, to 980. Over the year ending in March, private industry added 55 jobs, rising to 645, and government increased its total by 25 to reach 335.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in March to 3.0%, ranking as Oregon's lowest. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point. Nonfarm employment was little changed at 365 jobs in March, a gain of five. Over the year ending in March, private industry employment gained five jobs and was estimated at 175, and government rose by 10 to reach 190.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, May 21st, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on Wednesday, May 15th.

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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April 23, 2024

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	February 2024	March 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,286	14,302	13,947	-16	339
Unemployed	467	564	420	-97	47
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.9%	3.0%	-0.6	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.2%	3.2%	3.7%	0.0	-0.5
Employed	13,819	13,738	13,527	81	292
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,170	12,200	12,040	-30	130
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,180	12,190	12,050	-10	130
Total private	10,660	10,720	10,570	-60	90
Mining, logging, and construction	550	530	550	20	0
Manufacturing	1,790	1,760	1,780	30	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,830	1,840	1,920	-10	-90
Wholesale trade	460	480	410	-20	50
Retail trade	1,240	1,230	1,370	10	-130
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	130	130	140	0	-10
Information	130	130	130	0	0
Financial activities	310	310	310	0	0
Professional and business services	1,030	1,020	1,010	10	20
Private education and health services	2,030	2,040	1,960	-10	70
Leisure and hospitality	2,640	2,740	2,560	-100	80
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,070	1,190	1,050	-120	20
Accommodation and food services	1,570	1,550	1,510	20	60
Accommodation	450	440	420	10	30
Food services and drinking places	1,120	1,110	1,090	10	30
Other services	350	350	350	0	0
Government	1,510	1,480	1,470	30	40
Federal government	120	110	100	10	20
State government	130	130	130	0	0
Local government	1,260	1,240	1,240	20	20
Local education	760	750	730	10	30
Local government excluding educational services	500	490	510	10	-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--				
	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	February 2024	March 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,950	12,818	12,560	132	390
Unemployed	602	662	572	-60	30
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.2%	4.6%	-0.6	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	3.9%	4.7%	0.1	-0.7
Employed	12,348	12,156	11,988	192	360
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,280	10,220	10,100	60	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,430	10,460	10,260	-30	170
Total private	8,080	8,040	7,980	40	100
Mining, logging, and construction	430	430	460	0	-30
Mining and logging	50	50	50	0	0
Construction	380	380	410	0	-30
Manufacturing	500	500	500	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,080	2,080	2,090	0	-10
Wholesale trade	190	190	180	0	10
Retail trade	1,590	1,580	1,600	10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	300	310	310	-10	-10
Information	280	280	280	0	0
Financial activities	310	310	310	0	0
Professional and business services	570	570	550	0	20
Private education and health services	2,280	2,260	2,200	20	80
Ambulatory health care services	500	500	480	0	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	490	490	500	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	1,260	1,240	1,230	20	30
Accommodation and food services	1,200	1,170	1,160	30	40
Other services	370	370	360	0	10
Government	2,200	2,180	2,120	20	80
Federal government	280	280	270	0	10
State government	300	290	270	10	30
Local government	1,620	1,610	1,580	10	40
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	880	870	870	10	10
Local government excluding education and tribal	730	730	700	0	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--				
	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	February 2024	March 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	909	914	944	-5	-35
Unemployed	53	58	36	-5	17
Unemployment rate	5.8%	6.3%	3.8%	-0.5	2.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.4%	5.1%	3.5%	0.3	1.9
Employed	856	856	908	0	-52
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	805	815	875	-10	-70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	825	840	895	-15	-70
Total private	540	545	595	-5	-55
Trade, transportation, and utilities	135	135	125	0	10
Professional and business services	210	205	230	5	-20
Private education and health services	85	85	90	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	30	0	0
Government	265	270	280	-5	-15
Federal government	15	15	10	0	5
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	225	230	245	-5	-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.



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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	--Change From--	
				February 2024	March 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,008	981	950	27	58
Unemployed	44	54	36	-10	8
Unemployment rate	4.4%	5.5%	3.8%	-1.1	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.3%	3.7%	0.0	0.6
Employed	964	927	914	37	50
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	980	930	925	50	55
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	990	960	935	30	55
Total private	645	625	615	20	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	345	340	345	5	0
Retail trade	120	120	130	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	95	85	85	10	10
Government	335	305	310	30	25
Federal government	130	130	125	0	5
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	180	150	160	30	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.



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Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	February 2024	March 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	813	808	789	5	24
Unemployed	29	31	22	-2	7
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.8%	2.8%	-0.2	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.0%	2.9%	3.2%	0.1	-0.2
Employed	784	777	767	7	17
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	365	360	360	5	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	370	370	365	0	5
Total private	175	170	180	5	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	35	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	35	35	35	0	0
Government	190	190	180	0	10
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	40	40	35	0	5
Local government	145	145	140	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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