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## **Employment in the Columbia Gorge: May 2024**

### **Job Trends Mixed Over the Year**

In May, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.2%. 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 edged up by 0.4 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment was little changed in May and was estimated at 11,690 jobs. Leisure and hospitality lost 80 jobs. Job gains were estimated in mining, logging, and construction (+20), and other services (+20). Federal government added 20 jobs over the month.

Hood River County's private-industry employment fell by 370 jobs over the year ending in May, a loss of 3.5%. Losses were seen in retail trade (-190), professional and business services (-60), and manufacturing (-50).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was also unchanged in May at 4.1%, tied with Deschutes and Marion counties. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment increased by 120 to reach 10,390 in May. Private industry added 110 jobs, rising to 8,180, while government was little changed at 2,210 jobs. Leisure and hospitality (+50), and other services added 30 jobs over the month. Government added 10 jobs.

Wasco County's private-industry employment fell by 30 jobs over the year ending in May. Losses were posted in manufacturing (-40); financial activities (-20); and retail trade (-10). On the other hand, jobs were added in construction (+40); and local government excluding education and tribal (+40).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged lower by 0.1 percentage point in May to 4.9%, tied for sixth highest out of 36 Oregon counties. Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 1.0 percentage points over the year ending in May. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment was little changed in May with 810 jobs. Over the year, the private sector lost 60 jobs (-10.3%), while government employment added 5 jobs to reach 290.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in May at 4.2%. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 15 in May and stood at 955. Over the year ending in May, private industry added 5 jobs, rising to 650, and government employment decreased by 10 jobs and stood at 305.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was flat in May at 3.1%, ranking as Oregon's lowest. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point. Nonfarm employment rose by 20 and reached 380 jobs in May. Over the year ending in May, private industry employment gained 10 jobs and was estimated at 185, and government rose by 15 to reach 195.

### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the June county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.

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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Workforce & Economic Research Division

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June 25, 2024

**Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment**

	--Change From--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,530	13,683	13,613	-153	-83
Unemployed	411	394	344	17	67
Unemployment rate	3.0%	2.9%	2.5%	0.1	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.2%	3.2%	2.8%	0.0	0.4
Employed	13,119	13,289	13,269	-170	-150
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,690	11,670	12,050	20	-360
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,840	11,730	12,210	110	-370
Total private	10,160	10,160	10,530	0	-370
Mining, logging, and construction	570	550	590	20	-20
Manufacturing	1,780	1,770	1,830	10	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,720	1,710	1,960	10	-240
Wholesale trade	370	380	430	-10	-60
Retail trade	1,220	1,210	1,410	10	-190
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	130	120	120	10	10
Information	100	100	130	0	-30
Financial activities	340	330	320	10	20
Professional and business services	1,010	1,000	1,070	10	-60
Private education and health services	1,960	1,960	1,960	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	2,330	2,410	2,310	-80	20
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	570	800	570	-230	0
Accommodation and food services	1,760	1,610	1,740	150	20
Accommodation	510	460	500	50	10
Food services and drinking places	1,250	1,150	1,240	100	10
Other services	350	330	360	20	-10
Government	1,530	1,510	1,520	20	10
Federal government	140	120	130	20	10
State government	130	130	130	0	0
Local government	1,260	1,260	1,260	0	0
Local education	760	760	740	0	20
Local government excluding educational services	500	500	520	0	-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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### Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,893	12,839	12,759	54	134
Unemployed	491	492	456	-1	35
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.8%	3.6%	0.0	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.1%	3.9%	0.0	0.2
Employed	12,402	12,347	12,303	55	99
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,390	10,270	10,420	120	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,340	10,320	10,370	20	-30
Total private	8,180	8,070	8,230	110	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	500	490	470	10	30
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	450	440	410	10	40
Manufacturing	470	470	510	0	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,080	2,070	2,100	10	-20
Wholesale trade	200	200	190	0	10
Retail trade	1,600	1,590	1,610	10	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	280	280	300	0	-20
Information	280	290	270	-10	10
Financial activities	290	280	310	10	-20
Professional and business services	600	590	590	10	10
Private education and health services	2,230	2,230	2,240	0	-10
Ambulatory health care services	490	490	490	0	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	460	460	490	0	-30
Leisure and hospitality	1,350	1,300	1,350	50	0
Accommodation and food services	1,240	1,200	1,250	40	-10
Other services	380	350	390	30	-10
Government	2,210	2,200	2,190	10	20
Federal government	280	280	280	0	0
State government	280	280	280	0	0
Local government	1,650	1,640	1,630	10	20
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	870	870	890	0	-20
Local government excluding education and tribal	770	760	730	10	40

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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--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	880	885	910	-5	-30
Unemployed	36	33	37	3	-1
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.7%	4.1%	0.4	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	5.0%	3.9%	-0.1	1.0
Employed	844	852	873	-8	-29
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	810	815	865	-5	-55
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	830	840	885	-10	-55
Total private	520	525	580	-5	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	120	120	135	0	-15
Professional and business services	210	210	230	0	-20
Private education and health services	85	85	90	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	30	25	30	5	0
Government	290	290	285	0	5
Federal government	15	10	15	5	0
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	250	255	245	-5	5

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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--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	978	974	966	4	12
Unemployed	36	37	31	-1	5
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.8%	3.2%	-0.1	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.2%	3.8%	0.0	0.4
Employed	942	937	935	5	7
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	955	940	960	15	-5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	950	950	955	0	-5
Total private	650	640	645	10	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	365	360	350	5	15
Retail trade	125	120	130	5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	100	100	105	0	-5
Government	305	300	315	5	-10
Federal government	130	135	130	-5	0
State government	25	20	25	5	0
Local government	150	145	160	5	-10

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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--				
	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	April 2024	May 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	824	805	786	19	38
Unemployed	22	20	19	2	3
Unemployment rate	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	0.2	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.1%	3.1%	2.8%	0.0	0.3
Employed	802	785	767	17	35
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	380	360	355	20	25
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	370	355	350	15	20
Total private	185	175	175	10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	40	40	30	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	40	35	40	5	0
Government	195	185	180	10	15
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	30	0	5
Local government	155	145	145	10	10

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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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