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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: August 2024

Unemployment Rates Little Changed Over the Month and Year Ending in August

In August, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was little changed at 3.1%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's second lowest, just ahead of Wheeler's 2.9%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.1 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment fell by 90 in August and was estimated at 11,890 jobs.

Hood River County's private industry employment increased by 70 jobs over the year ending in August, a gain of 0.7%. Jobs were added in leisure and hospitality (+180); wholesale trade (+80); and private education and health services (+60). The majority of losses were seen in professional and business services (-110); manufacturing (-70); and retail trade (-30).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly and is now 4.0% in August, tied with Deschutes and three other counties. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate saw no change.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment decreased by 70 to reach 10,300 in August. Private industry lost 40 jobs, declining to 8,340, while government fell by 30 to reach 1,960 jobs. Leisure and hospitality gained 20 jobs, and other industries showed little change over the month.

Wasco County's private-industry employment fell by 130 jobs over the year ending in August. Losses were concentrated in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-40); retail trade (-40); financial activities (-30); and accommodation and food services (-30). On the other hand, job gains were concentrated in construction (+40) and wholesale trade (+20).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in August at 4.7%, rising by 0.3 percentage point over the year. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose by 15 in August with 875 jobs. Over the year, the private sector lost 45 jobs (-7.5%), while government employment rose by 25 jobs, due to local government growth, and is now 320 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down in August to 3.7% and declined by 0.4 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment also fell by 20 in August and stood at 990. Local government lost 10 jobs and leisure and hospitality lost five jobs over the month. Over the year ending in August, private industry added 20 jobs, and now stands at 675, with the trade, transportation, and utilities industry adding the most during this time (55 jobs).

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also edged downward in August and is now 2.9%, making it the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Oregon. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged. Nonfarm employment decreased by five and reached 380 jobs in August. Over the year ending in August, private industry employment rose by five and was estimated at 210, and government fell by five to reach 170.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Oct. 22, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

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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September 24, 2024

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	15,318	14,961	15,541	357	-223
Unemployed	459	492	480	-33	-21
Unemployment rate	3.0%	3.3%	3.1%	-0.3	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	0.0	0.1
Employed	14,859	14,469	15,061	390	-202
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,890	11,980	11,800	-90	90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,990	12,120	11,880	-130	110
Total private	10,660	10,580	10,590	80	70
Mining, logging, and construction	590	590	600	0	-10
Manufacturing	1,810	1,800	1,880	10	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,000	1,930	1,950	70	50
Wholesale trade	410	340	330	70	80
Retail trade	1,440	1,440	1,470	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	150	150	0	0
Information	90	100	110	-10	-20
Financial activities	340	340	340	0	0
Professional and business services	950	950	1,060	0	-110
Private education and health services	2,040	2,040	1,980	0	60
Leisure and hospitality	2,490	2,480	2,310	10	180
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	440	420	350	20	90
Accommodation and food services	2,050	2,060	1,960	-10	90
Accommodation	570	570	520	0	50
Food services and drinking places	1,480	1,490	1,440	-10	40
Other services	350	350	360	0	-10
Government	1,230	1,400	1,210	-170	20
Federal government	170	170	150	0	20
State government	140	140	140	0	0
Local government	920	1,090	920	-170	0
Local education	390	550	380	-160	10
Local government excluding educational services	530	540	540	-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--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,085	17,888	12,906	-3,803	1,179
Unemployed	523	561	537	-38	-14
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.1%	4.2%	0.6	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.1%	4.0%	-0.1	0.0
Employed	13,562	17,327	12,369	-3,765	1,193
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,300	10,370	10,390	-70	-90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,170	10,160	10,250	10	-80
Total private	8,340	8,380	8,470	-40	-130
Mining, logging, and construction	530	540	490	-10	40
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	470	480	430	-10	40
Manufacturing	500	510	510	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,040	2,050	2,100	-10	-60
Wholesale trade	200	200	180	0	20
Retail trade	1,570	1,580	1,610	-10	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	270	270	310	0	-40
Information	260	260	270	0	-10
Financial activities	280	280	310	0	-30
Professional and business services	570	580	590	-10	-20
Private education and health services	2,230	2,230	2,250	0	-20
Ambulatory health care services	510	510	500	0	10
Nursing and residential care facilities	480	470	490	10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	1,540	1,520	1,550	20	-10
Accommodation and food services	1,360	1,330	1,390	30	-30
Other services	390	410	400	-20	-10
Government	1,960	1,990	1,920	-30	40
Federal government	300	300	290	0	10
State government	300	300	300	0	0
Local government	1,360	1,390	1,330	-30	30
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	590	600	580	-10	10
Local government excluding education and tribal	760	780	740	-20	20

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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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Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	960	931	958	29	2
Unemployed	49	49	41	0	8
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.3%	4.3%	-0.2	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.7%	4.4%	0.0	0.3
Employed	911	882	917	29	-6
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	875	860	895	15	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	865	875	885	-10	-20
Total private	555	550	600	5	-45
Trade, transportation, and utilities	120	120	150	0	-30
Professional and business services	220	220	225	0	-5
Private education and health services	75	75	85	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	35	35	40	0	-5
Government	320	310	295	10	25
Federal government	15	15	15	0	0
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	280	270	255	10	25

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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--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,015	1,021	985	-6	30
Unemployed	30	33	41	-3	-11
Unemployment rate	3.0%	3.2%	4.2%	-0.2	-1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.9%	4.1%	-0.2	-0.4
Employed	985	988	944	-3	41
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	990	1,010	960	-20	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	960	985	930	-25	30
Total private	675	685	655	-10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	400	400	345	0	55
Retail trade	145	145	130	0	15
Leisure and hospitality	105	110	100	-5	5
Government	315	325	305	-10	10
Federal government	130	130	130	0	0
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	160	170	150	-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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Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2024	July 2024	August 2023	July 2024	August 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	835	842	815	-7	20
Unemployed	24	27	26	-3	-2
Unemployment rate	2.9%	3.2%	3.2%	-0.3	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2.9%	3.1%	2.9%	-0.2	0.0
Employed	811	815	789	-4	22
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	380	385	380	-5	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	385	380	390	5	-5
Total private	210	215	205	-5	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	35	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	50	55	60	-5	-10
Government	170	170	175	0	-5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	50	0	-15
Local government	130	130	120	0	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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