

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 19, 2024

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Nicole Ramos, Regional Economist  
Nicole.S.Ramos@employ.oregon.gov  
(541) 706-0779

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

### **Unemployment Rates Remain Little Changed Over the Month**

In October, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was little changed at 3.2%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's second lowest, just above Wheeler's 3.0%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.1 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment decreased by 10 (-0.1%) in October and was estimated at 11,810 jobs. While private employment decreased over the month (-20 jobs), public employment gained 10 jobs.

Hood River County's private industry employment decreased by 140 jobs over the year ending in October, a loss of 1.3%. Jobs were lost in manufacturing (-90); mining, logging, and construction (-20 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-20); and information (-10). The majority of gains were seen in private education and health services (+50); trade, transportation, and utilities (+30); and the public sector (+30).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from the previous month and was 4.0% in October. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also remained unchanged at 4.0%

Wasco County's nonfarm employment decreased by 110 to reach 10,390 in October. Private industry lost 140 jobs, declining to 8,040, while government rose by 30 to reach 2,350 jobs. In the private sector leisure and hospitality lost 110 jobs, while other services lost 20 jobs, with little to no change in all other industries.

Wasco County's private-industry employment fell by 130 jobs over the year ending in October. Losses were concentrated in professional and business services (-40 jobs); manufacturing (-30); and private education and health services (-20). Gains were minimal and concentrated in mining, logging, and construction (+20) and leisure and hospitality (+20).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly in October and is now 4.8% but remains flat over the year. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment fell by five in October with 895

jobs. Over the year, the private sector gained 65 jobs (+11.8%), while government employment decreased by five jobs and now totals 280 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down in October to 3.5% and declined by 0.6 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell by 25 in October and stood at 950. Local government lost 25 jobs with little to no movement in the private sector over the month. Over the year ending in October, private industry lost 25 jobs and now stands at 630, down by 3.8%.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged in October at 3.0%, making it the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Oregon. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.1 percentage point. Nonfarm employment increased by five and reached 390 jobs in October. Over the year ending in October, private-industry employment rose by 10 and was estimated at 190, similarly government employment rose by five to reach 200.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from [QualityInfo.org](http://QualityInfo.org). To subscribe, go to [www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe](http://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](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).

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](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

November 19, 2024

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

	--Change From--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	14,350	14,995	14,450	-645	-100
Unemployed	426	425	377	1	49
Unemployment rate	3.0%	2.8%	2.6%	0.2	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%	0.1	0.1
Employed	13,924	14,570	14,073	-646	-149
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,810	11,820	11,920	-10	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,790	11,910	11,910	-120	-120
Total private	10,260	10,280	10,400	-20	-140
Mining, logging, and construction	560	560	580	0	-20
Manufacturing	1,750	1,770	1,840	-20	-90
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,120	2,000	2,090	120	30
Wholesale trade	500	440	440	60	60
Retail trade	1,460	1,400	1,510	60	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	160	140	0	20
Information	110	110	120	0	-10
Financial activities	340	350	330	-10	10
Professional and business services	950	950	1,040	0	-90
Private education and health services	2,000	2,010	1,950	-10	50
Leisure and hospitality	2,080	2,180	2,100	-100	-20
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	360	320	360	40	0
Accommodation and food services	1,720	1,860	1,740	-140	-20
Accommodation	460	510	470	-50	-10
Food services and drinking places	1,260	1,350	1,270	-90	-10
Other services	350	350	350	0	0
Government	1,550	1,540	1,520	10	30
Federal government	160	160	140	0	20
State government	140	140	130	0	10
Local government	1,250	1,240	1,250	10	0
Local education	740	720	730	20	10
Local government excluding educational services	510	520	520	-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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

November 19, 2024

**Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment**

	--Change From--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,005	13,394	12,561	-389	444
Unemployed	516	494	469	22	47
Unemployment rate	4.0%	3.7%	3.7%	0.3	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	0.0	0.0
Employed	12,489	12,900	12,092	-411	397
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,390	10,500	10,370	-110	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,360	10,310	10,340	50	20
Total private	8,040	8,180	8,170	-140	-130
Mining, logging, and construction	510	510	490	0	20
Mining and logging	60	60	50	0	10
Construction	450	450	440	0	10
Manufacturing	450	460	480	-10	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,020	2,020	2,090	0	-70
Wholesale trade	200	200	190	0	10
Retail trade	1,540	1,550	1,590	-10	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	280	270	310	10	-30
Information	270	270	270	0	0
Financial activities	290	290	300	0	-10
Professional and business services	560	560	600	0	-40
Private education and health services	2,210	2,210	2,230	0	-20
Ambulatory health care services	460	450	490	10	-30
Nursing and residential care facilities	500	500	480	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,360	1,470	1,340	-110	20
Accommodation and food services	1,270	1,330	1,230	-60	40
Other services	370	390	370	-20	0
Government	2,350	2,320	2,200	30	150
Federal government	290	300	290	-10	0
State government	290	290	300	0	-10
Local government	1,770	1,730	1,610	40	160
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	1,000	950	860	50	140
Local government excluding education and tribal	760	770	740	-10	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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

November 19, 2024

### Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	963	957	901	6	62
Unemployed	44	38	36	6	8
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.0%	4.0%	0.6	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.7%	4.8%	0.1	0.0
Employed	919	919	865	0	54
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	895	900	835	-5	60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	855	880	800	-25	55
Total private	615	615	550	0	65
Trade, transportation, and utilities	120	120	135	0	-15
Professional and business services	210	215	215	-5	-5
Private education and health services	60	70	80	-10	-20
Leisure and hospitality	30	35	30	-5	0
Government	280	285	285	-5	-5
Federal government	15	15	10	0	5
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	240	245	250	-5	-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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

November 19, 2024

### Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	980	989	976	-9	4
Unemployed	33	31	38	2	-5
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.1%	3.9%	0.3	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.5%	3.6%	4.1%	-0.1	-0.6
Employed	947	958	938	-11	9
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	950	975	965	-25	-15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	950	960	970	-10	-20
Total private	630	630	655	0	-25
Trade, transportation, and utilities	370	370	360	0	10
Retail trade	120	125	125	-5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	95	90	95	5	0
Government	320	345	310	-25	10
Federal government	145	145	130	0	15
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	150	175	155	-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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division

QualityInfo.org

November 19, 2024

### Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	September 2024	October 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	846	836	811	10	35
Unemployed	22	24	19	-2	3
Unemployment rate	2.6%	2.9%	2.3%	-0.3	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	0.0	0.1
Employed	824	812	792	12	32
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	390	385	375	5	15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	385	375	370	10	15
Total private	190	190	180	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	40	40	30	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	40	0	0
Government	200	195	195	5	5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	40	40	45	0	-5
Local government	155	150	145	5	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.

###