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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: December 2024

Unemployment Rates Little Changed Over the Month

In December, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased marginally to 3.3%, up from 3.2%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's second lowest, just above Wheeler's 3.1%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.2 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment increased by 260 (+2.2%) in December and was estimated at 12,210 jobs. While private employment increased over the month (+280 jobs), public employment lost 20 jobs.

Hood River County's private industry employment decreased by 120 jobs over the year ending in December, a loss of 1.0%. Jobs were lost in leisure and hospitality (-120 jobs); manufacturing (-80); professional and business services (-50); and mining, logging, and construction (-20). Gains were seen in private education and health services (+80 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (+60 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly from 4.0% in November to 4.1% in December. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.1 percentage point higher.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment decreased by 60, totaling 10,280 as of December. Private industry employment lost 40 jobs, bringing employment down to 7,920. The public sector also lost 20 jobs, with government employment now at 2,360. Private job gains were seen in trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs) as well as in manufacturing (+10 jobs). Meanwhile, five other major industries experienced slight losses, while the remaining major industries showed no change over the month.

Wasco County's private-industry employment fell by 140 jobs over the year ending in December. Losses were widespread but mainly concentrated in trade, transportation, and utilities (-70 jobs); professional and business services (-40 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (-20). Gains were minimal and concentrated in other services (+10).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in December and over the year, remaining at 4.8%. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment increased by five jobs (+0.6%) from

November to December and is now at 905 jobs. Over the year, the private sector gained 70 jobs (+8.4%), while government employment decreased by 10 jobs and now totals 285 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.5% in November to 3.7% in December but declined by 0.4 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment increased by 15 in December and stands at 950. The public sector gained 30 jobs while leisure and hospitality lost 10 jobs and trade, transportation, and utilities lost five jobs over the month. Over the year ending in December, private industry lost 10 jobs and now stands at 600, down by 1.6%.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged upward from 3.0% to 3.1% but remains the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Oregon. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment lost 15 jobs from November to December and now stands at 370 jobs. Over the year ending in December, private-industry employment rose by 10 and was estimated at 175. Similarly, government employment rose by 10 to reach 195.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, March 11, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Monday, March 10.

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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January 28, 2025

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,638	13,345	13,613	293	25
Unemployed	451	424	426	27	25
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.2%	3.1%	0.1	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.3%	3.2%	3.1%	0.1	0.2
Employed	13,187	12,921	13,187	266	0
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,210	11,950	12,330	260	-120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,820	11,670	11,940	150	-120
Total private	10,710	10,430	10,830	280	-120
Mining, logging, and construction	530	540	550	-10	-20
Manufacturing	1,700	1,720	1,780	-20	-80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,250	2,260	2,190	-10	60
Wholesale trade	470	490	410	-20	60
Retail trade	1,620	1,620	1,640	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	150	140	10	20
Information	110	110	120	0	-10
Financial activities	340	340	330	0	10
Professional and business services	940	950	990	-10	-50
Private education and health services	2,010	2,000	1,930	10	80
Leisure and hospitality	2,490	2,170	2,610	320	-120
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	920	600	1,020	320	-100
Accommodation and food services	1,570	1,570	1,590	0	-20
Accommodation	430	420	450	10	-20
Food services and drinking places	1,140	1,150	1,140	-10	0
Other services	340	340	330	0	10
Government	1,500	1,520	1,500	-20	0
Federal government	120	130	110	-10	10
State government	140	140	130	0	10
Local government	1,240	1,250	1,260	-10	-20
Local education	750	740	760	10	-10
Local government excluding educational services	490	510	500	-20	-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--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,576	12,740	12,421	-164	155
Unemployed	572	511	547	61	25
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.0%	4.4%	0.5	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.0%	4.0%	0.1	0.1
Employed	12,004	12,229	11,874	-225	130
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,280	10,340	10,260	-60	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,370	10,400	10,350	-30	20
Total private	7,920	7,960	8,060	-40	-140
Mining, logging, and construction	500	510	500	-10	0
Mining and logging	60	60	50	0	10
Construction	440	450	450	-10	-10
Manufacturing	450	440	450	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,060	2,040	2,130	20	-70
Wholesale trade	200	200	190	0	10
Retail trade	1,550	1,540	1,600	10	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	310	300	340	10	-30
Information	270	270	280	0	-10
Financial activities	280	280	280	0	0
Professional and business services	540	560	580	-20	-40
Private education and health services	2,200	2,210	2,210	-10	-10
Ambulatory health care services	460	450	490	10	-30
Nursing and residential care facilities	510	500	470	10	40
Leisure and hospitality	1,260	1,280	1,280	-20	-20
Accommodation and food services	1,190	1,200	1,190	-10	0
Other services	360	370	350	-10	10
Government	2,360	2,380	2,200	-20	160
Federal government	290	290	280	0	10
State government	290	290	280	0	10
Local government	1,780	1,800	1,640	-20	140
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	1,020	1,020	890	0	130
Local government excluding education and tribal	750	770	740	-20	10

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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--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	965	960	906	5	59
Unemployed	47	39	49	8	-2
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.1%	5.4%	0.8	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Employed	918	921	857	-3	61
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	905	900	835	5	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>870</i>	<i>860</i>	<i>810</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>60</i>
Total private	620	620	540	0	80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	115	115	120	0	-5
Professional and business services	210	210	215	0	-5
Private education and health services	70	70	80	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	35	30	30	5	5
Government	285	280	295	5	-10
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	250	245	255	5	-5

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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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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	974	969	974	5	0
Unemployed	37	35	36	2	1
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.6%	3.7%	0.2	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.5%	4.1%	0.2	-0.4
Employed	937	934	938	3	-1
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	950	935	935	15	15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	950	955	935	-5	15
Total private	600	615	610	-15	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	365	370	350	-5	15
Retail trade	120	120	120	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	70	80	80	-10	-10
Government	350	320	325	30	25
Federal government	150	145	130	5	20
State government	20	20	25	0	-5
Local government	180	155	170	25	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--				
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024	December 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	815	839	788	-24	27
Unemployed	29	22	23	7	6
Unemployment rate	3.6%	2.6%	2.9%	1.0	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.1%	3.0%	2.7%	0.1	0.4
Employed	786	817	765	-31	21
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	370	385	350	-15	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	385	380	365	5	20
Total private	175	185	165	-10	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	25	35	25	-10	0
Government	195	200	185	-5	10
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	40	40	35	0	5
Local government	150	155	145	-5	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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