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## Employment in the Columbia Gorge: February 2025

### Total nonfarm employment rises in four of five Gorge counties over the past year.

In February, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased marginally to 3.5%, up from 3.4%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest, just above Sherman's 3.7%. 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 70 (+0.6%) in February and was estimated at 11,880 jobs. While private employment increased by 60 over the month, public-sector employment gained 10 jobs.

Hood River County's private industry employment decreased by 290 jobs over the year ending in February, a loss of 2.4%. Job losses were concentrated within leisure and hospitality (-160 jobs), with all losses occurring in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-190 jobs), and within private education and health services (-110 jobs). Gains were strongest primarily within trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in February, going from 4.1% to 4.2%. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.1 percentage point higher.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment increased by 60, totaling 10,260 as of February. Private industry employment gained 50 jobs, bringing employment up to 7,890. The public sector also gained 10 jobs, with government employment now at 2,370. Private job gains were seen in trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs); manufacturing (+10 jobs); professional and business services (+10 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (+10 jobs). The remaining major industries showed no change over the month.

Wasco County's private industry employment rose by 200 (+2.0%) jobs over the year ending in February. Gains were mainly concentrated in the public sector (+200 jobs), with most employment gains taking place within local government (+150 jobs). Losses were strongest in construction which lost 30 jobs over the year.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in February remaining at 4.8%. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.4 percentage point lower. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment decreased by 10 jobs (-1.0%) from January to February and is now at 1,020 jobs. Over the year, the private sector gained 200 jobs, while government employment remained unchanged totaling 295 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment was unchanged in February at 3.7% and declined by 0.6 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment increased by five jobs (+0.5%) in February and stands at 945. The public sector remained unchanged while trade, transportation, and utilities gained 10 jobs, and leisure and hospitality remained unchanged over the month. Over the year ending in February, private industry gained five jobs and now stands at 615, up by 0.8%.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.3% to 3.8%, going from Oregon's lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January to third lowest in February. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.8 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment gained 15 jobs from January to February and now stands at 370 jobs. Over the year ending in February, private industry employment rose by five and was estimated at 175. Similarly, government employment rose by 20 to reach 195.

### **Next Press Releases**

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, April 22, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Wednesday, April 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/](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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April 1, 2025

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

	--Change From--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,620	13,366	13,682	254	-62
Unemployed	610	602	536	8	74
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.5%	3.9%	0.0	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.5%	3.4%	3.3%	0.1	0.2
Employed	13,010	12,764	13,146	246	-136
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,880	11,810	12,170	70	-290
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,810	11,820	12,100	-10	-290
Total private	10,380	10,320	10,650	60	-270
Mining, logging, and construction	550	540	540	10	10
Manufacturing	1,660	1,650	1,690	10	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,900	1,910	1,880	-10	20
Wholesale trade	380	390	410	-10	-30
Retail trade	1,370	1,370	1,330	0	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	150	140	0	10
Information	100	100	110	0	-10
Financial activities	330	330	320	0	10
Professional and business services	950	940	940	10	10
Private education and health services	1,920	1,900	2,030	20	-110
Leisure and hospitality	2,650	2,630	2,810	20	-160
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,090	1,080	1,280	10	-190
Accommodation and food services	1,560	1,550	1,530	10	30
Accommodation	440	440	440	0	0
Food services and drinking places	1,120	1,110	1,090	10	30
Other services	320	320	330	0	-10
Government	1,500	1,490	1,520	10	-20
Federal government	110	110	110	0	0
State government	130	130	140	0	-10
Local government	1,260	1,250	1,270	10	-10
Local education	750	740	750	10	0
Local government excluding educational services	510	510	520	0	-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--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,517	12,362	12,327	155	190
Unemployed	711	743	665	-32	46
Unemployment rate	5.7%	6.0%	5.4%	-0.3	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.1%	4.1%	0.1	0.1
Employed	11,806	11,619	11,662	187	144
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,260	10,200	10,060	60	200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,480	10,500	10,280	-20	200
Total private	7,890	7,840	7,890	50	0
Mining, logging, and construction	470	470	490	0	-20
Mining and logging	60	60	50	0	10
Construction	410	410	440	0	-30
Manufacturing	480	470	480	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,020	2,000	2,020	20	0
Wholesale trade	190	190	180	0	10
Retail trade	1,520	1,510	1,550	10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	310	300	290	10	20
Information	270	270	270	0	0
Financial activities	270	270	280	0	-10
Professional and business services	560	550	560	10	0
Private education and health services	2,260	2,260	2,250	0	10
Ambulatory health care services	490	490	500	0	-10
Nursing and residential care facilities	530	530	480	0	50
Leisure and hospitality	1,200	1,190	1,190	10	10
Accommodation and food services	1,140	1,130	1,100	10	40
Other services	360	360	350	0	10
Government	2,370	2,360	2,170	10	200
Federal government	290	290	280	0	10
State government	320	320	280	0	40
Local government	1,760	1,750	1,610	10	150
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	1,010	1,000	870	10	140
Local government excluding education and tribal	740	740	730	0	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--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	1,054	1,058	910	-4	144
Unemployed	57	57	59	0	-2
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.4%	6.5%	0.0	-1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.8%	5.2%	0.0	-0.4
Employed	997	1,001	851	-4	146
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	1,020	1,030	820	-10	200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,055	1,025	845	30	210
Total private	725	730	525	-5	200
Trade, transportation, and utilities	110	110	110	0	0
Professional and business services	200	205	210	-5	-10
Private education and health services	70	70	75	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	35	35	30	0	5
Government	295	300	295	-5	0
Federal government	10	15	15	-5	-5
State government	20	20	25	0	-5
Local government	265	265	255	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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### Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	949	941	937	8	12
Unemployed	42	39	45	3	-3
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.1%	4.8%	0.3	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.7%	4.3%	0.0	-0.6
Employed	907	902	892	5	15
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	945	940	915	5	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	975	975	945	0	30
Total private	615	610	610	5	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	340	360	10	-10
Retail trade	125	120	125	5	0
Leisure and hospitality	75	75	75	0	0
Government	330	330	305	0	25
Federal government	155	155	125	0	30
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	150	150	155	0	-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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### Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2024
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	731	710	682	21	49
Unemployed	44	39	29	5	15
Unemployment rate	6.0%	5.5%	4.3%	0.5	1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.3%	3.0%	0.5	0.8
Employed	687	671	653	16	34
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	370	355	345	15	25
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	380	375	355	5	25
Total private	175	170	170	5	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	35	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	40	30	25	10	15
Government	195	185	175	10	20
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	30	0	5
Local government	155	145	140	10	15

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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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