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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: December 2021

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Near Pre-Pandemic Rates

In December, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point to 3.6%. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked fourth lowest out of 36 Oregon counties, trailing Washington (3.4%). Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.6 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 300 jobs in December, climbing to 12,370. Private industry increased its total by 310 jobs to reach 11,030, and government cut 10, falling to 1,340. Arts, entertainment, and recreation led private industry in December, rising by 330 jobs to total 970. Accommodation increased its total by 20 jobs in December, rising to 440. Retail trade (-20); mining, logging, and construction (-10); manufacturing (-10); professional and business services (-10); and food services and drinking places (-10) also cut jobs in December. In the public sector, local government rose by 10 jobs and federal government cut 20.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 7.9% over the year, adding 810 jobs. Accommodation and food services regained 420 jobs over the year to lead private industry, an increase of 38.2%. Manufacturing welcomed back 130 jobs, rising to 1,840, an increase of 7.6%. Wholesale trade (+90); retail trade (+80); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+50); education and health services (+50); and information (+20) also added jobs over the year. Local government education rose to 660, an increase of 70 jobs, to lift the public sector.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point in December to 4.5% while ranking 19th among Oregon counties, trailing Lane (4.4%). Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.6 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell by 20 jobs in December, dropping to 10,040. Private industry increased its total by 10 jobs, rising to 8,120, while government cut 30, falling to 1,920. Private industry job gains in December were limited to an increase of 20 in transportation, warehousing, and utilities and a gain of 10 in retail trade. Construction cut 10 jobs, falling to 340, and financial activities idled 10, dropping to 290. Local government cut 30 jobs in December, falling to 1,400.

Wasco County's private industry employment rose by 300 jobs or 3.8% over the year ending in December. Leisure and hospitality led private industry jobs growth, rising by 270 jobs or 29.3% to total

1,190. Information increased its payrolls by 60 jobs over the year, climbing to 320 (+23.1%). Professional and business services (+30); other services (+30 jobs); wholesale trade (+20); and transportation, warehousing and utilities (+20); also rose over the year. Job losses hit financial activities (-40); education and health services (-40); manufacturing (-20); retail trade (-20); and construction (-10 jobs). In the public sector, local education rose by 30 jobs over the year, other local government chipped in 10, and federal government cut 10.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in December to 4.0%, ranking 11th out of 36 Oregon counties. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.1 percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose by five jobs in December to reach 820. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total fell by five jobs to total 580, a loss of 0.9%. Government rose by 10 jobs over the year, climbing to 240 (+4.3%).

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in December to 3.7%, good enough to rank fifth in Oregon, tied with Clackamas, Malheur, and Yamhill. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.0 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 25 jobs in December, climbing to 885. Private industry rose by five jobs to total 565, while government rose by 20 to reach 320. Over the year ending in December, private industry cut 15 jobs and government cut 15.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment fell by 0.1 percentage point in December to 2.8%, boasting Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.6 percentage points. Nonfarm employment totaled 290 jobs in December, with private industry holding steady and government cutting five. Over the year ending in December, private industry rose by 10 jobs to reach 160 and government held steady at 130.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January 2022 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Mar. 8th, 2022 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Mar. 8th, 2022.

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 www.QualityInfo.org, select *Economic*

Data, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. 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 coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment COVID19](http://Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	November 2021	December 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	903	909	986	-6	-83
Unemployed	33	28	49	5	-16
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.1%	5.0%	0.6	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.2%	5.1%	-0.2	-1.1
Employed	870	881	937	-11	-67
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	820	815	815	5	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	835	845	830	-10	5
Total private	580	580	585	0	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	135	135	135	0	0
Professional and business services	240	240	245	0	-5
Education and health services	75	70	70	5	5
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	30	0	10
Government	240	235	230	5	10
Federal government	15	15	10	0	5
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	215	210	210	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.

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	November 2021	December 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,329	14,166	13,767	163	562
Unemployed	406	387	710	19	-304
Unemployment rate	2.8%	2.7%	5.2%	0.1	-2.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.6%	3.9%	5.2%	-0.3	-1.6
Employed	13,923	13,779	13,057	144	866
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,370	12,070	11,470	300	900
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,940	11,820	11,070	120	870
Total private	11,030	10,720	10,220	310	810
Mining, logging, and construction	510	520	540	-10	-30
Manufacturing	1,840	1,850	1,710	-10	130
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,530	2,540	2,310	-10	220
Wholesale trade	590	590	500	0	90
Retail trade	1,740	1,760	1,660	-20	80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	200	190	150	10	50
Information	110	110	90	0	20
Financial activities	320	320	330	0	-10
Professional and business services	990	1,000	1,000	-10	-10
Education and health services	1,900	1,890	1,850	10	50
Leisure and hospitality	2,490	2,150	2,060	340	430
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	970	640	960	330	10
Accommodation and food services	1,520	1,510	1,100	10	420
Accommodation	440	420	320	20	120
Food services and drinking places	1,080	1,090	780	-10	300
Other services	340	340	330	0	10
Government	1,340	1,350	1,250	-10	90
Federal government	90	110	100	-20	-10
State government	110	110	110	0	0
Local government	1,140	1,130	1,040	10	100
Local education	660	640	590	20	70
Local government excluding educational services	480	490	450	-10	30

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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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	November 2021	December 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	949	933	994	16	-45
Unemployed	32	30	45	2	-13
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.2%	4.5%	0.2	-1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.8%	4.7%	-0.1	-1.0
Employed	917	903	949	14	-32
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	885	860	915	25	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	900	890	930	10	-30
Total private	565	560	580	5	-15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	285	275	295	10	-10
Retail trade	110	110	130	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	85	85	80	0	5
Government	320	300	335	20	-15
Federal government	120	120	135	0	-15
State government	40	40	40	0	0
Local government	160	140	160	20	0

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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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	November 2021	December 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,699	12,915	12,667	-216	32
Unemployed	520	475	843	45	-323
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.7%	6.7%	0.4	-2.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.8%	6.1%	-0.3	-1.6
Employed	12,179	12,440	11,824	-261	355
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,040	10,060	9,710	-20	330
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,120	10,100	9,790	20	330
Total private	8,120	8,110	7,820	10	300
Mining, logging, and construction	400	410	410	-10	-10
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	340	350	350	-10	-10
Manufacturing	530	530	550	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,180	2,150	2,160	30	20
Wholesale trade	180	180	160	0	20
Retail trade	1,660	1,650	1,680	10	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	340	320	320	20	20
Information	320	320	260	0	60
Financial activities	290	300	330	-10	-40
Professional and business services	510	510	480	0	30
Education and health services	2,330	2,330	2,370	0	-40
Ambulatory health care services	460	460	460	0	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	490	490	550	0	-60
Leisure and hospitality	1,190	1,190	920	0	270
Accommodation and food services	1,080	1,080	890	0	190
Other services	370	370	340	0	30
Government	1,920	1,950	1,890	-30	30
Federal government	270	270	280	0	-10
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	1,400	1,430	1,360	-30	40
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	730	750	700	-20	30
Local government excluding education and tribal	660	670	650	-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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	November 2021	December 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	703	714	700	-11	3
Unemployed	19	20	31	-1	-12
Unemployment rate	2.7%	2.8%	4.4%	-0.1	-1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2.8%	2.9%	4.4%	-0.1	-1.6
Employed	684	694	669	-10	15
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	290	295	280	-5	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	305	295	295	10	10
Total private	160	160	150	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	35	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	15	15	10	0	5
Government	130	135	130	-5	0
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	125	130	125	-5	0

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.

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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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