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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: September 2020

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Fall Again in September

In September, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 6.2 percent, a drop of 0.7 percentage point. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 3.5 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 200 jobs in September to total 10,520. Private industry rose by 40 jobs, climbing to 9,150, while government increased its total by 160 to reach 1,370.

Hood River County's private industry employment fell by 1,490 jobs over the year ending in September, a loss of 14 percent. COVID-19 impacts in accommodation and food services idled 560 jobs, dropping the industry's total to 1,360 (-29.2%). Manufacturing cut 290 jobs (-15.3%) over the year, falling to 1,600. Retail trade suffered an over-the-year loss of 150 jobs (-9.9%), dropping to 1,360. Education and health services idled 110 jobs (-6.3%) and arts, entertainment, and recreation cut its payrolls by 90 (-29%). Mining, logging, and construction lost 60 jobs over the year (-11.1%); transportation, warehousing, and utilities sliced 60 (-27.3%); wholesale trade trimmed 50 (-9.4%); professional and business services shed 40 (-3.7%); and other services cut 30 (-7.1%).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.8 percentage point in September to 6.7 percent. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.9 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment rose by 70 jobs in September to 9,520. Private industry lost 30 jobs in September, falling to 7,680 and government rose by 100 to reach 1,840.

Over the year ending in September, Wasco County's private industry employment fell by 650 jobs (-7.8%). Accommodation and food services idled 220 jobs as a result of COVID-19 closures, cutting its total to 1,010, a loss of 17.9 percent. Education and health services trimmed its payrolls by 80 jobs (-3.4%), falling to 2,270 and other services cut 90 jobs, dropping to 310 (-225%). Construction lost 90 jobs, falling to 280; professional and business services cut 50 (-8.8%); and financial activities idled 50 (-8.8%).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in September to 6.3 percent. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.7

percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment fell to 965 jobs in September, a loss of five. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 90 jobs. Government held steady over the year with 245 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point in September to 6.8 percent. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 3.5 percentage points. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 20 jobs in September to 890. Private industry cut five jobs, falling to 560, while government rose by 25 to reach 330. Over the year ending in September, private industry cut 60 jobs (-9.7%) and government idled 25 (-7.0%).

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in September at 4.4 percent. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point. Nonfarm employment totaled 285 jobs in September, with private industry cutting five and government rising by 25. Over the year ending in September, private industry lost 20 jobs, falling to 150 (-11.8%) and government held steady with 135.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the October 2020 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on November 24th, 2020 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October on November 17th, 2020.

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. 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

	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	--Change From--	
				August 2020	September 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,012	1,038	912	-26	100
Unemployed	58	66	30	-8	28
Unemployment rate	5.7%	6.4%	3.3%	-0.7	2.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.3%	6.5%	3.6%	-0.2	2.7
Employed	954	972	882	-18	72
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	965	970	875	-5	90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	980	950	885	30	95
Total private	720	715	630	5	90
Trade, transportation, and utilities	125	125	140	0	-15
Professional and business services	230	225	240	5	-10
Education and health services	60	60	70	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	45	45	50	0	-5
Government	245	255	245	-10	0
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	10	10	5	0	5
Local government	225	235	225	-10	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.

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

	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	--Change From--	
				August 2020	September 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,531	15,389	15,474	-858	-943
Unemployed	731	933	350	-202	381
Unemployment rate	5.0%	6.1%	2.3%	-1.1	2.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	6.9%	2.7%	-0.7	3.5
Employed	13,800	14,456	15,124	-656	-1,324
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,520	10,320	12,080	200	-1,560
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,540</i>	<i>10,330</i>	<i>12,100</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>-1,560</i>
Total private	9,150	9,110	10,640	40	-1,490
Mining, logging, and construction	480	500	540	-20	-60
Manufacturing	1,600	1,590	1,890	10	-290
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,000	1,930	2,260	70	-260
Wholesale trade	480	370	530	110	-50
Retail trade	1,360	1,400	1,510	-40	-150
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	160	220	0	-60
Information	110	120	140	-10	-30
Financial activities	310	310	330	0	-20
Professional and business services	1,050	1,090	1,090	-40	-40
Education and health services	1,630	1,600	1,740	30	-110
Leisure and hospitality	1,580	1,580	2,230	0	-650
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	220	230	310	-10	-90
Accommodation and food services	1,360	1,350	1,920	10	-560
Accommodation	350	350	480	0	-130
Food services and drinking places	1,010	1,000	1,440	10	-430
Other services	390	390	420	0	-30
Government	1,370	1,210	1,440	160	-70
Federal government	160	180	150	-20	10
State government	100	100	120	0	-20
Local government	1,110	930	1,170	180	-60
Local education	640	450	670	190	-30
Local government excluding educational services	470	480	500	-10	-30

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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	--Change From--	
				August 2020	September 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	941	963	976	-22	-35
Unemployed	55	67	28	-12	27
Unemployment rate	5.8%	7.0%	2.9%	-1.2	2.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.8%	7.2%	3.3%	-0.4	3.5
Employed	886	896	948	-10	-62
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	890	870	975	20	-85
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	870	865	955	5	-85
Total private	560	565	620	-5	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	280	285	255	-5	25
Retail trade	120	120	95	0	25
Leisure and hospitality	85	90	125	-5	-40
Government	330	305	355	25	-25
Federal government	120	120	125	0	-5
State government	40	40	45	0	-5
Local government	170	145	185	25	-15

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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--	
	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	August 2020	September 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,223	13,315	12,648	-1,092	-425
Unemployed	802	975	426	-173	376
Unemployment rate	6.6%	7.3%	3.4%	-0.7	3.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.7%	7.5%	3.8%	-0.8	2.9
Employed	11,421	12,340	12,222	-919	-801
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,520	9,450	10,330	70	-810
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	9,370	9,370	10,170	0	-800
Total private	7,680	7,710	8,330	-30	-650
Mining, logging, and construction	330	340	430	-10	-100
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	280	290	370	-10	-90
Manufacturing	560	580	570	-20	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,110	0	-10
Wholesale trade	150	150	160	0	-10
Retail trade	1,700	1,690	1,700	10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	260	250	-10	0
Information	210	210	170	0	40
Financial activities	310	310	340	0	-30
Professional and business services	520	520	570	0	-50
Education and health services	2,270	2,240	2,350	30	-80
Ambulatory health care services	440	430	440	10	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	570	560	560	10	10
Leisure and hospitality	1,070	1,090	1,390	-20	-320
Accommodation and food services	1,010	1,040	1,230	-30	-220
Other services	310	320	400	-10	-90
Government	1,840	1,740	2,000	100	-160
Federal government	300	310	300	-10	0
State government	260	260	260	0	0
Local government	1,280	1,170	1,440	110	-160
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	630	520	730	110	-100
Local government excluding education and tribal	640	640	700	0	-60

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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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2020	August 2020	September 2019	--Change From--	
				August 2020	September 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	695	661	739	34	-44
Unemployed	26	28	25	-2	1
Unemployment rate	3.7%	4.2%	3.4%	-0.5	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.4%	4.0%	0.0	0.4
Employed	669	633	714	36	-45
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	285	265	305	20	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	275	270	295	5	-20
Total private	150	155	170	-5	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	40	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	20	20	35	0	-15
Government	135	110	135	25	0
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	125	100	125	25	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.

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.