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CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dallas Fridley, Regional Economist
Dallas.W.Fridley@oregon.gov
(541) 645-0005

Employment in the Columbia Gorge: August 2021

Unemployment Rates Continue to Improve in August

In August, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 4.7%. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked seventh lowest out of 36 Oregon counties, trailing Morrow (4.5%) while tied with Clackamas and Yamhill. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.8 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 140 jobs in August, climbing to 11,600. Private industry increased its total by 130 jobs, rising to 10,340, and government chipped in 10 jobs to reach 1,260. Wholesale trade led private industry in August, rising by 70 jobs to total 410. Mining, logging, and construction (+20); accommodation and food services (+20); manufacturing (+10); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+10); and education and health services (+10) also added jobs in August. In the public sector, other local government rose by 10 jobs to reach 530.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 5.4% over the year, adding 530 jobs. Accommodation and food services regained 340 jobs over the year to lead private industry, an increase of 21.8%. Manufacturing welcomed back 130 jobs; education and health services increased its total by 100; and arts, entertainment, and recreation added 40 jobs. Government rose by 20 jobs over the year, with local government adding 40 jobs and federal cutting 20.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in August to 5.4% while ranking 17th in Oregon, tied with Deschutes, Lake, Linn, Multnomah, Tillamook, and Willowa. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.8 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment rose by a scant 10 jobs in August, to total 10,200. Private industry cut 10 jobs, falling to 8,360, and government increased its total by 20 to reach 1,840. Private industry job gains were limited to professional and business services (+10); education and health services (+10); and leisure and hospitality (+10). Offsetting job losses hit retail trade (-20); construction (-10); and information (-10). State government rose by 10 jobs in August to reach 280 and local government chipped in 10 to total 1,280.

Wasco County's private industry employment rose by 280 jobs or 3.5% over the year ending in August. Other services produced private industry's largest gain, rising by 110 jobs or 33.3% to reach 440. Information increased its payrolls by 50 jobs, climbing to 300 (+20%). Retail trade rose by 40 and

professional and business services chipped in 40. Job losses hit manufacturing (-50) and financial activities (-30). In the public sector, local education rose by 70 jobs over the year to reach 600, state government increased its total by 20, and federal government cut 30.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in August to 5.0%, ranking 11th out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Marion. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.3 percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose to 800 jobs in August, an increase of five. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total fell by 160 jobs, a loss of 22.5%, to total 550. Government rose by five jobs over the year, climbing to 250.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in August to 4.1%, good enough to rank third in Oregon, trailing Benton (3.8%) but just ahead of Malheur (4.2%). Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 2.1 percentage points. Sherman County's nonfarm employment held steady in August at 945. Private industry cut five jobs, falling to 620, while government rose by five to reach 325. Over the year ending in August, private industry lost 20 jobs and government idled 10.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in August to 3.0%, retaining Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.1 percentage points. Nonfarm employment totaled 295 jobs in August, with private industry holding steady and government also holding its own. Over the year ending in August, private industry rose by 15 jobs to reach 180 and government chipped in five, climbing to 115.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September 2021 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Oct. 26th, 2021 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on Oct. 19th, 2021.

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

	--Change From--				
	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021	August 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	920	918	1,032	2	-112
Unemployed	38	43	63	-5	-25
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.7%	6.1%	-0.6	-2.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.1%	6.3%	-0.1	-1.3
Employed	882	875	969	7	-87
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	800	795	955	5	-155
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	780	775	935	5	-155
Total private	550	560	710	-10	-160
Trade, transportation, and utilities	135	135	140	0	-5
Professional and business services	230	235	230	-5	0
Education and health services	65	65	65	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	40	0	0
Government	250	235	245	15	5
Federal government	15	10	15	5	0
State government	5	5	5	0	0
Local government	230	220	225	10	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--				
	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021	August 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	16,203	16,364	15,610	-161	593
Unemployed	576	699	924	-123	-348
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.3%	5.9%	-0.7	-2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.9%	6.5%	-0.2	-1.8
Employed	15,627	15,665	14,686	-38	941
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,600	11,460	11,050	140	550
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,600	11,580	11,050	20	550
Total private	10,340	10,210	9,810	130	530
Mining, logging, and construction	590	570	570	20	20
Manufacturing	1,850	1,840	1,720	10	130
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,060	1,990	2,160	70	-100
Wholesale trade	410	340	560	70	-150
Retail trade	1,450	1,460	1,430	-10	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	200	190	170	10	30
Information	90	90	100	0	-10
Financial activities	320	320	330	0	-10
Professional and business services	1,030	1,030	990	0	40
Education and health services	1,850	1,840	1,750	10	100
Leisure and hospitality	2,190	2,170	1,810	20	380
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	290	290	250	0	40
Accommodation and food services	1,900	1,880	1,560	20	340
Accommodation	520	510	410	10	110
Food services and drinking places	1,380	1,370	1,150	10	230
Other services	360	360	380	0	-20
Government	1,260	1,250	1,240	10	20
Federal government	160	160	180	0	-20
State government	100	100	100	0	0
Local government	1,000	990	960	10	40
Local education	470	470	460	0	10
Local government excluding educational services	530	520	500	10	30

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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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021	August 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,004	1,026	1,014	-22	-10
Unemployed	36	40	63	-4	-27
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.9%	6.2%	-0.3	-2.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.3%	6.2%	-0.2	-2.1
Employed	968	986	951	-18	17
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	945	945	975	0	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	935	910	965	25	-30
Total private	620	625	640	-5	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	305	305	320	0	-15
Retail trade	130	130	150	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	105	105	90	0	15
Government	325	320	335	5	-10
Federal government	125	125	130	0	-5
State government	45	45	45	0	0
Local government	155	150	160	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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021	August 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,888	18,360	13,446	-4,472	442
Unemployed	627	664	962	-37	-335
Unemployment rate	4.5%	3.6%	7.2%	0.9	-2.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.4%	5.6%	7.2%	-0.2	-1.8
Employed	13,261	17,696	12,484	-4,435	777
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,200	10,190	9,850	10	350
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,100	10,000	9,750	100	350
Total private	8,360	8,370	8,080	-10	280
Mining, logging, and construction	440	450	410	-10	30
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	380	390	350	-10	30
Manufacturing	530	530	580	0	-50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,180	2,200	2,090	-20	90
Wholesale trade	180	180	160	0	20
Retail trade	1,700	1,720	1,660	-20	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	300	300	270	0	30
Information	300	310	250	-10	50
Financial activities	320	320	350	0	-30
Professional and business services	520	510	480	10	40
Education and health services	2,360	2,350	2,330	10	30
Ambulatory health care services	470	470	440	0	30
Nursing and residential care facilities	520	530	570	-10	-50
Leisure and hospitality	1,270	1,260	1,260	10	10
Accommodation and food services	1,180	1,160	1,140	20	40
Other services	440	440	330	0	110
Government	1,840	1,820	1,770	20	70
Federal government	280	280	310	0	-30
State government	280	270	260	10	20
Local government	1,280	1,270	1,200	10	80
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	600	580	530	20	70
Local government excluding education and tribal	670	680	660	-10	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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021	August 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	720	724	673	-4	47
Unemployed	19	19	28	0	-9
Unemployment rate	2.6%	2.6%	4.2%	0.0	-1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.0%	3.2%	4.1%	-0.2	-1.1
Employed	701	705	645	-4	56
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	295	295	275	0	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	300	295	280	5	20
Total private	180	180	165	0	15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	40	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	25	25	20	0	5
Government	115	115	110	0	5
Federal government	5	5	10	0	-5
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	110	110	100	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.