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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: February 2023

Employment Rises Above Pre-Pandemic Peak

In February, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.7%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's fourth lowest, tied with Benton. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 120 jobs to 12,390 in February. Private industry increased its total by 120, rising to 11,020 jobs and government held its own with 1,370. Mining, logging, and construction rose to 570 (+40 jobs) to lead private industry, and it was joined by leisure and hospitality (+40). Retail trade cut 20 jobs in February, dropping its total to 1,380. Hood River County has surpassed its 2020 pre-pandemic employment level by 120 jobs or 1.0%.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 3.3% over the year, adding 350 jobs. Leisure and hospitality led private industry, rising by 120 jobs (4.6%) to reach 2,750. Other industries adding jobs included other services (+70); mining, logging, and construction (+60); manufacturing (+60); education and health services (+60); and professional and business services (+40).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 4.4% in February, low enough to rank 11th, tied with Deschutes. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment rose by 30 jobs in February, climbing to 10,100. Private industry increased its total by 30 to reach 8,080, and government held steady at 2,020. Retail trade rose by 20 jobs in February to lead private industry. In the public sector, a loss of 10 jobs in federal government offset an increase of 10 in local government education. Wasco County has surpassed its pre-pandemic employment level by 70 jobs or 0.7%.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 80 jobs or 1.0% over the year ending in February. Other services led private industry, rising by 70 jobs or 20.6% to reach 410. Information rose by 50 jobs (+18.5%), retail trade increased its total by 30 (+1.9%), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities chipped in 30 (+10.3%). Job losses in professional and business services (-50), education

and health services (-40), and manufacturing (-30) moderated private industry's over-the-year growth. Local education led the public sector, rising by 80 jobs, and other local government chipped in 30.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in February to 3.9%, ranking sixth out of 36 Oregon counties. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose to 970 in February, an increase of 10. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry employment rose by 155 jobs to 740, an increase of nearly 26.5%, while government cut five, falling to 230.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in February to 3.6%, ranking second in Oregon, just behind Wheeler County. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by five jobs in February, climbing to 925. Over the year ending in February, private industry rose by 50 jobs to 630 (+8.6%) and government chipped in five to reach 295.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.2% in February, ranking as Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point. Nonfarm employment totaled 310 in February, with private industry rising by five jobs and government holding its own. Over the year ending in February, private industry rose to 170 (+15) and government was unchanged at 140 jobs.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March 2023 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on April 25th, 2023 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on April 19th, 2023.

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

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.

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Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2023	January 2023	February 2022	January 2023	February 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,021	1,008	911	13	110
Unemployed	40	43	34	-3	6
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.3%	3.7%	-0.4	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	4.0%	3.5%	-0.1	0.4
Employed	981	965	877	16	104
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	970	960	820	10	150
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,000	1,000	845	0	155
Total private	740	730	585	10	155
Trade, transportation, and utilities	130	130	130	0	0
Professional and business services	235	235	235	0	0
Private education and health services	90	90	80	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	40	0	0
Government	230	230	235	0	-5
Federal government	10	15	15	-5	-5
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	210	205	210	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.

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--				
	February 2023	January 2023	February 2022	January 2023	February 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,927	13,673	14,130	254	-203
Unemployed	545	584	467	-39	78
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.3%	3.3%	-0.4	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.7%	3.3%	0.0	0.4
Employed	13,382	13,089	13,663	293	-281
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,390	12,270	11,990	120	400
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,360	12,270	11,960	90	400
Total private	11,020	10,900	10,670	120	350
Mining, logging, and construction	570	530	510	40	60
Manufacturing	1,800	1,780	1,740	20	60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,040	2,060	2,100	-20	-60
Wholesale trade	500	500	580	0	-80
Retail trade	1,380	1,400	1,350	-20	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	160	170	0	-10
Information	140	140	140	0	0
Financial activities	310	300	310	10	0
Professional and business services	1,040	1,030	1,000	10	40
Private education and health services	1,970	1,960	1,910	10	60
Leisure and hospitality	2,750	2,710	2,630	40	120
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,180	1,180	1,130	0	50
Accommodation and food services	1,570	1,530	1,500	40	70
Accommodation	410	410	400	0	10
Food services and drinking places	1,160	1,120	1,100	40	60
Other services	400	390	330	10	70
Government	1,370	1,370	1,320	0	50
Federal government	90	90	90	0	0
State government	110	110	110	0	0
Local government	1,170	1,170	1,120	0	50
Local education	670	680	650	-10	20
Local government excluding educational services	500	490	470	10	30

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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--				
	February 2023	January 2023	February 2022	January 2023	February 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	951	944	926	7	25
Unemployed	42	45	35	-3	7
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.8%	3.8%	-0.4	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%	0.1	0.0
Employed	909	899	891	10	18
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	925	920	870	5	55
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	960	960	900	0	60
Total private	630	625	580	5	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	325	305	5	25
Retail trade	120	125	125	-5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	100	95	85	5	15
Government	295	295	290	0	5
Federal government	125	125	120	0	5
State government	30	30	35	0	-5
Local government	140	140	135	0	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--				
	February 2023	January 2023	February 2022	January 2023	February 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,730	12,747	12,798	-17	-68
Unemployed	737	812	588	-75	149
Unemployment rate	5.8%	6.4%	4.6%	-0.6	1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.4%</i>	<i>4.3%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Employed	11,993	11,935	12,210	58	-217
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,100	10,070	9,920	30	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,360</i>	<i>10,360</i>	<i>10,170</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>190</i>
Total private	8,080	8,050	8,000	30	80
Mining, logging, and construction	480	480	480	0	0
Mining and logging	60	60	50	0	10
Construction	420	420	430	0	-10
Manufacturing	490	480	520	10	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,130	2,130	2,050	0	80
Wholesale trade	180	180	160	0	20
Retail trade	1,630	1,610	1,600	20	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	320	340	290	-20	30
Information	320	320	270	0	50
Financial activities	310	300	320	10	-10
Professional and business services	550	540	600	10	-50
Private education and health services	2,240	2,230	2,280	10	-40
Ambulatory health care services	480	470	480	10	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	520	520	500	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,150	1,160	1,140	-10	10
Accommodation and food services	1,100	1,100	1,090	0	10
Other services	410	410	340	0	70
Government	2,020	2,020	1,920	0	100
Federal government	260	270	270	-10	-10
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	1,510	1,500	1,400	10	110
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	810	800	730	10	80
Local government excluding education and tribal	690	690	660	0	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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2023	January 2023	February 2022	January 2023	February 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	728	727	720	1	8
Unemployed	26	27	29	-1	-3
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.7%	4.0%	-0.1	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.2%	3.2%	3.1%	0.0	0.1
Employed	702	700	691	2	11
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	310	305	295	5	15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	315	320	300	-5	15
Total private	170	165	155	5	15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	35	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	30	25	25	5	5
Government	140	140	140	0	0
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	135	135	135	0	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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