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## **Employment in the Columbia Gorge: August 2023**

### **Leisure and Hospitality Leads Over the Year Growth**

In August, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 2.7%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest, tied with Benton. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 60 jobs to 11,900 in August. Private industry increased its total by 250, rising to 10,700 jobs, and government cut 190, falling to 1,200. Wholesale trade led private industry in August, rising to 500, an increase of 190 jobs. Leisure and hospitality increased its total by 30 jobs, climbing to 2,330. Manufacturing (+10), retail trade (+10), and other services (+10) also rose in August. Local government education cut 190 jobs, falling to 380.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by just 10 jobs over the year ending in August. Manufacturing cut 40 jobs over the year, falling to 1,870. Professional and business services shed 40 jobs, cutting its total to 1,020. Retail trade (-30) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-30) also cut jobs over the year. Leisure and hospitality led private industry with an over-the-year increase of 80 jobs. Other services also performed well, rising by 70 jobs to reach 440. State government rose by 20 jobs over the year, with federal and local each chipped in 10.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in August to 3.7%, ranking 13<sup>th</sup>, tied with Deschutes and Tillamook. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage point.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell to 10,460 in August, a loss of 70 jobs. Private industry cut 30 jobs, falling to 8,490, and government idled 40, cutting its total to 1,970. Construction (-10); wholesale trade (-10); retail trade (-10); professional and business services (-10); and other services (-10) cut jobs in August. Job gains in education and health services (+10) and leisure and hospitality (+10) highlighted private industry growth in August. In the public sector, local government education cut 40 job, falling to 640.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 70 jobs over the year ending in August. Leisure and hospitality led private industry, rising by 140 jobs (+9.3%). Other services rose by 40 jobs to reach 430. Construction (-60 jobs); education and health services (-30); and professional and business

services (-20) cut jobs. Local government led the public sector, with education and other local each rising by 50 jobs.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in August to 4.0%, ranking 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 36 Oregon counties. Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate matched its year-ago level. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose to 875 in August, an increase of 10 jobs. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry employment fell to 590 jobs, a loss of 65, while government rose by 30 to reach 285.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in August to 3.8%, ranking 16<sup>th</sup>. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell to 965 jobs in August, a loss of five. Over the year ending in August, private industry cut 15 jobs, dropping to 660 (-2.2%), and government shed five, falling to 305.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in August at 3.0%, ranking third in Oregon, tied with Washington. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point. Nonfarm employment held steady with 330 jobs in August. Over the year ending in August, private industry cut 15 jobs, falling to 180, and government rose by 35 to reach 150.

### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September 2023 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 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/](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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## Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	932	917	985	15	-53
Unemployed	40	43	46	-3	-6
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.7%	4.7%	-0.4	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	3.8%	4.0%	0.2	0.0
Employed	892	874	939	18	-47
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	875	865	910	10	-35
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	855	870	890	-15	-35
Total private	590	585	655	5	-65
Trade, transportation, and utilities	130	130	140	0	-10
Professional and business services	225	230	235	-5	-10
Private education and health services	95	90	90	5	5
Leisure and hospitality	50	50	50	0	0
Government	285	280	255	5	30
Federal government	15	15	15	0	0
State government	20	20	10	0	10
Local government	250	245	230	5	20

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 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	14,656	14,696	15,149	-40	-493
Unemployed	464	462	677	2	-213
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.1%	4.5%	0.1	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2.7%	2.7%	3.9%	0.0	-1.2
Employed	14,192	14,234	14,472	-42	-280
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	11,900	11,840	11,850	60	50
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	11,970	12,030	11,910	-60	60
Total private	10,700	10,450	10,690	250	10
Mining, logging, and construction	560	560	550	0	10
Manufacturing	1,870	1,860	1,910	10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,090	1,890	2,160	200	-70
Wholesale trade	500	310	510	190	-10
Retail trade	1,430	1,420	1,460	10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	160	190	0	-30
Information	150	150	150	0	0
Financial activities	310	310	320	0	-10
Professional and business services	1,020	1,020	1,060	0	-40
Private education and health services	1,930	1,930	1,920	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	2,330	2,300	2,250	30	80
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	330	320	320	10	10
Accommodation and food services	2,000	1,980	1,930	20	70
Accommodation	520	510	510	10	10
Food services and drinking places	1,480	1,470	1,420	10	60
Other services	440	430	370	10	70
Government	1,200	1,390	1,160	-190	40
Federal government	150	150	140	0	10
State government	130	130	110	0	20
Local government	920	1,110	910	-190	10
Local education	380	570	370	-190	10
Local government excluding educational services	540	540	540	0	0

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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--				
	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	972	971	1,019	1	-47
Unemployed	37	40	38	-3	-1
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.1%	3.7%	-0.3	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.7%	3.4%	0.1	0.4
Employed	935	931	981	4	-46
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	965	970	985	-5	-20
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	925	940	945	-15	-20
Total private	660	665	675	-5	-15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	370	370	360	0	10
Retail trade	140	140	140	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	105	105	115	0	-10
Government	305	305	310	0	-5
Federal government	125	125	120	0	5
State government	35	35	45	0	-10
Local government	145	145	145	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.

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 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,812	17,318	14,457	-3,506	-645
Unemployed	519	519	612	0	-93
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.0%	4.2%	0.8	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.8%	4.4%	-0.1	-0.7
Employed	13,293	16,799	13,845	-3,506	-552
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,460	10,530	10,260	-70	200
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	10,320	10,350	10,120	-30	200
Total private	8,490	8,520	8,420	-30	70
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Mining, logging, and construction	460	470	520	-10	-60
Construction	400	410	460	-10	-60
Manufacturing	520	520	510	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,110	2,130	2,100	-20	10
Wholesale trade	180	190	170	-10	10
Retail trade	1,620	1,630	1,610	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	310	310	320	0	-10
Information	260	260	270	0	-10
Financial activities	300	300	310	0	-10
Professional and business services	550	560	570	-10	-20
Private education and health services	2,220	2,210	2,250	10	-30
Ambulatory health care services	500	500	470	0	30
Nursing and residential care facilities	480	470	510	10	-30
Leisure and hospitality	1,640	1,630	1,500	10	140
Accommodation and food services	1,460	1,460	1,340	0	120
Other services	430	440	390	-10	40
Government	1,970	2,010	1,840	-40	130
Federal government	290	290	280	0	10
State government	290	290	270	0	20
Local government	1,390	1,430	1,290	-40	100
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	640	680	590	-40	50
Local government excluding education and tribal	740	740	690	0	50

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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.

## Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023	August 2022
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	753	749	743	4	10
Unemployed	25	24	30	1	-5
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.2%	4.0%	0.1	-0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.0%	3.0%	3.4%	0.0	-0.4
Employed	728	725	713	3	15
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	330	330	310	0	20
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	340	330	320	10	20
Total private	180	180	195	0	-15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	35	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	45	45	40	0	5
Government	150	150	115	0	35
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	25	25	0	0	25
Local government	120	120	110	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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