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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: October 2023

Summer Season Gives Way to a New School Year

In October, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 2.9%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest, tied with Wheeler and just ahead of Benton's 3.0%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.3 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 190 jobs to 12,400 in October. Private industry rose by 200 jobs to reach 10,880 jobs, and government cut 10, falling to 1,520. Retail trade led private industry, rising by 310 jobs to 1,750. Wholesale trade increased its total by 30 jobs, rising to 520. Leisure and hospitality pulled back in October, cutting 110 jobs. In the public sector, federal government cut 10 jobs, falling to 140.

Hood River County's private-industry employment rose by 330 jobs over the year ending in October. Education and health services led private industry with an over-the-year increase of 80 jobs. Leisure and hospitality also performed well, rising by 70 jobs to reach 2,110. Wholesale trade (+40); other services (+40); manufacturing (+30); professional services (+30); and information (+20) also rose over the year. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities cut 50 jobs, falling to 130. Local government education rose by 40 jobs over the year, while federal, state, and other local each chipped in 10.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in October at 3.7%, ranking 15th. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.1 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell to 10,540 in October, a loss of 120 jobs. Private industry cut 120 jobs, falling to 8,350, while government held its own at 2,190. Leisure and hospitality idled 100 jobs in October, falling to 1,410. Retail trade (-20) and other services (-20) also cut jobs. Private-industry job gains were limited to transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+10), and information (+10). In the public sector, other local government cut 30 jobs, federal government shed 10, and other local government education rose by 40.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 270 jobs over the year ending in October. Leisure and hospitality led private industry, rising by 100 jobs (+7.6%). Professional and business services rose by 70 jobs to reach 610, and manufacturing increased its total by 50, climbing to 520. Construction cut

30 jobs over the year ending in October, falling to 410. Local government led the public sector, with other local up 60 jobs and local education rising by 50.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in October to 4.1%, ranking 23rd out of 36 Oregon counties. Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point over the year ending in October. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment held steady in October with 860 jobs. Over the year, Gilliam County's private-industry employment fell to 610 jobs, a loss of 170, while government held its own at 250.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in October to 4.0%, ranking 21st. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell to 955 jobs in October, a loss of five. Over the year ending in October, private industry lost five jobs, falling to 650, and government increased its total by 10 to reach 305.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in October to 2.9%, tied for first in Oregon with Hood River. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage point. Nonfarm employment fell to 370 jobs in October, a loss of five. Over the year ending in October, private industry cut five jobs, falling to 185, and government rose by 40 to reach 185.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November 2023 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Dec. 27th, 2023 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on Dec. 20th, 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

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Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	912	905	1,022	7	-110
Unemployed	33	34	34	-1	-1
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.8%	3.3%	-0.2	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.0%	3.9%	0.1	0.2
Employed	879	871	988	8	-109
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	860	860	1,030	0	-170
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	825	845	990	-20	-165
Total private	610	610	780	0	-170
Trade, transportation, and utilities	140	140	140	0	0
Professional and business services	215	215	220	0	-5
Private education and health services	95	95	95	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	45	0	-5
Government	250	250	250	0	0
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	20	20	10	0	10
Local government	220	220	225	0	-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--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,134	14,757	14,404	-623	-270
Unemployed	353	370	512	-17	-159
Unemployment rate	2.5%	2.5%	3.6%	0.0	-1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2.9%	2.8%	4.2%	0.1	-1.3
Employed	13,781	14,387	13,892	-606	-111
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,400	12,210	12,000	190	400
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,520	12,320	12,130	200	390
Total private	10,880	10,680	10,550	200	330
Mining, logging, and construction	600	610	540	-10	60
Manufacturing	1,880	1,890	1,850	-10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,400	2,060	2,410	340	-10
Wholesale trade	520	490	480	30	40
Retail trade	1,750	1,440	1,750	310	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	130	130	180	0	-50
Information	140	140	120	0	20
Financial activities	320	320	310	0	10
Professional and business services	1,060	1,060	1,030	0	30
Private education and health services	1,960	1,970	1,880	-10	80
Leisure and hospitality	2,110	2,220	2,040	-110	70
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	350	360	330	-10	20
Accommodation and food services	1,760	1,860	1,710	-100	50
Accommodation	480	490	460	-10	20
Food services and drinking places	1,280	1,370	1,250	-90	30
Other services	410	410	370	0	40
Government	1,520	1,530	1,450	-10	70
Federal government	140	150	130	-10	10
State government	130	130	120	0	10
Local government	1,250	1,250	1,200	0	50
Local education	720	700	710	20	10
Local government excluding educational services	530	550	490	-20	40

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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--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	959	953	968	6	-9
Unemployed	37	32	31	5	6
Unemployment rate	3.9%	3.4%	3.2%	0.5	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	3.8%	3.6%	0.2	0.4
Employed	922	921	937	1	-15
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	955	960	950	-5	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	965	940	960	25	5
Total private	650	645	655	5	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	360	355	340	5	20
Retail trade	130	130	125	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	100	100	115	0	-15
Government	305	315	295	-10	10
Federal government	130	130	120	0	10
State government	25	25	35	0	-10
Local government	150	160	140	-10	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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,805	12,934	13,036	-129	-231
Unemployed	441	458	608	-17	-167
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.5%	4.7%	-0.1	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.7%	4.8%	0.0	-1.1
Employed	12,364	12,476	12,428	-112	-64
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,540	10,660	10,130	-120	410
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,470	10,480	10,060	-10	410
Total private	8,350	8,470	8,080	-120	270
Mining, logging, and construction	470	470	500	0	-30
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	410	410	440	0	-30
Manufacturing	520	520	470	0	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,100	2,110	2,090	-10	10
Wholesale trade	190	190	180	0	10
Retail trade	1,590	1,610	1,590	-20	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	320	310	320	10	0
Information	260	250	250	10	10
Financial activities	320	320	320	0	0
Professional and business services	610	610	540	0	70
Private education and health services	2,270	2,270	2,250	0	20
Ambulatory health care services	500	500	470	0	30
Nursing and residential care facilities	500	500	490	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	1,410	1,510	1,310	-100	100
Accommodation and food services	1,310	1,370	1,210	-60	100
Other services	390	410	350	-20	40
Government	2,190	2,190	2,050	0	140
Federal government	280	290	270	-10	10
State government	280	280	260	0	20
Local government	1,630	1,620	1,520	10	110
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	870	830	820	40	50
Local government excluding education and tribal	750	780	690	-30	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

	--Change From--				
	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023	October 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	799	805	745	-6	54
Unemployed	18	22	23	-4	-5
Unemployment rate	2.3%	2.7%	3.1%	-0.4	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2.9%	3.1%	3.5%	-0.2	-0.6
Employed	781	783	722	-2	59
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	370	375	335	-5	35
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	365	365	330	0	35
Total private	185	190	190	-5	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	40	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	45	45	45	0	0
Government	185	185	145	0	40
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	0	0	35
Local government	145	145	140	0	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.

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