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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: January 2025

Unemployment rates remained little changed over the month, with slight upward movement in two of the five counties

In January, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased marginally to 3.4%, up from 3.3%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's second lowest, just above Wheeler's 3.3%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.2 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment decreased by 440 (-3.6%) in January and was estimated at 11,850 jobs. While private employment decreased by 410 over the month, public sector employment lost 30 jobs.

Hood River County's private industry employment decreased by 200 jobs over the year ending in January, a loss of 1.7%. Job losses were concentrated within private education and health services (-120 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-80); and leisure and hospitality (-40 jobs). Gains were seen primarily in professional and business services (+50 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (+20 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged in December at 4.1%. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.1 percentage point higher.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment decreased by 120, totaling 10,240 as of January. Private industry employment lost 80 jobs, bringing employment down to 7,890. The public sector also lost 40 jobs, with government employment now at 2,350. Private job gains were seen in professional and business services (+10 jobs) and financial activities (+10 jobs). Private job losses were seen within trade, transportation, and utilities (-50); leisure and hospitality (-40 jobs); and construction (-10). The remaining major industries showed no change over the month.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 220 (+2.2%) jobs over the year ending in January. Gains were mainly concentrated within the public sector (+220), with most employment gains in local government (+160 jobs).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in January remaining at 4.8%. Over the year, the seasonally unemployment rate is 0.2 percentage point lower. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment decreased by 20 jobs (-1.9%) from December to January and is now at 1,025 jobs. Over the year, the private sector lost 25 jobs, while government employment increased by five jobs and now totals 300 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in January at 3.7% but declined by 0.6 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment decreased by 35 jobs (-3.6%) in January and stands at 940. The public sector lost 30 jobs while trade, transportation, and utilities lost 15 jobs, and leisure and hospitality remained unchanged over the month. Over the year ending in January, private industry lost 15 jobs and now stands at 610, down by 2.4%.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged upward from 3.1% to 3.3% but remains the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Oregon. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.4 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment lost 15 jobs from December to January and now stands at 355 jobs. Over the year ending in January, private-industry employment rose by 15 and was estimated at 170. Similarly, government employment rose by 15 to reach 185.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, April 1, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for February on Wednesday, March 26.

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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Workforce & Economic Research Division

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March 11, 2025

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,369	13,723	13,303	-354	66
Unemployed	600	461	566	139	34
Unemployment rate	4.5%	3.4%	4.3%	1.1	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.4%	3.3%	3.2%	0.1	0.2
Employed	12,769	13,262	12,737	-493	32
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,850	12,290	12,050	-440	-200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,860	11,950	12,060	-90	-200
Total private	10,360	10,770	10,550	-410	-190
Mining, logging, and construction	540	560	520	-20	20
Manufacturing	1,650	1,710	1,660	-60	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,910	2,180	1,990	-270	-80
Wholesale trade	390	390	440	0	-50
Retail trade	1,370	1,620	1,420	-250	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	170	130	-20	20
Information	100	100	110	0	-10
Financial activities	330	340	320	-10	10
Professional and business services	980	960	930	20	50
Private education and health services	1,900	1,980	2,020	-80	-120
Leisure and hospitality	2,630	2,610	2,670	20	-40
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,080	960	1,200	120	-120
Accommodation and food services	1,550	1,650	1,470	-100	80
Accommodation	440	470	430	-30	10
Food services and drinking places	1,110	1,180	1,040	-70	70
Other services	320	330	330	-10	-10
Government	1,490	1,520	1,500	-30	-10
Federal government	110	120	110	-10	0
State government	130	140	130	-10	0
Local government	1,250	1,260	1,260	-10	-10
Local education	740	750	750	-10	-10
Local government excluding educational services	510	510	510	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.



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Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,407	12,531	12,150	-124	257
Unemployed	743	583	680	160	63
Unemployment rate	6.0%	4.7%	5.6%	1.3	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%	0.0	0.1
Employed	11,664	11,948	11,470	-284	194
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,240	10,360	10,020	-120	220
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,540	10,440	10,320	100	220
Total private	7,890	7,970	7,890	-80	0
Mining, logging, and construction	470	480	480	-10	-10
Mining and logging	60	60	50	0	10
Construction	410	420	430	-10	-20
Manufacturing	470	470	470	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,040	2,090	2,030	-50	10
Wholesale trade	190	200	180	-10	10
Retail trade	1,510	1,530	1,570	-20	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	340	360	280	-20	60
Information	270	270	270	0	0
Financial activities	280	270	290	10	-10
Professional and business services	550	540	570	10	-20
Private education and health services	2,260	2,260	2,240	0	20
Ambulatory health care services	490	480	500	10	-10
Nursing and residential care facilities	530	530	480	0	50
Leisure and hospitality	1,190	1,230	1,190	-40	0
Accommodation and food services	1,130	1,160	1,120	-30	10
Other services	360	360	350	0	10
Government	2,350	2,390	2,130	-40	220
Federal government	290	300	270	-10	20
State government	320	320	280	0	40
Local government	1,740	1,770	1,580	-30	160
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	990	1,020	850	-30	140
Local government excluding education and tribal	740	740	720	0	20

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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.



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Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,053	1,059	926	-6	127
Unemployed	57	49	57	8	0
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.6%	6.2%	0.8	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.8%	5.0%	0.0	-0.2
Employed	996	1,010	869	-14	127
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,025	1,045	845	-20	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,020	1,030	845	-10	175
Total private	725	750	545	-25	180
Trade, transportation, and utilities	110	115	120	-5	-10
Professional and business services	210	205	215	5	-5
Private education and health services	70	70	80	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	35	40	35	-5	0
Government	300	295	300	5	0
Federal government	15	10	10	5	5
State government	20	20	25	0	-5
Local government	265	265	265	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.



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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	942	969	958	-27	-16
Unemployed	39	38	53	1	-14
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.9%	5.5%	0.2	-1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.7%	4.3%	0.0	-0.6
Employed	903	931	905	-28	-2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	940	975	935	-35	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	975	985	970	-10	5
Total private	610	615	625	-5	-15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	355	370	-15	-30
Retail trade	120	125	130	-5	-10
Leisure and hospitality	75	75	75	0	0
Government	330	360	310	-30	20
Federal government	155	155	130	0	25
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	150	180	155	-30	-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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Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024	January 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	708	716	662	-8	46
Unemployed	38	31	31	7	7
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.3%	4.7%	1.1	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.3%	3.1%	2.9%	0.2	0.4
Employed	670	685	631	-15	39
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	355	370	325	-15	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	375	385	345	-10	30
Total private	170	180	155	-10	15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	35	35	-5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	20	0	10
Government	185	190	170	-5	15
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	30	0	5
Local government	145	150	135	-5	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.

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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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