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## **Employment in the Columbia Gorge: April 2018**

### **Leisure and Hospitality Leads the Way in April**

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in April at 3.2 percent, ranking third (out of 36 counties). Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage point.

Hood River County gained 80 nonfarm jobs in April, rising to 11,790. Food services and drinking places led private industry, rising by 90 jobs to total 1,180. Mining, logging, and construction rose by 40 jobs to reach 500, and retail trade produced a gain of 40 to total 1,390. Professional and business services (+30) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+20) also rose in April. Arts, entertainment, and recreation cut 190 jobs in April, falling to 840. Government rose by 30 jobs in April to total 1,400.

Private industry employment rose by 350 jobs over the year ending in April to total 10,390, an increase of 3.5 percent. Leisure and hospitality led private industry with an over-the-year gain of 110 jobs. Education and health services increased its job total by 90, rising to 1,650. Mining, logging, and construction (+60), professional and business services (+60), and wholesale trade (+40) earned honorable mention.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 4.1 percent in April, ranking 10<sup>th</sup> among Oregon counties, tied with Morrow and Clatsop. Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly over the year, up 0.2 percentage point, although it ranked seventh in April 2017.

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 190 jobs in April, increasing Wasco County's total to 10,400. Private industry rose by 180 jobs, reaching 8,360 and government managed a gain of 10, rising to 2,040. Accommodation and food services led private industry in April, rising by 80 jobs to total 1,270. Construction (+20), manufacturing (+20), retail trade (+20), and professional and business services (+20) all produced job gains in April. Indian tribal government rose by 20 jobs in April but local education cut 10.

Over the year, Wasco County's nonfarm employment total rose by 50 jobs, with government cutting 210 and private industry rising by 260. Professional and business services rose by 70 jobs over the year to reach 560, an increase of 14.3 percent. Education and health services rose by 70 to 2,330, thanks in part to the inclusion of home care workers; state government lost 100, falling to 250. Accommodation and food services rose by 50 jobs over the year and other services also rose by 50 to reach 420.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in April to 3.2 percent, ranking third among Oregon's 36 counties. Last April, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 12<sup>th</sup>, at 4.2 percent. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose by 15 jobs in April to 795; with 555 jobs in private industry and 240 in government. Over the year, professional and business services rose by 40 jobs to reach 220; trade, transportation, and utilities rose by 10; and education and health services gained five. State government lost 10 jobs over the year and local government also cut 10.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 3.9 percent, ranking ninth. Last April, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4.8 percent. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by five jobs in April to reach 810, led by an increase of 10 in leisure and hospitality. Over the year, private industry lost 20 jobs, falling to 480, with trade, transportation, and utilities cutting 25 jobs, falling to 215. Government shed 15 jobs over the year, falling to 330.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in April to 3.0 percent, Oregon's lowest. Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in April 2017 and was 1.4 percentage points higher, at 4.4 percent. Nonfarm employment rose by five jobs in April to 285. Over the year ending in April, private industry held steady at 160, while government cut five, falling to 125.

*Note: Effective with the January 2018 data, employment of Oregon's approximately 17,000 home care workers are counted in private health care and social assistance instead of state government. The change was due to legislative action clarifying that for purposes of workforce and labor market information, home care workers are not employees of state government. The reclassification affects private sector and government monthly change figures for January 2018 and will affect over-the-year change figures through December 2018. It does not affect total payroll employment levels.*

### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May 2018 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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 [www.QualityInfo.org](http://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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For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://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.

### Wheeler County Labor Force and Industry Employment

Labor Force Status	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	CHANGE	FROM
				Mar-18	Apr-17
Civilian Labor Force	700	690	731	10	(31)
Unemployment	23	22	31	1	(8)
Unemployment Rate	3.3	3.2	4.2	XXX	XXX
Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted	3.0	2.9	4.4	XXX	XXX
Total Employment	677	668	700	9	(23)
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm	285	280	290	5	(5)
Total private	160	155	160	5	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	50	50	55	0	(5)
Leisure and hospitality	20	20	30	0	(10)
Government	125	125	130	0	(5)
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	5	0	(5)
Local government	120	120	120	0	0

The most recent month is preliminary, the prior month is revised. Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence. Data are adjusted for multiple job-holding and commuting. Includes nonfarm payroll employment, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture, and labor disputants. Unemployment rate derived by dividing unemployment by civilian labor force. Nonfarm payroll employment data cover full- and part-time employees who worked during 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. Persons on sick leave, vacations, or holidays, and being paid for that period by their employer, are considered employed. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Labor

**Gilliam County Labor Force and Industry Employment**

<b>Labor Force Status</b>	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	CHANGE	FROM
				Mar-18	Apr-17
Civilian Labor Force	848	858	843	(10)	5
Unemployment	27	33	38	(6)	(11)
Unemployment Rate	3.2	3.8	4.5	XXX	XXX
Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted	3.2	3.4	4.2	XXX	XXX
Total Employment	821	825	805	(4)	16
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm	795	780	770	15	25
Total private	555	540	510	15	45
Trade, transportation, and utilities	145	145	135	0	10
Professional and business services	220	210	180	10	40
Education and health services	55	55	50	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	45	0	(5)
Government	240	240	260	0	(20)
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	10	10	20	0	(10)
Local government	220	220	230	0	(10)

**Sherman County Labor Force and Industry Employment**

<b>Labor Force Status</b>	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	CHANGE	FROM
				Mar-18	Apr-17
Civilian Labor Force	865	874	906	(9)	(41)
Unemployment	33	39	43	(6)	(10)
Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.5	4.7	XXX	XXX
Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted	3.9	3.7	4.8	XXX	XXX
Total Employment	832	835	863	(3)	(31)
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm	810	805	845	5	(35)
Total private	480	465	500	15	(20)
Trade, transportation, and utilities	215	210	240	5	(25)
Retail trade	55	55	60	0	(5)
Leisure and hospitality	120	110	130	10	(10)
Government	330	340	345	(10)	(15)
Federal government	130	130	130	0	0
State government	35	35	45	0	(10)
Local government	165	175	170	(10)	(5)

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**Hood River County Labor Force and Industry Employment**

	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	CHANGE Mar-18	FROM Apr-17
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	14,184	14,038	14,001	146	183
Unemployment	439	475	470	(36)	(31)
Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.4	3.4	XXX	XXX
Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted	3.2	3.2	3.7	XXX	XXX
Total Employment	13,745	13,563	13,531	182	214
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm	11,790	11,710	11,470	80	320
Total private	10,390	10,340	10,040	50	350
Mining, logging, and construction	500	460	440	40	60
Manufacturing	1,750	1,740	1,720	10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,080	2,010	2,050	70	30
Wholesale trade	460	450	420	10	40
Retail trade	1,390	1,350	1,410	40	(20)
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	230	210	220	20	10
Information	140	140	140	0	0
Financial activities	300	300	340	0	(40)
Professional and business services	1,160	1,130	1,100	30	60
Education and health services	1,650	1,640	1,560	10	90
Leisure and hospitality	2,420	2,530	2,310	(110)	110
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	840	1,030	780	(190)	60
Accommodation and food services	1,580	1,500	1,530	80	50
Accommodation	400	410	390	(10)	10
Food services and drinking places	1,180	1,090	1,140	90	40
Other services	390	390	380	0	10
Government	1,400	1,370	1,430	30	(30)
Federal government	110	100	110	10	0
State government	120	120	160	0	(40)
Local government	1,170	1,150	1,160	20	10
Local government education	660	650	670	10	(10)
Local government other	510	500	490	10	20

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**Wasco County Labor Force and Industry Employment**

<b>Labor Force Status</b>	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	CHANGE	FROM
				Mar-18	Apr-17
Civilian Labor Force	12,933	12,900	12,941	33	(8)
Unemployment	522	626	504	(104)	18
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.9	3.9	xxx	xxx
Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted	4.1	4.1	3.9	xxx	xxx
Total Employment	12,411	12,274	12,437	137	(26)
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm	10,400	10,210	10,350	190	50
Total private	8,360	8,180	8,100	180	260
Mining and logging	60	60	50	0	10
Construction	360	340	350	20	10
Manufacturing	710	690	720	20	(10)
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,060	2,040	2,060	20	0
Wholesale trade	140	140	160	0	(20)
Retail trade	1,720	1,700	1,710	20	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	200	200	190	0	10
Information	190	190	190	0	0
Financial activities	310	310	300	0	10
Professional and business services	560	540	490	20	70
Education and health services	2,330	2,320	2,260	10	70
Ambulatory health care services	430	420	410	10	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	570	570	570	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,360	1,280	1,310	80	50
Accommodation and food services	1,270	1,190	1,220	80	50
Other services	420	410	370	10	50
Government	2,040	2,030	2,250	10	(210)
Federal government	290	290	290	0	0
State government	250	250	350	0	(100)
Local government	1,500	1,490	1,610	10	(110)
Indian tribal	120	100	150	20	(30)
Local education	720	730	770	(10)	(50)
Local government other	660	660	690	0	(30)

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