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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: December 2018

Employment Cools Off in December and Unemployment Rises

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in December, rising by 0.1 percentage point to 3.5 percent, ranking second in Oregon (out of 36 counties), tied with Washington County. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment total rose to 12,430 in December, an increase of 220 jobs. Private industry rose by 250 jobs to total 11,090, and government cut 30, falling to 1,340. Arts, entertainment, and recreation led private industry with an increase of 310 jobs, rising to 1,060. Job losses were concentrated in wholesale trade (-30) and accommodation and food services (-20). In the public sector, federal government cut 20 jobs and other local government shed 10.

Private industry employment rose by 210 jobs over the year ending in December, an increase of 1.9 percent. Education and health services led private industry with an over-the-year gain of 150 jobs, rising to 1,760. Retail trade also performed admirably, with a gain of 90 increasing its total to 1,680. Professional and business services (+50); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+40); and financial activities (+30) earned honorable mention. Wholesale trade fell 100 shy of its year-ago level, with 420 jobs. Arts, entertainment, and recreation could use more snowpack to reach its potential, missing its year-ago total by 80 jobs. State government cut 70 jobs with the reclassification of home care workers to private industry, dropping its total to 100.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in December to 4.3 percent, ranking ninth among Oregon counties, tied with Clatsop County. Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also ranked ninth in December 2017, at a slightly lower 4.0 percent.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment total held steady in December with 10,150 jobs; private industry and government were also unchanged. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+20); wholesale trade (+10); and financial activities (+10) managed small job gains in December. Job losses were reported in construction (-10), manufacturing (-10), retail trade (-10), and accommodation and food services (-10). In the public sector, local government education rose by 20 jobs to reach 780, while other local government cut 20 jobs, falling to 670.

Over the year, Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell by 150 jobs, with government cutting 180 and private industry rising by 30. Education and health services rose by 110 jobs over the year to total

2,360, thanks in part to the inclusion of home care workers; state government lost 100, falling to 250. Financial activities (+40) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+20) also rose over the year. Job losses in retail trade (-50), leisure and hospitality (-40), and other services (-30) limited private industry's growth. Indian tribal government cut 100 jobs, reflecting the closure of the Warm Springs Tribe's Kah-Nee-Ta resort.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in December at 4.6 percent, ranking 13th out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Lane, Morrow, and Tillamook counties. Last December, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 11th, at 4.2 percent. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment total rose to 790, an increase of five, with 545 jobs in private industry and 245 in government. Over the year, professional and business services rose by 40 jobs to reach 235. State government cut five jobs over the year, while local government rose by five to 225.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in December at 4.0 percent, ranking seventh among Oregon counties. In December 2017, Sherman County's 4.0 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked ninth. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 20 jobs in December, increasing its total to 830. Private industry rose by five jobs in December while government led the way with an increase of 15. Over the year, private industry rose by 25 jobs, climbing to 500. Trade, transportation, and utilities cut 15 jobs, falling to 220, while leisure and hospitality rose by 15 to 125. Government lost 20 jobs over the year, falling to 330, with federal government cutting 10 and local government also shedding 10.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point in December to 4.2 percent, ranking as Oregon's eighth lowest, just behind Sherman County. Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked third in December 2017, at 3.4 percent. Nonfarm employment totaled 290 jobs in December, with private industry cutting five jobs and government losing five. Over the year ending in December, private industry rose by five jobs, climbing to 155, while government lost 15, dropping to 135.

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 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 January 2019 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on March 12th, 2019 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on March 5th, 2019.

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 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.

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.

Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	November 2018	December 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	843	846	843	-3	0
Unemployed	37	37	34	0	3
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.4%	4.0%	0.0	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.6%	4.2%	0.0	0.4
Employed	806	809	809	-3	-3
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	790	785	760	5	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	800	795	770	5	30
Total private	545	545	515	0	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	150	145	145	5	5
Professional and business services	235	235	195	0	40
Education and health services	50	50	50	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	35	35	35	0	0
Government	245	240	245	5	0
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	10	10	15	0	-5
Local government	225	220	220	5	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--				
	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	November 2018	December 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,799	13,716	13,882	83	-83
Unemployed	462	471	421	-9	41
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.4%	3.0%	-0.1	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>3.3%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Employed	13,337	13,245	13,461	92	-124
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,430	12,210	12,280	220	150
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,050</i>	<i>11,880</i>	<i>11,900</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>150</i>
Total private	11,090	10,840	10,880	250	210
Mining, logging, and construction	510	520	520	-10	-10
Manufacturing	1,740	1,750	1,740	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,360	2,390	2,330	-30	30
Wholesale trade	420	450	520	-30	-100
Retail trade	1,680	1,670	1,590	10	90
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	260	270	220	-10	40
Information	150	140	150	10	0
Financial activities	350	360	310	-10	40
Professional and business services	1,180	1,180	1,130	0	50
Education and health services	1,760	1,750	1,610	10	150
Leisure and hospitality	2,630	2,340	2,700	290	-70
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,060	750	1,140	310	-80
Accommodation and food services	1,570	1,590	1,560	-20	10
Accommodation	400	410	400	-10	0
Food services and drinking places	1,170	1,180	1,160	-10	10
Other services	410	410	390	0	20
Government	1,340	1,370	1,400	-30	-60
Federal government	90	110	90	-20	0
State government	100	100	170	0	-70
Local government	1,150	1,160	1,140	-10	10
Local education	650	650	650	0	0
Local government excluding educational services	500	510	490	-10	10

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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--				
	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	November 2018	December 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	867	857	874	10	-7
Unemployed	36	33	34	3	2
Unemployment rate	4.2%	3.9%	3.9%	0.3	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	0.0	0.0
Employed	831	824	840	7	-9
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	830	810	825	20	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	835	830	830	5	5
Total private	500	495	475	5	25
Trade, transportation, and utilities	220	215	235	5	-15
Retail trade	80	80	80	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	125	125	110	0	15
Government	330	315	350	15	-20
Federal government	125	125	135	0	-10
State government	45	45	45	0	0
Local government	160	145	170	15	-10

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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--				
	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	November 2018	December 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,559	12,759	12,985	-200	-426
Unemployed	604	578	566	26	38
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.5%	4.4%	0.3	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.2%	4.0%	0.1	0.3
Employed	11,955	12,181	12,419	-226	-464
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,150	10,150	10,300	0	-150
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,250	10,240	10,410	10	-160
Total private	8,150	8,150	8,120	0	30
Mining, logging, and construction	410	420	420	-10	-10
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	350	360	360	-10	-10
Manufacturing	610	620	620	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,060	2,040	2,080	20	-20
Wholesale trade	150	140	140	10	10
Retail trade	1,650	1,660	1,700	-10	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	260	240	240	20	20
Information	190	190	190	0	0
Financial activities	360	350	320	10	40
Professional and business services	600	600	610	0	-10
Education and health services	2,360	2,360	2,250	0	110
Ambulatory health care services	440	450	430	-10	10
Nursing and residential care facilities	570	570	580	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	1,200	1,210	1,240	-10	-40
Accommodation and food services	1,090	1,100	1,150	-10	-60
Other services	360	360	390	0	-30
Government	2,000	2,000	2,180	0	-180
Federal government	290	290	300	0	-10
State government	250	250	350	0	-100
Local government	1,460	1,460	1,530	0	-70
Indian tribal	10	10	110	0	-100
Local education	780	760	750	20	30
Local government excluding education and tribal	670	690	670	-20	0

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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--				
	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	November 2018	December 2017
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	705	732	731	-27	-26
Unemployed	30	28	22	2	8
Unemployment rate	4.3%	3.8%	3.0%	0.5	1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	3.9%	3.4%	0.3	0.8
Employed	675	704	709	-29	-34
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	290	300	300	-10	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	295	295	305	0	-10
Total private	155	160	150	-5	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	40	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	25	25	20	0	5
Government	135	140	150	-5	-15
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	10	0	-10
Local government	130	135	135	-5	-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.