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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: January 2019

2019 Arrives with Job Losses and Higher Unemployment Rates

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in January at 3.5 percent, ranking second in Oregon (out of 36 counties), ahead of Washington County's 3.7 percent but behind Benton County's 3.4 percent. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment total fell to 11,980 in January, a loss of 470 jobs. Private industry lost 460 jobs, falling to 10,630 and government cut 10, falling to 1,350. Retail trade served up private industry's biggest loss, falling by 270 jobs to 1,370. Accommodation and food services dished up a loss of 80 jobs, falling to 1,540. Wholesale trade (-60); mining, logging, and construction (-40); and professional and business services (-30) also cut jobs in January. Private industry job gains were limited to an increase of 40 in arts, entertainment, and recreation, lifting its total to 1,130. In the public sector, local government education shed 10 jobs, falling to 660.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 170 jobs over the year ending in January, an increase of 1.6 percent. Education and health services led private industry with an over-the-year gain of 90 jobs, rising to 1,770. Accommodation and food services increased its total by 50 jobs and retail trade rose by 40. Arts, entertainment, and recreation fell 50 jobs shy of its year-ago level. Mining, logging, and construction cut 20, falling to 450. In the public sector, state government cut 10 jobs, falling to 110 and other local government lost 10, cutting its total to 490.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point in January to 4.7 percent, ranking 10th among Oregon counties, tied with Gilliam and Tillamook counties. Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 12th in January 2018, at 4.1 percent.

Wasco County lost 240 nonfarm jobs in January, falling to 9,870. Private industry lost 180 jobs, cutting its total to 7,980, and government fell to 1,890, a loss of 60. Retail trade trimmed its payrolls by 50 jobs in January, falling to 1,590. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities lost 30 jobs, falling to 240. Education and health services fell to 2,340, a loss of 30. Information produced Wasco County's lone private industry gain in January, rising by 10 jobs to 190. In the public sector, local government education cut 30 jobs, falling to 690. Federal government (-10), state government (-10), and other local government (-10) also cut jobs in January.

Over the year, Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell by 200 jobs, with government cutting 120 and private industry losing 80. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities rose by 30 jobs. Financial activities increased its total by 30, rising to 340, and other services chipped in 10. Retail trade fell by 60 jobs, professional and business services cut 30, and leisure and hospitality lost 30. 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 was essentially unchanged in January at 4.7 percent, ranking 10th out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Tillamook and Wasco counties. Last January, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked eighth, at 3.8 percent. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment total fell to 775, a loss of 15, with 540 jobs in private industry and 235 in government. Over the year, professional and business services rose by 40 jobs to reach 235. Federal government cut 10 jobs over the year, and local government lost 10, falling to 220.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in January at 4.0 percent, ranking sixth among Oregon counties, tied with Clatsop and Wheeler counties. In January 2018, Sherman County's 3.9 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked ninth. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell by 15 jobs in January, dropping its total to 815. Private industry rose by five jobs in January while government cut 20. Over the year, private industry held steady with 490 jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities cut 15 jobs, falling to 225. Retail trade rose by five, and leisure and hospitality cut five, falling to 100. Government lost five jobs over the year, falling to 325, with federal cutting its total to 130, while state government and local government held steady.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point in January to 4.5 percent, ranking as Oregon's eighth lowest, tied with Clatsop and Sherman counties. Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked second in January 2018, at a much lower 3.1 percent. Nonfarm employment totaled 275 jobs in January, with private industry holding steady and government rising by five. Over the year ending in January, private industry cut 20 jobs, falling to 140, while government rose by five to 130.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February 2019 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on March 26th, 2019 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for February on March 19th, 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--				
	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	December 2019	January 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	842	846	830	-4	12
Unemployed	42	37	34	5	8
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.4%	4.1%	0.6	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.6%	3.8%	0.1	0.9
Employed	800	809	796	-9	4
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	775	790	760	-15	15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	790	800	775	-10	15
Total private	540	550	505	-10	35
Trade, transportation, and utilities	135	140	130	-5	5
Professional and business services	235	235	195	0	40
Education and health services	60	60	55	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	30	0	0
Government	235	240	255	-5	-20
Federal government	5	10	15	-5	-10
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	220	220	230	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.

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

			--Change From--		
	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	December 2019	January 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,779	13,849	13,762	-70	17
Unemployed	565	476	559	89	6
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.4%	4.1%	0.7	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.5%	3.5%	3.1%	0.0	0.4
Employed	13,214	13,373	13,203	-159	11
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,980	12,450	11,820	-470	160
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,070	12,040	11,900	30	170
Total private	10,630	11,090	10,460	-460	170
Mining, logging, and construction	450	490	470	-40	-20
Manufacturing	1,680	1,700	1,680	-20	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,030	2,370	1,980	-340	50
Wholesale trade	450	510	440	-60	10
Retail trade	1,370	1,640	1,330	-270	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	210	220	210	-10	0
Information	140	140	140	0	0
Financial activities	340	350	330	-10	10
Professional and business services	1,130	1,160	1,110	-30	20
Education and health services	1,770	1,750	1,680	20	90
Leisure and hospitality	2,670	2,710	2,670	-40	0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,130	1,090	1,180	40	-50
Accommodation and food services	1,540	1,620	1,490	-80	50
Accommodation	400	420	380	-20	20
Food services and drinking places	1,140	1,200	1,110	-60	30
Other services	420	420	400	0	20
Government	1,350	1,360	1,360	-10	-10
Federal government	90	90	90	0	0
State government	110	110	120	0	-10
Local government	1,150	1,160	1,150	-10	0
Local education	660	670	650	-10	10
Local government excluding educational services	490	490	500	0	-10

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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--				
	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	December 2019	January 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	870	885	882	-15	-12
Unemployed	39	37	41	2	-2
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.2%	4.6%	0.3	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.0%	3.9%	0.0	0.1
Employed	831	848	841	-17	-10
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	815	830	820	-15	-5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	865	840	870	25	-5
Total private	490	485	490	5	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	225	225	240	0	-15
Retail trade	90	90	85	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	100	105	105	-5	-5
Government	325	345	330	-20	-5
Federal government	130	130	135	0	-5
State government	40	40	40	0	0
Local government	155	175	155	-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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	December 2019	January 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,508	12,556	12,685	-48	-177
Unemployed	794	624	707	170	87
Unemployment rate	6.3%	5.0%	5.6%	1.3	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.3%	4.1%	0.4	0.6
Employed	11,714	11,932	11,978	-218	-264
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,870	10,110	10,070	-240	-200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,310</i>	<i>10,220</i>	<i>10,520</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>-210</i>
Total private	7,980	8,160	8,060	-180	-80
Mining, logging, and construction	390	410	410	-20	-20
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	330	350	350	-20	-20
Manufacturing	600	610	610	-10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,970	2,050	2,000	-80	-30
Wholesale trade	140	140	140	0	0
Retail trade	1,590	1,640	1,650	-50	-60
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	270	210	-30	30
Information	190	180	190	10	0
Financial activities	340	350	310	-10	30
Professional and business services	580	600	610	-20	-30
Education and health services	2,340	2,370	2,340	-30	0
Ambulatory health care services	440	440	420	0	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	580	580	580	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,200	1,210	1,230	-10	-30
Accommodation and food services	1,110	1,120	1,150	-10	-40
Other services	370	380	360	-10	10
Government	1,890	1,950	2,010	-60	-120
Federal government	280	290	290	-10	-10
State government	250	260	240	-10	10
Local government	1,360	1,400	1,480	-40	-120
Indian tribal	10	10	110	0	-100
Local education	690	720	700	-30	-10
Local government excluding education and tribal	660	670	670	-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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	December 2019	January 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	684	670	699	14	-15
Unemployed	37	31	24	6	13
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.6%	3.4%	0.8	2.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.2%	3.1%	0.3	1.4
Employed	647	639	675	8	-28
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	275	270	290	5	-15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	285	280	300	5	-15
Total private	140	140	160	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	10	10	20	0	-10
Government	135	130	130	5	5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	130	125	125	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.

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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.