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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: February 2019

Unemployment Rates Climb in February

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point in February to 3.8 percent, ranking third in Oregon (out of 36 counties), behind Washington County's 3.7 percent and Benton County's 3.4 percent. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment total fell to 11,940 in February, a loss of 30 jobs. Private industry lost 30 jobs, falling to 10,600 and government held steady with 1,340. Small job losses were reported by a number of industries, including wholesale trade (-20), arts, entertainment and recreation (-20), mining, logging and construction (-10), manufacturing (-10), and accommodation (-10). Private industry job gains were limited to an increase of 20 in professional and business services and a rise of 10 in education and health service.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 100 jobs over the year ending in February, an increase of one percent. Education and health services led private industry with an over-the-year gain of 90 jobs, rising to 1,780. Retail trade increased its total by 40 jobs, climbing to 1,370 and other services rose by 20 to reach 420. Manufacturing fell 40 jobs shy of its year-ago level, falling to 1,670. Mining, logging, and construction cut 30, slipping to 440 and arts, entertainment and recreation lost 30, sliding to 1,110. Government lost 30 jobs, with federal, state and local each cutting 10.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in February to 4.9 percent, ranking 16th among Oregon counties, just ahead of Gilliam, Jackson and Malheur counties (5.0%). Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked tenth in February 2018, at 4.1 percent.

Wasco County rose by 60 nonfarm jobs in February, climbing to 9,930. Private industry managed a gain of 20 jobs, rising to 8,000, and government rose to 1,930, an increase of 40. Professional and business services led private industry, rising by 20 jobs to total 600. Manufacturing (+10), retail trade (+10), and other services (+10) also reported job gains in February. Accommodation and food services pulled back in February, trimming its payrolls by 30 jobs to total 1,080. In the public sector, local government education rose by 30 jobs to 720 and federal government chipped in 10 to reach 290.

Over the year, Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell by 180 jobs, with government and private industry each cutting 90 jobs. Retail trade cut 50 jobs over the year, falling to 1,600 and professional

and business services also cut 50. Construction trimmed its payrolls by 20 jobs and leisure and hospitality also idled 20. Over the year job gains were led by an increase of 40 in transportation, warehousing and utilities, increasing its total to 240. Financial activities (+20), education and health services (+10) and other services (+10) also rose over the year. Indian tribal government cut 100 jobs, reflecting the closure of the Warm Springs Tribe's Kah-Nee-Ta resort. Other local government rose by 10 over the year to total 660.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point in February to 5.0 percent, ranking 17th out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Jackson and Malheur counties. Last February, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked fourth, at just 3.4 percent. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment total rose to 795, an increase of 15, with 545 jobs in private industry and 250 in government. Over the year, professional and business services rose by 30 jobs to reach 230. Local government cut 10 jobs over the year, falling to 230.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in February at 3.9 percent, ranking fourth among Oregon counties, tied with Multnomah and Yamhill counties. In February 2018, Sherman County's 3.7 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked ninth. Sherman County's nonfarm employment held steady in February with 815 jobs. Private industry cut five jobs in February while government rose by five. Over the year, private industry held steady with 485 jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities rose by five jobs to 230 and leisure and hospitality cut 10, falling to 100. Government rose by 10 jobs over the year, climbing to 330, with local government leading the way.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point in February to 4.8 percent, ranking as Oregon's 14th lowest, tied with Morrow County. Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest in February 2018, at just 3.0 percent. Nonfarm employment totaled 280 jobs in February, with private industry rising by five and government holding steady. Over the year ending in February, private industry cut 20 jobs, falling to 145, while government rose by five to 135.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March 2019 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on April 23rd, 2019 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for February on April 16th, 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--				
	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	January 2019	February 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	871	847	836	24	35
Unemployed	52	44	32	8	20
Unemployment rate	6.0%	5.2%	3.8%	0.8	2.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>1.6</i>
Employed	819	803	804	16	15
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	795	780	770	15	25
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>795</i>	<i>775</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>25</i>
Total private	545	540	510	5	35
Trade, transportation, and utilities	140	135	135	5	5
Professional and business services	230	235	200	-5	30
Education and health services	60	60	50	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	35	0	-5
Government	250	240	260	10	-10
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	230	220	240	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.

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	January 2019	February 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,142	13,768	13,939	374	203
Unemployed	725	561	531	164	194
Unemployment rate	5.1%	4.1%	3.8%	1.0	1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.4%	3.1%	0.4	0.7
Employed	13,417	13,207	13,408	210	9
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,940	11,970	11,870	-30	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,010	12,060	11,940	-50	70
Total private	10,600	10,630	10,500	-30	100
Mining, logging, and construction	440	450	470	-10	-30
Manufacturing	1,670	1,680	1,710	-10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,010	2,030	1,960	-20	50
Wholesale trade	430	450	420	-20	10
Retail trade	1,370	1,370	1,330	0	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	210	210	210	0	0
Information	140	140	140	0	0
Financial activities	350	340	340	10	10
Professional and business services	1,150	1,130	1,140	20	10
Education and health services	1,780	1,770	1,690	10	90
Leisure and hospitality	2,640	2,670	2,650	-30	-10
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,110	1,130	1,140	-20	-30
Accommodation and food services	1,530	1,540	1,510	-10	20
Accommodation	390	400	380	-10	10
Food services and drinking places	1,140	1,140	1,130	0	10
Other services	420	420	400	0	20
Government	1,340	1,340	1,370	0	-30
Federal government	90	90	100	0	-10
State government	110	110	120	0	-10
Local government	1,140	1,140	1,150	0	-10
Local education	660	660	650	0	10
Local government excluding educational services	480	480	500	0	-20

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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--				
	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	January 2019	February 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	870	869	867	1	3
Unemployed	38	39	42	-1	-4
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.5%	4.8%	-0.1	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	4.0%	3.7%	-0.1	0.2
Employed	832	830	825	2	7
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	815	815	805	0	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	850	865	840	-15	10
Total private	485	490	485	-5	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	230	225	225	5	5
Retail trade	90	90	80	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	100	100	110	0	-10
Government	330	325	320	5	10
Federal government	130	130	130	0	0
State government	40	40	40	0	0
Local government	160	155	150	5	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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	January 2019	February 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,669	12,501	12,775	168	-106
Unemployed	793	791	688	2	105
Unemployment rate	6.3%	6.3%	5.4%	0.0	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.9%	4.7%	4.1%	0.2	0.8
Employed	11,876	11,710	12,087	166	-211
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,930	9,870	10,110	60	-180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,250	10,310	10,440	-60	-190
Total private	8,000	7,980	8,090	20	-90
Mining, logging, and construction	390	390	410	0	-20
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	330	330	350	0	-20
Manufacturing	610	600	620	10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,980	1,970	2,000	10	-20
Wholesale trade	140	140	150	0	-10
Retail trade	1,600	1,590	1,650	10	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	200	0	40
Information	190	190	200	0	-10
Financial activities	340	340	320	0	20
Professional and business services	600	580	650	20	-50
Education and health services	2,340	2,340	2,330	0	10
Ambulatory health care services	440	440	420	0	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	570	580	570	-10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,170	1,200	1,190	-30	-20
Accommodation and food services	1,080	1,110	1,110	-30	-30
Other services	380	370	370	10	10
Government	1,930	1,890	2,020	40	-90
Federal government	290	280	290	10	0
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	1,390	1,360	1,480	30	-90
Indian tribal	10	10	110	0	-100
Local education	720	690	720	30	0
Local government excluding education and tribal	660	660	650	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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	January 2019	February 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	691	684	712	7	-21
Unemployed	36	37	24	-1	12
Unemployment rate	5.2%	5.4%	3.4%	-0.2	1.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.5%	3.0%	0.3	1.8
Employed	655	647	688	8	-33
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	280	275	295	5	-15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	285	285	300	0	-15
Total private	145	140	165	5	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	15	10	25	5	-10
Government	135	135	130	0	5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	130	130	125	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.

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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.