

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 23, 2019

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dallas Fridley, Regional Economist
Dallas.W.Fridley@oregon.gov
(541) 645-0005

Employment in the Columbia Gorge: March 2019

Employment Stuck Between Winter and Spring

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in March to 3.9 percent, ranking third in Oregon (out of 36 counties), behind Washington County's 3.6 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 rose by 40 jobs in March to total 11,970. Private industry managed a gain of just 10 jobs, climbing to 10,600, and government increased its total by 30, rising to 1,370. Manufacturing led private industry with a gain of 40 jobs, rising to 1,710. Food services and drinking places rose by 30 jobs to total 1,170. Mining, logging, and construction (+10); wholesale trade (+10); retail trade (+10); and education and health services (+10) all gained jobs in March. Arts, entertainment, and recreation cut 100 jobs, falling to 1,010.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by just 80 jobs over the year ending in March, an increase of 0.8 percent. Education and health services led private industry with an over-the-year gain of 70 jobs, rising to 1,790. Retail trade increased its total by 40 jobs, climbing to 1,370, and other services rose by 20 to reach 420. Mining, logging, and construction cut 20 jobs, falling to 450 and leisure and hospitality lost 20, dropping to 2,570. Government lost 20 jobs, with state and local each cutting 10.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in March at 5.0 percent, ranking 17th among Oregon counties, tied with Gilliam and Malheur counties. Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 10th in March 2018, at 4.1 percent.

Wasco County gained 100 nonfarm jobs in March, climbing to 10,030. Private industry led the way, rising by 110 jobs to reach 8,110. Government cut 10 jobs in March, falling to 1,920. Accommodation and food services led private industry, rising by 40 jobs to total 1,150. Construction rose by 30 jobs to 360; retail trade gained 20, rising to 1,620; and education and health services reached 2,360, an increase of 20. In the public sector, local government education cut 10 jobs, falling to 710.

Over the year, Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell by 90 jobs, with government cutting 70 and private industry shedding 20. Professional and business services cut 50 jobs over the year, falling to 590, and retail trade lost 40. Education and health services led private industry with an over-the-year increase of 40 jobs. Mining, logging, and construction (+20); transportation, warehousing, and utilities

(+20); and financial activities (+20) also rose over the year. Indian tribal government cut 90 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 and federal government chipped in 10, rising to 290.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in March at 5.0 percent, ranking 17th out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Malheur and Wasco counties. Last March, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked fourth, at just 3.4 percent. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment total fell to 785 in March, a loss of five jobs. Government held steady over the year with 240 jobs, while private industry produced a gain of 30, rising to 545. Professional and business services led private industry, rising by 20 jobs to reach 230, while education and health services chipped in 10, climbing to 60.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by a scant 0.1 percent in March to 4.0 percent, ranking seventh among Oregon counties. In March 2018, Sherman County's 3.7 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked eighth. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 25 jobs in March to reach 850. Private industry rose by 10 jobs to 500, while government climbed to 350, an increase of 15. Over the year, private industry rose by five jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities rose by five jobs to 235 and leisure and hospitality cut 10, falling to 110. Government rose by five jobs over the year, with local government leading the way.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point in March to 5.1 percent, ranking as Oregon's 20th lowest, tied with Lincoln County. Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest in March 2018, at just 2.9 percent. Nonfarm employment totaled 285 jobs in March, with private industry rising by 10 and government cutting five. Over the year ending in March, private industry cut 20 jobs, falling to 155 and government shed five, dropping to 130.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the April 2019 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on May 21st, 2019 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for April on May 14th, 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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from www.QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm, enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

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--				
	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	February 2019	March 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	858	868	826	-10	32
Unemployed	44	53	34	-9	10
Unemployment rate	5.1%	6.1%	4.1%	-1.0	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1.6</i>
Employed	814	815	792	-1	22
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	785	790	755	-5	30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>795</i>	<i>795</i>	<i>765</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>30</i>
Total private	545	545	515	0	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	135	135	135	0	0
Professional and business services	230	230	210	0	20
Education and health services	60	60	50	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	30	0	0
Government	240	245	240	-5	0
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	220	225	215	-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--				
	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	February 2019	March 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,196	14,122	14,084	74	112
Unemployed	603	726	489	-123	114
Unemployment rate	4.2%	5.1%	3.5%	-0.9	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	3.8%	3.2%	0.1	0.7
Employed	13,593	13,396	13,595	197	-2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,970	11,930	11,910	40	60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,070	12,000	12,010	70	60
Total private	10,600	10,590	10,520	10	80
Mining, logging, and construction	450	440	470	10	-20
Manufacturing	1,710	1,670	1,720	40	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,020	2,000	1,980	20	40
Wholesale trade	440	430	440	10	0
Retail trade	1,370	1,360	1,330	10	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	210	210	210	0	0
Information	140	140	140	0	0
Financial activities	350	350	350	0	0
Professional and business services	1,150	1,150	1,150	0	0
Education and health services	1,790	1,780	1,720	10	70
Leisure and hospitality	2,570	2,640	2,590	-70	-20
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,010	1,110	1,030	-100	-20
Accommodation and food services	1,560	1,530	1,560	30	0
Accommodation	390	390	400	0	-10
Food services and drinking places	1,170	1,140	1,160	30	10
Other services	420	420	400	0	20
Government	1,370	1,340	1,390	30	-20
Federal government	100	90	100	10	0
State government	110	110	120	0	-10
Local government	1,160	1,140	1,170	20	-10
Local education	670	660	670	10	0
Local government excluding educational services	490	480	500	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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	February 2019	March 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	891	874	887	17	4
Unemployed	41	39	40	2	1
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.5%	4.5%	0.1	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	3.9%	3.7%	0.1	0.3
Employed	850	835	847	15	3
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	850	825	840	25	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	845	860	835	-15	10
Total private	500	490	495	10	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	235	225	230	10	5
Retail trade	95	90	85	5	10
Leisure and hospitality	110	100	120	10	-10
Government	350	335	345	15	5
Federal government	130	135	130	-5	0
State government	40	40	40	0	0
Local government	180	160	175	20	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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	February 2019	March 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,566	12,673	12,642	-107	-76
Unemployed	712	800	647	-88	65
Unemployment rate	5.7%	6.3%	5.1%	-0.6	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Employed	11,854	11,873	11,995	-19	-141
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,030	9,930	10,120	100	-90
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,250</i>	<i>10,250</i>	<i>10,340</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-90</i>
Total private	8,110	8,000	8,130	110	-20
Mining, logging, and construction	420	390	400	30	20
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	360	330	340	30	20
Manufacturing	610	610	620	0	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,980	1,960	2,010	20	-30
Wholesale trade	140	140	150	0	-10
Retail trade	1,620	1,600	1,660	20	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	220	220	200	0	20
Information	190	190	200	0	-10
Financial activities	350	340	330	10	20
Professional and business services	590	600	640	-10	-50
Education and health services	2,360	2,340	2,320	20	40
Ambulatory health care services	440	440	420	0	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	580	570	570	10	10
Leisure and hospitality	1,230	1,190	1,240	40	-10
Accommodation and food services	1,150	1,110	1,150	40	0
Other services	380	380	370	0	10
Government	1,920	1,930	1,990	-10	-70
Federal government	290	290	280	0	10
State government	250	250	250	0	0
Local government	1,380	1,390	1,460	-10	-80
Indian tribal	10	10	100	0	-90
Local education	710	720	710	-10	0
Local government excluding education and tribal	660	660	650	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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	February 2019	March 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	702	693	736	9	-34
Unemployed	40	35	23	5	17
Unemployment rate	5.7%	5.1%	3.1%	0.6	2.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	4.7%	2.9%	0.4	2.2
Employed	662	658	713	4	-51
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	285	280	310	5	-25
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	285	285	310	0	-25
Total private	155	145	175	10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	40	40	40	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	20	15	25	5	-5
Government	130	135	135	-5	-5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	125	130	130	-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.