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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: October 2019

Food Services and Drinking Places Cut Jobs in October

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in October at 3.4 percent, a streak that spans four consecutive months. At 3.4 percent, Hood River County's rate ranked second in Oregon (out of 36 counties), tied with Washington County but slightly above Benton County's 3.3 percent. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment fell by 200 jobs in October to total 12,000. Private industry cut 170 jobs, falling to 10,570 and government idled 30, dropping to 1,430. Private industry job growth in October was limited to an increase of 20 in other services and a gain of 10 in wholesale trade. Food services and drinking places pulled back in October, falling to 1,300, a loss of 140 jobs. Accommodation cut 30 jobs in October, falling to 440. Manufacturing (-10), retail trade (-10), and education and health services (-10) also cut jobs in October. Local government cut 20 jobs, falling to 1,180 and federal government idled 10, slipping to 140.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 130 jobs over the year ending in October. Professional and business services lost 90 jobs over the year, a drop of 7.8 percent. Retail trade fell 50 jobs shy of its year ago level, dropping to 1,510. Manufacturing led private industry, rising by 120 jobs to total 1,910. Education and health services rose by 50 jobs over the year to total 1,750. Government increased its total by 20 jobs, with federal and state each rising by 10.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in October at 4.5 percent, ranking 13th among Oregon counties, tied with Lane, Malheur, Morrow, and Polk. Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 11th in October 2018, at 4.4 percent.

Wasco County cut 190 nonfarm jobs in October, falling to 10,180. Private industry cut 190 jobs, falling to 8,210, while government held steady with 1,970. Leisure and hospitality cut 140 jobs in October, falling to 1,260. Other services fell to 390, a loss of 20. Local government education rose by 20 jobs in October to total 720 but other local government idled 20, falling to 680.

Over the year ending in October, Wasco County's private industry employment fell by 50 jobs (-0.6%). Information led private industry, rising by 40 jobs to total 210. Manufacturing cut 40 jobs over the year, falling to 620. Professional and business services (-20), education and health services (-20), and leisure and hospitality (-20) also cut jobs over the year. In the public sector, state government rose by 20 jobs to 270 and other local government chipped in 10.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in October to 3.9 percent, ranking seventh out of 36 Oregon counties, just ahead of Clatsop and Sherman (4.0%). Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 13th in October 2018, at 4.5 percent. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment held steady in October, with 995 jobs. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 200 jobs or 25.2 percent to reach 740. Gilliam County's over-the-year growth was fueled in part by an ongoing windfarm construction project, increasing private industry's total to 740, an increase of 195 jobs. Government rose to 255 jobs, an over-the-year increase of five.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in October at 4.1 percent, ranking ninth. Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged over the year, rising by 0.1 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell by 25 jobs in October to total 915. Private industry cut five jobs, falling to 580, while government slipped to 335, a drop of 20. Over the year ending in October, private industry rose by 65 jobs (+12.6%) and government chipped in five.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in October to 4.8 percent, ranking 21st, just ahead of Columbia County (4.9%). Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's eighth lowest in October 2018, at 4.1 percent. Nonfarm employment totaled 305 jobs in October, with private industry cutting five jobs and government rising by five. Over the year ending in October, private industry rose by five jobs to 165 and government chipped in 15 to reach 140.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November 2019 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on December 24th, 2019 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on December 17th, 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--				
	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	September 2019	October 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	996	989	842	7	154
Unemployed	36	37	37	-1	-1
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.7%	4.4%	-0.1	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	4.0%	4.5%	-0.1	-0.6
Employed	960	952	805	8	155
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	995	995	795	0	200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,015	995	810	20	205
Total private	740	740	545	0	195
Trade, transportation, and utilities	145	145	140	0	5
Professional and business services	245	245	225	0	20
Education and health services	60	60	50	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	40	45	45	-5	-5
Government	255	255	250	0	5
Federal government	15	10	10	5	5
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	230	235	230	-5	0

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--				
	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	September 2019	October 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,543	15,656	14,611	-1,113	-68
Unemployed	408	446	474	-38	-66
Unemployment rate	2.8%	2.8%	3.2%	0.0	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	0.0	0.0
Employed	14,135	15,210	14,137	-1,075	-2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,000	12,200	11,850	-200	150
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,210	12,180	12,050	30	160
Total private	10,570	10,740	10,440	-170	130
Mining, logging, and construction	560	560	550	0	10
Manufacturing	1,910	1,920	1,790	-10	120
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,280	2,280	2,300	0	-20
Wholesale trade	530	520	500	10	30
Retail trade	1,510	1,520	1,560	-10	-50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	240	0	0
Information	150	150	140	0	10
Financial activities	370	370	370	0	0
Professional and business services	1,070	1,070	1,160	0	-90
Education and health services	1,750	1,760	1,700	-10	50
Leisure and hospitality	2,040	2,210	2,010	-170	30
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	300	300	290	0	10
Accommodation and food services	1,740	1,910	1,720	-170	20
Accommodation	440	470	450	-30	-10
Food services and drinking places	1,300	1,440	1,270	-140	30
Other services	440	420	420	20	20
Government	1,430	1,460	1,410	-30	20
Federal government	140	150	130	-10	10
State government	110	110	100	0	10
Local government	1,180	1,200	1,180	-20	0
Local education	680	690	670	-10	10
Local government excluding educational services	500	510	510	-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--				
	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	September 2019	October 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	925	951	876	-26	49
Unemployed	29	37	32	-8	-3
Unemployment rate	3.1%	3.9%	3.7%	-0.8	-0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%	0.0	0.1
Employed	896	914	844	-18	52
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	915	940	845	-25	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	920	915	850	5	70
Total private	580	585	515	-5	65
Trade, transportation, and utilities	235	235	235	0	0
Retail trade	90	95	95	-5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	120	125	115	-5	5
Government	335	355	330	-20	5
Federal government	120	120	125	0	-5
State government	45	50	40	-5	5
Local government	170	185	165	-15	5

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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--				
	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	September 2019	October 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,376	12,638	12,558	-262	-182
Unemployed	513	548	565	-35	-52
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.3%	4.5%	-0.2	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.5%	4.4%	0.0	0.1
Employed	11,863	12,090	11,993	-227	-130
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,180	10,370	10,200	-190	-20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,180	10,170	10,200	10	-20
Total private	8,210	8,400	8,260	-190	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	420	420	420	0	0
Mining and logging	60	60	70	0	-10
Construction	360	360	350	0	10
Manufacturing	620	630	660	-10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,050	2,060	2,040	-10	10
Wholesale trade	160	160	150	0	10
Retail trade	1,650	1,660	1,650	-10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	240	0	0
Information	210	200	170	10	40
Financial activities	340	350	330	-10	10
Professional and business services	600	600	620	0	-20
Education and health services	2,320	2,330	2,340	-10	-20
Ambulatory health care services	430	440	430	-10	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	560	560	560	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,260	1,400	1,280	-140	-20
Accommodation and food services	1,170	1,250	1,170	-80	0
Other services	390	410	400	-20	-10
Government	1,970	1,970	1,940	0	30
Federal government	290	290	290	0	0
State government	270	270	250	0	20
Local government	1,410	1,410	1,400	0	10
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	720	700	720	20	0
Local government excluding education and tribal	680	700	670	-20	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--				
	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	September 2019	October 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	726	730	702	-4	24
Unemployed	30	32	27	-2	3
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.4%	3.8%	-0.3	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.9%	4.1%	-0.1	0.7
Employed	696	698	675	-2	21
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	305	305	285	0	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	305	295	285	10	20
Total private	165	170	160	-5	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	40	40	-5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	35	35	30	0	5
Government	140	135	125	5	15
Federal government	10	10	5	0	5
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	130	125	120	5	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.