

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 24, 2019

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

Employment in the Columbia Gorge: November 2019

Winter Recreation Season Arrives

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in November, falling by 0.1 percentage point to 3.3 percent. Hood River County's rate ranked third in Oregon (out of 36 counties), behind second place Washington and first place Benton's 3.1 percent. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was little changed.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 460 jobs in November to total 12,450. Private industry reached 11,030 jobs, an increase of 470 and government idled 10, dropping to 1,420. Arts, entertainment, and recreation led private industry job growth in November, rising by 530 jobs to total 830. Retail trade also performed exceptionally, climbing to 1,680 jobs, an increase of 170. Food services and drinking places continued its seasonal decline, cutting 110. Wholesale trade (-30); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-30); and accommodation (-20) also cut jobs in November. Federal government cut 30 jobs, falling to 110, while state government and local education each rose by 10.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 160 jobs over the year ending in November. Professional and business services lost 90 jobs over the year, a drop of 7.8 percent. Manufacturing led private industry, rising by 100 jobs to total 1,890. Education and health services (+50); retail trade (+40); mining, logging, and construction (+30); accommodation and food services (+20); and other services (+20) also rose over the year. Government increased its total by 20 jobs, with state and local education each rising by 10.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in November to 4.3 percent, ranking 15th among Oregon counties, tied with Malheur and Polk. Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 11th in November 2018, at 4.5 percent.

Wasco County cut 40 nonfarm jobs in November, falling to 10,140. Private industry cut 30 jobs, falling to 8,180, while government idled 10, slipping to 1,960. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities led private industry in November, rising by 20 jobs to 260. Retail trade rose by 10 jobs and education and health services also chipped in 10. Leisure and hospitality continued its seasonal decline, falling to 1,220, for a loss of 40. Construction (-10), manufacturing (-10), and financial activities (-10) also cut jobs in November. Federal government fell to 280 jobs in November, while state and local held steady.

Over the year ending in November, Wasco County's private industry employment fell by 60 jobs (-0.5%). Information led private industry, rising by 40 jobs to total 210. Manufacturing cut 40 jobs over

the year, falling to 610. Education and health services (-30), construction (-20), professional and business 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 federal cut 10.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in November to 3.8 percent, ranking seventh out of 36 Oregon counties, just ahead of Clatsop and Deschutes. Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 13th in November 2018, at 4.6 percent. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment fell to 985 jobs in November, a loss of 10. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 190 jobs or 34.9 percent to reach 735. Gilliam County's over-the-year growth was fueled in part by an ongoing windfarm construction project. Government held steady over the year at 250 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was little changed in November, falling by 0.1 percentage point to 4.0 percent to rank 10th, tied with Tillamook. Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell by 25 jobs in November to total 895. Private industry cut 15 jobs, falling to 565, while government slipped to 330, a drop of 10. Over the year ending in November, private industry rose by 55 jobs (+10.8%) and government cut five.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in November to 4.6 percent, ranking 21st, just ahead of Columbia and Union. Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's eighth lowest in November 2018, at 4.3 percent. Nonfarm employment totaled 305 jobs in November, with private industry cutting five jobs and government rising by five. Over the year ending in November, private industry rose by 10 jobs to 160 and government chipped in five to reach 145.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the December 2019 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on January 28th, 2019 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for December on January 22nd, 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

	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	--Change From--	
				October 2019	November 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	993	997	847	-4	146
Unemployed	32	36	38	-4	-6
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.6%	4.5%	-0.4	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.9%	4.6%	-0.1	-0.8
Employed	961	961	809	0	152
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	985	995	795	-10	190
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,000	1,015	805	-15	195
Total private	735	740	545	-5	190
Trade, transportation, and utilities	145	145	135	0	10
Professional and business services	240	245	230	-5	10
Education and health services	60	60	50	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	40	0	0
Government	250	255	250	-5	0
Federal government	10	15	10	-5	0
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	230	230	230	0	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

	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	--Change From--	
				October 2019	November 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,686	14,540	13,760	-854	-74
Unemployed	348	406	471	-58	-123
Unemployment rate	2.5%	2.8%	3.4%	-0.3	-0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.3%	3.4%	3.4%	-0.1	-0.1
Employed	13,338	14,134	13,289	-796	49
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,450	11,990	12,270	460	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,160</i>	<i>12,200</i>	<i>11,980</i>	<i>-40</i>	<i>180</i>
Total private	11,030	10,560	10,870	470	160
Mining, logging, and construction	550	560	520	-10	30
Manufacturing	1,890	1,900	1,790	-10	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,390	2,280	2,340	110	50
Wholesale trade	500	530	490	-30	10
Retail trade	1,680	1,510	1,640	170	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	210	240	210	-30	0
Information	150	150	140	0	10
Financial activities	360	370	360	-10	0
Professional and business services	1,060	1,070	1,150	-10	-90
Education and health services	1,760	1,750	1,710	10	50
Leisure and hospitality	2,440	2,040	2,440	400	0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	830	300	850	530	-20
Accommodation and food services	1,610	1,740	1,590	-130	20
Accommodation	420	440	410	-20	10
Food services and drinking places	1,190	1,300	1,180	-110	10
Other services	430	440	420	-10	10
Government	1,420	1,430	1,400	-10	20
Federal government	110	140	110	-30	0
State government	120	110	110	10	10
Local government	1,190	1,180	1,180	10	10
Local education	690	680	680	10	10
Local government excluding educational services	500	500	500	0	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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	October 2019	November 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	921	927	871	-6	50
Unemployed	34	29	33	5	1
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.1%	3.8%	0.6	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.1%	4.0%	-0.1	0.0
Employed	887	898	838	-11	49
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	895	920	845	-25	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	920	925	870	-5	50
Total private	565	580	510	-15	55
Trade, transportation, and utilities	235	235	230	0	5
Retail trade	90	90	90	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	110	120	105	-10	5
Government	330	340	335	-10	-5
Federal government	120	120	130	0	-10
State government	45	50	40	-5	5
Local government	165	170	165	-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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	--Change From--	
				October 2019	November 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,443	12,384	12,704	59	-261
Unemployed	461	511	586	-50	-125
Unemployment rate	3.7%	4.1%	4.6%	-0.4	-0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.5%	4.5%	-0.2	-0.2
Employed	11,982	11,873	12,118	109	-136
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,140	10,180	10,190	-40	-50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,190</i>	<i>10,180</i>	<i>10,240</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>-50</i>
Total private	8,180	8,210	8,240	-30	-60
Mining, logging, and construction	410	420	440	-10	-30
Mining and logging	60	60	70	0	-10
Construction	350	360	370	-10	-20
Manufacturing	610	620	650	-10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,080	2,050	2,050	30	30
Wholesale trade	160	160	150	0	10
Retail trade	1,660	1,650	1,660	10	0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	260	240	240	20	20
Information	210	210	170	0	40
Financial activities	330	340	320	-10	10
Professional and business services	600	600	620	0	-20
Education and health services	2,330	2,320	2,360	10	-30
Ambulatory health care services	440	430	430	10	10
Nursing and residential care facilities	570	560	570	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,220	1,260	1,240	-40	-20
Accommodation and food services	1,140	1,170	1,150	-30	-10
Other services	390	390	390	0	0
Government	1,960	1,970	1,950	-10	10
Federal government	280	290	290	-10	-10
State government	270	270	250	0	20
Local government	1,410	1,410	1,410	0	0
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	720	720	730	0	-10
Local government excluding education and tribal	680	680	670	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

	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	--Change From--	
				October 2019	November 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	717	726	710	-9	7
Unemployed	27	30	27	-3	0
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.1%	3.8%	-0.3	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.8%	4.3%	-0.2	0.3
Employed	690	696	683	-6	7
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	305	305	290	0	15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	295	305	285	-10	10
Total private	160	165	150	-5	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	40	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	30	35	25	-5	5
Government	145	140	140	5	5
Federal government	10	10	5	0	5
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	135	130	135	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.