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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: December 2019

Winter Recreation Leads Hiring Activity in December

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in December, to 3.1 percent. Hood River County's rate ranked third in Oregon (out of 36 counties), with Benton and Washington counties tied for first at 3.0 percent. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped by 0.3 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 170 jobs in December to total 12,620. Private industry reached 11,220 jobs, an increase of 190, and government idled 20, falling to 1,400. Arts, entertainment, and recreation led private industry job growth in December, rising by 230 jobs to total 1,060. Mining, logging, and construction (-30); retail trade (-30); and manufacturing (-20) cut jobs in December. In the public sector, federal government cut 10 jobs in December, falling to 100, and other local government lost 10, dropping to 490.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 190 jobs over the year ending in December, an increase of 1.7 percent. Professional and business services lost 60 jobs over the year, a drop of 5.3 percent. Arts, entertainment, and recreation cut 30 jobs, down 3.6 percent. Manufacturing led private industry, rising by 100 jobs to total 1,870. Retail trade (+70); education and health services (+40); mining, logging, and construction (+30); information (+20); and other services (+20) also rose over the year. Government increased its total by 20 jobs, with federal government and local education each rising by 10.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in December to 4.1 percent, ranking 16th among Oregon counties, tied with Jackson and Polk. Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 10th in December 2018, at 4.5 percent.

Wasco County lost 70 nonfarm jobs in December, falling to 10,070. Private industry cut 60 jobs, falling to 8,120, while government idled 10, slipping to 1,950. At the industry level, construction cut 30 jobs in December, falling to 320. Professional and business services (-20) and leisure and hospitality (-20) also cut jobs in December. Private industry job gains were limited to transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+20) and education and health services (+20). Local government education idled 10 in December, falling to 710.

Over the year ending in December, Wasco County's private industry employment fell by 140 jobs (-1.4%). Information produced private industry's largest gain, rising by 40 jobs to total 210. Leisure and

hospitality cut 60 jobs, falling to 1,200 and construction slashed 50. Private industry job losses also hit manufacturing (-40); education and health services (-30); mining and logging (-20); and professional and business services (-20). In the public sector, other local government rose by 20 jobs and state government chipped in 10, while local education shed 20.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point in December to 3.5 percent, ranking seventh out of 36 Oregon counties, just ahead of Clatsop and Deschutes. Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked 10th in December 2018, at 4.5 percent. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose to 1,000 jobs in December, an increase of 10. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 190 jobs or 34.2 percent to reach 745. Gilliam County's over-the-year growth was fueled in part by an ongoing windfarm construction project. Government chipped in five, rising to 255 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in December at 4.0 percent to rank 12th, tied with Lane, Malheur, and Morrow counties. Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was little changed over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 20 jobs in December to total 915. Private industry cut five jobs, falling to 560, while government increased its total by 25, rising to 355. Over the year ending in December, private industry rose by 45 jobs (+8.7%) and government cut five.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by a scant 0.1 percentage point in December to 4.5 percent, ranking 21st, just ahead of Columbia and Union. Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's 10th lowest in December 2018, also at 4.5 percent. Nonfarm employment totaled 275 jobs in December, with private industry cutting 15 jobs and government idling 10. Over the year ending in December, private industry rose by 15 jobs to 145 and government cut five, falling to 125.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January 2020 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on March 10th, 2020 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on March 3rd, 2020.

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--				
	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	November 2019	December 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	997	993	846	4	151
Unemployed	29	30	37	-1	-8
Unemployment rate	2.9%	3.0%	4.4%	-0.1	-1.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.5%	3.8%	4.5%	-0.3	-1.0
Employed	968	963	809	5	159
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,000	990	805	10	195
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,010	1,005	815	5	195
Total private	745	735	555	10	190
Trade, transportation, and utilities	145	145	135	0	10
Professional and business services	240	240	235	0	5
Education and health services	60	60	60	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	45	0	-5
Government	255	255	250	0	5
Federal government	15	10	15	5	0
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	230	235	225	-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--				
	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	November 2019	December 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,813	13,690	13,849	123	-36
Unemployed	339	348	476	-9	-137
Unemployment rate	2.5%	2.5%	3.4%	0.0	-0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%	-0.2	-0.3
Employed	13,474	13,342	13,373	132	101
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,620	12,450	12,410	170	210
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,200	12,160	12,000	40	200
Total private	11,220	11,030	11,030	190	190
Mining, logging, and construction	520	550	490	-30	30
Manufacturing	1,870	1,890	1,770	-20	100
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,370	2,390	2,300	-20	70
Wholesale trade	510	500	510	10	0
Retail trade	1,650	1,680	1,580	-30	70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	210	210	210	0	0
Information	160	150	140	10	20
Financial activities	350	360	350	-10	0
Professional and business services	1,070	1,060	1,130	10	-60
Education and health services	1,770	1,760	1,730	10	40
Leisure and hospitality	2,680	2,440	2,710	240	-30
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,060	830	1,100	230	-40
Accommodation and food services	1,620	1,610	1,610	10	10
Accommodation	420	420	420	0	0
Food services and drinking places	1,200	1,190	1,190	10	10
Other services	430	430	410	0	20
Government	1,400	1,420	1,380	-20	20
Federal government	100	110	90	-10	10
State government	120	120	120	0	0
Local government	1,180	1,190	1,170	-10	10
Local education	690	690	690	0	0
Local government excluding educational services	490	500	480	-10	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--				
	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	November 2019	December 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	933	922	885	11	48
Unemployed	35	34	37	1	-2
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.7%	4.2%	0.1	-0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%	0.0	-0.1
Employed	898	888	848	10	50
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	915	895	875	20	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	925	920	885	5	40
Total private	560	565	515	-5	45
Trade, transportation, and utilities	230	235	225	-5	5
Retail trade	90	90	85	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	105	110	105	-5	0
Government	355	330	360	25	-5
Federal government	125	120	130	5	-5
State government	45	45	40	0	5
Local government	185	165	190	20	-5

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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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	November 2019	December 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,304	12,447	12,556	-143	-252
Unemployed	457	460	624	-3	-167
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.7%	5.0%	0.0	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.3%	4.5%	-0.2	-0.4
Employed	11,847	11,987	11,932	-140	-85
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,070	10,140	10,210	-70	-140
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,170	10,190	10,320	-20	-150
Total private	8,120	8,180	8,270	-60	-150
Mining, logging, and construction	370	410	440	-40	-70
Mining and logging	50	60	70	-10	-20
Construction	320	350	370	-30	-50
Manufacturing	600	610	640	-10	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,100	2,080	2,080	20	20
Wholesale trade	160	160	150	0	10
Retail trade	1,660	1,660	1,650	0	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	280	260	280	20	0
Information	210	210	170	0	40
Financial activities	330	330	320	0	10
Professional and business services	580	600	600	-20	-20
Education and health services	2,350	2,330	2,380	20	-30
Ambulatory health care services	440	440	440	0	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	580	570	580	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,200	1,220	1,260	-20	-60
Accommodation and food services	1,140	1,140	1,170	0	-30
Other services	380	390	380	-10	0
Government	1,950	1,960	1,940	-10	10
Federal government	280	280	280	0	0
State government	270	270	260	0	10
Local government	1,400	1,410	1,400	-10	0
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	710	720	730	-10	-20
Local government excluding education and tribal	680	680	660	0	20

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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--				
	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	November 2019	December 2018
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	677	710	670	-33	7
Unemployed	26	26	31	0	-5
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.7%	4.6%	0.1	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.6%	4.5%	-0.1	0.0
Employed	651	684	639	-33	12
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	275	300	265	-25	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	285	290	275	-5	10
Total private	145	160	130	-15	15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	40	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	20	30	10	-10	10
Government	130	140	135	-10	-5
Federal government	5	10	10	-5	-5
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	125	130	125	-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.