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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: August 2020

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Improve in August

In August, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 6.2 percent, a drop of 2.2 percentage points. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 3.4 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 110 jobs in August to total 10,320. Private industry rose by 70 jobs, climbing to 9,100, while government chipped in 40, increasing its total to 1,220.

Hood River County's private industry employment fell by 1,770 jobs over the year ending in August, a loss of 16.3 percent. COVID-19 impacts in accommodation and food services idled 690 jobs, dropping the industry's total to 1,340 (-34.0%). Manufacturing cut 340 jobs (-17.6%) over the year, falling to 1,590. Retail trade suffered an over-the-year loss of 160 jobs (-10.3%), dropping to 1,400. Education and health services idled 130 jobs (-7.5%) and arts, entertainment, and recreation cut its payrolls by 90 (-28.1%). Wholesale trade lost 80 jobs (-17.8%) over the year; mining, logging, and construction trimmed 70 (-12.3%); professional and business services shed 60 (-5.2%); and other services sliced 30 (-7.1%).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 2.2 percentage points in August to 6.8 percent. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.8 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment rose by a scant 20 jobs in August to 9,440. Private industry lost 20 jobs in August, falling to 7,700 and government rose by 40 to reach 1,740.

Over the year ending in August, Wasco County's private industry employment fell by 820 jobs (-9.6%). Accommodation and food services idled 270 jobs as a result of COVID-19 closures, cutting its total to 1,040, a loss of 20.6 percent. Education and health services trimmed its payrolls by 110 jobs (-4.7%), falling to 2,230 and other services cut 100 jobs, dropping to 320 (-23.8%). Construction lost 90 jobs, falling to 290, and financial activities idled 30, cutting its total to 310.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.9 percentage points in August to 6.2 percent. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.8 percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment fell to 960 jobs in August, a loss of 10. Over the year,

Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 60 jobs. Government cut 35 jobs over the year, falling to 245.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points in August to 6.6 percent. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 3.1 percentage points. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell by 15 jobs in August to 860. Private industry cut 15 jobs, falling to 560, while government held steady with 300. Over the year ending in August, private industry cut 65 jobs (-10.4%) and government idled 45 (-13.0%).

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage point in August to 4.4 percent. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point. Nonfarm employment totaled 265 jobs in August, with private industry holding steady and government rising by five. Over the year ending in August, private industry lost 25 jobs, falling to 155 (-13.9%) and government cut five, dropping its total to 110 (-4.3%).

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the September 2020 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on October 20th, 2020 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for September on October 13th, 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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To file an Unemployment Insurance claim, visit our online claims system or call our contact centers, where Employment Department staff are ready to help by phone, at 1-877-FILE-4-UI (1-877-345-3484). For coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment COVID19](http://Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, 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--				
	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	July 2020	August 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,023	1,031	966	-8	57
Unemployed	61	83	32	-22	29
Unemployment rate	6.0%	8.1%	3.3%	-2.1	2.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	8.1%	3.4%	-1.9	2.8
Employed	962	948	934	14	28
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	960	970	935	-10	25
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	940	950	915	-10	25
Total private	715	725	655	-10	60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	125	130	145	-5	-20
Professional and business services	225	225	235	0	-10
Education and health services	60	55	60	5	0
Leisure and hospitality	45	45	50	0	-5
Government	245	245	280	0	-35
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	225	225	255	0	-30

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--				
	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	July 2020	August 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	15,250	15,415	16,439	-165	-1,189
Unemployed	831	1,240	474	-409	357
Unemployment rate	5.4%	8.0%	2.9%	-2.6	2.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.2%	8.4%	2.8%	-2.2	3.4
Employed	14,419	14,175	15,965	244	-1,546
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,320	10,210	12,140	110	-1,820
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,330	10,310	12,150	20	-1,820
Total private	9,100	9,030	10,870	70	-1,770
Mining, logging, and construction	500	500	570	0	-70
Manufacturing	1,590	1,580	1,930	10	-340
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,930	1,880	2,240	50	-310
Wholesale trade	370	330	450	40	-80
Retail trade	1,400	1,390	1,560	10	-160
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	160	230	0	-70
Information	120	120	150	0	-30
Financial activities	310	310	330	0	-20
Professional and business services	1,090	1,090	1,150	0	-60
Education and health services	1,600	1,590	1,730	10	-130
Leisure and hospitality	1,570	1,570	2,350	0	-780
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	230	230	320	0	-90
Accommodation and food services	1,340	1,340	2,030	0	-690
Accommodation	340	340	500	0	-160
Food services and drinking places	1,000	1,000	1,530	0	-530
Other services	390	390	420	0	-30
Government	1,220	1,180	1,270	40	-50
Federal government	180	150	160	30	20
State government	110	110	110	0	0
Local government	930	920	1,000	10	-70
Local education	450	440	470	10	-20
Local government excluding educational services	480	480	530	0	-50

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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--				
	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	July 2020	August 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	947	952	1,000	-5	-53
Unemployed	60	72	35	-12	25
Unemployment rate	6.3%	7.6%	3.5%	-1.3	2.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	6.6%	7.8%	3.5%	-1.2	3.1
Employed	887	880	965	7	-78
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	860	875	970	-15	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	855	840	965	15	-110
Total private	560	575	625	-15	-65
Trade, transportation, and utilities	285	290	255	-5	30
Retail trade	120	125	95	-5	25
Leisure and hospitality	90	90	130	0	-40
Government	300	300	345	0	-45
Federal government	120	120	120	0	0
State government	40	40	65	0	-25
Local government	140	140	160	0	-20

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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--				
	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	July 2020	August 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,224	17,873	13,726	-4,649	-502
Unemployed	879	1,235	532	-356	347
Unemployment rate	6.6%	6.9%	3.9%	-0.3	2.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.8%</i>	<i>9.0%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>-2.2</i>	<i>2.8</i>
Employed	12,345	16,638	13,194	-4,293	-849
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,440	9,420	10,330	20	-890
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>9,360</i>	<i>9,250</i>	<i>10,240</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>-880</i>
Total private	7,700	7,720	8,520	-20	-820
Mining, logging, and construction	340	340	450	0	-110
Mining and logging	50	60	70	-10	-20
Construction	290	280	380	10	-90
Manufacturing	580	570	600	10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0
Wholesale trade	150	150	170	0	-20
Retail trade	1,690	1,700	1,680	-10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	260	250	250	10	10
Information	210	210	170	0	40
Financial activities	310	310	340	0	-30
Professional and business services	520	520	590	0	-70
Education and health services	2,230	2,260	2,340	-30	-110
Ambulatory health care services	430	430	450	0	-20
Nursing and residential care facilities	560	570	560	-10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,090	1,090	1,510	0	-420
Accommodation and food services	1,040	1,040	1,310	0	-270
Other services	320	320	420	0	-100
Government	1,740	1,700	1,810	40	-70
Federal government	310	290	300	20	10
State government	260	260	280	0	-20
Local government	1,170	1,150	1,230	20	-60
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	520	490	540	30	-20
Local government excluding education and tribal	640	650	680	-10	-40

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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--				
	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	July 2020	August 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	664	645	710	19	-46
Unemployed	29	32	30	-3	-1
Unemployment rate	4.4%	5.0%	4.2%	-0.6	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.9%	4.2%	-0.5	0.2
Employed	635	613	680	22	-45
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	265	260	295	5	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	270	260	300	10	-30
Total private	155	155	180	0	-25
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	35	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	20	20	40	0	-20
Government	110	105	115	5	-5
Federal government	10	5	10	5	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	100	100	105	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.

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.