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## **Employment in the Columbia Gorge: October 2020**

### **Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Move Lower in October**

In October, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.3 percent, a drop of 0.7 percentage point. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked fourth lowest out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Benton, but trailing top ranked Wheeler (4.1%), Morrow (5.1%), and Malheur (5.2%). Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.6 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 140 jobs in October to total 10,910. Private industry rose by 150 jobs, climbing to 9,620, while government cut 10 jobs, falling to 1,290.

Hood River County's private industry employment fell by 810 jobs over the year ending in October, a loss of 7.8 percent. COVID-19 impacts in accommodation and food services idled 290 jobs, dropping the industry's total to 1,460 (-16.6%). Professional and business services cut 110 jobs (-10%) over the year, falling to 990. Manufacturing cut 90 jobs (-4.8%) over the year, falling to 1,770. Retail trade also suffered an over-the-year loss of 90 jobs (-6.1%), dropping to 1,390. Arts, entertainment, and recreation cut its payrolls by 60 (-18.8%), and education and health services idled 50 jobs (-2.9%). Transportation, warehousing, and utilities sliced 50 (-23.8%) and mining, logging, and construction lost 40 jobs over the year (-7.4%).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage point in October to 6.0 percent, ranking 10<sup>th</sup> among Oregon counties, tied with Umatilla and Yamhill. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.4 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell by 70 jobs in October to 9,750. Private industry lost 90 jobs in October, falling to 7,840 and government rose by 20 to reach 1,910.

Over the year ending in October, Wasco County's private industry employment fell by 370 jobs (-4.5%). Accommodation and food services idled 170 jobs as a result of COVID-19 closures, cutting its total to 1,030, a loss of 14.2 percent. Professional and business services trimmed its payrolls by 60 jobs (-10.9%), falling to 490. Other services cut 60 jobs, dropping to 320 (-15.8%). Education and health services lost 40 jobs, falling to 2,310 and wholesale trade cut 40 (-22.2%). Information performed exceptionally well over the year, rising by 50 jobs or 25 percent to total 250.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage point in October to 5.6 percent, ranking seventh out of 36 Oregon counties, trailing Sherman (5.5%). Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.0 percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment held steady in October, with 925 jobs. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 105 jobs. Government cut 10 jobs over the year, falling to 240.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.0 percentage point in October to 5.5 percent, good enough to rank sixth in Oregon, trailing Benton (5.3%) and Hood River. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.3 percentage points. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by five jobs in October to 940. Private industry chipped in five jobs to reach 620, while government held steady at 320. Over the year ending in October, both private industry and government held steady.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by a scant 0.1 percentage point in October to 4.1 percent, earning the distinction of lowest county unemployment rate in Oregon. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point. Nonfarm employment totaled 295 jobs in October, with both private industry and government unchanged. Over the year ending in October, private industry lost five jobs, falling to 160 (-3.0%) and government cut 10 (-6.9%), falling to 135.

### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the November 2020 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 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/](http://www.qualityinfo.org/press-release/). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://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](http://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 2020	September 2020	October 2019	September 2020	October 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	1,014	971	877	43	137
Unemployed	52	58	31	-6	21
Unemployment rate	5.1%	6.0%	3.5%	-0.9	1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6%	6.5%	3.6%	-0.9	2.0
Employed	962	913	846	49	116
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	925	925	830	0	95
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	960	935	860	25	100
Total private	685	695	580	-10	105
Trade, transportation, and utilities	130	130	135	0	-5
Professional and business services	235	235	240	0	-5
Education and health services	70	70	65	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	35	35	45	0	-10
Government	240	230	250	10	-10
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	220	210	225	10	-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--				
	October 2020	September 2020	October 2019	September 2020	October 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	14,383	14,524	14,332	-141	51
Unemployed	693	727	341	-34	352
Unemployment rate	4.8%	5.0%	2.4%	-0.2	2.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	6.0%	2.7%	-0.7	2.6
Employed	13,690	13,797	13,991	-107	-301
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,910	10,770	11,860	140	-950
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,120	10,790	12,080	330	-960
Total private	9,620	9,470	10,430	150	-810
Mining, logging, and construction	500	510	540	-10	-40
Manufacturing	1,770	1,720	1,860	50	-90
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,090	2,060	2,230	30	-140
Wholesale trade	540	510	540	30	0
Retail trade	1,390	1,390	1,480	0	-90
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	160	210	0	-50
Information	110	110	140	0	-30
Financial activities	310	320	340	-10	-30
Professional and business services	990	990	1,100	0	-110
Education and health services	1,700	1,700	1,750	0	-50
Leisure and hospitality	1,720	1,640	2,070	80	-350
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	260	130	320	130	-60
Accommodation and food services	1,460	1,510	1,750	-50	-290
Accommodation	380	390	440	-10	-60
Food services and drinking places	1,080	1,120	1,310	-40	-230
Other services	430	420	400	10	30
Government	1,290	1,300	1,430	-10	-140
Federal government	140	160	140	-20	0
State government	90	90	110	0	-20
Local government	1,060	1,050	1,180	10	-120
Local education	570	560	680	10	-110
Local government excluding educational services	490	490	500	0	-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 2020	September 2020	October 2019	September 2020	October 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	989	958	945	31	44
Unemployed	48	54	25	-6	23
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.6%	2.6%	-0.7	2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.5%	6.5%	3.2%	-1.0	2.3
Employed	941	904	920	37	21
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	940	935	940	5	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	945	915	945	30	0
Total private	620	615	620	5	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	315	250	5	70
Retail trade	150	150	95	0	55
Leisure and hospitality	85	80	115	5	-30
Government	320	320	320	0	0
Federal government	125	120	120	5	5
State government	40	40	45	0	-5
Local government	155	160	155	-5	0

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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--				
	October 2020	September 2020	October 2019	September 2020	October 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,884	12,355	12,541	529	343
Unemployed	745	797	434	-52	311
Unemployment rate	5.8%	6.5%	3.5%	-0.7	2.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>6.7%</i>	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>-0.7</i>	<i>2.4</i>
Employed	12,139	11,558	12,107	581	32
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	9,750	9,820	10,190	-70	-440
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>9,740</i>	<i>9,670</i>	<i>10,180</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>-440</i>
Total private	7,840	7,930	8,210	-90	-370
Mining, logging, and construction	420	430	420	-10	0
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	360	370	360	-10	0
Manufacturing	560	550	570	10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,080	2,080	2,110	0	-30
Wholesale trade	140	140	180	0	-40
Retail trade	1,680	1,680	1,690	0	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	260	260	240	0	20
Information	250	250	200	0	50
Financial activities	330	340	330	-10	0
Professional and business services	490	490	550	0	-60
Education and health services	2,310	2,300	2,350	10	-40
Ambulatory health care services	460	450	450	10	10
Nursing and residential care facilities	590	590	570	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,080	1,170	1,300	-90	-220
Accommodation and food services	1,030	1,090	1,200	-60	-170
Other services	320	320	380	0	-60
Government	1,910	1,890	1,980	20	-70
Federal government	280	300	290	-20	-10
State government	260	250	260	10	0
Local government	1,370	1,340	1,430	30	-60
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	690	660	750	30	-60
Local government excluding education and tribal	670	670	670	0	0

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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.

### Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	October 2020	September 2020	October 2019	September 2020	October 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	738	701	737	37	1
Unemployed	28	25	26	3	2
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.6%	3.5%	0.2	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.2%	3.9%	-0.1	0.2
Employed	710	676	711	34	-1
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	295	295	310	0	-15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	290	285	305	5	-15
Total private	160	160	165	0	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	40	35	-5	0
Leisure and hospitality	20	15	30	5	-10
Government	135	135	145	0	-10
Federal government	5	10	10	-5	-5
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	130	125	135	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.

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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.