

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 22, 2020

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

Employment in the Columbia Gorge: November 2020

Seasonal Employment Trends Muted in November

In November, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.8%, a drop of 0.5 percentage point. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked sixth lowest out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Lake. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.2 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment rose by 330 jobs in November to total 11,240. Private industry rose by 310 jobs, climbing to 9,930, while government chipped in 20 to reach 1,310.

Hood River County's private industry employment fell by 910 jobs over the year ending in November, a loss of 8.4%. COVID-19 impacts in accommodation and food services idled 330 jobs, dropping the industry's total to 1,310 (-20.1%). Retail trade suffered an over-the-year loss of 120 jobs (-7.2%), dropping to 1,550. Professional and business services cut 90 jobs (-8.3%) over the year, falling to 990. Manufacturing idled 90 jobs (-4.9%), cutting its total to 1,750. Arts, entertainment, and recreation trimmed its payrolls by 90 jobs (-13%), dropping to 600. Education and health services idled 60 jobs (-3.4%), wholesale lost 50 (-8.5%), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities sliced 40 (-21.1%).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage point in November to 5.2%, ranking 12th among Oregon counties, trailing Washington (5.1%) and Yamhill. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 1.6 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment rose by 20 jobs in November to 9,770. Private industry gained 30 jobs, rising to 7,870 and government cut 10, falling to 1,900.

Over the year ending in November, Wasco County's private industry employment fell by 310 jobs (-3.8%). Accommodation and food services idled 150 jobs as a result of COVID-19 closures, cutting its total to 1,020, a loss of 12.8%. Other services cut 60 jobs, dropping to 310 (-16.2%). Professional and business services trimmed its payrolls by 40 jobs (-7.5%), falling to 490. Retail trade lost 30 jobs over the year ending in November, cutting its total to 1,680. Education and health services lost 20 jobs (-0.9%), falling to 2,320, and wholesale trade cut 20 (-12.5%), dropping to 140. Information performed exceptionally well over the year, rising by 40 jobs or 19.0% to total 250.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point in November to 5.0%, ranking eighth out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Umatilla. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 1.5 percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment held steady in November, with 925 jobs. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 120 jobs. Government cut five jobs over the year, falling to 240.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.1 percentage points in November to 4.3%, good enough to rank third in Oregon, tied with Morrow. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.9 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell by five jobs in November to 935. Private industry cut five jobs, falling to 615, while government held steady at 320. Over the year ending in November, private industry rose by 50 jobs and government cut five.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point in November to 3.9%, earning the distinction of lowest county unemployment rate in Oregon. Over the year Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged. Nonfarm employment totaled 290 jobs in November, with a loss of five in private industry. Over the year ending in November, private industry lost five jobs, falling to 155 (-3.1%) and government cut five (-3.6%), falling to 135.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the December 2020 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Tuesday, Jan. 26 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for December on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

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.

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. 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

	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	--Change From--	
				October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,007	1,012	860	-5	147
Unemployed	47	49	28	-2	19
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.8%	3.3%	-0.1	1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.3%	3.5%	-0.3	1.5
Employed	960	963	832	-3	128
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	925	925	810	0	115
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	955	960	835	-5	120
Total private	685	685	565	0	120
Trade, transportation, and utilities	125	130	135	-5	-10
Professional and business services	240	235	240	5	0
Education and health services	70	70	65	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	35	35	40	0	-5
Government	240	240	245	0	-5
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	220	220	225	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.

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,572	14,390	13,745	-818	-173
Unemployed	623	685	329	-62	294
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.8%	2.4%	-0.2	2.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	5.3%	2.6%	-0.5	2.2
Employed	12,949	13,705	13,416	-756	-467
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,240	10,910	12,290	330	-1,050
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,010	11,120	12,030	-110	-1,020
Total private	9,930	9,620	10,840	310	-910
Mining, logging, and construction	500	500	510	0	-10
Manufacturing	1,750	1,770	1,840	-20	-90
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,240	2,090	2,450	150	-210
Wholesale trade	540	540	590	0	-50
Retail trade	1,550	1,390	1,670	160	-120
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	160	190	-10	-40
Information	110	110	140	0	-30
Financial activities	300	310	310	-10	-10
Professional and business services	990	990	1,080	0	-90
Education and health services	1,700	1,700	1,760	0	-60
Leisure and hospitality	1,910	1,720	2,330	190	-420
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	600	260	690	340	-90
Accommodation and food services	1,310	1,460	1,640	-150	-330
Accommodation	350	380	410	-30	-60
Food services and drinking places	960	1,080	1,230	-120	-270
Other services	430	430	420	0	10
Government	1,310	1,290	1,450	20	-140
Federal government	130	140	110	-10	20
State government	100	90	130	10	-30
Local government	1,080	1,060	1,210	20	-130
Local education	580	570	700	10	-120
Local government excluding educational services	500	490	510	10	-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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	973	992	919	-19	54
Unemployed	39	48	31	-9	8
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.8%	3.4%	-0.8	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	5.4%	3.4%	-1.1	0.9
Employed	934	944	888	-10	46
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	935	940	890	-5	45
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	970	945	920	25	50
Total private	615	620	565	-5	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	320	320	240	0	80
Retail trade	145	150	85	-5	60
Leisure and hospitality	80	85	75	-5	5
Government	320	320	325	0	-5
Federal government	120	125	120	-5	0
State government	45	40	55	5	-10
Local government	155	155	150	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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,798	12,886	12,552	-88	246
Unemployed	643	737	428	-94	215
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.7%	3.4%	-0.7	1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	5.9%	3.6%	-0.7	1.6
Employed	12,155	12,149	12,124	6	31
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,770	9,750	10,180	20	-410
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	9,810	9,740	10,230	70	-420
Total private	7,870	7,840	8,180	30	-310
Mining, logging, and construction	420	420	430	0	-10
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	360	360	370	0	-10
Manufacturing	560	560	580	0	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,110	2,080	2,130	30	-20
Wholesale trade	140	140	160	0	-20
Retail trade	1,680	1,680	1,710	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	290	260	260	30	30
Information	250	250	210	0	40
Financial activities	330	330	330	0	0
Professional and business services	490	490	530	0	-40
Education and health services	2,320	2,310	2,340	10	-20
Ambulatory health care services	460	460	450	0	10
Nursing and residential care facilities	600	590	570	10	30
Leisure and hospitality	1,080	1,080	1,260	0	-180
Accommodation and food services	1,020	1,030	1,170	-10	-150
Other services	310	320	370	-10	-60
Government	1,900	1,910	2,000	-10	-100
Federal government	270	280	280	-10	-10
State government	260	260	280	0	-20
Local government	1,370	1,370	1,440	0	-70
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	700	690	760	10	-60
Local government excluding education and tribal	660	670	670	-10	-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

	--Change From--				
	November 2020	October 2020	November 2019	October 2020	November 2019
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	722	740	719	-18	3
Unemployed	25	30	25	-5	0
Unemployment rate	3.5%	4.1%	3.5%	-0.6	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	4.3%	3.9%	-0.4	0.0
Employed	697	710	694	-13	3
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	290	295	300	-5	-10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	290	290	300	0	-10
Total private	155	160	160	-5	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	40	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	20	20	15	0	5
Government	135	135	140	0	-5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	130	130	135	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.