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

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

### **Leisure and Hospitality Slashes Employment in December**

In December, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 5.2%, an increase of 0.3 percentage point. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked ninth lowest out of 36 Oregon counties, trailing Harney (5.0%) and just in front of Wallowa (5.3%). Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.6 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment fell by 770 jobs in December to total 10,280. Private industry cut 730 jobs, dropping to 9,020, while government fell to 1,260, a loss of 40.

Hood River County's private industry employment fell by 2,130 jobs over the year ending in December, a loss of 19.1%. COVID-19 impacts in accommodation and food services idled 770 jobs, dropping the industry's total to 840 (-47.8%). Arts, entertainment, and recreation trimmed its payrolls by 670 jobs (-65.0%), dropping to 360. Manufacturing idled 210 jobs (-11.5%), cutting its total to 1,610. Retail trade suffered an over-the-year loss of 140 jobs (-8.5%), dropping to 1,510. Professional and business services cut 110 jobs (-10.0%) over the year, falling to 990. Education and health services idled 50 jobs (-2.9%), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities sliced 50 (-25.0%).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.5 percentage point in December to 6.0%, ranking 18<sup>th</sup> among Oregon counties, trailing Lane (5.9%) and Linn. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 2.5 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell by 310 jobs in December to 9,460. Private industry cut 320 jobs, falling to 7,560 and government rose by 10 to reach 1,900.

Over the year ending in December, Wasco County's private industry employment fell by 560 jobs (-6.9%). Accommodation and food services idled 390 jobs as a result of COVID-19 closures, cutting its total to 790, a loss of 33.1%. Other services cut 60 jobs, dropping to 300 (-16.7%). Professional and business services trimmed its payrolls by 50 jobs (-9.3%), falling to 490. Education and health services lost 30 jobs (-1.3%), falling to 2,320, and wholesale trade cut 30 (-17.6%), 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 0.2 percentage point in December to 4.8%, ranking seventh out of 36 Oregon counties, trailing Malheur (4.6%). Over the year, Gilliam

County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 1.3 percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment fell by 15 jobs in December to total 915. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 110 jobs to reach 670. Government cut 15 jobs over the year, falling to 245.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by a scant 0.1 percentage point in December to 4.4%, good enough to rank third in Oregon, trailing Benton (4.3%) and Wheeler (4.2%). Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 1.0 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment held steady in December at 920. Private industry cut 25, falling to 580, while government rose by 25 to reach 340. Over the year ending in December, private industry rose by five jobs and government cut five.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in December to 4.2%, holding onto Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point. Nonfarm employment totaled 280 jobs in December, with a loss of 10 in private industry. Over the year ending in December, private industry held steady at 145 and government held its own with 130.

### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January 2021 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

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--				
	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	November 2020	December 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	997	1,010	868	-13	129
Unemployed	46	47	31	-1	15
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.7%	3.6%	-0.1	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	5.0%	3.5%	-0.2	1.3
Employed	951	963	837	-12	114
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	915	930	820	-15	95
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	935	960	835	-25	100
Total private	670	685	560	-15	110
Trade, transportation, and utilities	125	125	130	0	-5
Professional and business services	240	240	240	0	0
Education and health services	70	65	70	5	0
Leisure and hospitality	30	35	35	-5	-5
Government	245	245	260	0	-15
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	225	225	235	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.

## Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	November 2020	December 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,986	13,503	13,736	-517	-750
Unemployed	694	626	337	68	357
Unemployment rate	5.3%	4.6%	2.5%	0.7	2.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	4.9%	2.6%	0.3	2.6
Employed	12,292	12,877	13,399	-585	-1,107
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,280	11,050	12,560	-770	-2,280
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	9,930	10,820	12,130	-890	-2,200
Total private	9,020	9,750	11,150	-730	-2,130
Mining, logging, and construction	490	500	510	-10	-20
Manufacturing	1,610	1,750	1,820	-140	-210
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,210	2,240	2,420	-30	-210
Wholesale trade	550	540	570	10	-20
Retail trade	1,510	1,550	1,650	-40	-140
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	150	200	0	-50
Information	120	110	150	10	-30
Financial activities	300	300	340	0	-40
Professional and business services	990	990	1,100	0	-110
Education and health services	1,690	1,700	1,740	-10	-50
Leisure and hospitality	1,200	1,730	2,640	-530	-1,440
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	360	420	1,030	-60	-670
Accommodation and food services	840	1,310	1,610	-470	-770
Accommodation	270	350	430	-80	-160
Food services and drinking places	570	960	1,180	-390	-610
Other services	410	430	430	-20	-20
Government	1,260	1,300	1,410	-40	-150
Federal government	100	130	100	-30	0
State government	100	100	110	0	-10
Local government	1,060	1,070	1,200	-10	-140
Local education	590	580	710	10	-120
Local government excluding educational services	470	490	490	-20	-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.

## Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	November 2020	December 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	969	966	924	3	45
Unemployed	41	38	32	3	9
Unemployment rate	4.2%	3.9%	3.5%	0.3	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.4%	4.3%	3.4%	0.1	1.0
Employed	928	928	892	0	36
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	920	920	920	0	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	935	955	935	-20	0
Total private	580	605	575	-25	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	315	320	240	-5	75
Retail trade	145	145	90	0	55
Leisure and hospitality	60	80	70	-20	-10
Government	340	315	345	25	-5
Federal government	125	120	120	5	5
State government	40	40	40	0	0
Local government	175	155	185	20	-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.

## Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	November 2020	December 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,467	12,848	12,236	-381	231
Unemployed	801	657	452	144	349
Unemployment rate	6.4%	5.1%	3.7%	1.3	2.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>5.5%</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>2.5</i>
Employed	11,666	12,191	11,784	-525	-118
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	9,460	9,770	10,100	-310	-640
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>9,540</i>	<i>9,810</i>	<i>10,190</i>	<i>-270</i>	<i>-650</i>
Total private	7,560	7,880	8,120	-320	-560
Mining, logging, and construction	400	420	390	-20	10
Mining and logging	60	60	50	0	10
Construction	340	360	340	-20	0
Manufacturing	550	560	570	-10	-20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,110	2,120	2,120	-10	-10
Wholesale trade	140	140	170	0	-30
Retail trade	1,670	1,690	1,680	-20	-10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	300	290	270	10	30
Information	250	250	210	0	40
Financial activities	330	330	330	0	0
Professional and business services	490	490	540	0	-50
Education and health services	2,320	2,320	2,350	0	-30
Ambulatory health care services	460	460	460	0	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	600	600	570	0	30
Leisure and hospitality	810	1,080	1,250	-270	-440
Accommodation and food services	790	1,030	1,180	-240	-390
Other services	300	310	360	-10	-60
Government	1,900	1,890	1,980	10	-80
Federal government	280	270	280	10	0
State government	250	250	260	0	-10
Local government	1,370	1,370	1,440	0	-70
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	700	700	750	0	-50
Local government excluding education and tribal	660	660	680	0	-20

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--				
	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	November 2020	December 2019
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	714	726	697	-12	17
Unemployed	30	26	26	4	4
Unemployment rate	4.2%	3.6%	3.7%	0.6	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.0%	3.9%	0.2	0.3
Employed	684	700	671	-16	13
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	280	290	280	-10	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	295	290	295	5	0
Total private	145	155	145	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	35	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	15	20	10	-5	5
Government	135	135	135	0	0
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	130	130	130	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.