

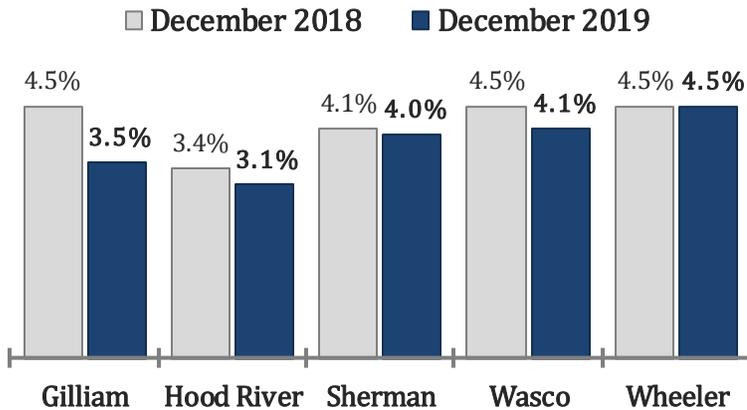


Columbia Gorge Economic Indicators

(December 2019 data)

January 2020 Edition

Local Area Unemployment Rates (Seasonally adjusted)

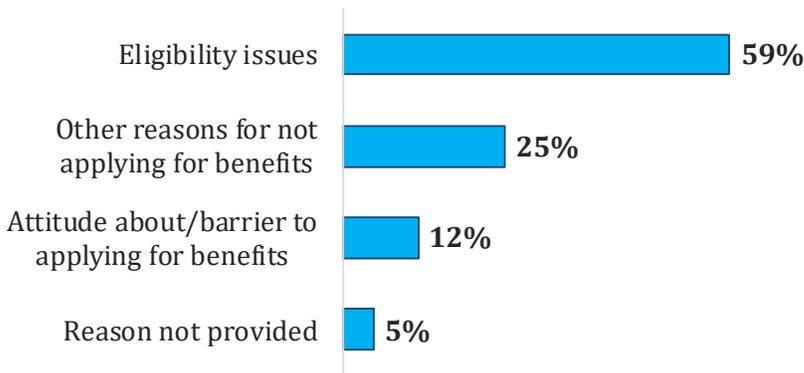


Graph of the Month

Most Unemployed People in U.S. Didn't Apply for UI Benefits

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

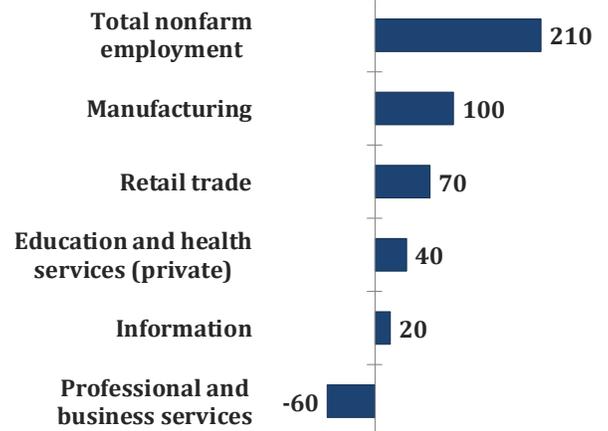
Reasons for Not Applying for UI Benefits



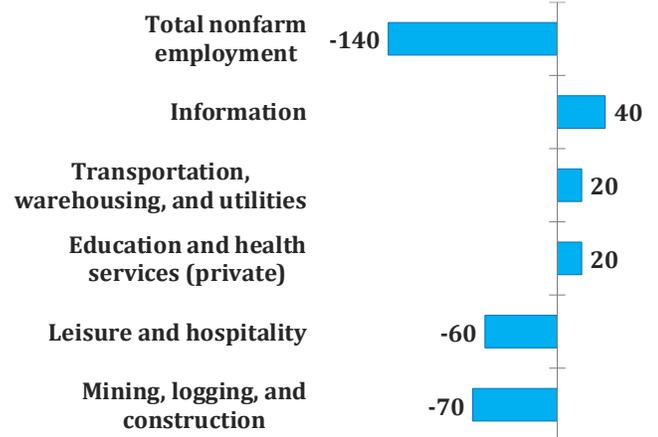
One of the pivotal functions of OED is to adjudicate and award unemployment insurance (UI) benefits to qualifying Oregonians. However, the impetus of UI benefits, and how one qualifies for them, is not well-known. In 2018, 74 percent of unemployed individuals who worked in the U.S. in the last 12 months didn't apply for UI benefits after their previous job. Of those folks, roughly 60 percent didn't apply because they didn't believe they were eligible to receive benefits (e.g. their job wasn't covered by UI, they voluntarily quit, were terminated for misconduct, etc.). A quarter of respondents either expected to start work soon, didn't apply for personal reasons, or planned to file for UI benefits soon. Roughly 1 in 8 didn't apply because they didn't want the hassle of applying for benefits, had negative attitudes about UI, didn't know UI was available, or had issues with the application process. There's plenty to unpack here! For more info, check out the BLS' [news release](#).

Industry Gains and Losses (Over-the-year net employment change)

Hood River County



Wasco County



Largest Over-the-Year Changes

Gilliam

Total nonfarm employment (+195)
No significant industry change

Sherman

Total nonfarm employment (+40)
No significant industry change

Wheeler

Total nonfarm employment (+10)
Leisure and hospitality (+10)