

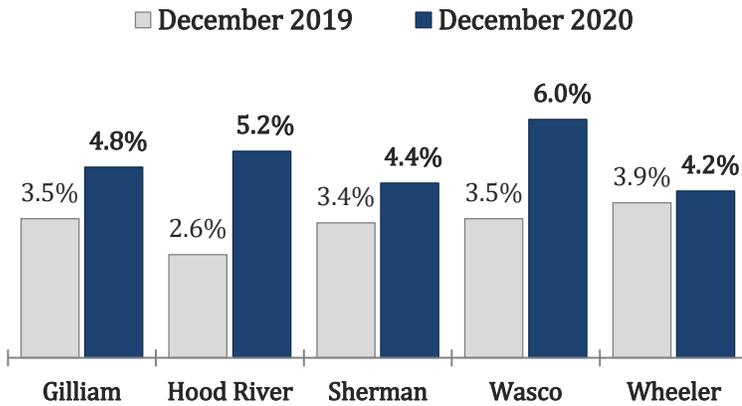


# Columbia Gorge Economic Indicators

(December 2020 data)

January 2021 Edition

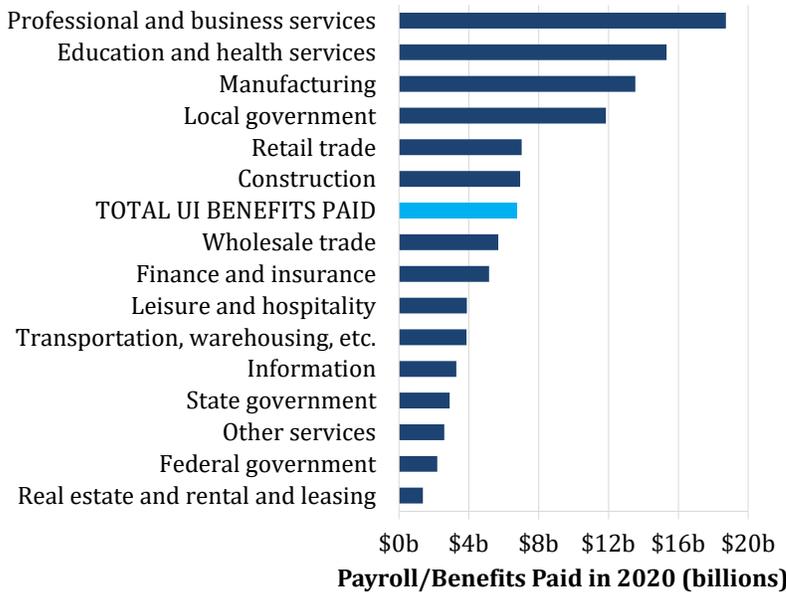
## Local Area Unemployment Rates (Seasonally adjusted)



## Graph of the Month

### What If UI Benefits Were an Industry in Oregon?

Source: Oregon Employment Department



If Oregon's unemployment insurance (UI) benefits paid out in 2020 were an industry, it would rank as the 7th largest industry in terms of payroll with roughly \$6.77 billion dollars in benefits paid out to eligible recipients. This is roughly the same size as the state's construction industry, and would amount to 7.6% of total private sector payroll (if included in the aggregate metric).

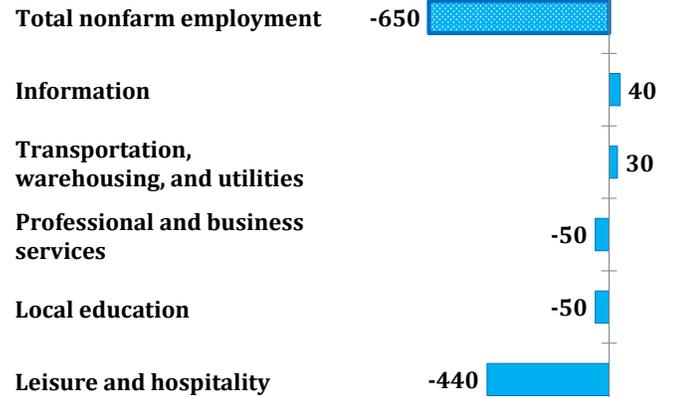
The vast majority of UI benefits were paid out in the last three quarters of 2020, so the industry comparison is likely unfair. This includes not only regular state benefits, but also other benefits programs such as PUA, PEUC, Workshare, Extended Benefits, etc.

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

### Hood River County



### Wasco County



## Largest Over-the-Year Changes

### Gilliam

Total nonfarm employment (+100)  
Local government (-10)

### Sherman

Total nonfarm employment (+0)  
Retail trade (+55)

### Wheeler

Total nonfarm employment (+0)  
No significant industry gains or losses