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CONTACT INFORMATION:
Nicole Ramos, Regional Economist
Nicole.S.Ramos@employ.oregon.gov
(541) 706-0779

Employment in the Columbia Gorge: December 2025

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates declined in two of the five counties while remaining steady in Hood River and increasing in the counties of Wheeler and Gilliam.

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from November to December and remained at 4.2%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.7 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment increased by 250 (+2.1%) in December and was estimated at 12,330 jobs. Private-sector employment increased over the month (+240 jobs). The largest gains occurred in leisure and hospitality (+330 jobs) with the vast majority taking place in arts, entertainment, and recreation. The largest private-sector losses took place in trade, transportation, and utilities (-40 jobs) and manufacturing (-30 jobs). Public-sector employment gained 10 jobs over the month; all gains recorded at the local level (+10 jobs).

Hood River County's total nonfarm employment decreased by 260 jobs over the year ending in December, representing a 2.1% decrease. Job losses occurred in leisure and hospitality (-240 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-170 jobs); and the public sector (-40 jobs). Losses in leisure and hospitality primarily occurred in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-280 jobs) while losses in trade, transportation, and utilities occurred primarily in retail trade (-200 jobs). Over-the-year gains occurred in manufacturing (+60 jobs); other services (+40 jobs); professional and business services (+30 jobs); financial activities (+30 jobs); private education and health services (+20 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (+10 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3% as of December, down from 5.4% in November. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.0 percentage point higher.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment decreased by 0.4%, a decrease of 40 jobs to total 10,260 as of December. Job losses occurred within the private sector (-20 jobs), bringing private employment down to 7,940. Government employment decreased by 20 jobs and is now 2,320. Private job losses were more widespread and larger than gains. Losses were seen in professional and business services (-20 jobs); information (-10 jobs); other services (-10 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (-10 jobs). Private-

sector gains were concentrated in trade, transportation, and utilities (+30 jobs) – the only major sector to see gains.

Wasco County's private industry employment decreased by 110 (-1.1%) jobs over the year ending in December. Losses were strongest in trade, transportation, and utilities (-60 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (-60 jobs); and professional and business services (-50 jobs). Smaller losses also occurred in information (-20 jobs). Over-the-year gains occurred in manufacturing (+40 jobs); financial activities (+20 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+10 jobs); and government (+10 jobs).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from November, going from a rate of 5.5% to 5.6% in December. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.0 percentage point higher.

Gilliam County's nonfarm employment was unchanged from November to December and continued to stand at 935 jobs. Over-the-year total private employment decreased by 105 jobs while government employment increased by 10 jobs for an over-the-year net loss of 95 total nonfarm jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 5.3% in November to 5.2% in December and increased by 1.2 percentage points over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment increased by 30 jobs (+3.4%) over the month of December and now stands at 915. Private-sector employment was unchanged over the month, while public-sector employment increased by 30 jobs. Over the year ending in December, private industry shed 35 jobs, bringing the total to 545, a 6.0% decrease from the previous year. Public-sector employment gained five jobs over the year for a net loss of 30 total nonfarm jobs over the year.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.7% in November to 4.8% in December. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.8 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment decreased by five jobs (-1.4%) from November to December and now stands at 355 jobs. Over the year ending in December, total nonfarm employment increased by 20 (+6.0%). The private sector added 15 jobs over the year, while the public sector added five.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department has yet to receive an updated [release schedule from the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS). The January 2026 data would typically be released in March. We are awaiting notification from the BLS regarding publication dates for the rest of the year and will update [our schedule of future releases](#) as dates become available.

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 QualityInfo.org, select Tools, and choose LAUS or CES from the dropdown menu. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

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Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,848	13,545	13,723	303	125
Unemployed	563	515	461	48	102
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.8%	3.4%	0.3	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.2%	4.2%	3.5%	0.0	0.7
Employed	13,285	13,030	13,262	255	23
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,330	12,080	12,590	250	-260
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,000	11,930	12,250	70	-250
Total private	10,840	10,600	11,060	240	-220
Mining, logging, and construction	550	560	540	-10	10
Manufacturing	1,740	1,770	1,680	-30	60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,130	2,170	2,300	-40	-170
Wholesale trade	420	440	400	-20	20
Retail trade	1,530	1,560	1,730	-30	-200
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	180	170	170	10	10
Information	80	80	80	0	0
Financial activities	370	360	340	10	30
Professional and business services	970	980	940	-10	30
Private education and health services	2,020	2,020	2,000	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	2,620	2,290	2,860	330	-240
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	970	640	1,250	330	-280
Accommodation and food services	1,650	1,650	1,610	0	40
Accommodation	500	480	470	20	30
Food services and drinking places	1,150	1,170	1,140	-20	10
Other services	360	370	320	-10	40
Government	1,490	1,480	1,530	10	-40
Federal government	110	110	120	0	-10
State government	140	140	160	0	-20
Local government	1,240	1,230	1,250	10	-10
Local education	730	720	740	10	-10
Local government excluding educational services	510	510	510	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.



Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,615	12,854	12,531	-239	84
Unemployed	682	666	583	16	99
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.2%	4.7%	0.2	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	5.4%	4.3%	-0.1	1.0
Employed	11,933	12,188	11,948	-255	-15
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,260	10,300	10,370	-40	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,340	10,320	10,450	20	-110
Total private	7,940	7,960	8,060	-20	-120
Mining, logging, and construction	460	460	520	0	-60
Mining and logging	50	40	50	10	0
Construction	410	420	470	-10	-60
Manufacturing	500	500	460	0	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,010	1,980	2,070	30	-60
Wholesale trade	220	210	180	10	40
Retail trade	1,490	1,490	1,560	0	-70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	300	280	330	20	-30
Information	260	270	280	-10	-20
Financial activities	280	280	260	0	20
Professional and business services	550	570	600	-20	-50
Private education and health services	2,260	2,260	2,260	0	0
Ambulatory health care services	490	490	500	0	-10
Nursing and residential care facilities	540	530	520	10	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,280	1,290	1,270	-10	10
Accommodation and food services	1,190	1,200	1,170	-10	20
Other services	340	350	340	-10	0
Government	2,320	2,340	2,310	-20	10
Federal government	320	320	300	0	20
State government	330	340	330	-10	0
Local government	1,670	1,680	1,680	-10	-10
Indian tribal	120	120	60	0	60
Local education	780	780	870	0	-90
Local government excluding education and tribal	770	780	750	-10	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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division
 QualityInfo.org
 January 27, 2026

Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	995	1,000	1,059	-5	-64
Unemployed	54	52	49	2	5
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.2%	4.6%	0.2	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.6%	5.5%	4.6%	0.1	1.0
Employed	941	948	1,010	-7	-69
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	935	935	1,030	0	-95
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	920	915	1,020	5	-100
Total private	640	640	745	0	-105
Trade, transportation, and utilities	105	105	110	0	-5
Professional and business services	225	225	215	0	10
Private education and health services	75	75	70	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	40	0	0
Government	295	295	285	0	10
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	260	260	250	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.



Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	941	934	969	7	-28
Unemployed	44	48	38	-4	6
Unemployment rate	4.7%	5.1%	3.9%	-0.4	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	5.3%	4.0%	-0.1	1.2
Employed	897	886	931	11	-34
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	915	885	945	30	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	925	910	955	15	-30
Total private	545	545	580	0	-35
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	345	345	-5	-5
Retail trade	120	120	135	0	-15
Leisure and hospitality	70	70	75	0	-5
Government	370	340	365	30	5
Federal government	170	165	150	5	20
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	175	150	190	25	-15

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 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025	December 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	694	707	716	-13	-22
Unemployed	34	33	31	1	3
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.7%	4.3%	0.2	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.8</i>
Employed	660	674	685	-14	-25
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	355	360	335	-5	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>370</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>
Total private	165	175	150	-10	15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	30	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	20	25	25	-5	-5
Government	190	185	185	5	5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	40	0	-5
Local government	150	145	140	5	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.

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