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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: April 2025

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates were little changed in the Gorge this April, with slight decreases in two of the five counties.

In April, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged from March's rate at 3.7%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest, just above Sherman's 3.8%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.4 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment decreased by 150 (-1.2%) in April and was estimated at 12,090 jobs. Private-sector employment decreased over the month (-150 jobs) with the largest losses occurring within leisure and hospitality (-200 jobs). Public-sector employment remained unchanged, however.

Hood River County's total nonfarm employment decreased by 30 jobs over the year ending in April, representing a loss of 0.2%. Job losses were concentrated within manufacturing (-40 jobs); information (-30 jobs); other services (-30 jobs); professional and business services (-20 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-20 jobs). Gains were not as strong and seen primarily within leisure and hospitality (+50 jobs); private education and health services (+30 jobs); government (+20 jobs); and financial activities (+10 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 4.5% in April, unchanged from March's rate. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.3 percentage point higher.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment increased by 30, totaling 10,450 as of April. Private industry employment gained 30 jobs, bringing employment up to 8,030. The public sector remained unchanged over the month—government employment is at 2,420. Supersector private job gains were seen in leisure and hospitality (+40 jobs) and manufacturing (+20 jobs). Losses were also minimal and took place in private education and health services (-20 jobs) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-10 jobs).

Wasco County's private industry employment rose by 150 (+1.5%) jobs over the year ending in April. Gains were mainly concentrated in the public sector (+200 jobs), with most employment gains taking place within local government and specifically local education (+130 jobs). Federal government was the

only subsector of government employment to lose jobs over the year (-20 jobs). Within the private sector, private education and health services (+60 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+40 jobs); professional and business services (+30 jobs); manufacturing (+20 jobs); and information (+20 jobs) gained jobs over the year. Losses were strongest in trade, transportation, and utilities, which lost 100 jobs over the year, and other services (-80 jobs). Smaller losses occurred in construction (-20 jobs) and financial activities (-20 jobs), while all other major industries saw little to no change over the year.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in April, remaining at 4.6%. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.3 percentage point lower. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment decreased by five jobs (-0.5%) from March to April and is now at 990 jobs. Over the year, the private sector gained 165 jobs, while government employment declined by 25 jobs, specifically within local government (25 jobs).

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from 3.9% in March to 3.8% in April and declined by 0.2 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment decreased by 15 jobs (-1.5%) in April and stands at 955. Private-sector employment rose by five jobs with growth concentrated within the leisure and hospitality industry (+5 jobs). Public-sector employment losses were stronger and declined by 20 jobs, with the largest losses occurring in local government (-25 jobs). Over the year ending in April, private industry gained five jobs and now stands at 645, up by 0.8%.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly from a rate of 4.3% in March to 4.2% in April. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.5 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment saw little to no change from March to April and stands at 340 jobs. Over the year ending in April, private industry employment declined by 35 and was estimated at 150. Government employment rose by 10 and is now at 190. Over the year seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is down by 25 jobs.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the May county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, June 24, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for May on Wednesday, June 18.

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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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 help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org

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Workforce & Economic Research Division

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May 20, 2025

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,490	13,805	13,496	-315	-6
Unemployed	445	558	405	-113	40
Unemployment rate	3.3%	4.0%	3.0%	-0.7	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.7%	3.3%	0.0	0.4
Employed	13,045	13,247	13,091	-202	-46
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,090	12,240	12,120	-150	-30
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,080	12,190	12,120	-110	-40
Total private	10,550	10,700	10,600	-150	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	560	560	560	0	0
Manufacturing	1,680	1,650	1,720	30	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,000	2,000	2,020	0	-20
Wholesale trade	380	380	460	0	-80
Retail trade	1,470	1,460	1,400	10	70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	160	160	-10	-10
Information	80	80	110	0	-30
Financial activities	340	330	330	10	10
Professional and business services	970	950	990	20	-20
Private education and health services	2,010	2,020	1,980	-10	30
Leisure and hospitality	2,600	2,800	2,550	-200	50
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	990	1,280	900	-290	90
Accommodation and food services	1,610	1,520	1,650	90	-40
Accommodation	490	460	470	30	20
Food services and drinking places	1,120	1,060	1,180	60	-60
Other services	310	310	340	0	-30
Government	1,540	1,540	1,520	0	20
Federal government	110	110	120	0	-10
State government	150	150	140	0	10
Local government	1,280	1,280	1,260	0	20
Local education	760	760	760	0	0
Local government excluding educational services	520	520	500	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.



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Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,703	12,715	12,612	-12	91
Unemployed	525	701	504	-176	21
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.5%	4.0%	-1.4	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Employed	12,178	12,014	12,108	164	70
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,450	10,420	10,300	30	150
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,480</i>	<i>10,530</i>	<i>10,330</i>	<i>-50</i>	<i>150</i>
Total private	8,030	8,000	8,080	30	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	510	510	530	0	-20
Mining and logging	50	50	50	0	0
Construction	460	460	480	0	-20
Manufacturing	480	460	460	20	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,970	1,980	2,070	-10	-100
Wholesale trade	180	180	200	0	-20
Retail trade	1,540	1,540	1,570	0	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	260	300	-10	-50
Information	280	280	260	0	20
Financial activities	260	260	280	0	-20
Professional and business services	620	620	590	0	30
Private education and health services	2,270	2,290	2,210	-20	60
Ambulatory health care services	500	510	460	-10	40
Nursing and residential care facilities	520	520	490	0	30
Leisure and hospitality	1,290	1,250	1,250	40	40
Accommodation and food services	1,190	1,170	1,160	20	30
Other services	350	350	430	0	-80
Government	2,420	2,420	2,220	0	200
Federal government	270	270	290	0	-20
State government	320	320	290	0	30
Local government	1,830	1,830	1,640	0	190
Indian tribal	60	60	10	0	50
Local education	1,000	1,010	870	-10	130
Local government excluding education and tribal	770	760	760	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.



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Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,011	1,036	913	-25	98
Unemployed	39	53	35	-14	4
Unemployment rate	3.9%	5.1%	3.8%	-1.2	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-0.3</i>
Employed	972	983	878	-11	94
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	990	995	850	-5	140
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>1,025</i>	<i>1,030</i>	<i>880</i>	<i>-5</i>	<i>145</i>
Total private	715	715	550	0	165
Trade, transportation, and utilities	110	110	115	0	-5
Professional and business services	225	225	215	0	10
Private education and health services	70	70	80	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	30	0	0
Government	275	280	300	-5	-25
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	240	245	265	-5	-25

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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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	949	961	958	-12	-9
Unemployed	35	42	38	-7	-3
Unemployment rate	3.7%	4.4%	4.0%	-0.7	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>3.8%</i>	<i>3.9%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Employed	914	919	920	-5	-6
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	955	970	960	-15	-5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>965</i>	<i>980</i>	<i>970</i>	<i>-15</i>	<i>-5</i>
Total private	645	640	640	5	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	335	340	370	-5	-35
Retail trade	135	135	130	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	100	95	90	5	10
Government	310	330	320	-20	-10
Federal government	125	120	135	5	-10
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	160	185	160	-25	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.



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Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	March 2025	April 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	675	675	697	0	-22
Unemployed	22	30	21	-8	1
Unemployment rate	3.3%	4.4%	3.0%	-1.1	0.3
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	4.2%	4.3%	3.7%	-0.1	0.5
Employed	653	645	676	8	-23
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	340	340	365	0	-25
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	340	340	365	0	-25
Total private	150	150	185	0	-35
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	35	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	30	25	40	5	-10
Government	190	190	180	0	10
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	40	30	-5	5
Local government	150	145	145	5	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.

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