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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: May 2025

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in the Gorge saw minor decreases in two of the five counties this May, with slight increases in the remaining three.

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in May and is now 3.8%, up from April's rate of 3.7%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest, just above Benton County's 3.9%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.5 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment decreased by 70 (-0.6%) in May and was estimated at 12,010 jobs. Private-sector employment decreased over the month (-100 jobs) with the largest losses occurring within leisure and hospitality (-170 jobs). Public-sector employment rose by 30 jobs over the month.

Hood River County's total nonfarm employment increased by 10 jobs over the year ending in May, representing a loss of 0.1%. Job losses were concentrated within manufacturing (-70 jobs); information (-40 jobs); other services (-10 jobs); and private education and health services (-10 jobs). Gains were not as strong and seen primarily within leisure and hospitality (+90 jobs); government (+20 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (+10 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 4.6% as of May, up from 4.5% in April. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.4 percentage point higher.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment increased by 120, totaling 10,580 as of May. Private industry employment gained 100 jobs, bringing employment up to 8,140. Government employment rose by 20 jobs and is now 2,440. Private job gains were seen in leisure and hospitality (+70 jobs); other services (+20 jobs); professional and business services (+10 jobs); financial activities (+10 jobs); and construction (+10 jobs). Losses were minimal and took place in private education and health services (-10 jobs) and manufacturing (-10 jobs).

Wasco County's private industry employment rose by 200 (+1.9%) jobs over the year ending in May. Gains were mainly concentrated in the public sector (+210 jobs), with most employment gains taking place within local government and specifically local education (+140 jobs). Federal government was the only subsector of government employment to lose jobs over the year (-10 jobs). Within the private

sector, private education and health services (+50 jobs); professional and business services (+40 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+30 jobs); manufacturing (+30 jobs); and information (+10 jobs) gained jobs over the year. Losses were strongest in trade, transportation, and utilities, which lost 100 jobs, and other services (-50 jobs). Smaller losses occurred in construction (-10 jobs) and financial activities (-10 jobs), while all other major industries saw little to no change over the year.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased over the month, going from 4.6% in April to 4.5% in May. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.2 percentage point lower. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment increased by 10 jobs (+1.0%) from April to May and is now at 1,000 jobs. Over the year, the private sector gained 160 jobs, while government employment declined by 15 jobs, with local government losing 10 jobs and federal government five jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from a revised rate of 3.8% in April to 4.0% in May and increased by 0.1 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment increased by 20 jobs (+2.1%) in May and stands at 975. Private-sector employment rose by 15 jobs with growth concentrated within trade, transportation, and utilities (+10 jobs). Public-sector employment gains were weaker and rose by five jobs. Over the year ending in May, private industry added 25 jobs, bringing the total to 660, a 3.9% increase. Most of these gains were offset by losses in government employment, particularly at the federal level (-20 jobs), for a net year-over-year employment gain of five jobs.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly from a revised rate of 4.2% in April to 4.1% in May. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.4 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment saw little to no change from April to May and stands at 340 jobs. Over the year ending in May, private industry employment declined by 40 and was estimated to be 155. Government employment saw no change at 185 jobs. Over the year, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment is down 40 jobs.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the June county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, July 22, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Wednesday, July 16.

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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Workforce & Economic Research Division

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June 24, 2025

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,286	13,453	13,173	-167	113
Unemployed	536	441	404	95	132
Unemployment rate	4.0%	3.3%	3.1%	0.7	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	3.7%	3.3%	0.1	0.5
Employed	12,750	13,012	12,769	-262	-19
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,010	12,080	12,000	-70	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,060	12,070	12,070	-10	-10
Total private	10,440	10,540	10,450	-100	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	580	560	570	20	10
Manufacturing	1,680	1,670	1,750	10	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,030	2,000	2,010	30	20
Wholesale trade	360	380	430	-20	-70
Retail trade	1,510	1,470	1,410	40	100
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	150	170	10	-10
Information	80	80	120	0	-40
Financial activities	350	340	350	10	0
Professional and business services	970	970	970	0	0
Private education and health services	2,000	2,010	2,010	-10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	2,430	2,600	2,340	-170	90
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	700	990	590	-290	110
Accommodation and food services	1,730	1,610	1,750	120	-20
Accommodation	530	490	490	40	40
Food services and drinking places	1,200	1,120	1,260	80	-60
Other services	320	310	330	10	-10
Government	1,570	1,540	1,550	30	20
Federal government	130	110	140	20	-10
State government	150	150	130	0	20
Local government	1,290	1,280	1,280	10	10
Local education	750	760	760	-10	-10
Local government excluding educational services	540	520	520	20	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--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,695	12,678	12,446	17	249
Unemployed	599	521	477	78	122
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.1%	3.8%	0.6	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Employed	12,096	12,157	11,969	-61	127
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,580	10,460	10,380	120	200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,510</i>	<i>10,490</i>	<i>10,310</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>200</i>
Total private	8,140	8,040	8,150	100	-10
Mining, logging, and construction	520	510	530	10	-10
Mining and logging	50	50	50	0	0
Construction	470	460	480	10	-10
Manufacturing	470	480	440	-10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,970	1,970	2,070	0	-100
Wholesale trade	190	180	200	10	-10
Retail trade	1,530	1,540	1,570	-10	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	300	0	-50
Information	280	280	270	0	10
Financial activities	270	260	280	10	-10
Professional and business services	630	620	590	10	40
Private education and health services	2,270	2,280	2,220	-10	50
Ambulatory health care services	500	500	460	0	40
Nursing and residential care facilities	510	520	500	-10	10
Leisure and hospitality	1,360	1,290	1,330	70	30
Accommodation and food services	1,240	1,190	1,220	50	20
Other services	370	350	420	20	-50
Government	2,440	2,420	2,230	20	210
Federal government	280	270	290	10	-10
State government	320	320	300	0	20
Local government	1,840	1,830	1,640	10	200
Indian tribal	60	60	10	0	50
Local education	1,010	1,000	870	10	140
Local government excluding education and tribal	770	770	760	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.



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Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,011	1,010	904	1	107
Unemployed	42	39	36	3	6
Unemployment rate	4.2%	3.9%	4.0%	0.3	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.5%	4.6%	4.7%	-0.1	-0.2
Employed	969	971	868	-2	101
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,000	990	855	10	145
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	1,035	1,025	880	10	155
Total private	715	715	555	0	160
Trade, transportation, and utilities	110	110	115	0	-5
Professional and business services	220	220	210	0	10
Private education and health services	70	70	80	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	35	30	35	5	0
Government	285	275	300	10	-15
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	250	240	260	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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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	962	949	958	13	4
Unemployed	41	36	37	5	4
Unemployment rate	4.3%	3.8%	3.9%	0.5	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>3.8%</i>	<i>3.9%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Employed	921	913	921	8	0
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	975	955	970	20	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>970</i>	<i>965</i>	<i>965</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>
Total private	660	645	635	15	25
Trade, transportation, and utilities	345	335	370	10	-25
Retail trade	140	135	125	5	15
Leisure and hospitality	105	100	90	5	15
Government	315	310	335	5	-20
Federal government	125	125	145	0	-20
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	165	160	165	5	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--				
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025	May 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	668	672	716	-4	-48
Unemployed	25	21	22	4	3
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.1%	3.1%	0.6	0.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>3.7%</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Employed	643	651	694	-8	-51
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	340	340	380	0	-40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>370</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>-40</i>
Total private	155	150	195	5	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	40	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	35	30	45	5	-10
Government	185	190	185	-5	0
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	30	0	5
Local government	145	150	150	-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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