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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: September 2025

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increase in all five Columbia Gorge Counties

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.0% in August to 4.1% in September. 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 80 (0.7%) in September and was estimated at 11,930 jobs. Private-sector employment decreased over the month (-230 jobs) with the largest losses occurring in leisure and hospitality (-140 jobs) and retail trade (-60 jobs). Public-sector employment added 310 jobs over the month with most gains recorded in local education (+320 jobs).

Hood River County's total nonfarm employment increased by 50 jobs over the year ending in September, representing a 0.4% increase. Job gains occurred in other services (+40 jobs); private education and health services (+40 jobs); manufacturing (+30 jobs); professional and business services (+20 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (+10 jobs). Over-the-year losses occurred in leisure and hospitality (-40 jobs); information (-20 jobs); government (-20 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (-10 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2% as of September, up from 5.0% in August. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.9 percentage point.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment increased by 140 jobs to total 10,490 as of September. The private sector dropped 130 jobs, bringing private employment down to 8,140. Government employment increased by 270 jobs and is now 2,350. Private job gains were minimal with no published sectors recording significant gains. Private-sector losses were more widespread but concentrated in leisure and hospitality (-80 jobs) and other services (-20 jobs).

Wasco County's private industry employment decreased by 60 (-0.6%) jobs over the year ending in September. Losses were strongest in trade, transportation, and utilities (-70 jobs) and mining, logging, and construction (-40 jobs). Smaller losses also occurred in other services (-20 jobs), information (-10 jobs), and private education and health services (-10 jobs). Over-the-year gains occurred in

manufacturing (+30 jobs); government (+20 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+20 jobs); professional and business services (+10 jobs); and financial activities (+10 jobs).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased over the month from 4.8% in August to 5.2% in September. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.5 percentage point.

Gilliam County's nonfarm employment gained 20 jobs from August to September and now stands at 950 jobs. All gains occurred within the public sector with little to no movement within the private sector. Over the year, total private employment decreased by 105 jobs while government employment increased by 10 jobs for a net loss of 95 total nonfarm jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from 4.8% in August to 5.0% in September and increased by 1.1 percentage points over the year. Sherman County's nonfarm employment decreased by 15 jobs (-1.6%) over the month of September and now stands at 940. Private-sector employment declined by 20 jobs while public-sector employment gained five jobs. Over the year ending in September, private industry shed 50 jobs, bringing the total to 570, an 8.1% decrease from the previous year. Public-sector employment gained 15 jobs over the year, representing a 4.2% increase.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.9% to 4.1% this September. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.2 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment increased by 15 jobs (+4.3%) from August to September and now stands at 360 jobs. Over the year ending in September, private industry employment declined by 25 and was estimated to be 175. Government employment saw no change.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for October and November on Wednesday, Jan. 7 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Jan. 13. The October employment survey jobs data will be released along with November's data, but there won't be October labor force or unemployment data published.

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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Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	--Change From--	
				August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,611	14,752	14,873	-141	-262
Unemployed	567	643	441	-76	126
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.4%	3.0%	-0.5	0.9
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	4.0%	3.4%	0.1	0.7
Employed	14,044	14,109	14,432	-65	-388
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,930	11,850	11,880	80	50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,070	12,030	12,020	40	50
Total private	10,420	10,650	10,350	-230	70
Mining, logging, and construction	580	590	590	-10	-10
Manufacturing	1,820	1,830	1,790	-10	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,960	2,020	1,950	-60	10
Wholesale trade	400	400	370	0	30
Retail trade	1,370	1,430	1,410	-60	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	190	190	170	0	20
Information	80	80	100	0	-20
Financial activities	380	380	380	0	0
Professional and business services	980	990	960	-10	20
Private education and health services	2,020	2,020	1,980	0	40
Leisure and hospitality	2,230	2,370	2,270	-140	-40
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	350	370	350	-20	0
Accommodation and food services	1,880	2,000	1,920	-120	-40
Accommodation	540	570	530	-30	10
Food services and drinking places	1,340	1,430	1,390	-90	-50
Other services	370	370	330	0	40
Government	1,510	1,200	1,530	310	-20
Federal government	130	130	160	0	-30
State government	140	150	130	-10	10
Local government	1,240	920	1,240	320	0
Local education	700	380	710	320	-10
Local government excluding educational services	540	540	530	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.



Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,793	13,100	12,777	-307	16
Unemployed	681	705	499	-24	182
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.4%	3.9%	-0.1	1.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	5.0%	4.3%	0.2	0.9
Employed	12,112	12,395	12,278	-283	-166
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,490	10,350	10,550	140	-60
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,330	10,270	10,380	60	-50
Total private	8,140	8,270	8,220	-130	-80
Mining, logging, and construction	470	480	510	-10	-40
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	420	430	450	-10	-30
Manufacturing	510	510	480	0	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,970	1,980	2,040	-10	-70
Wholesale trade	210	220	190	-10	20
Retail trade	1,500	1,490	1,570	10	-70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	260	270	280	-10	-20
Information	260	260	270	0	-10
Financial activities	280	280	270	0	10
Professional and business services	580	590	570	-10	10
Private education and health services	2,250	2,250	2,260	0	-10
Ambulatory health care services	490	490	470	0	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	520	520	520	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,460	1,540	1,440	-80	20
Accommodation and food services	1,300	1,370	1,310	-70	-10
Other services	360	380	380	-20	-20
Government	2,350	2,080	2,330	270	20
Federal government	320	320	310	0	10
State government	340	340	320	0	20
Local government	1,690	1,420	1,700	270	-10
Indian tribal	120	120	90	0	30
Local education	760	490	850	270	-90
Local government excluding education and tribal	810	810	760	0	50

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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.



Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,075	1,003	1,061	72	14
Unemployed	59	57	40	2	19
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.7%	3.8%	-0.2	1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	4.8%	4.7%	0.4	0.5
Employed	1,016	946	1,021	70	-5
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	950	930	1,045	20	-95
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	930	905	1,025	25	-95
Total private	645	645	750	0	-105
Trade, transportation, and utilities	110	110	115	0	-5
Professional and business services	230	230	210	0	20
Private education and health services	75	75	70	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	35	0	5
Government	305	285	295	20	10
Federal government	10	10	15	0	-5
State government	25	25	20	0	5
Local government	270	250	260	20	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.



Workforce & Economic Research Division
 QualityInfo.org
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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025	September 2024	--Change From--
Labor Force Status						
Civilian labor force	986	984	983	2	3	
Unemployed	46	52	34	-6	12	
Unemployment rate	4.7%	5.3%	3.5%	-0.6	1.2	
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	4.8%	3.9%	0.2	1.1	
Employed	940	932	949	8	-9	
Nonfarm Payroll Employment						
Total nonfarm employment	940	955	975	-15	-35	
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	920	930	955	-10	-35	
Total private	570	590	620	-20	-50	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	360	365	-10	-15	
Retail trade	130	130	130	0	0	
Leisure and hospitality	85	95	100	-10	-15	
Government	370	365	355	5	15	
Federal government	170	170	150	0	20	
State government	30	30	30	0	0	
Local government	170	165	175	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.



Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025	September 2024
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	692	684	730	8	-38
Unemployed	30	29	26	1	4
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.2%	3.6%	0.1	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.1%	3.9%	3.9%	0.2	0.2
Employed	662	655	704	7	-42
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	360	345	385	15	-25
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	350	350	375	0	-25
Total private	175	180	200	-5	-25
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	30	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	30	35	45	-5	-15
Government	185	165	185	20	0
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	35	0	0
Local government	145	125	145	20	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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