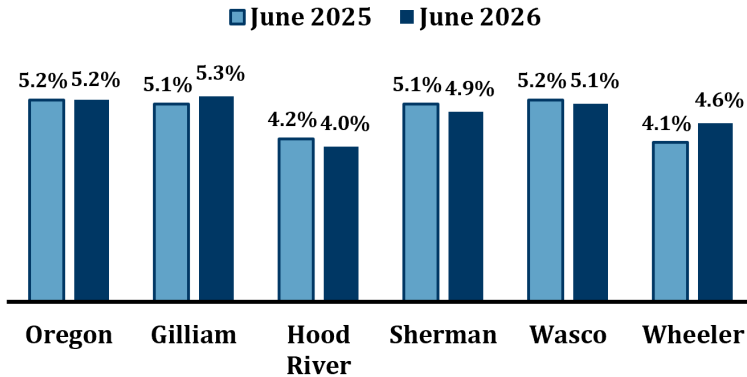




# Columbia Gorge Economic Indicators

July 2026

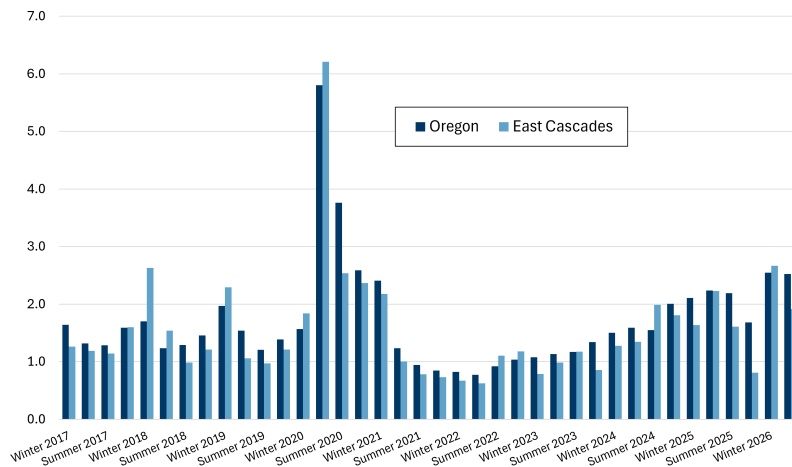
## Local Area Unemployment Rates (Seasonally adjusted)



## Graph of the Month

### Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratio: Oregon and East Cascades

Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratio: Oregon and East Cascades  
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2017-2026)



Source: Oregon Employment Department Job Vacancy Survey; Local Area Unemployment Statistics

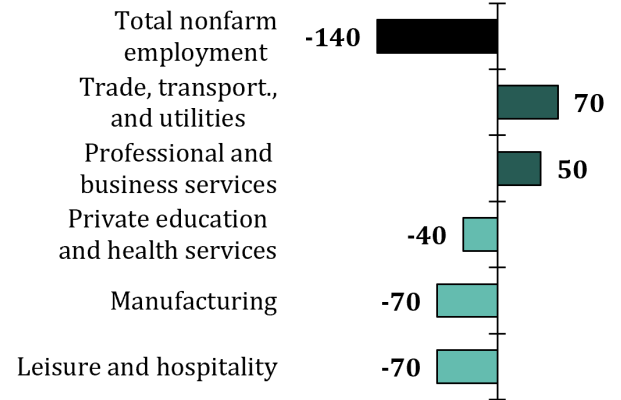
Every quarter, the Oregon Employment Department conducts a survey of private establishments with two or more employees and collects information about the number of job openings as well as the characteristics of these openings (e.g., permanent status, full- or part-time, wages offered, and experience and education requirements). In the spring quarter of 2026, there were 45,378 vacancies reported statewide and 5,457 vacancies reported in the East Cascades region.

Using the number of openings reported by Oregon businesses, it is possible to construct a ratio of the number of unemployed Oregonians to the number of job vacancies. This ratio provides an indication of how tight or loose the labor market is, i.e. whether employers or job-seekers have more leverage in the labor market. When this ratio is low, there are fewer available workers per job opening and employees have more power to negotiate wages and can potentially transfer to more favorable positions. When the ratio is high, there are more available workers per job opening and there is more competition between job-seekers. The ratio for the East Cascades region has been lower than the statewide ratio for 27 of the past 38 quarters. In the spring quarter of 2026, this ratio was 1.9 for the East Cascades meaning there were less than 2 available workers for each vacancy.

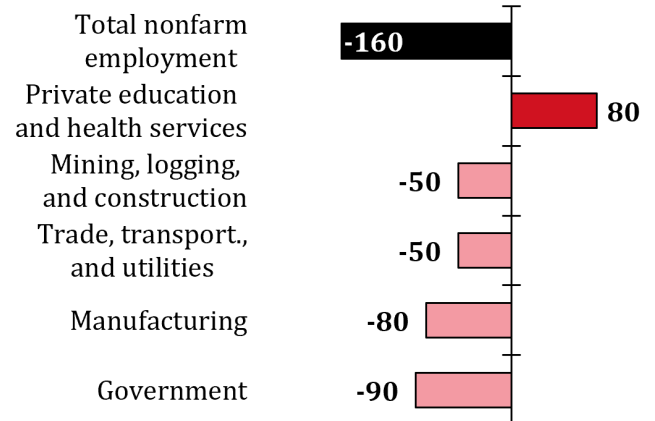
## Select Industry Gains and Losses

(Over-the-year net employment change, June 2026)

### Hood River County



### Wasco County



## Notable Over-the-Year Changes

### Gilliam

Total nonfarm employment (-50)  
Government (-10)  
Leisure and hospitality (-5)

### Sherman

Total nonfarm employment (-5)  
Government (-10)  
Leisure and hospitality (+10)

### Wheeler

Total nonfarm employment (-5)  
Government (+5)  
Leisure and hospitality (-10)

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Clare McGrady, [clare.m.mcgrady@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:clare.m.mcgrady@employ.oregon.gov)