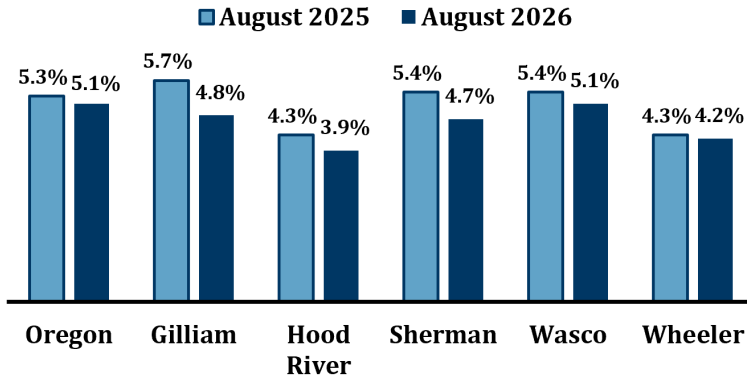




Columbia Gorge Economic Indicators

September 2026

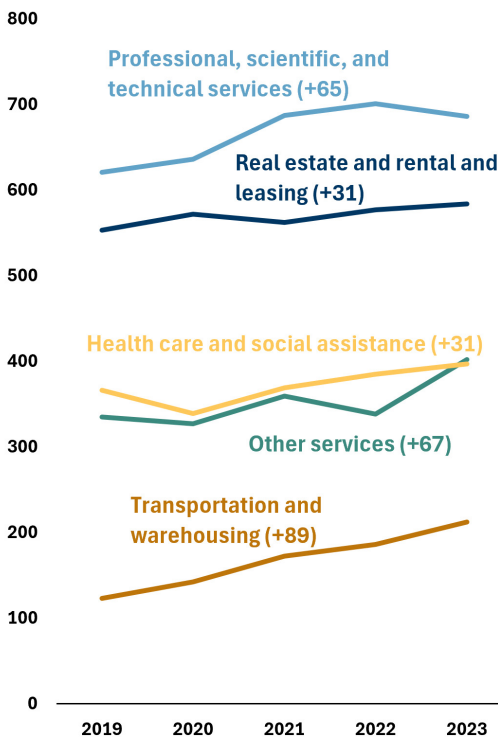
Local Area Unemployment Rates (Seasonally adjusted)



Graph of the Month

Nonemployer Establishments in the Columbia Gorge

Nonemployer Establishments in the Columbia Gorge



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Nonemployer Statistics

The three largest sectors in 2023 by number of nonemployer establishments in the Columbia Gorge were professional, scientific, and technical services (686); real estate and rental and leasing (585); and other services (402).

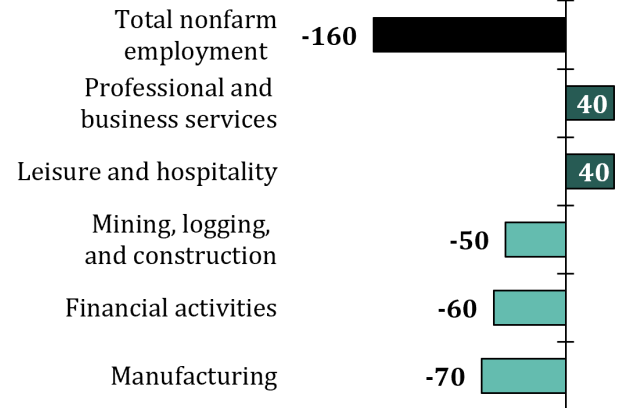
In 2023, the real estate and rental and leasing sector had the largest receipts among sectors in the Columbia Gorge, bringing in 25% of total nonemployer receipts (\$59.6 million). Hood River County had 9.8 nonemployer establishments per 100 people which ranks third across all counties in Oregon for prevalence of nonemployers. Wheeler County ranks fifth with 8.4 nonemployers per 100 people.

Over the past five years, the transportation and warehousing sector experienced the most growth; the number of nonemployer establishments grew by over 80 (about 72%). Typical gig economy workers like rideshare drivers and delivery workers fall into this category.

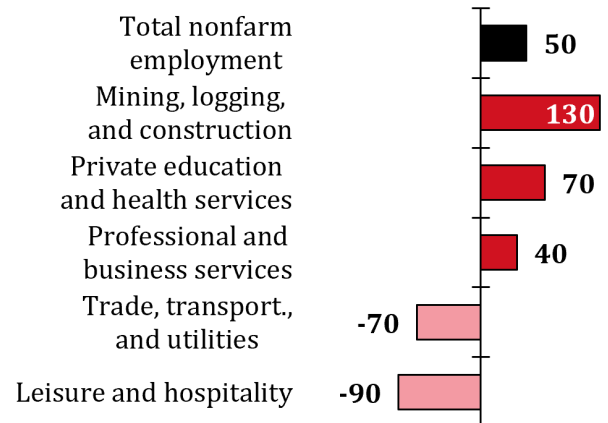
Select Industry Gains and Losses

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

Hood River County



Wasco County



Notable Over-the-Year Changes

Gilliam

Total nonfarm employment (+35)
Trade, transportation, and utilities (+10)
Government (-5)

Sherman

Total nonfarm employment (-45)
Leisure and hospitality (-5)
Government (-20)

Wheeler

Total nonfarm employment (+25)
Government (+40)
Leisure and hospitality (-5)

Want to join the distribution list? Contact:
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