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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: May 2026

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates continue to see little to no movement in the five Columbia Gorge counties with only Hood River County seeing a slight increase.

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0% in May, essentially unchanged from its revised April rate of 3.9%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down by 0.1 percentage point.

Hood River County's employment losses in May were smaller than normal; total nonfarm employment was down 80 (-0.7%) during the month, when an employment decrease of 150 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 70 (+0.6%) between April and May.

The private sector overall lost 110 jobs over the month (-1.1%). Losses occurred in leisure and hospitality, which lost 170 jobs in May. Gains were more widespread but smaller and occurred in manufacturing (+30 jobs); professional and business services (+10 jobs); financial activities (+10 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (+10 jobs).

Over the past year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has gained 70 jobs or +0.6%.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% as of May, unchanged from 5.0% in April. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point.

Wasco County's employment gains in May were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 180 (+1.8%) during the month, when an employment increase of 90 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 90 (+0.9%) between April and May.

Private-sector employment overall was up 140 over the month. The largest gains were recorded in leisure and hospitality (+70 jobs) and other services (+30 jobs). Smaller losses of 10 jobs each were recorded in private education and health services; professional and business services; financial activities; trade, transportation, and utilities; and construction.

Public-sector employment gained 40 jobs in May. Local government employment gained 30 jobs, and federal government gained 10 jobs. State government employment was unchanged in May.

Over the past year Wasco County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 200 jobs or -1.9% with the largest losses occurring in construction (-120 jobs), the public sector (-100 jobs), and trade, transportation, and utilities (-70 jobs).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.4% in May, down from April's unemployment rate of 5.6%. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage point.

Gilliam County's employment gains in May were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 15 during the month, when an employment decrease of five jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 20 (+2.3%) between April and May. Over the year, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment was down 120 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8% in May, unchanged from April's revised rate of 4.8%. The unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point over the year. Sherman County's seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 20 jobs (+2.3%) in May and now stands at 900. Private-sector employment increased by five jobs over the month, while public-sector employment increased by 10 for the month.

Over the year ending in May, private industry gained 20 jobs, bringing the total to 585, a 3.5% increase from the previous year. Public-sector employment lost 10 jobs over the year for a net gain of 10 total nonfarm jobs over the year.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.6% in May, down from April's rate of 4.7%. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.5 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment was unchanged from April to May and now stands at 350 jobs. Over the year ending in May, total nonfarm employment was also unchanged. The private sector declined by 15 jobs over the year, while the public sector added 15 jobs.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on Wednesday, July 15 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, July 21.

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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June 23, 2026

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,522	13,655	13,307	-133	215
Unemployed	524	498	565	26	-41
Unemployment rate	3.9%	3.6%	4.2%	0.3	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	3.9%	4.1%	0.1	-0.1
Employed	12,998	13,157	12,742	-159	256
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,780	11,860	11,710	-80	70
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,860	11,790	11,790	70	70
Total private	10,240	10,350	10,160	-110	80
Mining, logging, and construction	520	510	570	10	-50
Manufacturing	1,730	1,700	1,760	30	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,030	2,030	1,920	0	110
Wholesale trade	460	490	380	-30	80
Retail trade	1,400	1,380	1,370	20	30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	170	160	170	10	0
Information	90	90	80	0	10
Financial activities	320	310	340	10	-20
Professional and business services	1,040	1,030	980	10	60
Private education and health services	1,950	1,950	1,970	0	-20
Leisure and hospitality	2,260	2,430	2,220	-170	40
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	540	790	450	-250	90
Accommodation and food services	1,720	1,640	1,770	80	-50
Accommodation	510	490	520	20	-10
Food services and drinking places	1,210	1,150	1,250	60	-40
Other services	300	300	320	0	-20
Government	1,540	1,510	1,550	30	-10
Federal government	130	100	130	30	0
State government	160	160	140	0	20
Local government	1,250	1,250	1,280	0	-30
Local education	730	740	740	-10	-10
Local government excluding educational services	520	510	540	10	-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 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,734	12,661	12,708	73	26
Unemployed	619	609	633	10	-14
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.8%	5.0%	0.1	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.0%	5.0%	5.1%	0.0	-0.1
Employed	12,115	12,052	12,075	63	40
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,340	10,160	10,540	180	-200
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,230</i>	<i>10,140</i>	<i>10,430</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>-200</i>
Total private	8,150	8,010	8,250	140	-100
Mining, logging, and construction	430	420	550	10	-120
Mining and logging	50	50	50	0	0
Construction	380	370	500	10	-120
Manufacturing	500	500	490	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,970	1,960	2,040	10	-70
Wholesale trade	220	210	230	10	-10
Retail trade	1,510	1,500	1,540	10	-30
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	250	270	-10	-30
Information	260	270	260	-10	0
Financial activities	300	290	270	10	30
Professional and business services	570	560	610	10	-40
Private education and health services	2,350	2,340	2,290	10	60
Ambulatory health care services	510	510	510	0	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	590	590	520	0	70
Leisure and hospitality	1,390	1,320	1,380	70	10
Accommodation and food services	1,250	1,200	1,260	50	-10
Other services	380	350	360	30	20
Government	2,190	2,150	2,290	40	-100
Federal government	280	270	270	10	10
State government	320	320	330	0	-10
Local government	1,590	1,560	1,690	30	-100
Indian tribal	40	40	90	0	-50
Local education	750	730	810	20	-60
Local government excluding education and tribal	800	790	790	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--				
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	938	944	1,011	-6	-73
Unemployed	43	49	44	-6	-1
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.2%	4.4%	-0.6	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.4%	5.6%	4.8%	-0.2	0.6
Employed	895	895	967	0	-72
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	880	865	990	15	-110
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	890	870	1,010	20	-120
Total private	580	570	690	10	-110
Trade, transportation, and utilities	105	105	105	0	0
Professional and business services	225	225	230	0	-5
Private education and health services	70	65	75	5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	40	35	40	5	0
Government	300	295	300	5	0
Federal government	15	10	10	5	5
State government	25	25	20	0	5
Local government	260	260	270	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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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	926	907	916	19	10
Unemployed	47	37	46	10	1
Unemployment rate	5.1%	4.1%	5.0%	1.0	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.8%	4.8%	4.9%	0.0	-0.1
Employed	879	870	870	9	9
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	900	885	890	15	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	900	880	890	20	10
Total private	585	580	565	5	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	350	335	0	15
Retail trade	130	125	130	5	0
Leisure and hospitality	95	90	85	5	10
Government	315	305	325	10	-10
Federal government	120	115	130	5	-10
State government	30	30	30	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 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026	May 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	697	696	688	1	9
Unemployed	28	29	26	-1	2
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.2%	3.8%	-0.2	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.7%	4.1%	-0.1	0.5
Employed	669	667	662	2	7
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	350	350	350	0	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	340	350	340	-10	0
Total private	160	160	175	0	-15
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	30	30	5	5
Leisure and hospitality	25	25	35	0	-10
Government	190	190	175	0	15
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	30	0	5
Local government	150	150	140	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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