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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: June 2026

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

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0% in June, unchanged from its May rate. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down by 0.2 percentage point.

Hood River County's employment losses in June were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment was down 80 (-0.7%) during the month, when an employment increase of 40 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 120 (-1.0%) between May and June.

The private sector overall lost 130 jobs over the month (-1.3%). Losses occurred in leisure and hospitality (-140 jobs) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-40 jobs). Gains were more widespread but smaller and occurred within the public sector (+50 jobs); manufacturing (+20 jobs); financial activities (+10 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (+10 jobs); and other services (+10 jobs).

Over the past year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment shed 140 jobs or -1.2%. Unadjusted private losses were largest in leisure and hospitality (-70 jobs) and manufacturing (-70 jobs), while private gains were largest in trade, transportation, and utilities (+70 jobs) and professional and business services (+50 jobs). The public sector remained unchanged over the year.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1% as of June, essentially unchanged from its rate of 5.0% in May. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point.

Wasco County's employment gains in June were smaller than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 70 (+0.7%) during the month, when an increase of 110 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 40 (-0.4%) between May and June.

Private-sector employment overall was up 20 over the month. The largest gains were recorded in leisure and hospitality (+70 jobs), with smaller gains recorded in other services (+10 jobs) and information (+10 jobs). Losses were recorded in manufacturing (-50 jobs), private education and health services (-10 jobs), and construction (-10 jobs). Public-sector employment gained 50 jobs in June. Local

government employment gained 40 jobs, and federal government gained 10 jobs. State government employment was unchanged in June.

Over the past year Wasco County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 160 jobs or -1.5% with the largest losses occurring in the public sector (-90 jobs), manufacturing (-80 jobs), construction (-50 jobs), and trade, transportation, and utilities (-50 jobs).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3% in June, down from May's unemployment rate of 5.4%. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point.

Gilliam County's employment gains in June were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 25 (+2.8%) during the month, when an employment increase of five jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 20 (+2.2%) between May and June. Over the year, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment was down 50 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in June, unchanged from May's revised rate of 4.9%. The unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point over the year.

Sherman County's employment gains in June were smaller than normal; total nonfarm employment increased by 15 jobs when an increase of 25 jobs would be expected. As a result, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was down by 10 jobs (-1.1%) in June and now stands at 885. 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 June, private industry gained five jobs, bringing the total to 585, a 0.9% increase from the previous year. Public-sector employment lost 10 jobs over the year for a net loss of five total nonfarm jobs over the year.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.6% in June, unchanged from May's rate. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.5 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment was unchanged from May to June and remained at 350 jobs. Private-sector gains (+10 jobs) were canceled out by public-sector losses (-10 jobs). Over the year ending in June, total nonfarm employment was down by five jobs. The private sector declined by 10 jobs over the year, while the public sector added five jobs.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for July on Wednesday, August 19 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, August 25.

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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July 21, 2026

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	June 2026	May 2026	June 2025	May 2026	June 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,075	13,514	14,004	561	71
Unemployed	556	522	568	34	-12
Unemployment rate	4.0%	3.9%	4.1%	0.1	-0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Employed	13,519	12,992	13,436	527	83
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,700	11,780	11,830	-80	-130
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>11,740</i>	<i>11,860</i>	<i>11,880</i>	<i>-120</i>	<i>-140</i>
Total private	10,110	10,240	10,240	-130	-130
Mining, logging, and construction	530	520	570	10	-40
Manufacturing	1,750	1,730	1,820	20	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,990	2,030	1,920	-40	70
Wholesale trade	410	460	370	-50	40
Retail trade	1,410	1,400	1,370	10	40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	170	170	180	0	-10
Information	90	90	80	0	10
Financial activities	330	320	350	10	-20
Professional and business services	1,040	1,040	990	0	50
Private education and health services	1,950	1,950	1,990	0	-40
Leisure and hospitality	2,120	2,260	2,190	-140	-70
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	290	540	330	-250	-40
Accommodation and food services	1,830	1,720	1,860	110	-30
Accommodation	520	510	520	10	0
Food services and drinking places	1,310	1,210	1,340	100	-30
Other services	310	300	330	10	-20
Government	1,590	1,540	1,590	50	0
Federal government	130	130	130	0	0
State government	160	160	150	0	10
Local government	1,300	1,250	1,310	50	-10
Local education	760	730	770	30	-10
Local government excluding educational services	540	520	540	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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Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	June 2026	May 2026	June 2025	May 2026	June 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	15,578	12,703	15,834	2,875	-256
Unemployed	687	617	681	70	6
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.9%	4.3%	-0.5	0.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	5.0%	5.2%	0.1	-0.1
Employed	14,891	12,086	15,153	2,805	-262
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,390	10,320	10,550	70	-160
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,170	10,210	10,330	-40	-160
Total private	8,130	8,110	8,200	20	-70
Mining, logging, and construction	420	430	470	-10	-50
Mining and logging	50	50	50	0	0
Construction	370	380	420	-10	-50
Manufacturing	430	480	510	-50	-80
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,960	1,960	2,010	0	-50
Wholesale trade	210	220	220	-10	-10
Retail trade	1,500	1,500	1,520	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	240	270	10	-20
Information	270	260	260	10	10
Financial activities	300	300	280	0	20
Professional and business services	570	570	590	0	-20
Private education and health services	2,340	2,350	2,260	-10	80
Ambulatory health care services	500	510	500	-10	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	590	590	520	0	70
Leisure and hospitality	1,450	1,380	1,440	70	10
Accommodation and food services	1,290	1,230	1,300	60	-10
Other services	390	380	380	10	10
Government	2,260	2,210	2,350	50	-90
Federal government	280	280	270	0	10
State government	330	320	340	10	-10
Local government	1,650	1,610	1,740	40	-90
Indian tribal	40	40	120	0	-80
Local education	770	750	800	20	-30
Local government excluding education and tribal	840	820	820	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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Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	June 2026	May 2026	June 2025	May 2026	June 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	955	937	987	18	-32
Unemployed	48	42	47	6	1
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.5%	4.8%	0.5	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.3%	5.4%	5.1%	-0.1	0.2
Employed	907	895	940	12	-33
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	905	880	955	25	-50
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	910	890	960	20	-50
Total private	605	580	645	25	-40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	110	105	115	5	-5
Professional and business services	225	225	220	0	5
Private education and health services	70	70	75	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	45	0	-5
Government	300	300	310	0	-10
Federal government	15	15	10	0	5
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	260	260	275	0	-15

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--				
	June 2026	May 2026	June 2025	May 2026	June 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	924	921	932	3	-8
Unemployed	45	47	46	-2	-1
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.1%	4.9%	-0.2	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Employed	879	874	886	5	-7
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	910	895	915	15	-5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>885</i>	<i>895</i>	<i>890</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>-5</i>
Total private	585	580	580	5	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	350	350	0	0
Retail trade	130	125	135	5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	100	95	90	5	10
Government	325	315	335	10	-10
Federal government	120	120	130	0	-10
State government	30	30	30	0	0
Local government	175	165	175	10	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--				
	June 2026	May 2026	June 2025	May 2026	June 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	694	696	687	-2	7
Unemployed	30	27	23	3	7
Unemployment rate	4.3%	3.9%	3.3%	0.4	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Employed	664	669	664	-5	0
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	350	350	355	0	-5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>345</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-5</i>
Total private	170	160	180	10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	35	30	-5	0
Leisure and hospitality	25	25	35	0	-10
Government	180	190	175	-10	5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	40	35	35	5	5
Local government	135	150	135	-15	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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