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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: July 2026

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decline across the Columbia Gorge with only Wasco County remaining unchanged.

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.9% in July, down from June's rate of 4.0%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down by 0.3 percentage point.

Hood River County's employment losses in July were as expected; total nonfarm employment was down -110 (-0.9%) during the month, when an employment decrease of 110 jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment remained unchanged between June and July.

The largest losses occurred within the public sector (-230 jobs) at the local level in local education (-230 jobs). Smaller losses were also seen in private education and health services (-10 jobs). Gains were concentrated within the private sector (+120 jobs) with the largest gains seen in leisure and hospitality (+100 jobs), and smaller gains seen in trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs) and mining, logging, and construction (+10 jobs).

Over the past year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment shed 90 jobs or -0.8%. Unadjusted losses were largest in trade, transportation, and utilities (-70 jobs); manufacturing (-60 jobs); financial activities (-60 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (-50 jobs). Gains were largest in leisure and hospitality (+60 jobs), professional and business services (+50 jobs), and private education and health services (+40 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1% in July, unchanged from its revised rate in June. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point.

Wasco County's employment losses in July were smaller than normal; total nonfarm employment was down 110 (-1.1%) during the month, when a decrease of 150 jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 40 (+0.4%) between June and July.

Private-sector employment overall was up 40 over the month. The largest gains were recorded in leisure and hospitality (+80 jobs), with smaller gains recorded in private education and health services

(+10 jobs). Private losses were recorded in professional and business services (-20 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-20 jobs); and manufacturing (-10 jobs). Public-sector employment lost 150 jobs in July. Local government employment shed 170 jobs, with all job losses occurring within local education. Federal government gained 20 jobs and state government employment was unchanged in July.

Over the past year Wasco County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has shed 100 jobs or -1.0% with the largest losses occurring in manufacturing (-60 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-60 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-60 jobs); and the public sector (-50 jobs). The largest gains were seen in private education and health services (+100 jobs) with smaller gains seen in professional and business services (+30 jobs), information (+30 jobs), and financial activities (+10 jobs).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 5.3% in June to 5.1% in July. Over the year, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage point.

Gilliam County's employment gains in July were as expected; total nonfarm employment was down 10 jobs (-1.1%) during the month, when an employment decrease of 10 jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was unchanged between June and July. Over the year, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment was down 10 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8% in July, down from 4.9% in June. The unemployment rate declined by 0.5 percentage point over the year.

Sherman County's employment gains in July were as expected; total nonfarm employment remained unchanged and stands at 875. Private-sector employment increased by 15 jobs over the month, while public-sector employment decreased by 15 for the month. Over the year ending in July, private industry lost 25 jobs, bringing the total to 570, a 4.2% decrease from the previous year. Public-sector employment lost 20 jobs over the year for a net loss of 45 total nonfarm jobs over the year.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3% in July, down from a rate of 4.6% in June. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by 0.1 percentage point. Total nonfarm employment was down by 10 jobs from June to July and is now at 335 jobs. Private-sector gains (+5 jobs) were canceled out by public-sector losses (-15 jobs). Over the year ending in July, total nonfarm employment was up by 25 jobs. The private sector declined by 10 jobs over the year, while the public sector added 35 jobs.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for August on Wednesday, Sep. 16 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Sep. 22.

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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August 25, 2026

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	15,187	14,066	15,106	1,121	81
Unemployed	603	551	641	52	-38
Unemployment rate	4.0%	3.9%	4.2%	0.1	-0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	4.0%	4.2%	-0.1	-0.3
Employed	14,584	13,515	14,465	1,069	119
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,630	11,740	11,730	-110	-100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,780	11,780	11,870	0	-90
Total private	10,260	10,140	10,380	120	-120
Mining, logging, and construction	540	530	590	10	-50
Manufacturing	1,760	1,760	1,820	0	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,850	1,830	1,920	20	-70
Wholesale trade	320	350	330	-30	-10
Retail trade	1,350	1,310	1,390	40	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	180	170	200	10	-20
Information	70	70	90	0	-20
Financial activities	310	310	370	0	-60
Professional and business services	1,060	1,060	1,010	0	50
Private education and health services	2,020	2,030	1,980	-10	40
Leisure and hospitality	2,330	2,230	2,270	100	60
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	380	360	330	20	50
Accommodation and food services	1,950	1,870	1,940	80	10
Accommodation	570	550	550	20	20
Food services and drinking places	1,380	1,320	1,390	60	-10
Other services	320	320	330	0	-10
Government	1,370	1,600	1,350	-230	20
Federal government	130	130	130	0	0
State government	160	160	150	0	10
Local government	1,080	1,310	1,070	-230	10
Local education	530	760	530	-230	0
Local government excluding educational services	550	550	540	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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Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	17,256	15,565	17,438	1,691	-182
Unemployed	713	682	722	31	-9
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.4%	4.1%	-0.3	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Employed	16,543	14,883	16,716	1,660	-173
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,250	10,360	10,350	-110	-100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>10,180</i>	<i>10,140</i>	<i>10,280</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>-100</i>
Total private	8,100	8,060	8,150	40	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	430	430	460	0	-30
Mining and logging	20	20	40	0	-20
Construction	410	410	420	0	-10
Manufacturing	430	440	490	-10	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,930	1,950	1,990	-20	-60
Wholesale trade	220	220	220	0	0
Retail trade	1,460	1,480	1,500	-20	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	250	250	270	0	-20
Information	280	280	250	0	30
Financial activities	290	290	280	0	10
Professional and business services	590	610	560	-20	30
Private education and health services	2,350	2,340	2,250	10	100
Ambulatory health care services	520	520	510	0	10
Nursing and residential care facilities	560	570	530	-10	30
Leisure and hospitality	1,440	1,360	1,500	80	-60
Accommodation and food services	1,260	1,210	1,320	50	-60
Other services	360	360	370	0	-10
Government	2,150	2,300	2,200	-150	-50
Federal government	300	280	280	20	20
State government	320	320	340	0	-20
Local government	1,530	1,700	1,580	-170	-50
Indian tribal	80	80	120	0	-40
Local education	620	790	660	-170	-40
Local government excluding education and tribal	830	830	800	0	30

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--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	962	962	978	0	-16
Unemployed	49	47	55	2	-6
Unemployment rate	5.1%	4.9%	5.6%	0.2	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.1%	5.3%	5.4%	-0.2	-0.3
Employed	913	915	923	-2	-10
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	900	910	905	-10	-5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	915	915	925	0	-10
Total private	620	590	615	30	5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	115	115	115	0	0
Professional and business services	220	225	225	-5	-5
Private education and health services	80	80	75	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	45	40	50	5	-5
Government	280	320	290	-40	-10
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	25	25	20	0	5
Local government	245	285	260	-40	-15

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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--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	915	907	964	8	-49
Unemployed	42	45	55	-3	-13
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.0%	5.7%	-0.4	-1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>5.3%</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>-0.5</i>
Employed	873	862	909	11	-36
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	875	875	920	0	-45
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>895</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-45</i>
Total private	570	555	595	15	-25
Trade, transportation, and utilities	350	350	350	0	0
Retail trade	115	115	140	0	-25
Leisure and hospitality	85	85	90	0	-5
Government	305	320	325	-15	-20
Federal government	120	120	130	0	-10
State government	25	25	30	0	-5
Local government	160	175	165	-15	-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.



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Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026	July 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	679	691	692	-12	-13
Unemployed	26	30	31	-4	-5
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.3%	4.5%	-0.5	-0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.3%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Employed	653	661	661	-8	-8
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	335	345	310	-10	25
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>335</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>-5</i>	<i>25</i>
Total private	170	165	180	5	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	30	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	35	0	-5
Government	165	180	130	-15	35
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	45	40	40	5	5
Local government	115	135	85	-20	30

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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