State of Oregon
Employment Department

NEWS

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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: October 2026

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates continued to decrease across the Columbia Gorge in October.

Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.7% in October, down from September's rate of 3.8%.

Hood River County's employment losses in October were smaller than expected; total nonfarm employment was down 10 jobs (-0.1%) during the month, when an employment decrease of 30 jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 20 jobs (+0.2%) from September to October.

Gains were not widespread, occurring only in trade, transportation, and utilities (+110 jobs) and government (+20 jobs), specifically within local government (+20 jobs). Losses were concentrated within the private sector (-30 jobs) with the largest losses seen in leisure and hospitality (-90 jobs). Smaller losses were also seen in private education and health services (-20 jobs), manufacturing (-20 jobs), and financial activities (-10 jobs).

Over the past year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment shed 40 jobs or -0.3%. Unadjusted losses were largest in trade, transportation, and utilities (-80 jobs). Smaller losses were seen in mining, logging, and construction (-30 jobs); other services (-30 jobs); information (-20 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (-20 jobs). Gains were concentrated in professional and business services (+80 jobs), private education and health services (+40 jobs), financial activities (+10 jobs), and government (+10 jobs).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9% in October, down from a rate of 5.0% in September.

Wasco County's employment losses in October were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment was down 150 jobs (-1.5%) during the month, when a decrease of 120 jobs was expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 30 jobs (-0.3%) between September and October.

Private-sector employment was down 150 jobs (-1.9%) over the month. The largest losses were recorded in leisure and hospitality (-110 jobs). Smaller private-sector losses were recorded in private

education and health services (-30 jobs), other services (-20 jobs), and manufacturing (-10 jobs). Public-sector employment saw no movement in October, with local gains (10 jobs) offset by federal losses (-10 jobs).

Over the past year Wasco County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment was down 350 jobs or -3.4% with the largest losses occurring in trade, transportation, and utilities (-100 jobs); private education and health services (-90 jobs); and manufacturing (-70 jobs). Additional losses were seen in professional and business services (-30 jobs), other services (-20 jobs), and government (-20 jobs). Gains were minimal and occurred within leisure and hospitality (+20 jobs).

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from a revised rate of 4.5% in September to 4.4% in October.

Gilliam County's employment gains in October were larger than expected; total nonfarm employment was up 50 jobs (+4.9%) during the month, when no change would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 50 jobs between September and October. Over the year, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment was up 185 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.5% in October, down from its 4.6% rate in September.

Sherman County's employment gains in October were as expected; total nonfarm employment declined by 25 jobs when a decline of 25 jobs was expected. Private-sector employment decreased by 10 jobs over the month, while public-sector employment decreased by 15 jobs. Over the year ending in October, private industry was unchanged with losses cancelling out gains, bringing the total to 580. Public-sector employment gained 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 3.9% in October, down from a rate of 4.0% in September.

Total nonfarm employment was up five jobs from September to October when an employment decrease of five was expected. Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment is up 10 jobs as a result. Over the year ending in October, total nonfarm employment was up 35 jobs. The private sector increased by 10 jobs over the year, while the public sector added 25 jobs.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the next statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for November on Wednesday, Dec. 16 and county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, Dec. 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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State of Oregon Employment Department

Workforce & Economic Research Division
QualityInfo.org
November 24, 2026

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,917	15,090	NA	-1,173	NA
Unemployed	464	435	NA	29	NA
Unemployment rate	3.3%	2.9%	NA	0.4	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*3.7%*	*3.8%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	13,453	14,655	NA	-1,202	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,810	11,820	11,850	-10	-40
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*11,920*	*11,900*	*11,960*	*20*	*-40*
Total private	10,290	10,320	10,340	-30	-50
Mining, logging, and construction	530	530	560	0	-30
Manufacturing	1,790	1,810	1,790	-20	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,040	1,930	2,120	110	-80
Wholesale trade	480	420	470	60	10
Retail trade	1,390	1,330	1,470	60	-80
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	170	180	180	-10	-10
Information	70	70	90	0	-20
Financial activities	350	360	340	-10	10
Professional and business services	1,090	1,090	1,010	0	80
Private education and health services	2,000	2,020	1,960	-20	40
Leisure and hospitality	2,120	2,210	2,140	-90	-20
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	360	330	350	30	10
Accommodation and food services	1,760	1,880	1,790	-120	-30
Accommodation	510	540	510	-30	0
Food services and drinking places	1,250	1,340	1,280	-90	-30
Other services	300	300	330	0	-30
Government	1,520	1,500	1,510	20	10
Federal government	130	130	100	0	30
State government	150	150	150	0	0
Local government	1,240	1,220	1,260	20	-20
Local education	720	690	720	30	0
Local government excluding educational services	520	530	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--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,630	12,863	NA	-233	NA
Unemployed	568	540	NA	28	NA
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.2%	NA	0.3	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*4.9%*	*5.0%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	12,062	12,323	NA	-261	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	9,880	10,030	10,230	-150	-350
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*9,870*	*9,900*	*10,220*	*-30*	*-350*
Total private	7,700	7,850	8,030	-150	-330
Mining, logging, and construction	370	370	430	0	-60
Mining and logging	10	10	30	0	-20
Construction	360	360	400	0	-40
Manufacturing	380	390	450	-10	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,890	1,880	1,990	10	-100
Wholesale trade	230	230	220	0	10
Retail trade	1,420	1,410	1,510	10	-90
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	240	240	260	0	-20
Information	280	280	260	0	20
Financial activities	290	290	290	0	0
Professional and business services	530	520	560	10	-30
Private education and health services	2,250	2,280	2,340	-30	-90
Ambulatory health care services	510	510	520	0	-10
Nursing and residential care facilities	550	550	580	0	-30
Leisure and hospitality	1,370	1,480	1,350	-110	20
Accommodation and food services	1,270	1,350	1,240	-80	30
Other services	340	360	360	-20	-20
Government	2,180	2,180	2,200	0	-20
Federal government	300	310	260	-10	40
State government	320	320	320	0	0
Local government	1,560	1,550	1,620	10	-60
Indian tribal	110	120	60	-10	50
Local education	670	630	770	40	-100
Local government excluding education and tribal	780	800	790	-20	-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--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,103	1,066	NA	37	NA
Unemployed	41	37	NA	4	NA
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.5%	NA	0.2	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*4.4%*	*4.5%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	1,062	1,029	NA	33	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	1,080	1,030	895	50	185
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*1,070*	*1,020*	*885*	*50*	*185*
Total private	770	710	580	60	190
Trade, transportation, and utilities	95	100	100	-5	-5
Professional and business services	215	215	225	0	-10
Private education and health services	75	75	75	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	40	45	40	-5	0
Government	310	320	315	-10	-5
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	275	285	280	-10	-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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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	930	950	NA	-20	NA
Unemployed	37	38	NA	-1	NA
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.0%	NA	0.0	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*4.5%*	*4.6%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	893	912	NA	-19	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	900	925	890	-25	10
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*910*	*910*	*900*	*0*	*10*
Total private	580	590	580	-10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	380	385	360	-5	20
Retail trade	140	140	130	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	85	85	90	0	-5
Government	320	335	310	-15	10
Federal government	135	135	120	0	15
State government	25	25	25	0	0
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--		
	October 2026	September 2026	October 2025	September 2026	October 2025
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	728	727	NA	1	NA
Unemployed	24	23	NA	1	NA
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.2%	NA	0.1	NA
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	*3.9%*	*4.0%*	*NA*	*-0.1*	*NA*
Employed	704	704	NA	0	NA
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	375	370	340	5	35
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	*365*	*355*	*330*	*10*	*35*
Total private	175	175	165	0	10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	25	25	30	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	35	35	30	0	5
Government	200	195	175	5	25
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	35	0	0
Local government	160	155	135	5	25

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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