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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: December 2023

December Snowfall Arrives Late and Unemployment Rates Little Changed

In December, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 3.0%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's second lowest, trailing Wheeler but just ahead of Benton's 3.2%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment fell by 230 jobs in December to 12,390. Private industry cut 230 jobs, falling to 10,880 jobs, and government held steady with 1,510. Arts, entertainment, and recreation suffered from a lack of snowfall, cutting 160 jobs to total 510. Wholesale trade cut 40 jobs, falling to 470, and retail trade idled 20. In the public sector, federal government cut 10 jobs and local government added back 10.

Hood River County's private-industry employment fell by 80 jobs over the year ending in December, a loss of 0.7%. Education and health services led private industry with an over-the-year increase of 90 jobs, rising to 1,990. Wholesale trade (+60); mining, logging, and construction (+50); retail trade (+50); food services and drinking places (+50); other services (+50); and manufacturing (+40) also rose over the year. Local government education rose by 30 jobs over the year and state government chipped in 10.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in December at 3.7%, ranking 11th tied with Clatsop, Marion, and Polk. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.1 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell to 10,460 in December, a loss of 10 jobs. Private industry cut 30 jobs, falling to 8,270, while government rose to 2,190, an increase of 20. Leisure and hospitality cut 20 jobs in December, falling to 1,340. Mining and logging (-10); construction (-10); manufacturing (-10); and other services (-10) also cut jobs. Private-industry job gains were limited to transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+20) and retail trade (+10). In the public sector, local education rose by 30 jobs and state government cut 10.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 290 jobs over the year ending in December. Leisure and hospitality led private industry, rising by 110 jobs (+8.9%). Professional and business

services rose by 90 jobs to reach 600. Education and health services rose to 2,270, an increase of 60. Construction cut 30 jobs over the year ending in December, falling to 390. Local government led the public sector, with other local up 70 jobs and local education rising by 50. State government also rose over the year, adding 10 jobs to reach 270.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point in December to 4.6%, ranking 31st out of 36 Oregon counties. Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage point over the year ending in December. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment held steady in December with 850 jobs. Over the year, the private sector lost 270 jobs (-30.6%), while government cut five, falling to 250.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in December to 4.0%, ranking 19th. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 20 jobs in December, to reach 960. Over the year ending in December, private industry cut five jobs, falling to 635, and government increased its total by 10 to reach 325.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in December to 2.7%, ranking as Oregon's lowest. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.8 percentage point. Nonfarm employment fell to 355 jobs in December, a loss of 10. Over the year ending in December, private industry cut five jobs, falling to 170, and government rose by 45 to reach 185.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the January 2024 Oregon, county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on March 5th, 2024.

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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Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	918	918	1,026	0	-108
Unemployed	50	42	39	8	11
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.6%	3.8%	0.8	1.6
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.6%	4.4%	3.9%	0.2	0.7
Employed	868	876	987	-8	-119
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	850	850	1,120	0	-270
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	845	835	1,120	10	-275
Total private	600	610	865	-10	-265
Trade, transportation, and utilities	135	140	130	-5	5
Professional and business services	215	215	220	0	-5
Private education and health services	95	95	90	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	40	40	45	0	-5
Government	250	240	255	10	-5
Federal government	15	10	15	5	0
State government	20	20	10	0	10
Local government	215	210	230	5	-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.

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,558	13,647	14,174	-89	-616
Unemployed	412	379	530	33	-118
Unemployment rate	3.0%	2.8%	3.7%	0.2	-0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.0%	2.9%	4.2%	0.1	-1.2
Employed	13,146	13,268	13,644	-122	-498
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,390	12,620	12,430	-230	-40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,890	12,330	11,940	-440	-50
Total private	10,880	11,110	10,960	-230	-80
Mining, logging, and construction	580	590	530	-10	50
Manufacturing	1,850	1,870	1,810	-20	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,390	2,450	2,290	-60	100
Wholesale trade	470	510	410	-40	60
Retail trade	1,770	1,790	1,720	-20	50
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	150	150	160	0	-10
Information	150	140	120	10	30
Financial activities	310	310	290	0	20
Professional and business services	1,040	1,050	1,020	-10	20
Private education and health services	1,990	1,980	1,900	10	90
Leisure and hospitality	2,160	2,310	2,640	-150	-480
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	510	670	1,040	-160	-530
Accommodation and food services	1,650	1,640	1,600	10	50
Accommodation	460	450	460	10	0
Food services and drinking places	1,190	1,190	1,140	0	50
Other services	410	410	360	0	50
Government	1,510	1,510	1,470	0	40
Federal government	110	120	110	-10	0
State government	130	130	120	0	10
Local government	1,270	1,260	1,240	10	30
Local education	740	730	740	10	0
Local government excluding educational services	530	530	500	0	30

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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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	960	952	958	8	2
Unemployed	34	38	34	-4	0
Unemployment rate	3.5%	4.0%	3.5%	-0.5	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.1%	3.6%	-0.1	0.4
Employed	926	914	924	12	2
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	960	940	955	20	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	975	975	970	0	5
Total private	635	640	640	-5	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	355	360	340	-5	15
Retail trade	130	130	125	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	85	85	100	0	-15
Government	325	300	315	25	10
Federal government	130	130	120	0	10
State government	25	25	35	0	-10
Local government	170	145	160	25	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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,797	12,964	12,933	-167	-136
Unemployed	530	462	688	68	-158
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.6%	5.3%	0.5	-1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.7%	4.8%	0.0	-1.1
Employed	12,267	12,502	12,245	-235	22
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,460	10,470	10,040	-10	420
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,480	10,470	10,060	10	420
Total private	8,270	8,300	7,980	-30	290
Mining, logging, and construction	440	460	480	-20	-40
Mining and logging	50	60	60	-10	-10
Construction	390	400	420	-10	-30
Manufacturing	510	520	470	-10	40
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,150	2,120	2,130	30	20
Wholesale trade	190	190	180	0	10
Retail trade	1,610	1,600	1,600	10	10
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	350	330	350	20	0
Information	260	260	270	0	-10
Financial activities	310	310	310	0	0
Professional and business services	600	600	510	0	90
Private education and health services	2,270	2,270	2,210	0	60
Ambulatory health care services	500	500	470	0	30
Nursing and residential care facilities	500	500	500	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,340	1,360	1,230	-20	110
Accommodation and food services	1,260	1,270	1,160	-10	100
Other services	390	400	370	-10	20
Government	2,190	2,170	2,060	20	130
Federal government	270	270	270	0	0
State government	270	280	260	-10	10
Local government	1,650	1,620	1,530	30	120
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	890	860	840	30	50
Local government excluding education and tribal	750	750	680	0	70

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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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023	December 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	784	791	727	-7	57
Unemployed	23	16	26	7	-3
Unemployment rate	2.9%	2.0%	3.6%	0.9	-0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2.7%	2.8%	3.5%	-0.1	-0.8
Employed	761	775	701	-14	60
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	355	365	315	-10	40
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	360	360	325	0	35
Total private	170	185	175	-15	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	40	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	30	40	30	-10	0
Government	185	180	140	5	45
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	0	0	35
Local government	145	140	135	5	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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