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## **Employment in the Columbia Gorge: January 2024**

### **Winter Snowfall Finally Arrives and Unemployment Rates Little Changed**

In January, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 3.1%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's second lowest, trailing Wheeler but just ahead of Benton's 3.3%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.0 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment fell by 190 jobs in January to 12,200. Private industry cut 160 jobs, falling to 10,720 jobs, and government fell by 30 jobs to a total of 1,480. The arts, entertainment, and recreation sector finally received welcome snowfall and added 670 jobs to total 1,180. Retail trade lost 460 jobs. Additional declines were estimated in accommodation and food services (-120); manufacturing (-100); and mining, logging, and construction (-60).

Hood River County's private-industry employment grew by 80 jobs over the year ending in January, a gain of 0.8%. Private education and health services led private industry with an over-the-year increase of 80 jobs, rising to 2,020. Wholesale trade (+60), accommodation and food services (+40), and manufacturing (+20) also rose over the year. Local government education rose by 40 jobs over the year and federal government added 20.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged lower in January to 3.8%, ranking eighth tied with Tillamook, Marion, and Umatilla. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.1 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell to 10,150 in January, a loss of 310 jobs. Private industry cut 270 jobs, falling to 8,000, while government dipped to 2,150, a decrease of 40. Leisure and hospitality shed 100 jobs in January, falling to 1,240. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-50); retail trade (-40); construction (-20); manufacturing (-20); and private education and health services (-20) also cut jobs. Private-industry job gains were limited to information (+20). In the public sector, local education fell by 40 jobs and local government excluding education and tribal cut 20.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 20 jobs over the year ending in January. Gains were estimated in other services (+40); leisure and hospitality (+30); and manufacturing (+30). Professional and business services rose by 20 jobs to reach 580. Industries losing jobs were retail trade

(-40); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-40); and private education and health services (-20). Construction cut 20 jobs over the year, falling to 370. Local government led the public sector, with other local up 30 jobs, but local education was unchanged over the year. State government also rose over the year, adding 20 jobs to reach 290.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point in January to 4.9%, ranking 32<sup>nd</sup> highest out of 36 Oregon counties. Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 1.1 percentage points over the year ending in January. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment was little changed in January with 865 jobs. Over the year, the private sector lost 130 jobs (-17.7%), while government cut 15, falling to 260.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.1 percentage point in January to 4.1%. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell by 30 jobs in January, to reach 930. Over the year ending in January, private industry cut five jobs, falling to 620, and government increased its total by 20 to reach 310.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in January to 2.8%, 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 345 jobs in January, a loss of 10. Over the year ending in January, private industry cut five jobs, falling to 165, and government rose by five to reach 180.

### Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for February on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

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/](http://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](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org)

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. Everyone has a right to use OED programs and services. OED provides free help. Some examples are: Sign language and spoken language interpreters, written materials in other languages, braille, large print, audio and other formats. If you need help, please call 971-673-6400. TTY users call 711. You can also ask for help at [OED\\_Communications@employ.oregon.gov](mailto:OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov).

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March 5, 2024

### Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	December 2023	January 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	949	906	1,039	43	-90
Unemployed	56	49	36	7	20
Unemployment rate	5.9%	5.4%	3.5%	0.5	2.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>3.8%</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>1.1</i>
Employed	893	857	1,003	36	-110
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	865	850	1,010	15	-145
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>875</i>	<i>825</i>	<i>1,030</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>-155</i>
Total private	605	600	735	5	-130
Trade, transportation, and utilities	135	135	130	0	5
Professional and business services	225	215	235	10	-10
Private education and health services	85	95	85	-10	0
Leisure and hospitality	30	40	35	-10	-5
Government	260	250	275	10	-15
Federal government	10	15	15	-5	-5
State government	25	20	25	5	0
Local government	225	215	235	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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### Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	December 2023	January 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	13,925	13,613	13,794	312	131
Unemployed	577	426	512	151	65
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.1%	3.7%	1.0	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.1%	3.0%	4.1%	0.1	-1.0
Employed	13,348	13,187	13,282	161	66
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	12,200	12,390	12,080	-190	120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,250	12,000	12,120	250	130
Total private	10,720	10,880	10,640	-160	80
Mining, logging, and construction	520	580	530	-60	-10
Manufacturing	1,750	1,850	1,730	-100	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,920	2,390	2,010	-470	-90
Wholesale trade	490	470	430	20	60
Retail trade	1,310	1,770	1,430	-460	-120
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	120	150	150	-30	-30
Information	130	150	130	-20	0
Financial activities	310	310	310	0	0
Professional and business services	1,010	1,040	990	-30	20
Private education and health services	2,020	1,990	1,940	30	80
Leisure and hospitality	2,710	2,160	2,660	550	50
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,180	510	1,170	670	10
Accommodation and food services	1,530	1,650	1,490	-120	40
Accommodation	430	460	420	-30	10
Food services and drinking places	1,100	1,190	1,070	-90	30
Other services	350	410	340	-60	10
Government	1,480	1,510	1,440	-30	40
Federal government	110	110	90	0	20
State government	130	130	130	0	0
Local government	1,240	1,270	1,220	-30	20
Local education	750	740	710	10	40
Local government excluding educational services	490	530	510	-40	-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--				
	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	December 2023	January 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	12,577	12,421	12,507	156	70
Unemployed	703	547	706	156	-3
Unemployment rate	5.6%	4.4%	5.6%	1.2	0.0
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	3.8%	3.7%	4.9%	0.1	-1.1
Employed	11,874	11,874	11,801	0	73
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	10,150	10,460	10,070	-310	80
Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)	10,440	10,550	10,360	-110	80
Total private	8,000	8,270	7,980	-270	20
Mining, logging, and construction	420	440	440	-20	-20
Mining and logging	50	50	50	0	0
Construction	370	390	390	-20	-20
Manufacturing	490	510	460	-20	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,050	2,150	2,120	-100	-70
Wholesale trade	180	190	170	-10	10
Retail trade	1,570	1,610	1,610	-40	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	300	350	340	-50	-40
Information	280	260	270	20	10
Financial activities	300	310	300	-10	0
Professional and business services	580	600	560	-20	20
Private education and health services	2,250	2,270	2,270	-20	-20
Ambulatory health care services	510	500	490	10	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	480	500	530	-20	-50
Leisure and hospitality	1,240	1,340	1,210	-100	30
Accommodation and food services	1,170	1,260	1,140	-90	30
Other services	390	390	350	0	40
Government	2,150	2,190	2,090	-40	60
Federal government	270	270	260	0	10
State government	290	270	270	20	20
Local government	1,590	1,650	1,560	-60	30
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	850	890	850	-40	0
Local government excluding education and tribal	730	750	700	-20	30

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Civilian labor force includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older by place of residence.

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### Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	December 2023	January 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	975	974	932	1	43
Unemployed	53	36	39	17	14
Unemployment rate	5.4%	3.7%	4.2%	1.7	1.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>3.7%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Employed	922	938	893	-16	29
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	930	960	915	-30	15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>965</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>950</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>15</i>
Total private	620	635	625	-15	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	355	330	-25	0
Retail trade	120	130	130	-10	-10
Leisure and hospitality	80	85	95	-5	-15
Government	310	325	290	-15	20
Federal government	135	130	125	5	10
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	150	170	140	-20	10

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### Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	December 2023	January 2023
<b>Labor Force Status</b>					
Civilian labor force	783	788	777	-5	6
Unemployed	31	23	23	8	8
Unemployment rate	4.0%	2.9%	3.0%	1.1	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2.8%</i>	<i>2.7%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-0.6</i>
Employed	752	765	754	-13	-2
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Employment</b>					
Total nonfarm employment	345	355	345	-10	0
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>370</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>0</i>
Total private	165	170	170	-5	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	35	0	-5
Leisure and hospitality	25	30	25	-5	0
Government	180	185	175	-5	5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	35	35	30	0	5
Local government	140	145	140	-5	0

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Total private	8,000	8,270	7,980	-270	20
Mining, logging, and construction	420	440	440	-20	-20
Mining and logging	50	50	50	0	0
Construction	370	390	390	-20	-20
Manufacturing	490	510	460	-20	30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,050	2,150	2,120	-100	-70
Wholesale trade	180	190	170	-10	10
Retail trade	1,570	1,610	1,610	-40	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	300	350	340	-50	-40
Information	280	260	270	20	10
Financial activities	300	310	300	-10	0
Professional and business services	580	600	560	-20	20
Private education and health services	2,250	2,270	2,270	-20	-20
Ambulatory health care services	510	500	490	10	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	480	500	530	-20	-50
Leisure and hospitality	1,240	1,340	1,210	-100	30
Accommodation and food services	1,170	1,260	1,140	-90	30
Other services	390	390	350	0	40
Government	2,150	2,190	2,090	-40	60
Federal government	270	270	260	0	10
State government	290	270	270	20	20
Local government	1,590	1,650	1,560	-60	30
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	850	890	850	-40	0
Local government excluding education and tribal	730	750	700	-20	30

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