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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: February 2024

Little Change in Monthly Payroll Job Numbers

In February, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 3.2%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's second lowest, trailing Wheeler but just ahead of Benton's 3.4%. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.0 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment was unchanged in February at 12,200 jobs. Private industry remained at 10,720 jobs, and government had a total of 1,480. Retail trade lost 80 jobs. Slight job gains were estimated in leisure and hospitality (+30), and private education and health services (+20).

Hood River County's private-industry employment grew by 100 jobs over the year ending in February, a gain of 0.8%. Private education and health services led private industry with an over-the-year increase of 70 jobs, rising to 2,040. Wholesale trade (+70); leisure and hospitality (+40); and professional and business services (+20) also rose over the year. Local government education and federal government added 20 jobs since February 2023.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up in February to 3.9%, ranking eighth tied with Multnomah and Clatsop counties. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.0 percentage points.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment increased to 10,210 in February, a gain of 90 jobs. Private industry added 60 jobs, rising to 8,030, while government grew to 2,180, an increase of 30. Over the month changes in all industries were small. Local government education added 20 jobs.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 110 jobs over the year ending in February. Gains were estimated in private education and health services (+40); professional and business services (+30); leisure and hospitality (+30); manufacturing (+20); and other services (+20). Industries losing jobs were retail trade (-20); and mining, logging, and construction (-20). Local government led the public sector, with other local up 30 jobs, and local education was up by 10 over the year. State and federal government employment both rose over the year, each adding 20 jobs to reach 270 and 260 jobs, respectively.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point in February to 5.2%, ranking 3rd highest out of 36 Oregon counties. Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 1.4 percentage points over the year ending in February. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment was unchanged in February with 810 jobs. Over the year, the private sector lost 70 jobs (-11.4%), while government cut 15, falling to 265.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by 0.2 percentage point in February to 4.3%. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment was also unchanged in February, at 930. Over the year ending in February, private industry cut five jobs, falling to 625, and government increased its total by 10 to reach 305.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in February to 2.9%, ranking as Oregon's lowest. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage point. Nonfarm employment rose to 360 jobs in February, a gain of 15. Over the year ending in February, private industry was unchanged at 170, and government rose by 15 to reach 190.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the March county and metropolitan area unemployment rates and employment survey data on Tuesday, April 23rd, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for March on Wednesday, April 17th.

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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March 26, 2024

Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	915	910	955	5	-40
Unemployed	60	56	37	4	23
Unemployment rate	6.6%	6.2%	3.9%	0.4	2.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>3.8%</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>1.4</i>
Employed	855	854	918	1	-63
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	810	810	895	0	-85
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>835</i>	<i>820</i>	<i>920</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>-85</i>
Total private	545	550	615	-5	-70
Trade, transportation, and utilities	135	135	125	0	10
Professional and business services	210	215	225	-5	-15
Private education and health services	85	85	85	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	30	30	35	0	-5
Government	265	260	280	5	-15
Federal government	15	10	10	5	5
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	225	225	245	0	-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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Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,301	13,949	13,984	352	317
Unemployed	581	575	482	6	99
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.1%	3.4%	0.0	0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>3.2%</i>	<i>3.1%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-0.8</i>
Employed	13,720	13,374	13,502	346	218
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,200	12,200	12,100	0	100
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>12,190</i>	<i>12,250</i>	<i>12,090</i>	<i>-60</i>	<i>100</i>
Total private	10,720	10,720	10,640	0	80
Mining, logging, and construction	530	520	530	10	0
Manufacturing	1,760	1,750	1,770	10	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,840	1,920	1,900	-80	-60
Wholesale trade	480	490	410	-10	70
Retail trade	1,230	1,310	1,350	-80	-120
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	130	120	140	10	-10
Information	130	130	130	0	0
Financial activities	310	310	300	0	10
Professional and business services	1,020	1,010	1,000	10	20
Private education and health services	2,040	2,020	1,970	20	70
Leisure and hospitality	2,740	2,710	2,700	30	40
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,190	1,180	1,170	10	20
Accommodation and food services	1,550	1,530	1,530	20	20
Accommodation	440	430	430	10	10
Food services and drinking places	1,110	1,100	1,100	10	10
Other services	350	350	340	0	10
Government	1,480	1,480	1,460	0	20
Federal government	110	110	90	0	20
State government	130	130	130	0	0
Local government	1,240	1,240	1,240	0	0
Local education	750	750	730	0	20
Local government excluding educational services	490	490	510	0	-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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Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	--Change From--	
				January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	981	975	947	6	34
Unemployed	55	53	37	2	18
Unemployment rate	5.6%	5.4%	3.9%	0.2	1.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>4.3%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>3.7%</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Employed	926	922	910	4	16
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	930	930	925	0	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>965</i>	<i>955</i>	<i>-5</i>	<i>5</i>
Total private	625	620	630	5	-5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	340	330	340	10	0
Retail trade	120	115	135	5	-15
Leisure and hospitality	85	80	95	5	-10
Government	305	310	295	-5	10
Federal government	130	135	125	-5	5
State government	25	25	25	0	0
Local government	150	150	145	0	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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Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,824	12,567	12,546	257	278
Unemployed	689	700	653	-11	36
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.6%	5.2%	-0.2	0.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.9%	3.8%	4.9%	0.1	-1.0
Employed	12,135	11,867	11,893	268	242
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,210	10,120	10,020	90	190
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,450	10,410	10,260	40	190
Total private	8,030	7,970	7,920	60	110
Mining, logging, and construction	430	420	450	10	-20
Mining and logging	50	50	60	0	-10
Construction	380	370	390	10	-10
Manufacturing	500	490	480	10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,080	2,060	2,100	20	-20
Wholesale trade	190	180	180	10	10
Retail trade	1,580	1,580	1,600	0	-20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	310	300	320	10	-10
Information	280	280	270	0	10
Financial activities	310	300	310	10	0
Professional and business services	570	560	540	10	30
Private education and health services	2,260	2,250	2,220	10	40
Ambulatory health care services	500	500	480	0	20
Nursing and residential care facilities	490	490	520	0	-30
Leisure and hospitality	1,230	1,240	1,200	-10	30
Accommodation and food services	1,170	1,170	1,130	0	40
Other services	370	370	350	0	20
Government	2,180	2,150	2,100	30	80
Federal government	280	270	260	10	20
State government	290	290	270	0	20
Local government	1,610	1,590	1,570	20	40
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	870	850	860	20	10
Local government excluding education and tribal	730	730	700	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.



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Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

				--Change From--	
	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	January 2024	February 2023
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	806	782	771	24	35
Unemployed	32	31	23	1	9
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%	0.0	1.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>2.9%</i>	<i>2.8%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-0.5</i>
Employed	774	751	748	23	26
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	360	345	345	15	15
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>370</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>355</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>
Total private	170	165	170	5	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	30	30	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	35	25	30	10	5
Government	190	180	175	10	15
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	40	35	35	5	5
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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