

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7th, 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dallas Fridley, Regional Economist
Dallas.W.Fridley@oregon.gov
(541) 645-0005

Employment in the Columbia Gorge: January 2023

Unemployment Rates Rise Above Year-Ago Levels

In January, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 3.7%. Hood River County's unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's fourth lowest, tied with Benton. Over the year, the county's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment fell by 410 jobs to 12,260 in January. Private industry cut 400 jobs, falling to 10,890, and government idled 10, dropping to 1,370. Wholesale trade led private industry, adding 90 jobs to reach 500. Arts, entertainment, and recreation rose by 70 jobs to total 1,180. Education and health services chipped in 10 jobs, rising to 1,960. Retail trade cut 340 jobs in January, falling to 1,400, and accommodation and food services shed 100, dropping to 1,530. Mining, logging, and construction (-40 jobs) and manufacturing (-40) also cut jobs in January.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 3.9% over the year, adding 410 jobs. Leisure and hospitality led private industry, rising by 160 jobs (6.3%). Other industries adding jobs included retail trade (+70); education and health services (+70); other services (+70); manufacturing (+60); and mining, logging, and construction (+40).

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 4.3% in January, low enough to rank 10th, tied with Morrow. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment fell by 100 jobs in January, dropping to 10,080. Private industry lost 100 jobs, falling to 8,060, and government held steady at 2,020. Leisure and hospitality cut 40 jobs in January, dropping its total to 1,160, and transportation, warehousing, and utilities shed 30, falling to 330. Local government education rose by 10 jobs in January to reach 800 and state government cut 10, dropping to 250. Wasco County remains about 140 jobs or 1.4% shy of its pre-pandemic high.

Wasco County's private-industry employment rose by 160 jobs or 2.0% over the year ending in January. Other services led private industry, rising by 70 jobs or 20.6% over the 12-month period ending in January. Information rose by 60 jobs to reach 320 (+23.1%) and leisure and hospitality chipped in 40. Job losses in manufacturing (-30), professional and business services (-30), and

education and health services (-30) moderated private industry's over-the-year performance. Local education led the public sector, rising by 90 jobs, and other local government chipped in 30.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in January to 4.0%, ranking seventh out of 36 Oregon counties. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment fell to 955 in January, a loss of 25. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry employment rose by 120 jobs to 725, an increase of nearly 20%, while government cut five, falling to 230.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in January to 3.5%, ranking second in Oregon, just ahead of Washington County. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point. Sherman County's nonfarm employment fell by 20 jobs in January, dropping to 920. Over the year ending in January, private industry rose by 50 jobs to 625 (+8.7%) and government chipped in five to reach 295.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.2% in January, ranking as Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year, Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point. Nonfarm employment totaled 305 in January, with private industry cutting 10 jobs and government holding its own. Over the year ending in January, private industry rose to 165 (+20) and government was unchanged at 140 jobs.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the February 2023 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on March 28th, 2023 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data on March 21st, 2023.

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.

You can subscribe to receive notification of new articles and publications from QualityInfo.org. To subscribe, go to www.qualityinfo.org/subscribe, enter your email address and click Sign In. In the Publication section, click on the + sign next to a report type category and then click on the geography(s) you are interested in. Take some time to browse the other publications on the page and see if there are some you'd like to receive

an email notification for. You can receive notifications on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule – whichever is most convenient for you. You can change your preferences – or unsubscribe – at any time.

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

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.

El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon (OED) es una agencia de igualdad de oportunidades. El OED proporciona ayuda gratuita para que usted pueda utilizar nuestros servicios. Algunos ejemplos son intérpretes de lengua de señas e idiomas hablados, materiales escritos en otros idiomas, letra grande, audio y otros formatos. Para obtener ayuda, por favor llame al 503-947-1444. Usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al 711. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a OED_Communications@employ.oregon.gov.

Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	December 2022	January 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,007	1,026	932	-19	75
Unemployed	43	39	45	4	-2
Unemployment rate	4.3%	3.8%	4.8%	0.5	-0.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.0%	4.1%	3.8%	-0.1	0.2
Employed	964	987	887	-23	77
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	955	980	840	-25	115
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	995	980	875	15	120
Total private	725	740	605	-15	120
Trade, transportation, and utilities	130	130	135	0	-5
Professional and business services	235	240	240	-5	-5
Private education and health services	90	90	80	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	40	45	50	-5	-10
Government	230	240	235	-10	-5
Federal government	15	15	15	0	0
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	205	215	210	-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.

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	December 2022	January 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,674	14,174	13,673	-500	1
Unemployed	585	530	540	55	45
Unemployment rate	4.3%	3.7%	3.9%	0.6	0.4
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.7%	3.6%	3.5%	0.1	0.2
Employed	13,089	13,644	13,133	-555	-44
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	12,260	12,670	11,810	-410	450
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	12,260	12,170	11,800	90	460
Total private	10,890	11,290	10,480	-400	410
Mining, logging, and construction	520	560	480	-40	40
Manufacturing	1,780	1,820	1,720	-40	60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,060	2,330	2,070	-270	-10
Wholesale trade	500	410	580	90	-80
Retail trade	1,400	1,740	1,330	-340	70
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	160	180	160	-20	0
Information	140	140	140	0	0
Financial activities	300	310	300	-10	0
Professional and business services	1,030	1,040	1,010	-10	20
Private education and health services	1,960	1,950	1,890	10	70
Leisure and hospitality	2,710	2,740	2,550	-30	160
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,180	1,110	1,110	70	70
Accommodation and food services	1,530	1,630	1,440	-100	90
Accommodation	410	420	400	-10	10
Food services and drinking places	1,120	1,210	1,040	-90	80
Other services	390	400	320	-10	70
Government	1,370	1,380	1,330	-10	40
Federal government	90	110	90	-20	0
State government	110	110	110	0	0
Local government	1,170	1,160	1,130	10	40
Local education	680	680	660	0	20
Local government excluding educational services	490	480	470	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.

Sherman County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	December 2022	January 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	945	958	924	-13	21
Unemployed	45	34	37	11	8
Unemployment rate	4.8%	3.5%	4.0%	1.3	0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.5%	3.4%	3.8%	0.1	-0.3
Employed	900	924	887	-24	13
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	920	940	865	-20	55
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	960	955	905	5	55
Total private	625	625	575	0	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	325	330	290	-5	35
Retail trade	125	125	115	0	10
Leisure and hospitality	95	90	95	5	0
Government	295	315	290	-20	5
Federal government	125	125	120	0	5
State government	30	30	35	0	-5
Local government	140	160	135	-20	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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	December 2022	January 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	12,755	12,933	12,621	-178	134
Unemployed	808	688	657	120	151
Unemployment rate	6.3%	5.3%	5.2%	1.0	1.1
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.3%	4.2%	4.4%	0.1	-0.1
Employed	11,947	12,245	11,964	-298	-17
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,080	10,180	9,800	-100	280
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,370	10,200	10,080	170	290
Total private	8,060	8,160	7,900	-100	160
Mining, logging, and construction	490	480	480	10	10
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	430	420	420	10	10
Manufacturing	480	490	510	-10	-30
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,120	2,170	2,050	-50	70
Wholesale trade	180	180	150	0	30
Retail trade	1,610	1,630	1,590	-20	20
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	330	360	310	-30	20
Information	320	320	260	0	60
Financial activities	300	310	300	-10	0
Professional and business services	540	540	570	0	-30
Private education and health services	2,240	2,240	2,270	0	-30
Ambulatory health care services	470	480	470	-10	0
Nursing and residential care facilities	520	520	500	0	20
Leisure and hospitality	1,160	1,200	1,120	-40	40
Accommodation and food services	1,100	1,130	1,070	-30	30
Other services	410	410	340	0	70
Government	2,020	2,020	1,900	0	120
Federal government	270	270	270	0	0
State government	250	260	250	-10	0
Local government	1,500	1,490	1,380	10	120
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	800	790	710	10	90
Local government excluding education and tribal	690	690	660	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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	January 2023	December 2022	January 2022	December 2022	January 2022
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	726	727	715	-1	11
Unemployed	27	26	32	1	-5
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.6%	4.5%	0.1	-0.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.2%	3.2%	3.0%	0.0	0.2
Employed	699	701	683	-2	16
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	305	315	285	-10	20
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	320	325	300	-5	20
Total private	165	175	145	-10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	30	35	35	-5	-5
Leisure and hospitality	25	25	15	0	10
Government	140	140	140	0	0
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	135	135	135	0	0

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.

###