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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: May 2021

Unemployment Rates in a Holding Pattern

In May, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 5.2%. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked sixth lowest out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Morrow. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 5.6 percentage points.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment fell by 230 jobs in May to total 11,410. Private industry cut 280 jobs falling to 10,050, and government reached 1,360, rising by 50. Accommodation and food services led private industry in May, rising by 110 jobs to reach 1,490. Retail trade chipped in 40, rising to 1,440. Manufacturing (+30); mining, logging, and construction (+20); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+20) also added jobs in May. May brought an end to winter recreational activities, with arts, entertainment, and recreation cutting 500 jobs and falling to 320. In the public sector, federal government rose by 40 jobs to reach 150 and other local government kicked in 10, rising to 480.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose sharply over the year, climbing by 1,460 jobs or 17% over May 2020. Food services and drinking places regained 420 jobs over the year to lead private industry and accommodation rose by 90. Education and health services welcomed back 250 jobs, manufacturing increased its total by 210, and retail trade added 150 jobs. Government rose by 80 jobs over the year, led by an increase of 50 in local government.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in May at 6.0%, ranking 16th in Oregon, tied with Multnomah County. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 5.7 percentage points.

Wasco County employment rose by 80 nonfarm jobs in May, climbing to 10,010. Private industry increased its total by 60 jobs to reach 8,080, while government chipped in 20, climbing to 1,930. At the industry level, leisure and hospitality rose by 30 jobs in May to reach 1,120, an over-the-month increase of 2.8%. Private industry also added jobs in construction (+20), retail trade (+10), and other services (+10). Professional and business services cut 10 jobs in May, falling to 490. Local government led the public sector, rising by 20 jobs to reach 1,390.

Wasco County's private industry employment rose by 570 jobs or 7.6% over the year ending in May. Leisure and hospitality produced private industry's largest gain, rising by 250 jobs or 28.7%. Retail trade increased its payrolls by 150 jobs, climbing to 1,710 (+9.6%). Other services (+70); information (+60); construction (+50); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+40) also rose over the year. In the public sector, local education rose by 60 jobs to reach 720 and state government increased its total by 30.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point in May to 5.4%, ranking ninth out of 36 Oregon counties, tied with Polk and Yamhill. Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 2.4 percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose to 800 jobs in May, an increase of five. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total fell by 165 jobs, a loss of 22.6%, to total 565. Government rose by five jobs over the year to total 235 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in May at 4.7%, good enough to rank fourth in Oregon. Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 3.8 percentage points. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 15 jobs in May to 925. Private industry rose by 10 jobs to reach 605, while government chipped in five, climbing to 320. Over the year ending in May, private industry held steady and government chipped in five.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in May at 3.5%, boasting Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate. Over the year Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points. Nonfarm employment totaled 290 jobs in May, with private industry and government holding steady. Over the year ending in May, private industry was unchanged with 160 jobs and government rose by five, climbing to 130.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the June 2021 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on July 20th, 2021 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on July 13th, 2021.

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 www.QualityInfo.org, select *Economic*

Data, and choose *LAUS* or *CES*. 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 coronavirus questions related to employer and job seeker programs and services, visit [Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment COVID19](http://Govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19). For help finding jobs and training resources, go to: www.WorkSourceOregon.org

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the deaf and hard of hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	April 2021	May 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	920	907	1,068	13	-148
Unemployed	45	52	79	-7	-34
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.7%	7.4%	-0.8	-2.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.4%	5.7%	7.8%	-0.3	-2.4
Employed	875	855	989	20	-114
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	800	795	960	5	-160
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	780	790	935	-10	-155
Total private	565	555	730	10	-165
Trade, transportation, and utilities	140	140	125	0	15
Professional and business services	230	230	240	0	-10
Education and health services	75	75	70	0	5
Leisure and hospitality	35	30	25	5	10
Government	235	240	230	-5	5
Federal government	10	15	10	-5	0
State government	5	5	5	0	0
Local government	220	220	215	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.

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	April 2021	May 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	14,448	14,282	13,638	166	810
Unemployed	727	742	1,460	-15	-733
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.2%	10.7%	-0.2	-5.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	5.2%	5.2%	10.8%	0.0	-5.6
Employed	13,721	13,540	12,178	181	1,543
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,410	11,640	9,870	-230	1,540
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,450	11,650	9,900	-200	1,550
Total private	10,050	10,330	8,590	-280	1,460
Mining, logging, and construction	560	540	500	20	60
Manufacturing	1,790	1,760	1,580	30	210
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,130	2,090	1,880	40	250
Wholesale trade	500	520	430	-20	70
Retail trade	1,440	1,400	1,290	40	150
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	190	170	160	20	30
Information	120	120	110	0	10
Financial activities	340	330	320	10	20
Professional and business services	1,030	1,020	1,070	10	-40
Education and health services	1,850	1,850	1,600	0	250
Leisure and hospitality	1,810	2,200	1,180	-390	630
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	320	820	200	-500	120
Accommodation and food services	1,490	1,380	980	110	510
Accommodation	360	340	270	20	90
Food services and drinking places	1,130	1,040	710	90	420
Other services	420	420	350	0	70
Government	1,360	1,310	1,280	50	80
Federal government	150	110	130	40	20
State government	110	110	100	0	10
Local government	1,100	1,090	1,050	10	50
Local education	620	620	590	0	30
Local government excluding educational services	480	470	460	10	20

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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--				
	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	April 2021	May 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	994	991	1,010	3	-16
Unemployed	43	46	82	-3	-39
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.6%	8.1%	-0.3	-3.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	4.7%	4.7%	8.5%	0.0	-3.8
Employed	951	945	928	6	23
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	925	910	920	15	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	910	905	905	5	5
Total private	605	595	605	10	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	310	305	290	5	20
Retail trade	135	130	120	5	15
Leisure and hospitality	90	90	65	0	25
Government	320	315	315	5	5
Federal government	125	130	120	-5	5
State government	45	40	40	5	5
Local government	150	145	155	5	-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--				
	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	April 2021	May 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,148	13,080	12,956	68	192
Unemployed	736	788	1,505	-52	-769
Unemployment rate	5.6%	6.0%	11.6%	-0.4	-6.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>11.7%</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-5.7</i>
Employed	12,412	12,292	11,451	120	961
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,020	9,930	9,360	90	660
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	<i>9,900</i>	<i>9,990</i>	<i>9,250</i>	<i>-90</i>	<i>650</i>
Total private	8,080	8,020	7,510	60	570
Mining, logging, and construction	440	420	390	20	50
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	380	360	330	20	50
Manufacturing	530	530	590	0	-60
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,160	2,150	1,980	10	180
Wholesale trade	160	160	170	0	-10
Retail trade	1,710	1,700	1,560	10	150
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	290	290	250	0	40
Information	270	270	210	0	60
Financial activities	330	330	320	0	10
Professional and business services	490	500	490	-10	0
Education and health services	2,370	2,370	2,360	0	10
Ambulatory health care services	470	470	420	0	50
Nursing and residential care facilities	540	540	570	0	-30
Leisure and hospitality	1,120	1,090	870	30	250
Accommodation and food services	1,070	1,040	820	30	250
Other services	370	360	300	10	70
Government	1,940	1,910	1,850	30	90
Federal government	280	270	270	10	10
State government	270	270	240	0	30
Local government	1,390	1,370	1,340	20	50
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	720	710	660	10	60
Local government excluding education and tribal	660	650	670	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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	April 2021	May 2020
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	720	723	712	-3	8
Unemployed	24	24	33	0	-9
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.3%	4.6%	0.0	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.5%	3.5%	4.7%	0.0	-1.2
Employed	696	699	679	-3	17
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	290	290	285	0	5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	280	280	275	0	5
Total private	160	160	160	0	0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	35	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	20	20	25	0	-5
Government	130	130	125	0	5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	125	125	120	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.