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Employment in the Columbia Gorge: May 2022

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Near Record Low!

In May, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point to 2.9%. Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranked as Oregon's lowest, tied with Benton and Wheeler. Over the year, Hood River County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.9 percentage points. The May rate of 2.9% matches Hood River County's record low seasonally adjusted unemployment rate set in January and February 2020.

Hood River County's nonfarm employment fell by 460 jobs in May, dropping to 11,430. Private industry cut 480 jobs, falling to 10,030 and government rose by 20 to reach 1,400. Accommodation and food services led private industry in May, rising by 120 jobs to 1,740. Manufacturing (+30); mining, logging and construction (+20); and retail trade (+20) also rose in May. Arts, entertainment, and recreation ended its winter season in May, dropping to 270 jobs, a loss of 640. Wholesale trade cut 70 jobs in May, falling to 430. Federal government led the public sector, rising by 20 jobs to total 130.

Hood River County's private industry employment rose by 1.7% over the year, adding 170 jobs. Food services and drinking places rose by 70 jobs over the year to lead private industry, an increase of 5.6%. Education and health services rose by 60 jobs over the year, an increase of 3.3%. Information (+40); professional and business services (+20); and other services (+20) also added jobs over the year. Retail trade cut 40 jobs over the year, dropping to 1,400, and mining, logging, and construction shed 20. Local government led the public sector, rising by 30 jobs over the year, offsetting a loss of 20 in federal government.

Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in May to 3.8% while ranking 16th, tied with Baker. Over the year, Wasco County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.6 percentage points. Wasco County's record low seasonally adjusted unemployment rate came in October 2019 through January 2020, at 3.7%.

Wasco County's nonfarm employment rose by 90 jobs in May to reach 10,220. Private industry increased its total by 70 jobs, rising to 8,240 jobs and government reached 1,980. Leisure and hospitality led Wasco County's private industry, rising by 60 jobs in May to reach 1,290. Construction (+20); manufacturing (+10); professional and business services (+10); and other services (+10) also

rose in May. Education and health services cut 30 jobs in May, falling to 2,210, and information shed 10, dropping to 340. Local government led the public sector, rising by 20 jobs in May to reach 1,450.

Wasco County's private industry employment rose by 180 jobs or 2.2% over the year ending in May. Leisure and hospitality led private industry job growth, rising by 160 jobs or 14.2%. Construction increased its payrolls by 90 jobs over the year, climbing to 460 (+24.3%), and professional and business services rose by 60 to reach 560 (12%). Information (+50 jobs) also rose over the year. Education and health services cut its payrolls by 150 jobs, an over-the-year loss of 6.4%. Retail trade cut 40 jobs over the year, falling to 1,630 (-2.4%), and other services shed 20, dropping to 370. In the public sector, local education rose by 60 jobs over the year and other local government cut 10.

Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in May to 3.2%, ranking sixth out of 36 Oregon counties, trailing Sherman (3.1%). Over the year, Gilliam County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 2.2 percentage points. Gilliam County's nonfarm employment rose by five jobs in May to total 945. Over the year, Gilliam County's private industry total rose by 120 jobs to 705, an increase of 20.5%. Government held steady with 220 jobs.

Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in May to 3.1%, good enough to rank fifth in Oregon, trailing Washington (3.0%). Over the year, Sherman County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 1.4 percentage points. Sherman County's nonfarm employment rose by 10 jobs in May to reach 915. Private industry increased its total by 10 jobs, climbing to 625, and government held steady with 290. Over the year ending in May, private industry rose by 50 jobs and government idled 40.

Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in May to 2.9%, ranking as Oregon's lowest county unemployment rate, tied with Benton and Hood River. Over the year Wheeler County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point. Nonfarm employment totaled 300 in May, with private industry rising by five jobs and government holding steady. Over the year ending in May, private industry cut 10 jobs, falling to 165, and government rose by five to reach 135.

Next Press Releases

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the June 2022 county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on July 26th, 2022 and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for June on July 20th, 2022.

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 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.

Gilliam County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	April 2022	May 2021
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	1,016	1,018	925	-2	91
Unemployed	28	36	44	-8	-16
Unemployment rate	2.8%	3.5%	4.8%	-0.7	-2.0
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.2%	3.3%	5.4%	-0.1	-2.2
Employed	988	982	881	6	107
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	945	940	825	5	120
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	920	945	800	-25	120
Total private	705	700	585	5	120
Trade, transportation, and utilities	140	135	130	5	10
Professional and business services	235	235	250	0	-15
Education and health services	65	65	75	0	-10
Leisure and hospitality	55	50	40	5	15
Government	240	240	240	0	0
Federal government	10	10	10	0	0
State government	10	10	10	0	0
Local government	220	220	220	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.

Hood River County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	April 2022	May 2021
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,963	14,313	13,815	-350	148
Unemployed	363	452	700	-89	-337
Unemployment rate	2.6%	3.2%	5.1%	-0.6	-2.5
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2.9%	3.1%	4.8%	-0.2	-1.9
Employed	13,600	13,861	13,115	-261	485
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	11,430	11,890	11,250	-460	180
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	11,650	11,840	11,460	-190	190
Total private	10,030	10,510	9,860	-480	170
Mining, logging, and construction	510	490	530	20	-20
Manufacturing	1,780	1,750	1,790	30	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,010	2,050	2,040	-40	-30
Wholesale trade	430	500	420	-70	10
Retail trade	1,400	1,380	1,440	20	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	180	170	180	10	0
Information	130	120	90	10	40
Financial activities	320	310	310	10	10
Professional and business services	1,040	1,030	1,020	10	20
Education and health services	1,870	1,880	1,810	-10	60
Leisure and hospitality	2,010	2,530	1,930	-520	80
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	270	910	260	-640	10
Accommodation and food services	1,740	1,620	1,670	120	70
Accommodation	470	430	470	40	0
Food services and drinking places	1,270	1,190	1,200	80	70
Other services	360	350	340	10	20
Government	1,400	1,380	1,390	20	10
Federal government	130	110	150	20	-20
State government	100	100	100	0	0
Local government	1,170	1,170	1,140	0	30
Local education	670	670	660	0	10
Local government excluding educational services	500	500	480	0	20

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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--				
	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	April 2022	May 2021
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	966	962	963	4	3
Unemployed	25	28	42	-3	-17
Unemployment rate	2.6%	2.9%	4.4%	-0.3	-1.8
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.1%	3.2%	4.5%	-0.1	-1.4
Employed	941	934	921	7	20
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	915	905	905	10	10
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	915	910	900	5	15
Total private	625	615	575	10	50
Trade, transportation, and utilities	330	320	280	10	50
Retail trade	130	130	105	0	25
Leisure and hospitality	105	100	95	5	10
Government	290	290	330	0	-40
Federal government	115	120	125	-5	-10
State government	35	30	40	5	-5
Local government	140	140	165	0	-25

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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.

Wasco County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	April 2022	May 2021
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	13,081	13,161	12,891	-80	190
Unemployed	435	506	705	-71	-270
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.8%	5.5%	-0.5	-2.2
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	3.8%	4.0%	5.4%	-0.2	-1.6
Employed	12,646	12,655	12,186	-9	460
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	10,220	10,130	9,990	90	230
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	10,190	10,210	9,950	-20	240
Total private	8,240	8,170	8,060	70	180
Mining, logging, and construction	520	500	430	20	90
Mining and logging	60	60	60	0	0
Construction	460	440	370	20	90
Manufacturing	550	540	530	10	20
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,120	0	-20
Wholesale trade	190	190	180	0	10
Retail trade	1,630	1,630	1,670	0	-40
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	280	280	270	0	10
Information	340	350	290	-10	50
Financial activities	300	300	310	0	-10
Professional and business services	560	550	500	10	60
Education and health services	2,210	2,240	2,360	-30	-150
Ambulatory health care services	460	460	470	0	-10
Nursing and residential care facilities	520	510	520	10	0
Leisure and hospitality	1,290	1,230	1,130	60	160
Accommodation and food services	1,240	1,180	1,070	60	170
Other services	370	360	390	10	-20
Government	1,980	1,960	1,930	20	50
Federal government	270	270	270	0	0
State government	260	260	260	0	0
Local government	1,450	1,430	1,400	20	50
Indian tribal	10	10	10	0	0
Local education	780	770	720	10	60
Local government excluding education and tribal	660	650	670	10	-10

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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.

Wheeler County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

	--Change From--				
	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	April 2022	May 2021
Labor Force Status					
Civilian labor force	728	728	734	0	-6
Unemployed	17	19	22	-2	-5
Unemployment rate	2.3%	2.6%	3.0%	-0.3	-0.7
<i>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)</i>	2.9%	3.0%	3.2%	-0.1	-0.3
Employed	711	709	712	2	-1
Nonfarm Payroll Employment					
Total nonfarm employment	300	295	305	5	-5
<i>Total nonfarm employment (seasonally adjusted)</i>	295	290	300	5	-5
Total private	165	160	175	5	-10
Trade, transportation, and utilities	35	35	35	0	0
Leisure and hospitality	25	25	20	0	5
Government	135	135	130	0	5
Federal government	5	5	5	0	0
State government	0	0	0	0	0
Local government	130	130	125	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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