

Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

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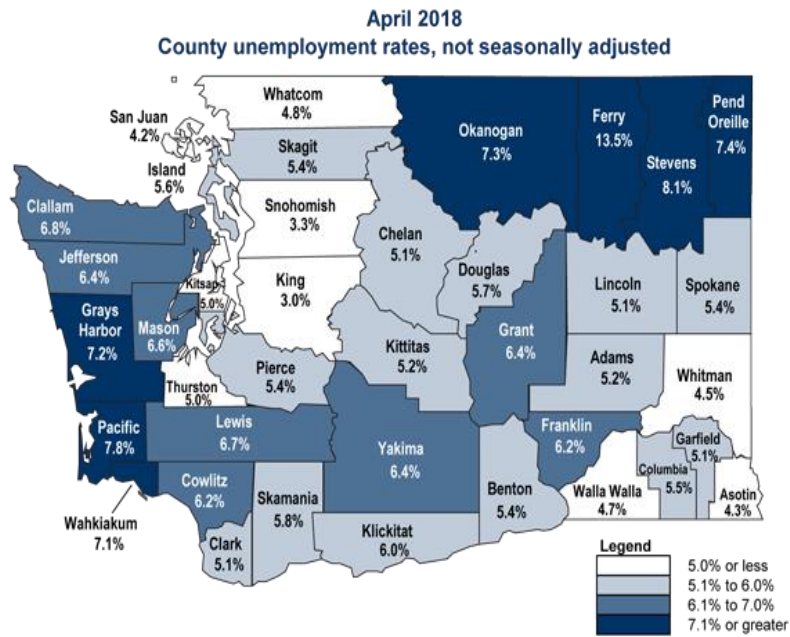
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On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 7,100 from March 2018 to April 2018. BLS estimates the private sector gained 6,500 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 600 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for April 2017 through April 2018 indicate an increase in employment of 85,100 for the state. The private sector added 80,200 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 4,900 jobs over the year.

Washington’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2018 is 4.8 percent. The revised estimated March 2018 unemployment rate is at 4.7 percent. The April 2017 unemployment rate was 4.8 percent.



Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	(Prelim.) Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	Year-to- Year Change
USA	3.6%	3.7%	4.1%	-0.5%
Washington state	4.4%	4.9%	4.4%	0.0%
Northwest Workforce Development Area	5.1%	5.4%	4.9%	0.2%
Whatcom County	4.8%	5.2%	4.7%	0.1%
Skagit County	5.4%	5.8%	5.4%	0.0%
Island County	5.6%	5.8%	4.9%	0.7%
San Juan County	4.2%	4.5%	3.9%	0.3%

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. March’s preliminary estimated gain of 3,900 jobs was revised to a gain of 5,100 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 4.8 percent in April 2018 (preliminary), down from 5.2 percent reported in March (revised). The unemployment rate in April 2017 was 4.7 percent.

- Compared to April 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 612 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 138, resulting in a 0.7 percent increase in the size of the labor force. Whatcom County’s labor force was about 109,766 in April.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Whatcom County decreased from 598 in March to 549. Altogether, 1,394 Whatcom County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in April; down from 1,554 in March.

Whatcom County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted
Bellingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (Whatcom County)
 Data benchmarked through December 2017

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Apr-18	Revised Mar-18	Revised Apr-17	Change		
				Mar-18 Apr-18	Apr-17 Apr-18	Apr-17 Apr-18
Total Nonfarm	94,500	94,400	92,700	100	1,800	1.9%
Total Private	76,700	75,900	74,200	800	2,500	3.4%
Goods Producing	19,200	18,900	17,900	300	1,300	7.3%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,700	8,400	7,800	300	900	11.5%
Manufacturing	10,500	10,500	10,100	0	400	4.0%
Service Providing	75,300	75,500	74,800	-200	500	0.7%
Private Services Providing	57,500	57,000	56,300	500	1,200	2.1%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	16,400	16,200	16,300	200	100	0.6%
Retail Trade	11,000	11,200	11,100	-200	-100	-0.9%
Financial Activities	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	8,400	8,300	8,200	100	200	2.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	10,800	10,700	10,200	100	600	5.9%
Government	17,800	18,500	18,500	-700	-700	-3.8%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0	0.0%
Total State Government	6,000	6,600	6,900	-600	-900	-13.0%
Total Local Government	10,400	10,500	10,200	-100	200	2.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Total nonfarm payroll in Whatcom County increased by 100 from March to April 2018. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 1,800 or 1.9 percent.

- In April, goods producing industries collectively added 300 jobs. Private services providers added 500 and government shed 700 jobs. The largest one-month gains were observed in construction (+300) and the deepest losses were attributable to government (-700).

- Over the year, all but two of the major industries covered by this report added jobs. The largest gains were observed in construction (+900) and leisure and hospitality (+600). Government and retail trade each shed jobs over the year (-700 and -100 respectively).

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County was 5.4 percent in April 2018 (preliminary), down from 5.8 reported in March (revised). The unemployment rate in April 2017 was 5.4 percent.

- Compared to April 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 311 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ increased by 9. Skagit County’s labor force was estimated at 58,511, having decreased by 0.5 percent over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Skagit County increased from 405 in March to 418. Altogether, 994 Skagit County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in April. This is down from 1,051 in March.

Skagit County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted
Mount Vernon-Anacortes Metropolitan Statistical Area (Skagit County)

Data benchmarked through December 2017

NAICS Industry Title2	Prelim Apr-18	Revised Mar-18	Revised Apr-17	Change		
				Mar-18 Apr-18	Apr-17 Apr-18	Apr-17 Apr-18
Total Nonfarm	50,800	50,100	50,100	700	700	1.4%
Total Private	38,900	38,300	38,300	600	600	1.6%
Goods Producing	10,400	10,000	10,000	400	400	4.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,500	4,200	4,300	300	200	4.7%
Manufacturing	5,900	5,800	5,700	100	200	3.5%
Service Providing	40,400	40,100	40,100	300	300	0.7%
Private Services Providing	28,500	28,300	28,300	200	200	0.7%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,700	9,700	10,000	0	-300	-3.0%
Retail Trade	6,900	6,900	7,200	0	-300	-4.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,100	5,000	5,200	100	-100	-1.9%
Government	11,900	11,800	11,800	100	100	0.8%
Federal Government	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
State Government	1,500	1,500	1,600	0	-100	-6.3%
Local Government	10,000	9,900	9,800	100	200	2.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

In April 2018, Skagit County nonfarm payrolls increased by 700. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 700 or 1.4 percent.

- Over the month, most major industry sectors detailed in this report added jobs. The largest increases were attributable to hiring by construction (+300). No industries reported one month losses.

- Over the year, most industries added jobs, with the largest gains attributable to hiring by construction and manufacturing (200 each). Trade transportation warehousing and utilities shed 300 jobs, specifically from retail trade.

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County was 5.6 percent (preliminary) in April 2018. This is down from 5.8 percent in March (revised). The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 4.9 percent.

- Compared to April 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 51 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work expanded by 237, pushing the unemployment rate up over the year. Island County’s civilian labor force was estimated as 34,001, an increase of 0.9 percent over the year.
- There were 150 initial claims for unemployment benefits in Island County in April down from 183 in March. Altogether, 437 Island County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in April. This is down from 464 in March.

Island County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Oak Harbor Micropolitan Statistical Area (Island County)

Data benchmarked through December 2017

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Apr-18	Revised Mar-18	Revised Apr-17	Change		
				Mar-18 Apr-18	Apr-17 Apr-18	Apr-17 Apr-18
Total Nonfarm	16,840	16,740	16,600	100	240	1.4%
Total Private	12,040	11,970	11,860	70	180	1.5%
Goods Producing	1,840	1,840	1,770	0	70	4.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	1,020	1,010	940	10	80	8.5%
Manufacturing	820	830	830	-10	-10	-1.2%
Service Providing	15,000	14,900	14,830	100	170	1.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,720	2,710	2,610	10	110	4.2%
Retail Trade	2,190	2,170	2,130	20	60	2.8%
Information and Financial Activities	790	790	800	0	-10	-1.3%
Professional and Business Services	1,140	1,120	1,340	20	-200	-14.9%
Education and Health Services	2,410	2,420	2,210	-10	200	9.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,300	2,250	2,310	50	-10	-0.4%
Government	4,800	4,770	4,740	30	60	1.3%
Federal Government	1,340	1,330	1,320	10	20	1.5%
State and Local Government	3,460	3,440	3,420	20	40	1.2%
State and Local Government Education	1,560	1,540	1,550	20	10	0.6%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County increased by 100 from March to April 2018 Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 240 or 1.4 percent.

- From March to April, most major industries added jobs. The largest month-to-month increases were observed in leisure and hospitality and government (50 and 30 respectively).
- Year-over-year, most major industries detailed in this report added jobs. The largest gains were observed in education and health services (+200). The deepest losses were attributable to professional and business services (-200).

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County decreased from 4.5 percent in March (revised) to 4.2 percent (preliminary) in April 2018. The unemployment rate in April 2017 was 3.9 percent.

- Compared to April 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 6 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 25, pushing the unemployment rate up over the year. Altogether, the San Juan County labor force consisted of an estimated 7,853 people and increased by 0.2 percent over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in San Juan County decreased from 14 in March to 9. Altogether, 62 San Juan County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in April. This is down from 78 in March.

San Juan County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

San Juan County

Data benchmarked through December 2017

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Apr-18	Revised Mar-18	Revised Apr-17	Change		
				Mar-18 Apr-18	Apr-17 Apr-18	Apr-17 Apr-18
Total Nonfarm	5,480	5,330	5,440	150	40	0.7%
Total Private	4,690	4,550	4,610	140	80	1.7%
Goods Producing	930	910	850	20	80	9.4%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	720	710	680	10	40	5.9%
Manufacturing	210	200	170	10	40	23.5%
Service Providing	4,550	4,420	4,590	130	-40	-0.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,040	1,010	950	30	90	9.5%
Information and Financial Activities	330	320	320	10	10	3.1%
Professional and Business Services	330	320	360	10	-30	-8.3%
Education and Health Services	580	580	590	0	-10	-1.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,300	1,240	1,350	60	-50	-3.7%
Government	790	780	830	10	-40	-4.8%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Net nonfarm payroll in San Juan County increased by 150 from March to April 2018. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was up 40 jobs or 0.7 percent.

- San Juan County has a highly-seasonal economy, due to its orientation toward tourism. Most industries shed jobs in the winter and return with the sun. In April, most industries added jobs. The largest increase was attributable to the county's largest industry: leisure and hospitality (+60). Education and health services is the only industry that did not expand employment in April.
- Over the year, there was a net gain, with a mix of industry-specific gains and losses; the largest gains were observed in construction and manufacturing (+40 each). The deepest losses were observed in leisure and hospitality (-50) and government (-40).