

Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

Volume 2018, Number 8

August 2018

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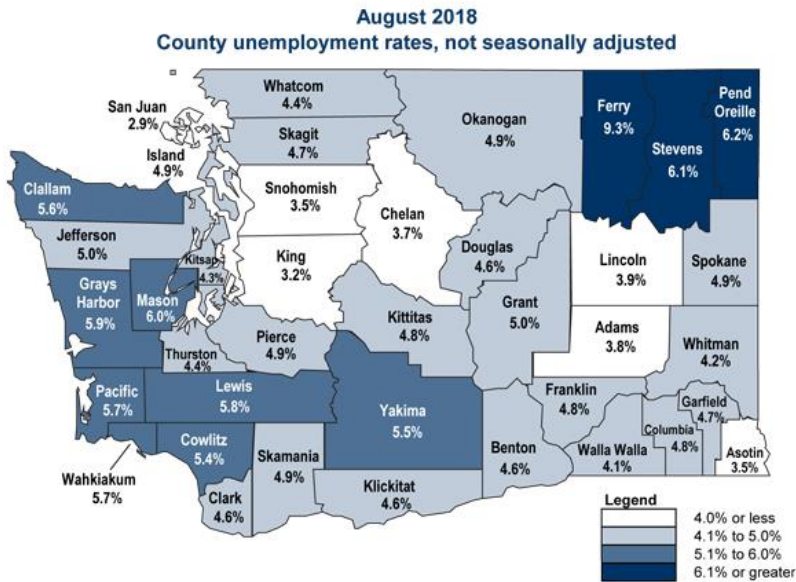
On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 9,100 in August 2018. BLS estimates the private sector gained 9,300 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 200 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for August 2017 through August 2018 indicate an increase in employment of 109,400 for the state. The private sector added 107,200 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 2,200 jobs over the year.

Washington’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August 2018 is 4.5 percent. The revised estimated July 2018 unemployment rate is at 4.6 percent. The August 2017 unemployment rate was 4.8 percent.

Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	(Prelim.) Aug-18	Jul-18	Aug-17	Year-to- Year Change
USA	3.9%	4.1%	4.5%	-0.6%
Washington state	4.1%	4.2%	4.8%	-0.7%
Northwest Workforce Development Area	4.5%	4.5%	5.0%	-0.5%
Whatcom County	4.4%	4.4%	4.9%	-0.5%
Skagit County	4.7%	4.8%	5.2%	-0.5%
Island County	4.9%	4.8%	5.1%	-0.2%
San Juan County	2.9%	3.1%	3.0%	-0.1%



BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. July’s preliminary estimated gain of 12,400 jobs was revised to a gain of 11,800 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 4.4 percent in August 2018 (preliminary), unchanged from July (revised). The unemployment rate in August 2017 was 4.9 percent.

- Compared to August 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,290 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 551, resulting in a 0.7 percent increase in the size of the labor force. Whatcom County’s labor force was about 110,696 in August.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Whatcom County increased from 634 in July to 639. Altogether, 1,215 Whatcom County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in August; down from 1,412 in July.

Whatcom County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted
Bellingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (Whatcom County)
 Data benchmarked through March 2018

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Aug-18	Revised Jul-18	Revised Aug-17	Change		
				Jul-18 Aug-18	Aug-17 Aug-18	Aug-17 Aug-18
Total Nonfarm	93,400	94,900	90,300	-1,500	3,100	3.4%
Total Private	78,700	78,700	75,100	0	3,600	4.8%
Goods Producing	19,500	19,500	18,300	0	1,200	6.6%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,900	8,700	8,000	200	900	11.3%
Manufacturing	10,600	10,800	10,300	-200	300	2.9%
Service Providing	73,900	75,400	72,000	-1,500	1,900	2.6%
Private Services Providing	59,200	59,200	56,800	0	2,400	4.2%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17,600	17,400	16,500	200	1,100	6.7%
Retail Trade	11,000	11,200	11,300	-200	-300	-2.7%
Financial Activities	3,700	3,700	3,600	0	100	2.8%
Professional and Business Services	8,700	8,600	8,400	100	300	3.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	11,300	11,200	10,200	100	1,100	10.8%
Government	14,700	16,200	15,200	-1,500	-500	-3.3%
Federal Government	1,400	1,500	1,400	-100	0	0.0%
Total State Government	4,400	4,800	4,500	-400	-100	-2.2%
Total Local Government	8,900	9,900	9,300	-1,000	-400	-4.3%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Total nonfarm payroll in Whatcom County decreased by 1,500 from July to August 2018. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 3,100 or 3.4 percent.

- In August, goods producing industries and private service providers collectively remained unchanged. Beneath the surface, the largest one-month gains were observed in construction and trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities-except retail trade (+200 each); private

sector losses were observed in retail trade and manufacturing (-200 each). Government employment dropped by 1,500 over the month, and was related to the conclusion of the school year. Most government jobs will return in the September and October reports.

- Over the year, all but two of the major industries covered by this report added jobs. The largest gains were observed in trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities and in leisure and hospitality (+1,100 each). Government and retail trade each shed jobs over the year.

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County was 4.7 percent in August 2018 (preliminary), virtually unchanged from 4.8 reported in July (revised). The unemployment rate in August 2017 was 5.2 percent.

- Compared to August 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 15 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ decreased by 290. Skagit County’s labor force was estimated at 59,761, decreasing by 0.5 percent over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Skagit County increased from 475 in July to 506. Altogether, 832 Skagit County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in August. This is down from 976 in July.

Skagit County local area payroll jobs

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

Data benchmarked through March 2018

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Aug-18	Revised Jul-18	Revised Aug-17	Change		
				Jul-18 Aug-18	Aug-17 Aug-18	Aug-17 Aug-18
Total Nonfarm	51,600	52,400	50,600	-800	1,000	2.0%
Total Private	40,600	40,800	39,500	-200	1,100	2.8%
Goods Producing	11,000	11,000	10,400	0	600	5.8%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,600	4,500	4,300	100	300	7.0%
Manufacturing	6,400	6,500	6,100	-100	300	4.9%
Service Providing	40,600	41,400	40,200	-800	400	1.0%
Private Services Providing	29,600	29,800	29,100	-200	500	1.7%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,900	10,100	10,100	-200	-200	-2.0%
Retail Trade	7,300	7,500	7,300	-200	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,300	5,300	5,500	0	-200	-3.6%
Government	11,000	11,600	11,100	-600	-100	-0.9%
Federal Government	500	500	500	0	0	0.0%
State Government	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	-100	-7.7%
Local Government	9,300	9,900	9,300	-600	0	0.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

In August 2018, Skagit County nonfarm payrolls decreased by 800. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 1,000 or 2.0 percent.

- Over the month, only the construction industry added jobs. The deepest one-month losses were attributable to government (-600), related to the academic calendar.
- The industries reporting the largest annual gains were construction and manufacturing (+300 each). The deepest losses came from trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities and from leisure and hospitality (-200 each).

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County was 4.9 percent (preliminary) in August 2018. This is up slightly from 4.8 percent in July (revised). The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 5.1 percent.

- Compared to August 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 263 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work contracted by 89. Island County’s civilian labor force was estimated as 33,858, a decline of 1.0 percent over the year.
- There were 177 initial claims for unemployment benefits in Island County in August, down from 147 in July. Altogether, 360 Island County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in August. This is down from 391 in July.

Island County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted
Oak Harbor Micropolitan Statistical Area (Island County)

Data benchmarked through March 2018

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Aug-18	Revised Jul-18	Revised Aug-17	Change		
				Jul-18 Aug-18	Aug-17 Aug-18	Aug-17 Aug-18
Total Nonfarm	16,900	17,050	16,830	-150	70	0.4%
Total Private	12,460	12,450	12,390	10	70	0.6%
Goods Producing	1,920	1,930	1,860	-10	60	3.2%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	1,140	1,130	1,030	10	110	10.7%
Manufacturing	780	800	830	-20	-50	-6.0%
Service Providing	14,980	15,120	14,970	-140	10	0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,700	2,690	2,760	10	-60	-2.2%
Retail Trade	2,160	2,160	2,210	0	-50	-2.3%
Information and Financial Activities	810	810	830	0	-20	-2.4%
Professional and Business Services	1,260	1,260	1,300	0	-40	-3.1%
Education and Health Services	2,310	2,340	2,210	-30	100	4.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,600	2,560	2,590	40	10	0.4%
Government	4,440	4,600	4,440	-160	0	0.0%
Federal Government	1,340	1,340	1,310	0	30	2.3%
State and Local Government	3,100	3,260	3,130	-160	-30	-1.0%
State and Local Government Education	1,280	1,440	1,220	-160	60	4.9%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County decreased by 150 from July to August 2018. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 70 or 0.4 percent.

- From July to August, three major industries added jobs and three lost jobs. The largest month-to-month increase was observed in leisure and hospitality (+40). Government shed the most jobs (-160).
- Year-over-year, the industries adding the largest number of jobs were construction and education and health services (+110 and +100). The deepest loss was attributable to trade, transportation and utilities, including retail trade (-60).

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County decreased from 3.1 percent in July (revised) to 2.9 percent (preliminary) in August 2018. The unemployment rate in August 2017 was 3.0 percent.

- Compared to August 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 263 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 15. Altogether, the San Juan County labor force consisted of an estimated 8,949 people and decreased by 3.0 percent over the year.

- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in San Juan County was 10 in July and 13 in August. Altogether, 31 San Juan County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in August. This is up from 30 in July.

San Juan County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

San Juan County

Data benchmarked through March 2018

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Aug-18	Revised Jul-18	Revised Aug-17	Change		
				Jul-18 Aug-18	Aug-17 Aug-18	Aug-17 Aug-18
Total Nonfarm	6,740	6,680	6,830	60	-90	-1.3%
Total Private	5,970	5,920	6,050	50	-80	-1.3%
Goods Producing	970	960	990	10	-20	-2.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	720	710	730	10	-10	-1.4%
Manufacturing	250	250	260	0	-10	-3.8%
Service Providing	5,770	5,720	5,840	50	-70	-1.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,160	1,140	1,180	20	-20	-1.7%
Information and Financial Activities	370	360	390	10	-20	-5.1%
Professional and Business Services	400	410	380	-10	20	5.3%
Education and Health Services	580	600	580	-20	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,310	2,260	2,350	50	-40	-1.7%
Government	770	760	780	10	-10	-1.3%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Net nonfarm payroll in San Juan County increased by 60 from July to August 2018. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was down 90 jobs or -1.3 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 August, most industries added jobs. The largest increase was attributable to the county's largest industry: leisure and hospitality (+50).
- Over the year, there was a net loss of employment, with most industries reporting losses. The deepest losses came from leisure and hospitality (-40). The only sector reporting year over year gains was professional and business services (+20).

Forecast information for Washington state:

The Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council issues quarterly forecasts that address Washington's projected economic health. The most recent forecast was issued in June and updated in September. Forecast information is available at www.erfc.wa.gov.

The Employment Security Department is an equal-opportunity employer and provider of programs and services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to people with disabilities. Washington Relay Service 711.