

Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

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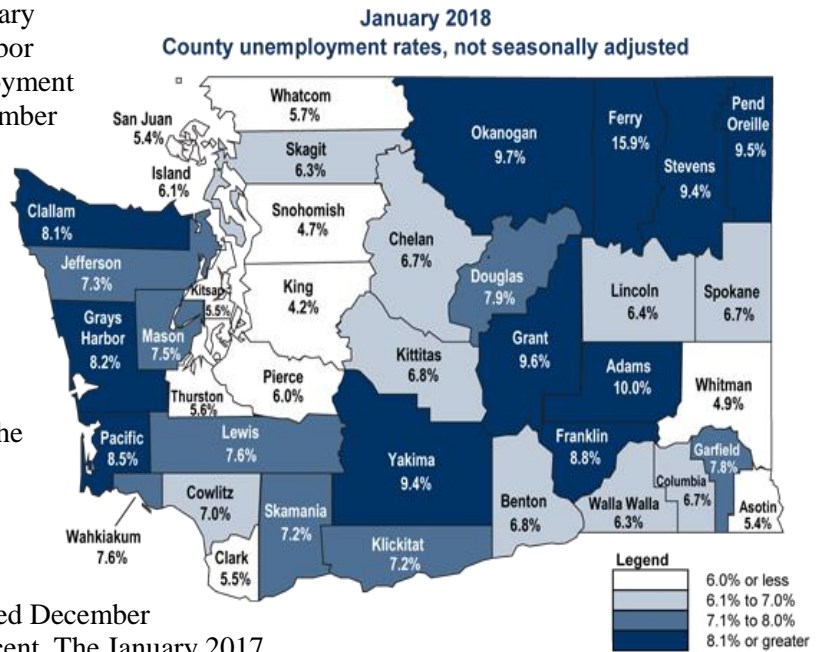
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On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 6,800 from December 2017 to January 2018.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 7,100 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 300 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for January 2017 through January 2018 indicate an increase in employment of 91,900 for the state. The private sector added 82,600 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 9,300 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2018 is 4.7 percent. The revised estimated December 2017 unemployment rate was at 4.7 percent. The January 2017 unemployment rate was 4.9 percent.



Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	(Prelim.) Jan-18	Dec-17	Jan-17	Year-to- Year Change
USA	4.5%	3.9%	5.1%	-0.6%
Washington state	5.6%	4.9%	5.6%	0.0%
Northwest Workforce Development Area	5.9%	5.3%	6.3%	-0.4%
Whatcom County	5.7%	5.0%	6.0%	-0.3%
Skagit County	6.3%	5.8%	6.9%	-0.6%
Island County	6.1%	5.5%	6.1%	0.0%
San Juan County	5.4%	4.4%	6.0%	-0.6%

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. December's preliminary estimated gain of 6,100 jobs was revised to a gain of 8,500 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 5.7 percent in January 2018 (preliminary), up from 5.0 percent reported in December (revised). The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 6.0 percent.

- Compared to January 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 915 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 361, resulting in a 0.5 percent increase in the size of the labor force and a drop in the unemployment rate. Whatcom County’s labor force was about 110,971 in January.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Whatcom County decreased from 900 in December to 851. Altogether, 1,905 Whatcom County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in January; up from 1,622 in December.

Whatcom County local area payroll jobs

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

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jan-18	Revised Dec-17	Revised Jan-17	Revised Dec-16	Change		
					Dec-17 Jan-18	Jan-17 Jan-18	Jan-17 Jan-18
Total Nonfarm	92,900	94,300	90,600	91,800	-1,400	2,300	2.5%
Total Private	74,700	75,300	72,500	73,900	-600	2,200	3.0%
Goods Producing	18,200	18,000	17,100	17,200	200	1,100	6.4%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,100	8,100	7,000	7,100	0	1,100	15.7%
Manufacturing	10,100	9,900	10,100	10,100	200	0	0.0%
Service Providing	74,700	76,300	73,500	74,600	-1,600	1,200	1.6%
Private Services Providing	56,500	57,300	55,400	56,700	-800	1,100	2.0%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	16,500	16,700	16,200	16,800	-200	300	1.9%
Retail Trade	11,500	11,700	11,100	11,600	-200	400	3.6%
Financial Activities	3,500	3,600	3,400	3,300	-100	100	2.9%
Professional and Business Services	8,200	8,300	7,700	8,100	-100	500	6.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	9,500	9,700	10,100	10,300	-200	-600	-5.9%
Government	18,200	19,000	18,100	17,900	-800	100	0.6%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0	0.0%
Total State Government	6,500	7,000	6,700	6,400	-500	-200	-3.0%
Total Local Government	10,300	10,600	10,000	10,100	-300	300	3.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Total nonfarm payroll in Whatcom County dropped by 1,400 from December 2017 to January 2018. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 2,300 or 2.5 percent.

- In January, goods producing industries collectively added 200 jobs. Private services providers and government each shed 800 jobs over the month. The only sector reporting employment gains over the month was manufacturing (+200). The deepest losses were attributable to government. January tends to be a month characterized by seasonal declines.
- Over the year, most industries covered by this report added jobs. The largest gains were observed in construction (+1,100), and the only industry reporting losses over the year was leisure and hospitality (-600).

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County was 6.3 percent in January 2018 (preliminary), up from 5.8 reported in December (revised). The unemployment rate in January 2017 was 6.9 percent.

- Compared to January 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 456 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ decreased by 371. Skagit County’s labor force was estimated as 58,286, having decreased by 1.4 percent over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Skagit County increased from 588 in December to 589. Altogether, 1,334 Skagit County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in January. This is up from 1,209 in December.

Skagit County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Mount Vernon-Anacortes Metropolitan Statistical Area (Skagit County)

Data benchmarked through September 2017

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jan-18	Revised Dec-17	Revised Jan-17	Change		
				Dec-17 Jan-18	Jan-17 Jan-18	Jan-17 Jan-18
Total Nonfarm	49,000	49,800	48,800	-800	200	0.4%
Total Private	37,300	38,000	37,300	-700	0	0.0%
Goods Producing	9,800	10,000	9,600	-200	200	2.1%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,100	4,200	3,900	-100	200	5.1%
Manufacturing	5,700	5,800	5,700	-100	0	0.0%
Service Providing	39,200	39,800	39,200	-600	0	0.0%
Private Services Providing	27,500	28,000	27,700	-500	-200	-0.7%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,000	10,400	9,800	-400	200	2.0%
Retail Trade	6,800	7,000	7,100	-200	-300	-4.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,000	5,100	4,900	-100	100	2.0%
Government	11,700	11,800	11,500	-100	200	1.7%
Federal Government	300	400	400	-100	-100	-25.0%
State Government	1,400	1,300	1,500	100	-100	-6.7%
Local Government	10,000	10,100	9,600	-100	400	4.2%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Northwest Washington labor market review for January 2018

Report available at <http://nwboard.org/impact/laborareasummaries.html>

In January 2018, Skagit County nonfarm payrolls fell by 800 over the month. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 200 or 0.4 percent.

- Over the month, all major industry sectors shed jobs. This is not unusual for January. The deepest losses were attributable to trade transportation warehousing and utilities (-400), which includes retail trade (-200).
- Over the year, construction, trade transportation warehousing and utilities (excluding retail trade), leisure and hospitality and government all added jobs. At a broad industry level, the only losses were observed in retail trade.

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County was 6.1 percent (preliminary) in January 2018. This is up from 5.5 percent in December (revised). The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 6.1 percent.

- Compared to January 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 594 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work expanded by 38. Island County’s civilian labor force was estimated as 34,518, increasing by 1.9 percent over the year.
- There were 199 initial claims for unemployment benefits in Island County in January, up from 182 in December. Altogether, 505 Island County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in January. This is up from 473 in December.

Island County local area payroll jobs

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

Data benchmarked through September 2017

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jan-18	Revised Dec-17	Revised Jan-17	Change		
				Dec-17 Jan-18	Jan-17 Jan-18	Jan-17 Jan-18
Total Nonfarm	16,680	16,940	16,060	-260	620	3.9%
Total Private	11,970	12,220	11,370	-250	600	5.3%
Goods Producing	1,770	1,850	1,700	-80	70	4.1%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	920	990	900	-70	20	2.2%
Manufacturing	850	860	800	-10	50	6.3%
Service Providing	14,910	15,090	14,360	-180	550	3.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,660	2,730	2,510	-70	150	6.0%
Retail Trade	2,150	2,210	2,070	-60	80	3.9%
Information and Financial Activities	800	820	760	-20	40	5.3%
Professional and Business Services	1,340	1,340	1,260	0	80	6.3%
Education and Health Services	2,300	2,310	2,200	-10	100	4.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,300	2,360	2,170	-60	130	6.0%
Government	4,710	4,720	4,690	-10	20	0.4%
Federal Government	1,320	1,340	1,340	-20	-20	-1.5%
State and Local Government	3,390	3,380	3,350	10	40	1.2%
State and Local Government Education	1,520	1,490	1,510	30	10	0.7%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County decreased by 260 from December 2017 to January 2018. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 620 or 3.9 percent.

- From December to January, most industries shed jobs. The largest losses were attributable to trade transportation and utilities and construction (-70 each).
- Year-over-year, all major industries detailed in this report added jobs. The largest gains were observed in leisure and hospitality (+130) and education and health services (+100).

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County increased from 4.4 percent in December (revised) to 5.4 percent (preliminary) in January 2018. The unemployment rate in January 2017 was 6.0 percent.

- Compared to January 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 263 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 36. Altogether, the San Juan County labor force consisted of an estimated 7,742 people and increased by 3.0 percent over the year.

- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in San Juan County decreased from 45 in December to 36. Altogether, 114 San Juan County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in January. This is up from 92 in December.

San Juan County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

San Juan County

Data benchmarked through September 2017

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jan-18	Revised Dec-17	Revised Jan-17	Change		
				Dec-17 Jan-18	Jan-17 Jan-18	Jan-17 Jan-18
Total Nonfarm	5,200	5,410	4,930	-210	270	5.5%
Total Private	4,440	4,640	4,120	-200	320	7.8%
Goods Producing	810	890	770	-80	40	5.2%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	640	680	620	-40	20	3.2%
Manufacturing	170	210	150	-40	20	13.3%
Service Providing	4,390	4,520	4,160	-130	230	5.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	930	970	900	-40	30	3.3%
Information and Financial Activities	350	360	300	-10	50	16.7%
Professional and Business Services	350	370	340	-20	10	2.9%
Education and Health Services	610	580	600	30	10	1.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,220	1,290	1,050	-70	170	16.2%
Government	760	770	810	-10	-50	-6.2%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Net nonfarm payroll in San Juan County dropped by 210 from December 2017 to January 2018. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was up 270 jobs or 5.5 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 January, most industries shed jobs. The largest drop came from the largest sector: leisure and hospitality (-70). The only sector reporting gains was education and health services (+30).
- Most industries added jobs over the year; the largest gains were observed in leisure and hospitality (+170) and information and financial activities (+50). Government was the only industry detailed in this report that shed jobs over the year (-50).