

Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

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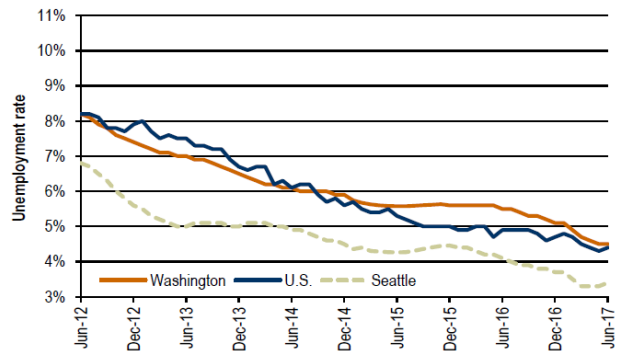
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On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 2,500 from May 2017 to June 2017. BLS estimates private sector lost 300 jobs during the month the public sector gained 2,800 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates June 2016 through June 2017 indicate an increase in employment of 81,000 for the state. The private sector added 63,500 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 17,500 jobs over the year.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
U.S., Washington and Seattle, June 2012 through June 2017
Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



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Washington’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2017 is 4.5 percent. The revised estimated May 2017 unemployment rate was at 4.5 percent. The June 2016 unemployment rate was 5.5 percent.

Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	(Prelim.) Jun-17	May-17	Jun-16	Year-to- Year Change
USA	4.5%	4.1%	5.1%	-0.6%
Washington state	4.5%	4.3%	5.4%	-0.9%
Northwest Workforce Development Area	4.9%	4.9%	6.1%	-1.2%
Whatcom	4.9%	4.7%	6.1%	-1.2%
Skagit	5.1%	5.2%	6.7%	-1.6%
Island	4.9%	5.0%	5.9%	-1.0%
San Juan	3.4%	3.7%	4.4%	-1.0%

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. May’s preliminary estimated gain of 2,000 jobs was revised to a gain of 3,500 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 4.9 percent in June 2017 (preliminary), up from 4.7 in May (revised). The unemployment rate in June 2016 was 6.1 percent.

- Compared to June 2016, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 4,509 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 1,107, resulting in a 3.2 percent increase in the size of the labor force and a drop in the unemployment rate. Whatcom County’s labor force was about 110,443 in June 2017.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Whatcom County increased from 733 in May to 770. Altogether, 1,517 Whatcom County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in June; up from 1,400 in May.

Whatcom County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted
Bellingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (Whatcom County)

Data benchmarked through December 2016

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-17	Revised May-17	Revised Jun-16	Change		
				May-17 Jun-17	Jun-16 Jun-17	Jun-16 Jun-17
Total Nonfarm	94,000	93,900	91,600	100	2,400	2.6%
Total Private	76,200	75,300	73,500	900	2,700	3.7%
Goods Producing	18,700	18,500	16,700	200	2,000	12.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,000	8,000	6,600	0	1,400	21.2%
Manufacturing	10,700	10,500	10,100	200	600	5.9%
Service Providing	75,300	75,400	74,900	-100	400	0.5%
Private Services Providing	57,500	56,800	56,800	700	700	1.2%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17,400	17,200	16,500	200	900	5.5%
Retail Trade	11,700	11,500	11,300	200	400	3.5%
Financial Activities	3,300	3,300	3,300	0	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	8,300	8,200	8,000	100	300	3.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	11,200	11,000	10,900	200	300	2.8%
Government	17,800	18,600	18,100	-800	-300	-1.7%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0	0.0%
Total State Government	6,200	7,100	6,700	-900	-500	-7.5%
Total Local Government	10,200	10,100	10,000	100	200	2.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Whatcom County expanded by 100 from May to June 2017. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs is up 2,400 or 2.6 percent.

- In May, goods producing industries collectively added 200 jobs. Private service providers added 700 jobs and government employers shed 800. All private sector industries detailed in this report added jobs over the month, with the exception of financial activities and construction, which remained unchanged.

- Year over year, the largest private sector gains were attributed to hiring in construction (+1,400). Jobs were added by employers in all industries detailed in this report, except for government which shed 300 and financial activities which remained unchanged.

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County was 5.1 percent in June 2017 (preliminary), down from 5.2 percent in May (revised). The unemployment rate in June 2016 was 6.7 percent.

- Compared to June 2016, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 2,652 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ decreased by 803. Skagit County’s labor force was estimated as 59,800, having increased by 3.2 percent over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Skagit County decreased from 499 in May to 424. Altogether, 949 Skagit County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 967 in May.

Skagit County local area payroll jobs

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

Data benchmarked through December 2016

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-17	Revised May-17	Revised Jun-16	Change		
				May-17 Jun-17	Jun-16 Jun-17	Jun-16 Jun-17
Total Nonfarm	51,200	50,700	49,800	500	1,400	2.8%
Total Private	39,400	38,900	38,300	500	1,100	2.9%
Goods Producing	10,200	10,100	9,700	100	500	5.2%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,000	4,100	3,800	-100	200	5.3%
Manufacturing	6,200	6,000	5,900	200	300	5.1%
Service Providing	41,000	40,600	40,100	400	900	2.2%
Private Services Providing	29,200	28,800	28,600	400	600	2.1%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,000	9,700	9,900	300	100	1.0%
Retail Trade	7,400	7,200	7,000	200	400	5.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,200	5,100	5,400	100	-200	-3.7%
Government	11,800	11,800	11,500	0	300	2.6%
Federal Government	500	400	500	100	0	0.0%
State Government	1,500	1,700	1,300	-200	200	15.4%
Local Government	9,800	9,700	9,700	100	100	1.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

In June 2017, Skagit County nonfarm payrolls expanded by 500. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 1,400 or 2.8 percent.

- Over the month, the largest employment gains were attributable to hiring in trade transportation and utilities, which includes retail trade (+300) and manufacturing (+200).

- Over the year, most industries detailed in this report added jobs. The largest employment gains were observed in retail trade (+400) and manufacturing and government (+300 each). Employers in leisure and hospitality shed jobs.

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County was 4.9 percent (preliminary) in June 2017. This is down from 5.0 percent (revised) in May. The unemployment rate in June 2016 was 5.9 percent.

- Compared to June 2016, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,274 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work fell by 272. Island County’s civilian labor force was estimated as 33,433, increasing by 3.1 percent over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Island County increased from 173 in May to 182. Altogether, 371 Island County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 378 in May.

Island County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Oak Harbor Micropolitan Statistical Area (Island County)

Data benchmarked through December 2016

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-17	Revised May-17	Revised Jun-16	Change		
				May-17 Jun-17	Jun-16 Jun-17	Jun-16 Jun-17
Total Nonfarm	16,600	16,500	16,220	100	380	2.3%
Total Private	11,890	11,760	11,600	130	290	2.5%
Goods Producing	1,820	1,780	1,640	40	180	11.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	990	950	880	40	110	12.5%
Manufacturing	830	830	760	0	70	9.2%
Service Providing	14,780	14,720	14,580	60	200	1.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,610	2,590	2,670	20	-60	-2.2%
Retail Trade	2,150	2,120	2,210	30	-60	-2.7%
Information and Financial Activities	830	840	810	-10	20	2.5%
Professional and Business Services	1,230	1,230	1,180	0	50	4.2%
Education and Health Services	2,260	2,290	2,120	-30	140	6.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,310	2,240	2,400	70	-90	-3.8%
Government	4,710	4,740	4,620	-30	90	1.9%
Federal Government	1,340	1,340	1,330	0	10	0.8%
State and Local Government	3,370	3,400	3,290	-30	80	2.4%
State and Local Government Education	1,470	1,510	1,400	-40	70	5.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County increased by 100 in June 2017. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 380 or 2.3 percent.

- From May to June, the largest job gains were observed in leisure and hospitality (+70) and construction (+40).
- Year-over-year, Island County employment expanded in most industry sectors detailed in this report. The largest gains were attributable to hiring in education and health services (+140) and construction (+110). Losses were observed in leisure and hospitality and in retail trade (within trade transportation and utilities).

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County fell from 3.7 percent in May (revised) to 3.4 percent (preliminary) in June. The unemployment rate in June 2016 was 4.4 percent.

- Compared to June 2016, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 305 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 81. Altogether, the San Juan County labor force increased by 224 people over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in San Juan County increased from 8 in May to 10. Altogether, 30 San Juan County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 41 in May.

San Juan County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

San Juan County

Data benchmarked through December 2016

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-17	Revised May-17	Revised Jun-16	Change		
				May-17 Jun-17	Jun-16 Jun-17	Jun-16 Jun-17
Total Nonfarm	6,140	5,660	6,060	480	80	1.3%
Total Private	5,240	4,780	5,170	460	70	1.4%
Goods Producing	840	820	850	20	-10	-1.2%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	670	660	660	10	10	1.5%
Manufacturing	170	160	190	10	-20	-10.5%
Service Providing	5,300	4,840	5,210	460	90	1.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,040	980	1,010	60	30	3.0%
Information and Financial Activities	320	290	340	30	-20	-5.9%
Professional and Business Services	440	420	420	20	20	4.8%
Education and Health Services	640	640	600	0	40	6.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,790	1,450	1,750	340	40	2.3%
Government	900	880	890	20	10	1.1%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in San Juan County expanded by 480 in June. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was up 80 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 June, goods producing employment increased by 20 jobs, with employment gains coming from both construction and manufacturing. The largest month to month changes were attributable to hiring in leisure and hospitality (+340).
- Over the year, the largest gains were observed in education and health services and leisure and hospitality (+40 each). The deepest losses were observed in manufacturing and information and financial activities (-20 each).