

Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

Volume 2018, Number 6

June 2018

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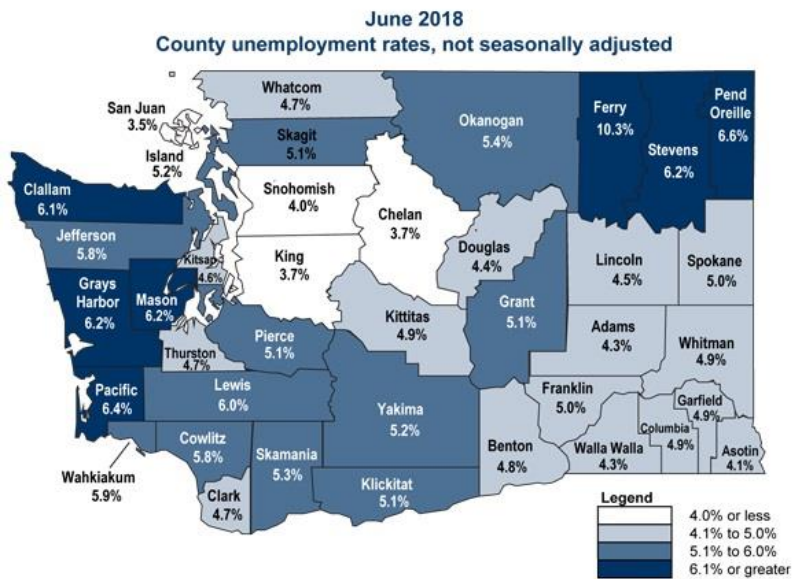
On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 4,100 from May 2018 to June 2018.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 4,800 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 700 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for June 2017 through June 2018 indicate an increase in employment of 83,500 for the state. The private sector added 80,500 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 3,000 jobs over the year.

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

Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	(Prelim.) Jun-18	May-18	Jun-17	Year-to-Year Change
USA	4.2%	3.6%	4.5%	-0.3%
Washington state	4.5%	4.4%	4.6%	-0.1%
Northwest Workforce Development Area	4.8%	4.8%	5.0%	-0.2%
Whatcom County	4.7%	4.5%	5.0%	-0.3%
Skagit County	5.1%	5.0%	5.2%	-0.1%
Island County	5.2%	5.3%	4.9%	0.3%
San Juan County	3.5%	3.8%	3.3%	0.2%



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 8,500 jobs was revised to a gain of 8,700 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 4.7 percent in June 2018 (preliminary), up from 4.5 percent reported in May (revised). The unemployment rate in June 2017 was 5.0 percent.

- Compared to June 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,595 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 314, resulting in a 1.2 percent increase in the size of the labor force. Whatcom County’s labor force was about 110,770 in June.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Whatcom County increased from 613 in May to 643. Altogether, 1,311 Whatcom County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in June; up from 1,187 in May.

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 Jun-18	Revised May-18	Revised Jun-17	Change		
				May-18 Jun-18	Jun-17 Jun-18	Jun-17 Jun-18
Total Nonfarm	96,200	95,400	93,200	800	3,000	3.2%
Total Private	78,000	77,100	75,300	900	2,700	3.6%
Goods Producing	19,300	19,200	18,200	100	1,100	6.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,700	8,600	7,900	100	800	10.1%
Manufacturing	10,600	10,600	10,300	0	300	2.9%
Service Providing	76,900	76,200	75,000	700	1,900	2.5%
Private Services Providing	58,700	57,900	57,100	800	1,600	2.8%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	16,900	16,700	16,600	200	300	1.8%
Retail Trade	11,200	11,000	11,300	200	-100	-0.9%
Financial Activities	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	8,600	8,500	8,300	100	300	3.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	11,200	11,000	10,400	200	800	7.7%
Government	18,200	18,300	17,900	-100	300	1.7%
Federal Government	1,500	1,400	1,400	100	100	7.1%
Total State Government	6,200	6,500	6,200	-300	0	0.0%
Total Local Government	10,500	10,400	10,300	100	200	1.9%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Total nonfarm payroll in Whatcom County increased by 800 from May to June 2018. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 3,000 or 3.2 percent.

- In June, goods producing industries collectively added 100 jobs. Private services providers added 800 and government shed 100 jobs. The largest one-month gains were observed in trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities—specifically within retail trade— and leisure and hospitality (+200 each); the only major industry reporting a loss was government (-100).

- Over the year, all but two of the major industries covered by this report added jobs. The largest gains were observed in construction and leisure and hospitality (+800 each). Retail trade shed 100 jobs over the year and financial activities remained unchanged.

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County was 5.1 percent in June 2018 (preliminary), up from 5.0 reported in May (revised). The unemployment rate in June 2017 was 5.2 percent.

- Compared to June 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 304 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ decreased by 99. Skagit County’s labor force was estimated at 59,432, decreasing by 0.7 percent over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Skagit County increased from 438 in May to 522. Altogether, 883 Skagit County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is up from 787 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 2017

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-18	Revised May-18	Revised Jun-17	Change		
				May-18 Jun-18	Jun-17 Jun-18	Jun-17 Jun-18
Total Nonfarm	51,900	51,500	51,100	400	800	1.6%
Total Private	40,000	39,600	39,300	400	700	1.8%
Goods Producing	10,600	10,500	10,300	100	300	2.9%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,500	4,600	4,300	-100	200	4.7%
Manufacturing	6,100	5,900	6,000	200	100	1.7%
Service Providing	41,300	41,000	40,800	300	500	1.2%
Private Services Providing	29,400	29,100	29,000	300	400	1.4%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,800	9,800	10,100	0	-300	-3.0%
Retail Trade	7,200	7,000	7,300	200	-100	-1.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,300	5,200	5,500	100	-200	-3.6%
Government	11,900	11,900	11,800	0	100	0.8%
Federal Government	400	400	500	0	-100	-20.0%
State Government	1,500	1,600	1,500	-100	0	0.0%
Local Government	10,000	9,900	9,800	100	200	2.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

In June 2018, Skagit County nonfarm payrolls increased by 400. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 800 or 1.6 percent.

- Over the month, most major industry sectors detailed in this report added jobs. The largest increase was attributable to hiring in retail trade (+200). Construction was down over the month (-100).

- The industry reporting the largest annual gains was construction (+200). Trade transportation warehousing and utilities (including retail) and leisure and hospitality each shed jobs over the year.

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County was 5.2 percent (preliminary) in June 2018. This is down from 5.3 percent in May (revised). The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 4.9 percent.

- Compared to June 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 293 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work expanded by 84, pushing the unemployment rate up over the year. Island County’s civilian labor force was estimated as 34,081, a decline of 0.6 percent over the year.
- There were 166 initial claims for unemployment benefits in Island County in June up from 129 in May. Altogether, 385 Island County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 392 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 2017

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-18	Revised May-18	Revised Jun-17	Change		
				May-18 Jun-18	Jun-17 Jun-18	Jun-17 Jun-18
Total Nonfarm	17,070	16,970	17,030	100	40	0.2%
Total Private	12,320	12,190	12,330	130	-10	-0.1%
Goods Producing	1,870	1,860	1,840	10	30	1.6%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	1,060	1,040	1,000	20	60	6.0%
Manufacturing	810	820	840	-10	-30	-3.6%
Service Providing	15,200	15,110	15,190	90	10	0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,750	2,740	2,690	10	60	2.2%
Retail Trade	2,200	2,190	2,160	10	40	1.9%
Information and Financial Activities	800	790	820	10	-20	-2.4%
Professional and Business Services	1,150	1,150	1,380	0	-230	-16.7%
Education and Health Services	2,420	2,420	2,250	0	170	7.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,470	2,380	2,520	90	-50	-2.0%
Government	4,750	4,780	4,700	-30	50	1.1%
Federal Government	1,340	1,340	1,330	0	10	0.8%
State and Local Government	3,410	3,440	3,370	-30	40	1.2%
State and Local Government Education	1,510	1,540	1,480	-30	30	2.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County increased by 100 from May to June 2018. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 40 or 0.2 percent.

- From May to June, most major industries added jobs. The largest month-to-month increase was observed in leisure and hospitality (+90). Government shed 30 jobs in June.
- Year-over-year, the industry adding the largest number of jobs was education and health services (+170). The deepest loss was attributable to professional and business services (-230).

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County decreased from 3.8 percent in May (revised) to 3.5 percent (preliminary) in June 2018. The unemployment rate in June 2017 was 3.3 percent.

- Compared to June 2017, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 204 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 10, pushing the unemployment rate up over the year. Altogether, the San Juan County labor force consisted of an estimated 8,593 people and decreased by 2.2 percent over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in San Juan County was 13 in May and 13 again in June. Altogether, 41 San Juan County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 52 in May.

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 Jun-18	Revised May-18	Revised Jun-17	Change		
				May-18 Jun-18	Jun-17 Jun-18	Jun-17 Jun-18
Total Nonfarm	6,260	5,870	6,360	390	-100	-1.6%
Total Private	5,450	5,080	5,480	370	-30	-0.5%
Goods Producing	980	950	930	30	50	5.4%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	750	730	740	20	10	1.4%
Manufacturing	230	220	190	10	40	21.1%
Service Providing	5,280	4,920	5,430	360	-150	-2.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,170	1,100	1,060	70	110	10.4%
Information and Financial Activities	350	340	350	10	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	360	350	380	10	-20	-5.3%
Education and Health Services	580	580	610	0	-30	-4.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,830	1,580	1,960	250	-130	-6.6%
Government	810	790	880	20	-70	-8.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Net nonfarm payroll in San Juan County increased by 390 from May to June 2018. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was down 100 jobs or -1.6 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, most industries added jobs. The largest increase was attributable to the county's largest industry: leisure and hospitality (+250). Education and health services is the only industry broken out in this report that did not expand employment in June.
- Over the year, there was a net loss of employment, with a mix of industry-specific gains and losses; the largest industry gain was observed in trade transportation and utilities (+110). The deepest year-over-year loss was observed in leisure and hospitality (-130).

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