

Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

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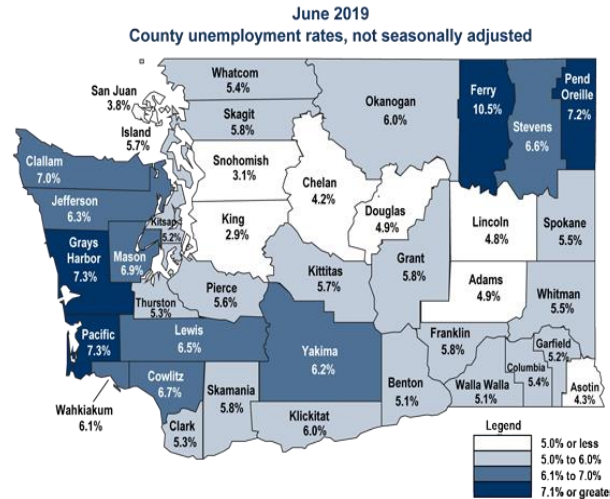
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On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 6,000 in June 2019. BLS estimates the private sector gained 5,400 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 600 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for June 2018 through June 2019 indicate an increase in employment of 82,700 for the state. The private sector added 82,600 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 100 jobs over the year.



Washington’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2019 is 4.6 percent. The revised estimated May 2019 unemployment rate is at 4.6 percent. The June 2018 unemployment rate was 4.4 percent. BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses.

Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	(Prelim.) Jun-19	May-19	Jun-18	Year-to-Year Change
USA	3.8%	3.4%	4.2%	-0.4%
Washington state	4.4%	4.1%	4.4%	0.0%
Northwest Workforce Development Area	5.5%	4.8%	4.7%	0.8%
Whatcom County	5.4%	4.6%	4.6%	0.8%
Skagit County	5.8%	5.2%	4.9%	0.9%
Island County	5.7%	4.9%	5.1%	0.6%
San Juan County	3.8%	3.6%	3.4%	0.4%

Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. May’s preliminary estimated gain of 9,600 jobs was revised to a gain of 7,600 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 5.4 percent in June 2019 (preliminary), up from 4.6 percent reported in May (revised). The unemployment rate in June 2018 was 4.6 percent.

- Compared to 12 months ago, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 2,405 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 1,111, nudging the unemployment rate up over the year. The labor force increased by 3.1 percent. Whatcom County’s labor force was estimated at 115,243 in June 2019.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Whatcom County decreased from 826 in May to 705. Altogether, 1,587 Whatcom County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in June; up from 1,403 in May.

Whatcom County local area payroll jobs

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

Data benchmarked through December 2018

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-19	Revised May-19	Revised Jun-18	Change		
				May-19 Jun-19	Jun-18 Jun-19	Jun-18 Jun-19
Total Nonfarm	97,400	97,700	96,500	-300	900	0.9%
Total Private	78,900	78,700	77,600	200	1,300	1.7%
Goods Producing	19,000	19,400	18,800	-400	200	1.1%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,300	8,800	8,400	-500	-100	-1.2%
Manufacturing	10,700	10,600	10,400	100	300	2.9%
Service Providing	78,400	78,300	77,700	100	700	0.9%
Private Services Providing	59,900	59,300	58,800	600	1,100	1.9%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17,100	16,900	16,700	200	400	2.4%
Retail Trade	11,400	11,200	11,200	200	200	1.8%
Financial Activities	3,800	3,700	3,900	100	-100	-2.6%
Professional and Business Services	8,500	8,500	8,200	0	300	3.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	11,500	11,200	11,300	300	200	1.8%
Government	18,500	19,000	18,900	-500	-400	-2.1%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,500	0	-100	-6.7%
Total State Government	6,400	7,000	6,900	-600	-500	-7.2%
Total Local Government	10,700	10,600	10,500	100	200	1.9%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Total nonfarm payroll in Whatcom County decreased by 300 from May to June 2019. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 900 or 0.9 percent.

- In June, private sector employers were responsible for 200 new jobs. The largest one month gains were attributable to hiring in leisure and hospitality (+300) and retail trade, within trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities (+200). Government and construction employment each dropped by 500 over the month.

- Over the year, four major industries detailed in this report added jobs. The largest gains were observed in trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities (+400). Government, construction and financial activities each shed jobs over the year.

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County was 5.8 percent in June 2019 (preliminary), up from 5.2 percent in May (revised). The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 4.9 percent.

- Compared to June 2018, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,395 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ increased by 672. Skagit County’s labor force was estimated at 62,589, increasing by 3.4 percent over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Skagit County decreased from 590 in May to 422 in June. Altogether, 1,077 Skagit County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in June; up from 1,011 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 2018

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-19	Revised May-19	Revised Jun-18	Change		
				May-19 Jun-19	Jun-18 Jun-19	Jun-18 Jun-19
Total Nonfarm	53,400	52,500	52,200	900	1,200	2.3%
Total Private	41,200	40,400	40,200	800	1,000	2.5%
Goods Producing	11,100	10,800	10,700	300	400	3.7%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,900	4,900	4,500	0	400	8.9%
Manufacturing	6,200	5,900	6,200	300	0	0.0%
Service Providing	42,300	41,700	41,500	600	800	1.9%
Private Services Providing	30,100	29,600	29,500	500	600	2.0%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,900	9,700	10,100	200	-200	-2.0%
Retail Trade	7,200	7,200	7,300	0	-100	-1.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,500	5,300	5,500	200	0	0.0%
Government	12,200	12,100	12,000	100	200	1.7%
Federal Government	500	400	400	100	100	25.0%
State Government	1,500	1,500	1,600	0	-100	-6.3%
Local Government	10,200	10,200	10,000	0	200	2.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

In June 2019, Skagit County nonfarm payrolls increased by 900. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 1,200 or 2.3 percent.

- Over the month, most industries expanded and none declined. The largest one-month increase was attributable to hiring in manufacturing.

- Most major industries in this report added jobs over the year. The industries reporting the largest gains were construction (+400) and government (+200). Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities (including retail) reported the largest 12-month losses (-200).

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County was 5.7 percent (preliminary) in June 2019. This is up from 4.9 percent in May (revised). The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 5.1 percent.

- Compared to June 2018, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 243 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 244. Island County’s civilian labor force was estimated as 34,873, an increase of 1.4 percent over the year.
- There were 193 initial claims for unemployment benefits in Island County in June, up from 152 in May. Altogether, 392 Island County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is up barely from 391 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 2018

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-19	Revised May-19	Revised Jun-18	Change		
				May-19 Jun-19	Jun-18 Jun-19	Jun-18 Jun-19
Total Nonfarm	17,060	16,910	17,230	150	-170	-1.0%
Total Private	12,380	12,240	12,530	140	-150	-1.2%
Goods Producing	1,860	1,850	1,900	10	-40	-2.1%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	1,100	1,080	1,090	20	10	0.9%
Manufacturing	760	770	810	-10	-50	-6.2%
Service Providing	15,200	15,060	15,330	140	-130	-0.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,740	2,730	2,740	10	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	2,150	2,150	2,160	0	-10	-0.5%
Information and Financial Activities	770	760	810	10	-40	-4.9%
Professional and Business Services	1,260	1,250	1,300	10	-40	-3.1%
Education and Health Services	2,230	2,240	2,350	-10	-120	-5.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,640	2,540	2,580	100	60	2.3%
Government	4,680	4,670	4,700	10	-20	-0.4%
Federal Government	1,310	1,310	1,320	0	-10	-0.8%
State and Local Government	3,370	3,360	3,380	10	-10	-0.3%
State and Local Government Education	1,570	1,570	1,520	0	50	3.3%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Total nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County expanded by 150 from May to June 2019. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs contracted by 170 or 1.0 percent.

- From May to June, most industries reported modest employment gains. The largest one month gains were attributable to hiring in construction (+20).
- Year-over-year, more industries shed jobs than added them. The deepest losses were observed in the education and health services industries (-120). Leisure and hospitality posted the largest year-over-year gains (+60).

It is important to note that employment statistics for Island County do not include military employment.

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County increased from 3.6 percent in May (revised) to 3.8 percent (preliminary) in June. The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 3.4 percent.

- Compared to June 2018, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 242 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 43. Altogether, the San Juan County labor force consisted of an estimated 8,904 workers and increased by 3.3 percent over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in San Juan County totaled 9 in June. There were also 9 initial claims filed in May. Altogether, 38 San Juan County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 48 in May.

San Juan County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

San Juan County

Data benchmarked through December 2018

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-19	Revised May-19	Revised Jun-18	Change		
				May-19 Jun-19	Jun-18 Jun-19	Jun-18 Jun-19
Total Nonfarm	6,430	5,970	6,290	460	140	2.2%
Total Private	5,670	5,210	5,490	460	180	3.3%
Goods Producing	1,010	980	960	30	50	5.2%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	760	750	710	10	50	7.0%
Manufacturing	250	230	250	20	0	0.0%
Service Providing	5,420	4,990	5,330	430	90	1.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,110	1,050	1,080	60	30	2.8%
Information and Financial Activities	380	370	420	10	-40	-9.5%
Professional and Business Services	400	380	390	20	10	2.6%
Education and Health Services	650	650	600	0	50	8.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,920	1,600	1,840	320	80	4.3%
Government	760	760	800	0	-40	-5.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Net nonfarm payroll in San Juan County increased by 460 from May to June. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was up 140 jobs or 2.2 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, the largest one-month gains were reported from leisure and hospitality (+320).
- Over the year, there was a net gain of employment. The largest one-year gains were attributable to hiring in leisure and hospitality (+80). Construction and education and health services also made a strong showing, each increasing over the year employment by 50. The only two industries reporting 12-month losses were information and financial activities and government (-40 each).

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. 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.