

Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

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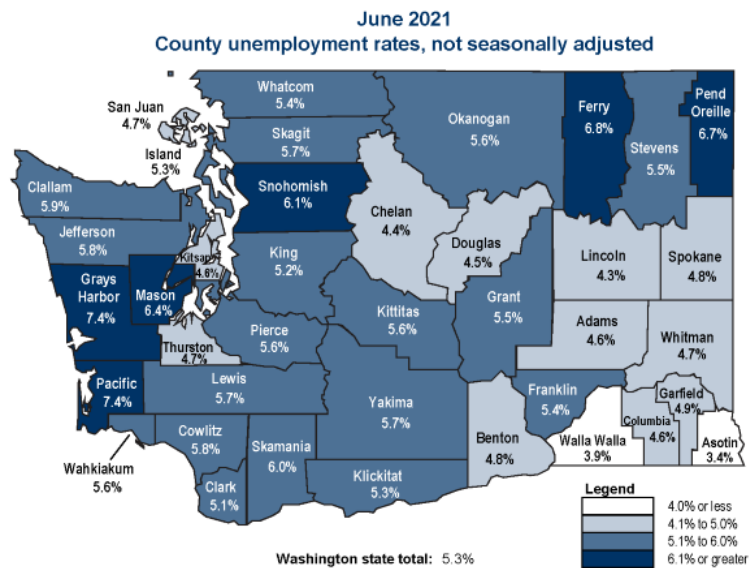
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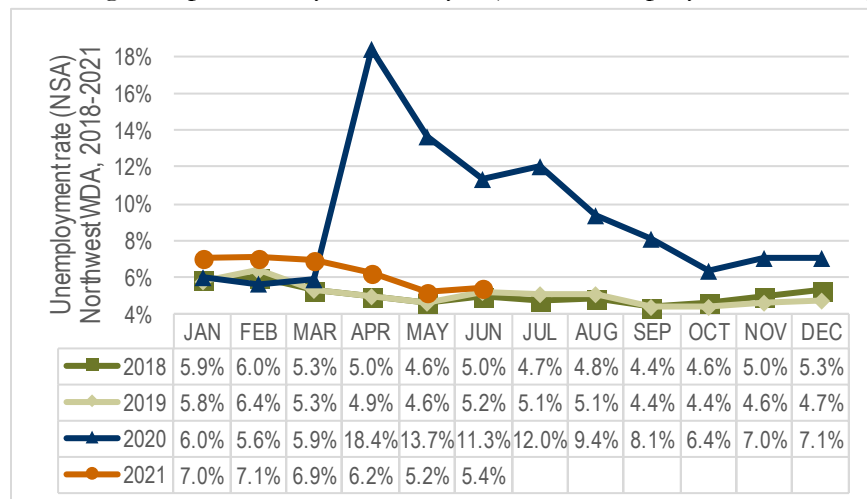
This report marks the second report whereby the year-over-year narrative shifts from pandemic-related losses to recovery since the start of the economic crisis. Pandemic-related employment effects began to show up in March last year, and swiftly led to unprecedented levels of unemployment in April 2020. Many jobs have recovered in the meantime, with significant variation by location and industry. This report tracks a moment in that recovery.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 24,100 in June 2021.1 BLS estimates the private sector gained 20,000 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 4,100 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for June 2020 through June 2021 indicate an increase in employment of 197,000 for the state. The private sector gained 181,600 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 15,400 jobs over the year.



Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2021 is 5.2 percent. The revised estimated June 2021 unemployment rate is at 5.2 percent. The June 2020 unemployment rate was 10.8 percent.



BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The May 2021 preliminary estimated gain of 8,300 jobs was revised to a gain of 9,100 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 5.4 percent in June 2021 (preliminary), above the May estimate of 5.2 percent (revised). For comparison, the unemployment rate 12 months ago was 11.5 percent.

- Compared to June 2020, the labor force expanded by 1,859 workers. Within that estimate, the number of employed workers expanded by 8,688 (8.7 percent) and the number of unemployed workers contracted by 6,829 (52.7 percent). Whatcom County's estimated labor force was 114,556 in June 2021.

Whatcom County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted
Bellingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (Whatcom County)
 Data benchmarked through December 2020

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-21	Revised May-21	Revised Jun-20	Change		
				May-21 Jun-21	Jun-20 Jun-21	Jun-20 Jun-21
Total Nonfarm	91,000	90,600	86,700	400	4,300	5.0%
Total Private	73,800	73,400	69,900	400	3,900	5.6%
Goods Producing	17,900	17,700	17,000	200	900	5.3%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,400	8,300	7,400	100	1,000	13.5%
Manufacturing	9,500	9,400	9,600	100	-100	-1.0%
Service Providing	73,100	72,900	69,700	200	3,400	4.9%
Private Services Providing	55,900	55,700	52,900	200	3,000	5.7%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	16,100	16,100	15,200	0	900	5.9%
Retail Trade	10,900	11,200	10,300	-300	600	5.8%
Financial Activities	4,000	3,900	3,900	100	100	2.6%
Professional and Business Services	8,300	8,200	7,900	100	400	5.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	9,800	9,300	7,800	500	2,000	25.6%
Government	17,200	17,200	16,800	0	400	2.4%
Federal Government	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0	0.0%
Total State Government	5,700	5,800	5,700	-100	0	0.0%
Total Local Government	10,000	9,900	9,600	100	400	4.2%

Total nonfarm payroll in Whatcom County (not seasonally adjusted) increased by 400 from May to June 2021 Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs increased by 4,300 (5.0 percent).

- In June, most industries added jobs. The largest one-month gains were observed in leisure and hospitality (+500). Employment in retail trade was down (-300) over the month.
- Most major industries added jobs over the year. Leisure and hospitality added the largest number of jobs over the year (+2,000). Manufacturing is the only sector detailed in this report to have shed jobs over the year.

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County was 5.7 percent (preliminary) in June—this is up from 5.4 percent in May (revised). The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 12.1 percent.

- Compared to June 2020, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 4,515 (8.3 percent) and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ contracted by 3,944 (52.5 percent). Skagit County’s resident labor force was estimated at 62,648, increasing by 0.9 percent over the year.

Skagit County local area payroll jobs

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

Data benchmarked through December 2020

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-21	Revised May-21	Revised Jun-20	Change		
				May-21 Jun-21	Jun-20 Jun-21	Jun-20 Jun-21
Total Nonfarm	49,900	49,300	47,500	600	2,400	5.1%
Total Private	38,500	38,000	36,800	500	1,700	4.6%
Goods Producing	10,500	10,300	10,300	200	200	1.9%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,300	4,200	4,200	100	100	2.4%
Manufacturing	6,200	6,100	6,100	100	100	1.6%
Service Providing	39,400	39,000	37,200	400	2,200	5.9%
Private Services Providing	28,000	27,700	26,500	300	1,500	5.7%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,200	9,200	9,300	0	-100	-1.1%
Retail Trade	6,800	6,800	6,600	0	200	3.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,500	4,300	4,000	200	500	12.5%
Government	11,400	11,300	10,700	100	700	6.5%
Federal Government	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
State Government	1,200	1,200	1,400	0	-200	-14.3%
Local Government	9,800	9,700	8,900	100	900	10.1%

Total nonfarm employment in Skagit County increased by 600 from May to June 2021. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 2,400 or 5.1 percent.

- Over the month, all industries included in this report added jobs or maintained employment levels. The largest increases were observed in leisure and hospitality (+200).
- Most major industries have recovered jobs over the year. The largest 12-month increases were attributable to government (+700) and leisure and hospitality (+500). The broad category or trade, transportation warehousing, and utilities saw net employment drop over the year.

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County was 5.3 percent (preliminary) in June 2021, above the (revised) unemployment rate (5.1 percent) reported in May. The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 9.6 percent.

- Compared to June 2020, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,518 (4.8 percent) and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work contracted by 1,535 (45.2 percent). Island County’s civilian labor force was estimated as 35,297 in June 2021, barely changed relative to the estimate 12 months ago.

Island County local area payroll jobs

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

Data benchmarked through December 2020

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-21	Revised May-21	Revised Jun-20	Change		
				May-21 Jun-21	Jun-20 Jun-21	Jun-20 Jun-21
Total Nonfarm	16,460	16,550	16,250	-90	210	1.3%
Total Private	11,890	11,990	11,750	-100	140	1.2%
Goods Producing	1,840	1,880	1,870	-40	-30	-1.6%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	1,140	1,170	1,080	-30	60	5.6%
Manufacturing	700	710	790	-10	-90	-11.4%
Service Providing	14,620	14,670	14,380	-50	240	1.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,640	2,720	2,610	-80	30	1.1%
Retail Trade	2,070	2,150	2,050	-80	20	1.0%
Information and Financial Activities	820	820	820	0	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	1,440	1,440	1,410	0	30	2.1%
Education and Health Services	2,460	2,420	2,200	40	260	11.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,840	1,840	2,000	0	-160	-8.0%
Government	4,570	4,560	4,500	10	70	1.6%
Federal Government	1,280	1,290	1,320	-10	-40	-3.0%
State and Local Government	3,290	3,270	3,180	20	110	3.5%
State and Local Government Education	1,400	1,400	1,350	0	50	3.7%

Total nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County contracted by 90 from May to June 2021. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 210 or 1.3 percent.

- From May to June, 3 major industries included in this report saw declining employment levels, with the deepest drops observed in trade, transportation, and utilities (-80), specifically attributable to retail trade. Two industries added jobs, with the largest increases attributable to education and health services (+40).
- Year-over-year, the largest employment gains were attributable to educational and health services (+260) and government (+70). Leisure and hospitality had the largest number of losses over the year (-160).

Employment statistics for Island County do not include military employment.

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County was 4.7 percent in June 2021 (preliminary), unchanged over the month. For comparison, the unemployment rate 12 months ago was 10.2 percent.

- Compared to June 2020, the number of residents counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 94 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 467. Altogether, the San Juan County labor force consisted of an estimated 7,452 resident workers and contracted by 7.0 percent over the year.

San Juan County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

San Juan County

Data benchmarked through December 2020

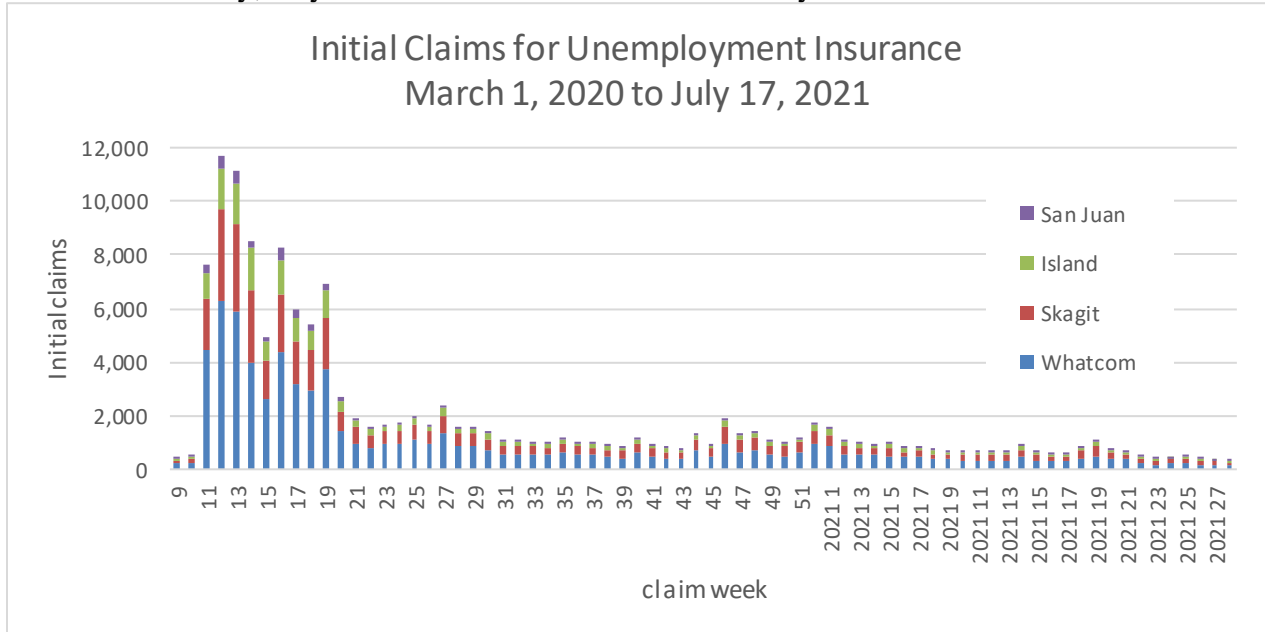
NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-21	Revised May-21	Revised Jun-20	Change		
				May-21 Jun-21	Jun-20 Jun-21	Jun-20 Jun-21
Total Nonfarm	4,680	4,660	5,060	20	-380	-7.5%
Total Private	3,830	3,810	4,290	20	-460	-10.7%
Goods Producing	870	900	910	-30	-40	-4.4%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	690	720	710	-30	-20	-2.8%
Manufacturing	180	180	200	0	-20	-10.0%
Service Providing	3,810	3,760	4,150	50	-340	-8.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	940	880	990	60	-50	-5.1%
Information and Financial Activities	360	360	310	0	50	16.1%
Professional and Business Services	410	430	440	-20	-30	-6.8%
Education and Health Services	520	520	560	0	-40	-7.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	560	550	890	10	-330	-37.1%
Government	850	850	770	0	80	10.4%

Net nonfarm payroll in San Juan County expanded over the month (+20). Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was down 380 or 7.5 percent.

- From May to June, most industries detailed in this report added jobs, with the largest gains observed in trade, transportation and utilities (+60). The largest drop was observed in construction (-30).
- According to preliminary estimates, the deepest 12-month losses were observed in leisure and hospitality (-330) and the largest gains were observed in government (+80).

Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims information:

In March 2020, the Employment Security Department began publishing weekly counts of initial claims for Unemployment Insurance. Initial claims provide an indicator of layoffs. Because they are entered weekly, they are a bit more nimble than our survey-based datasets.



New claims for unemployment insurance have finally reached pre-pandemic levels. There were 288 new claims for unemployment insurance filed in the Northwest WDA during the week of July 11-17, 2021.

**Labor force and payroll reporting reflects employment during 2021 the week of June 6-12.*

Forecast information for Washington state:

The Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council issues quarterly forecasts that address Washington's projected economic health. The June forecast is currently online 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.