

Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

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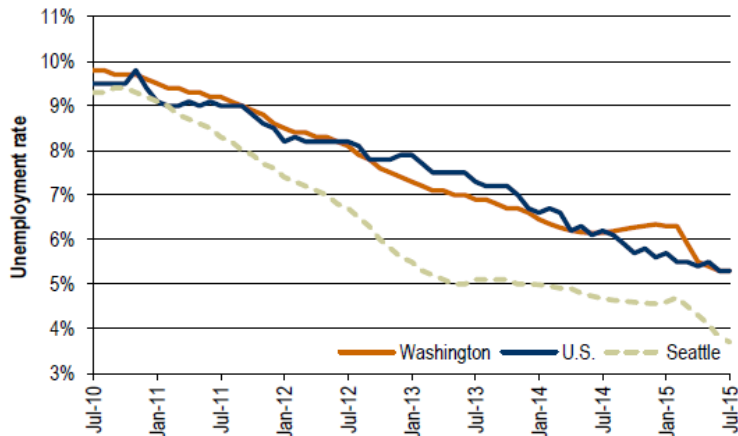
www.esd.wa.gov/employmentdata

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 5,900 from June 2015 to July 2015.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 7,000 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 1,100 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for July 2014 through July 2015 indicate an increase in employment of 108,600 for the state. The private sector added 101,200 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 7,400 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2015 is 5.3 percent. The revised estimated June 2015 unemployment rate was also at 5.3 percent. The July 2014 unemployment rate was 6.2 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
U.S., Washington and Seattle, July 2010 through July 2015
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)				
Area	(Prelim.) Jul-15	Jun-15	Jul-14	Year-to-Year Change
USA	5.6%	5.5%	6.5%	-0.9%
Washington state	5.4%	5.2%	6.0%	-0.6%
Whatcom	6.0%	5.8%	6.5%	-0.5%
Skagit	6.6%	6.6%	6.8%	-0.2%
Island	6.1%	6.1%	6.5%	-0.4%
San Juan	3.9%	4.2%	4.0%	-0.1%

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. June's preliminary estimated gain of 3,900 jobs was revised to a gain of 7,700 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County increased from 5.8 percent in June (revised) to 6.0 percent in July (preliminary). The unemployment rate in July 2014 was 6.5 percent.

- Compared to July 2014, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,727 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 398. Whatcom County’s labor force expanded by 1,329 over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Whatcom County increased from 981 in June to 1,015. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 1,688 Whatcom County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in July; down from 1,727 in June.

Whatcom County local area payroll jobs

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

Data benchmarked through December 2014

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jul-15	Revised Jun-15	Revised Jul-14	Change		
				Jun-15 Jul-15	Jul-14 Jul-15	Jul-14 Jul-15
Total Nonfarm	85,800	88,700	83,400	-2,900	2,400	2.9%
Total Private	70,100	70,500	68,600	-400	1,500	2.2%
Goods Producing	16,300	16,100	15,200	200	1,100	7.2%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6,900	6,800	6,000	100	900	15.0%
Manufacturing	9,400	9,300	9,200	100	200	2.2%
Service Providing	69,500	72,600	68,200	-3,100	1,300	1.9%
Private Services Providing	53,800	54,400	53,400	-600	400	0.7%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	15,800	15,900	16,200	-100	-400	-2.5%
Retail Trade	11,300	11,300	11,000	0	300	2.7%
Financial Activities	3,400	3,400	3,500	0	-100	-2.9%
Professional and Business Services	8,300	8,200	7,900	100	400	5.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	10,400	10,500	9,900	-100	500	5.1%
Government	15,700	18,200	14,800	-2,500	900	6.1%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0	0.0%
Total State Government	4,500	6,700	3,800	-2,200	700	18.4%
Total Local Government	9,800	10,100	9,600	-300	200	2.1%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Whatcom County contracted by 2,900 from June to July 2015. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs is up 2.9 percent or 2,400.

- In July 2015, goods producing industries added a net 200 jobs and private sector service providers shed a net 600 jobs. Government employment was down 2,500 over the month.
- Altogether, Whatcom County employers added 2,400 jobs over the past 12 months. The largest private sector gains were attributed to hiring in construction (+900) and leisure and hospitality (+500). Non-retail trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities and financial activities both reported losses over the year. Public sector employment expanded by 900.

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County remained unchanged at 6.6 percent in June (revised) and July (preliminary). The unemployment rate last July was 6.8 percent.

- Compared to July 2014, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 368 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 178. Skagit County’s labor force decreased by an estimated 546 workers over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Skagit County increased from 658 in June to 813. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 1,175 Skagit County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in July. This is up from 1,137 in June.

Skagit County local area payroll jobs

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

Data benchmarked through December 2014

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jul-15	Revised Jun-15	Revised Jul-14	Change		
				Jun-15 Jul-15	Jul-14 Jul-15	Jul-14 Jul-15
Total Nonfarm	47,500	47,500	47,700	0	-200	-0.4%
Total Private	36,500	36,200	37,000	300	-500	-1.4%
Goods Producing	9,600	9,500	9,500	100	100	1.1%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	3,700	3,600	3,400	100	300	8.8%
Manufacturing	5,900	5,900	6,100	0	-200	-3.3%
Service Providing	37,900	38,000	38,200	-100	-300	-0.8%
Private Services Providing	26,900	26,700	27,500	200	-600	-2.2%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,700	9,900	9,800	-200	-100	-1.0%
Retail Trade	6,900	7,000	7,000	-100	-100	-1.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,100	5,100	5,100	0	0	0.0%
Government	11,000	11,300	10,700	-300	300	2.8%
Federal Government	500	400	400	100	100	25.0%
State Government	1,200	1,400	1,200	-200	0	0.0%
Local Government	9,300	9,500	9,100	-200	200	2.2%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

In July, Skagit County nonfarm payrolls remained unchanged from June levels (47,500). Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs contracted by 200 or 0.4 percent.

- Month-to-month, gains were reported in construction and losses were reported in trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities (including retail trade) and government.
- Over the year, total nonfarm employment decreased by 200 or 0.4 percent. Gains were observed in construction and government (+300 each) and losses were reported in manufacturing and trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities (including retail trade).

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County remained unchanged at 6.1 percent in June (revised) and July (preliminary). The unemployment rate in July 2014 was 6.5 percent.

- Compared to July 2014, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 98 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 136. Island County’s civilian labor force decreased by 234 resident civilians over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Island County decreased from 179 in June to 166. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related

occupations. Altogether, 343 Island County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in July. This is down from 349 the previous month.

Island County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted
Oak Harbor Micropolitan Statistical Area (Island County)
Data benchmarked through December 2014

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jul-15	Revised Jun-15	Revised Jul-14	Change		
				Jun-15 Jul-15	Jul-14 Jul-15	Jul-14 Jul-15
Total Nonfarm	15,970	16,030	15,610	-60	360	2.3%
Total Private	11,430	11,440	11,310	-10	120	1.1%
Goods Producing	1,670	1,590	1,430	80	240	16.8%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	950	860	770	90	180	23.4%
Manufacturing	720	730	660	-10	60	9.1%
Service Providing	14,300	14,440	14,180	-140	120	0.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,530	2,530	2,550	0	-20	-0.8%
Retail Trade	2,090	2,070	2,120	20	-30	-1.4%
Information and Financial Activities	740	740	760	0	-20	-2.6%
Professional and Business Services	1,160	1,160	1,250	0	-90	-7.2%
Education and Health Services	2,220	2,320	2,200	-100	20	0.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,340	2,380	2,390	-40	-50	-2.1%
Government	4,540	4,590	4,300	-50	240	5.6%
Federal Government	1,330	1,320	1,360	10	-30	-2.2%
State and Local Government	3,210	3,270	2,940	-60	270	9.2%
State and Local Government Education	1,370	1,440	1,160	-70	210	18.1%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County decreased by 60 in July. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 2.3 percent or 360.

- From June to July, gains were observed in construction and retail trade. The deepest losses were observed in education and health services and government.
- Year-over-year, Island County employment expanded by 360. The largest gains were observed in government (+240) and construction (+180). The deepest losses came from professional and business services (-90).

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County decreased from 4.2 percent (revised) in June to 3.9 percent (preliminary) in July. The unemployment rate observed in July 2014 was 4.0 percent.

- Compared to July 2014, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 40 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 11. All together, the San Juan County labor force decreased by 51 over the year.

- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in San Juan County increased from 13 in June to 21. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 35 San Juan County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in July. This is down from 50 in June.

San Juan County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

San Juan County

Data benchmarked through December 2014

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jul-15	Revised Jun-15	Revised Jul-14	Change		
				Jun-15 Jul-15	Jul-14 Jul-15	Jul-14 Jul-15
Total Nonfarm	6,500	6,140	6,390	360	110	1.7%
Total Private	5,710	5,310	5,520	400	190	3.4%
Goods Producing	860	840	840	20	20	2.4%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	660	640	610	20	50	8.2%
Manufacturing	200	200	230	0	-30	-13.0%
Service Providing	5,640	5,300	5,550	340	90	1.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,140	1,060	1,040	80	100	9.6%
Information and Financial Activities	350	340	370	10	-20	-5.4%
Professional and Business Services	340	360	400	-20	-60	-15.0%
Education and Health Services	640	670	600	-30	40	6.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,190	1,840	2,060	350	130	6.3%
Government	790	830	870	-40	-80	-9.2%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in San Juan County expanded by 360 in July. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was up 110 jobs or 1.7 percent.

- San Juan County has a highly-seasonal economy, due to its orientation toward tourism. July and August tend to be the months with the highest levels of employment for the year. The largest one-month shift in July was a gain of 350 jobs in leisure and hospitality.
- Over the year, San Juan County added 110 jobs. The largest gains were in leisure and hospitality (+130) and trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities (+100). The deepest losses were observed in government (-80) and professional and business services (-60).