

Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

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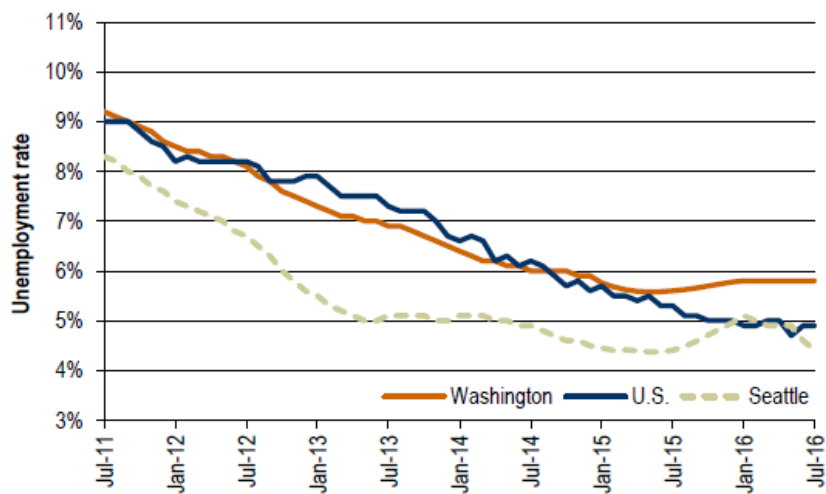
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On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 2,600 from June 2016 to July 2016. BLS estimates the private sector lost 1,000 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 3,600 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for July 2015 through July 2016 indicate an increase in employment of 100,000 for the state.

The private sector added 88,300 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 11,700 jobs over the year.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
U.S., Washington and Seattle, July 2011 through July 2016
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Washington’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2016 is 5.8 percent. The revised estimated June 2016 unemployment rate was also at 5.8 percent. The July 2015 unemployment rate was 5.6 percent.

Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	(Prelim.) Jul-16	Jun-16	Jul-15	Year-to- Year Change
USA	5.1%	5.1%	5.6%	-0.5%
Washington state	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%	0.2%
Whatcom	6.4%	6.2%	5.8%	0.6%
Skagit	6.8%	6.8%	6.3%	0.5%
Island	6.6%	6.1%	5.7%	0.9%
San Juan	4.5%	4.5%	3.7%	0.8%

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 loss of 500 jobs was revised to a gain of 900 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 6.4 percent in July 2016 (preliminary), up from 6.2 percent in June (revised). For comparison, the unemployment rate in July 2015 was 5.8 percent.

- Compared to July 2015, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,584 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 843, resulting in an overall increase in the total labor force and in the unemployment rate. Whatcom County’s labor force was estimated at 106,638 in July 2016.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Whatcom County decreased from 888 in June to 728. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 1,531 Whatcom County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in July; up from 1,521 in June.

Whatcom County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted
Bellingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (Whatcom County)
 Data benchmarked through March 2016

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jul-16	Revised Jun-16	Revised Jul-15	Change		
				Jun-16 Jul-16	Jul-15 Jul-16	Jun-15 Jul-15
Total Nonfarm	89,300	91,300	85,900	-2,000	3,400	4.0%
Total Private	73,600	73,400	70,000	200	3,600	5.1%
Goods Producing	17,200	16,800	15,600	400	1,600	10.3%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6,900	6,600	6,300	300	600	9.5%
Manufacturing	10,300	10,200	9,300	100	1,000	10.8%
Service Providing	72,100	74,500	70,300	-2,400	1,800	2.6%
Private Services Providing	56,400	56,600	54,400	-200	2,000	3.7%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17,200	17,100	16,400	100	800	4.9%
Retail Trade	11,700	11,600	11,300	100	400	3.5%
Financial Activities	3,200	3,200	3,400	0	-200	-5.9%
Professional and Business Services	8,300	8,200	8,100	100	200	2.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	10,900	10,900	10,300	0	600	5.8%
Government	15,700	17,900	15,900	-2,200	-200	-1.3%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0	0.0%
Total State Government	4,500	6,400	4,800	-1,900	-300	-6.3%
Total Local Government	9,800	10,100	9,700	-300	100	1.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Whatcom County contracted by 2,000 from June to July 2016. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs is up 4.0 percent or 3,400.

- In July 2016, goods producing industries created 400 jobs and private sector service providers shed 200. Government employment dropped by 2,200 over the month. In July,

the largest payroll increases were observed in construction (+300). The deepest losses were observed in government. Government losses were linked to the academic calendar.

- Altogether, Whatcom County employers added 3,400 jobs over the past 12 months. The largest private sector gains were attributed to hiring in manufacturing (+1,000) and trade transportation and utilities (+800).

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County remained unchanged at 6.8 percent in June (revised) and July (preliminary) 2016. The unemployment rate last July was 6.3 percent.

- Compared to July 2015, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,512 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 448. Skagit County’s labor force increased by an estimated 1,960 workers over the year, resulting in an increased unemployment rate.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Skagit County decreased from 595 in June to 549. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 1,082 Skagit County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in July. This is down from 1,132 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 March 2016

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jul-16	Revised Jun-16	Revised Jul-15	Change		
				Jun-16 Jul-16	Jul-15 Jul-16	Jul-15 Jul-16
Total Nonfarm	50,500	50,200	48,800	300	1,700	3.5%
Total Private	38,600	38,200	37,900	400	700	1.8%
Goods Producing	9,800	9,700	9,800	100	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	3,500	3,500	3,700	0	-200	-5.4%
Manufacturing	6,300	6,200	6,100	100	200	3.3%
Service Providing	40,700	40,500	39,000	200	1,700	4.4%
Private Services Providing	28,800	28,500	28,100	300	700	2.5%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,200	10,000	9,900	200	300	3.0%
Retail Trade	7,400	7,200	7,000	200	400	5.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,300	5,100	5,200	200	100	1.9%
Government	11,900	12,000	10,900	-100	1,000	9.2%
Federal Government	600	500	400	100	200	50.0%
State Government	1,100	1,300	1,200	-200	-100	-8.3%
Local Government	10,200	10,200	9,300	0	900	9.7%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

In July, Skagit County nonfarm payrolls rose by 300. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 1,700 or 3.5 percent.

- Month-to-month, the largest industry-specific gains were attributable to trade, transportation warehousing and utilities (specifically within retail trade) and leisure and hospitality (+200 each) All major private industry sectors added jobs over the month.
- Over the year, total nonfarm employment expanded by 1,700 or 3.5 percent. Employment gains were observed in most industries, with the largest gains attributable to hiring in government (+1,000) and retail trade (+400). Year over year losses were observed in construction.

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County increased from 6.1 percent in June (revised) to 6.6 percent in July (preliminary). The unemployment rate in July 2015 was 5.7 percent.

- Compared to July 2015, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 186 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 290. Island County’s civilian labor force increased by 476 resident civilians over the year, resulting in an increase in the unemployment rate.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Island County increased from 184 in June to 189. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 332 Island County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in July. This is down from 332 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 March 2016

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jul-16	Revised Jun-16	Revised Jul-15	Change		
				Jun-16 Jul-16	Jul-15 Jul-16	Jul-15 Jul-16
Total Nonfarm	15,950	16,030	15,860	-80	90	0.6%
Total Private	11,430	11,430	11,380	0	50	0.4%
Goods Producing	1,730	1,700	1,560	30	170	10.9%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	940	910	790	30	150	19.0%
Manufacturing	790	790	770	0	20	2.6%
Service Providing	14,220	14,330	14,300	-110	-80	-0.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,620	2,600	2,680	20	-60	-2.2%
Retail Trade	2,160	2,150	2,220	10	-60	-2.7%
Information and Financial Activities	740	740	670	0	70	10.4%
Professional and Business Services	1,250	1,250	1,180	0	70	5.9%
Education and Health Services	2,060	2,130	2,130	-70	-70	-3.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,320	2,290	2,390	30	-70	-2.9%
Government	4,520	4,600	4,480	-80	40	0.9%
Federal Government	1,390	1,380	1,320	10	70	5.3%
State and Local Government	3,130	3,220	3,160	-90	-30	-0.9%
State and Local Government Education	1,320	1,420	1,320	-100	0	0.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County decreased by 80 in July. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 0.6 percent or 90.

- From June to July, the largest gains were observed in construction and leisure and hospitality (+30 each); Government and education and health services shed jobs over the month.
- Year-over-year, Island County employment expanded by 90. The largest gains were attributable to hiring in construction (+150); the deepest losses came from education and health services and leisure and hospitality (-70 each).

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County remained steady at 4.5 percent in June (revised) and July (preliminary). The unemployment rate observed in July 2015 was 3.7 percent.

- Compared to July 2015, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 48 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 70. All together, the San Juan County labor force increased by 22 over the year, resulting in an increase in the unemployment rate.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in San Juan County totaled 12 in both June and July. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction related

occupations. Altogether, 32 San Juan County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in July. This is down from 53 in June.

San Juan County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

San Juan County

Data benchmarked through March 2016

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jul-16	Revised Jun-16	Revised Jul-15	Change		
				Jun-16 Jul-16	Jul-15 Jul-16	Jul-15 Jul-16
Total Nonfarm	6,510	6,110	6,530	400	-20	-0.3%
Total Private	5,690	5,250	5,700	440	-10	-0.2%
Goods Producing	940	910	840	30	100	11.9%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	700	680	630	20	70	11.1%
Manufacturing	240	230	210	10	30	14.3%
Service Providing	5,570	5,200	5,690	370	-120	-2.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	950	900	1,060	50	-110	-10.4%
Information and Financial Activities	290	290	370	0	-80	-21.6%
Professional and Business Services	430	420	410	10	20	4.9%
Education and Health Services	560	560	570	0	-10	-1.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,330	1,990	2,250	340	80	3.6%
Government	820	860	830	-40	-10	-1.2%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Nonfarm payroll jobs in San Juan County expanded by 400 in July. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was down 20 jobs or 0.3 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. Most industries shed jobs in the winter and begin to return with the sun. The largest gains in July were observed in leisure and hospitality (+340). Government shed jobs over the month.
- Over the year, employers in San Juan County collectively shed 20 jobs. The largest gains were observed in leisure and hospitality (+80). The deepest losses were observed in trade transportation and utilities – a collection of industries that includes retail and wholesale trade in addition to transportation warehousing and utilities (-110).