

Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

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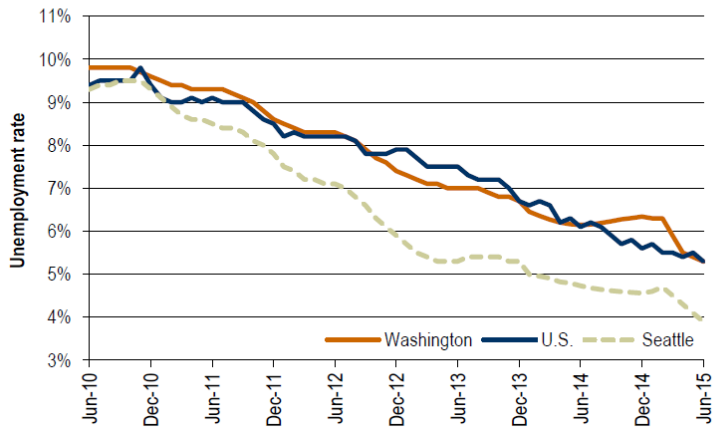
www.esd.wa.gov/employmentdata

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 3,900 from May 2015 to June 2015. BLS estimates the private sector gained 2,600 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 1,300 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for June 2014 through

June 2015 indicate an increase in employment of 114,700 for the state. The private sector added 100,900 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 13,800 jobs over the year.

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



Washington’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2015 is 5.3 percent. The revised estimated May 2015 unemployment rate was at 5.4 percent. The June 2014 unemployment rate was 6.1 percent.

Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)				
Area	(Prelim.) Jun-15	May-15	Jun-14	Year-to-Year Change
USA	5.5%	5.3%	6.3%	-0.8%
Washington s	5.3%	5.3%	5.9%	-0.6%
Whatcom	5.8%	5.7%	6.1%	-0.3%
Skagit	6.6%	6.6%	6.7%	-0.1%
Island	6.1%	6.1%	6.3%	-0.2%
San Juan	4.3%	4.4%	4.2%	0.1%

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 7,700 jobs was revised to a gain of 7,200 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County increased from 5.7 percent in May (revised) to 5.8 percent in June (preliminary). The unemployment rate in June 2014 was 6.1 percent.

- Compared to June 2014, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 2,320 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 130. Whatcom County’s labor force expanded by 2,190 over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Whatcom County decreased from 1,032 in May to 981. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 1,727 Whatcom County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in June; up from 1,626 in May.

Whatcom County local area payroll jobs

Total nonfarm employment, not seasonally adjusted, in Whatcom County (Bellingham MSA)						
NAICS industry title (place of work)	Preliminary Jun-15	Revised May-15	Revised Jun -14	Change		
				May-15 Jun-15	Jun-14 Jun -15	Jun-14 Jun- 15 %
Total Nonfarm	90,100	90,900	86,800	-800	3,300	3.8%
Total Private	71,900	72,400	69,700	-500	2,200	3.2%
Goods Producing	15,600	16,600	15,000	-1,000	600	4.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6,300	7,200	5,800	-900	500	8.6%
Manufacturing	9,300	9,400	9,200	-100	100	1.1%
Service-Providing	74,500	74,300	71,800	200	2,700	3.8%
Private Service Providing	56,300	55,800	54,700	500	1,600	2.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	16,600	16,600	16,100	0	500	3.1%
Retail Trade	11,500	11,600	11,100	-100	400	3.6%
Financial Activities	3,600	3,600	3,500	0	100	2.9%
Professional and Business Services	8,100	8,000	7,600	100	500	6.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	10,100	9,800	10,300	300	-200	-1.9%
Government	18,200	18,500	17,100	-300	1,100	6.4%
Federal	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0	
State government	6,500	6,800	5,800	-300	700	12.1%
Local government	10,300	10,300	9,900	0	400	4.0%
Workers in Labor Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Performance Analysis Branch

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Whatcom County contracted by 800 from May to June 2015. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs is up 3.8 percent or 3,300.

- In June 2015, goods producing industries shed a net 1,000 jobs, while private sector service providers added a net 500 jobs. Government employment was down 300 over the month.
- Altogether, Whatcom County employers added 3,300 jobs over the past 12 months. The largest private sector gains were attributed to hiring in construction and professional and business services (+500 each). The only major industry group reporting losses over the year was leisure and hospitality (-200). Public sector employment expanded by 1,100.

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County remained unchanged at 6.6 percent in May (revised) and June (preliminary). The unemployment rate last June was 6.7 percent.

- Compared to June 2014, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 40 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 50. Skagit County’s labor force decreased by an estimated 10 workers over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Skagit County decreased from 727 in May to 658. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 1,137 Skagit County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 1,176 in May.

Skagit County local area payroll jobs

Total nonfarm employment, not seasonally adjusted, in Skagit County (Mt. Vernon-Anacortes MSA)				Change		
NAICS industry title (place of work)	Preliminary Jun-15	Revised May-15	Revised Jun-14	May-15 Jun-15	Jun-14 Jun-15	Jun-14 Jun-15 %
Total Nonfarm	48,600	48,300	48,400	300	200	0.4%
Total Private	37,200	36,900	37,200	300	0	
Goods Producing	9,700	9,800	9,300	-100	400	4.3%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	3,500	3,700	3,400	-200	100	2.9%
Manufacturing	6,200	6,100	5,900	100	300	5.1%
Service-Providing	38,900	38,500	39,100	400	-200	-0.5%
Private Service Providing	27,500	27,100	27,900	400	-400	-1.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	10,300	10,200	9,700	100	600	6.2%
Retail Trade	7,300	7,300	6,900	0	400	5.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,400	5,200	5,000	200	400	8.0%
Government	11,400	11,400	11,200	0	200	1.8%
Federal	400	400	400	0	0	
State government	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0	
Local government	9,500	9,500	9,300	0	200	2.2%
Workers in Labor Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Performance Analysis Branch

In June, Skagit County nonfarm payrolls expanded by 300. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 200 or 0.4 percent.

- Month-to-month, all major sectors detailed in this report expanded employment or maintained previous levels, with the exception of construction which shed 200 jobs in June.
- Over the year, total nonfarm employment increased by 200 or 0.4 percent, with each major industry reporting employment gains. The largest gains were attributed to trade transportation warehousing and utilities (+600) Four hundred of these new jobs were in retail trade. Leisure and hospitality also added 400 jobs over the year.

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County remained unchanged at 6.1 percent in May (revised) and June (preliminary). The unemployment rate in June 2014 was 6.3 percent.

- Compared to June 2014, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 350 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 60. Island County’s civilian labor force increased by 290 residents over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Island County increased from 164 in May to 179. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 349 Island County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 388 the previous month.

Island County local area payroll jobs

Total nonfarm employment, not seasonally adjusted, in Island County (Oak Harbor MSA)						
NAICS industry title (place of work)	Preliminary Jun-15	Revised May-15	Revised Jun -14	Change		
				May-15 Jun-15	Jun-14 Jun -15	Jun-14 Jun- 15 %
Total Nonfarm	16,080	15,990	15,750	90	330	2.1%
Total Private	11,500	11,340	11,200	160	300	2.7%
Goods Producing	1,490	1,440	1,380	50	110	8.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	800	770	710	30	90	12.7%
Manufacturing	690	670	670	20	20	3.0%
Service-Providing	14,590	14,550	14,370	40	220	1.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,540	2,520	2,520	20	20	0.8%
Retail Trade	2,080	2,050	2,100	30	-20	-1.0%
Information and Financial Activities	770	770	760	0	10	1.3%
Professional and Business Services	1,160	1,160	1,230	0	-70	-5.7%
Education and Health Services	2,330	2,350	2,260	-20	70	3.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,490	2,400	2,340	90	150	6.4%
Government	4,580	4,650	4,550	-70	30	0.7%
Federal	1,320	1,330	1,370	-10	-50	-3.6%
State and Local Government	3,260	3,320	3,180	-60	80	2.5%
State and Local Government Education	1,480	1,530	1,420	-50	60	4.2%
Workers in Labor Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Performance Analysis Branch

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County increased by 90 in June. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was up 2.1 percent or 330.

- From May to June, most major industries detailed in this report either added jobs or maintained previous levels of employment. Leisure and hospitality added the largest number of jobs (+90). Government and education and health services both shed jobs over the month (70 and 20 respectively).
- Year-over-year, Island County employment expanded by 330. The largest gains were observed in leisure and hospitality (+150) and construction (+90). The deepest losses were from professional and business services (-70).

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County decreased from 4.4 percent (revised) in May to 4.3 percent (preliminary) in June. The unemployment rate observed in June 2014 was 4.2 percent.

- Compared to June 2014, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 110 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 10. All together, the San Juan County labor force increased by 120 over the year.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in San Juan County decreased from 33 in May to 13. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction and transportation-related occupations. Altogether, 50 San Juan County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 71 in May.

San Juan County local area payroll jobs

Total nonfarm employment, not seasonally adjusted, in San Juan County						
NAICS industry title (place of work)	Preliminary Jun-15	Revised May-15	Revised Jun-14	Change		
				May-15 Jun-15	Jun-14 Jun-15	Jun-14 Jun-15 %
Total Nonfarm	5,990	5,680	5,820	310	170	2.9%
Total Private	5,110	4,800	4,990	310	120	2.4%
Goods Producing	800	770	800	30	0	
Mining, Logging, and Construction	580	570	590	10	-10	-1.7%
Manufacturing	220	200	210	20	10	4.8%
Service-Providing	5,190	4,910	5,020	280	170	3.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,040	980	930	60	110	11.8%
Information and Financial Activities	340	340	340	0	0	
Professional and Business Services	360	360	390	0	-30	-7.7%
Education and Health Services	640	640	600	0	40	6.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,720	1,520	1,710	200	10	0.6%
Government	880	880	830	0	50	6.0%
Workers in Labor Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Performance Analysis Branch

Nonfarm payroll jobs in San Juan County in June expanded by 310. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was up 170 jobs or 2.9 percent.

- San Juan County has a highly-seasonal economy, due to its orientation toward tourism. As summer approaches, we are now in the time of year where we can expect to see month-to-month growth in employment. The largest one-month shift in June was a gain of 200 jobs in leisure and hospitality.
- Over the year, San Juan County added 170 jobs. The largest gains were in trade transportation and utilities, which includes retail trade (+110). Employment in education and health services was up 40 jobs over the year. Professional and business services and construction each shed jobs (-30 and -10 respectively).