

# Northwest Washington Labor Market Review

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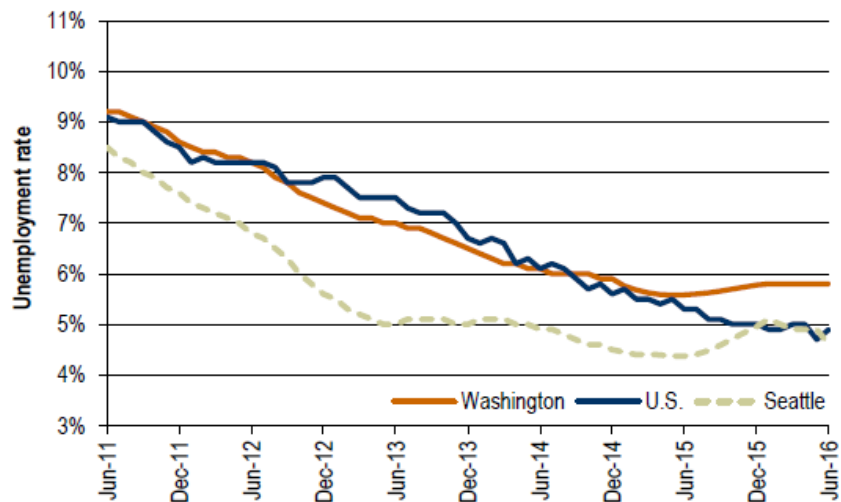
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On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington fell by 500 from May 2016 to June 2016. BLS estimates the private sector gained 1,000 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 1,500 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for June 2015 through June 2016 indicate an increase in employment of 96,900 for the state. The private sector added 84,000 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 12,900 jobs over the year.

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



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

Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	(Prelim.) Jun-16	May-16	Jun-15	Year-to-Year Change
USA	5.1%	4.5%	5.5%	-0.4%
Washington state	5.6%	5.5%	5.4%	0.2%
Whatcom	6.3%	5.8%	5.7%	0.6%
Skagit	6.7%	6.4%	6.3%	0.4%
Island	6.1%	5.8%	5.8%	0.3%
San Juan	4.5%	4.7%	4.2%	0.3%

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 8,700 jobs was revised to a gain of 9,000 jobs.

# Whatcom County

## Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 6.3 percent in June 2016 (preliminary), up from 5.8 percent in May (revised). For comparison, the unemployment rate in June 2015 was 5.7 percent.

- Compared to June 2015, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,427 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 696, resulting in an overall increase in the total labor force and in the unemployment rate. Whatcom County’s labor force was estimated at 105,172 in June 2016.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Whatcom County increased from 798 in May to 888. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 1,521 Whatcom County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in June; down from 1,618 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-16	Revised May-16	Revised Jun -15	Change		
				May-16 Jun-16	Jun-15 Jun-16	Jun-15 Jun-16 %
Total Nonfarm	91,000	90,900	88,600	100	2,400	2.7%
Total Private	73,100	72,600	70,400	500	2,700	3.8%
Goods Producing	16,200	16,300	15,800	-100	400	2.5%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6,500	6,700	6,600	-200	-100	-1.5%
Manufacturing	9,700	9,600	9,200	100	500	5.4%
Service-Providing	74,800	74,600	72,800	200	2,000	2.7%
Private Service Providing	56,900	56,300	54,600	600	2,300	4.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	16,900	16,400	16,300	500	600	3.7%
Retail Trade	11,400	11,000	11,200	400	200	1.8%
Financial Activities	3,300	3,200	3,300	100	0	
Professional and Business Services	8,200	8,100	8,000	100	200	2.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	10,900	10,600	10,600	300	300	2.8%
Government	17,900	18,300	18,200	-400	-300	-1.6%
Federal	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0	
State government	6,300	6,800	6,700	-500	-400	-6.0%
Local government	10,200	10,100	10,100	100	100	1.0%
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 expanded by 100 from May to June 2016. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs is up 2.7 percent or 2,400.

- In June 2016, goods producing industries shed 100 jobs and private sector service providers added 600. Government employment dropped by 400 over the month. In June, the largest payroll increases were observed in trade transportation and utilities (+500), particularly within the retail industry (+400). The deepest losses were observed in government.
- Altogether, Whatcom County employers added 2,400 jobs over the past 12 months. The largest private sector gains were attributed to hiring in trade transportation and utilities (+600) and manufacturing (+500).

## Skagit County

### Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County increased from 6.4 percent in May (revised) to 6.7 percent in June (preliminary). The unemployment rate last June was 6.3 percent.

- Compared to June 2015, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,644 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 343. Skagit County’s labor force increased by an estimated 1,987 workers over the year, resulting in an increased unemployment rate.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Skagit County decreased from 693 in May to 595. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 1,132 Skagit County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 1,258 in May.

### Skagit County local area payroll jobs

Total nonfarm employment, not seasonally adjusted, in Skagit County (Mt. Vernon-Anacortes MSA)						
NAICS industry title (place of work)	Preliminary Jun-16	Revised May-16	Revised Jun -15	Change		
				May-16 Jun-16	Jun-15 Jun -16	Jun-15 Jun- 16 %
Total Nonfarm	50,300	49,200	48,900	1,100	1,400	2.9%
Total Private	38,300	37,500	37,700	800	600	1.6%
Goods Producing	9,800	9,500	9,800	300	0	
Mining, Logging, and Construction	3,500	3,500	3,800	0	-300	-7.9%
Manufacturing	6,300	6,000	6,000	300	300	5.0%
Service-Providing	40,500	39,700	39,100	800	1,400	3.6%
Private Service Providing	28,500	28,000	27,900	500	600	2.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	10,000	9,900	9,900	100	100	1.0%
Retail Trade	7,000	6,800	7,000	200	0	
Leisure and Hospitality	5,100	4,900	5,100	200	0	
Government	12,000	11,700	11,200	300	800	7.1%
Federal	400	400	400	0	0	
State government	1,500	1,600	1,400	-100	100	7.1%
Local government	10,100	9,700	9,400	400	700	7.4%
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 rose by 1,100. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 1,400 or 2.9 percent.

- Month-to-month, the largest industry-specific gains were attributable to manufacturing and government (+300 each). All major industry sectors added jobs over the month.
- Over the year, total nonfarm employment expanded by 1,400 or 2.9 percent. Employment gains were observed in government, manufacturing and trade transportation and utilities. Losses were observed in construction.

# Island County

## Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County increased from 5.8 percent in May (revised) to 6.1 percent in June (preliminary). The unemployment rate in June 2015 was 5.8 percent.

- Compared to June 2015, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 140 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 113. Island County’s civilian labor force increased by 253 resident civilians over the year, resulting in an increase in the unemployment rate.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Island County decreased from 227 in May to 184. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction-related occupations. Altogether, 332 Island County residents collected unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 387 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-16	Revised May-16	Revised Jun -15	Change		
				May-16 Jun-16	Jun-15 Jun-16	Jun-15 Jun-16 %
Total Nonfarm	15,850	15,770	16,020	80	-170	-1.1%
Total Private	11,220	11,100	11,430	120	-210	-1.8%
Goods Producing	1,650	1,620	1,560	30	90	5.8%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	850	820	810	30	40	4.9%
Manufacturing	800	800	750	0	50	6.7%
Service-Providing	14,200	14,150	14,460	50	-260	-1.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,590	2,570	2,630	20	-40	-1.5%
Retail Trade	2,130	2,110	2,190	20	-60	-2.7%
Information and Financial Activities	640	640	680	0	-40	-5.9%
Professional and Business Services	1,260	1,260	1,150	0	110	9.6%
Education and Health Services	2,140	2,150	2,280	-10	-140	-6.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,260	2,190	2,370	70	-110	-4.6%
Government	4,630	4,670	4,590	-40	40	0.9%
Federal	1,370	1,390	1,330	-20	40	3.0%
State and Local Government	3,260	3,280	3,260	-20	0	
State and Local Government Education	1,420	1,460	1,440	-40	-20	-1.4%
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 80 in June. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs was down 1.1 percent or 170.

- From May to June, the largest gains were observed in leisure and hospitality (+70) and construction (30); Government and education and health services shed jobs over the month.
- Year-over-year, Island County employment contracted by 170. The largest gains were attributable to hiring in manufacturing (+50); the deepest losses came from education and health services (-140) and leisure and hospitality (-110).

## San Juan County

### Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County decreased from 4.7 percent (revised) in May to 4.5 percent (preliminary) in June. The unemployment rate observed in June 2015 was 4.2 percent.

- Compared to June 2015, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 163 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work increased by 38. All together, the San Juan County labor force increased by 201 over the year, resulting in an increase in the unemployment rate.
- Initial claims for unemployment benefits in San Juan County decreased from 20 in May to 12. The largest number of new claims was filed by persons in construction related occupations. Altogether, 53 San Juan County residents received unemployment insurance benefits in June. This is down from 55 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-16	Revised May-16	Revised Jun -15	Change		
				May-16 Jun-16	Jun-15 -16	Jun-15 -16 %
Total Nonfarm	6,020	5,510	5,920	510	100	1.7%
Total Private	5,170	4,670	5,080	500	90	1.8%
Goods Producing	820	780	800	40	20	2.5%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	600	580	610	20	-10	-1.6%
Manufacturing	220	200	190	20	30	15.8%
Service-Providing	5,200	4,730	5,120	470	80	1.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	900	840	1,020	60	-120	-11.8%
Information and Financial Activities	310	310	360	0	-50	-13.9%
Professional and Business Services	400	390	400	10	0	
Education and Health Services	560	560	580	0	-20	-3.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	1,990	1,610	1,740	380	250	14.4%
Government	850	840	840	10	10	1.2%
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 San Juan County expanded by 510 in June. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was up 100 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. Most industries shed jobs in the winter and begin to return with the sun. The largest gains in June were observed in leisure and hospitality (up 380). All major sectors either added jobs or remained unchanged in June.
- Over the year, employers in San Juan County collectively created 100 new jobs. The largest gains were observed in leisure and hospitality (+250). 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 (-120).