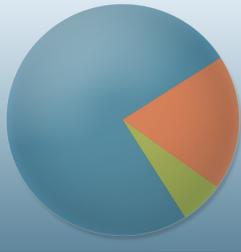


Washington State Business Employment Dynamics First Quarter 2012



Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
Business Employment Dynamics
January through March 2012

Figure 1

Net change in jobs, seasonally adjusted, U.S. and Washington state, 1994 through 2012 Q1

Figure 2

Quarterly gross job gains and losses, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, 1994 through 2012 Q1

Figure 3

National net change in job gains and losses by industry, seasonally adjusted, United States, 2012 Q1

Figure 4

Net change in job gains and losses by industry, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, 2012 Q1

Figure 5

Net change in job by industry sector, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, 2011 Q1 and 2012 Q1

The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics' Business Employment Dynamics (BED) data series highlights the forces behind labor market dynamics at the state and national levels. Job gains and losses at private business establishments are tracked showing whether change is due to establishment openings or closings versus adding or shedding jobs at existing firms.

The most recent BED data cover through the first quarters of 2012.

Both the nation and state showed job growth

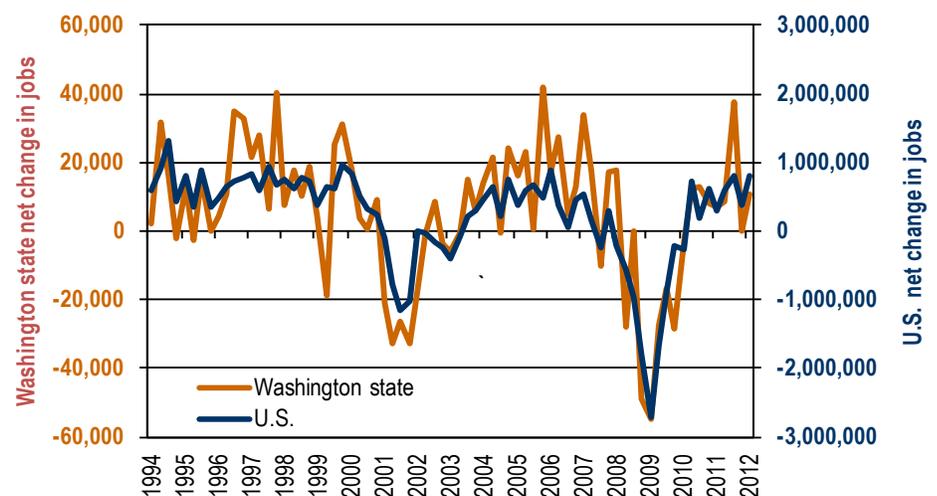
The data for the first quarter of 2012 show the eighth consecutive quarter of employment growth at the

national level since the recovery began in the first quarter of 2010. Washington state registered net employment growth of 10,979 in the first quarter. This was an improvement from the previous quarter's net decline of 132 jobs.

Figure 1 depicts this changing dynamic and compares Washington state to national trends. Both the nation and the state show net change in jobs to be sensitive to the business cycle. They both dropped sharply during the recession of 2001 and recovered unevenly until the recent recession beginning in the fourth quarter of 2007. Losses slowed during the first three quarters of 2009 for Washington state and the nation.

Figure 1. Net change in jobs, seasonally adjusted
United States and Washington state, 1994 through 2012 Q1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



Job growth increased in the first quarter of 2012.

At the national level, the number of private-sector gross job gains from opening and expanding establishments increased from 6,909,000 in the fourth quarter 2011 to 6,935,000 in the first quarter 2012. On a seasonally adjusted basis, this was an increase of 26,000 in gross job gains compared to the previous quarter. The number of gross job losses from closing and contracting firms decreased by 399,000 from the previous quarter with a total of 6,121,000 losses. Private-sector employment rose by 814,000 in the first quarter of 2012 compared to an increase of 389,000 in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Washington state had 157,863 job gains from new and expanding private businesses, and 146,884 job losses from businesses closing or contractions for a net gain of 10,979 jobs. This compares to a

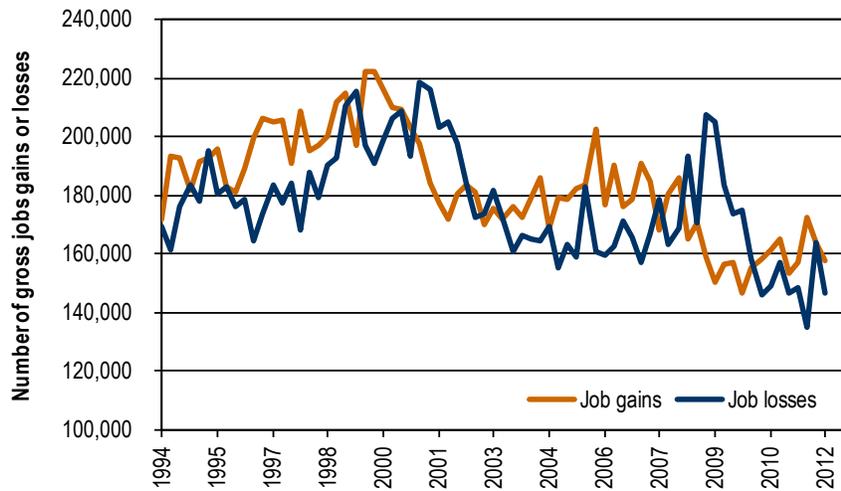
Most industries show job gains nationally and at the state level

Nationally, total private-sector employment grew by 814,000 in the first quarter of 2012. Service-providing industries had a seasonally adjusted net gain of 669,000 jobs in the first quarter of 2012 from the fourth quarter of 2011. The goods-producing industries posted a net gain of 145,000 jobs in the first quarter of 2012.

Figure 3 shows national net employment change by industry sectors.

Figure 2. Quarterly gross job gains and losses, seasonally adjusted Washington state, 1994 through 2012 Q1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



Gross job gains and losses declined in Washington state in the first quarter of 2012.

net loss of 132 jobs in the fourth quarter of 2011 and net growth of 6,846 jobs in the first quarter of 2011.

Figure 2 tracks gross job gains and losses from the first quarter of 1994 through the first quarter of 2012.

Figure 3. National net change in job gains and losses by industry, seasonally adjusted United States, 2012 Q1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series

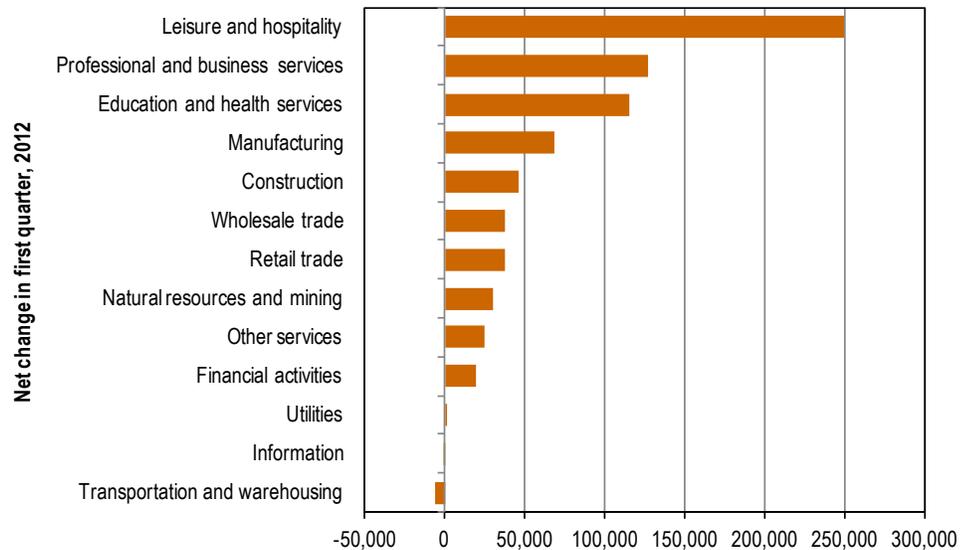


Figure 4 shows net employment changes by Washington industry sector.

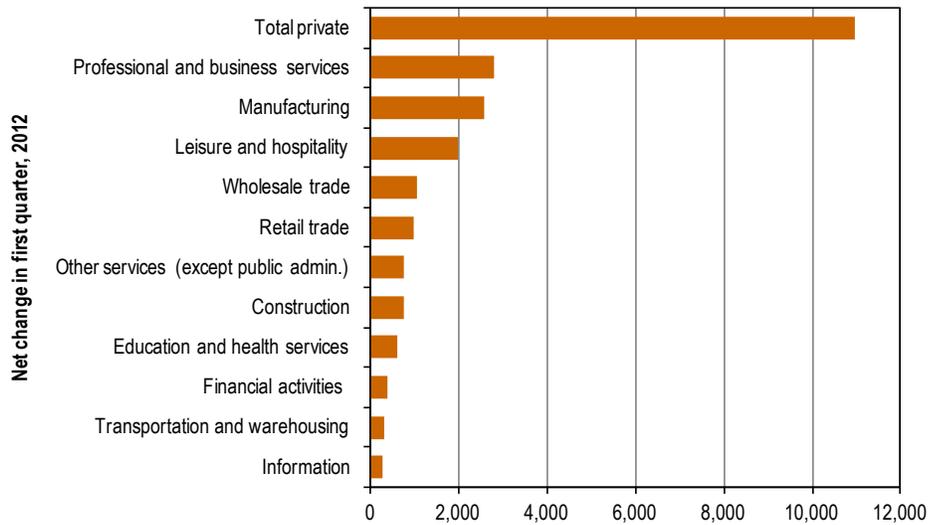
All Washington sectors reported net job gains in the first quarter of 2012. The top industry sector in job gains was professional and business services at 2,805. Information reported the least net gain of 282 jobs. Total private-sector employment had a net increase in employment of 10,979. Washington state data for natural resources and mining and utilities are not disclosed to maintain employer confidentiality.

Total private-industry employment increased in net gains to 10,979 compared to the first quarter of last year which was a gain of 6,945. Professional and business services had the most net job gains in the first quarter of 2012 with a net gain of 2,805. Information had the least gains

for the quarter with a net gain of 282 jobs. No industry posted any losses in the first quarters of 2012.

- Total private-sector employment in the first quarter of 2012 had a sharp net gain in jobs compared to the same quarter a year ago. This was the result of a decrease in the rate of contractions and closings compared to the rate of expansions.
- Retail trade showed a marked increase from the same time last year mainly due to a decrease in the rate of closings of establishments.

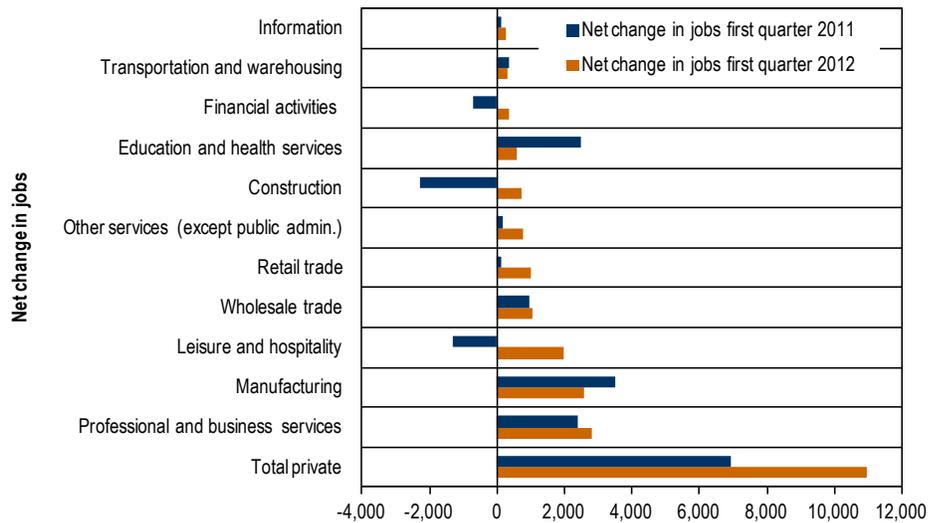
Figure 4. Net change in job gains and losses by industry, seasonally adjusted Washington state, 2012 Q1
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



Note: * Screened by BLS to maintain employer confidentiality.

Professional and business services had the most job gains and information reported the least job gains in the first quarter of 2012.

Figure 5. Net change in jobs by industry sector, seasonally adjusted Washington state, 2011 Q1 and 2012 Q1
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



Note: * Screened by BLS to maintain employer confidentiality.

Washington industry sectors fared better in terms of job gains in first quarter 2012 than a year ago.

- Manufacturing showed a decreased rate of gains compared to the first quarters of 2011 due to fewer expansions of establishments.
 - Education and health services had fewer job gains than the year before because of a decreased rate of expansions and an increased rate of contractions.
 - Leisure and hospitality went from net job losses to gains because of fewer closings and contractions of establishments.
 - Other services increased in net jobs mainly due to more expansions compared to closings and contractions of establishments.
 - Construction went from net job losses to gains over the year due to an increase in the rate of expansions compared to closings and contractions.
 - Five of the 11 sectors for which data was available had net increases in job gains compared to the same quarter a year ago. Most of these industries saw an increased rate of expansion compared to contractions.
 - A year ago, six industries saw net job losses in the first quarter 2011. Most of these were driven by an increased rate of closings and contractions compared to expansions.
- More information on the Business Employment Dynamics data series is available at www.bls.gov/bdm/.

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