



# Monthly Employment Report

## for December 2013

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 4,800 from November 2013 to December 2013. BLS estimates the private sector gained 6,300 jobs over the month and the public sector lost 1,500 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for December 2012 to December 2013 indicate an increase in employment of 47,000 for the state. Over the year the private sector added 44,400 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 2,600 jobs.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2013 is 6.6 percent. The revised estimated November 2013 unemployment rate was at 6.8 percent. The December 2012 unemployment rate was 7.5 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. November's preliminary estimated loss of 6,000 jobs was revised to a loss of 1,600 jobs.

For more information, call Paul Turek, Labor Economist at 360-407-2306.

Employment estimates in this report are generated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Due to changes in the method BLS uses to produce these data, we expect increased volatility in the estimates.

BLS data in this report are rounded to the nearest 100.

### Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The **resident civilian labor force** is the total number of people in the workforce, employed and unemployed, ages 16 and up.

The number of **unemployed** is the estimated number of people who currently do not have a job, are available for work and have actively looked for work in the last four weeks.

The **unemployment rate** is the ratio of the estimated number of unemployed divided by the civilian labor force.

United States and Washington state, November and December 2012 and 2013  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	December 2013 (Preliminary)	November 2013 (Revised)	December 2012 (Revised)	November 2012 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment rate				
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	6.7%	7.0%	7.9%	7.8%
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment rate	6.6%	6.8%	7.5%	7.6%
Resident labor force	3,455,700	3,466,300	3,469,300	3,470,400
Unemployed	227,900	234,600	259,900	264,700
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.6%	6.4%	6.5%
Resident labor force	1,529,100	1,527,000	1,506,300	1,507,000
Unemployed	81,600	85,500	96,300	98,400

## Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

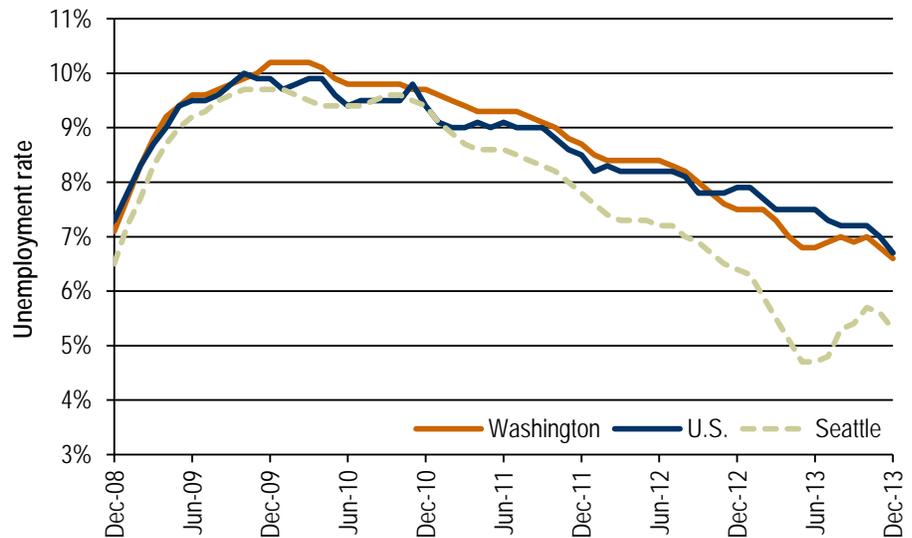
The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2013 was 6.6 percent. The revised estimated November 2013 unemployment rate was 6.8 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people declined by 6,700 in December 2013 compared to November 2013. At the same time, the number of employed people fell by an estimated 3,900. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 10,600 people in the labor force.

The preliminary December 2013 unemployment rate is 0.9 percentage points below the December 2012 rate of 7.5 percent.

### U.S., Washington and Seattle unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted December 2008 through December 2013

Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



December 2013 preliminary unemployment rates:  
U.S. (preliminary) 6.7%

Washington (preliminary) 6.6%  
Seattle area (preliminary) 5.3%

## Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 4,800 jobs from November 2013 to December 2013.

### Recent employment change

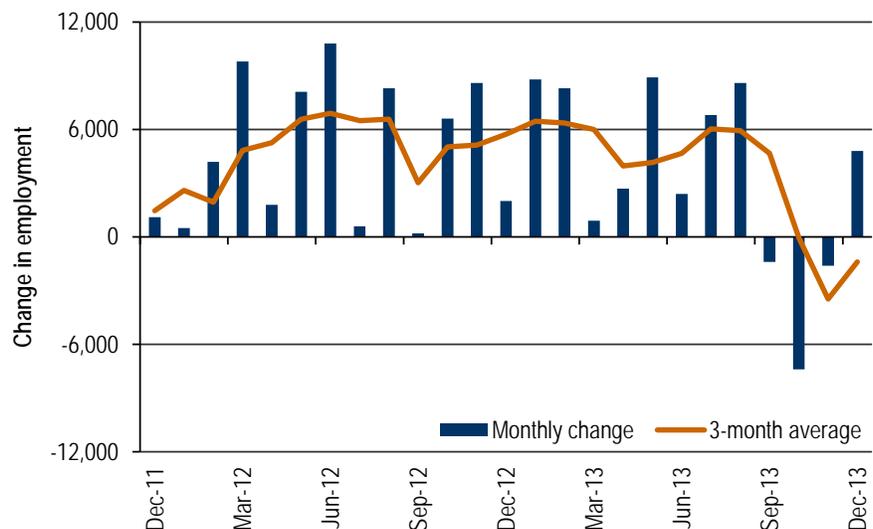
October 2013: down 7,400 jobs (revised)

November 2013: down 1,600 jobs (revised)

December 2013: up 4,800 jobs (preliminary)

### Monthly employment change and three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted Washington state, December 2011 through December 2013

Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistic



## Employment and the unemployment, seasonally adjusted

February 2008

(start of recent employment  
recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,978,800  
Unemployment rate: 4.6%

February 2010

(end of recent employment  
recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,772,900  
Unemployment rate: 10.2%

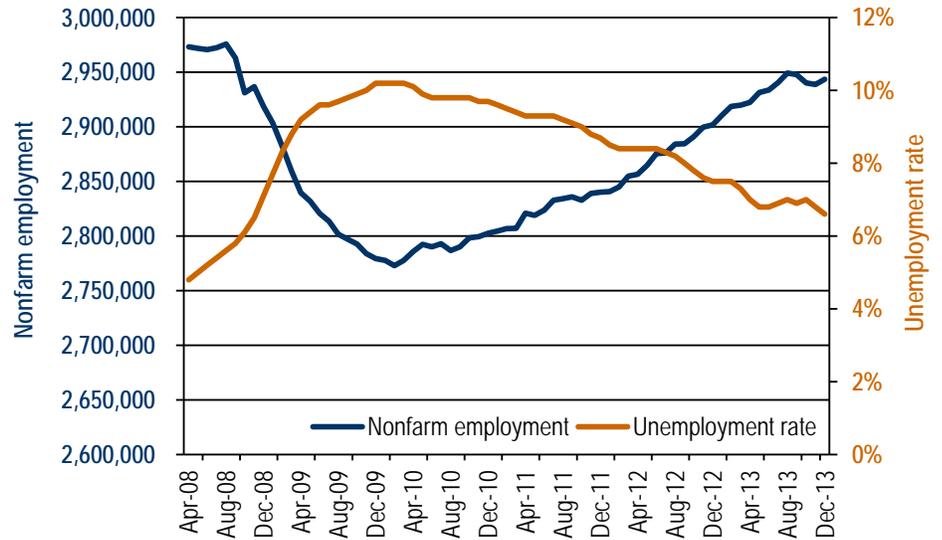
December 2013

(preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 2,943,500  
Unemployment rate: 6.6%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, April 2008 through December 2013

Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor  
Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



## Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted

### One-month employment change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington gained an estimated 4,800 jobs, over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, seven industries expanded in December and six contracted.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have increased by 6,300 and government employment fell by 1,500.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services was up by 2,900. Administrative and support services accounted for 1,900 of the gain, with 1,300 of those 1,900 occurring in employment services.
- Construction employment increased by 800, led by an increase of 600 in building construction.
- Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 600, led by a gain of 500 jobs in food services and drinking places.
- Education and health services employment rose by 2,000, led by a gain of 1,100 jobs in health services and social assistance.
- Manufacturing employment fell by 1,400, with the entire decline occurring in nondurable goods.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, November 2013 to December 2013

Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>4,800</b>
Professional and business services	2,900
Education and health services	2,000
Other services	1,400
Wholesale trade	1,300
Construction	800
Leisure and hospitality	600
Mining and logging	100
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-300
Financial activities	-300
Retail trade	-400
Information	-400
Manufacturing	-1,400
Government	-1,500

## Industry employment in Washington, not seasonally adjusted

### Year-over-year change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington added an estimated 47,000 jobs over the year:

- Overall, all major private industries expanded, while manufacturing contracted.
- Private-sector employment rose 1.9 percent, up an estimated 44,400 jobs.
- Public-sector employment increased 0.5 percent, a net gain of 2,600 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up 9,000, as the 10,800 increase in accommodation and food services offset the loss of 1,800 jobs in arts, entertainment and recreation.
- Education and health services employment has risen by a total of 7,700 with 7,400 of that coming in health services and social assistance.
- Durable goods manufacturers subtracted 1,300 jobs with 1,100 of the decrease in aerospace product and parts manufacturing. Nondurable goods manufacturers subtracted 500 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 3,600 with administration and support and waste management and remediation up 1,700.

Estimated year-over-year employment change by industry, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, December 2012 to December 2013

Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>47,000</b>
Retail trade	13,600
Leisure and hospitality	9,000
Education and health services	7,700
Wholesale trade	4,500
Professional and business services	3,600
Other services	2,900
Government	2,600
Financial activities	1,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,600
Information	1,000
Construction	400
Mining and logging	100
Manufacturing	-1,800

- Retailers added 13,600 jobs with 2,800 of the increase in building material and garden supply stores. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 6,300 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment is estimated to have declined by 1,800 from December 2012 to December 2013. Durable goods manufacturers subtracted 1,300 jobs while nondurable goods manufacturers subtracted 500 jobs.
- Employment in construction was up 400 from December 2012 to December of 2013.

## Seasonally adjusted employment

Seasonally adjusted numbers account for normal seasonal patterns that occur year after year, such as strong seasonal hiring in retail trade around the holidays. Taking into account normal seasonal variations makes it possible to see unusual changes in employment levels.

**Normal seasonal change** is the expected monthly change in employment based on history.

**Estimated change** is the employment change over the month based on BLS survey data.

**Seasonally adjusted change** is change in employment accounting for normal seasonal patterns.

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically falls by 13,500 from November to December. This year the state had an estimated loss of 8,700, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 4,800 jobs.

- The normal seasonal gain in retail trade employment is 4,900 in December. The estimated increase was 4,500 yielding a 400 loss on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Employment in construction normally falls by 4,400. It is estimated to have decreased by 3,600 this December yielding a gain of 800 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change  
Washington state, December 2013

Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>-13,500</b>	<b>-8,700</b>	<b>4,800</b>
Retail trade	4,900	4,500	-400
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,400	1,100	-300
Leisure and hospitality	400	1,000	600
Information	-200	-600	-400
Mining and logging	-200	-100	100
Financial activities	-300	-600	-300
Other services	-600	800	1,400
Wholesale trade	-700	600	1,300
Education and health services	-1,000	1,000	2,000
Manufacturing	-1,800	-3,200	-1,400
Professional and business services	-4,000	-1,100	2,900
Construction	-4,400	-3,600	800
Government	-7,000	-8,500	-1,500

- The estimated employment decrease in professional and business services was 1,100. The normal seasonal decrease is 4,000, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, professional and business services employment increased by 2,900.
- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated gain of 2,000 jobs in education and health services in December. The normal seasonal decrease is 1,000. It is estimated to have increased by 1,000 this December.
- Typically, government employment decreases by 7,000 in December. On a seasonally adjusted basis, government employment decreased by 1,500 as the estimated decrease was 8,500.

## Total agricultural employment summary

Statewide agricultural employment decreased 13.6 percent from November to December.

Year over year statewide, agricultural employment increased 16.7 percent.

Regionally year over year, total agricultural employment increased in all six of the areas. The largest increase (3,930 jobs) was in the South Central reporting area. The smallest increase (40 jobs) was in the Eastern reporting area.

Agricultural employment estimates are developed by the Labor Market and Performance Analysis branch of the Employment Security Department. Estimates are based on a monthly survey of agricultural producers conducted by Employment Security.

For agricultural reporting, we divide the state into six areas based on geography and types of agricultural activity. View a map of Washington's agricultural reporting areas at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/industry-reports/agricultural-employment-and-wage-report/map-of-washingtons-agricultural-areas>.

Total agricultural employment  
Washington state, December 2013  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA

	Dec. '13 preliminary	Nov. '13 revised	Dec. '12 revised	Change		Percent Change	
				Nov. '13- Dec. '13	Dec. '12- Dec. '13	Nov. '13- Dec. '13	Nov. '12- Dec. '13
<b>State</b>	<b>72,060</b>	<b>83,440</b>	<b>61,760</b>	<b>-11,380</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>-13.6%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>
Western	9,490	10,230	8,840	-740	650	-7.2%	7.4%
South Central	24,270	27,760	20,340	-3,490	3,930	-12.6%	19.3%
North Central	14,780	16,270	12,340	-1,490	2,440	-9.2%	19.8%
Columbia Basin	9,380	11,340	8,060	-1,960	1,320	-17.3%	16.4%
South Eastern	12,730	16,320	10,810	-3,590	1,920	-22.0%	17.8%
Eastern	1,410	1,520	1,370	-110	40	-7.2%	2.9%

Totals may not add due to rounding. We report only agricultural employment covered by unemployment insurance, not adjusted for multiple jobholders.

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<sup>1</sup> Most of the employment numbers discussed in this report refer to jobs, not persons. For example, if a person holds two positions, these positions are counted as two jobs in the employment series. In the section titled "Unemployment," these positions refer to individuals, not jobs. In this case, a person holding two jobs is counted only once.

Note: Due to changes in the processing of the monthly employment data by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the county level information will be available at 10 a.m., January 28, 2014. The publication schedule for 2014 can be found at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/economic-reports/monthly-employment-report>.

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