



# Monthly Employment Report

## for February 2014

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 2,500 from January 2014 to February 2014. BLS estimates the private sector gained 1,900 jobs over the month and the public sector gained 600 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for February 2013 to February 2014 indicate an increase in employment of 54,400 for the state. Over the year, the private sector added 51,300 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 3,100 jobs.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2014 is 6.4 percent. The revised estimated January 2014 unemployment rate was at 6.4 percent. The February 2013 unemployment rate was 7.2 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision.

January 2014 jobs revisions: January's preliminary estimated gain of 3,800 jobs was revised to a gain of 5,800 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.

Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted  
United States and Washington state, January and February, 2013 and 2014  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	February 2014 (Preliminary)	January 2014 (Revised)	February 2013 (Revised)	January 2013 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment rate <i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	6.7%	6.6%	7.7%	7.9%
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment rate	6.4%	6.4%	7.2%	7.3%
Resident labor force	3,459,100	3,449,300	3,467,700	3,468,200
Unemployed	219,700	221,400	249,800	253,100
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.2%	5.5%	5.7%
Resident labor force	1,547,200	1,539,400	1,521,100	1,520,600
Unemployed	79,200	79,800	83,500	86,200

## Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

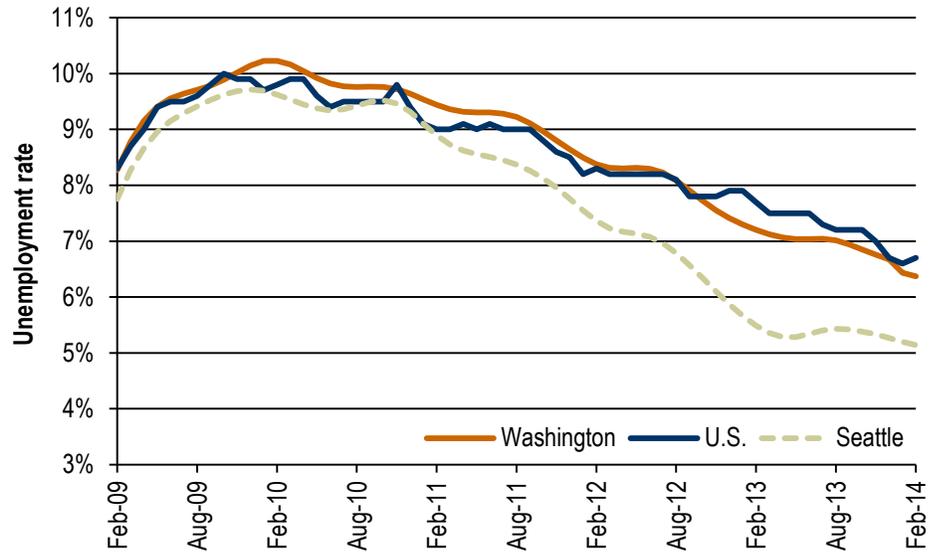
The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2014 was 6.4 percent. The revised estimated January 2014 unemployment rate was 6.4 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 1,700 in February 2014 compared to January 2014. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 11,500. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 9,800 people in the labor force.

The preliminary February 2014 unemployment rate is 0.8 percentage points below the February 2013 rate of 7.2 percent.

### U.S., Washington and Seattle unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted February 2009 through February 2014

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



February 2014 preliminary unemployment rates:  
U.S. (preliminary) 6.7%

Washington (preliminary) 6.4%  
Seattle area (preliminary) 5.1%

## Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 2,500 jobs from January 2014 to February 2014.

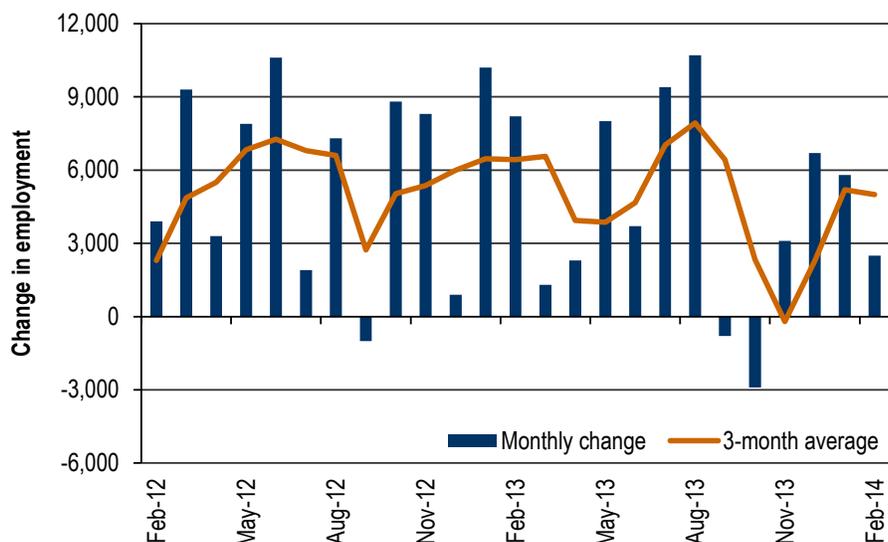
**Recent employment change**  
December 2013: up 6,700 jobs (revised)

January 2014: up 5,800 jobs (revised)

February 2014: up 2,500 jobs (preliminary)

### Monthly employment change and three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted Washington state, February 2012 through February 2014

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



## Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

February 2008

(start of recent employment  
recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 3,010,400

Unemployment rate: 4.6%

February 2010

(end of recent employment  
recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,821,100

Unemployment rate: 10.2%

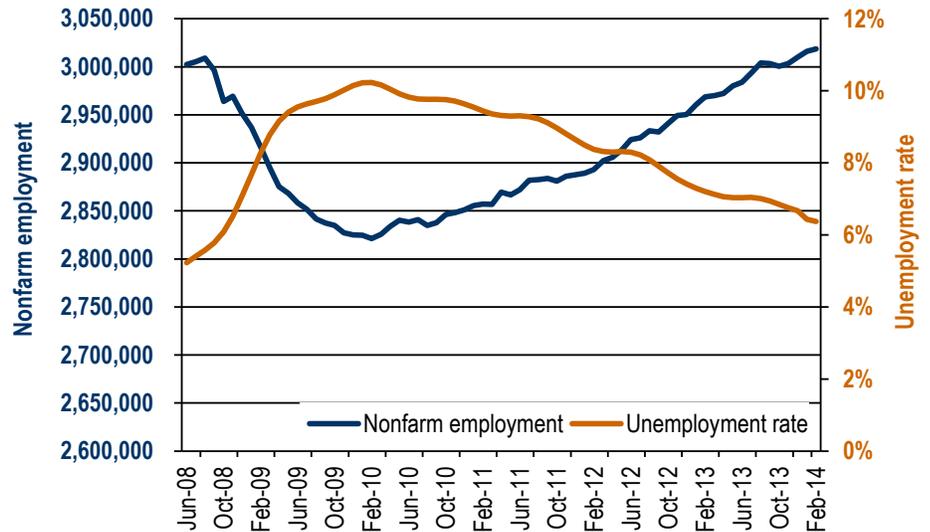
February 2014 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,018,500

Unemployment rate: 6.4%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, June 2008 through February 2014

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 2,500 jobs, over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, seven industries expanded employment in January and six contracted.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have increased by 1,900 and government employment rose by 600.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services was up by 2,200. Administrative and support services accounted for 1,900 of the gain, with 1,000 of those 1,900 occurring in employment services.
- Retail trade employment rose by 1,700. Motor vehicle and parts dealers accounted for 1,000 of the increase.
- Financial activities employment rose by 1,000.
- The decline of 2,100 jobs in education and health services was driven by a drop of 2,300 in private education services.
- Manufacturing employment rose by 500 on balance, with the 1,300 increase in durable goods employment outweighing the 800 decline in nondurable goods.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, January 2014 to February 2014

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>2,500</b>
Professional and business services	2,200
Retail trade	1,700
Financial activities	1,000
Government	600
Manufacturing	500
Information	300
Wholesale trade	100
Mining and logging	-100
Leisure and hospitality	-300
Other services	-300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-500
Construction	-600
Education and health services	-2,100

## 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 54,400 jobs over the year:

- Overall, all major private industries expanded, except for manufacturing which declined.
- Private-sector employment rose 2.2 percent, up an estimated 51,300 jobs.
- Public-sector employment increased 0.6 percent, a net gain of 3,100 jobs.
- Education and health services employment has risen by a total of 10,900 with 7,800 of that coming in health services and social assistance.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 4,900 with administration and support and waste management and remediation up 3,100.
- Retailers added 10,900 jobs with 2,000 of the increase in building material and garden supply stores. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 7,400 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment is estimated to have declined by 1,800 from February 2013 to February 2014. Durable goods manufacturers subtracted 700 jobs while nondurable goods manufacturers subtracted 1,100 jobs.
- Employment in construction was up 4,100 from February 2013 to February 2014.

Estimated year-over-year employment change by industry, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, February 2013 to February 2014

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

<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>54,400</b>
Retail trade	10,900
Education and health services	10,900
Leisure and hospitality	9,400
Professional and business services	4,900
Construction	4,100
Wholesale trade	3,700
Government	3,100
Financial activities	2,900
Information	2,500
Other services	2,500
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,100
Mining and logging	200
Manufacturing	-1,800

## 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 rises by 7,000 from January to February. This year the state had an estimated gain of 9,500, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 2,500 jobs.

- The normal seasonal loss in retail trade employment is 5,600 in February. The estimated decrease was 3,900 yielding a 1,700 gain on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality normally rises by 1,700. It is estimated to have increased by 1,400 this February yielding a loss of 300 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change  
Washington state, February 2014

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>7,000</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>
Education and health services	6,400	4,300	-2,100
Government	3,300	3,900	600
Leisure and hospitality	1,700	1,400	-300
Other services	700	400	-300
Manufacturing	600	1,100	500
Construction	600	0	-600
Information	500	800	300
Mining and logging	200	100	-100
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-100	-600	-500
Financial activities	-300	700	1,000
Professional and business services	-500	1,700	2,200
Wholesale trade	-500	-400	100
Retail trade	-5,600	-3,900	1,700

- The estimated employment increase in professional and business services was 1,700. The normal seasonal decrease is 500, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, professional and business services employment increased by 2,200.
- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated loss of 2,100 jobs in education and health services in February. The normal seasonal increase is 6,400. It is estimated to have increased by 4,300 this February.
- Typically government employment increases by 3,300 in February. On a seasonally adjusted basis government employment increased by 600 as the estimated increase was 3,900.

## Total agricultural employment summary

Statewide agricultural employment increased 5.4 percent from January to February.

Year over year statewide, agricultural employment increased 4.8 percent.

Regionally over the year, total agricultural employment increased in five of the six areas. The largest increase (1,270 jobs) was in the South Eastern reporting area. The decrease (70 jobs) was in the Western 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 agriculture employment  
Washington state, February 2014  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA

	Feb. '14 preliminary	Jan. '13 revised	Feb. '13 revised	Jan. '13- Feb. '14	Change Feb. '13- Feb. '14	Jan. '13- Feb. '14	Percent change Feb. '13- Feb. '14
<b>State</b>	<b>68,280</b>	<b>64,810</b>	<b>65,140</b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
Western	8,460	8,080	8,530	380	-70	4.7%	-0.8%
South Central	22,660	21,160	22,110	1,500	550	7.1%	2.5%
North Central	13,590	13,110	13,010	480	580	3.7%	4.5%
Columbia Basin	9,380	9,020	8,580	360	800	4.0%	9.3%
South Eastern	12,820	12,150	11,550	670	1,270	5.5%	11.0%
Eastern	1,370	1,290	1,360	80	10	6.2%	0.7%

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

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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., March 25, 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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