



# Monthly Employment Report

for April 2014

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 7,700 from March 2014 to April 2014. BLS estimates the private sector gained 8,400 jobs and the public sector lost 700 jobs for the same period.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for April 2013 to April 2014 indicate an increase in employment of 77,600 for the state. Year over year, the private sector added 75,700 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 1,900 jobs.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2014 is 6.1 percent. The revised estimated March 2014 unemployment rate was 6.3 percent. The April 2013 unemployment rate was 7.1 percent.

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

March's preliminary estimated gain of 6,700 jobs was revised to a gain of 8,300 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, March and April, 2013 and 2014  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	April 2014 (Preliminary)	March 2014 (Revised)	April 2013 (Revised)	March 2013 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment rate				
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	6.3%	6.7%	7.5%	7.5%
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment rate	6.1%	6.3%	7.1%	7.1%
Resident labor force	3,473,600	3,468,600	3,468,600	3,468,000
Unemployed	210,600	219,600	245,000	247,100
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.2%	5.3%	5.4%
Resident labor force	1,561,100	1,553,500	1,526,600	1,523,300
Unemployed	78,700	80,200	80,700	81,600

## Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2014 was 6.1 percent. The revised estimated March 2014 unemployment rate was 6.3 percent.

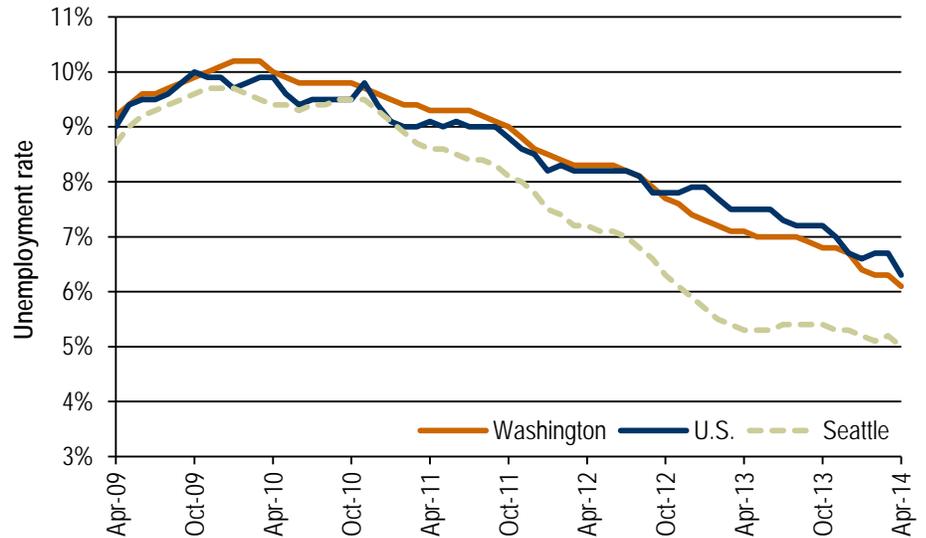
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 9,000 in April 2014 compared to March 2014. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 14,000. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 5,000 people in the labor force.

The preliminary April 2014 unemployment rate is 1.0 percentage point below the April 2013 rate of 7.1 percent.

### Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, April 2009 through April 2014

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



April 2014 preliminary unemployment rates:  
U.S. (preliminary) 6.3%

Washington (preliminary) 6.1%  
Seattle area (preliminary) 5.0%

## Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 7,700 jobs from March 2014 to April 2014.

### Recent employment change

February 2014: up 5,800 jobs (revised)

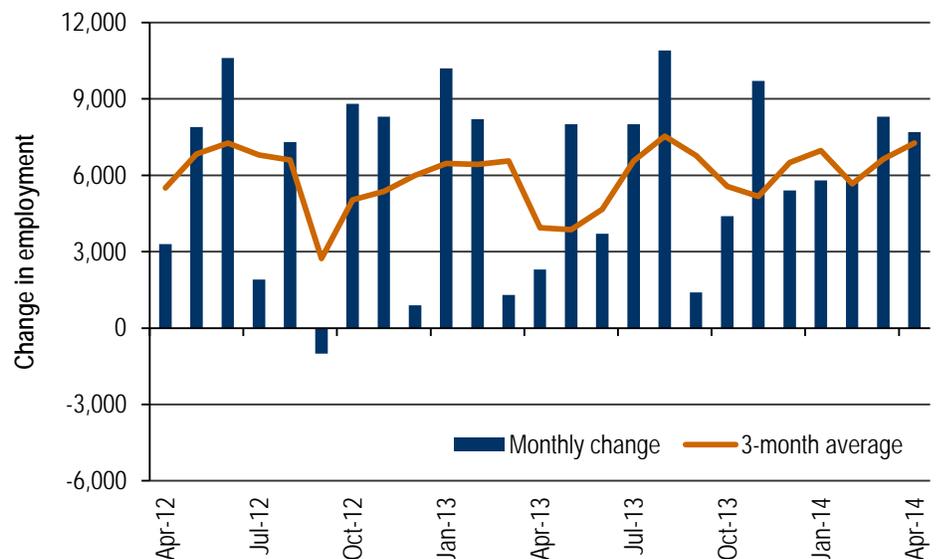
March 2014: up 8,300 jobs (revised)

April 2014: up 7,700 jobs (preliminary)

### Monthly employment change and three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, April 2012 through April 2014

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



## Employment and the 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%

**April 2014 (preliminary)**

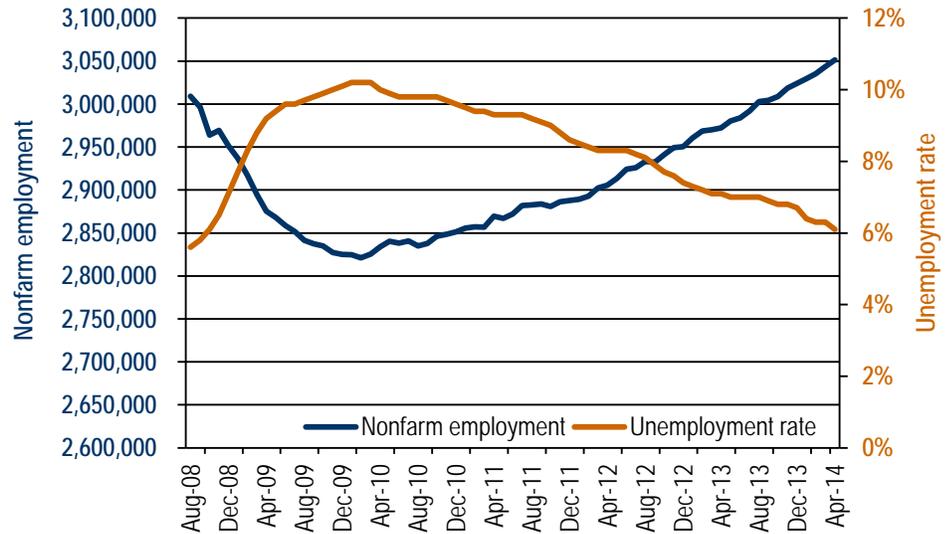
Nonfarm employment: 3,051,400

Unemployment rate: 6.1%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, August 2008 through April 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 7,700 jobs from March 2014 through April 2014 on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, nine industries expanded employment in April, three contracted, and one remained unchanged.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have increased by 8,400 and government employment fell by 700.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services was up by 2,000. Administrative and support services accounted for 1,200 of the gain, while employment in professional, scientific and technical services rose by 800.
- Retail trade employment rose by 1,400. Clothing and clothing accessories stores added 600 jobs as part of the total gain in retail trade employment.
- Financial activities employment fell by 500, with 200 jobs lost in credit intermediation and related activities.
- Construction employment increased by 1,200, with an increase of 1,700 in specialty trade contractor jobs offsetting losses in building construction and heavy and civil engineering.
- Manufacturing employment fell by 200 due to a 500 decrease in nondurable goods employment and a 300 increase in durable goods employment.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, March 2014 to April 2014

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>7,700</b>
Professional and business services	2,000
Retail trade	1,400
Other services	1,300
Construction	1,200
Education and health services	1,200
Leisure and hospitality	700
Wholesale trade	500
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	500
Information	300
Mining and logging	0
Manufacturing	-200
Financial activities	-500
Government	-700

## 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 77,600 jobs year over year:

- Overall, all major private industries expanded.
- Private-sector employment rose 3.1 percent, up an estimated 75,700 jobs.
- Public-sector employment increased 0.3 percent, a net gain of 1,900 jobs.
- Education and health services employment has risen by a total of 10,600 with 10,500 of that coming in health services and social assistance.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 11,500 with administration and support services up 7,500.
- Retailers added 13,400 jobs with 1,600 of the increase in food and beverage stores. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 8,400 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment is estimated to have increased by 4,300 from April 2013 to April 2014. Durable goods manufacturers added 2,600 jobs while nondurable goods manufacturers added 1,700 jobs.
- Employment in construction was up 10,600 from April 2013 to April 2014

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

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>77,600</b>
Retail trade	13,400
Professional and business services	11,500
Leisure and hospitality	11,100
Construction	10,600
Education and health services	10,600
Manufacturing	4,300
Information	4,300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	4,000
Financial activities	2,300
Government	1,900
Other services	1,800
Wholesale trade	1,500
Mining and logging	300

## 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 13,700 from March to April. This year the state had an estimated gain of 21,400, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 7,700 jobs.

- The normal seasonal gain in retail trade employment is 2,000 in April. The estimated increase was 3,400 yielding a 1,400 gain on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality normally rises by 5,100. It is estimated to have increased by 5,800 this April yielding a gain of 700 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change  
Washington state, April 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>13,700</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>7,700</b>
Leisure and hospitality	5,100	5,800	700
Professional and business services	2,400	4,400	2,000
Construction	2,200	3,400	1,200
Retail trade	2,000	3,400	1,400
Government	1,700	1,000	-700
Manufacturing	1,400	1,200	-200
Financial activities	800	300	-500
Other services	200	1,500	1,300
Information	100	400	300
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-300	200	500
Wholesale trade	-400	100	500
Education and health services	-1,500	-300	1,200

- The estimated employment increase in professional and business services was 4,400. The normal seasonal increase is 2,400, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, professional and business services employment increased by 2,000.
- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated gain of 1,200 jobs in education and health services in April. The normal seasonal decrease is 1,500. It is estimated to have decreased by 300 this April.
- Typically construction employment increases by 2,200 in April. On a seasonally adjusted basis construction employment increased by 1,200 as the estimated increase was 3,400.

## Total agricultural employment summary

Statewide agricultural employment increased 9.7 percent from March to April.

Year over year statewide, agricultural employment increased 1.2 percent.

Regionally year over year, total agricultural employment increased in five of the six of the areas. The largest increase (550 jobs) was in the Columbia Basin reporting area. The decrease (440 jobs) was in the south-eastern reporting area.

Agricultural employment estimates are developed by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis office 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, April 2014  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA

	Change				Percent change		
	Apr. '14 Preliminary	Mar. '14 Revised	Apr. '13 Revised	Mar. '14 - Apr. '14	Apr. '13 - Apr. '14	Mar. '14 - Apr. '14	Apr. '13 - Apr. '14
<b>State</b>	<b>76,660</b>	<b>69,900</b>	<b>75,750</b>	<b>6,760</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
Western	9,930	9,470	9,700	460	230	4.9%	2.4%
South Central	25,240	23,570	24,980	1,670	260	7.1%	1.0%
North Central	14,670	13,270	14,510	1,400	160	10.6%	1.1%
Columbia Basin	11,850	10,270	11,300	1,580	550	15.4%	4.9%
South Eastern	13,290	11,660	13,730	1,630	-440	14.0%	-3.2%
Eastern	1,680	1,660	1,530	20	150	1.2%	9.8%

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

## Benchmarking highlights

Benchmarking is a process that replaces employment estimates with the actual number of job gains or losses.

Each month, economists estimate monthly job gains and losses based on a survey of employers. Each quarter, economists benchmark the estimates by replacing them with data from employer tax records before applying seasonal adjustments.

Benchmarked employment data are now available through December 2013. Employment estimates for April 2014 presented in this report were based on the new data, plus seasonal adjustments.

Based on benchmarked December 2013 data:

- The two largest upward revisions were for construction and education and health services, up 5,000 and 2,400, respectively.
- Wholesale trade had the largest downward revision, 1,500.

Quarterly benchmarked industry employment, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, December 2013

Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; Quarterly Census of  
Employment and Wages

	Revisions to December 2013 employment level
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>12,700</b>
Construction	5,000
Education and health services	2,400
Leisure and hospitality	1,900
Manufacturing	1,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,500
Information	1,100
Government	700
Mining and logging	200
Retail trade	200
Professional and business services	100
Financial activities	-100
Other services	-600
Wholesale trade	-1,500

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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., May 20, 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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