

Monthly Employment Report

for February 2015



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.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington fell by 600 from January 2015 to February 2015.¹ BLS estimates the private sector lost 200 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 400 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for February 2014 through February 2015 indicate an increase in employment of 94,700 for the state. The private sector added 83,400 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 11,300 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2015 is 6.3 percent. The revised estimated January 2015 unemployment rate was at 6.3 percent. The February 2014 unemployment rate was 6.3 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. January's preliminary estimated gain of 18,300 jobs was revised to a gain of 16,600 jobs.

For more information, call Paul Turek, labor economist at 360-407-2306.

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, 2014 and 2015
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	February 2015 (Preliminary)	January 2015 (Revised)	February 2014 (Revised)	January 2014 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate				
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	5.5%	5.7%	6.7%	6.6%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%	6.4%
Resident labor force	3,545,900	3,535,200	3,459,200	3,449,300
Unemployed	222,300	224,400	219,600	221,400
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.6%	5.1%	5.2%
Resident labor force	1,572,600	1,566,300	1,547,200	1,539,400
Unemployed	74,000	72,200	79,100	79,800

¹Most of the employment numbers discussed in this report refers 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.

Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

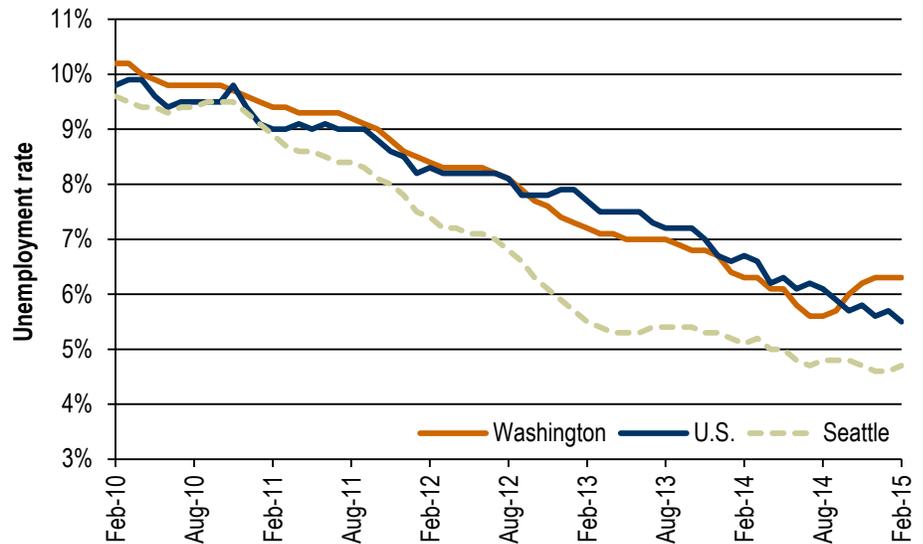
The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2015 was 6.3 percent. The revised estimated January 2015 unemployment rate was 6.3 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 2,100 in February 2015 compared to January 2015. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 12,800. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 10,700 people in the labor force.

The preliminary February 2015 unemployment rate is the same as the February 2014 rate of 6.3 percent.

U.S., Washington and Seattle unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
February 2010 through February 2015

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



February 2015 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 5.5%
Washington (preliminary) 6.3%
Seattle area (preliminary) 4.7%

Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment decreased by 600 jobs from January 2015 to February 2015.

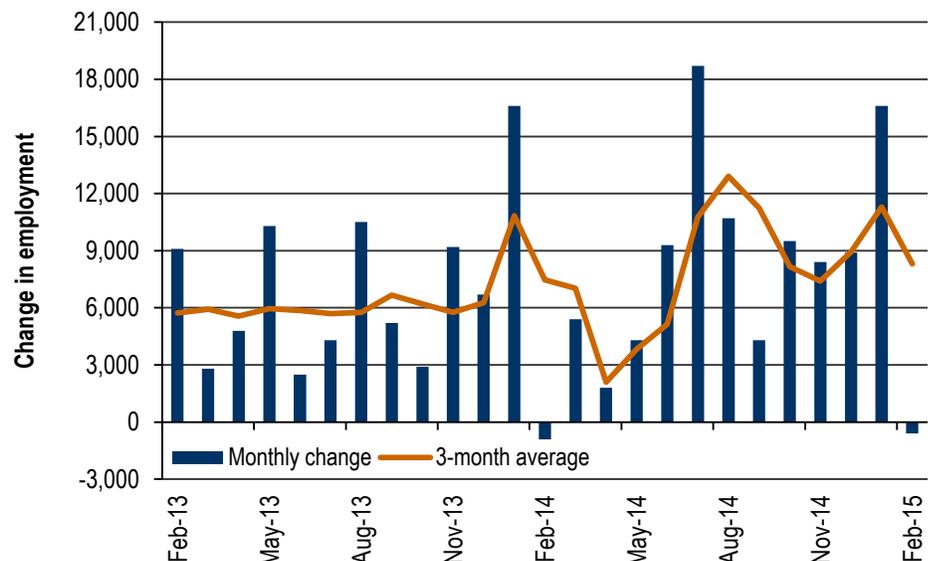
Recent employment change
December 2014: up 8,900 jobs (revised)

January 2015: up 16,600 jobs (revised)

February 2015: down 600 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change and three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, February 2013 through February 2015

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: 3,010,900

Unemployment rate: 4.6%

February 2010

(end of recent employment
recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,821,400

Unemployment rate: 10.2%

February 2015 (preliminary)

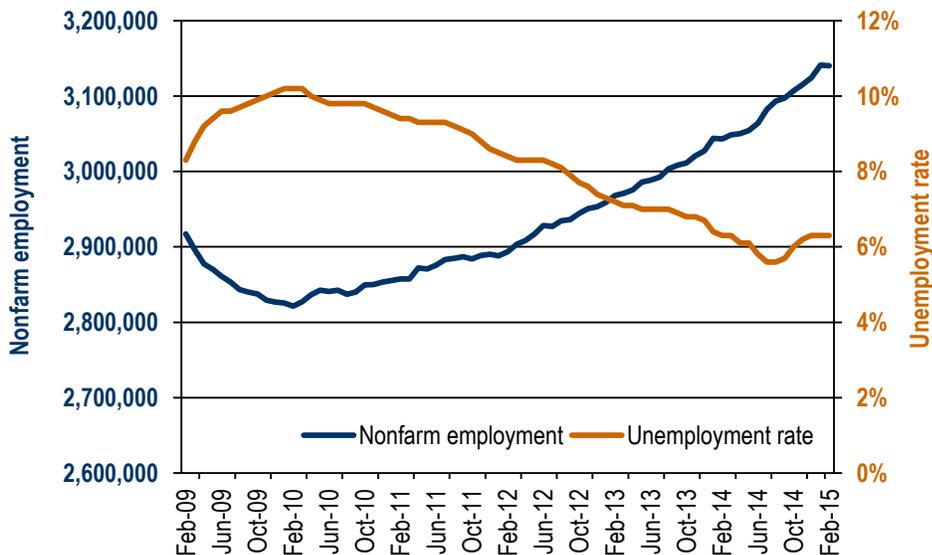
Nonfarm employment: 3,140,300

Unemployment rate: 6.3%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, February 2009 through February 2015

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 lost an estimated 600 jobs, during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, five industries expanded employment in February and eight contracted.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have decreased by 200 and government employment fell by 400.
- The number of people employed in manufacturing rose by 2,400. Durable goods producers added 1,500 jobs while nondurable goods producers added 900 jobs.
- Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 1,300, with 800 of the increase occurring in accommodation.
- Construction employment increased by 600. Specialty trade contactors employment rose by 700, employment engaged in construction of buildings rose by 200, and heavy and civil engineering employment fell by 300.
- The number of jobs in retail trade fell by 1,300 led by a decline of 800 in clothing stores.
- Employment in other services declined by 1,300, with losses of 900 jobs each in personal and laundry services and membership organizations outweighing the gain of 500 in employment in repair and maintenance.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, January 2015 to February 2015

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

Total nonfarm	-600
Manufacturing	2,400
Leisure and hospitality	1,300
Wholesale trade	800
Construction	600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	100
Information	-200
Mining and logging	-300
Government	-400
Financial activities	-600
Professional and business services	-800
Education and health services	-900
Retail trade	-1,300
Other services	-1,300

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 94,700 jobs from February 2014 to February 2015:

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one contracted.
- Private-sector employment rose 3.4 percent, up an estimated 83,400 jobs.
- Public-sector employment increased 2.0 percent, a net gain of 11,300 jobs.
- Employment in construction is up 17,900 with the number of employed in the specialty trade contractor sector up 13,500.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 14,300, led by a 7,400 increase in employment in administrative and support services.
- Retailers added 12,800 jobs. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 7,600 jobs.
- Education and health services employment increased by 9,900 with 8,400 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in the leisure and hospitality industry is up by 8,200, with 6,800 jobs added in food services and drinking places.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, February 2014 to February 2015

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

Total nonfarm	94,700
Construction	17,900
Professional and business services	14,300
Retail trade	12,800
Government	11,300
Education and health services	9,900
Leisure and hospitality	8,200
Manufacturing	5,300
Financial activities	4,800
Other services	3,000
Information	2,800
Wholesale trade	2,600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,100
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 4,200 from January to February. This year the state gained an estimated 3,600 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted decrease of 600 jobs.

- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated loss of 900 jobs in education and health services in February. The normal seasonal increase is 4,600. It is estimated to have increased by 3,600 this March.
- Typically government employment increases by 3,000 in February. On a seasonally adjusted basis, government employment decreased by 400 as the estimated increase was 2,600.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality normally rises by 1,000. It is estimated to have increased by 2,300 this February yielding a gain of 1,300 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment increase in manufacturing was 2,200. The normal seasonal decrease is 200, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment rose by 2,400.
- The normal seasonal loss in retail trade employment is 5,100 in February. The estimated decrease was 6,400 yielding a 1,300 loss on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change
Washington state, February 2015

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

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	4,200	3,600	-600
Education and health services	4,600	3,700	-900
Government	3,000	2,600	-400
Leisure and hospitality	1,000	2,300	1,300
Professional and business services	800	0	-800
Other services	700	-600	-1,300
Information	600	400	-200
Mining and logging	200	-100	-300
Financial activities	0	-600	-600
Construction	-100	500	600
Manufacturing	-200	2,200	2,400
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-600	-500	100
Wholesale trade	-700	100	800
Retail trade	-5,100	-6,400	-1,300

Contacts

Economists:

Paul Turek, Ph.D.
pturek@esd.wa.gov
360-407-2306

Regional labor economists:

Scott Bailey, *Clark, Cowlitz,
Klickitat, Skamania and
Wahkiakum counties*
scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov
360-735-4995

Doug Tweedy, *Ferry, Lincoln,
Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens
and Whitman counties*
dtweedy@esd.wa.gov
509-532-3188

Don Meseck, *Adams, Chelan,
Douglas, Grant, Kittitas,
Okanogan and Yakima counties*
dmeseck@esd.wa.gov
509-573-4564

Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D.
*Island, King, San Juan, Skagit,
Snohomish and Whatcom counties*
avancesherman@esd.wa.gov
425-258-6315

Ajsa Suljic, *Asotin, Benton,
Columbia, Franklin, Garfield
and Walla Walla counties*
asuljic@esd.wa.gov
509-734-5928

Jim Vleming, *Clallam, Grays Harbor,
Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific,
Pierce and Thurston counties*
jvleming@esd.wa.gov
360-570-6945

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 24, 2015. The publication schedule for 2015 can be found at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/economic-reports/monthly-employment-report>.

The Employment Security Department is an equal-opportunity employer and provider of programs and services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to people with disabilities. Washington Relay Service: 800-833-6384.