

Monthly Employment Report

for March 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 rose by 10,500 from February 2015 to March 2015.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 10,000 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 500 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for March 2014 through March 2015 indicate an increase in employment of 100,900 for the state. The private sector added 88,900 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 12,000 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2015 is 5.9 percent. The revised estimated February 2015 unemployment rate was at 6.3 percent. The March 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. February's preliminary estimated loss of 600 jobs was revised to a gain of 2,600 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, February and March, 2014 and 2015
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	March 2015 (Preliminary)	February 2015 (Revised)	March 2014 (Revised)	February 2014 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate				
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	5.5%	5.5%	6.6%	6.7%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	5.9%	6.3%	6.3%	6.4%
Resident labor force	3,549,400	3,546,100	3,465,400	3,464,200
Unemployed	209,500	221,900	217,200	220,100
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%
Resident labor force	1,579,100	1,572,800	1,549,100	1,547,600
Unemployed	71,200	73,700	76,000	76,700

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

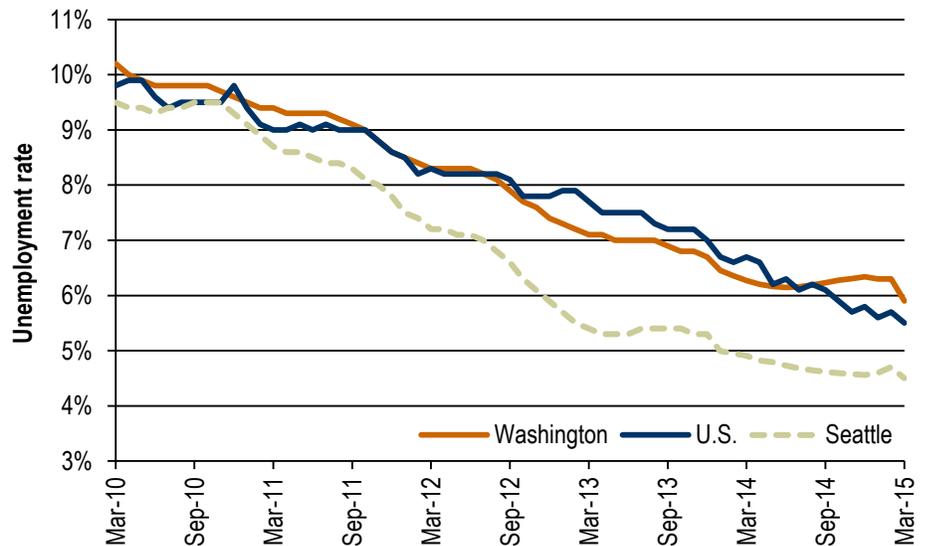
The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2015 was 5.9 percent. The revised estimated February 2015 unemployment rate was 6.3 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 12,400 in March 2015 compared to February 2015. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 15,700. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 3,300 people in the labor force.

The preliminary March 2015 unemployment rate is 0.4 percentage points below the March 2014 rate of 6.3 percent.

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

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



March 2015 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 5.5%
Washington (preliminary) 5.9%
Seattle area (preliminary) 4.5%

Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 10,500 jobs from February 2015 to March 2015.

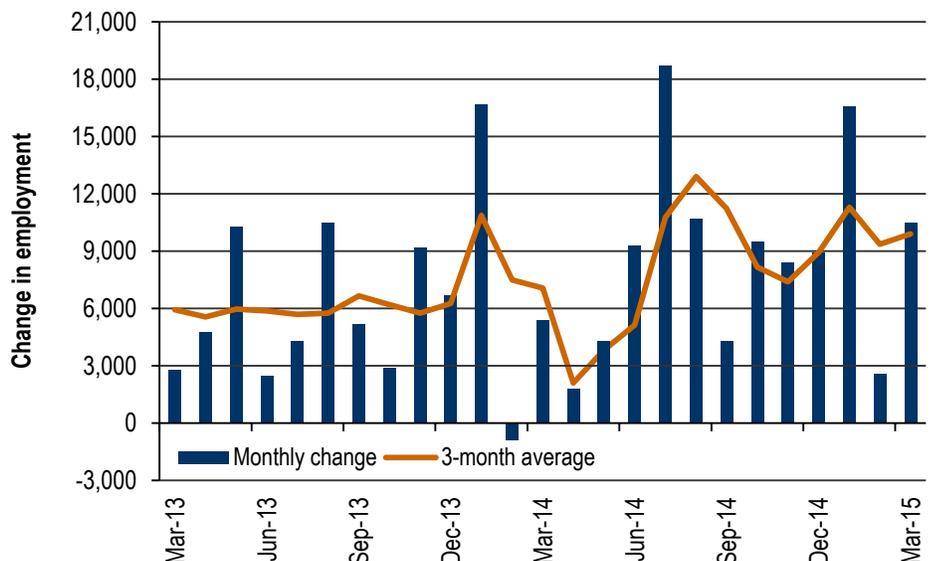
Recent employment change
January 2015: up 16,600 jobs
(revised)

February 2015: up 2,600 jobs
(revised)

March 2015: up 10,500 jobs
(preliminary)

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

March 2015 (preliminary)

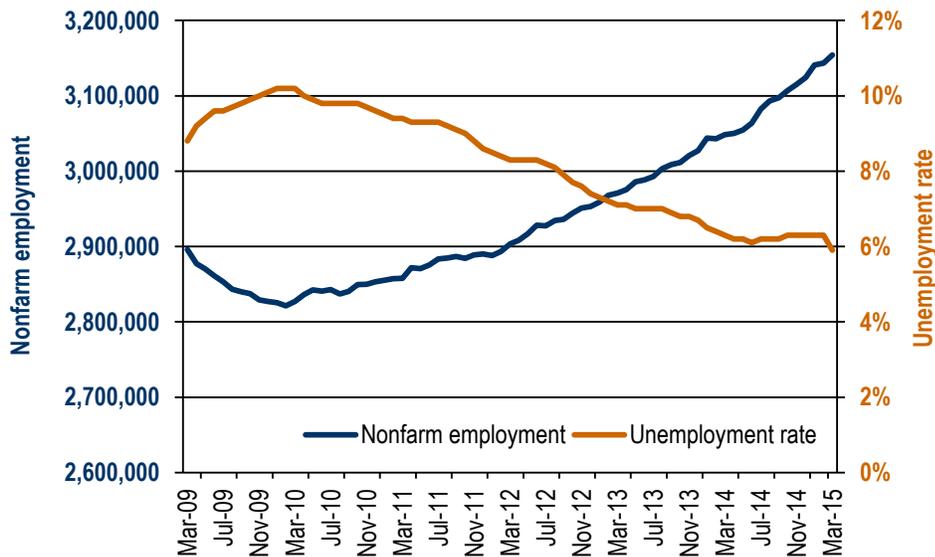
Nonfarm employment: 3,154,000

Unemployment rate: 5.9%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, March 2009 through March 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 gained an estimated 10,500 jobs, during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, seven industries expanded employment in March, four contracted, and two remained unchanged.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have increased by 10,000 and government employment rose by 500.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services was up by 4,700. Administrative and support services accounted for 2,900 of the gain, with 800 of those 2,900 occurring in employment services.
- The increase of 3,300 jobs in education and health services was driven by a gain of 2,600 in health services and social assistance.
- Construction employment increased by 2,800, with employment engaged in construction of buildings rising by 1,000.
- Employment in other services increased by 1,800, supported by a gain of 900 jobs in membership associations and organizations.
- Leisure and hospitality employment decreased by 1,900, with 1,600 of the decrease occurring in arts, entertainment and recreation.

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

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

Total nonfarm	10,500
Professional and business services	4,700
Education and health services	3,300
Construction	2,800
Other services	1,800
Retail trade	600
Government	500
Information	100
Mining and logging	0
Financial activities	0
Wholesale trade	-300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-400
Manufacturing	-700
Leisure and hospitality	-1,900

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 100,900 jobs from March 2014 through March 2015:

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one contracted.
- Private-sector employment rose 3.6 percent, up an estimated 88,900 jobs.
- Public-sector employment increased 2.2 percent, a net gain of 12,000 jobs.
- Employment in construction is up 18,500 with the number of employed in the specialty trade contractor sector up 13,100.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 17,700, led by a 9,700 increase in employment in administrative and support services.
- Education and health services employment increased by 13,200 with 11,400 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Retailers added 11,900 jobs. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 6,300 jobs.
- Employment in the leisure and hospitality industry is up by 5,900, with 5,300 jobs added in food services and drinking places.

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

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

Total nonfarm	100,900
Construction	18,500
Professional and business services	17,700
Education and health services	13,200
Government	12,000
Retail trade	11,900
Leisure and hospitality	5,900
Manufacturing	5,200
Financial activities	4,700
Other services	4,200
Wholesale trade	3,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,600
Information	2,200
Mining and logging	-400

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 10,800 from February to March. This year the state gained an estimated 21,300 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 10,500 jobs.

- Employment in leisure and hospitality normally rises by 4,400. It is estimated to have increased by 2,500 this March yielding a loss of 1,900 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change
Washington state, March 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	10,800	21,300	10,500
Leisure and hospitality	4,400	2,500	-1,900
Construction	2,000	4,800	2,800
Government	1,800	2,300	500
Professional and business services	1,600	6,300	4,700
Manufacturing	700	0	-700
Wholesale trade	700	400	-300
Other services	400	2,200	1,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	200	-200	-400
Education and health services	100	3,400	3,300
Financial activities	0	0	0
Mining and logging	-100	-100	0
Retail trade	-400	200	600
Information	-600	-500	100

- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated gain of 2,800 jobs in construction in March. The normal seasonal increase is 2,000. It is estimated to have increased by 4,800 this March.
- Typically government employment increases by 1,800 in March. On a seasonally adjusted basis, government employment increased by 500 as the estimated increase was 2,300.
- The estimated employment increase in professional and business services was 6,300. The normal seasonal increase is 1,600, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, professional and business services employment rose by 4,700.
- The normal seasonal loss in retail trade employment is 400 in March. The estimated increase was 200 yielding a 600 gain on a seasonally adjusted basis.

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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., April 21, 2015. The publication schedule for 2015 can be found at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/economic-reports/monthly-employment-report>.

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