

# Monthly Employment Report for June 2015



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

Monthly employment estimates are subject to revision in subsequent months when more sample data become available.

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 3,900 from May 2015 to June 2015.<sup>1</sup> BLS estimates the private sector gained 2,600 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 1,300 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for June 2014 through June 2015 indicate an increase in employment of 114,700 for the state. The private sector added 100,900 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 13,800 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2015 is 5.3 percent. The revised estimated May 2015 unemployment rate was at 5.4 percent. The June 2014 unemployment rate was 6.1 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. May's preliminary estimated gain of 7,700 jobs was revised to a gain of 7,200 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, May and June, 2014 and 2015  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	June 2015 (Preliminary)	May 2015 (Revised)	June 2014 (Revised)	May 2014 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment rate <i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	5.3%	5.5%	6.1%	6.3%
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.4%	6.1%	6.2%
Resident labor force	3,544,900	3,551,400	3,477,100	3,471,100
Unemployed	187,300	190,900	213,700	213,900
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.1%	4.7%	4.8%
Resident labor force	1,581,400	1,586,600	1,550,100	1,549,400
Unemployed	60,900	65,100	73,300	74,300

<sup>1</sup>Most 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 June 2015 was 5.3 percent. The revised estimated May 2015 unemployment rate was 5.4 percent.

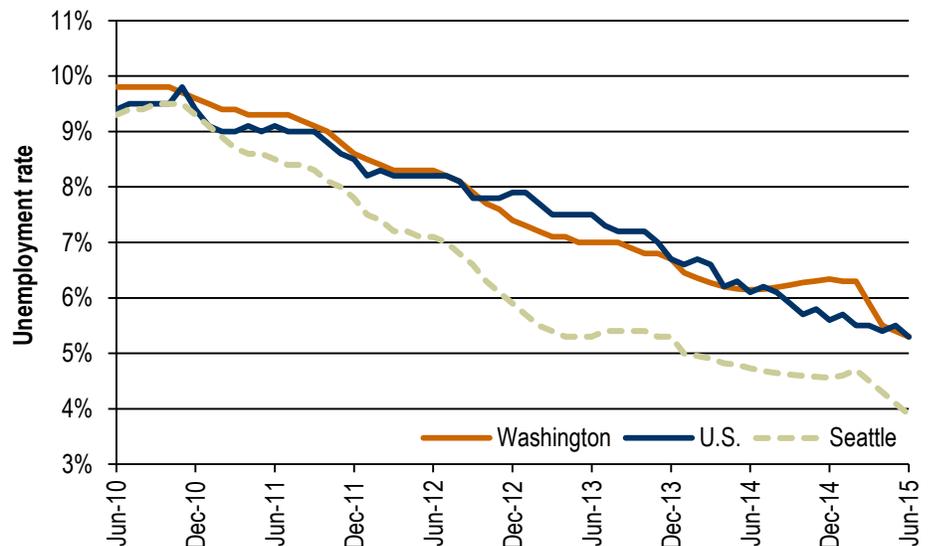
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 3,600 in June 2015 compared to May 2015. At the same time, the number of employed people fell by an estimated 2,900. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 6,500 people in the labor force.

The preliminary June 2015 unemployment rate is 0.8 percentage points below the June 2014 rate of 6.1 percent.

### Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, June 2010 through June 2015

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



**June 2015 preliminary unemployment rates:**

U.S. (preliminary) 5.3%  
 Washington (preliminary) 5.3%  
 Seattle area (preliminary) 3.9%

## Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 3,900 jobs from May 2015 to June 2015.

Recent employment change

**April 2015:** up 7,800 jobs (revised)

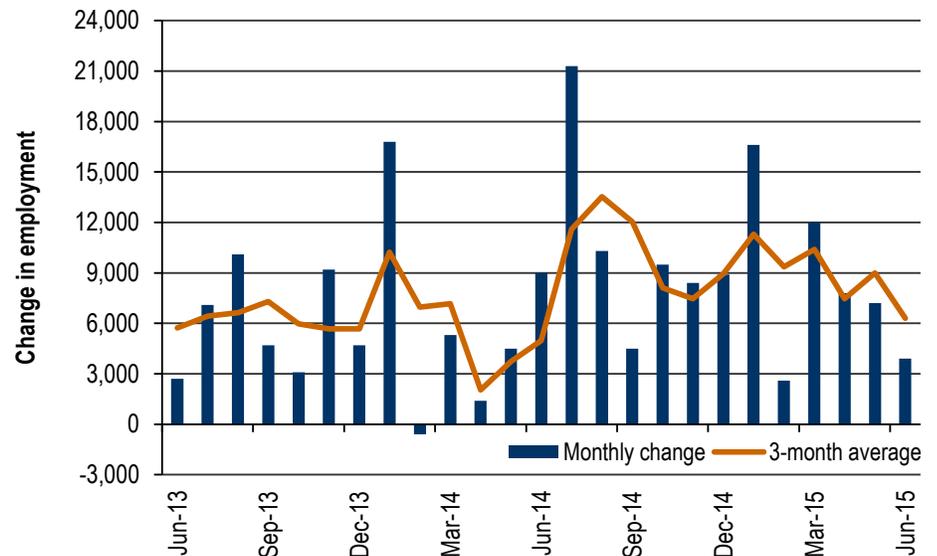
**May 2015:** up 7,200 jobs (revised)

**June 2015:** up 3,900 jobs (preliminary)

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

Washington state, June 2013 through June 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: 2,821,300

Unemployment rate: 10.2%

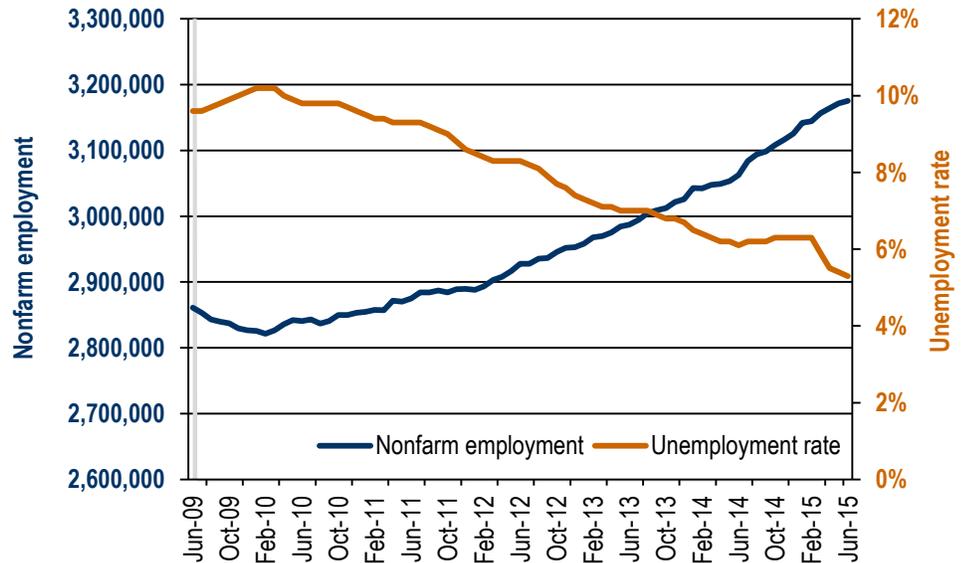
### June 2015 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,175,600

Unemployment rate: 5.3%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, June 2009 through June 2015

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



U.S. recession is shaded in gray.

## Understanding what seasonally adjusted means

Over the course of a year, the size of the state's labor force and the levels of employment and unemployment undergo sharp fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvest, major holidays and the opening and closing of schools. The effect of such seasonal variation can be very large; seasonal fluctuations may account for as much as 95 percent of the month-to-month changes in unemployment at the national level.

Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the statistics from one month to the next. These adjustments make nonseasonal developments, such as declines in economic activity, easier to spot. For example, the large number of youth entering the labor force each June is likely to obscure any other changes that have taken place relative to May, making it difficult to determine if the level

of economic activity has risen or declined. However, because the effect of students finishing school in previous years is known, the statistics for the current year can be adjusted to allow for a comparable change. The adjusted figure provides a more useful tool with which to analyze changes in economic activity.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor 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 3,900 jobs, during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, eight industries expanded employment in June, four contracted and one was unchanged.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have increased by 2,600 and government employment increased by 1,300.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services was up by 1,700. Professional, scientific and technical services accounted for 1,400 of the gain.
- Retail trade employment increased by 1,600, with 1,200 of the increase occurring in food and beverage stores.
- The increase of 1,600 jobs in education and health services occurred solely in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in financial activities decreased by 1,300, with a loss of 700 jobs in real estate, rental and leasing and a loss of 600 jobs in finance and insurance.
- Construction employment decreased by 1,300 overall, with the major losses coming in the construction of buildings.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, May 2015 to June 2015

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

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

## Industry employment in Washington, not seasonally adjusted

### Change by industry over the year

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington added an estimated 114,700 jobs from June 2014 through June 2015:

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one contracted.
- Private-sector employment rose 4.0 percent, up an estimated 100,900 jobs.
- Public-sector employment increased 2.5 percent, a net gain of 13,800 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 20,800, led by a 10,700 increase in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Employment in construction was up 17,700 with the number employed in the specialty trade contractor sector up 12,700.
- Education and health services employment increased by 14,900 with 13,400 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Retailers added 14,500 jobs. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 7,700 jobs.
- Employment in the leisure and hospitality industry is up by 10,000, with 6,700 jobs added in food services and drinking places.

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

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>114,700</b>
Professional and business services	20,800
Construction	17,700
Education and health services	14,900
Retail trade	14,500
Government	13,800
Leisure and hospitality	10,000
Financial activities	5,700
Manufacturing	4,800
Wholesale trade	4,300
Other services	4,000
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,900
Information	1,600
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 17,800 from May to June. This year the state gained an estimated 21,700 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 3,900 jobs.

- Employment in leisure and hospitality normally rises by 10,100. It is estimated to have increased by 10,700 this June yielding a gain of 600 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

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

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>17,800</b>	<b>21,700</b>	<b>3,900</b>
Leisure and hospitality	10,100	10,700	600
Construction	4,100	2,800	-1,300
Manufacturing	3,600	4,000	400
Retail trade	3,100	4,700	1,600
Professional and business services	3,000	4,700	1,700
Wholesale trade	1,500	-1,100	-2,600
Financial activities	1,500	200	-1,300
Information	1,500	1,500	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,000	2,700	1,700
Other services	900	300	-600
Mining and logging	200	100	-100
Education and health services	-6,000	-4,400	1,600
Government	-7,100	-5,800	1,300

- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated loss of 1,300 jobs in construction in June. The normal seasonal increase is 4,100. It is estimated to have increased by 2,800 this June.
- The normal seasonal gain in retail trade employment is 3,100 in June. The estimated increase was 4,700 yielding a 1,600 gain on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment increase in professional and business services was 4,700. The normal seasonal increase is 3,000, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, professional and business services employment rose by 1,700.
- Typically government employment decreases by 7,100 in June. On a seasonally adjusted basis, government employment rose by 1,300 as the estimated decrease was 5,800.

## Contact an economist

We have seven regional economists serving local labor markets in Washington. Regional economists can help you find and use labor-market data, fulfill special data requests and answer questions about the labor market in your area. They serve professionals and organizations in their areas for WorkSource offices, workforce development councils, non-profit organizations, higher education, businesses and the news media.

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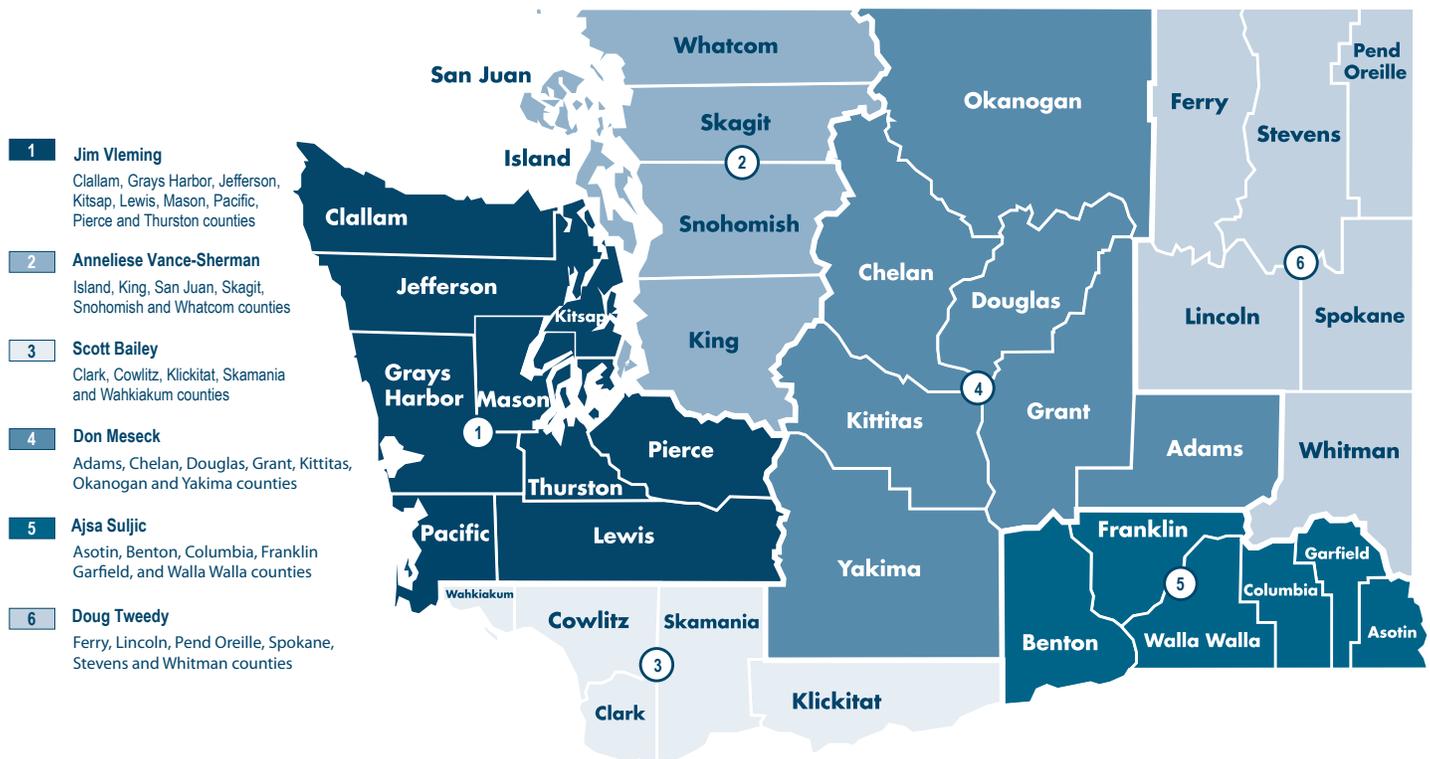
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### Contact an economist online!

## Washington State Regional Labor Economist Reporting Areas



**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., July 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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