

Monthly Employment Report for November 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 10,100 from October 2015 to November 2015.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 8,800 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 1,300 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for November 2014 through November 2015 indicate an increase in employment of 77,500 for the state. The private sector added 67,900 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 9,600 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2015 is 5.3 percent. The revised estimated October 2015 unemployment rate was at 5.2 percent. The November 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. October's preliminary estimated gain of 6,900 jobs was revised to a gain of 1,700 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, October and November, 2014 and 2015
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	November 2015 (Preliminary)	October 2015 (Revised)	November 2014 (Revised)	October 2014 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate <i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	5.0%	5.0%	5.8%	5.7%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.2%	6.3%	6.3%
Resident labor force	3,529,500	3,523,800	3,517,400	3,510,600
Unemployed	185,600	183,600	221,900	220,300
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	4.2%	3.8%	4.6%	4.6%
Resident labor force	1,583,700	1,584,800	1,562,300	1,560,100
Unemployed	66,200	60,900	71,500	71,700

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 November 2015 was 5.3 percent. The revised estimated October 2015 unemployment rate was at 5.2 percent.

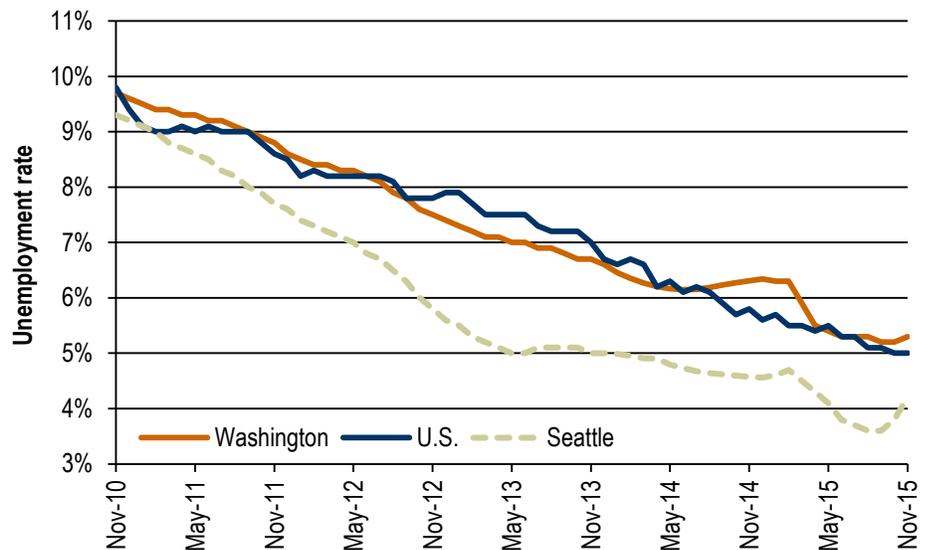
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people rose by 2,000 in November 2015 compared to October 2015. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 3,700. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 5,700 people in the labor force.

The preliminary November 2015 unemployment rate is 1.0 percentage point below the November 2014 rate of 6.3 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

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

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



November 2015 preliminary unemployment rates: U.S. (preliminary) 5.0%
 Washington (preliminary) 5.3%
 Seattle area (preliminary) 4.2%

Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 10,100 jobs from October 2015 to November 2015.

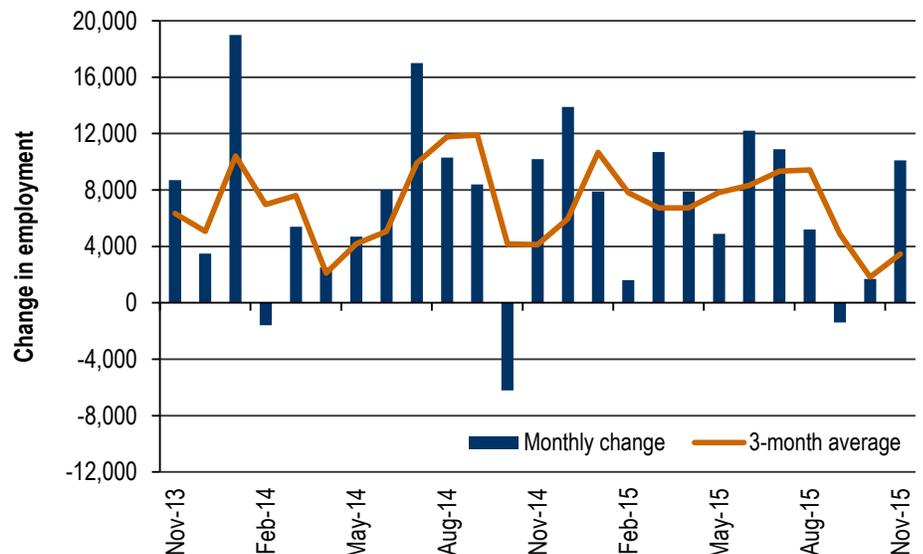
Recent employment change
September 2015: down 1,400 jobs (revised)

October 2015: up 1,700 jobs (revised)

November 2015: up 10,100 jobs (preliminary)

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

Washington state, November 2013 through November 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: 4.8%

February 2010

(end of recent employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,821,400

Unemployment rate: 10.3%

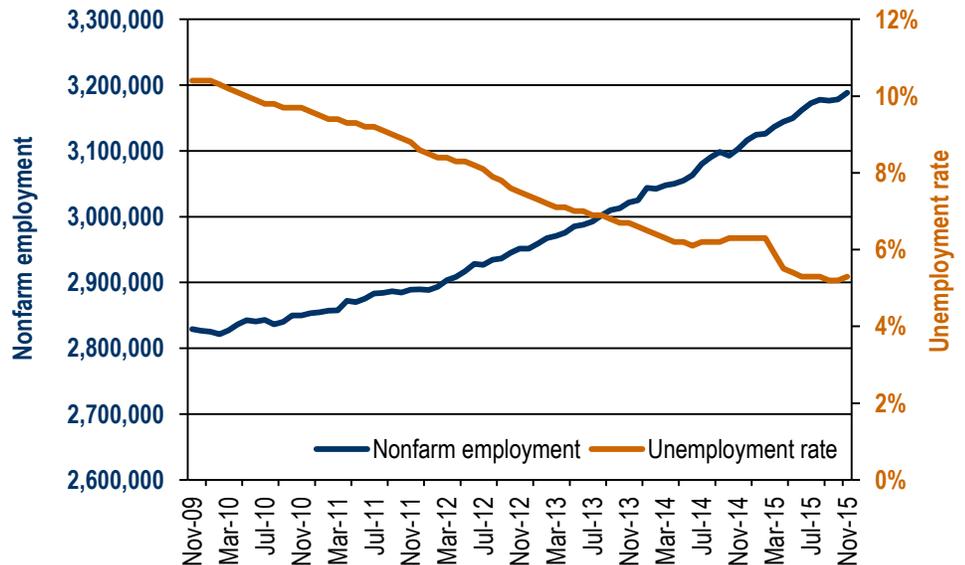
November 2015 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,188,300

Unemployment rate: 5.3%

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

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



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 10,100 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, seven industries expanded employment in November, five contracted, and one was unchanged.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have increased by 8,800 and government employment increased by 1,300.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services increased by 3,600, with a 2,900 gain in employment occurring in administrative and support services.
- Construction employment increased by 3,100 overall, with building construction adding 2,000 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality services increased by 2,700, with 1,500 of the increase occurring in arts, entertainment and recreation.
- Retail trade employment increased by 1,100. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 2,300 jobs to offset employment losses in several other store categories.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, October 2015 to November 2015

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

Total nonfarm	10,100
Professional and business services	3,600
Construction	3,100
Leisure and hospitality	2,700
Government	1,300
Retail trade	1,100
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,000
Wholesale trade	800
Mining and logging	0
Financial activities	-100
Manufacturing	-100
Information	-300
Education and health services	-1,400
Other services	-1,600

- Manufacturing employment fell by 100, with 900 jobs added in durable goods manufacturing and 1,000 jobs lost in nondurable goods manufacturing.

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 77,500 from November 2014 through November 2015:

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one declined.
- Private-sector employment rose 2.7 percent, up an estimated 67,900 jobs.
- Public-sector employment increased 1.7 percent, a net gain of 9,600 jobs.
- Employment in the leisure and hospitality industry is up by 13,700, with 11,500 jobs added in food services and drinking places.
- Retailers added 13,600 jobs. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 8,500 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 13,100, led by a 6,200 increase in professional, scientific and technical services.

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

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

Total nonfarm	77,500
Leisure and hospitality	13,700
Retail trade	13,600
Professional and business services	13,100
Government	9,600
Construction	8,700
Education and health services	6,500
Other services	3,500
Information	3,100
Wholesale trade	2,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,200
Financial activities	900
Manufacturing	500
Mining and logging	-100

- Employment in construction is up 8,700 with the number employed in the construction of buildings up 4,900.
- Education and health services employment increased by 6,500 with all of the jobs added in health services and social assistance.

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 falls by 5,200 from October to November. This year the state gained an estimated 4,900 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 10,100 jobs.

- Typically retail trade employment increases by 10,100 in November. On a seasonally adjusted basis, retail trade employment increased by 1,100 as the estimated increase was 11,200.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change
Washington state, November 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	-5,200	4,900	10,100
Retail trade	10,100	11,200	1,100
Government	2,700	4,000	1,300
Education and health services	1,300	-100	-1,400
Information	500	200	-300
Financial activities	-200	-300	-100
Mining and logging	-200	-200	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-300	700	1,000
Wholesale trade	-400	400	800
Other services	-500	-2,100	-1,600
Manufacturing	-2,800	-2,900	-100
Professional and business services	-3,400	200	3,600
Construction	-5,700	-2,600	3,100
Leisure and hospitality	-6,300	-3,600	2,700

- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated loss of 1,400 jobs in education and health services in November. The normal seasonal increase is 1,300. It is estimated to have decreased by 100 this November.
- The normal seasonal loss in manufacturing employment is 2,800 in November. The estimated decrease was 2,900 yielding a 100 loss on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 2,600. The normal seasonal decrease is 5,700, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment rose by 3,100.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality normally falls by 6,300. It is estimated to have decreased by 3,600 this November yielding a gain of 2,700 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

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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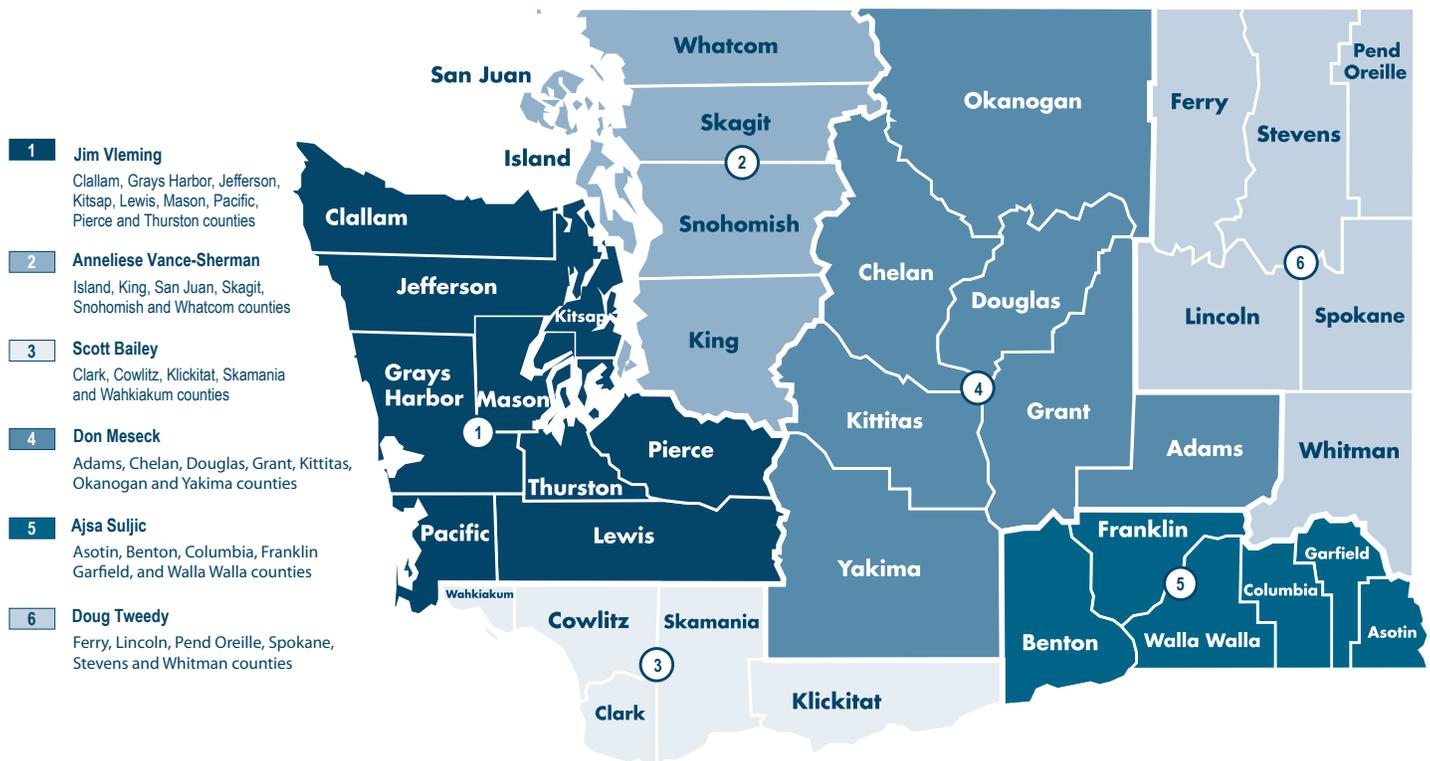
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Contact an economist online!

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., December 22, 2015. The publication schedule for 2016 can be found at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/economic-reports/monthly-employment-report>

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