

Monthly Employment Report

for February 2013



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 4,000 from January 2013 to February 2013. BLS estimates the private sector added 3,600 jobs over the month and the public sector gained 400 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for February 2012 to February 2013 indicate an increase in employment of 65,000 for the state. Over the year the private sector added 61,000 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 4,000 jobs.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2013 is unchanged at 7.5 percent. The revised estimated January 2013 unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.5 percent. The February 2012 unemployment rate was 8.4 percent.

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

January 2013 jobs revisions: January's preliminary estimated gain of 24,100 jobs was revised to a gain of 24,200 jobs.

For more information, call Anneliese Vance-Sherman 425-258-6315.

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 2012 and 2013, February 2012 and 2013

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

	February 2013 (Preliminary)	January 2013 (Revised)	February 2012 (Revised)	January 2012 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate				
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	7.7%	7.9%	8.3%	8.3%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	7.5%	7.5%	8.4%	8.5%
Resident labor force	3,467,000	3,465,500	3,491,000	3,488,800
Unemployed	259,100	260,700	294,600	298,000
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	5.9%	6.3%	7.4%	7.6%
Resident labor force	1,509,200	1,504,500	1,502,000	1,503,100
Unemployed	89,100	94,500	111,300	114,100

Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

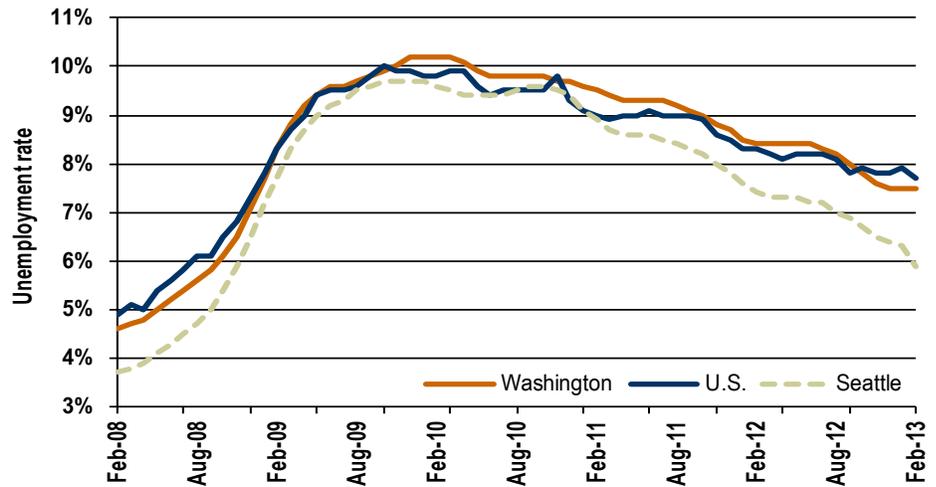
The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2013 was 7.5 percent. The revised estimated January 2013 unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.5 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of jobless people who were actively seeking work declined by 1,600 in February 2013 compared to January 2013. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 3,100. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 1,500 people in the labor force.

The preliminary February 2013 unemployment rate is 0.9 percentage points below the February 2012 rate of 8.4 percent.

U.S., Washington and Seattle unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted February 2008 through February 2013

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



February 2013 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 7.7%
 Washington (preliminary) 7.5%
 Seattle area (preliminary) 5.9%

Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 4,000 jobs from January 2013 to February 2013.

Recent employment change

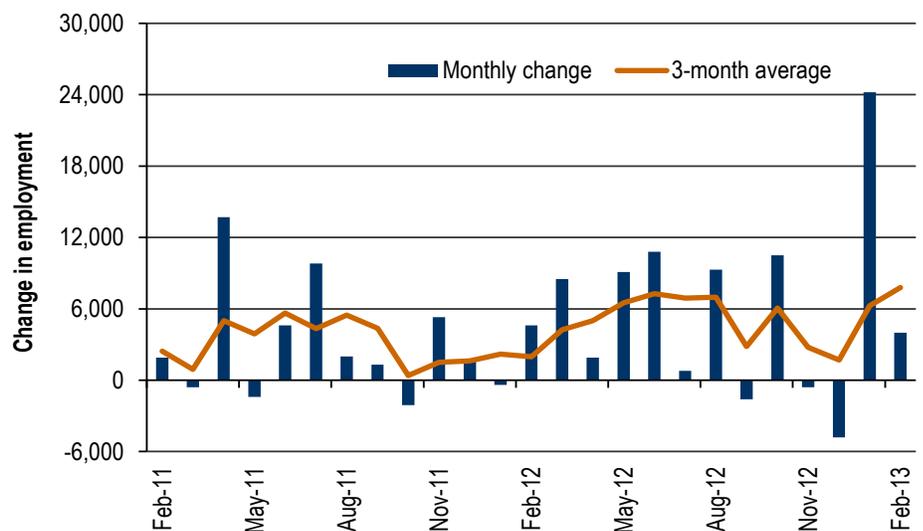
December 2012: down 4,800 jobs (revised)

January 2013: up 24,200 jobs (revised)

February 2013: up 4,000 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change and three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted Washington state, February 2011 through February 2013

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; 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: 2,978,700
Unemployment rate: 4.6%

February 2010

(end of recent employment
recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,773,000
Unemployment rate: 10.2%

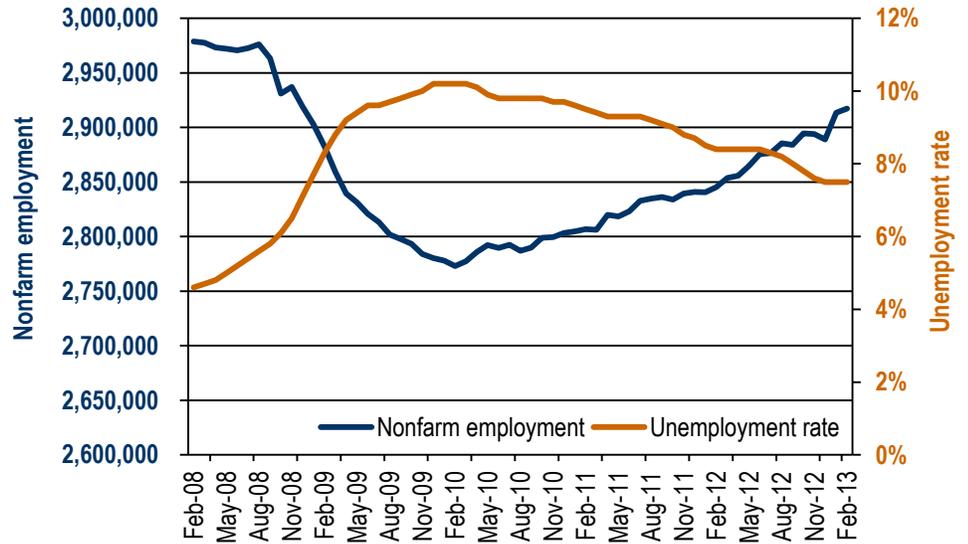
January 2013

(preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 2,917,300
Unemployment rate: 7.5%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, February 2008 through February 2013

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; 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 4,000 jobs, over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, nine industries expanded in February, four contracted, and government employment rose.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have increased by 3,600 and government employment rose by 400.
- Leisure and hospitality employment decreased by 1,100, led by a loss of 800 jobs in Arts, Entertainment and Recreation.
- Retail trade employment rose by 200. General merchandise stores increased 900. Clothing and clothing accessories stores decreased 900.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services was up by 1,200. Accounting and bookkeeping services accounted for 800 of the increase.
- Construction employment decreased by 3,600, led by a decrease of 2,100 in specialty trade contractors.
- The increase of 3,000 jobs in education and health services was largely driven by an increase of 1,600 in education services.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, January 2013 to February 2013

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

Total nonfarm	4,000
Education and health services	3,000
Manufacturing	2,900
Professional and business services	1,200
Wholesale trade	600
Information	400
Other services	400
Government	400
Mining and logging	200
Retail trade	200
Financial activities	-200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-400
Leisure and hospitality	-1,100
Construction	-3,600

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 65,000 jobs over the year:

- Overall, eleven industries expanded, one contracted and government employment increased.
- Private-sector employment rose 2.7 percent, up an estimated 61,000 jobs.
- Public-sector employment increased 0.7 percent, a net gain of 4,000 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment is estimated to have grown by 11,300.
- Durable goods manufacturers added 9,600 jobs with 5,000 of the increase in aerospace product and parts manufacturing. Nondurable goods manufacturers added 1,700 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 10,200 with employment services up 2,500 and computer design systems up 2,400.
- Retailers added 10,600 jobs. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 5,400 jobs.
- Employment in the leisure and hospitality industry was up by 6,300.
- Employment in construction was up 4,000 with the number of employed in the specialty trade contractor sector up 3,600.

Estimated year-over-year employment change by industry, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, February 2012 to February 2013

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

Total nonfarm	65,000
Manufacturing	11,300
Retail trade	10,600
Professional and business services	10,200
Education and health services	9,000
Leisure and hospitality	6,300
Construction	4,000
Government	4,000
Wholesale trade	3,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	3,500
Other services	1,800
Financial activities	1,100
Mining and logging	0
Information	-600

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.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change
Washington state, February 2013

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

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	9,900	13,900	4,000
Education and health services	3,900	6,900	3,000
Government	3,300	3,700	400
Professional and business services	2,700	3,900	1,200
Leisure and hospitality	2,300	1,200	-1,100
Construction	2,000	-1,600	-3,600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	300	-100	-400
Information	200	600	400
Wholesale trade	100	700	600
Other services	0	400	400
Mining and logging	-100	100	200
Financial activities	-300	-500	-200
Manufacturing	-1,000	1,900	2,900
Retail trade	-3,500	-3,300	200

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically rises by 9,900 from January to February. This year the state had an estimated gain of 13,900, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 4,000 jobs.

- The normal seasonal loss in retail trade employment is 3,500 in February. The estimated decline was 3,300 yielding a 200 gain on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality normally rises by 2,300. It is estimated to have increased by 1,200 this February yielding a loss of 1,100 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment decline in the construction industry was 1,600. The normal seasonal increase is 2,000, so on a seasonally adjusted basis construction industry employment declined 3,600.
- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated gain of 1,200 jobs in professional and business services in February. The normal seasonal increase is 2,700. It is estimated to have increased by 3,900 this February.
- Typically government employment increases by 3,300 in February. On a seasonally adjusted basis government employment rose by 400 as the estimated increase was 3,700.

Total agricultural employment summary

Statewide from January to February, agricultural employment increased 6.8 percent.

Year over year statewide, agricultural employment increased 7.8 percent.

Regionally over the year, total agricultural employment increased in four of the six areas. The largest increase (1,830 jobs) was in the South Central reporting area. The largest decrease (-290 jobs) was in the Western reporting area.

Agricultural employment estimates are developed by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis branch 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, February 2013
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA

	Feb. '13 Preliminary	Jan. '13 Revised	Feb. '12 Revised	Change		Percent change	
				Jan. '13 - Feb. '13	Feb. '12 - Feb. '13	Jan. '12 - Feb. '13	Feb. '12 - Feb. '13
State	66,970	62,680	62,130	4,290	4,840	6.8%	7.8%
Western	8,510	8,050	8,800	460	-290	5.7%	-3.3%
South Central	22,190	20,530	20,360	1,660	1,830	8.1%	9.0%
North Central	13,350	13,030	12,770	320	580	2.5%	4.5%
Columbia Basin	8,950	8,060	7,940	890	1,010	11.0%	12.7%
South Eastern	12,660	11,750	10,940	910	1,720	7.7%	15.7%
Eastern	1,310	1,260	1,320	50	-10	4.0%	-0.8%

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

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¹ 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., March 26, 2013. The publication schedule for 2013 can be found at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/economic-reports/monthly-employment-report>.

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