

# Monthly Employment Report

## for April 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 3,800 from March 2013 to April 2013. BLS estimates the private sector gained 3,600 jobs over the month and the public sector gained 200 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for April 2012 to April 2013 indicate an increase in employment of 67,200 for the state. Over the year the private sector added 65,500 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 1,700 jobs.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2013 is 7.0 percent. The revised estimated March 2013 unemployment rate was at 7.3 percent. The April 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.

March 2013 jobs revisions: March's preliminary estimated loss of 5,500 jobs was revised to a decline of 1,600 jobs.

For more information, call Scott Bailey at 971-219-7727 or 360-735-4995.

### 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, March and April, 2012 and 2013  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	April 2013 (Preliminary)	March 2013 (Revised)	April 2012 (Revised)	March 2012 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment rate				
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	7.5%	7.6%	8.1%	8.2%
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment rate	7.0%	7.3%	8.4%	8.4%
Resident labor force	3,482,900	3,474,800	3,492,500	3,492,800
Unemployed	243,100	254,700	292,700	293,000
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.5%	7.3%	7.3%
Resident labor force	1,519,000	1,508,700	1,504,100	1,502,600
Unemployed	77,100	82,900	109,200	109,600

## Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2013 was 7.0 percent. The revised estimated March 2013 unemployment rate was at 7.3 percent.

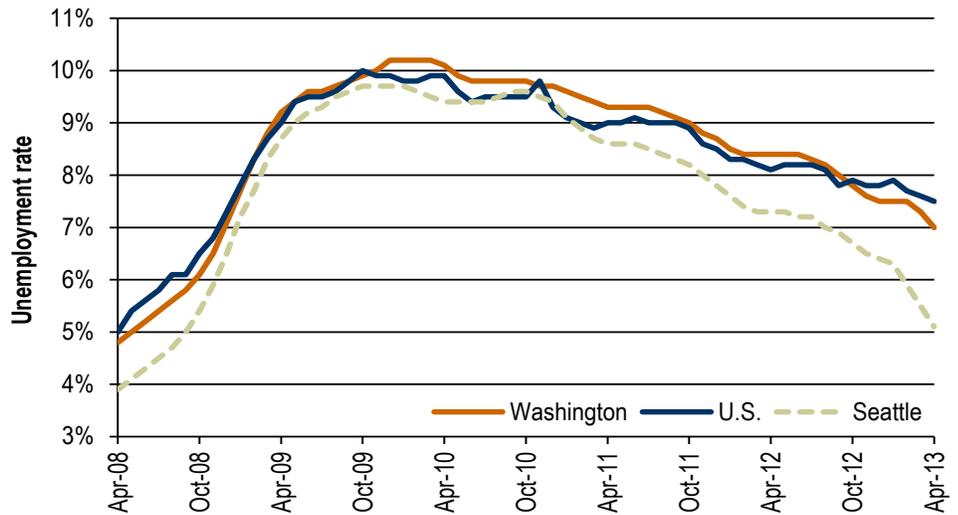
According to BLS estimates, the number of jobless people who were actively seeking work declined by 11,600 in April 2013 compared to March 2013. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 19,700. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 8,100 people in the labor force.

The preliminary April 2013 unemployment rate is 1.4 percentage points below the April 2012 rate of 8.4 percent.

### Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, April 2008 through April 2013

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



April 2013 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 7.5%  
 Washington (preliminary) 7.0%  
 Seattle area (preliminary) 5.1%

## Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 3,800 jobs from March 2013 to April 2013.

### Recent employment change

February 2013: up 5,500 jobs (revised)

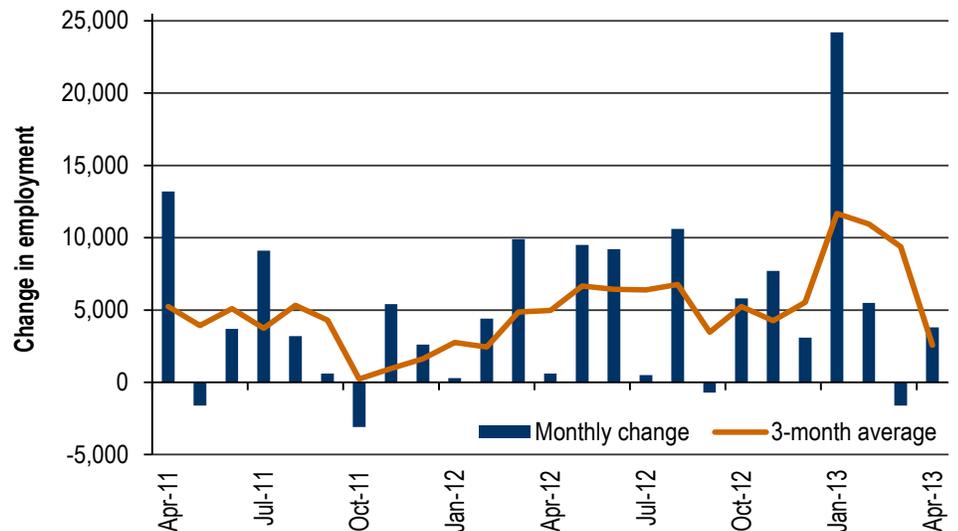
March 2013: down 1,600 jobs (revised)

April 2013: up 3,800 jobs (preliminary)

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

Washington state, April 2011 through April 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: 2,979,000

Unemployment rate: 4.6%

February 2010

(end of recent employment  
recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,773,400

Unemployment rate: 10.2%

April 2013

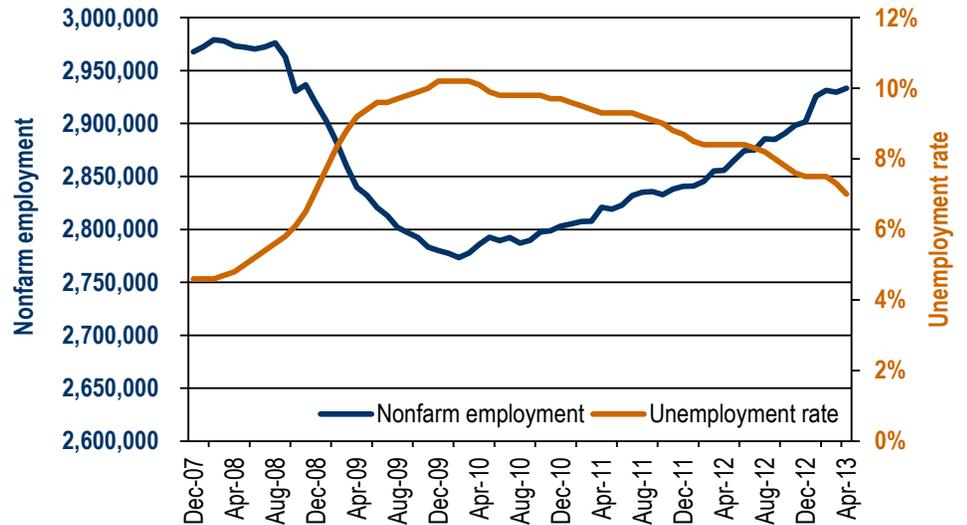
(preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 2,933,500

Unemployment rate: 7.0%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, December 2007 through April 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 3,800 jobs, over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, seven industries expanded in April, and six contracted.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have increased by 3,600 and government employment rose by 200.
- Retail trade employment rose by 3,800, led by a gain of 1,200 in general merchandise stores. Motor vehicle and parts dealers accounted for 700 of the increase.
- Leisure and hospitality increased by 1,600, and arts, entertainment and recreation accounted for the entire gain.
- The number of jobs in education and health services was down by 2,500. Health services and social assistance accounted for 2,000 of the decline.
- Construction employment decreased by 1,100, led by a loss of 800 jobs in heavy and civil engineering.
- Transportation, warehousing and utilities was down 500. Transportation and warehousing accounted for the entire decline.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, March 2013 to April 2013

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>3,800</b>
Retail trade	3,800
Leisure and hospitality	1,600
Professional and business services	1,500
Other services	600
Manufacturing	400
Financial activities	300
Government	200
Mining and logging	-100
Information	-100
Wholesale trade	-300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-500
Construction	-1,100
Education and health services	-2,500

## 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 67,200 jobs over the year:

- Overall, all major industries expanded.
- Private-sector employment rose 2.9 percent, up an estimated 65,500 jobs.
- Public-sector employment increased 0.3 percent, a net gain of 1,700 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment is estimated to have grown by 10,300.
- Durable goods manufacturers added 7,900 jobs with 3,800 of the increase in aerospace product and parts manufacturing. Nondurable goods manufacturers added 2,400 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 9,300 with professional, scientific and technical services up 5,000 and administration and support and waste management and remediation up 3,700.
- Retailers added 15,700 jobs with 5,200 of the increase in general merchandise stores. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 7,900 jobs.
- Employment in the leisure and hospitality industry was up by 10,900, led by a gain of 8,000 in accommodation and food services.

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

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>67,200</b>
Retail trade	15,700
Leisure and hospitality	10,900
Manufacturing	10,300
Professional and business services	9,300
Construction	5,100
Education and health services	4,700
Wholesale trade	2,900
Financial activities	2,100
Government	1,700
Information	1,600
Other services	1,600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,000
Mining and logging	300

- Employment in construction was up 5,100 with the number of employed in the specialty trade contractor sector up 4,300.

## 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 14,300 from March to April. This year the state had an estimated gain of 18,100, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 3,800 jobs.

- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 5,400 in April. The estimated increase was 7,000 yielding a 1,600 gain on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Employment in construction normally rises by 2,600. It is estimated to have increased by 1,500 this April yielding a loss of 1,100 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

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

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

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>18,100</b>	<b>3,800</b>
Leisure and hospitality	5,400	7,000	1,600
Construction	2,600	1,500	-1,100
Professional and business services	2,200	3,700	1,500
Government	1,300	1,500	200
Manufacturing	1,200	1,600	400
Retail trade	900	4,700	3,800
Financial activities	400	700	300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	200	-300	-500
Information	100	0	-100
Mining and logging	100	0	-100
Other services	0	600	600
Wholesale trade	0	-300	-300
Education and health services	-100	-2,600	-2,500

- The estimated employment increase in professional and business services industry was 3,700. The normal seasonal increase is 2,200, so on a seasonally adjusted basis professional and business services industry employment increased 1,500.
- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated loss of 2,500 jobs in education and health services in April. The normal seasonal decrease is 100. It is estimated to have decreased by 2,600 this April.
- Typically government employment increases by 1,300 in April. On a seasonally adjusted basis, government employment rose by 200 as the estimated increase was 1,500.

## Total agricultural employment summary

Statewide from March to April, agricultural employment increased 6.4 percent.

Year over year statewide, agricultural employment also increased 11.8 percent.

Regionally over the year, total agricultural employment increased in all six of the areas. The largest increase (3,390 jobs) was in the South Central reporting area. The smallest increase (70 jobs) was in the Eastern 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, April 2013  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA

	Apr. '13 Preliminary	Mar. '13 Revised	Apr. '12 Revised	Change		Percent change	
				Mar. '13 - Apr. '13	Apr. '12 - Apr. '13	Mar. '13 - Apr. '13	Apr. '12 - Apr. '13
<b>State</b>	<b>79,420</b>	<b>74,640</b>	<b>71,030</b>	<b>4,780</b>	<b>8,390</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
Western	10,570	10,440	10,030	130	540	1.2%	5.4%
South Central	25,650	24,290	22,260	1,360	3,390	5.6%	15.2%
North Central	14,600	13,850	13,820	750	780	5.4%	5.6%
Columbia Basin	12,180	10,260	10,540	1,920	1,640	18.7%	15.6%
South Eastern	14,920	14,320	12,950	600	1,970	4.2%	15.2%
Eastern	1,500	1,480	1,430	20	70	1.4%	4.9%

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

## Benchmarking highlights

Benchmarking is a process that replaces employment estimates with the actual number of job gains or losses.

Each month, economists estimate monthly job gains and losses based on a survey of employers. Then, at the end of each quarter, economists benchmark the estimates by replacing them with data from employer tax records before applying seasonal adjustments.

Benchmarked employment data are now available through December 2012. Employment estimates for April 2013 presented in this report were based on the new data, plus seasonal adjustments.

Based on benchmarked December 2012 data:

- The two largest upward revisions were Government and leisure and hospitality, up 6,000 and 3,200, respectively.
- Manufacturing had the largest downward revision, 500.

Quarterly benchmarked industry employment, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, December 2012

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA, Quarterly Census of  
Employment and Wages

	Revisions to December 2012 employment level
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>12,900</b>
Government	6,000
Leisure and hospitality	3,200
Retail trade	1,300
Information	1,300
Construction	1,100
Professional and business services	900
Financial activities	800
Mining and logging	100
Wholesale trade	-200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-300
Education and health services	-400
Other services	-400
Manufacturing	-500

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<sup>1</sup> 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., May 21, 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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