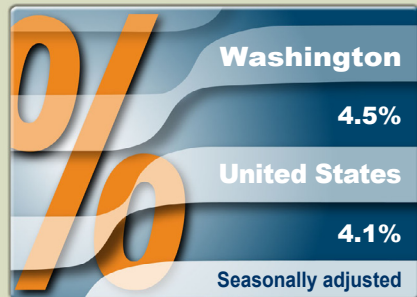


Monthly Employment Report for November 2017



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 9,800 from October 2017 to November 2017.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 13,100 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 3,300 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for November 2016 through November 2017 indicate an increase in employment of 97,900 for the state. The private sector added 87,100 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 10,800 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2017 is 4.5 percent. The revised estimated October 2017 unemployment rate was at 4.5 percent. The November 2016 unemployment rate was 5.2 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 6,300 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, 2016 and 2017
Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	November 2017 (Preliminary)	October 2017 (Revised)	November 2016 (Revised)	October 2016 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate				
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	4.1%	4.1%	4.6%	4.8%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.5%	5.2%	5.3%
Resident labor force	3,773,000	3,767,800	3,674,400	3,669,900
Unemployed	168,200	170,600	191,300	193,500
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%
Resident labor force	1,658,800	1,654,400	1,636,900	1,634,300
Unemployed	62,800	62,600	61,700	62,300

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 2017 was 4.5 percent. The revised estimated October 2017 unemployment rate was 4.5 percent.

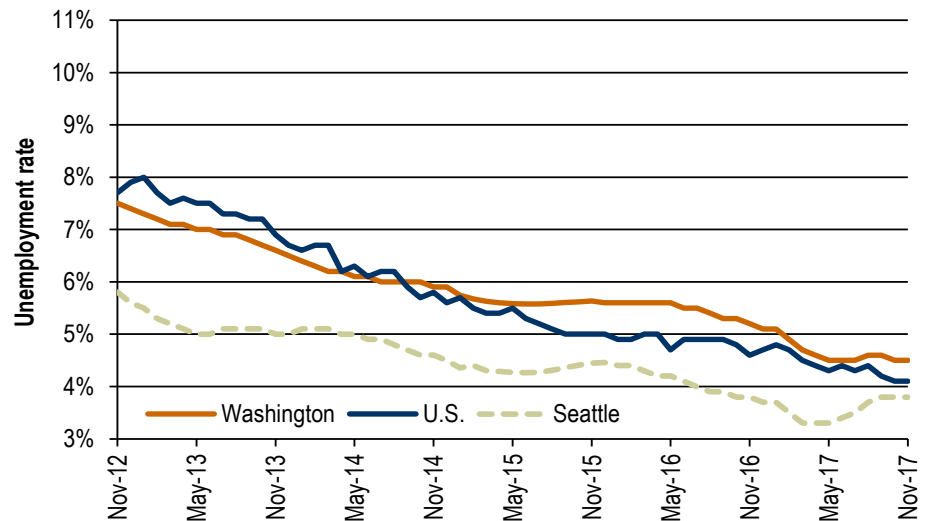
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 2,400 in November 2017 compared to October 2017. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 7,600. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 5,200 people in the labor force.

The preliminary November 2017 unemployment rate is 0.7 percentage points below the November 2016 rate of 5.2 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, November 2012 through November 2017

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



November 2017 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 4.1%
 Washington (preliminary) 4.5%
 Seattle area (preliminary) 3.8%

Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 6,900 jobs from October 2017 to November 2017.

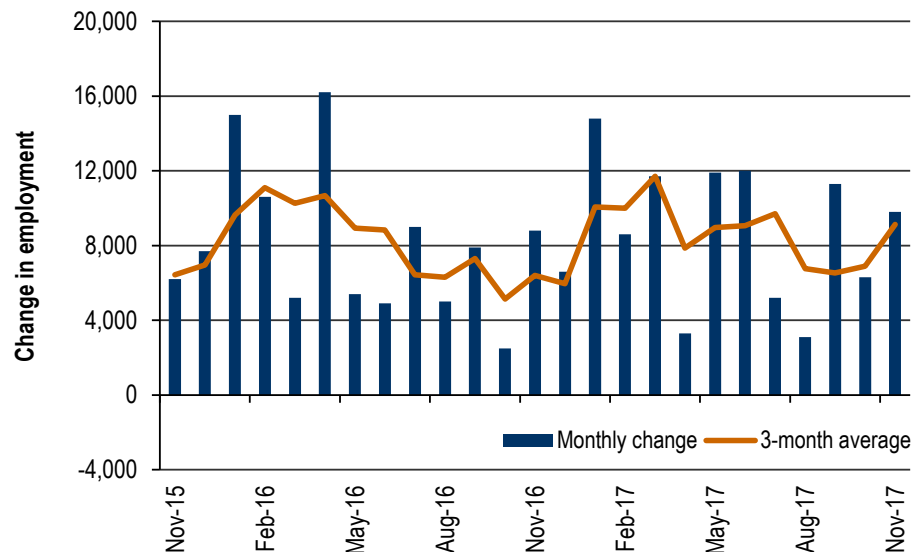
Recent employment change
September 2017: up 11,300 jobs (revised)

October 2017: up 6,300 jobs (revised)

November 2017: up 9,800 jobs (preliminary)

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

Washington state, November 2015 through November 2017
 Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; 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: 3,005,700
Unemployment rate: 4.8%

February 2010

(end of recent employment recession in Washington)

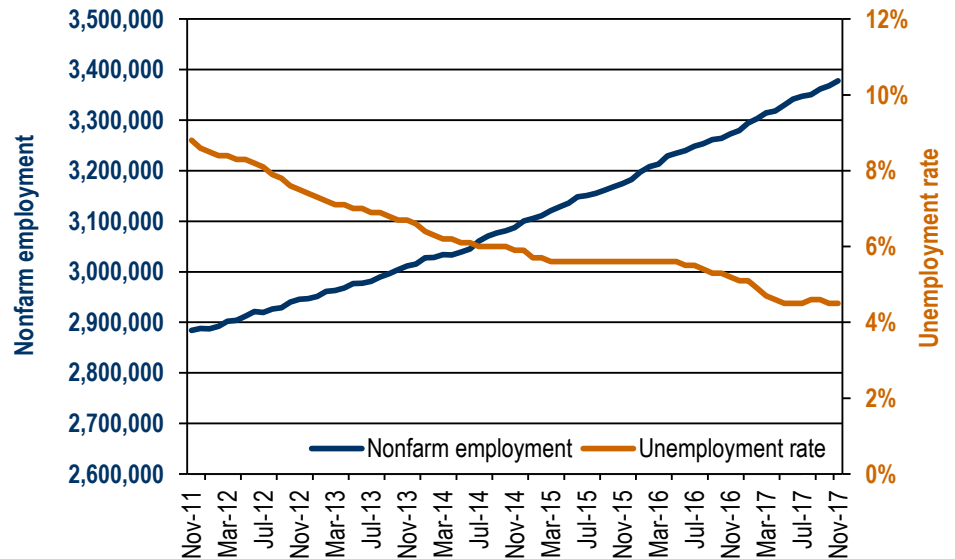
Nonfarm employment: 2,823,400
Unemployment rate: 10.3%

October 2017 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,377,500
Unemployment rate: 4.5%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, November 2011 through November 2017

Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; 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 non-seasonal 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

U-6 unemployment rate

U-6: Broader unemployment measure declined during the third quarter

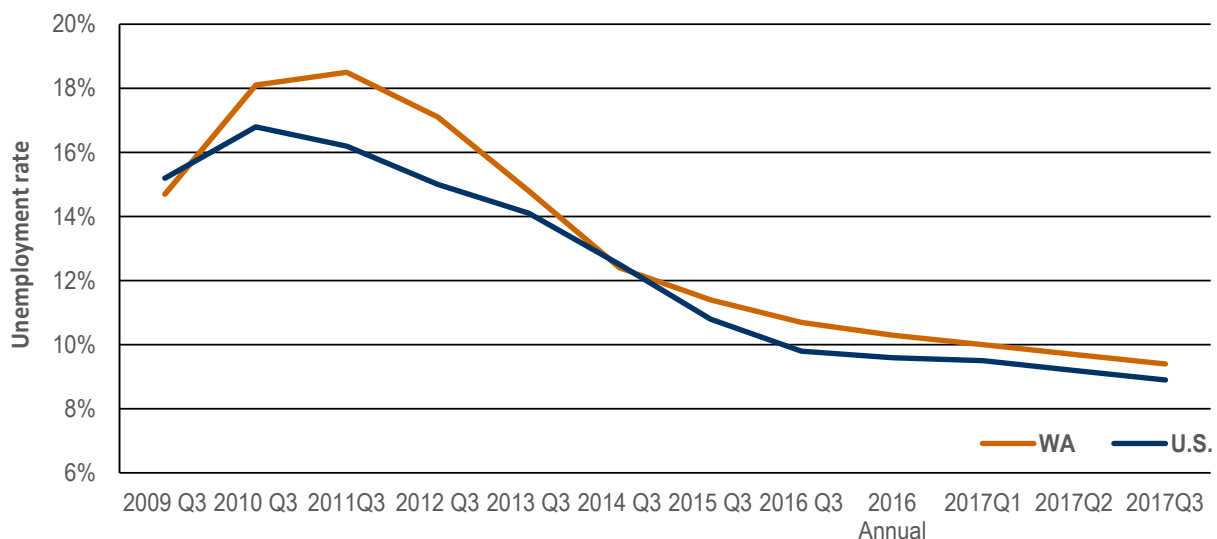
The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include the 2016 annual averages. One such alternative measure is the U-6 rate, which considers not only the unemployed population in the official “U-3” unemployment rate, but

also marginally attached workers and those employed part time for economic reasons. The U-6 rate is defined by BLS as the “total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.” This U-6 measure measures the “unemployed, underemployed, and those who are not looking but who want a job.”

The U-6 unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2016 through the third quarter of 2017 for Washington state was 9.4 percent. This was lower compared to the 10.7 percent U-6 unemployment rate one year prior. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate was 8.9 percent over the same time period.

Alternate measures of labor underutilization, four quarter moving average Washington state versus U.S. U-6 unemployment rate

U-6: Total unemployed, plus all other marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force.



Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2017	WA	10.0%	9.7%	9.4%	
	U.S.	9.5%	9.2%	8.9%	
2016	WA	10.9%	10.7%	10.7%	10.3%
	U.S.	10.1%	9.9%	9.8%	9.6%
2015	WA	12.0%	11.7%	11.4%	11.0%
	U.S.	11.6%	11.3%	10.8%	10.4%
2014	WA	13.3%	12.8%	12.4%	12.5%
	U.S.	13.4%	12.9%	12.5%	12.0%
2013	WA	16.4%	15.7%	14.8%	14.0%
	U.S.	14.5%	14.3%	14.1%	13.8%
2012	WA	17.6%	17.0%	17.1%	16.9%
	U.S.	15.6%	15.3%	15.0%	14.7%
2011	WA	18.4%	18.7%	18.5%	17.8%
	U.S.	16.5%	16.3%	16.2%	15.9%
2010	WA	17.2%	17.4%	18.1%	18.4%
	U.S.	16.7%	16.8%	16.8%	16.7%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>

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 9,800 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, ten industries expanded employment in November and three contracted.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 13,100 and government employment decreased by 3,300.
- Employment in professional and business services rose by 3,800, with 2,000 jobs gained in administrative and support services.
- Education and health services employment rose by 2,900, with 800 jobs added in ambulatory healthcare services.
- Employment in transportation, warehousing and utilities increased by 1,000, led by a gain of 400 jobs through truck transportation.
- The number of jobs in information increased by 900 with software publishers adding 500 to the total.
- Manufacturing employment rose by 900 overall, with 300 jobs gained in durable goods manufacturing and 600 jobs gained in nondurable goods manufacturing.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, October 2017 through November 2017

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

Total nonfarm	9,800
Professional and business services	3,800
Education and health services	2,900
Other services	2,300
Wholesale trade	1,300
Construction	1,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,000
Information	900
Manufacturing	900
Retail trade	200
Mining and logging	100
Financial activities	-100
Leisure and hospitality	-1,400
Government	-3,300

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 97,900 jobs from November 2016 through November 2017:

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one declined.
- Private sector employment rose 3.2 percent, up an estimated 87,100 jobs.
- Public sector employment increased 1.8 percent, a net gain of 10,800 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 17,900, led by a 9,500 increase in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Employment in construction is up 14,400 with the number employed as specialty trade contractors up 7,100.
- Education and health services employment increased by 13,800 with 5,000 of the jobs added in ambulatory healthcare services.
- Retailers added 12,000 jobs. Other retail trade, which includes online retail trade, was up by 6,400 jobs.
- Employment in manufacturing is down by 1,500 overall, with a decrease of 3,900 in durable goods production outweighing an increase of 2,400 in nondurable goods production.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, November 2016 through November 2017

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

Total nonfarm	97,900
Professional and business services	17,900
Construction	14,400
Education and health services	13,800
Retail trade	12,000
Government	10,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	6,700
Leisure and hospitality	5,900
Information	5,200
Wholesale trade	5,100
Financial activities	3,900
Other services	3,400
Mining and logging	300
Manufacturing	-1,500

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, November 2017

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

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	-7,100	2,700	9,800
Retail trade	8,500	8,700	200
Government	5,200	1,900	-3,300
Education and health services	400	3,300	2,900
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	200	1,200	1,000
Mining and logging	-200	-100	100
Information	-200	700	900
Financial activities	-500	-600	-100
Wholesale trade	-800	500	1,300
Other services	-1,500	800	2,300
Manufacturing	-3,100	-2,200	900
Professional and business services	-3,500	300	3,800
Construction	-5,300	-4,100	1,200
Leisure and hospitality	-6,300	-7,700	-1,400

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 7,100 from October to November. This year the state gained an estimated 2,700 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 9,800 jobs.

- Typically, retail trade employment increases by 8,500 in November. On a seasonally adjusted basis, retail trade employment increased by 200 as the estimated increase was 8,700.
- The normal seasonal loss in manufacturing employment is 3,100 in November. The estimated decrease was 2,200 so employment increased by 900 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was a gain of 3,800 jobs in professional and business services in November. The normal seasonal decrease is 3,500. It is estimated to have increased by 300 this November.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 4,100. The normal seasonal decrease is 5,300, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment rose by 1,200.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality normally falls by 6,300. It is estimated to have decreased by 7,700 this November yielding a loss of 1,400 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Contact an economist

Our statewide economist and six regional economists serve customers in their areas for WorkSource offices, workforce development councils, non-profit organizations, higher education, businesses and the news media. They can help you find and use labor market data, fulfill special data requests and answer questions about the state and local labor markets. Get in touch with your regional economist to get the local information you need.

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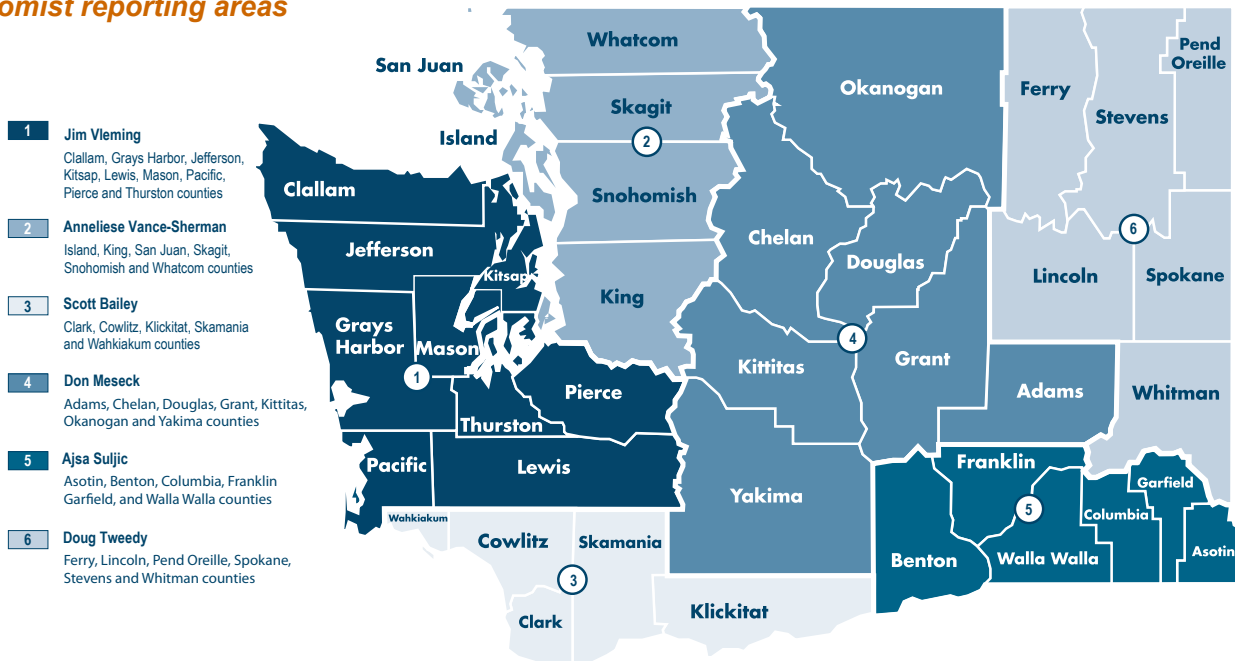
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



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 27, 2017. The publication schedule for 2017 can be found at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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