



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 5,100 in November 2018.<sup>1</sup> BLS estimates the private sector gained 6,400 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 1,300 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for November 2017 through November 2018 indicate an increase in employment of 103,500 for the state. The private sector added 104,400 jobs while the public sector lost an estimated 900 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2018 is 4.3 percent. The revised estimated October 2018 unemployment rate is at 4.3 percent. The November 2017 unemployment rate was 4.7 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 12,400 jobs was revised to a gain of 7,700 jobs.

For more information, call Paul Turek, labor economist at 360-507-9599.

## 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 2017 and 2018  
 Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	November 2018 (Preliminary)	October 2018 (Revised)	November 2017 (Revised)	October 2017 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment rate <i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	3.7%	3.7%	4.1%	4.1%
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.3%	4.7%	4.7%
Resident labor force	3,795,800	3,781,500	3,756,200	3,756,600
Unemployed	163,200	162,800	176,900	177,100
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.3%	3.9%	3.9%
Resident labor force	1,692,100	1,687,700	1,666,600	1,666,200
Unemployed	56,100	56,400	64,400	64,600



<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 November 2018 is 4.3 percent. The revised estimated October 2018 unemployment rate is 4.3 percent.

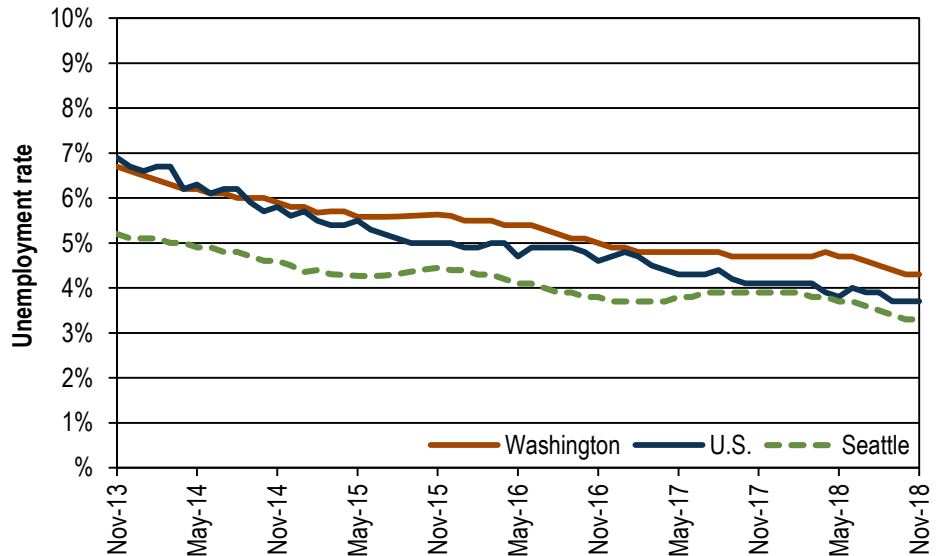
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people rose by 400 in November 2018 compared to October 2018. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 13,900. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 14,300 people in the labor force.

The preliminary November 2018 unemployment rate is a 0.4 percentage point below the November 2017 rate of 4.7 percent.

### Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, November 2013 through November 2018

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



### November 2018 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.7%  
 Washington (preliminary) 4.3%  
 Seattle area (preliminary) 3.3%

## Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 5,100 jobs from October 2018 to November 2018.

Recent employment change  
**September 2018:** up 8,300 jobs (revised)

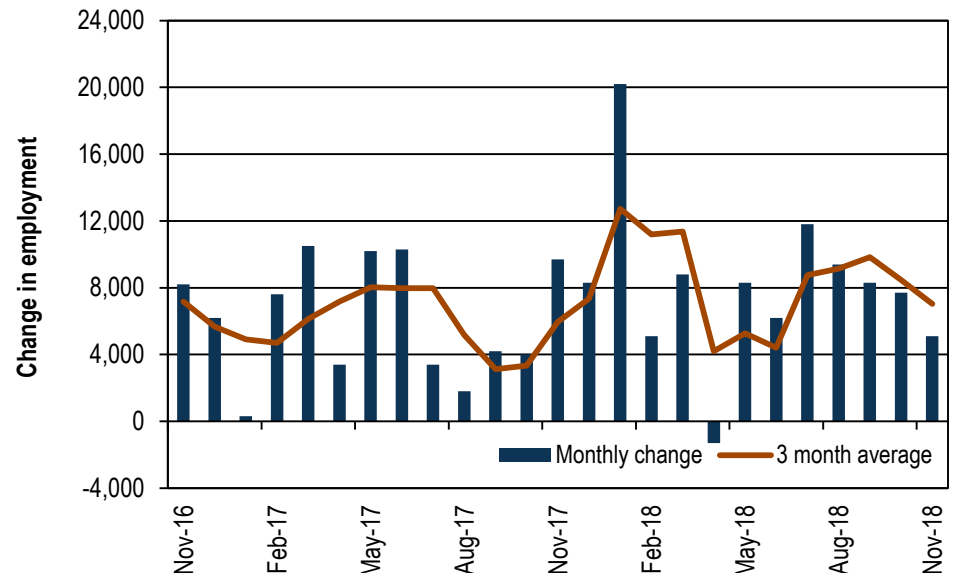
**October 2018:** up 7,700 jobs (revised)

**November 2018:** up 5,100 jobs (preliminary)

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

Washington state, November 2016 through November 2018

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; 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: 3,006,100  
Unemployment rate: 4.7%

### February 2010

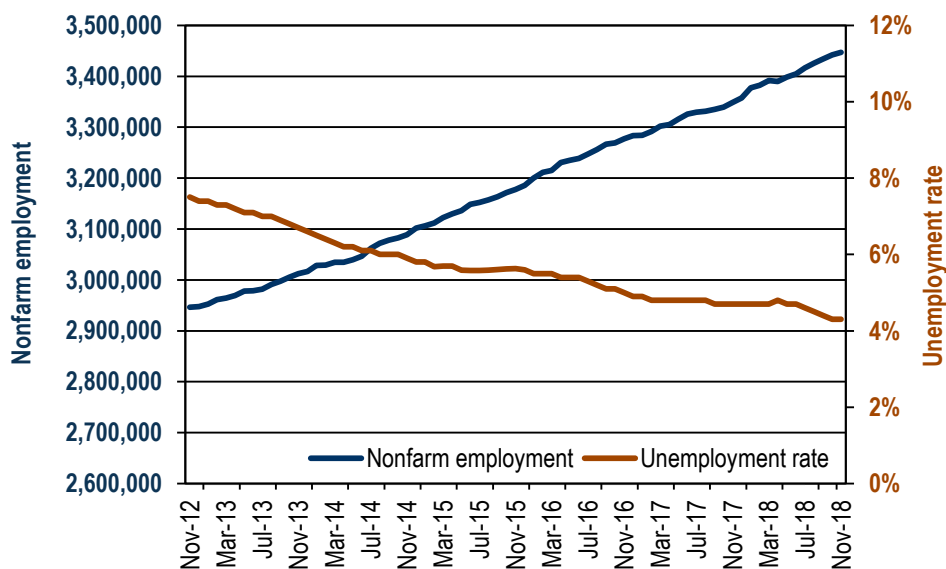
(end of recent employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,824,000  
Unemployment rate: 10.4%

### October 2018 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,446,800  
Unemployment rate: 4.3%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, November 2012 through November 2018  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; 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

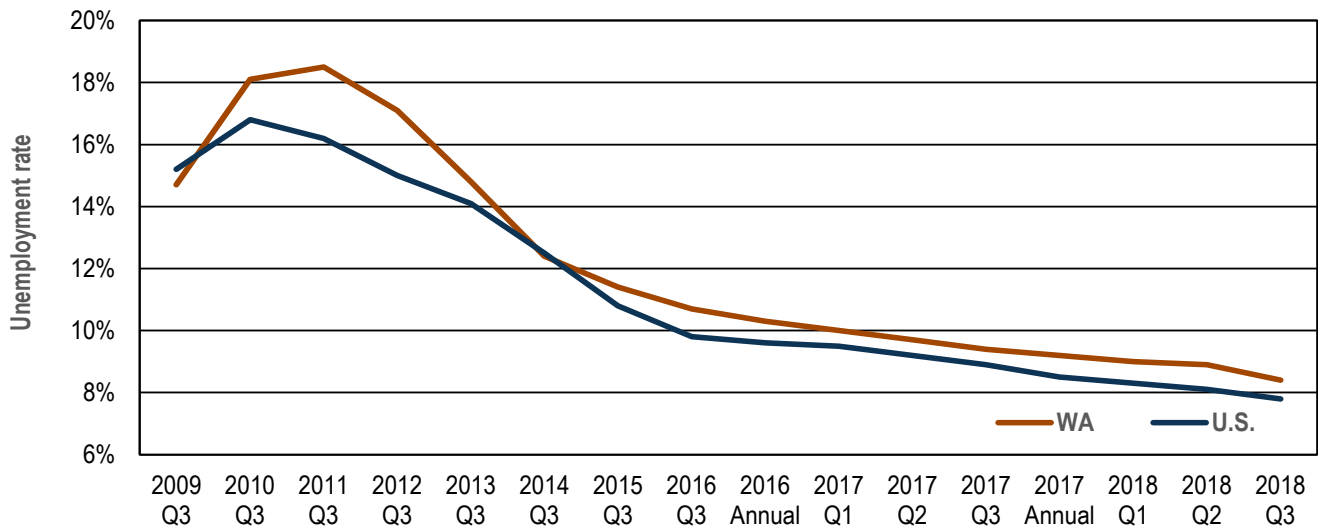
### U-6: Broader unemployment measure declined in the four quarter period ending September 2018

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include the third quarter of 2018. 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 2017 through the third quarter of 2018 for Washington state was 8.4 percent. This was lower compared to the 9.4 percent U-6 unemployment rate one year prior and 8.9 percent the prior month. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate was 7.8 percent over the same time period.

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



Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2018	WA	9.0%	8.9%	8.4%	
	U.S.	8.3%	8.1%	7.8%	
2017	WA	10.0%	9.7%	9.4%	9.2%
	U.S.	9.5%	9.2%	8.9%	8.5%
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%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://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 5,100 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, six industries expanded employment in November, six contracted, and one was unchanged.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 6,400 and government employment decreased by 1,300.
- Manufacturing employment rose by 2,900, with 1,500 jobs added in transportation equipment manufacturing.
- Employment in transportation, warehousing and utilities rose by 2,200 overall, led by a gain of 600 in truck transportation.
- The number of jobs in leisure and hospitality increased by 1,600, primarily due to gains in food services and drinking places.
- Employment in education and health services increased by 1,200 overall, with 2,600 jobs added in health services and social assistance offsetting losses of 1,400 in education services.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, October 2018 to November 2018

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>5,100</b>
Manufacturing	2,900
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,200
Leisure and hospitality	1,600
Education and health services	1,200
Professional and business services	1,000
Other services	400
Wholesale trade	0
Information	-100
Mining and logging	-100
Financial activities	-400
Construction	-1,100
Retail trade	-1,200
Government	-1,300

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## 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 103,500 jobs from November 2017 through November 2018:

- Overall, eleven major industries expanded, one contracted, and one was unchanged.
- Private sector employment rose 3.8 percent, up an estimated 104,400 jobs.
- Public sector employment decreased 0.2 percent, a net loss of 900 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 16,800, led by a 7,500 increase in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Education and health services employment increased by 15,000 with 11,200 of the jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in construction is up 12,500 with the number employed as specialty trade contractors up 8,600.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 11,400, led by a gain of 9,000 jobs in food services and drinking places.
- Manufacturing added 11,300 jobs, with 8,800 jobs added in durable goods production and 2,500 jobs added in nondurable goods production.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, November 2017 to November 2018

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>103,500</b>
Professional and business services	16,800
Education and health services	15,000
Construction	12,500
Leisure and hospitality	11,400
Manufacturing	11,300
Information	10,000
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	7,100
Financial activities	7,000
Other services	6,200
Wholesale trade	3,600
Retail trade	3,500
Mining and logging	0
Government	-900

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#### Monthly unemployment rates

##### October 2018

Washington State:  
4.3% seasonally adjusted

Nationwide:  
3.7% seasonally adjusted

[Labor force by county snapshot](#)

## 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 2018

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>-4,200</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>5,100</b>
Government	2,600	1,300	-1,300
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,300	3,500	2,200
Mining and Logging	-100	-200	-100
Information	-500	-600	-100
Manufacturing	-2,000	900	2,900
Construction	-5,700	-6,800	-1,100

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 4,200 from October to November. This year the state gained an estimated 900 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 5,100 jobs.

- Employment in retail trade normally rises by 9,100. It is estimated to have increased by 7,900 this November, so it decreased by 1,200 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Typically, education and health services employment increases by 1,500 in November. On a seasonally adjusted basis, education and health services employment increased by 1,200 as the estimated increase was 2,700.

- The employment change on a seasonally adjusted basis was 1,000 in professional and business services in November. The normal seasonal decrease is 2,700. It is estimated to have decreased by 1,700 this November.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 6,800. The normal seasonal decrease is 5,700, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment fell by 1,100.
- The normal seasonal loss in leisure and hospitality employment is 6,500 in November. The estimated loss was 4,900, so employment increased by 1,600 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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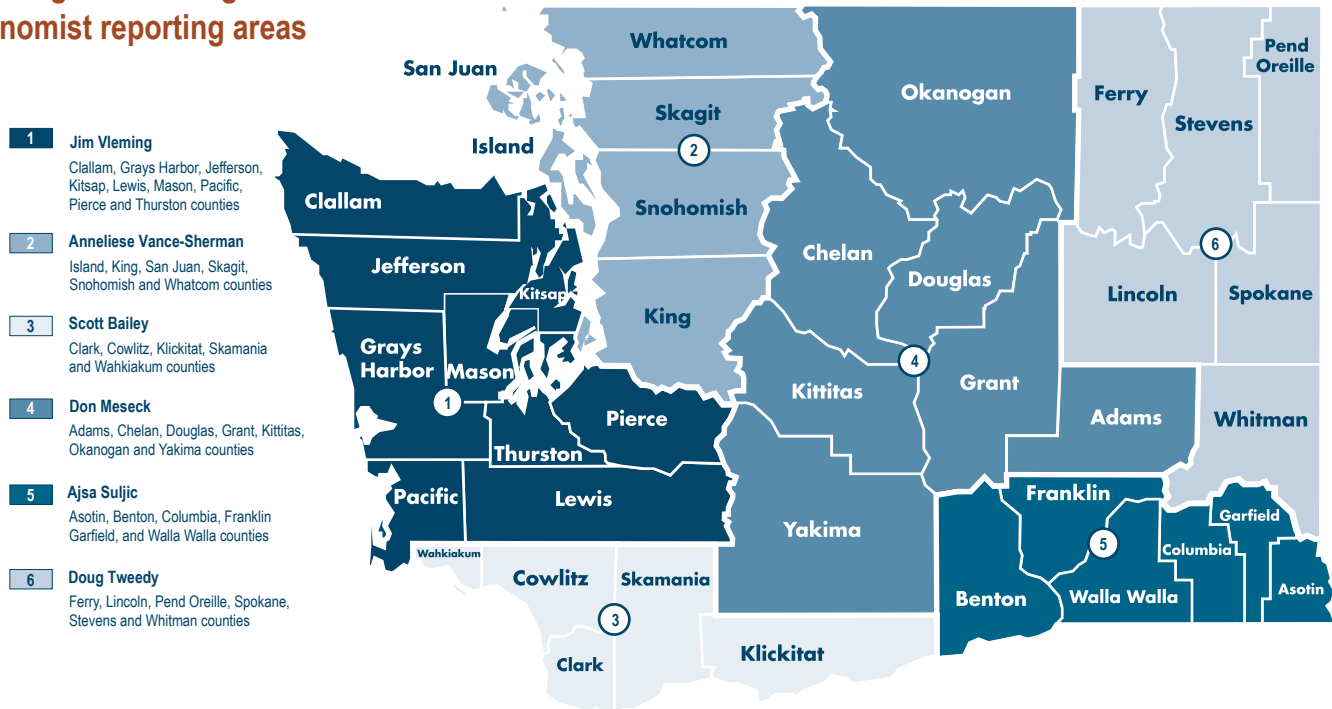
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## Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., December 27, 2018. The publication schedule for 2018 can be found at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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