

The Monthly Employment Report

July 2024

Prepared by Anneliese Vance-Sherman, chief labor economist

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington decreased by 100 in July 2024.^a BLS estimates that employment in the private sector expanded by 700 jobs over the month and employers in the public sector shed 800 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for July 2023 through July 2024 indicate an increase in employment of 62,500 for the state. The private sector added 39,700 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 22,800 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2024 was 4.9%, up one tenth of one percent from 4.8% in June. The unemployment rate in July 2023 was 3.6%.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The June 2024 preliminary estimated addition of 7,100 jobs was revised up to 8,700.

For more information, contact Anneliese Vance-Sherman by phone at 564-900-0748 or by email at anneliese.vance-sherman@esd.wa.gov.

^a Most of the employment numbers discussed in this report refer to jobs, not people. 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.

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, June 2023 through July 2024

	July 2024 (Preliminary)	June 2024 (Revised)	July 2023 (Revised)	June 2023 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.1%	3.5%	3.6%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.8%	3.6%	3.8%
Resident labor force	4,017,377	4,018,859	4,069,269	4,067,929
Unemployed	196,669	194,884	147,381	154,358
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.3%	3.1%	3.0%
Resident labor force	1,784,857	1,788,588	1,817,172	1,810,847
Unemployed	78818	77,611	55,857	54,845

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

Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2024 was 4.9 percent, up slightly over the month. The revised estimate for June 2024 was 4.8 percent.

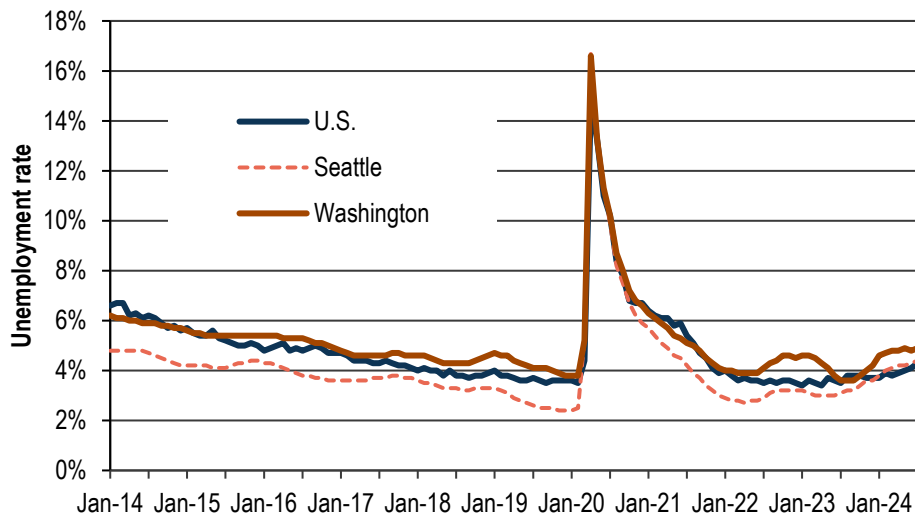
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed Washington residents increased by 1,785 over the month. At the same time, the estimated number of employed Washington residents decreased by 3,267. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 1,482 workers in the labor force from June to July 2024.

The preliminary July 2024 unemployment rate was 4.9% compared to 3.6% 12 months ago.

June 2024 preliminary unemployment rates:

- United States (preliminary) 4.3%
- Washington (preliminary) 4.9%
- Seattle area (preliminary) 4.4%

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted, U.S., Washington and Seattle, January 2014 through July 2024



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

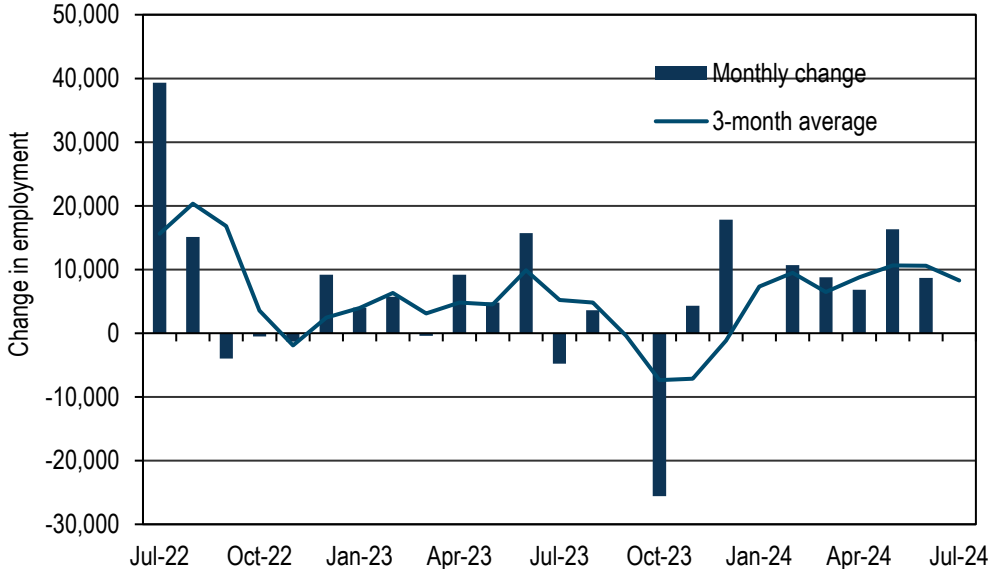
Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment decreased by 100 from June to July 2024.

Recent employment change:

- May 2024: up 16,300 (revised)
- June 2024: up 8,700 (revised)
- July 2024: down 100 (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, July 2022 through July 2024



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

Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

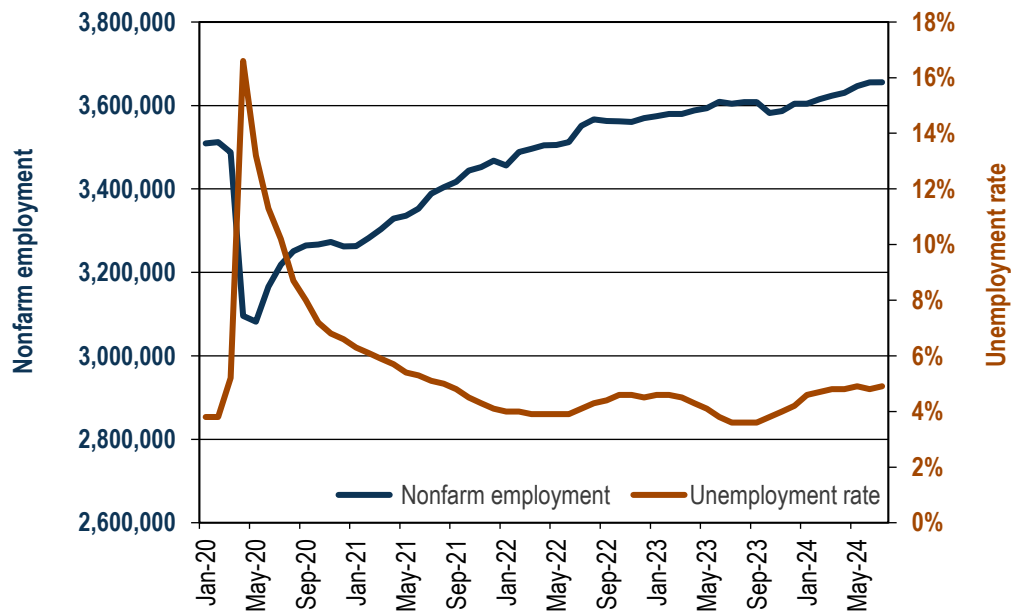
February 2020 (start of 2020 employment recession in Washington)

- Nonfarm employment: 3,511,900
- Unemployment rate: 3.8%

July 2024 (preliminary)

- Nonfarm employment: 3,655,300
- Unemployment rate: 4.9%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, Washington, January 2020 through July 2024



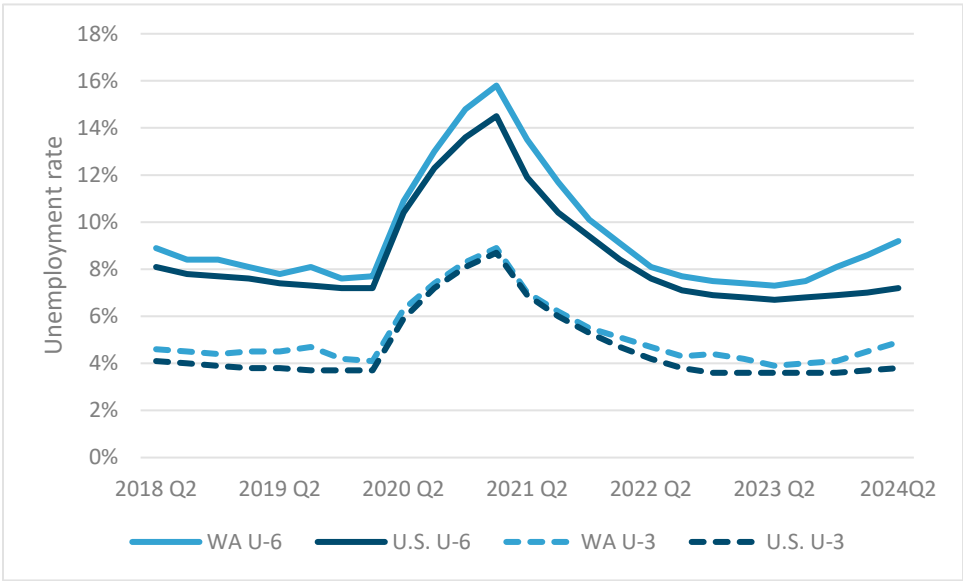
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

U-6: Broader annual average unemployment measure increased in the four-quarter period through the second quarter of 2024

BLS recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include four-quarter rates through the first quarter of 2024. 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 annual average unemployment rate for the four-quarter period through the second quarter of 2024 for Washington state was 8.6%. This is above the 9.2% average for the four-quarter period through fourth quarter 2023. The U.S. U-6 average for the four-quarter period through the first quarter of 2024 was 7.2%. Washington’s U-6 rate tends to run higher than the national rate.

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



Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey and Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Alternate measures of labor underutilization, four quarter moving average, Washington state versus U.S. U-6 unemployment rate for 2009 through Q2 2024

Year	Location	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2024	WA	8.6%	9.2%		
	U.S.	7.0%	7.2%		
2023	WA	7.4%	7.3%	7.5%	8.1%
	U.S.	6.8%	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%
2022	WA	9.1%	8.1%	5.0%	7.5%
	U.S.	8.4%	7.6%	7.1%	6.9%
2021	WA	15.8%	13.5%	11.7%	10.1%
	U.S.	14.5%	11.9%	10.4%	9.4%
2020	WA	8.1%	10.9%	13.0%	14.8%
	U.S.	7.7%	10.4%	12.3%	13.6%
2019	WA	8.1%	7.8%	8.1%	7.6%
	U.S.	7.6%	7.4%	7.3%	7.2%
2018	WA	9.0%	8.9%	8.4%	8.4%
	U.S.	8.3%	8.1%	7.8%	7.7%
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%
2010	WA	17.2%	17.4%	18.1%	18.4%
	U.S.	16.7%	16.8%	16.8%	16.7%

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey and 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 employers collectively shed an estimated 100 jobs over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- June 2024 estimates were revised up by 1,600 jobs.
- Overall, employment increased in six major industry sectors and decreased in seven.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 700; government employment decreased by 800 in July. The largest one-month sector level gains in private industry were observed in education and health services (up 3,100), construction (up 1,700), and transportation, warehousing and utilities (up 1,300).
- The largest gains in the education and health services sector were observed in health services and social assistance (up 4,100), with the largest gains in hospitals (up 2,000) and social assistance (up 1,900).
- Within construction, the largest gains were attributable to hiring related to the construction of buildings (up 1,700) – especially residential construction.
- The deepest one-month sector losses were observed in the information sector (down 3,800) and other services (down 1,500).

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, June 2024 to July 2024

Total nonfarm	-100
Education and Health Services	3,100
Construction	1,700
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,300
Retail Trade	800
Financial Activities	300
Leisure and hospitality	300
Mining and logging	-100
Manufacturing	-100
Professional and Business Services	-300
Government	-800
Wholesale Trade	-1,000
Other Services	-1,500
Information	-3,800

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

Industry employment in Washington, not seasonally adjusted

Change by industry over the year

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington businesses collectively added an estimated 62,500 jobs from July 2023 to July 2024. This is a 1.7% increase in employment over the year.

- Overall, employment in ten major industries expanded and three contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 1.3%, up an estimated 39,700 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 3.9%, up an estimated 22,800 jobs. The largest number of public sector jobs was added in state government, especially in public post-secondary education.
- The largest private sector gains were attributable to hiring in education and health services (up 23,800) and other services (up 6,400) and construction (up 6,100); the deepest one-year losses were observed in information (down 9,800) and mining and logging (down 600).
- Education and health services employment gains were primarily attributable to hiring in health and social services; within that, social assistance and ambulatory health care added the most jobs (8,800 and 6,900 respectively).
- Within other services, membership associations and organizations added the largest number of jobs (2,800). Employment in repair and maintenance as well as personal and laundry services also expanded.
- Employment in the information sector contracted by 9,800; within the sector, the software publishing industry shed an estimated 5,800 jobs.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted, Washington state, July 2023 through July 2024

Total nonfarm	62,500
Education and health services	23,800
Government	22,800
Other services	6,400
Construction	6,100
Leisure and hospitality	4,200
Financial activities	3,600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	3,000
Retail trade	1,200
Professional and business services	1,100
Manufacturing	900
Wholesale trade	-200
Mining and logging	-600
Information	-9,800

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

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, July 2024

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total Nonfarm	-15,200	-15,300	-100
Education and Health Services	-5,900	-2,800	3,100
Construction	1,400	3,100	1,700
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-500	800	1,300
Retail Trade	500	1,300	800
Financial Activities	400	700	300
Leisure and Hospitality	1,200	1,500	300
Mining and Logging	100	0	-100
Manufacturing	1,000	900	-100
Professional and Business Services	2,000	1,700	-300
Government	-15,600	-16,400	-800
Wholesale Trade	0	-1,000	-1,000
Other Services	400	-1,100	-1,500
Information	-200	-4,000	-3,800

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

Benchmarking

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. 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 March 2024. Employment estimates for July 2024 presented in this report were based on the new data, plus seasonal adjustments.

Quarterly benchmarked industry employment, seasonally adjusted

Revisions to March 2024
employment level

Total nonfarm	-8,900
Government	5,400
Leisure and hospitality	4,900
Retail trade	2,400
Other services	2,000
Information	500
Mining and logging	-200
Manufacturing	-200
Construction	-300
Education and health services	-300
Financial activities	-1,000
Wholesale trade	-1,700
Professional and business services	-7,900
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-12,500

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

Based on benchmarked March 2024 data:

- The two largest upward revisions were for government and for leisure and hospitality, up 5,400 and 4,900, respectively.
- Transportation, warehousing and utilities had the largest downward revisions, at 12,500.

Contact us

For more Washington Labor Market Information, visit us at www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo. Contact us at data@esd.wa.gov with any questions. County level information will be available at 10 a.m., August 20, 2024. The publication schedule for 2024 can be found at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to people with disabilities. Language assistance services for limited English proficient individuals are available free of charge. Washington Relay Service: 711.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, expressed or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.