

The Monthly Employment Report

April 2025

Prepared by Anneliese Vance-Sherman, chief labor economist

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show nonfarm employment in Washington decreased by 5,800 in April 2025.^a Employment in the private sector decreased by 5,100 jobs over the month and employers in the public sector dropped by 700.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for April 2024 through April 2025 show an increase of 1,200 jobs statewide. Employers in the private sector collectively shed 3,000 jobs while the public sector added an estimated 4,200 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2025 neither increased nor decreased over the month – the unemployment rate held steady at 4.4%. For reference, the unemployment rate in April 2024 was 4.6%.

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

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^a Most of the employment numbers 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 unemployment section, 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 older.

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.

Figure 1: Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted, United States and Washington state, March and April 2024 and March and April 2025

	April 2025 preliminary	March 2025 revised	April 2024 revised	March 2024 revised
United States				
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.2%	3.9%	3.9%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	4.6%
Resident labor force	4,051,983	4,057,722	4,059,411	4,054,327
Unemployed	179,187	177,160	185,599	185,347
Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue				
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.2%	3.6%	3.4%
Resident labor force	2,355,829	2,358,264	1,844,035	1,840,531
Unemployed	101,396	98,884	66,314	63,490

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

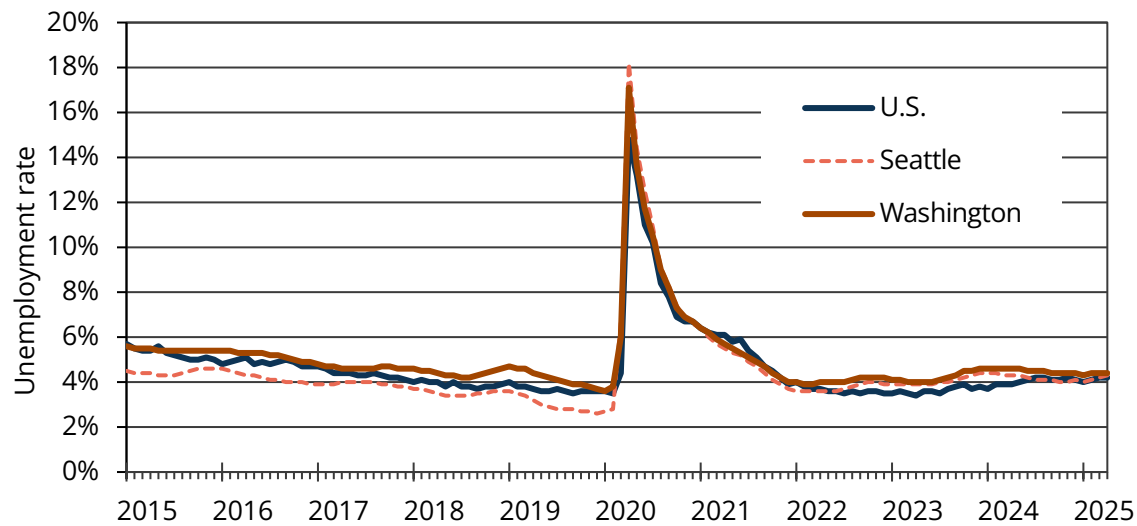
Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2025 was 4.4%, unchanged from the rate reported in March 2025. The revised estimate for April 2024 was 4.6%.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed Washington residents increased by 2,027 over the month. The estimated number of employed Washington residents decreased by 7,766. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 5,739 workers in the labor force from March to April 2025. April 2025 preliminary unemployment rates:

- United States (preliminary) 4.2%
- Washington (preliminary) 4.4%
- Seattle area (preliminary) 4.3%

Figure 2: Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted, U.S., Washington and Seattle, January 2015 through April 2025



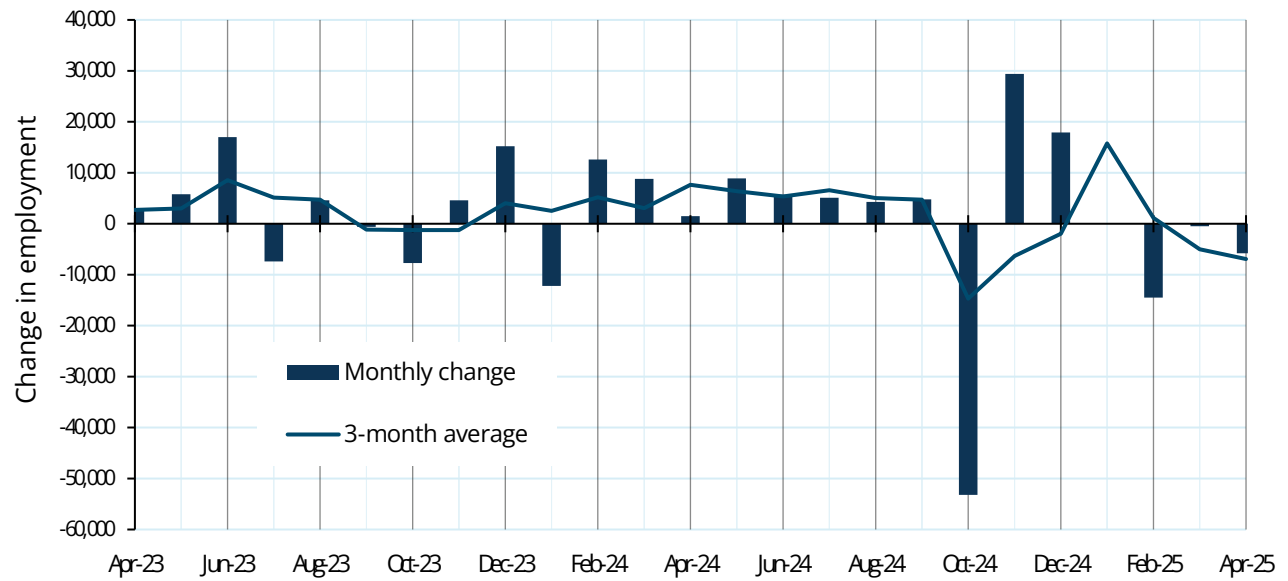
Source: Employment Security Department/LMIR Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment decreased by 5,800 from March to April 2025. Recent employment change:

- February 2025: down 14,500 (revised)
- March 2025: down 500 (revised)
- April 2025: down 5,800 (preliminary)

Figure 3: Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, April 2023 through April 2025



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

Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

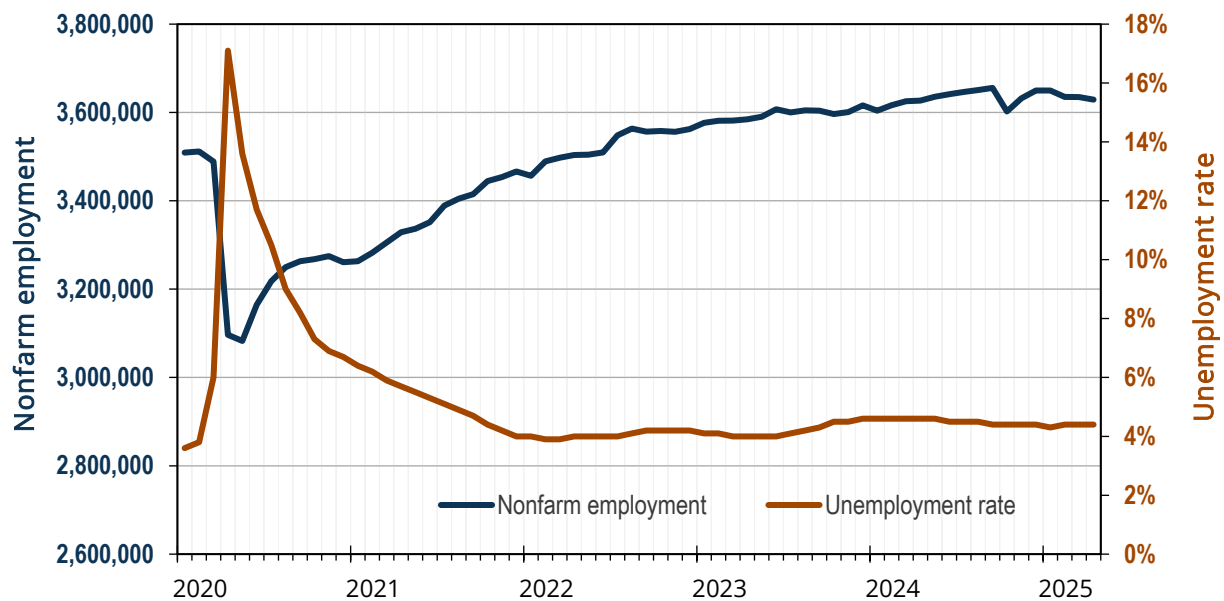
February 2020 (start of 2020 employment recession in Washington)

- Nonfarm employment: 3,512,100
- Unemployment rate: 3.8%

April 2025 (preliminary)

- Nonfarm employment: 3,628,900
- Unemployment rate: 4.4%

Figure 4: Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, Washington, January 2020 through April 2025



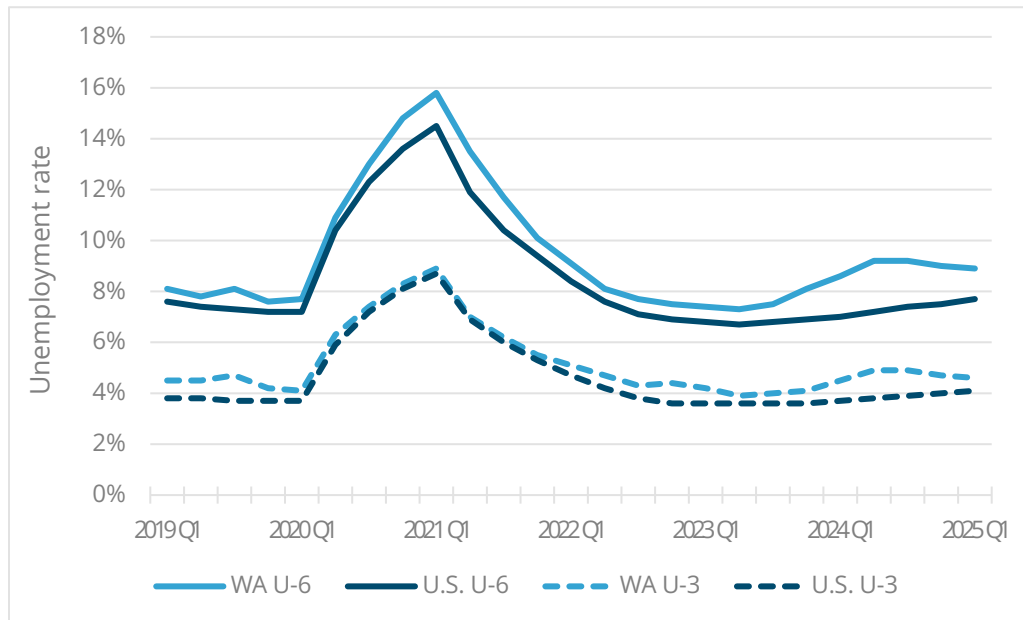
Source: Employment Security Department/LMIR; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

U-6: Broader annual average unemployment remained virtually unchanged

BLS recently updated its alternative measures of labor underutilization for states to include four-quarter rates through the fourth 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 first quarter of 2025 for Washington state was 8.9%. This is down from the previous four quarter moving average (9.0% through third quarter of 2024), but statistically unchanged. The U.S. U-6 average for the four-quarter period through the fourth quarter of 2024 was 7.7%. Washington's U-6 rate tends to run higher than the national rate.

Figure 5: Alternative measures of labor underutilization, four-quarter moving average, Washington state and U.S. U-3 and U-6 unemployment rates



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

Figure 6: Alternate measures of labor underutilization, four quarter moving average, Washington

Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2025	WA	8.9%			
2025	U.S.	7.7%			
2024	WA	8.6%	9.2%	9.2%	9.0%
2024	U.S.	7.0%	7.2%	7.4%	7.5%
2023	WA	7.4%	7.3%	7.5%	8.1%
2023	U.S.	6.8%	6.7%	6.8%	
2022	WA	9.1%	8.1%	5.0%	7.5%
2022	U.S.	8.4%	7.6%	7.1%	6.9%
2021	WA	15.8%	13.5%	11.7%	10.1%
2021	U.S.	14.5%	11.9%	10.4%	9.4%
2020	WA	8.1%	10.9%	13.0%	14.8%
2020	U.S.	7.7%	10.4%	12.3%	13.6%
2019	WA	8.1%	7.8%	8.1%	7.6%
2019	U.S.	8.3%	8.1%	7.8%	7.7%

Source: Employment Security Department/LMIR; 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 5,800 jobs over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- March 2025 employment estimates were revised up by 4,700 jobs, adjusting the initial reported job losses from 5,200 to 500.
- Overall, employment increased in five major industry sectors, decreased in seven and remained unchanged in one.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have decreased by 5,100 and government employment decreased by 700 in April.
- The largest one-month sector level gains in private industry were observed in Education and health services (up 3,900), Professional and business services (up 2,200) and wholesale trade (up 700). The largest employment gains in education and health services were attributable to health and social assistance. The largest increases in professional and business services were observed in professional, scientific, and technical services.
- The deepest one-month private sector losses were observed in leisure and hospitality (down 4,300), financial activities (down 2,800) and retail trade (down 2,400). Leisure and hospitality job losses were concentrated in food services and drinking places.

Figure 7: Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, March to April 2025

Total nonfarm	-5,800
Education and Health Services	3,900
Professional and Business Services	2,200
Wholesale Trade	2,100
Construction	700
Other Services	500
Mining and logging	0
Government	-700
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-1,600
Information	-1,700
Manufacturing	-1,700
Retail Trade	-2,400
Financial Activities	-2,800
Leisure and hospitality	-4,300

Source: Employment Security Department/LMIR; 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 1,200 jobs from April 2024 to April 2025. This is a 0.03% increase in employment over the year.

- Over the past 12 months, employment in seven major industry sectors increased and six decreased.
- Private sector employment decreased 0.1%, down an estimated 3,000 jobs.
- Public sector employment increased 0.7%, up an estimated 4,200 jobs. One-year losses were observed in state and educational systems.
- The largest private sector gains were attributable to hiring in education and health services (up 11,800), professional and business services (up 3,400), and transportation, warehousing and utilities (up 3,100); the deepest one-year losses were observed in manufacturing (down 7,200) and construction (down 6,000).
- Education and health services employment gains were primarily attributable to hiring in health and social services; within that, social assistance added the most jobs (4,900).

- Losses in manufacturing were predominantly attributable to aerospace products and parts manufacturing (down 4,500).

Figure 8: Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted, Washington state, April 2024 through April 2025

Total nonfarm	1,200
Education and health services	11,800
Government	4,200
Professional and business services	3,400
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	3,100
Other services	800
Information	500
Wholesale trade	100
Mining and logging	-100
Retail trade	-1,500
Financial activities	-2,700
Leisure and hospitality	-5,200
Construction	-6,000
Manufacturing	-7,200

Source: Employment Security Department/LMIR; 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.

Figure 9: Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change, Washington state, April 2025

Industry	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	14,300	8,500	-5,800
Education and Health Services	-300	3,600	3,900
Professional and Business Services	2,300	4,500	2,200
Wholesale Trade	100	2,200	2,100
Construction	2,300	3,000	700
Other Services	600	1,100	500
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Government	2,600	1,900	-700
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-200	-1,800	-1,600
Information	-600	-2,300	-1,700
Manufacturing	300	-1,400	-1,700
Retail Trade	900	-1,500	-2,400
Financial Activities	0	-2,800	-2,800
Leisure and hospitality	6,300	2,000	-4,300

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

Contact us

For more Washington labor market information, visit [Employment Security's website](#). Contact us at lmir@esd.wa.gov with any questions. County level information will be available at 10 a.m. May 20, 2025. The 2025 publication schedule can be found on [Employment Security's website](#)

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