

Quarterly Census of  
Employment and Wages  
Business Employment Dynamics  
January to March 2018

**Figure 1**

Net change in jobs,  
seasonally adjusted  
U.S. and Washington state,  
first quarter 2000 through  
first quarter 2018.

**Figure 2**

Gross job gains and losses,  
seasonally adjusted,  
Washington state,  
first quarter 2000 through  
first quarter 2018.

**Figure 3**

Net change in job gains and  
losses by industry sector,  
seasonally adjusted,  
United States,  
first quarter 2018.

**Figure 4**

Net change in job gains and  
losses by industry sector,  
seasonally adjusted,  
Washington state,  
first quarter 2018.

**Figure 5**

Net change in jobs by industry  
sector, seasonally adjusted,  
Washington state,  
first quarter 2017 and 2018.

**Labor Market and  
Economic Analysis**

**December 2018**



**Employment  
Security  
Department**  
WASHINGTON STATE

# Washington State Business Employment Dynamics First Quarter 2018



In first quarter 2018, January to March, seasonally adjusted job gains in Washington's private sector totaled 201,454 while job losses from businesses closing or contracting totaled 160,868. The result of these changes was a net gain of 40,586 jobs during the first quarter. These numbers show the key changes in private sector employment also called Business Employment Dynamics (BED).

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Business Employment Dynamics data series highlights the forces driving labor market dynamics at the state and national levels. Job gains and losses at private business establishments are tracked showing employment changes due to establishment openings or closings versus adding or shedding jobs at existing firms. The most recent BED data cover events through first quarter 2018.

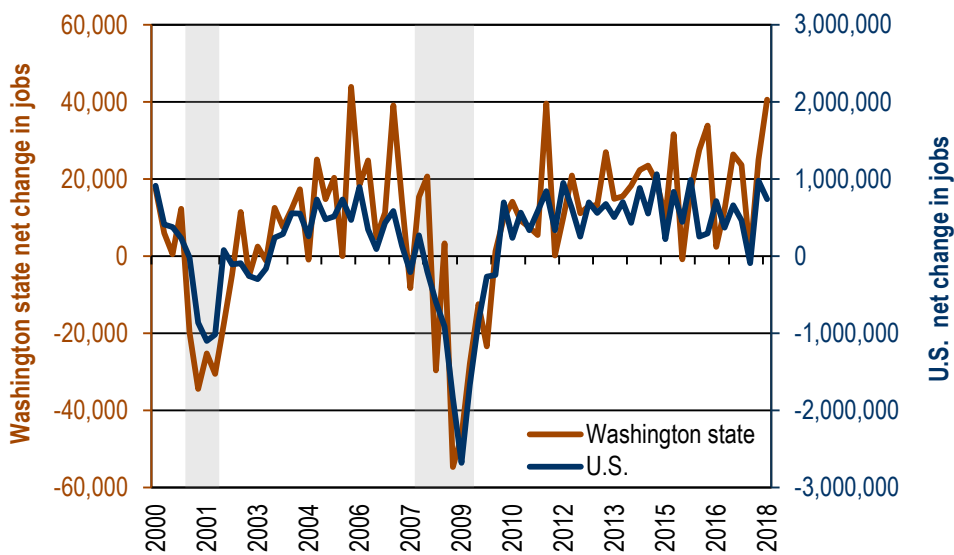
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Washington Relay Service: 711.

## Job growth up sharply for the state, down slightly for the nation

Nationally, job losses exceeded job gains in 45 states for a net private sector employment gain of 740,000. The jobs gained during the first quarter were less than the 979,000 jobs gained during the previous quarter. Washington state added 40,586 jobs. This is the largest quarterly gain for Washington state since before the last recession.

Figure 1 depicts the changing business employment dynamic and compares Washington state to national trends. On a national and state basis, net job gains and losses are sensitive to the business cycle. During the 2001 recession, net job losses appeared very quickly. Net job growth resumed in 2002 and carried through until the most recent recession beginning in fourth quarter 2007. Job growth began to pick up in 2010 for the state and nation, although Washington experienced negative job gains in third quarter 2015 and the U.S. showed jobs lost in third quarter 2017.

**Figure 1. Net change in jobs, seasonally adjusted**  
United States and Washington state, first quarter 2000 through first quarter 2018  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



*Job growth in Washington rose sharply but trails off slightly in the U.S. during first quarter 2018.*

Note: Shaded areas are U.S. recession periods.

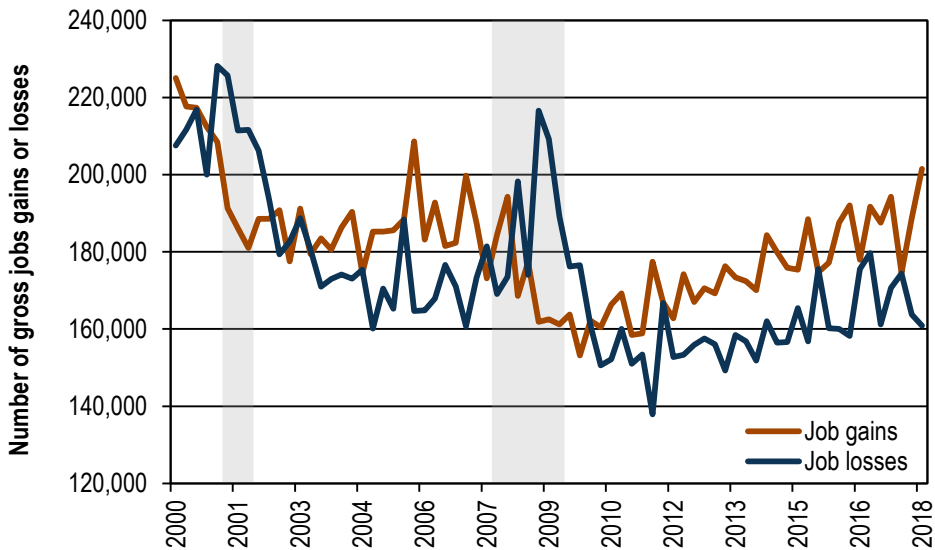
At the national level, gross job gains were 7.4 million at opening and expanding establishments. Closing and contracting establishments lost 6.7 million jobs. Gross job losses were 5.4 percent of private sector employment. Opening establishments provided 1.3 million jobs. Washington state gained 201,454 jobs from new and expanding private businesses and lost 160,868 jobs from businesses closing or contracting for a net gain of 40,586 jobs in first quarter 2018. This compares to a net gain of 24,974 jobs in fourth quarter 2017 and a net gain of 26,402 jobs in first quarter 2017.

More labor market information is available at: [www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo](http://www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo)

For more on the Business Employment Dynamics data series, visit: [www.bls.gov/bdm](http://www.bls.gov/bdm)

Figure 2 shows the quarterly pattern of gross job gains and losses in Washington state.

**Figure 2.** Gross job gains and losses, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, first quarter 2000 through first quarter 2018  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



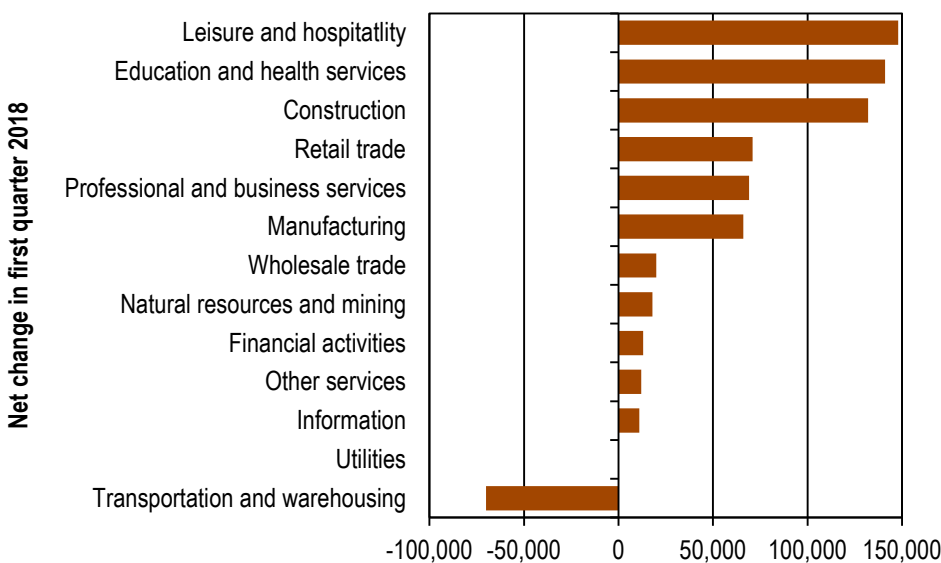
*Gross job gains rose while gross job losses fell in first quarter 2018.*

Note: Shaded areas are U.S. recession periods

### Nationally, more industries gained jobs while fewer lost

The data in Figure 3 illustrate the net change in industry employment for the U.S. Total private sector employment rose by 740,000 in first quarter 2018. Service-providing industries had a seasonally adjusted net gain of 524,000 jobs. The goods-producing industries posted a net gain of 216,000 jobs. In first quarter 2018, eleven industry sectors reported job gains, the same as the number during first quarter 2017.

**Figure 3.** Net change in job gains and losses by industry sector, seasonally adjusted  
United States, first quarter 2018  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



*Leisure and hospitality reported the most net gains while transportation and warehousing was the only industry to report losses in first quarter 2018.*

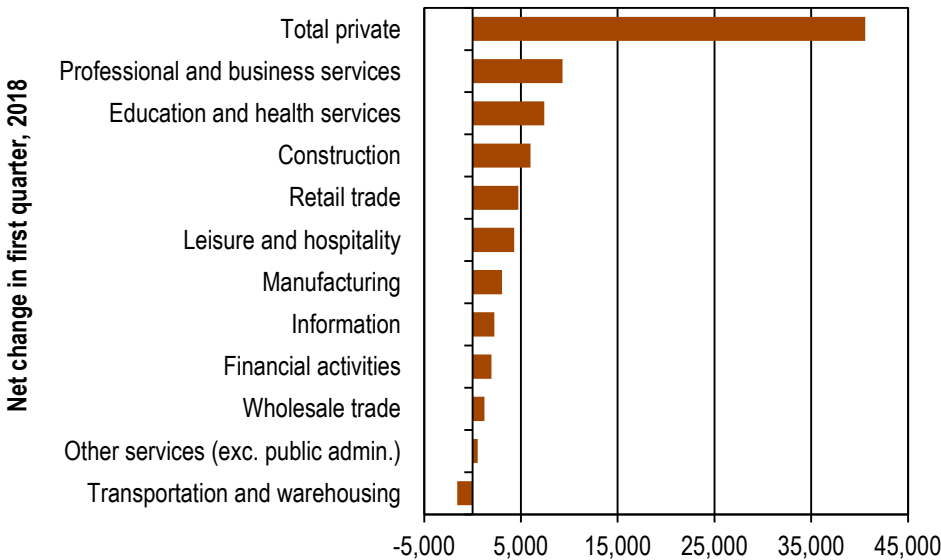
## Washington state industry employment

Figure 4 shows net employment changes in Washington state industry sectors. Total private sector employment had a net increase in employment of 40,586. Ten industry sectors reported net job gains in first quarter 2018. The top three industry sectors showing job gains were professional and business services with a gain of 9,295, followed by education and health services (7,403) and construction (5,974).

The only industry that experienced job losses was transportation and warehousing (1,575).

**Figure 4.** Net change in job gains and losses by industry sector, seasonally adjusted Washington state, first quarter 2018

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



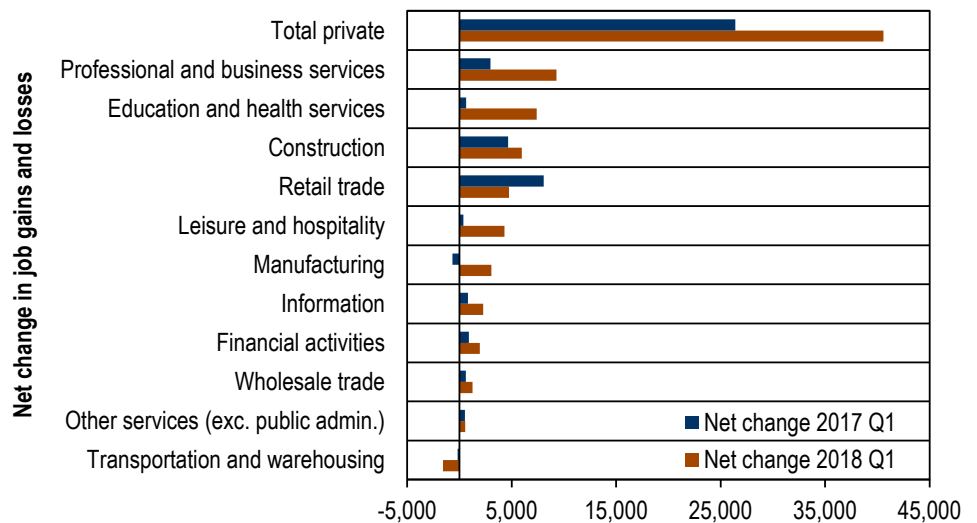
*In Washington state, professional and business services, education and health services and construction had the most job gains in first quarter 2018.*

Comparing first quarter 2018 to first quarter 2017 in Washington state (Figure 5):

- Nine of 11 private industry sectors had higher net gains in first quarter 2018 compared to first quarter 2017.
- Education and health services had the largest net gain from year to year with a gain of 7,403 jobs in first quarter 2018 compared with a gain of 638 in first quarter 2017.
- Retail trade had the largest net loss from year to year with a gain of 4,729 jobs in first quarter 2018 compared with a gain of 8,073 in first quarter 2017.

**Figure 5.** Net change in jobs by industry sector, seasonally adjusted Washington state, first quarter 2017 and 2018

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



*Washington had more jobs gained in nine industries and fewer jobs gained in two industries in first quarter 2018 than a year ago.*

**Note:** data for natural resources, mining and utilities are not disclosed in order to maintain employer confidentiality.

## BED report contacts

Paul Turek, *Economist*  
*BED Author*  
 pturek@esd.wa.gov  
 360-507-9599

Molly Webster,  
*QCEW Supervisor*  
 mwebster@esd.wa.gov  
 360-507-9581

Danell McMillian,  
*QCEW Research Analyst*  
 Dmcmillian@esd.wa.gov  
 360-507-9582

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### Statewide labor economist:

Paul Turek, Ph.D.  
 pturek@esd.wa.gov  
 360-507-9599

### Regional labor economists:

Scott Bailey  
 scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov  
 360-810-0048

Don Meseck  
 dmeseck@esd.wa.gov  
 509-574-0176

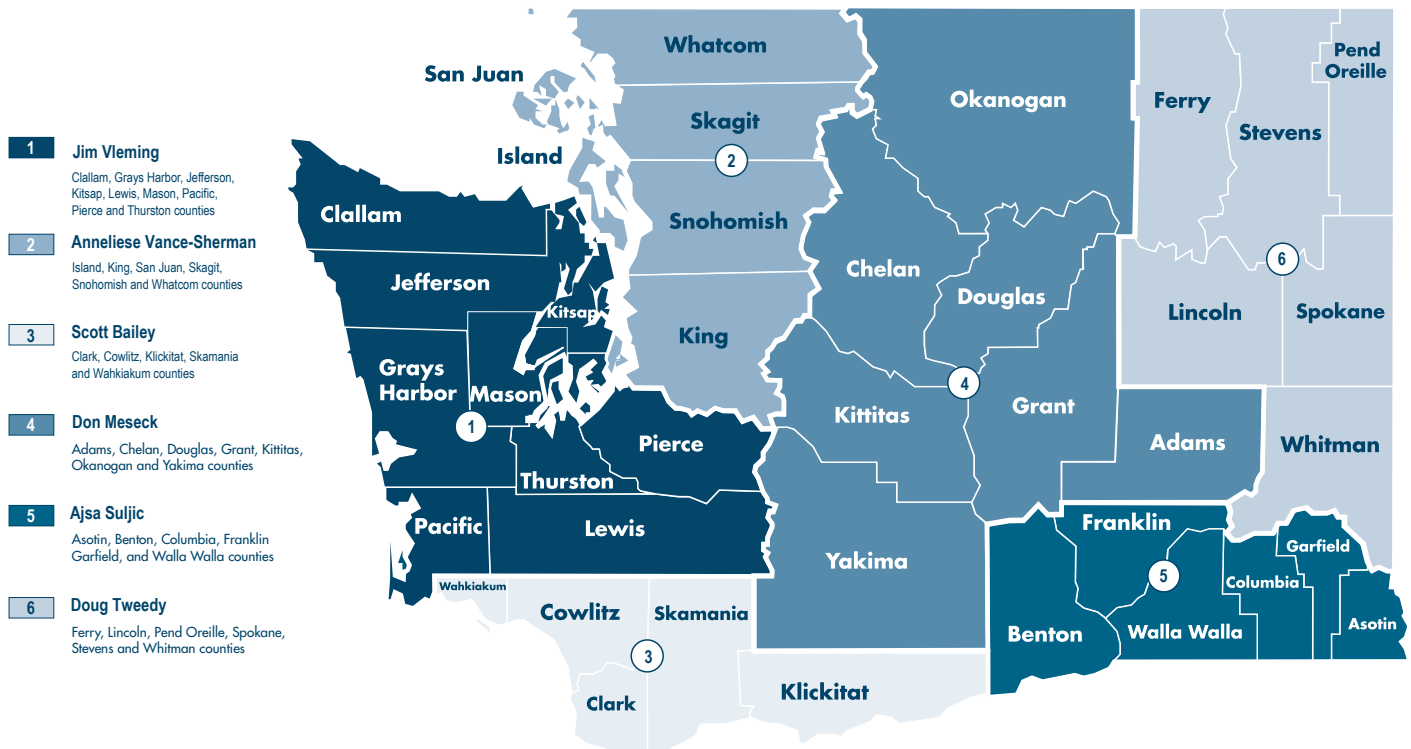
Ajsa Suljic  
 asuljic@esd.wa.gov  
 509-734-5928

Doug Tweedy  
 dtweedy@esd.wa.gov  
 509-532-3188

Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D.  
 avancesherman@esd.wa.gov  
 425-258-6315

Jim Vleming  
 jvleming@esd.wa.gov  
 360-507-9601

## Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



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