

The Monthly Employment Report

August 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 13,600 in August 2025.^a Employment in the private sector decreased by 15,100 jobs over the month and employment in the public sector increased by 1,500.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for August 2024 through August 2025 show a decrease of 5,400 jobs statewide. Employers in the private sector collectively added 1,400 jobs while the public sector shed an estimated 6,800 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August 2025 was 4.5%, unchanged from the estimated unemployment rate for July. For reference, the unemployment rate in August 2024 was 4.5%.

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, July and August 2024 and July and August 2025

United States	August 2025 preliminary	July 2025 revised	August 2024 revised	July 2024 revised
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%

Washington	August 2025 preliminary	July 2025 revised	August 2024 revised	July 2024 revised
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%
Resident labor force	4,022,129	4,024,800	4,065,971	4,067,770
Unemployed	180,450	180,851	181,010	182,983

Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue	August 2025 preliminary	July 2025 revised	August 2024 revised	July 2024 revised
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.3%	4.1%	4.1%
Resident labor force	2,326,452	2,332,728	2,333,741	2,328,218
Unemployed	100,547	100,935	95,528	96,407

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

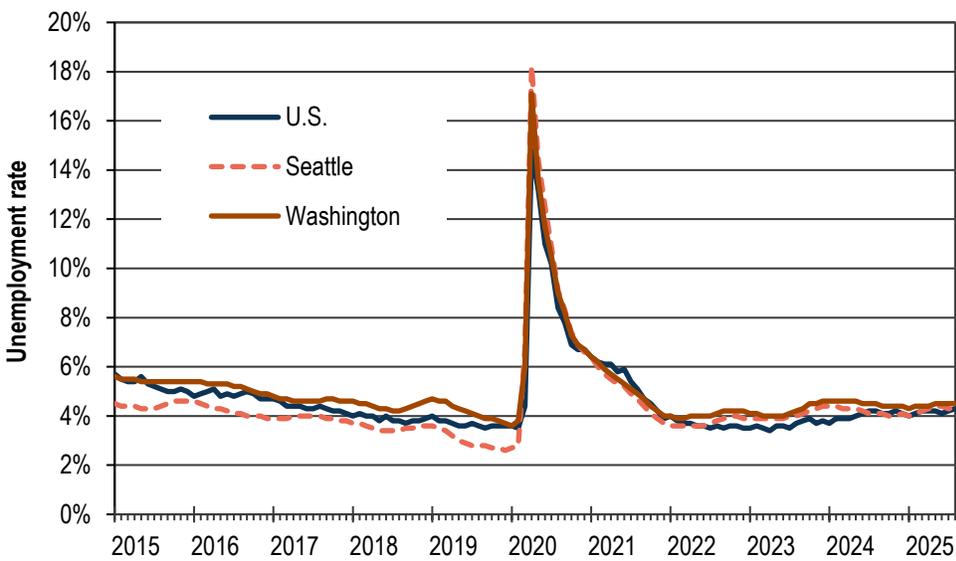
Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August 2025 was 4.5%, unchanged from the rate reported in the previous month. The revised estimate for August 2024 was 4.5%.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed Washington residents decreased by 401 over the month. The estimated number of employed Washington residents decreased by 2,270. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 2,67100 workers in the labor force from July to August 2025. August 2025 preliminary unemployment rates:

- United States (preliminary) 4.3%
- Washington (preliminary) 4.5%
- Seattle area (preliminary) 4.3%

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



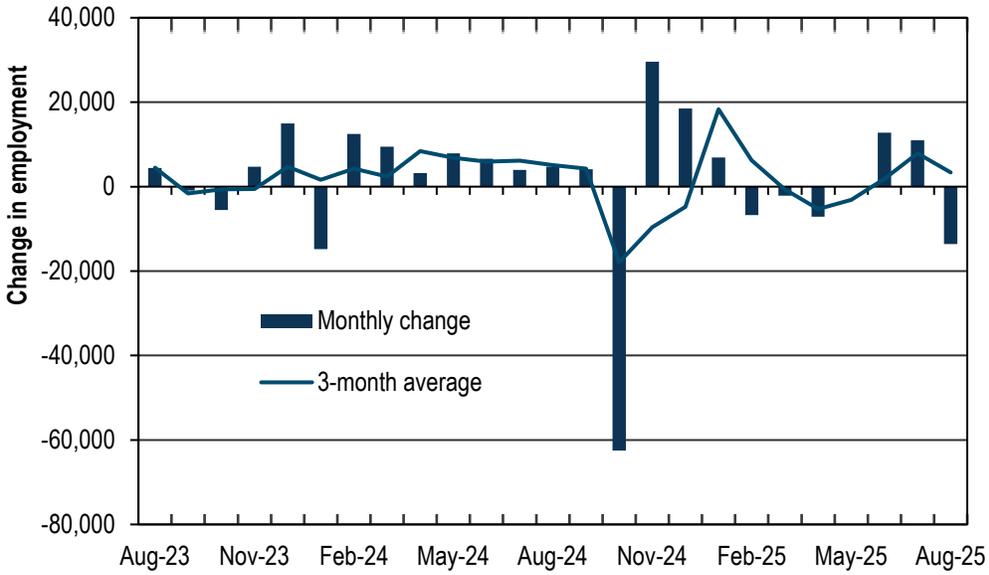
Source: Employment Security Department/LMIR Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment decreased by 13,600 from July to August 2025. Recent employment change:

- June 2025: up 12,800 (revised)
- July 2025: up 11,000 (revised)
- August 2025: down 13,600 (preliminary)

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



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

Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

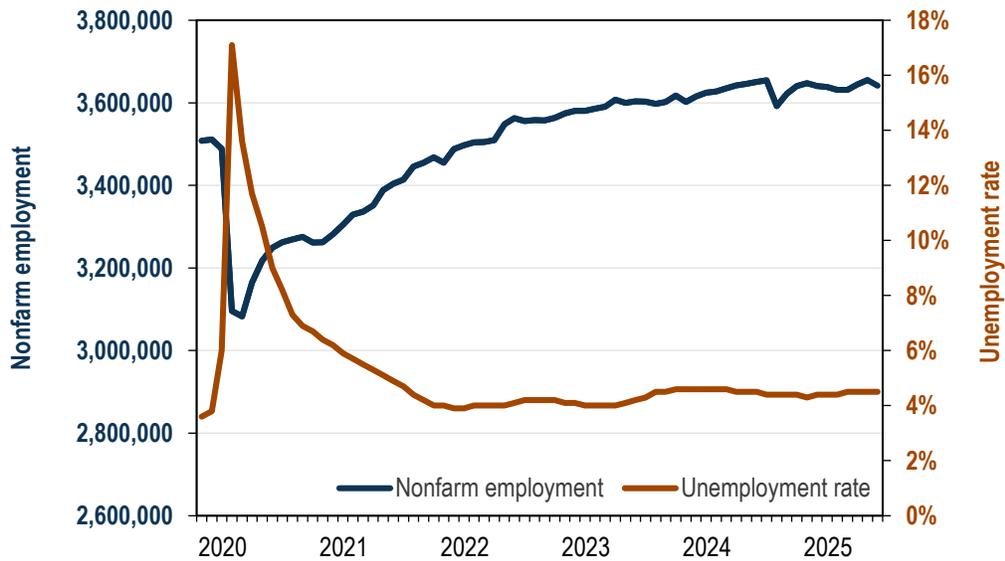
February 2020 (start of 2020 employment recession in Washington)

- Nonfarm employment: 3,511,100
- Unemployment rate: 3.8%

August 2025 (preliminary)

- Nonfarm employment: 3,641,200
- Unemployment rate: 4.5%

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



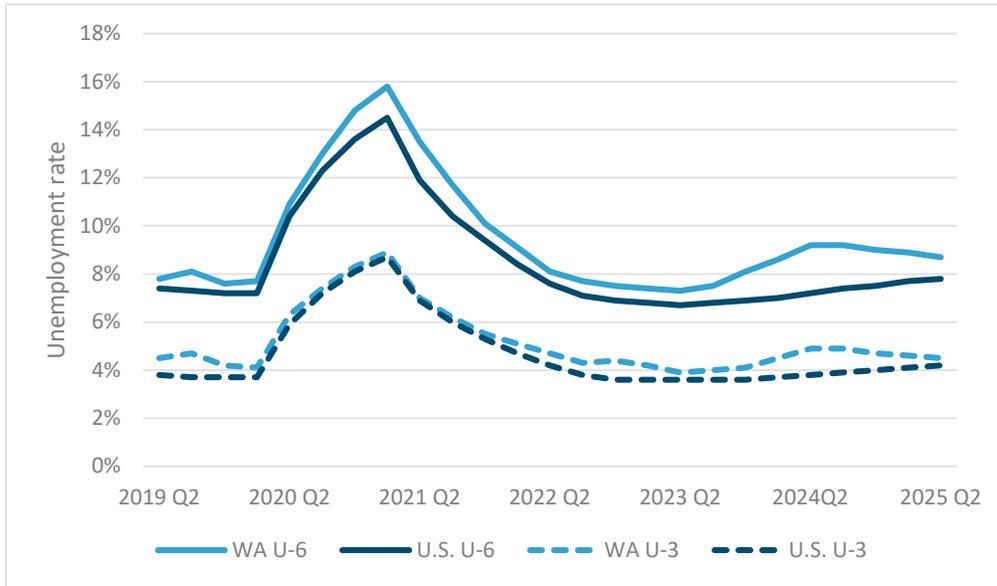
Source: Employment Security Department/LMIR; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

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 second quarter of 2025. 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 2025 for Washington state was 8.7%. This is down from the previous four quarter moving average (8.9% through first quarter of 2025). The U.S. U-6 average for the four-quarter period through the second quarter of 2025 was 7.8%. 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%	8.7%		
2025	U.S.	7.7%	7.8%		
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 13,600 jobs over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- July 2025 employment estimates were revised up by 200 jobs, adjusting the initial reported job gains from 10,800 to 11,000.
- Overall, employment increased in three major industry sectors and decreased in eight. Two sectors remained unchanged over the month.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have decreased by 15,100 and government employment increased by 1,500 in August.
- The one-month sector level gains in private industry were observed in education and health services (up 1,100) and other services (up 600). The largest employment gains in education and health services were in ambulatory (outpatient) health care services.
- The deepest one-month private sector losses were observed in manufacturing (down 3,500), professional and business services (down 3,400), and leisure and hospitality (down 3,400). The drop in manufacturing was concentrated in nondurable goods – particularly within food manufacturing. Professional and business services losses were most pronounced in administrative and support services – the set of industries that includes employment services. Leisure and hospitality losses were evident in accommodation and food services.

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

Industry	One-month change
Total nonfarm	-13,600
Government	1,500
Education and Health Services	1,100
Other Services	600
Mining and logging	0
Construction	0
Financial Activities	-300
Wholesale Trade	-1,200
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-1,400
Retail Trade	-1,400
Information	-2,200
Leisure and hospitality	-3,400
Professional and Business Services	-3,400
Manufacturing	-3,500

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 shed an estimated 5,400 jobs from August 2024 to August 2025. This is a 0.1% decrease in employment over the year.

- Over the past 12 months, employment in four major industry sectors increased and nine decreased.
- Private sector employment increased 0.1%, up an estimated 1,400 jobs.
- Public sector employment decreased 1.1%, down an estimated 6,800 jobs. One-year losses primarily showed up in state government employment and was pronounced in state educational institutions.
- The largest private sector gains were attributable to hiring in education and health services (up 19,300), transportation, warehousing and utilities (up 5,200) and leisure and hospitality (up 4,700); the deepest one-year losses were observed in professional and business services (down 18,400) and retail trade (down 3,700).
- Education and health services employment gains were primarily attributable to hiring in health and social services; within that, social assistance added the most jobs (5,400).

- Losses in professional and business services were concentrated in the collection of industries that make up administrative and support services (down 12,300), with the largest drop evident in employment services.

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

Industry	One year change
Total nonfarm	-5,400
Education and health services	19,300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5,200
Leisure and hospitality	4,700
Other services	3,600
Wholesale trade	-200
Mining and logging	-400
Construction	-500
Information	-1,800
Manufacturing	-3,200
Financial activities	-3,200
Retail trade	-3,700
Government	-6,800
Professional and business services	-18,400

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:** expected monthly change in employment based on history.
- **Estimated change:** employment change over the month based on BLS survey data.
- **Seasonally adjusted change:** change in employment accounting for normal seasonal patterns.

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

Industry	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	-10,800	-24,400	-13,600
Government	-15,500	-14,000	1,500
Education and Health Services	300	1,400	1,100
Other Services	0	600	600
Mining and logging	-100	-100	0
Construction	1,500	1,500	0
Financial Activities	0	-300	-300
Wholesale Trade	-300	-1,500	-1,200
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	400	-1,000	-1,400
Retail Trade	500	-900	-1,400
Information	400	-1,800	-2,200
Leisure and hospitality	1,500	-1,900	-3,400
Professional and Business Services	1,000	-2,400	-3,400
Manufacturing	-500	-4,000	-3,500

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. July 19, 2025. The 2025 publication schedule can be found on [Employment Security's website](#)

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