

# Washington State Employment Security Department

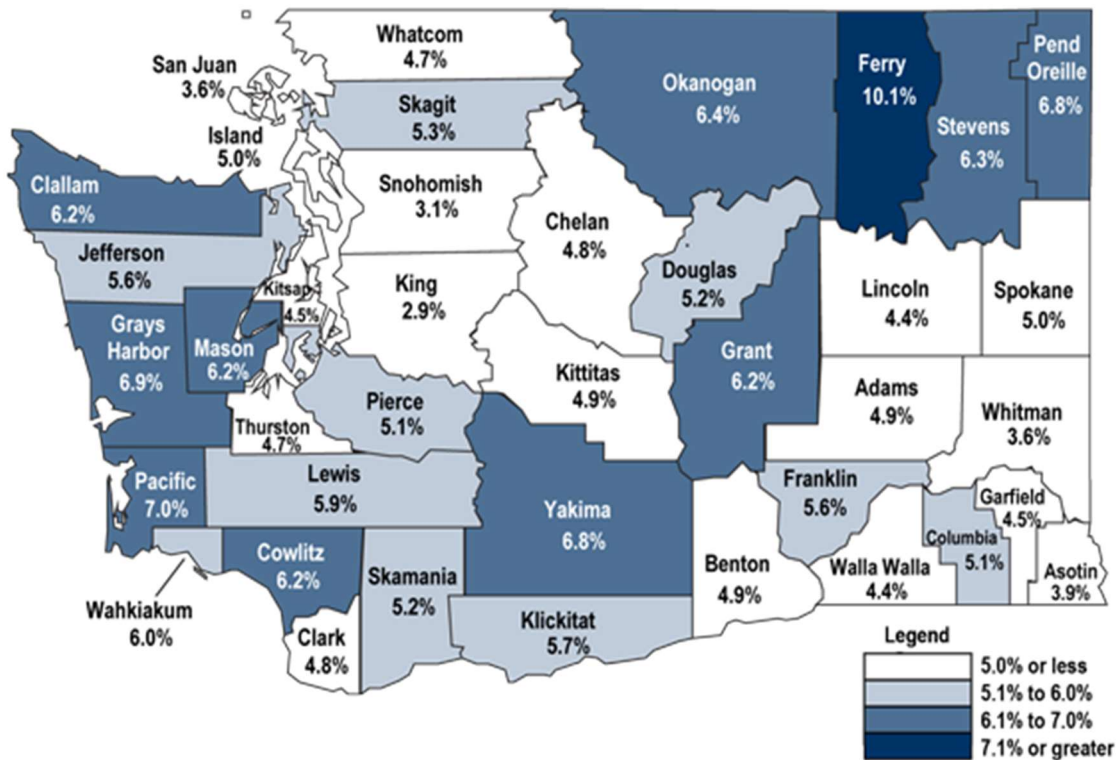
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## Labor Area Summary

Kennewick-Pasco-Richland, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

May 2019

County unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted



### Labor Force Data (Not seasonally adjusted) by place of residence

	Preliminary	Revised		Changes		% Changes	
	May-19	Apr-19	May-18	OTM	OTY	%OTM	%OTY
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	5.1%	5.7%	4.9%			-0.6%	0.2%
<b>Labor Force</b>	145,992	144,373	141,154	1,619	4,838	1.1%	3.4%
<b>Employment</b>	138,575	136,127	134,293	2,448	4,282	1.8%	3.2%
<b>Unemployment</b>	7,417	8,246	6,861	-829	556	-10.1%	8.1%

Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Kennewick-Pasco-Richland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was at 5.1 percent in May 2019, which is 0.6 percent lower than in April 2019, while recording 0.2 percent increase from May 2019, according to the estimates by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The Benton County unemployment rate was 4.9 percent, down from 5.4 in April 2019, while Franklin County unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in May 2019, down from 6.5 in April 2019. The state’s not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was at 4.2 percent in May 2019.

The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was at 4.7 percent and nationwide unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in May 2019.

Over-the-month, the labor force expended in May 2019 for Kennewick-Pasco-Richland Metro by 1.1 percent or 1,619 people. Also, over-the-year resident labor force recorded growth of 4,838 people, which is a 3.4 percent increase.

The labor force is the total number of people, both employed and unemployed, over the age of 16. Labor force continues to expand, which is along with the seasonal down turn in certain industries contributing to the higher unemployment rate. However, labor force expansion is good sign of improving labor force confidence in the local job market.

Kennewick-Pasco-Richland MSA’s unemployed workforce was at 7,417 in May 2019, with a decrease from April by 829 people or 10.1 percent. The number of unemployed and looking for work increased over-the-year by 8.1 percent. The Employment Security Department paid unemployment insurance benefits to 2,160 unemployed residents, in amount of \$2.6 million, in May 2019.

**Non-Farm Employment** (Not seasonally adjusted) by place of work)

	Preliminary	Revised		Changes		% Changes	
	May-19	Apr-19	May-18	OTM	OTY	%OTM	%OTY
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	120,100	118,200	117,100	1,900	3,000	1.6%	2.6%
<b>Total Private</b>	100,100	98,700	96,400	1,400	3,700	1.4%	3.8%
<b>Good Producing</b>	19,400	18,700	17,600	700	1,800	3.7%	10.2%
<b>Service Providing</b>	100,700	99,500	99,500	1,200	1,200	1.2%	1.2%
<b>Total Government</b>	20,000	19,500	20,700	700	-700	2.6%	-3.4%

Source: Employment Security Department/WITS

Washington added an estimated 82,300 new jobs from May 2018 through May 2019, not seasonally adjusted. The private sector grew by 3.0 percent, up an estimated 83,700 jobs, while public sector employment decreased by -0.2 percent with a net loss of 1,400 jobs.

Kennewick-Pasco-Richland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), not seasonally adjusted, estimates show an increase of 3,000 jobs in nonfarm employment for over-the-year. This is an increase of 2.6 percent in jobs over-the-year for the metro area. The areas private sector employers added 3,700 while total government employment decreased by 700 jobs over-the-year.

Nonfarm employment is made up of industries that make up super sectors of goods-producing (increased by 700 new jobs over-the-year or 4.2 percent) and service-providing (increased by 3,200 new jobs or 3.3 percent).

In the goods-producing super sectors, construction and manufacturing make up almost even share of total super sector employment. The Kennewick-Pasco-Richland MSA's construction industry has registered year-over-year job growth of 11.7 percent or 1,100 jobs. This industry provided 10,500 jobs across Benton-Franklin counties in May 2019 versus 9,400 in May 2018.

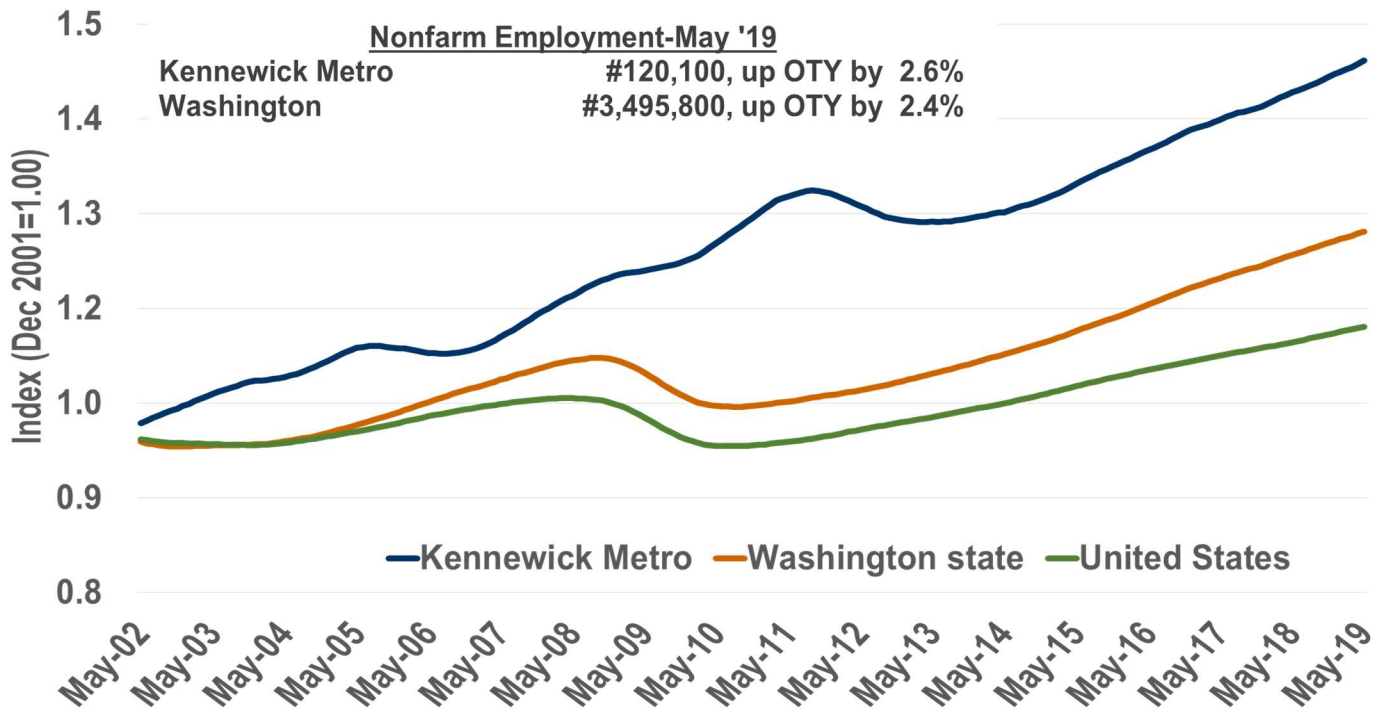
Manufacturing industry has increased over-the-year by 8.7 percent or 700 jobs. Manufacturing industry, which is primarily food manufacturing has increased over-the-month by 300 new jobs as the seasonal work. Different

industry and economic factors are playing roll in employment changes as this industry progresses in production efficiency, innovation and automation.

In the service providing super sector, industries added 1,200 new jobs over-the-year. The private segment that has gained the most of jobs over-the-year was educational and healthcare services. Current estimates show that this industry cluster added 1,400 or 8.4 percent more jobs over-the-year, bringing a total employment to 18,100 in May 2019.

Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities super cluster expanded by 700 jobs or 3.5 percent over-the-year. The retail trade industry contributed to the cluster increase with 1,000 new jobs over-the-year or 7.5 percent, while transportation, warehousing and utilities decreased by 300 jobs over-the-year. Continuing its expansion, leisure and hospitality added 600 jobs or 5.0 percent over-the-year, bringing a total employment in this cluster to 12,500 in May 2019. Food services were major contributor to growth in this cluster with 400 new jobs or 4.5 percent. Financial activities recorded a loss of 100 jobs over-the-year or 2.4 percent. Professional and business services decreased by 900 jobs or 4.2 percent, with 800 of those jobs being lost in administrative and waste remediation services.

Total government employment decreased by 700 jobs over-the-year, with total employment being at 20,000 in May 2019. The state and local government contracted over-the-year, while federal government expanded.



Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics/CES

**Private nonfarm hours and earnings** (Not seasonally adjusted) by place of work)

Kennewick-Richland MSA	Preliminary	Revised		% Changes	
	May-19	Apr-19	May-18	%OTM	%OTY
Average weekly hours	38.1	37.7	36.1	1.1%	5.5%
Average weekly earnings	\$1,075.56	\$1,086.51	\$1,050.87	-1.0%	2.3%
Average hourly earnings	\$28.94	\$28.33	\$29.26	-2.0%	-3.0%

Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; Bureau of Labor Statistics/CES

Average hours and earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls are available in three series-average weekly earnings, average hourly earnings, and average number of weekly hours- for Total Private Employees in Washington state and its Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Kennewick-Pasco-Richland MSA average hourly earnings in May 2019, were at \$28.23, which is the fourth highest in the state among 11 metropolitan areas. The highest average hourly earnings were in Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metro area at \$40.10. The Kennewick-Pasco-Richland area has gained in average weekly earnings but lost in average hourly earnings over-the-year.

### Private nonfarm hours and earnings (Not seasonally adjusted) by place of work

State and area	Average weekly hours			Average hourly earnings			Average weekly earnings		
	May 2018	Apr. 2019	May 2019 <sup>(p)</sup>	May 2018	Apr. 2019	May 2019 <sup>(p)</sup>	May 2018	Apr. 2019	May 2019 <sup>(p)</sup>
Washington	34.7	34.1	34.4	\$32.23	\$34.03	\$33.81	\$1,118.38	\$1,160.42	\$1,163.06
Bellingham	34.5	34.3	34.0	\$27.79	\$27.87	\$28.19	\$958.76	\$955.94	\$958.46
Bremerton-Silverdale	32.3	31.4	31.5	\$25.50	\$25.13	\$25.15	\$823.65	\$789.08	\$792.23
Kennewick-Richland	36.1	37.7	38.1	\$29.11	\$28.82	\$28.23	\$1,050.87	\$1,086.51	\$1,075.56
Longview	32.7	34.8	33.5	\$26.20	\$31.28	\$31.82	\$856.74	\$1,088.54	\$1,065.97
Mount Vernon-Anacortes	34.8	33.7	34.1	\$27.62	\$28.05	\$28.34	\$961.18	\$945.29	\$966.39
Olympia-Tumwater	33.1	33.9	33.6	\$26.22	\$27.31	\$27.63	\$867.88	\$925.81	\$928.37
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue	35.4	34.7	35.0	\$37.38	\$40.52	\$40.10	\$1,323.25	\$1,406.04	\$1,403.50
Spokane-Spokane Valley	35.2	34.7	34.8	\$27.30	\$26.17	\$26.10	\$960.96	\$908.10	\$908.28
Walla Walla	33.2	32.1	32.4	\$24.34	\$29.79	\$28.76	\$808.09	\$956.26	\$931.82
Wenatchee	32.4	29.9	30.5	\$19.59	\$23.46	\$22.58	\$634.72	\$701.45	\$688.69
Yakima	35.1	35.2	35.2	\$22.28	\$23.43	\$23.37	\$782.03	\$824.74	\$822.62

Source: Employment Security Department/WITS; Bureau of Labor Statistics/CES

For more data and information please visit [Labor Area Summaries](#) page on our [ESD.WA.GOV/labormarketinfo](http://ESD.WA.GOV/labormarketinfo)

Please keep in mind: Unemployment rates at the county level are not seasonally adjusted because the sample size is too small to accommodate that additional analysis. Therefore, they should not be compared directly to the seasonally adjusted statewide rate that we announced last week in Monthly employment report.