

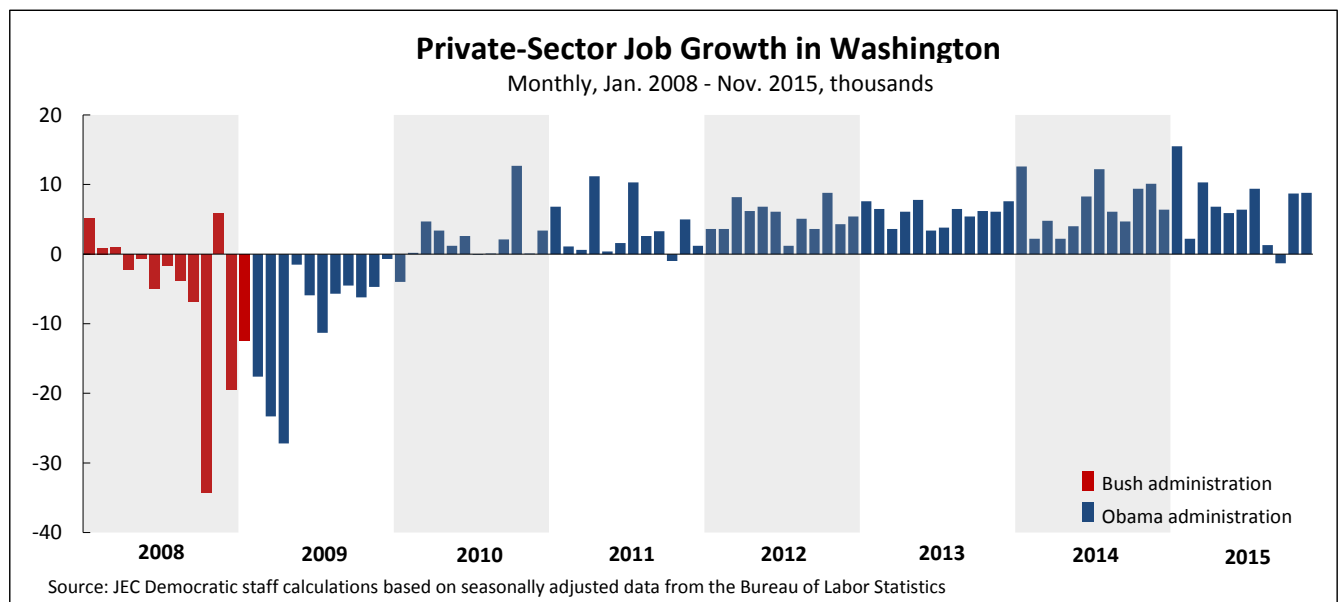


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: WASHINGTON

***Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through November 2015**
Last updated on December 18th; Data update next on January 26th*

JOBS

- In November, private-sector employment in Washington grew by 8,800 jobs. Over the past year, Washington businesses have added 80,400 jobs. This compares with an increase of 84,200 jobs over the 12 months through November 2014.
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, Washington businesses have added 363,800 jobs (an increase of 16.0 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 12.8 percent over this time.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services at 23.3 percent (74,700 jobs), construction at 22.8 percent (32,800 jobs) and leisure and hospitality at 18.0 percent (47,700 jobs).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Washington was 5.3 percent in November 2015, up 0.1 percentage point from October. The rate was 0.3 percentage point above the national rate of 5.0 percent.
- Unemployment is down 1.0 percentage point from one year earlier and is 5.1 percentage points below its recent peak of 10.4 percent in January 2010.
- There were 185,600 Washington residents unemployed in November 2015.

EARNINGS

- In November 2015, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in Washington were \$30.48. The average workweek was 35.2 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$1,072.90.
- Adjusting for inflation, state average hourly earnings have risen by 4.2 percent over the past year. Nationally, real average hourly earnings have increased by 1.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Washington	United States
Private-Sector Jobs Added	Past 12 Months	80,400	2.5 million
	Since Feb. 2010	363,800	13.7 million
Unemployment Rate	November 2015	5.3%	5.0%
	November 2014	6.3%	5.8%
	Recession-Era Peak	10.4%	10.0%
Median Household Income (2014 \$)	2014	\$59,100	\$53,700
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$66,300	\$57,400
Poverty Rate	2014	12.0%	14.8%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	10.2%	12.5%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	6.4%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	11.4%	7.2%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2014	9.2%	11.7%
	2013	14.0%	14.5%

STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in Washington grew by 3.1 percent in 2014, above the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.*
- Since 2009, annual Washington GDP growth has averaged 1.9 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.8 percent.

HOUSING

- Home prices in Washington increased by 9.4 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. They are up 33.9 percent since their recent low in the fourth quarter of 2011.
- In October 2015, builders in Washington broke ground on 35,710 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 39,686 units. That marks an increase of 26.4 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

EXPORTS

- In Washington, goods exports totaled \$7.7 billion in October and \$86.0 billion over the past year, up 4.8 percent from the 12 months ending in October 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 60.0 percent from their level in 2009 (inflation-adjusted).

* Note: Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state differs slightly from headline national GDP figures

** A list of sources used to compile the Washington economic snapshot is available at: <http://bit.ly/JEC-state-by-state-sources>

*** For additional Washington-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Washington office: <http://www.workforceexplorer.com/>