

## Monthly Update—April 2016

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Next data release: May numbers will be published on June 21.

### Clark County

Employment estimates for 2015 and the first quarter of 2016 have been revised through the quarterly benchmarking process. December 2015 employment was revised downward by 400 jobs.

Clark County nonfarm employment rose by 300 jobs on a seasonally-adjusted basis in April, while unemployment was little changed at 6.4 percent. Job growth stood at 4.1 percent over the past twelve months.

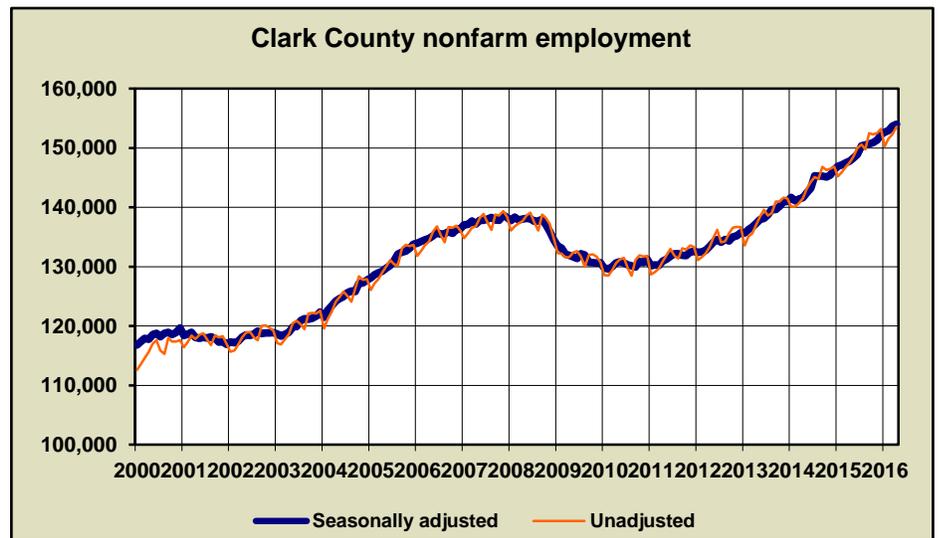
Unadjusted nonfarm employment rose by 1,300 jobs over the month. Net

hiring occurred across a broad range of industries, including construction (+200), retail trade (+200), professional & business services (+200), education & health services (+200) and leisure & hospitality (+300).

Over the year:

- Job growth over the year was 6,000 jobs, or 4.1 percent. Comparison rates: U. S., 1.9 percent; state of Washington, 3.3 percent; state of Oregon, 3.6 percent; Portland Metro, 3.2 percent.
- Growth continued to be diversified, with all major sectors adding jobs over the year: information services (+300, 10.0 percent), construction & mining (+900, 8.8 percent), leisure & hospitality (+1,200, 8.6 percent), financial services (+500, 6.5 percent), professional & business services (+700 jobs, 3.9 percent), trade, transportation & utilities (+1,000 jobs, 3.7 percent), government (+600, 2.4 percent), and education & health services (+500 jobs, 2.0 percent) and manufacturing employment (+200 jobs, 1.6 percent).

The unemployment rate was estimated at 6.4 percent, a tenth of a point lower than April 2015. Both initial and continued unemployment claims remained at historically low levels.



## Cowlitz County

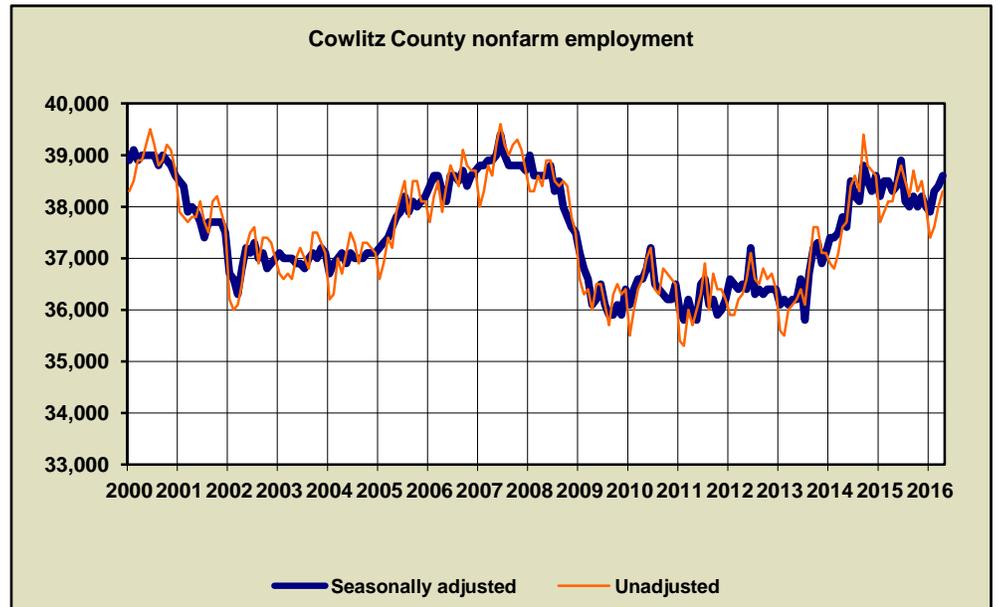
Quarterly benchmarking led to a downward revision in Cowlitz employment by 1,200 jobs.

According to the latest estimates prepared by the federal government, Cowlitz County nonfarm employment increased by 300 jobs in April. Only 100 of these were due to normal seasonal hiring patterns. Total employment was estimated at 38,300 jobs.

April hiring was concentrated in trade, transportation & utilities (+200), education & health services (+100), and leisure & hospitality (+100).

Over the past twelve months, nonfarm employment has increased by 200 jobs (0.5 percent). Changes at the industry level included a loss of 200 jobs in construction and 200 jobs in nondurable goods manufacturing. The service sector had most of the gains, including +100 in trade, transportation & utilities, +200 in education & health services and +200 in other services (not shown in the published table). These estimates are all preliminary and subject to revision.

The county unemployment rate was 7.5 percent, the same as last April. Around 3,400 county residents were jobless and seeking work, a bit more than a year earlier. The number of initial and continued unemployment claims remained at very low levels.



## Wahkiakum County

The story remained the same in Wahkiakum County: nonfarm employment continued to hover around 730 jobs, as it has for three years. April hit that average on the nose, matching last April.

Unemployment was estimated at 8.3 percent, seven tenths of a point lower than the 9.0 percent from last April. About 110 county residents were jobless and actively seeking work, roughly the same as a year ago. Both initial and continued unemployment claims remained at low levels.

