

Washington State Business Employment Dynamics First Quarter 2015



Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
Business Employment Dynamics
January to March 2015

Figure 1

Net change in jobs, seasonally adjusted, U.S. and Washington state, first quarter 1997 through first quarter 2015

Figure 2

Gross job gains and losses, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, first quarter 1997 through first quarter 2015

Figure 3

Net change in job gains and losses by industry, seasonally adjusted, United States, first quarter 2015

Figure 4

Net change in job gains and losses by industry, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, first quarter 2015

Figure 5

Net change in jobs by industry sector, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, first quarter 2014 and first quarter 2015

In first quarter 2015, seasonally adjusted job gains in Washington's private sector totaled 172,884 while job losses from businesses closing or contracting totaled 145,606. The result of these changes was a net gain of 27,278 jobs during the first quarter. These numbers show the key changes in private-sector employment also called Business Employment Dynamics (BED).

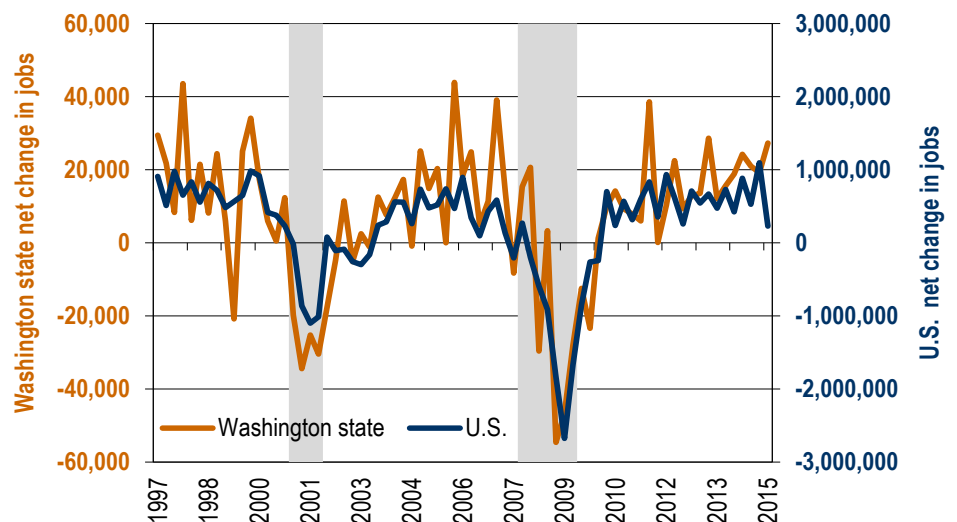
The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Business Employment Dynamics data series highlights the forces driving labor market dynamics at the state and national levels. Job gains and losses at private business establishments are tracked showing employment changes due to establishment openings or closings versus adding or shedding jobs at existing firms. The most recent BED data cover events through first quarter 2015.

Both state and nation showed increased growth

Nationally, job gains exceeded job losses in 31 states for a net private-sector employment gain of 423,000. This marks the 21st consecutive quarter of employment growth nationally and 20th in Washington state since the recovery in employment began in the aftermath of the nation's last recession. Washington state showed a net employment growth of 27,278 in first quarter 2015.

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 recent recession beginning in fourth quarter 2007.

Figure 1. Net change in jobs, seasonally adjusted United States and Washington state, first quarter 1997 through first quarter 2015
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



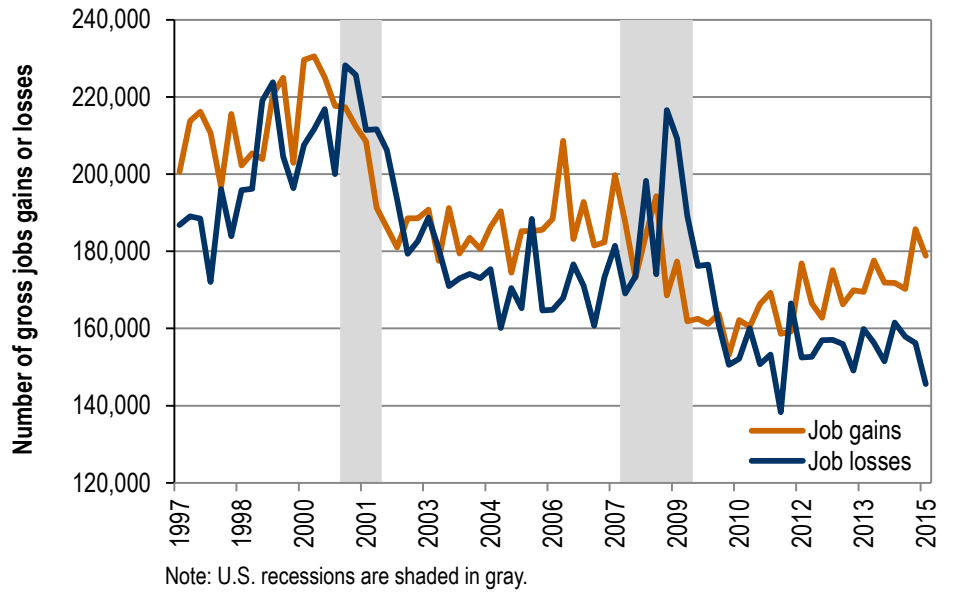
Note: U.S. recessions are shaded in gray.

Job growth in Washington increased but decreased in the U.S. in first quarter 2015.

At the national level, gross job gains were 6.9 million at opening and expanding establishments. Closing and contracting establishments lost 6.7 million jobs. Gross job losses were 5.7 percent of private-sector employment. Opening establishments provided 1.3 million jobs. Washington state gained 172,884 jobs from new and expanding private businesses and lost 145,606 jobs from businesses closing or contracting for a net gain of 27,278 jobs in first quarter 2015. This compares to a net gain of 19,140 jobs in fourth quarter 2014 and a net gain of 18,782 jobs in first quarter 2014.

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 1997 through first quarter 2015
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series

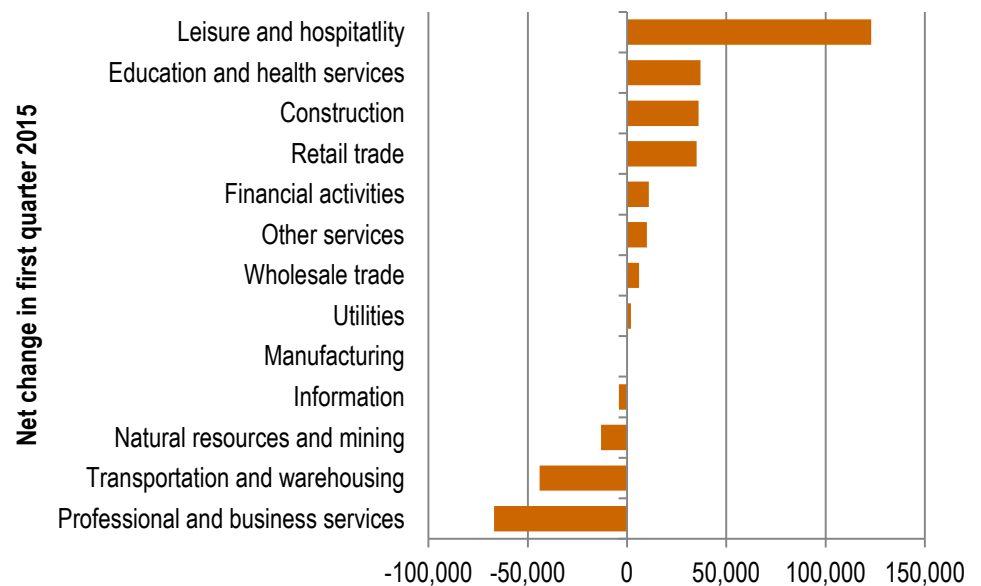


Gross job gains are now growing as job losses decline.

Nationally, industry gains and losses were mixed

The data in Figure 3 illustrate the net change in industry employment for the U.S. Total private-sector employment grew by 226,000 in fourth quarter 2014. Service-providing industries had a seasonally adjusted net gain of 203,000 jobs. The goods-producing industries posted a net gain of 23,000 jobs. In first quarter 2015, eight industry sectors reported job gains compared to twelve in fourth quarter 2014.

Figure 3. Net change in job gains and losses by industry, seasonally adjusted United States, first quarter 2015
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series

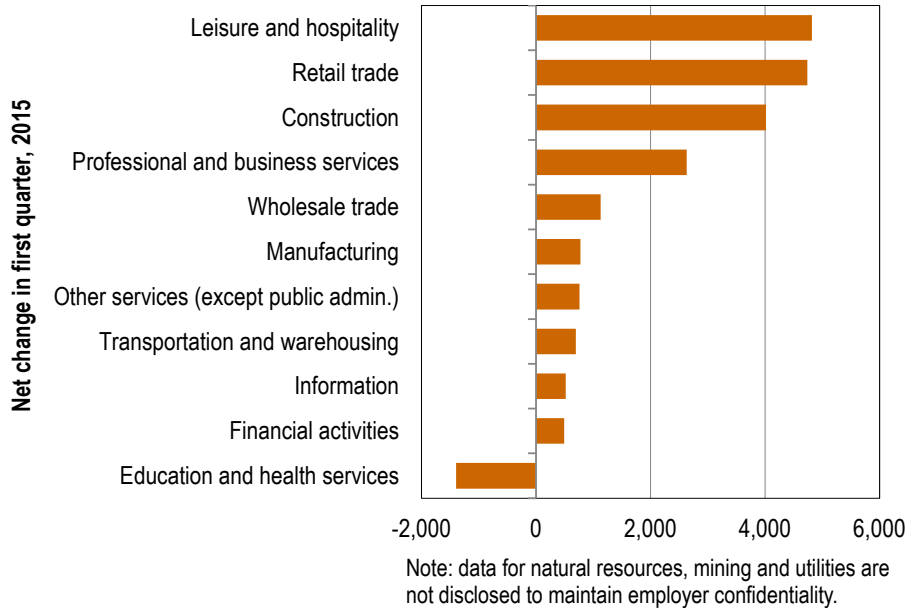


Leisure and hospitality reported the most gains while professional and business services reported the most losses in first quarter 2015.

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 27,278. Ten industry sectors reported net job gains in first quarter 2015. Education and health services was the only industry to report job losses. The top three industry sectors in job gains were leisure and hospitality, with a gain of 4,819, followed by retail trade (4,741) and construction (4,018).

Figure 4. Net change in job gains and losses by industry, seasonally adjusted Washington state, first quarter 2015
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series

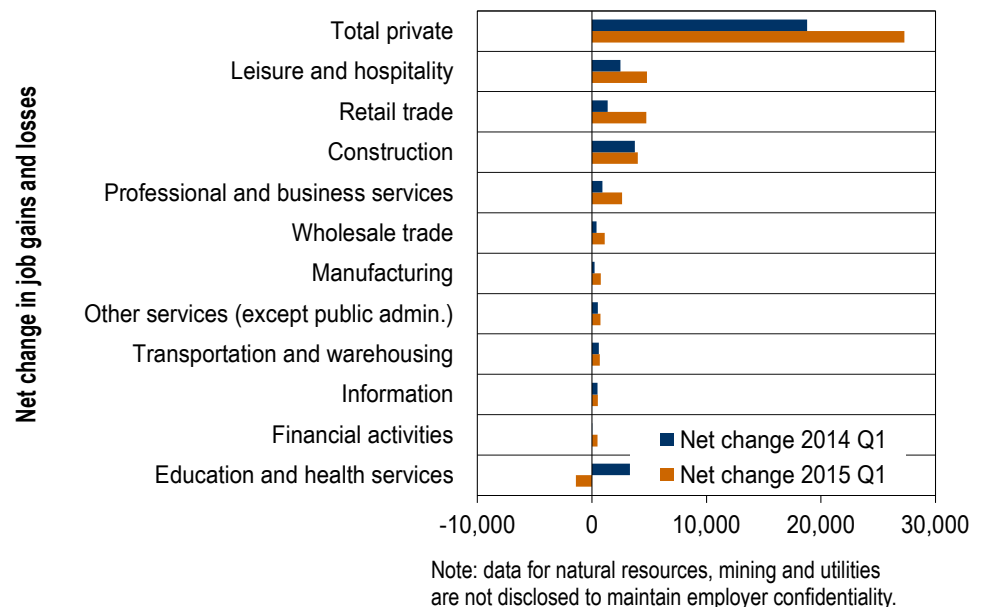


In Washington state leisure and hospitality, retail trade and construction had the most job gains in first quarter 2015.

Comparing first quarter 2015 to first quarter 2014 in Washington state (Figure 5):

- All of the industry sectors other than education and health services had higher net gains in first quarter 2015 compared to first quarter 2014.
- Retail trade had the largest net gain from year to year with a gain of 4,741 jobs in first quarter 2015 compared with a gain of 1,378 in first quarter 2014.

Figure 5. Net change in jobs by industry sector, seasonally adjusted Washington state, first quarter 2014 and first quarter 2015
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



Washington had more job gains in every industry in first quarter 2015 than a year ago, except for education and health services.

More information on the Business Employment Dynamics data series is available at www.bls.gov/bdm/.

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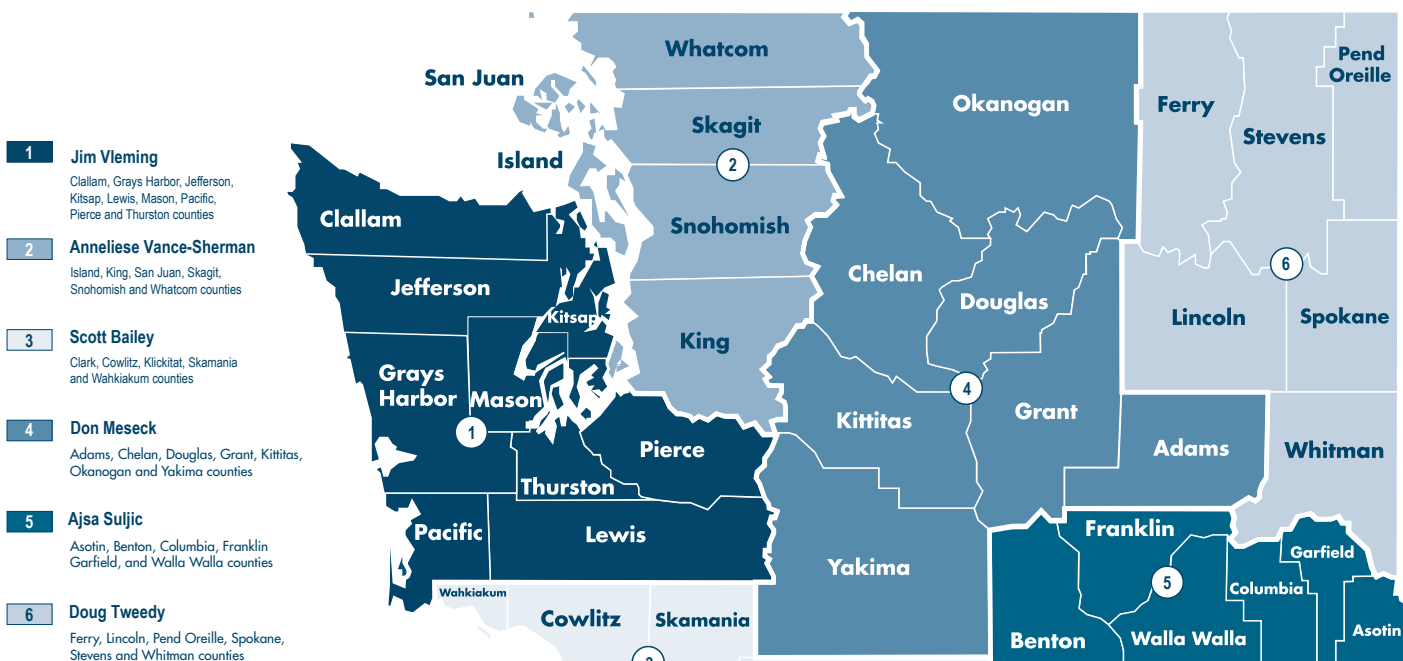
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