In second quarter 2018, April to June, seasonally adjusted job gains in Washington's private sector totaled 204,773 while job losses from businesses closing or contracting totaled 176,916. The result of these changes was a net gain of 27,857 jobs during the second 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 second quarter 2018.
Job growth declines for the state and nation

Nationally, job gains exceeded job losses in 39 states for a net private sector employment gain of 437,000. The jobs gained during the first quarter were less than the 740,000 jobs gained during the previous quarter. Washington state added 27,857 jobs. Net employment change in Washington has been positive now for eleven consecutive quarters.

*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 most recent recession beginning in fourth quarter 2007. Job growth began to pick up in 2010 for the state and nation, although Washington experienced negative net job gains in third quarter 2015 and the U.S. showed net jobs lost in third quarter 2017.

**Figure 1.** Net change in jobs, seasonally adjusted
United States and Washington state, second quarter 2000 through second quarter 2018

At the national level, gross job gains were 7.6 million at opening and expanding establishments. Closing and contracting establishments lost 7.2 million jobs. Gross job losses were 5.8 percent of private sector employment. Opening establishments provided 1.4 million jobs. Washington state gained 204,773 jobs from new and expanding private businesses and lost 176,916 jobs from businesses closing or contracting for a net gain of 27,857 jobs in second quarter 2018. This compares to a net gain of 40,586 jobs in first quarter 2018 and a net gain of 23,628 jobs in second quarter 2017.

More labor market information is available at: [www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo](http://www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo)
For more on the Business Employment Dynamics data series, visit: [www.bls.gov/bdm](http://www.bls.gov/bdm)
**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, second quarter 2000 through second quarter 2018  

![Gross job gains and losses, seasonally adjusted](image)

Note: Shaded areas are U.S. recession periods

**Nationwide, more industries gained jobs while fewer lost**

The data in Figure 3 illustrate the net change in industry employment for the U.S. Total private sector employment rose by 437,000 in second quarter 2018. Service-providing industries had a seasonally adjusted net gain of 295,000 jobs. The goods-producing industries posted a net gain of 142,000 jobs. In second quarter 2018, nine industry sectors reported job gains, compared with ten during second quarter 2017.

**Figure 3.** Net change in job gains and losses by industry sector, seasonally adjusted  
United States, second quarter 2018  

![Net change in job gains and losses by industry sector](image)

Professional and business services reported the most net gains while retail trade reported the most net losses in second quarter 2018.
**Washington state industry employment**

*Figure 4* shows net employment changes in Washington state industry sectors. Total private sector employment had a net increase of 27,857. Twelve industry sectors reported net job gains in second quarter 2018, while no industry sectors showing job losses were evident. The top three industry sectors showing job gains were professional and business services with a gain of 4,481, followed by information (4,346) and leisure and hospitality (3,953).

*Figure 4. Net change in job gains and losses by industry sector, seasonally adjusted Washington state, second quarter 2018*


Comparing second quarter 2018 to second quarter 2017 in Washington state (*Figure 5*):

- Eight of 11 private industry sectors had higher net gains in second quarter 2018 compared to second quarter 2017.

- Information had the largest net gain from year to year with a gain of 4,346 jobs in second quarter 2018 compared with a gain of 1,528 in second quarter 2017.

- Retail trade had the largest net loss from year to year with a gain of 1,295 jobs in second quarter 2018 compared with a gain of 6,174 in second quarter 2017.

*Figure 5. Net change in jobs by industry sector, seasonally adjusted Washington state, second quarter 2017 and 2018*


Washington had more jobs gained in eight industries and fewer jobs gained in three industries in second quarter 2018 than a year ago.

**Note:** data for natural resources, mining and utilities are not disclosed in order to maintain employer confidentiality.
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