

## Monthly Update—May 2017

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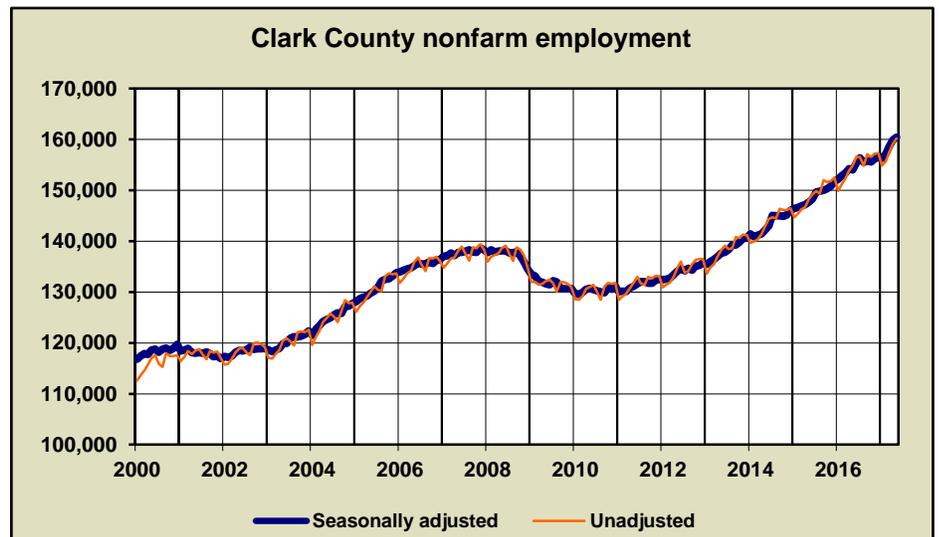
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Next data release: June numbers will be published on July 25.

### Clark County

Clark County nonfarm employment expanded by 500 jobs in May on a seasonally-adjusted basis. That follows an upwardly-adjusted 1,300 gain in April basis. Unemployment stayed at 5.0 percent, matching the lowest rate since September 2000.

Unadjusted nonfarm employment rose by 1,000 jobs over the month to a total of 160,200. Construction and business services both added 300 jobs, as did leisure & hospitality, while leisure & hospitality and government were both up by 400 jobs. Professional services declined by 200 jobs, typical following the tax season peak in April.



Over the year:

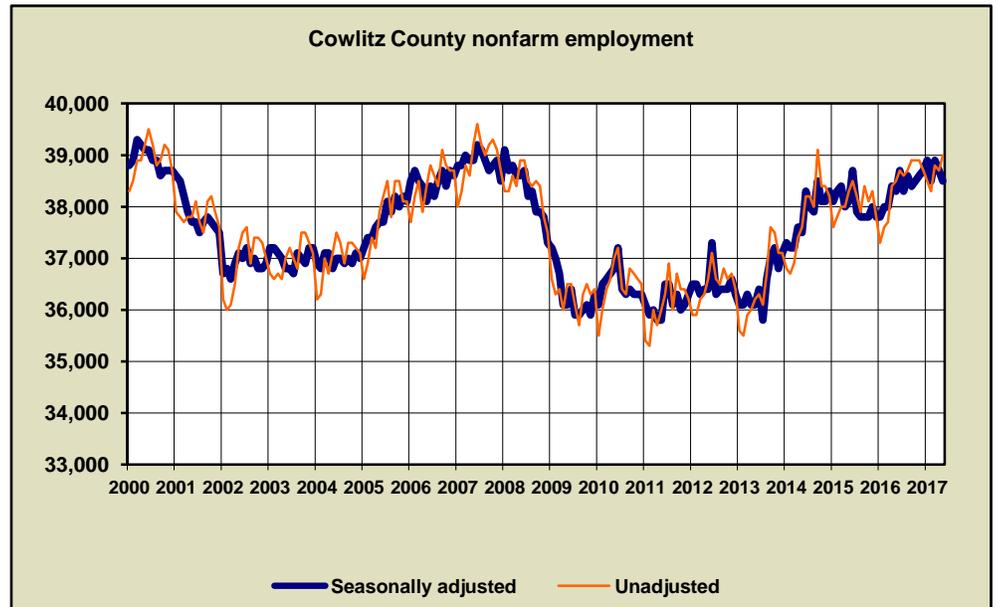
- Job growth over the year continued to be quite robust at 5,400 jobs, or 3.5 percent. Comparison rates: U. S., 1.6 percent; state of Washington, 2.5 percent; state of Oregon, 2.5 percent; Portland Metro, 1.9 percent.
- Fast-growing sectors: construction & mining (+900 jobs over the past twelve months, a 7.8 percent growth rate), leisure & hospitality (+1,300 jobs, 8.8 percent) and government (+1,100 jobs, 4.3 percent). “Other local government”—which includes cities, counties, ports, fire districts, and tribal governments, has added 1,000 jobs over the year. Solid growth: professional & business services (+700 jobs, 3.7 percent), financial services (+300, 3.6 percent) and education & health services (+800 jobs, 3.2 percent). Other sectors: trade, transportation & utilities (+300 jobs, 1.1 percent), other services (+100 jobs, 1.7 percent), information services (no change) and manufacturing (-100 jobs, -0.7 percent).

Clark’s unemployment rate was estimated at 5.0 percent, more than a point lower than the 6.2 percent from last May. This matched the lowest monthly unemployment rate since the 4.7 percent from September 2000 and the lowest May since May 2000. Over the year the estimated number of employed was up 2.3 percent while the number of unemployed dropped sharply.

## Cowlitz County

According to the latest estimates prepared by the federal government, Cowlitz County nonfarm employment increased by 300 jobs in May. That translated into a loss of 200 jobs after adjusting for seasonal factors. Total employment was estimated at 39,000 jobs.

Over the month, trade, transportation & utilities rose by 200 jobs, manufacturing added 100, and leisure & hospitality was up 100 as well.



Over the past twelve months, nonfarm employment has increased by an estimated 500 jobs (1.3 percent). Private sector employment was up 300 jobs. Construction rose by 200 jobs and trade, transportation & utilities by 400 jobs. Both manufacturing and leisure & hospitality declined by 100 jobs over the year.

The county unemployment rate was 5.9 percent, a point and a half below last May's 7.4 percent. About 2,600 county residents were jobless and seeking work, almost 700 fewer than a year earlier.

## Wahkiakum County

Wahkiakum County nonfarm employment totaled 690 jobs in May, 10 jobs above the April total, but 30 below the year-ago mark.

The unemployment rate was estimated at 6.9 percent, almost two points lower than the 8.7 percent from May 2016. There were about 90 unemployed county residents.

