

## Monthly Update—November 2015

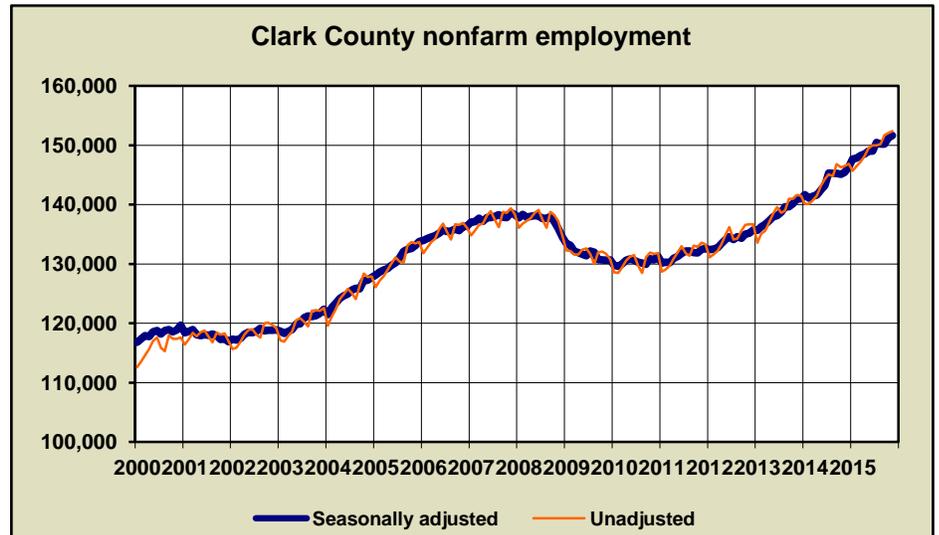
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### Clark County

Clark County employers added 300 jobs on a seasonally-adjusted basis in November. Job growth remained solid at 4.0 percent over the past twelve months.

Unadjusted employment rose by 300 jobs. Retail trade rose by 500 jobs, a normal run-up to the holiday shopping season. Education services added 400 jobs (300 in public schools, 100 in private) in the final hiring adjustment for the school year. There were normal seasonal layoffs in construction (-200), food processing (-400) and business services (-200).



Over the year:

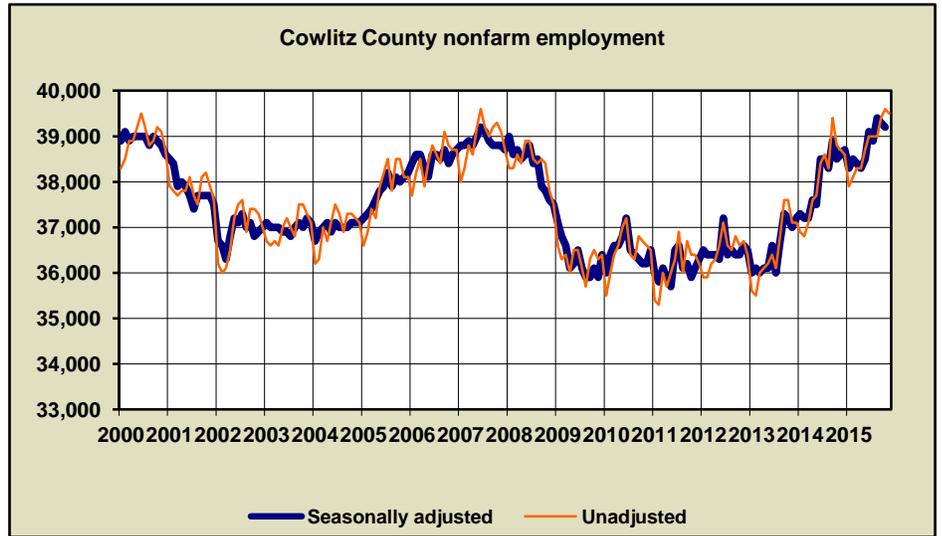
- Job growth over the year was 5,900 jobs, or 4.0 percent. Comparison rates: U. S., 1.9 percent; state of Washington, 2.5 percent; state of Oregon, 3.6 percent; Portland Metro, 3.3 percent.
- The big industries for job creation were identical to last month: trade, transportation & utilities (+1,400 jobs, 5.1 percent), construction & mining (+1,000, 9.9 percent), leisure & hospitality (+900, 6.9 percent), financial services (+700, 9.5 percent), professional & business services (+700 jobs, 4.0 percent), and education & health services (+700 jobs, 2.8 percent). Diversified job creation continued to be the norm.
- Manufacturing employment remained at -100 jobs over the year (-0.8 percent). The decline was due in part to the wonders of rounding—unrounded estimated employment showed a gain of 100 over the year—but in any case, the loss of 300 jobs in transportation equipment hasn't helped.
- Other than manufacturing, every major sector was up over the year. Information services was again barely above water (+100, 3.3 percent), just behind other services (+200, 3.7 percent) and government (+300, 1.2 percent).

The unemployment rate was estimated at 5.6 percent, more than a point and a half below the 7.3 percent from last November. This was the lowest rate since December 2007. Both initial and continued unemployment claims remained at very low levels.

## Cowlitz County

According to the latest estimates prepared by the federal government, Cowlitz County nonfarm employment totaled 39,500 in November. That was 100 below the revised October estimate.

Trade, transportation & utilities added 200 jobs over the month, including 100 in retail trade. Leisure & hospitality fell by 100 jobs, as did state government. Other private services (not shown in the accompanying table) declined by 100 jobs.



Over the past twelve months, payrolls have increased by 800 jobs (2.1 percent). Changes at the industry level include +400 in state government, +300 in retail trade, +200 in education & health services, and +200 in local government. These estimates are all preliminary and subject to revision.

The county unemployment rate was estimated at 6.8 percent, more than a point lower than last November's 8.2 percent. Around 3,000 county residents were jobless and seeking work, compared with 3,700 a year ago. The number of initial and continued unemployment claims remained at low levels.

## Wahkiakum County

Wahkiakum County nonfarm employment was estimated at 710 jobs in November, 30 below the revised October total. There were small declines in a number of industries. The November figure was also 30 jobs less than the total for November 2014.

Unemployment was estimated at 8.2 percent, more than two percentage points below the 10.3 percent from a year earlier. About 110 county residents were jobless and actively seeking work, versus 135 a year ago. Both initial and continued unemployment claims remained at low levels.

