

Monthly Update—August 2015

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Clark County

Employers added 200 jobs on a seasonally-adjusted basis in Clark County in August—a so-so month. Unadjusted employment rose by 500 jobs. Hiring was concentrated in two sectors, construction and leisure & hospitality, each adding 400 jobs. K-12 education dropped by 1,100 jobs as part of the normal summer layoffs.

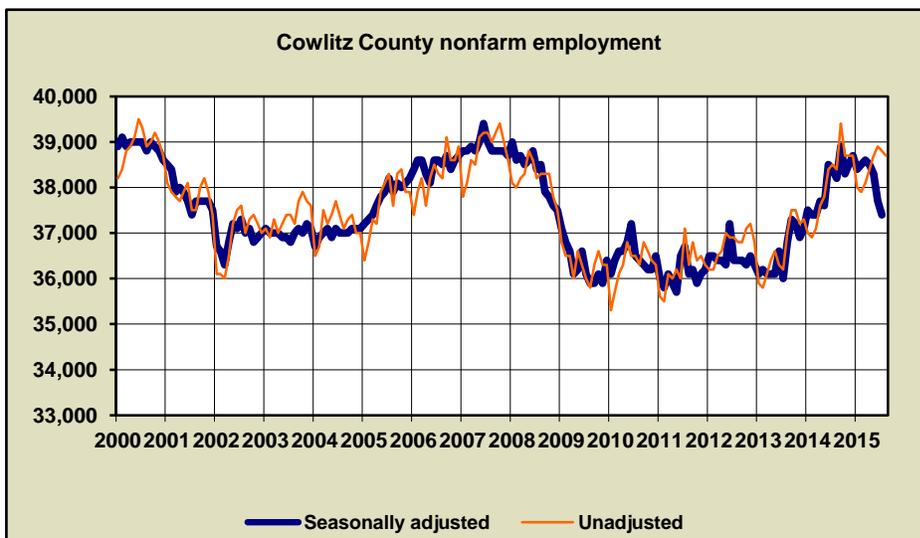
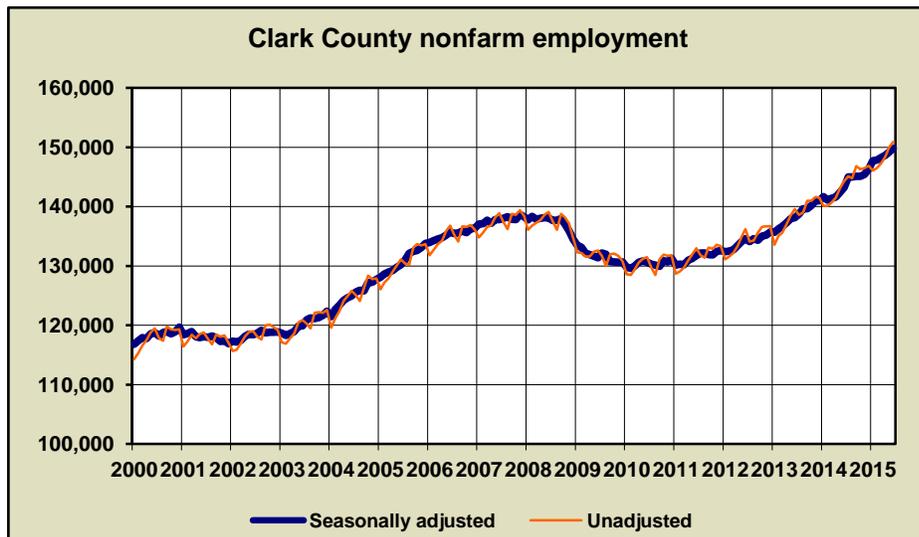
Over the year:

- Job growth over the year was 5,900, or 4.1 percent.
Comparison rates: U.S., 2.1 percent; state of Washington, 3.0 percent; state of Oregon, 3.8 percent; Portland Metro, 4.3 percent.
- The big three industries for job creation: trade, transportation & utilities (+1,100 jobs, 4.1 percent), professional & business services (+700 jobs, 4.0 percent), and education & health services (+600, 2.5 percent). Moving up on the leaders: construction & mining (revised upwards to +1,000, 9.5 percent), financial services (+700, 9.6 percent) and leisure & hospitality (+700, 5.0 percent).
- Manufacturing remained solid at +400 (3.0 percent), despite the loss of 400 in transportation equipment over the year.
- Every major sector was once again up over the year—almost. Information services was unchanged, while other services (+200, 3.6 percent) and government (+500, 2.3 percent) were both positive.

The unemployment rate was estimated at 6.2 percent in August, more than a point below the 7.5 percent recorded a year earlier. The labor force estimate was actually 0.6 percent lower than last August and the estimated number of employed residents increased by 0.7 percent. These estimates diverge sharply from both population growth and job growth, and so should be viewed with quite a bit of caution. Initial unemployment claims declined slightly, continued claims rose slightly, and both remained at a very low level.

Cowlitz County

According to the latest estimates prepared by the federal government, Cowlitz County nonfarm employment fell by 200 jobs in August to a total of 38,000 jobs. Most industries were unchanged over the month. Local government payrolls fell by 300, due to



the last leg of summer layoffs in public schools. Trade, transportation & utilities slipped down 100 jobs as well.

Over the past twelve months, employment has grown by 200 jobs. Education & health services was up 400 jobs, and trade, transportation & utilities was up 300 jobs. The volatile construction declined by 500 jobs from last August, and manufacturing was down 200.

The county unemployment rate was estimated at 7.3 percent, almost a point lower than last August's 8.2 percent. The number of initial unemployment claims declined slightly on a seasonally-adjusted basis and remained at a very low level. Continued claims continued a slight upward trend, but also were still at a low level by historical standards.

Wahkiakum County

Wahkiakum County employment was revised upward in the first half of the year. Employment in August was estimated at 760 jobs, the same as July but 10 fewer than a year earlier.

Unemployment was estimated at 7.0 percent, much lower than the 8.6 percent last August. About 100 county residents were jobless and actively seeking work, 20 fewer than last August. There were 20 initial unemployment claims filed during the month, and 21 continued claims were filed—both low numbers.

