

South Eastern Washington (Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin counties)

**Current Employment Statistics (CES)-nonfarm employment and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)-resident labor force statistics for June 2015**

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**Asotin County**

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**Walla Walla MSA (Walla Walla and Columbia Counties)**

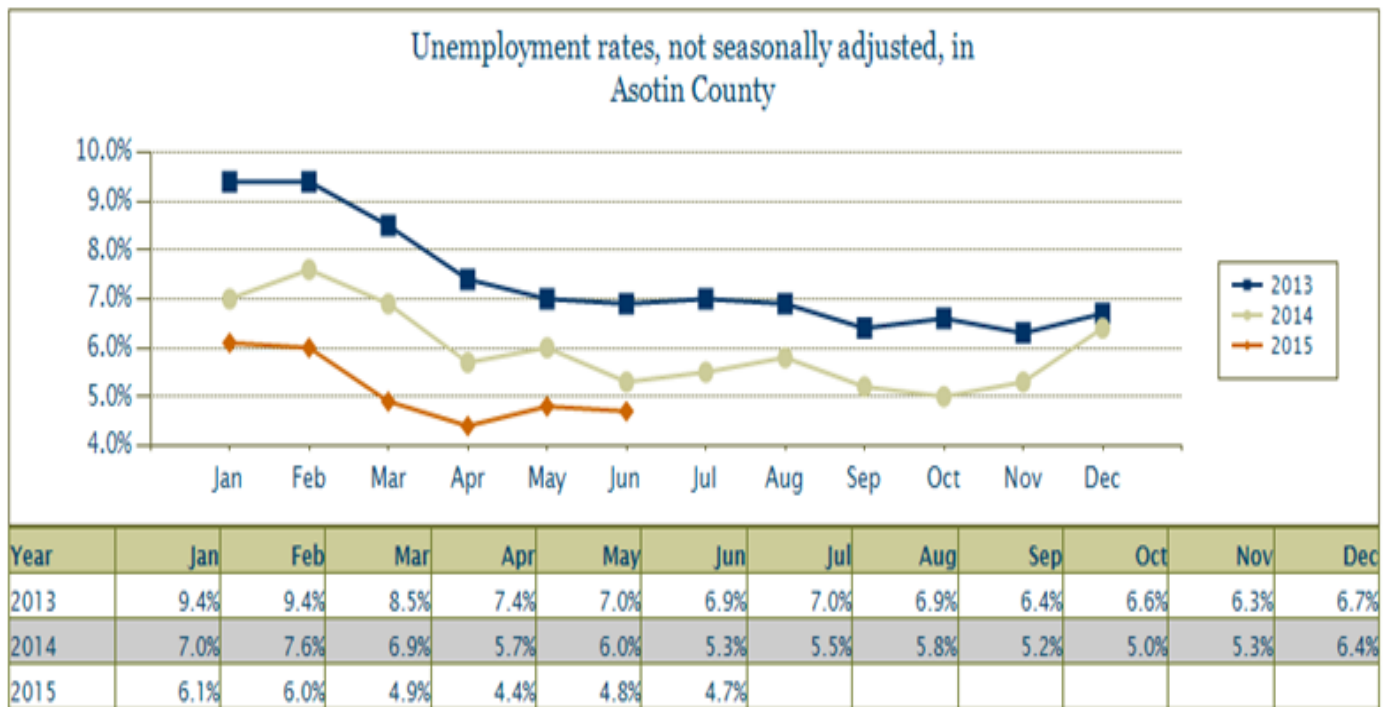
**Kennewick-Pasco-Richland MSA (Benton and Franklin Counties)**

## Asotin County

Nonfarm employment in June was up by 10 jobs from May 2015. Goods-producing sectors added 20 jobs in construction. Service-providing sectors lost 10 jobs. Sectors that added jobs were: leisure and hospitality and retail trade with 10 jobs each. Professional and business services, manufacturing and information and financial activities remained unchanged over the month. Education and health services and Government lost 20 jobs each, mainly due to the summer school break.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll increased by 1.8 percent or 110 jobs. Retail trade was the largest contributor to the growth with 70 new jobs. Manufacturing followed with 30 new jobs over the year. The professional and business services industry added 20 new jobs to its payrolls, which was followed by a construction gain of 10 jobs. Over the year, education and healthcare services decreased by 20 jobs and information and financial activities lost 10 jobs. Leisure and hospitality and government remained unchanged over the year.

The unemployment (UI) rate in June 2015 for Asotin County was 4.7 percent, down from a revised May rate of 4.8 percent. The unemployment situation has improved in the area with a decrease of 0.6 percent compared to the 5.3 percent rate in June 2014. The area had 9,420 people in its labor force, of which 8,980 were employed and 440 were unemployed and looking for work.



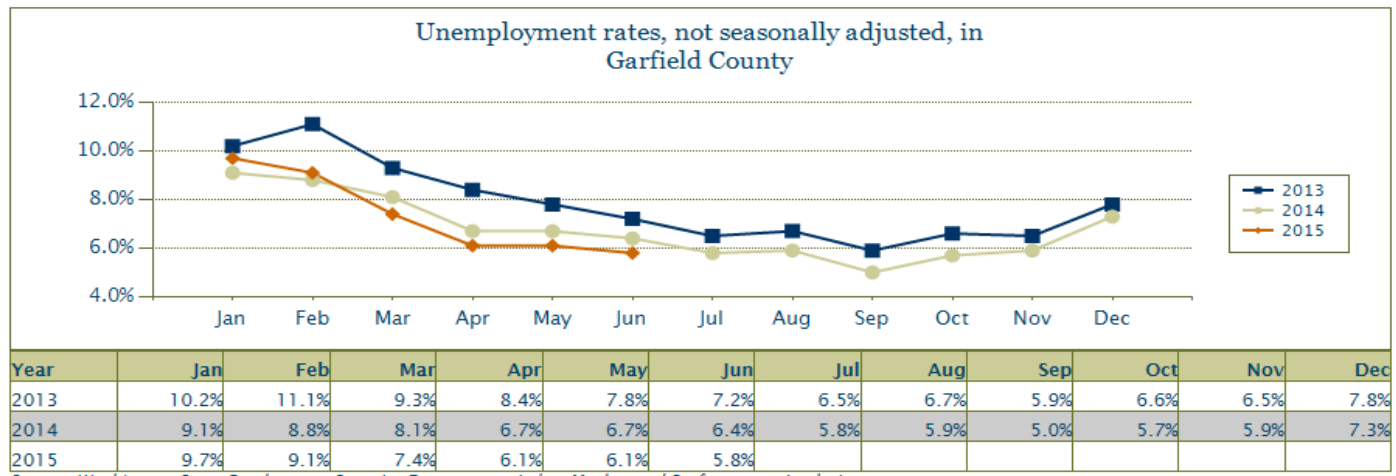
Source: Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Performance Analysis

In June 2015, the Washington state seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3 percent and U.S. rate was 5.3 percent.

For tables and more details go to the [Employment and economic information](#) web page.

## Garfield County

Over the month nonfarm employment increased by 10 jobs. The unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in June 2015 down from 6.1 percent in May and 6.4 percent in June 2014. The county had 920 people in its civilian labor force in June 2015, of which 870 were employed and 50 were unemployed and looking for work.



In June 2015, the Washington state seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3 percent and U.S. rate was 5.3 percent.

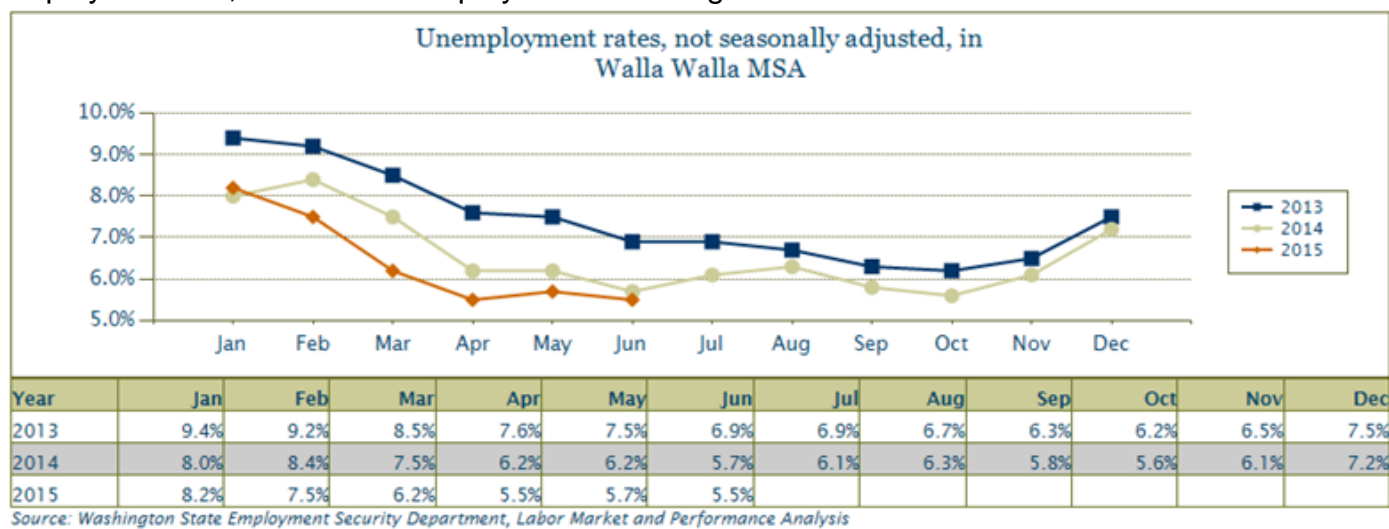
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### Walla Walla MSA (Walla Walla and Columbia Counties)

Nonfarm payrolls decreased in Walla Walla MSA for the month of June 2015 by 500 jobs or 1.8 percent when compared to the month before. Major drivers for this decrease in nonfarm payrolls over the month were both private and public educational institutions due to the summer school break session. Private education decreased by 500 jobs over the month and public education decreased by 200 jobs over the month. Industries that added jobs are food manufacturing with 100 new jobs, trade, transportation and utilities with 100 new jobs and professional and business services with 100 jobs. Other industries remained unchanged.

Over the year, two county area nonfarm payroll remained unchanged in June 2015. Industries that gained employment include; retail trade (100), transportation, warehousing and utilities (100), private educational services (200), healthcare and social assistance (100) and other services (100). Over the year, area lost 400 jobs in government, 100 jobs in professional and business services and 100 jobs in information services.

The unemployment rate in June 2015, was 5.5 percent, which was down from 5.7 percent in May 2015 and June 2014. There were 29,040 people in the labor force in June, of which 27,440 were employed and 1,740 were unemployed and looking for work.



The Walla Walla County UI rate was at 5.5 percent and the Columbia County UI rate was at 5.9 percent in June 2015.

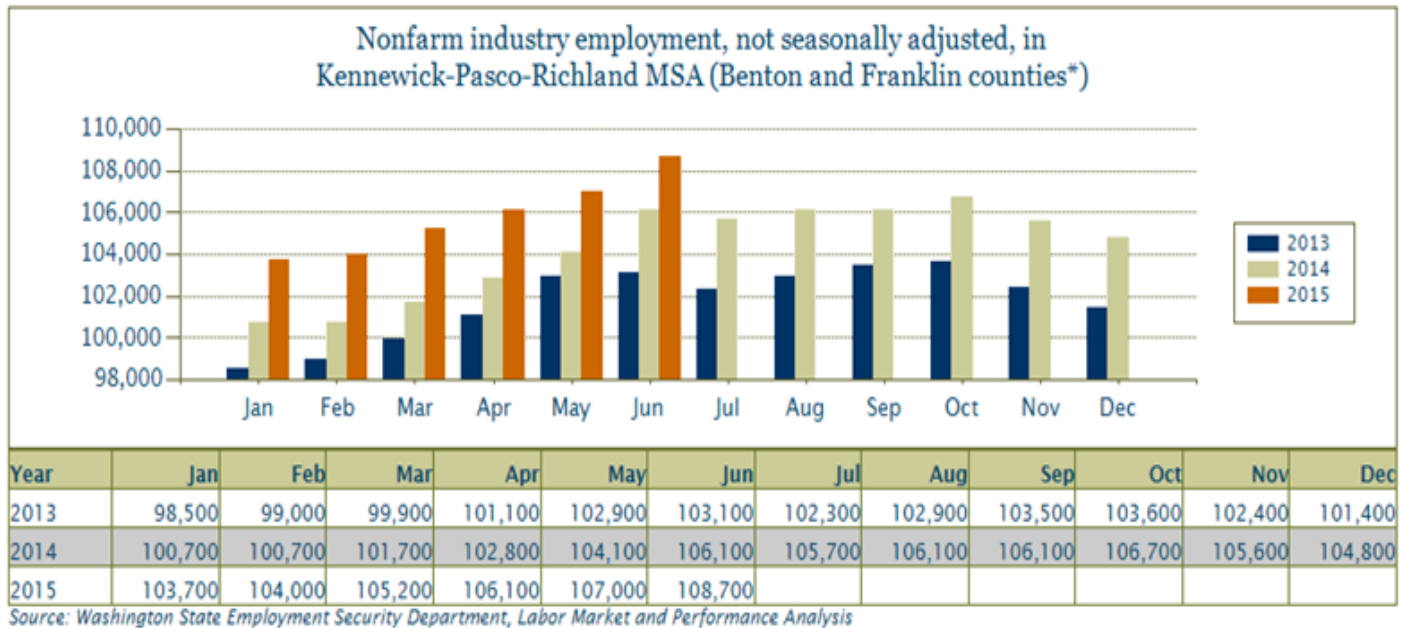
In June 2015, the Washington state seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3 percent and U.S. rate was 5.3 percent.

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## **Kennewick-Pasco-Richland (MSA)-(Benton and Franklin Counties)**

Tri-City area nonfarm employment increased in June 2015. Private sector hiring added 1,700 jobs or 1.6 percent. Goods-producing sectors added 700 jobs or 4.7 percent including both construction and manufacturing, while service-providing sectors added 1,000 jobs or 1.1 percent.

Manufacturing was a main driver of growth over the month in this area with a 700 job growth. Professional and business services also added 700 jobs. Leisure and hospitality and retail trade added 200 jobs each. Private education and health services and government remained unchanged in June as the summer school break got into full swing.

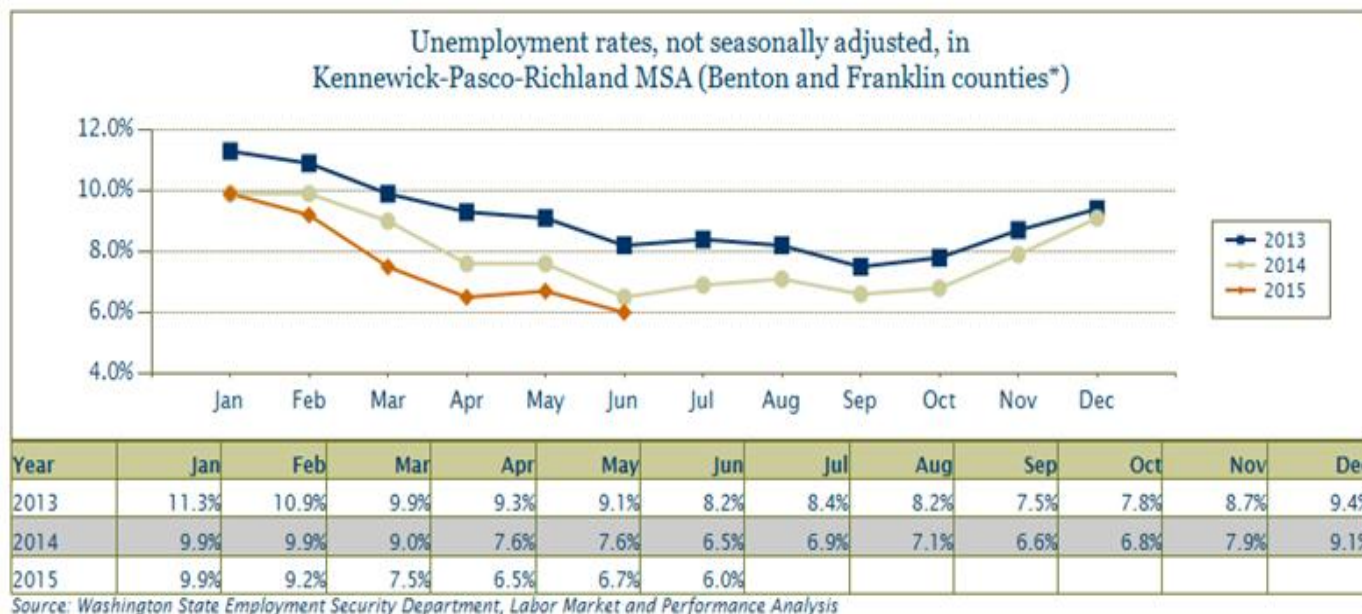


Over the year the Tri-City area has added 2,600 jobs or 2.5 percent. Both goods-producing (800) and service-providing (1,800) sectors added jobs over the year showing continuous industry growth and diversification. June 2015 marks 27 months of over-the-year growth in nonfarm jobs.

The industries that have contributed to this growth include manufacturing and private education and health services with 500 job growth each. Government added 600 jobs in state and local governments. Professional and business services expanded over the year with 400 jobs. Construction and financial activities continue post-recession growth and recovery by adding 300 jobs each over the year. Leisure and hospitality added 200 jobs as the local offerings expand with additional hotels and restaurants serving locals as well as visitors.

The unemployment rate was 6.0 percent for the Kennewick-Pasco-Richland MSA in June 2015, down from 6.7 percent in May 2015 and down by 0.5 percent from the 6.5 percent rate in June 2014. There were 136,760 people in civilian labor force in June 2015, of which 128,530 were employed and 8,230 were unemployed and looking for work.

The Benton County not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.0 percent and the Franklin County rate was 6.1 percent in June 2015.



In June 2015, the Washington state seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3 percent and U.S. rate was 5.3 percent.

For tables and more details go to the [Employment and economic information](#) web page.

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