

**FEBRUARY SNAPSHOT:**
**PIERCE COUNTY  
WORKFORCE DATA**

The WorkForce Central Monthly Employment Report for Pierce County (Jan 2017 to Feb 2017) shows a decrease in the unemployment rate alongside a shrinking civilian labor force and decreased employment overall.


**UNEMPLOYMENT**  
 Down 0.2% to 6.1%

**UNEMPLOYMENT**  
 Decreased by 1,221

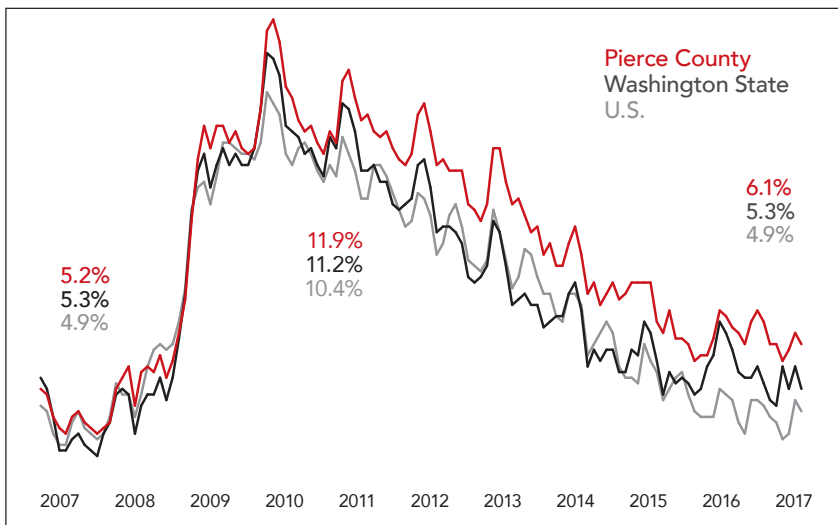
**LARGEST GAIN**  
 Professional & Business Services, up 600

**LABOR FORCE**  
 Decreased by 3,838

**EMPLOYMENT**  
 Decreased by 2,617

**LARGEST DECLINE**  
 Trade, Transportation and Utilities, down 600

Pierce County, Washington State and U.S. Unemployment Rates  
 February 2007 – February 2017



WorkForce Central reported a decrease in Pierce County's unemployment rate in February 2017, 0.2 percent lower than the revised January 2017 rate (6.3 percent) and 0.5 percent lower than the year-ago estimate (6.8 percent). The unemployment rate is below the highest January unemployment rate (11.9 percent in 2010) but remains higher than the lowest January unemployment rate experienced in the region over the last 10 years (5.2 percent in 2007).

	Feb 2017	Jan 2016	Feb 2017	Change	
		Revised	Prelim	Month	Year
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	402,804	415,236	411,398	-3,838	8,594
<b>Civilian Employment</b>	375,545	388,903	386,286	-2,617	10,7410
<b>Civilian Unemployment</b>	27,259	26,333	25,112	-1,221	-2,147

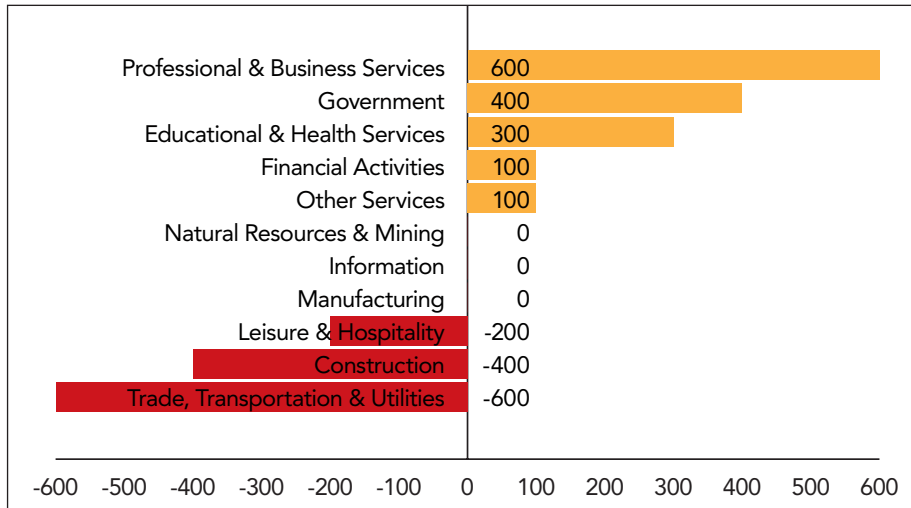
Data Not Seasonally Adjusted



## PIERCE COUNTY WORKFORCE DATA

### Pierce County Month-Over Job Gains and Losses

January 2017 – February 2017

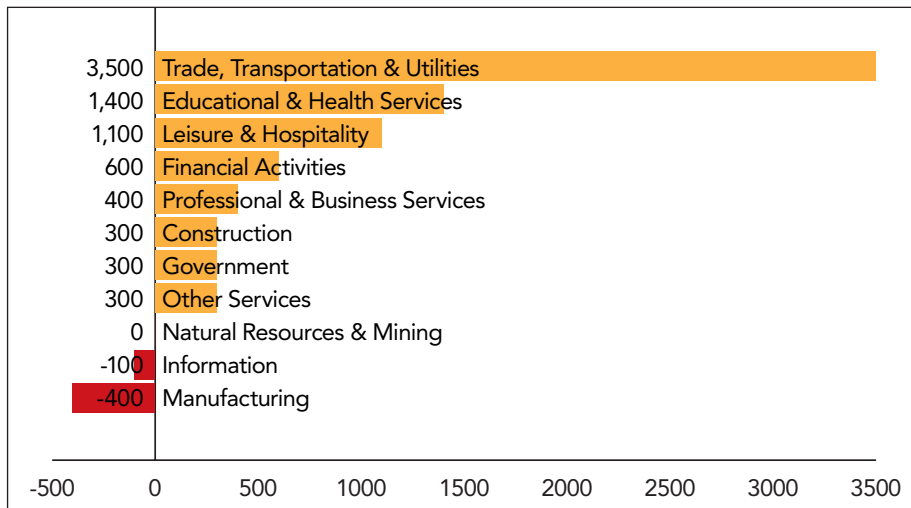


Five industries experienced month-over employment gains. Professional & Business services experienced the largest month-over gain, adding 600 jobs. Government added 400 jobs, Educational & Health Services added 300 jobs, and Financial Activities and Other Services added 100 jobs each.

Three industries (Natural Resources & Mining, Information and Manufacturing) experienced no change, while three industries experienced month-over job losses. Trade, Transportation & Utilities recorded the largest loss (600 jobs), with 500 of these job losses coming from Retail Trade, likely due to post-holiday layoffs. This is followed by Construction (down 400 jobs) and Leisure & Hospitality (down 200 jobs).

### Pierce County Year-Over Job Gains and Losses

February 2016 – 2017



From February 2016 to February 2017, eight industries experienced job growth. Trade, Transportation & Utilities had the greatest year-over gain, adding 3,500 jobs to the region. The main source of job growth in this sector comes from Retail Trade, adding 3,300 jobs. Education & Health Services added 1,400 jobs, Leisure & Hospitality contributed 1,100 jobs, Financial Activities added 600 jobs, Professional & Business Services added 400 jobs and Construction, Government and Other services added 300 jobs each.

Natural Resources & Mining experienced no year-over changes, and two industries experienced year-over job losses: Manufacturing (down 400 jobs) and Information (down 100 jobs).

Despite month-over losses or no change in six sectors, Pierce County continues to experience year-over job growth in eight sectors. Additionally, Pierce County recorded a year-over growth rate of 2.9 percent in civilian employment, only 0.1 percent below Washington State's growth rate of 3.0 percent.

1 A list of industries and industry sub-sectors is accessible through the Bureau of Labor Statistics: [http://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag\\_index\\_naics.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag_index_naics.htm)

2 <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/regional-reports/labor-area-summaries#Unemployment-rates>

