

## APRIL SNAPSHOT:

### PIERCE COUNTY WORKFORCE DATA

The WorkForce Central Monthly Employment Report for Pierce County (March 2017 to April 2017) shows a decreased unemployment rate to 5.3%, marking the lowest unemployment rate since April 2008.



**UNEMPLOYMENT**  
Down 0.4% to 5.3%



**PAYROLL JOBS**  
Increased by 2,800



**LARGEST GAIN**  
Construction, up 1,000



**LABOR FORCE**  
Decreased by 288

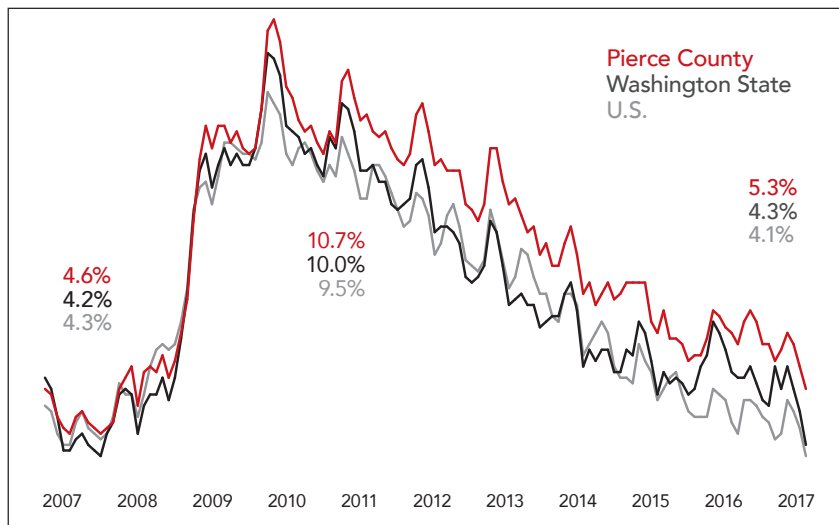


**EMPLOYMENT**  
Increased by 1,670



**LARGEST DECLINE**  
Financial Activities, down 100

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



### UNEMPLOYMENT

WorkForce Central reported a decrease in Pierce County's unemployment rate in April 2017, 0.4 percent lower than the revised March 2017 rate (5.7 percent) and 1 percent lower than the year-ago estimate (6.3 percent).

The unemployment rate is 5.4 percent below the highest April unemployment rate (10.7 percent in 2010) but remains 0.7 percent higher than the lowest April unemployment rate experienced in the region over the last 10 years (4.6 percent in 2007).

	Apr 2016	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	Change	
	Revised	Revised	Prelim	Month	Year
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	400,857	410,404	410,116	-288	9,259
<b>Civilian Employment</b>	375,515	386,821	388,491	1,670	12,976
<b>Civilian Unemployment</b>	25,342	23,583	21,625	-1,958	-3,717

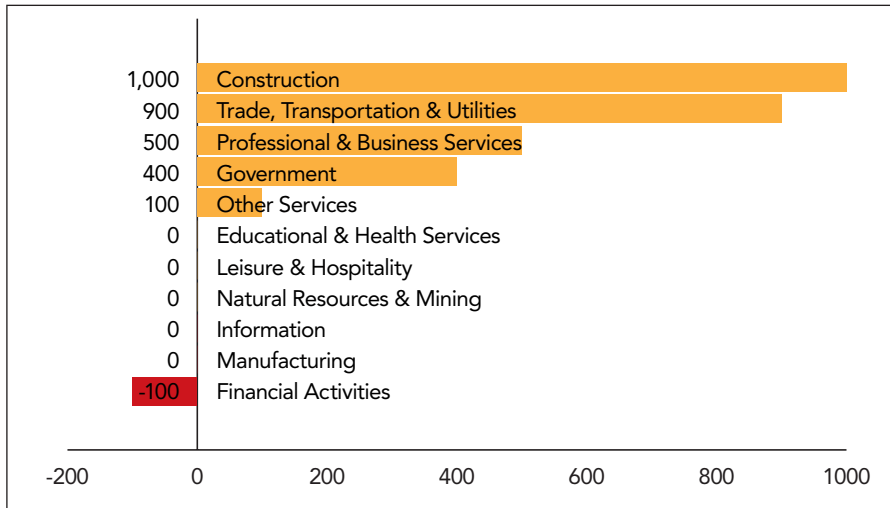
Data  
Not  
Seasonally  
Adjusted



## PIERCE COUNTY WORKFORCE DATA

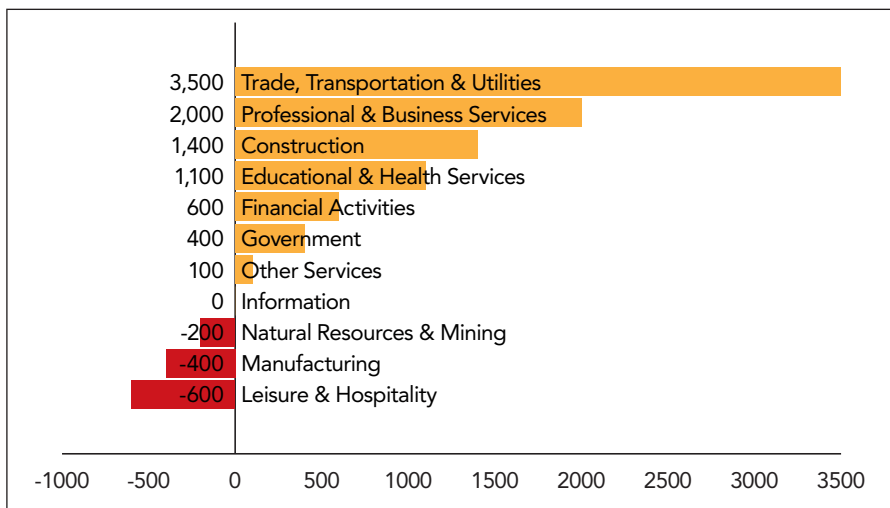
### Pierce County Month-Over Job Gains and Losses

March 2017 – April 2017



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

April 2016 – 2017



### MONTH-OVER JOB CHANGES<sup>1</sup>

Five industries experienced month-over employment gains. Construction experienced the largest month-over gain, adding 1,000 jobs. Trade, Transportation & Utilities added 900 jobs, Professional & Business Services added 500 jobs, Government added 400 jobs and Other Services added 100 jobs.

Five industries (Educational & Health Services, Leisure & Hospitality, Natural Resources & Mining, Information and Manufacturing)<sup>2</sup> showed no change, and one industry (Financial Activities) experienced a month-over loss of 100 jobs. Overall, employers in Pierce County have added 2,800 net jobs in the past month.

### YEAR-OVER JOB CHANGES

From April 2016 to April 2017, seven industries experienced job growth. Trade, Transportation & Utilities continues to have the greatest year-over gains, adding 3,500 jobs to the region. The main source of job growth in this sector comes from Retail Trade, adding 3,400 jobs. Professional & Business Services added 2,000 jobs, Construction added 1,400 jobs, followed by Educational & Health Services with 1,100 jobs. Financial Activities, Government and Other services also saw job gains.

Information experienced no year-over changes, while three industries showed year-over job losses: Leisure & Hospitality (down 600 jobs), Manufacturing (down 400 jobs) and Natural Resources & Mining (down 200 jobs). Overall, employers in Pierce County have added 7,900 net jobs in the past year.

### SUMMARY

Most industry sectors in Pierce County experienced both month- and year-over job gains in April. Pierce County has also gained a net of 2,800 jobs from March 2017 and 7,900 jobs since April 2016. However, Pierce County's unemployment rate of 5.3 percent is 1 percent higher than Washington's rate of 4.3 percent.<sup>3</sup>

1. Jobs data is gathered from employers through the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, administered monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CES excludes self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers & workers on strike.
2. 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)
3. <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/regional-reports/labor-area-summaries#Unemployment-rates>

