

**SEPTEMBER  
SNAPSHOT:**
**PIERCE COUNTY  
WORKFORCE DATA**

The WorkForce Central Monthly Employment Report (August 2018 to September 2018) shows increases in the civilian labor force and employment, and a decrease in the unemployment rate.<sup>1</sup>


**UNEMPLOYMENT**

Down 0.4 percentage points, to 4.4%


**PAYROLL JOBS**

Increased by 1,400


**LARGEST GAIN**

Government, up 1,700


**LABOR FORCE**

Increased by 2,067

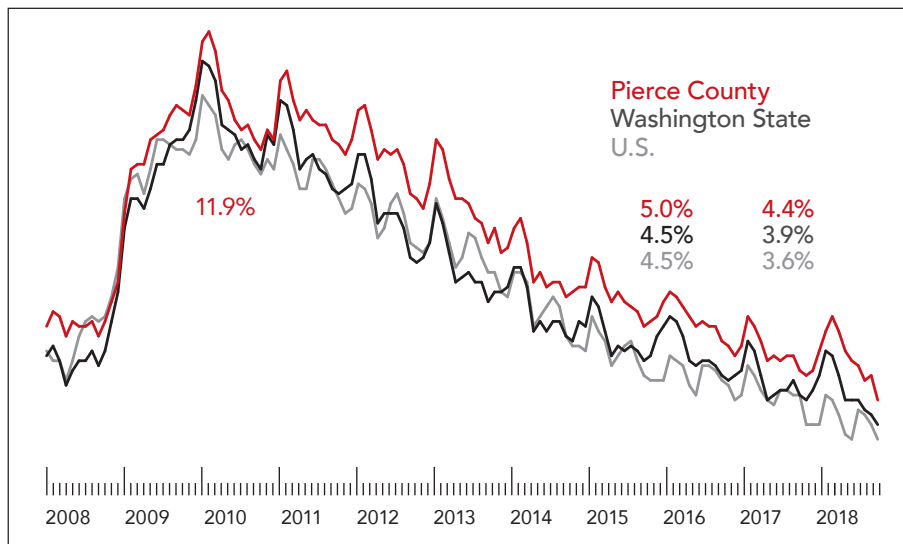

**EMPLOYMENT**

Increased by 3,668


**LARGEST DECLINE**

Educational & Health Services, down 500

Pierce County, Washington State and U.S. Unemployment Rates  
January 2008 – September 2018


**UNEMPLOYMENT**

WorkForce Central reported a decrease in Pierce County's unemployment rate, from the August 2018 rate of 4.8 percent to 4.4 percent in September 2018. This is 0.4 percentage points lower than the year-ago estimate of 5.0 percent.<sup>2</sup>

This is the lowest unemployment rate in Pierce County since December 1999 (4.3%) while the highest in this time frame was 11.9 percent in February 2010.

	Sept 2017	Aug 2018	Sept 2018	Change	
	Revised	Revised	Prelim	Month	Year
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	417,422	418,632	420,699	2,067	3,277
<b>Civilian Employment</b>	396,466	398,475	402,143	3,668	5,677
<b>Civilian Unemployment</b>	20,956	20,157	18,556	-1,601	-2,400

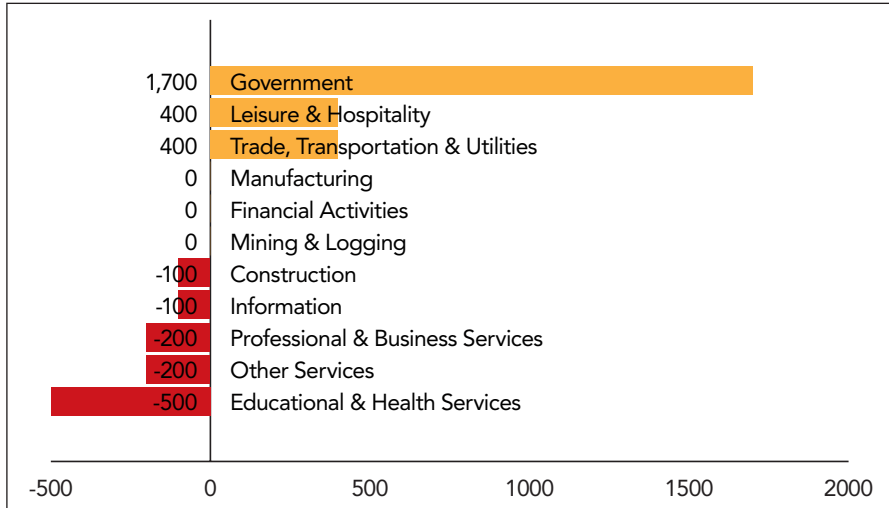
Data  
Not  
Seasonally  
Adjusted



## PIERCE COUNTY WORKFORCE DATA

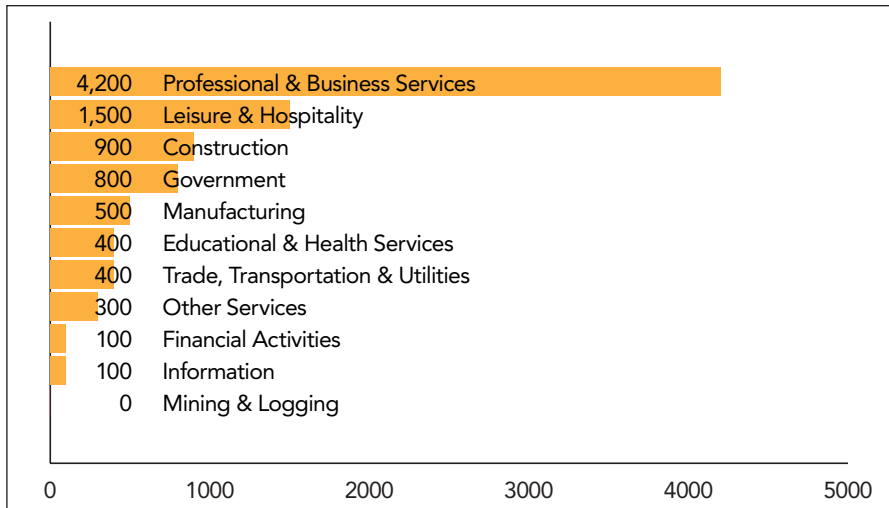
### Pierce County Month-Over Job Gains and Losses

August 2018 – September 2018



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

September 2017 – September 2018



### MONTH-OVER JOB CHANGES<sup>3</sup>

Three industries<sup>4</sup> experienced month-over employment gains. Government experienced the largest month-over job gain with 1,700 jobs added. This is typical for September, as government agencies start staffing up in anticipation of budget allocations arriving on October 1. Leisure & Hospitality and Trade, Transportation & Utilities each gained 400 jobs as well.

Five industries experienced month-over job losses, led by Education and Health Services (down 500 jobs). Two industries (Professional & Business Services and Other Services) lost 200 jobs, while Construction and Information each lost 100. Manufacturing, Financial Activities and Mining & Logging experienced no month-over changes. Overall, nonfarm employers in Pierce County added 1,400 net jobs to the economy in the past month.

### YEAR-OVER JOB CHANGES

From September 2017 to September 2018, 10 industries experienced job growth. Professional & Business Services experienced the greatest year-over gains, adding 4,200 jobs to the region, followed by Leisure & Hospitality (up 1,500 jobs). Construction (up 900 jobs) and Government (up 800 jobs) also saw nearly four-digit growth, while the remaining industries each added jobs in the low-to mid-hundreds.

Mining & Logging experienced no year-over changes. Overall, nonfarm employers in Pierce County have added 9,200 net jobs to the economy in the past year.

### SUMMARY

Three industries experienced month-over job gains and 10 industries experienced year-over job gains in September. Pierce County added a net of 1,400 nonfarm payroll jobs from August 2018 and 9,200 since September 2017. Pierce County's unemployment rate of 4.4 percent is 0.5 percentage points higher than Washington's rate of 3.9 percent.<sup>5</sup>



1. Labor force, employment and unemployment are reported by place of residence, including self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers & workers on strike. These are preliminary numbers.
2. <https://www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/labor-area-summaries>
3. 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.
4. 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)
5. <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/regional-reports/labor-area-summaries#Unemployment-rates>