

## Monthly Update—November 2021

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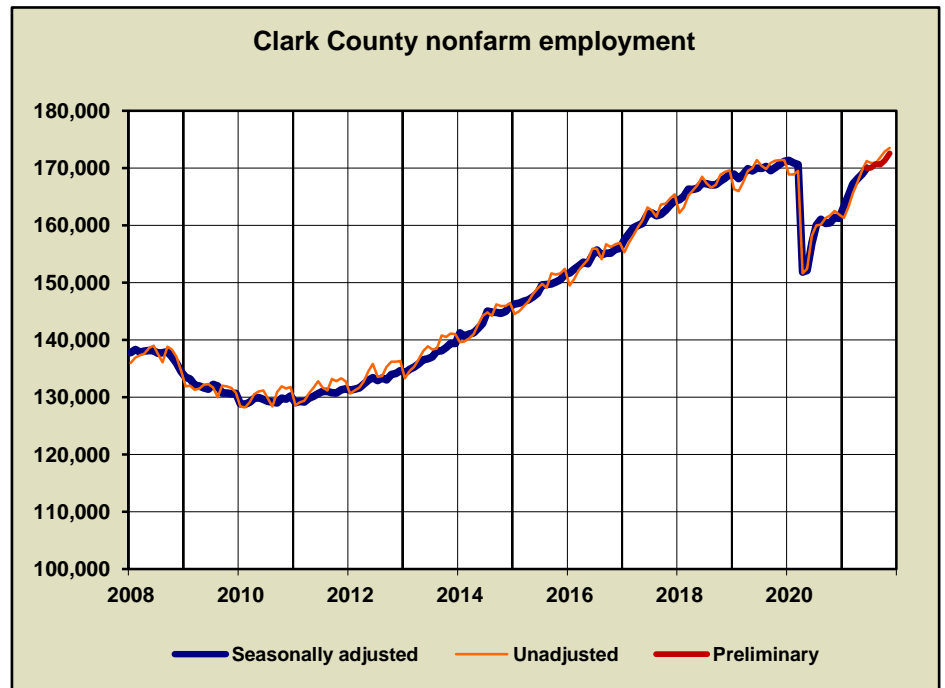
Next data release: December 2021 estimates will be published on Tuesday, July 20.

The charts below show total nonfarm employment for each county, with preliminary estimates for the last five months in red. These estimates will be revised in the next month or two when data from all employers for the third quarter of the year become available.

### Clark County

Preliminary estimates indicate that Clark County labor market had another good month in November. Seasonally-adjusted nonfarm employment rose by 1,200 jobs. Construction, manufacturing, business services, health care and accommodations & food services all had a good month.

Unadjusted employment rose by 600 to a total of 173,500 jobs. Private sector payrolls increased by 400 jobs over the month. Construction had 100 seasonal layoffs (less than usual), manufacturing had 200 (ditto), while retailers had 300 seasonal hires (a bit less than usual). Health care was up 200 jobs, and K-12 education added 200 staff.



Since the onset of COVID in February 2020, the county has gained a net 6,400 jobs, An increase of 1.0 percent. That was better than the nation (-2.6 percent), the state (-2.5 percent), Oregon (-3.1 percent) and the Portland metro area (-3.3). Since February 2020:

- Eight industries have increased employment since COVID hit:
  - Professional services (+1,400 jobs, +15.8 percent)
  - Business services (+800, +10.1 percent)
  - Information services (+300, +7.7 percent)
  - Retail trade (+500, +2.9 percent)
  - Finance & insurance (+200, +3.7 percent)
  - Health care & social assistance (+700, +2.7 percent)
  - Manufacturing (+300, +2.2 percent)
  - Construction, mining & logging (+200, +1.4 percent)
- Holding steady (no change):
  - Wholesale trade
  - Transportation services
  - Real estate, rental & leasing
  - Corporate offices
  - Private education services
  - Federal government
- Most impacted sectors:
  - Local government, excepting education (-200, -3.4 percent)
  - Accommodations & food services (-500, -3.8 percent)
  - Other services (-300 jobs, -4.8 percent)
  - K-12 public education (-700, -5.6 percent)

- State government (-200, -6.5 percent)
- Arts, entertainment & recreation (-600, -23.5 percent)

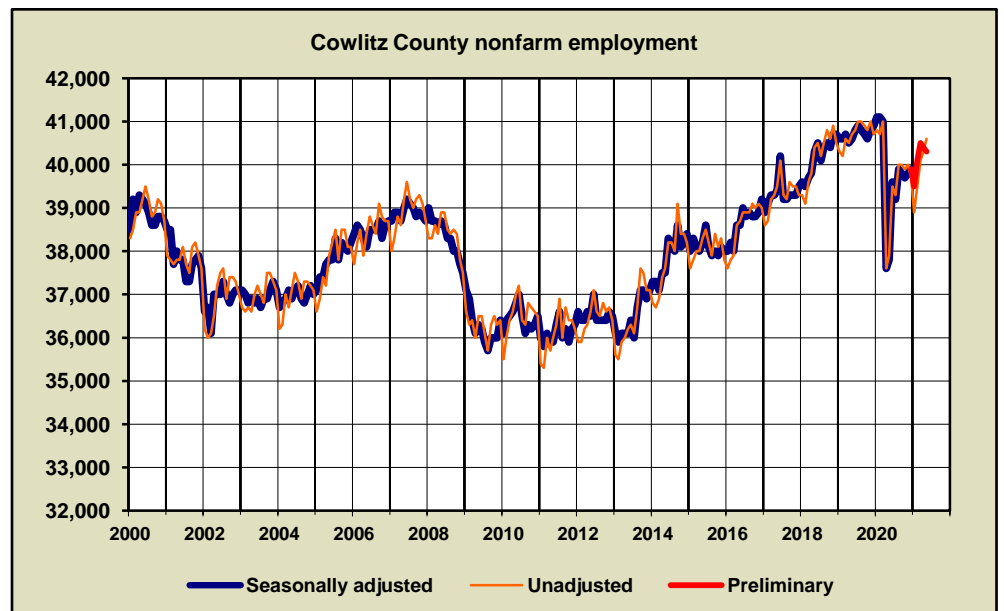
Month	Job Change
March 2020	-300
April	-18,800
May	300
June	4,800
July	3,100
August	1,000
September	-700
October	100
November	1,000
December	-200
January 2021	2,100
February	1,900
March	2,000
April	900
May	800
June	1,100
July	0
August	700
September	-100
October	700
November	1,200
Net Change	1,700
Percent	1.0%

Clark’s unemployment rate was estimated at 3.4 percent, about half of last November’s 6.7 percent. The number of unemployed residents was estimated at just over 8,300, well under the 15,800+ estimate from a year ago.

## Cowlitz County

Cowlitz County’s recovery took a small step backward in May, as seasonally-adjusted nonfarm employment declined by 100 jobs over the month. Unadjusted employment rose by 200 jobs, all in leisure & hospitality. Other industries were unchanged.

Since the recession began, the county has done better than most in the state, but remains 700 jobs below February 2020 (-1.9 percent). The following comparisons are on a seasonally-adjusted basis going back to February 2020:



Month	Job Change
March 2020	-100
April	-3,400
May	200
June	1,800
July	-400
August	700
September	-100
October	-100
November	100
December	100
January 2021	-400
February	600
March	400
April	0
May	-100
Net Change	-700
Percent	-1.9%

- Private sector employment declined by 400 jobs (-1.2 percent).
- Mining, logging & construction was off by 100 jobs (-2.8 percent).
- Manufacturing, added 100 jobs (+1.5 percent).
- Trade, transportation & utilities also was up 100 jobs (+1.3 percent). Within that sector, retail trade employment declined by 100 jobs.
- Education & health services also increased by 100 jobs (+1.5 percent).
- Leisure & hospitality was only 200 jobs below last February (-5.7 percent).
- Other services—not published in the monthly table—lost 400 jobs (-6.7 percent) over the year. This category includes information services, finance, real estate, professional & business services, and other services such as personal services (like hair salons) and auto and other repair services.
- Government employment fell by 400 jobs (-6.3 percent), half in state government, half at the local level.

The county unemployment rate dropped to 6.0 percent, less than half the 13.5 percent posted in May 2020. The number of unemployed county residents was estimated at 2,900, again less than half the 6,600 from a year ago.

## Wahkiakum County

Nonfarm employment climbed upward by a net 10 jobs over the month in Wahkiakum County. Both construction and trade, transportation & utilities added 10 jobs, while manufacturing declined by that amount. Employment totaled 830 jobs, a gain of 70 jobs over last May's COVID-impacted numbers. The county was one of three counties in the state that had fully recovered from the recession.

The unemployment rate was estimated at 6.4 percent, a bit less than half of last May's 12.1 percent. There were about 90 unemployed county residents, versus 160 a year ago.

