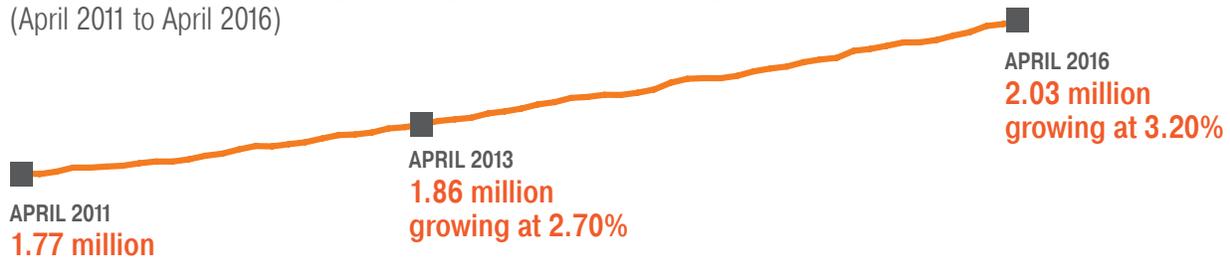


Services sector continues to drive the region's job growth

The region has gained 17,300 jobs since January, with 3,700 new jobs added in April 2016. Job growth since April 2015 has averaged 3.2% (63,000 jobs), about 6% more than the 59,000 jobs added between April 2014 and April 2015. King and Snohomish counties continue to have the highest job growth in the region.

Annual Wage and Salary Employment – Seasonally Adjusted

(April 2011 to April 2016)



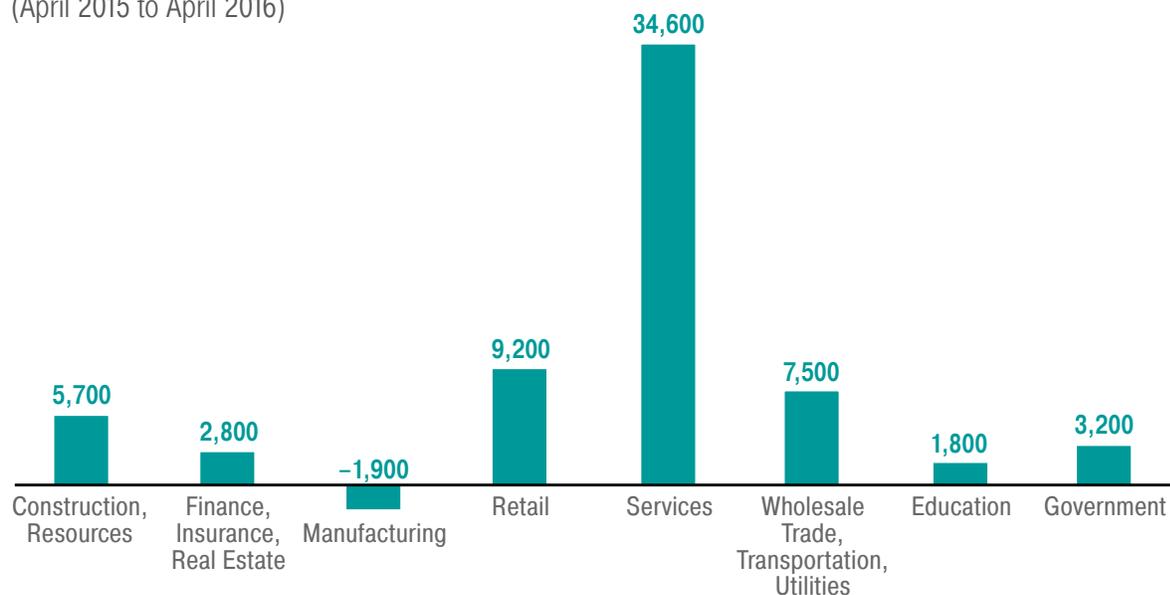
Job gains in April 2016 were slightly higher than the 3,300 jobs that were added to the region in March 2016.

Job growth varied by employment sectors

The region has continued to experience robust job growth in the services sector by adding 3,500 more jobs in April 2016. The services sector includes jobs from IT, business services, recreation and food services, and others. The services sector gained about 35,000 jobs over the past year, 13,000 more than it did between April 2014 and April 2015. The construction sector grew at 5.1%, the fastest annual growth rate between April 2015 and April 2016, while the manufacturing sector experienced slight job declines.

Annual Change in Wage and Salary Employment – Seasonally Adjusted

(April 2015 to April 2016)



Coming up

PSRC is developing a new Regional Economic Strategy for the Puget Sound region. The strategy will sustain the region's economic vitality and global competitiveness, support the region's land use and transportation planning, and advance state and local economic development initiatives. As the strategy is developed, we will continue to track job sector and other economic trends to enhance understanding of the forces that drive the region's economy. For more information, visit: <http://www.psrc.org/econdev/res/>.

DATA SOURCE:

Washington Employment Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted), WA Employment Security Department (ESD), May 24, 2016