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May unemployment rate inches higher

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The state unemployment rate rose to 4.6 percent last month from April's 4.4 percent, but state officials said the rate is still at "historic lows."

Nationally, the unemployment rate stayed at 4.5 percent in May.

In the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett area, the unemployment rate increased to 4 percent from April's 3.8 percent level. According to state figures, there are 1,420,400 people working in the area and there are 56,700 unemployed people in Seattle-Bellevue-Everett.

The state added 6,400 jobs in May, compared with adding 800 in April, according to the state Employment Security Department. State officials said proper training aids in finding a job.

"While there are lots of jobs available, they're not being handed out to just anyone who walks in the door. Landing a job takes a certain amount of skill and practice," said Employment Security Commissioner Karen Lee, in a statement.

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