



Employment estimates in this report are generated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Monthly employment estimates are subject to revision in subsequent months when more sample data become available.

BLS data in this report are rounded to the nearest 100.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington fell by 1,600 in October 2019.¹ BLS estimates the private sector lost 1,500 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 100 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for October 2018 through October 2019 indicate an increase in employment of 67,600 for the state. The private sector added 61,400 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 6,200 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2019 is 4.5 percent. The revised estimated September 2019 unemployment rate is at 4.6 percent. The October 2018 unemployment rate was 4.4 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. September's preliminary estimated loss of 3,100 jobs was revised to a loss of 5,400 jobs.

For more information, call Paul Turek, labor economist at 360-507-9599.

Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The resident civilian labor force is the total number of people in the workforce, employed and unemployed, ages 16 and up.

The number of unemployed is the estimated number of people who currently do not have a job, are available for work and have actively looked for work in the last four weeks.

The unemployment rate is the ratio of the estimated number of unemployed divided by the civilian labor force.

Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted
 United States and Washington state, September and October 2018 and 2019
 Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	October 2019 (Preliminary)	September 2019 (Revised)	October 2018 (Revised)	September 2018 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate				
Seasonally adjusted	3.6%	3.5%	3.8%	3.7%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.6%	4.4%	4.4%
Resident labor force	3,922,300	3,907,100	3,822,100	3,813,300
Unemployed	178,300	179,000	169,600	168,500
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.0%	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%
Resident labor force	1,735,000	1,728,000	1,695,600	1,692,500
Unemployed	51,600	52,500	55,900	55,900



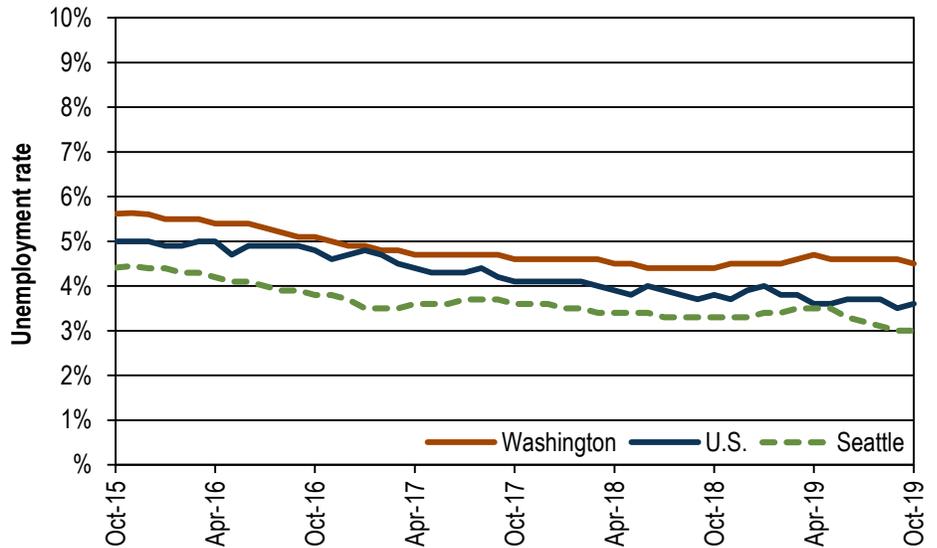
¹Most of the employment numbers discussed in this report refers to jobs, not persons. For example, if a person holds two positions, these positions are counted as two jobs in the employment series. In the section titled "Unemployment," these positions refer to individuals, not jobs. In this case, a person holding two jobs is counted only once.

Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2019 is 4.5 percent. The revised estimated September 2019 unemployment rate is 4.6 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 700 in October 2019 compared to September 2019. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 15,900. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 15,200 people in the labor force. The preliminary October 2019 unemployment rate is a 0.1 percentage point higher than the October 2018 rate of 4.4 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
U.S., Washington and Seattle, October 2015 through October 2019
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



October 2019 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.6%
Washington (preliminary) 4.5%
Seattle area (preliminary) 3.0%

Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

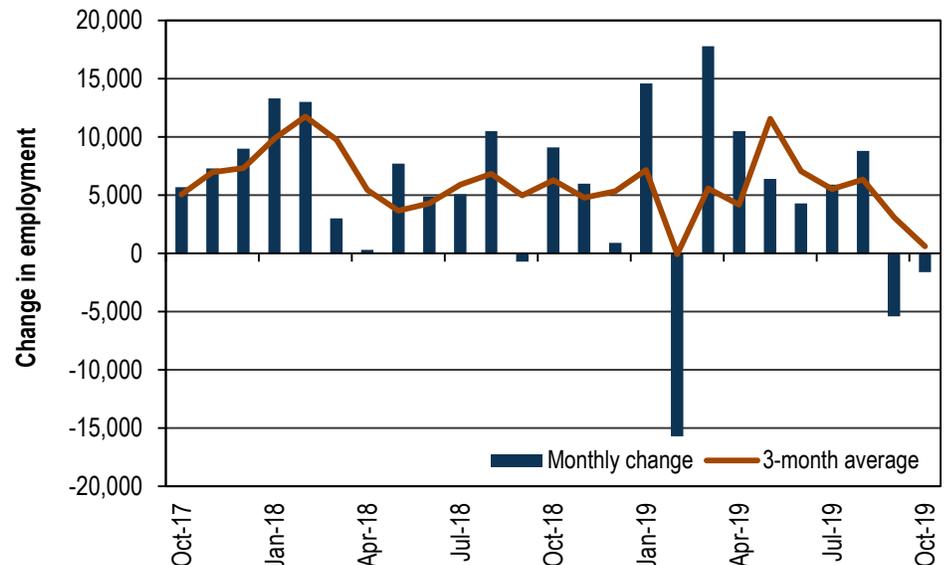
Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment decreased by 1,600 jobs from September 2019 to October 2019.

Recent employment change
August 2019: up 8,800 jobs (revised)

September 2019: down 5,400 jobs (revised)

October 2019: down 1,600 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change and three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, October 2017 through October 2019
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics



Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

March 2008

(start of recent employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 3,008,000

Unemployment rate: 4.8%

February 2010

(end of recent employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,824,000

Unemployment rate: 10.4%

October 2019 (preliminary)

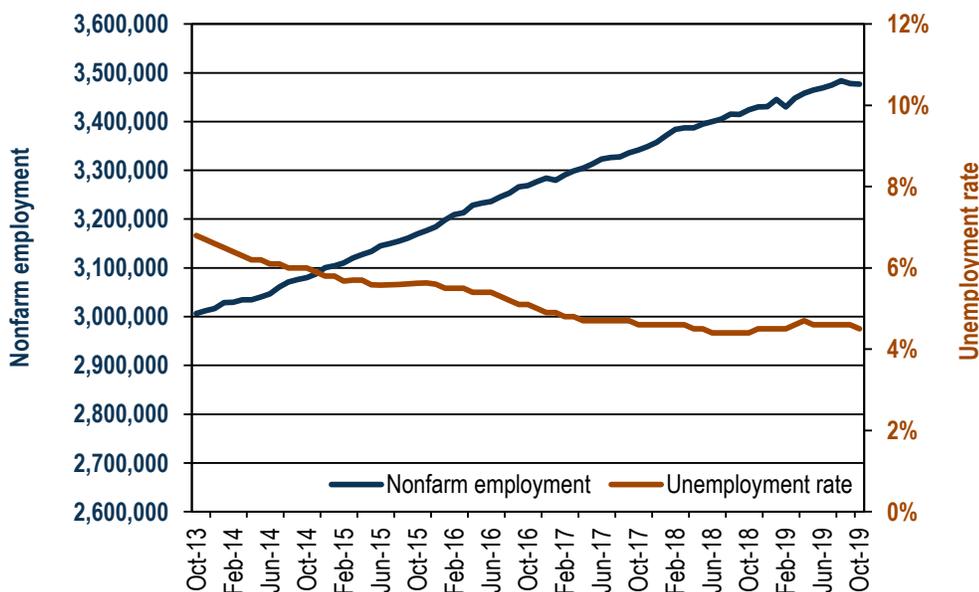
Nonfarm employment: 3,476,500

Unemployment rate: 4.5%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, October 2013 through October 2019

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Understanding what seasonally adjusted means

Over the course of a year, the size of the state's labor force and the levels of employment and unemployment undergo sharp fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvest, major holidays and the opening and closing of schools. The effect of such seasonal variation can be very large; seasonal fluctuations may account for as much as 95 percent of the month-to-month changes in unemployment at the national level.

Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the statistics from one month to the next. These adjustments make non-seasonal developments, such as declines in economic activity, easier to spot. For example, the large number of youth entering the labor force each June is likely to obscure any other changes that have taken place relative to May, making it

difficult to determine if the level of economic activity has risen or declined. However, because the effect of students finishing school in previous years is known, the statistics for the current year can be adjusted to allow for a comparable change. The adjusted figure provides a more useful tool with which to analyze changes in economic activity.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

U-6 unemployment rate

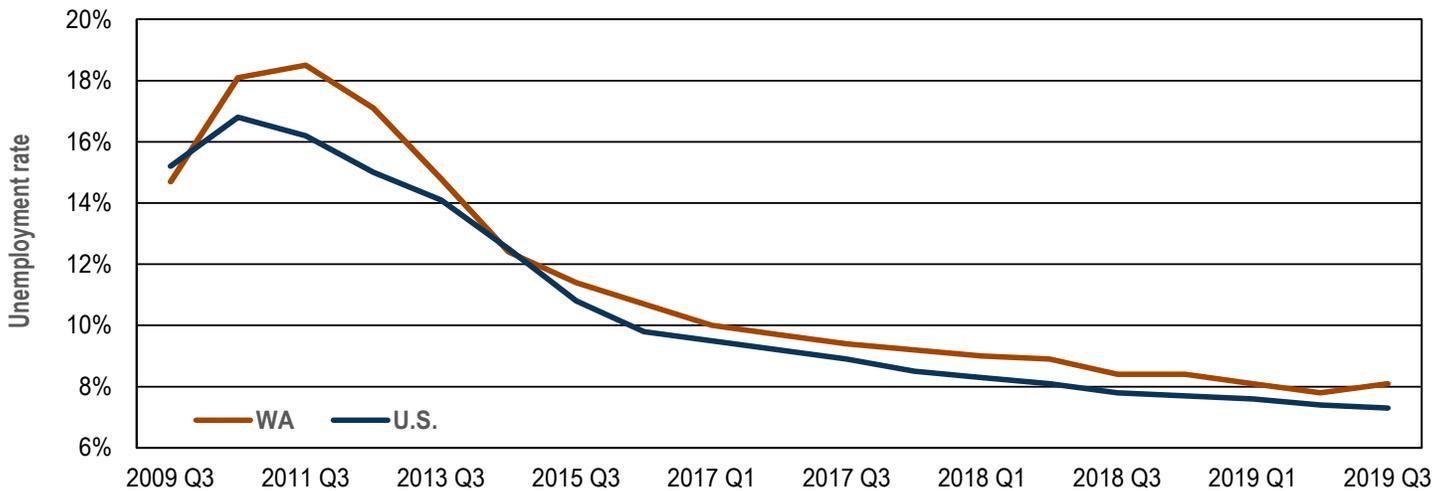
U-6: Broader unemployment measure declined in the four quarter period ending September 2019

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include annual averages for 2019. One such alternative measure is the U-6 rate, which considers not only the unemployed population in the official “U-3” unemployment rate, but also marginally attached

workers and those employed part time for economic reasons. The U-6 rate is defined by BLS as the “total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.” This U-6 measure measures the “unemployed, underemployed, and those who are not looking but who want a job.”

The U-6 unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2018 through the third quarter of 2019 for Washington state was 8.1 percent. This was lower compared to the 8.4 percent U-6 unemployment rate one year prior. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate was 7.3 percent over the same time period.

Alternate measures of labor underutilization, four-quarter moving average
Washington state versus U.S. U-6 unemployment rate



Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2019	WA	8.1%	7.8%	8.1%	
	U.S.	7.6%	7.4%	7.3%	
2018	WA	9.0%	8.9%	8.4%	8.4%
	U.S.	8.3%	8.1%	7.8%	7.7%
2017	WA	10.0%	9.7%	9.4%	9.2%
	U.S.	9.5%	9.2%	8.9%	8.5%
2016	WA	10.9%	10.7%	10.7%	10.3%
	U.S.	10.1%	9.9%	9.8%	9.6%
2015	WA	12.0%	11.7%	11.4%	11.0%
	U.S.	11.6%	11.3%	10.8%	10.4%
2014	WA	13.3%	12.8%	12.4%	12.5%
	U.S.	13.4%	12.9%	12.5%	12.0%
2013	WA	16.4%	15.7%	14.8%	14.0%
	U.S.	14.5%	14.3%	14.1%	13.8%
2012	WA	17.6%	17.0%	17.1%	16.9%
	U.S.	15.6%	15.3%	15.0%	14.7%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>.

Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted

One-month employment change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington lost an estimated 1,600 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, four industries expanded employment in October, eight contracted, and one remained unchanged.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have decreased by 1,500 and government employment decreased by 100.
- The number of jobs in retail trade increased by 1,300 overall, led by an increase of 1,000 in employment in other retail trade.
- Information employment grew by 800, with 700 jobs added by software publishers.
- Employment in construction increased by 700 overall, with jobs added by specialty trade contractors offsetting losses in construction of buildings.
- Employment in financial activities increased by 600, with 500 jobs added in real estate, rental and leasing.
- Education and health services employment fell by 1,000, with the decline in education services jobs outweighing jobs gained in health services and social assistance.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, September 2019 to October 2019

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Total nonfarm	-1,600
Retail trade	1,300
Information	800
Construction	700
Financial activities	600
Leisure and hospitality	0
Government	-100
Mining and logging	-100
Professional and business services	-300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-300
Wholesale trade	-800
Education and health services	-1,000
Manufacturing	-1,100
Other services	-1,300

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Industry employment in Washington, not seasonally adjusted

Change by industry over the year

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington added an estimated 67,600 jobs from October 2018 through October 2019.

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 2.2 percent, up an estimated 61,400 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 1.0 percent, up an estimated 6,200 jobs.
- Employment in information is up 13,400 with the number employed as software publishers up 6,700.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 10,100, led by a 6,600 increase in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Education and health services employment increased by 7,800 overall, with 10,600 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in construction is up by 6,600, led by a gain of 5,000 jobs by specialty trade contractors.
- Manufacturing added 5,400 jobs, with 4,700 jobs added in durable goods production and 700 jobs added in nondurable goods production.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted
Washington state, October 2018 through October 2019

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Total nonfarm	67,600
Information	13,400
Professional and business services	10,100
Education and health services	7,800
Construction	6,600
Government	6,200
Financial activities	5,600
Manufacturing	5,400
Leisure and hospitality	3,700
Retail trade	3,000
Wholesale trade	2,800
Other services	2,500
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	700
Mining and logging	-200

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The Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA) Division is pleased to announce our new Labor Market Information Director, Mr. Steven Ross. Steven presides over the LMEA team and their products, services and publications.

Steven can be reached by phone at: 360-507-9615 and email at: SRoss@esd.wa.gov

Monthly unemployment rates

October 2019

Washington state:
4.5% seasonally adjusted

Nationwide:
3.6% seasonally adjusted

[Labor force by county snapshot](#)
not seasonally adjusted

Seasonally adjusted employment

Seasonally adjusted numbers account for normal seasonal patterns that occur year after year, such as strong seasonal hiring in retail trade around the holidays. Taking into account normal seasonal variations makes it possible to see unusual changes in employment levels.

Normal seasonal change is the expected monthly change in employment based on history.

Estimated change is the employment change over the month based on BLS survey data.

Seasonally adjusted change is change in employment accounting for normal seasonal patterns.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change
Washington state, October 2019

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	11,900	10,300	-1,600
Government	19,300	19,200	-100
Education and health services	6,100	5,100	-1,000
Retail trade	500	1,800	1,300
Other services	200	-1,100	-1,300
Construction	100	800	700
Wholesale trade	100	-700	-800
Mining and logging	0	-100	-100
Financial activities	-300	300	600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-300	-600	-300
Information	-500	300	800
Professional and business services	-1,100	-1,400	-300
Manufacturing	-2,500	-3,600	-1,100
Leisure and hospitality	-9,700	-9,700	0

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 11,900 from September to October. This year the state gain an estimated 10,300 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted decrease of 1,600 jobs.

- Employment in retail trade normally rises by 500. It is estimated to have increased by 1,800 this October, so it increased by 1,300 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment increase in construction was 800. The normal seasonal increase is 100, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment rose by 700.
- The employment decrease on a seasonally adjusted basis was 300 in professional and business services in October. The normal seasonal decrease is 1,100. It is estimated to have decreased by 1,400 this October.
- Typically, manufacturing decreases by 2,500 in October. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment decreased by 1,100 as the estimated decrease was 3,600.
- The normal seasonal loss in leisure and hospitality employment is 9,700 in October. The estimated loss was 9,700, so employment was unchanged on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Benchmarking highlights

Benchmarking is a process that replaces employment estimates with the actual number of job gains or losses.

Each month, economists estimate monthly job gains and losses based on a survey of employers. Each quarter, economists benchmark the estimates by replacing them with data from employer tax records before applying seasonal adjustments.

Benchmarked employment data are now available through June 2019. Employment estimates for October 2019 presented in this report were based on the new data, plus seasonal adjustments.

Based on benchmarked June 2019 data:

- The two largest upward revisions were for construction and for information, up 1,900 and 1,500, respectively.
- Education and health services had the largest downward revision, 3,600.

Quarterly benchmarked industry employment, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, June 2019

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Industry sector	Revisions to June 2019 employment level
Total nonfarm	-7,600
Construction	1,900
Information	1,500
Financial activities	1,300
Mining and logging	-100
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-100
Retail trade	-200
Wholesale trade	-300
Government	-400
Leisure and hospitality	-900
Other services	-1,100
Manufacturing	-2,300
Professional and business services	-3,300
Education and health services	-3,600

Contact an economist

Our statewide economist and six regional economists serve customers in their areas for WorkSource offices, workforce development councils, non-profit organizations, higher education, businesses and the news media. They can help you find and use labor market data, fulfill special data requests and answer questions about the state and local labor markets. Get in touch with your regional economist to get the local information you need.

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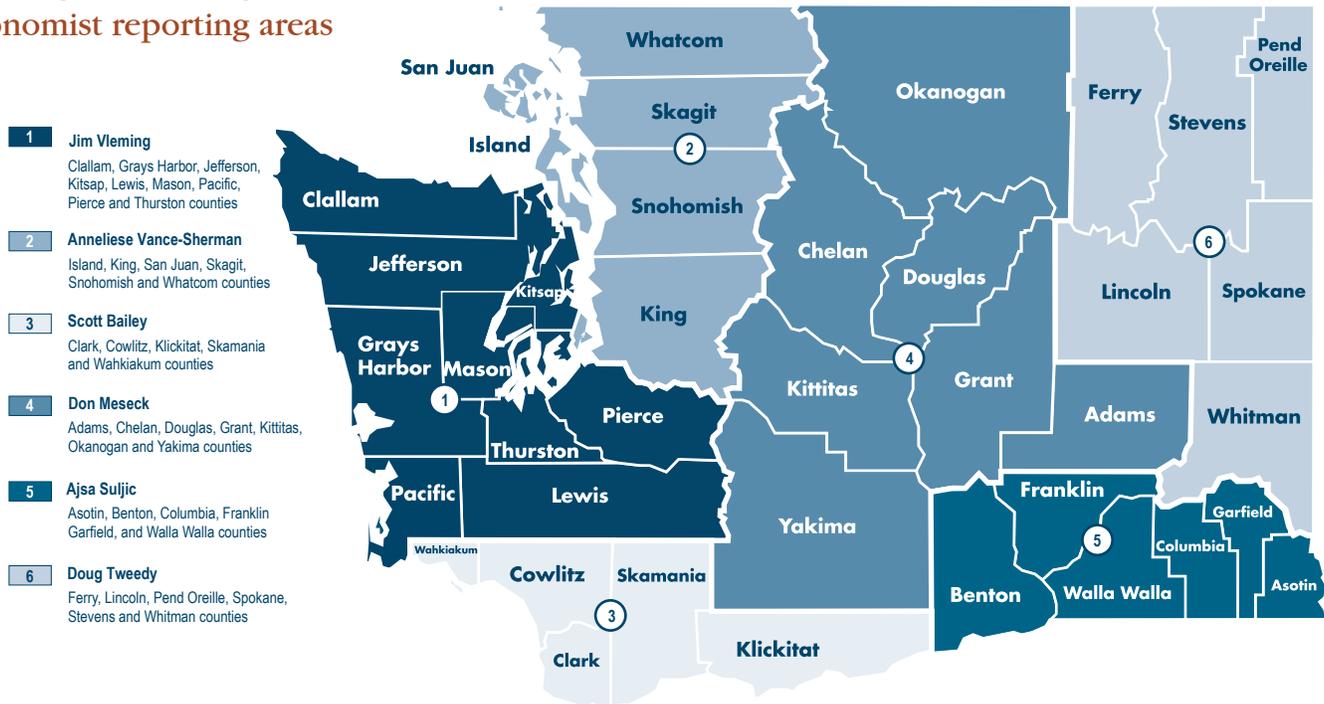
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., November 19, 2019. The publication schedule for 2019 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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