

Washington

4.4%



United States

3.5%

Seasonally adjusted

Monthly Employment Report

November 2019



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 rose by 12,200 in November 2019.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 11,000 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 1,200 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for November 2018 through November 2019 indicate an increase in employment of 66,600 for the state. The private sector added 59,100 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 7,500 jobs over the year.

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

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. October's preliminary estimated loss of 1,600 jobs was revised to a loss of 800 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, October and November 2018 and 2019
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	November 2019 (Preliminary)	October 2019 (Revised)	November 2018 (Revised)	October 2018 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate				
Seasonally adjusted	3.5%	3.6%	3.7%	3.8%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.5%	4.5%	4.4%
Resident labor force	3,940,000	3,922,100	3,823,800	3,822,100
Unemployed	175,000	178,200	170,300	169,600
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	2.8%	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%
Resident labor force	1,743,200	1,735,000	1,696,200	1,695,600
Unemployed	48,900	51,500	56,000	55,900



Labor Market and
Economic Analysis
December 2019

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 November 2019 is 4.4 percent. The revised estimated October 2019 unemployment rate is 4.5 percent.

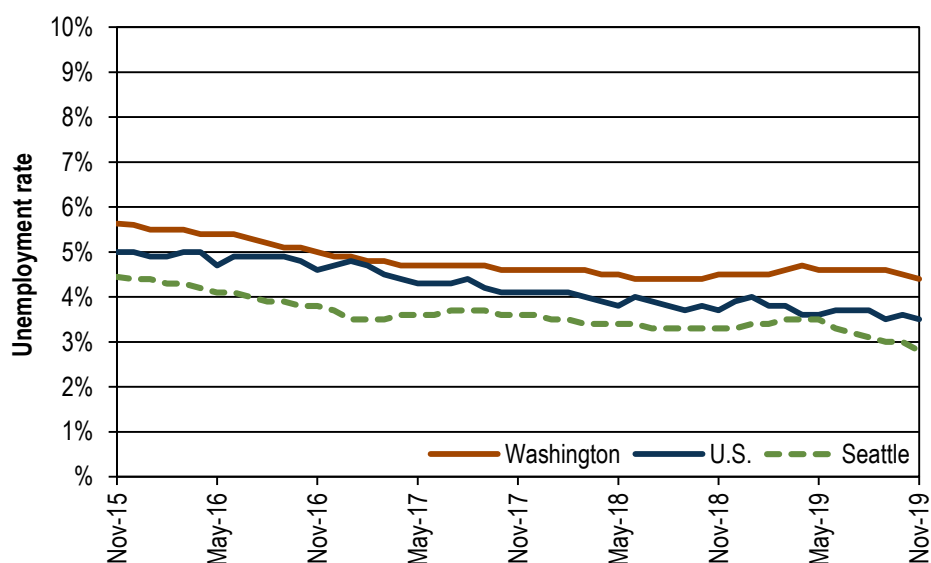
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 3,200 in November 2019 compared to October 2019. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 17,900. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 21,100 people in the labor force.

The preliminary November 2019 unemployment rate is 0.1 percentage point lower than the November 2018 rate of 4.5 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, November 2015 through November 2019

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



November 2019 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.5%

Washington (preliminary) 4.4%

Seattle area (preliminary) 2.8%

Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 12,200 jobs from October 2019 to November 2019.

Recent employment change
September 2019: down 5,400 jobs (revised)

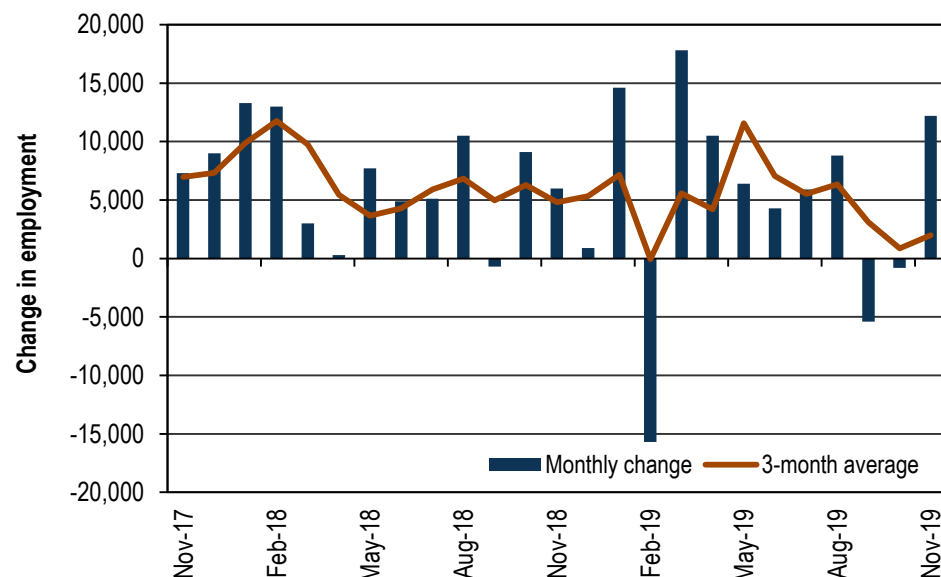
October 2019: down 800 jobs (revised)

November 2019: up 12,200 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change and three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, November 2017 through November 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%

November 2019 (preliminary)

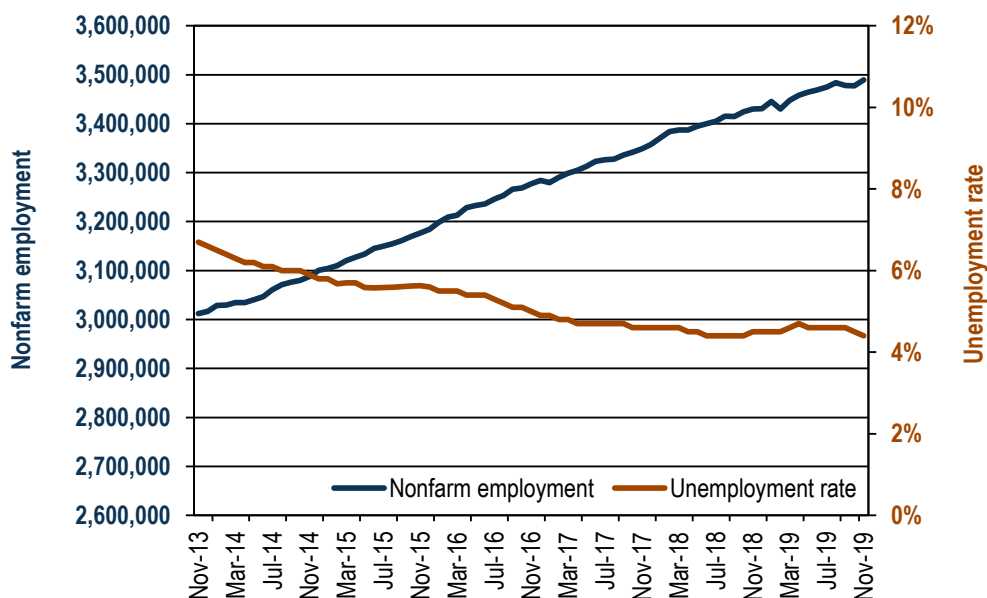
Nonfarm employment: 3,489,500

Unemployment rate: 4.4%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, November 2013 through November 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

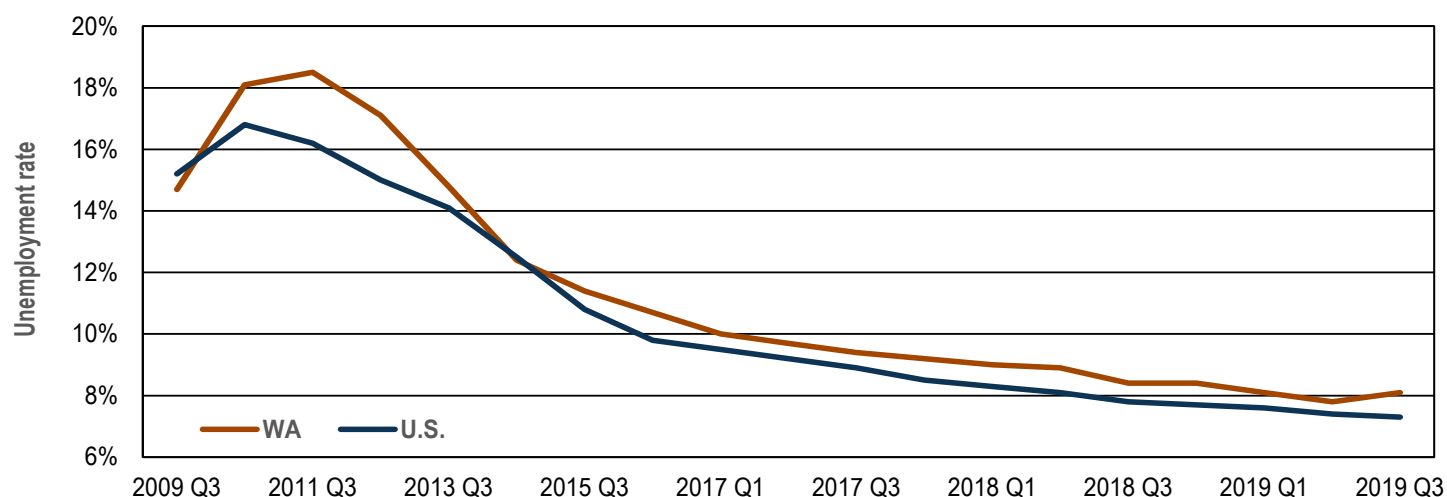
U-6: Broader unemployment measure declined in the four quarter period ending September 2019

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 gained an estimated 12,200 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, nine industries expanded employment in November, three contracted, and one remained unchanged.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 11,000 and government employment increased by 1,200.
- Education and health services employment rose by 3,600, with 3,100 jobs gained in health services and social assistance.
- The number of jobs in leisure and hospitality increased by 2,700, led by an increase of 1,900 in food services and drinking places.
- Employment in construction increased by 1,900 overall, with 1,300 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in professional and business services increased by 1,900 overall, with 2,200 jobs added in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Manufacturing employment grew by 100, with 1,000 jobs added in nondurable goods manufacturing offsetting 900 jobs lost in durable goods manufacturing.

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

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

Total nonfarm	12,200
Education and health services	3,600
Leisure and hospitality	2,700
Construction	1,900
Professional and business services	1,900
Government	1,200
Wholesale trade	1,000
Other services	400
Mining and logging	100
Manufacturing	100
Financial activities	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-100
Information	-200
Retail trade	-400

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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 66,600 jobs from November 2018 through November 2019.

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 2.1 percent, up an estimated 59,100 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 1.3 percent, up an estimated 7,500 jobs.
- Employment in information is up 11,800 with the number employed as software publishers up 5,600.
- Education and health services employment increased by 11,300 overall, with 13,200 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 9,800, led by an 8,100 increase in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Employment in construction is up by 4,900, led by a gain of 3,400 jobs by specialty trade contractors.
- Manufacturing added 2,600 jobs, with 2,500 jobs added in durable goods production and 100 jobs added in nondurable goods production.

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

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

Total nonfarm	66,600
Information	11,800
Education and health services	11,300
Professional and business services	9,800
Government	7,500
Construction	4,900
Financial activities	4,900
Wholesale trade	4,900
Leisure and hospitality	4,000
Other services	2,700
Manufacturing	2,600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,900
Retail trade	600
Mining and logging	-300

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EMPLOYMENT

Monthly employment report
Employment estimates (WA-QB and CES)
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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

November 2019

Washington state:
4.4% seasonally adjusted

Nationwide:
3.5% 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, November 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	-5,700	6,500	12,200
Retail trade	7,300	6,900	-400
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,300	2,200	-100
Education and health services	1,900	5,500	3,600
Government	1,700	2,900	1,200
Mining and logging	-200	-100	100
Other services	-400	0	400
Wholesale trade	-400	600	1,000
Information	-700	-900	-200
Financial activities	-1,000	-1,000	0
Professional and business services	-1,900	0	1,900
Manufacturing	-2,800	-2,700	100
Construction	-5,600	-3,700	1,900
Leisure and hospitality	-5,900	-3,200	2,700

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 5,700 from October to November. This year the state gained an estimated 6,500 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 12,200 jobs.

- Employment in retail trade normally rises by 7,300. It is estimated to have increased by 6,900 this November, so it decreased by 400 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 1,900 in professional and business services in November. The normal seasonal decrease is 1,900. It is estimated to not have changed this November.
- Typically, manufacturing decreases by 2,800 in November. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 100 as the estimated decrease was 2,700.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 3,700. The normal seasonal decrease is 5,600, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment rose by 1,900.
- The normal seasonal loss in leisure and hospitality employment is 5,900 in November. The estimated loss was 3,200, so employment increased by 2,700 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

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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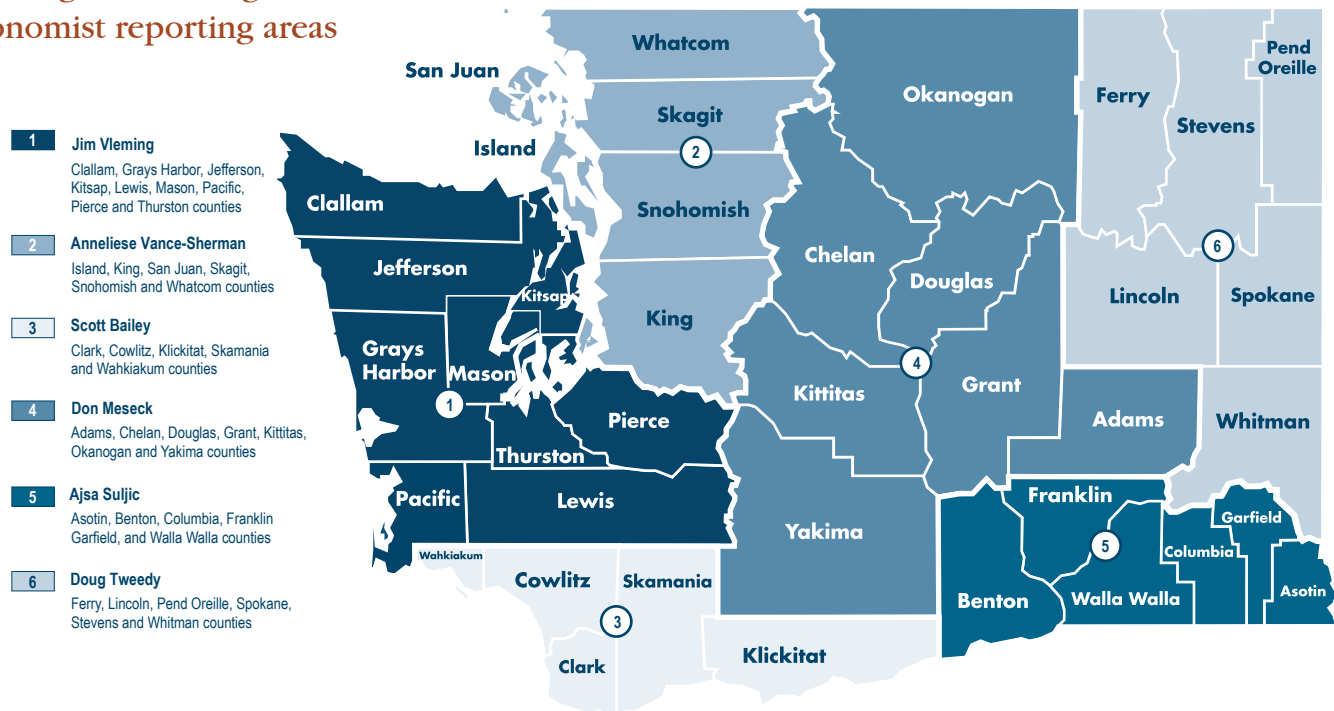
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., December 27, 2019. The publication schedule for 2019 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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