

# The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.1%

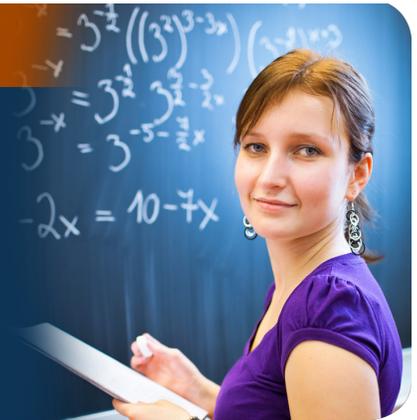
United States 3.6%

Seasonally adjusted

April 2022



**Employment Security Department**  
WASHINGTON STATE



For workers and businesses affected by COVID-19, Employment Security has updated information on the website at [esd.wa.gov](http://esd.wa.gov). For labor market information questions, please send your emails to [data@esd.wa.gov](mailto:data@esd.wa.gov).

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 12,300 in April 2022.<sup>1</sup> BLS estimates the private sector gained 12,800 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 500 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for April 2021 through April 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 186,800 for the state. The private sector gained 180,700 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 6,100 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2022 is 4.1 percent. The revised estimated March 2022 unemployment rate is at 4.1 percent. The April 2021 unemployment rate was 5.7 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The March 2022 preliminary estimated gain of 8,800 jobs was revised to a gain of 9,000 jobs.

For more information, call Paul Turek at 360-706-3044.

## 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, March and April 2021 and 2022  
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

|                                 | April<br>2022<br>(Preliminary) | March<br>2022<br>(Revised) | April<br>2021<br>(Revised) | March<br>2021<br>(Revised) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>United States</b>            |                                |                            |                            |                            |
| Unemployment rate               | 3.6%                           | 3.6%                       | 6.0%                       | 6.0%                       |
| <i>Seasonally adjusted</i>      |                                |                            |                            |                            |
| <b>Washington</b>               |                                |                            |                            |                            |
| Unemployment rate               | 4.1%                           | 4.1%                       | 5.7%                       | 5.8%                       |
| Resident labor force            | 4,023,600                      | 4,003,000                  | 3,886,800                  | 3,878,000                  |
| Unemployed                      | 163,300                        | 165,800                    | 220,200                    | 226,800                    |
| <b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b> |                                |                            |                            |                            |
| Unemployment rate               | 2.9%                           | 3.1%                       | 5.0%                       | 5.2%                       |
| Resident labor force            | 1,765,100                      | 1,753,200                  | 1,706,200                  | 1,704,000                  |
| Unemployed                      | 51,700                         | 54,700                     | 85,300                     | 88,300                     |

Data Architecture, Transformation  
and Analytics Division  
May 2022

<sup>1</sup>Most of the employment numbers discussed in this report refers to jobs, not people. 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 April 2022 is 4.1 percent. The revised estimated February 2022 unemployment rate is 4.1 percent.

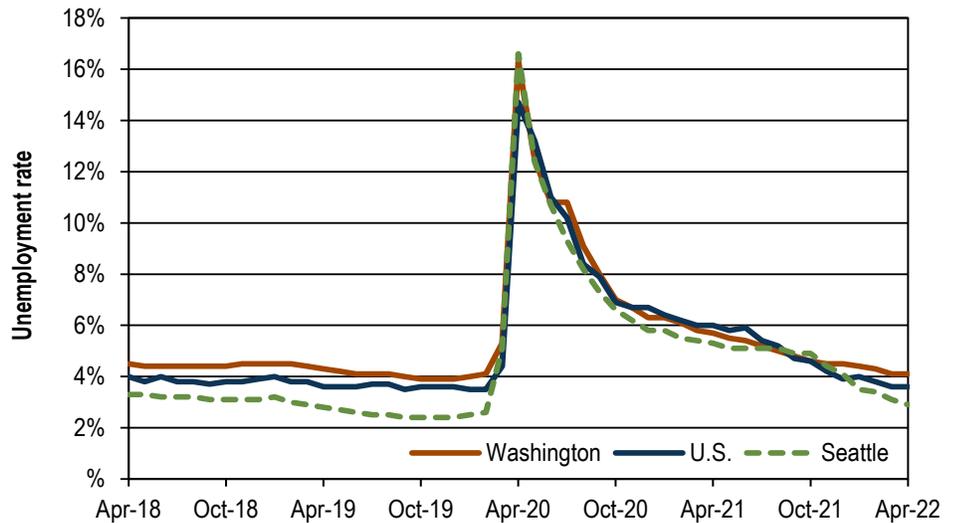
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 2,500 in April 2022 compared to March 2022. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 23,100. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 20,600 people in the labor force.

The preliminary April 2022 unemployment rate is 1.6 percentage points lower than the April 2021 rate of 5.7 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, April 2018 through April 2022

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



**April 2022 preliminary unemployment rates:**

U.S. (preliminary) 3.6%  
 Washington (preliminary) 4.1%  
 Seattle area (preliminary) 2.9%

## Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 12,300 jobs from March 2022 to April 2022.

**Recent employment change:**

**February 2022:** up 28,000 jobs (revised)

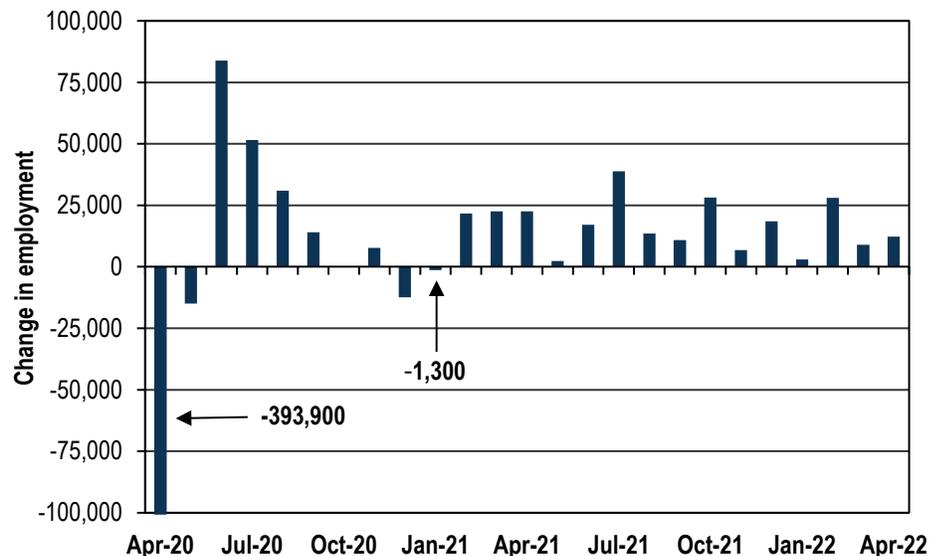
**March 2022:** up 9,000 jobs (revised)

**April 2022:** up 12,300 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, April 2020 through April 2022

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



# Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

## February 2020

(Start of 2020 employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 3,514,600

Unemployment rate: 4.1%

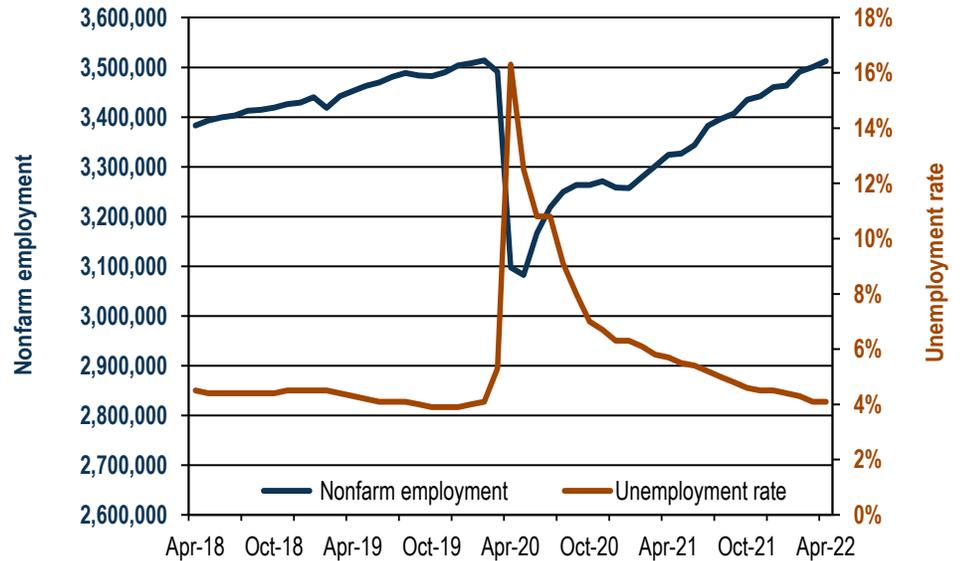
## April 2022 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,512,700

Unemployment rate: 4.1%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, April 2018 through April 2022

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



## Workers and businesses affected by COVID-19

Employment Security's COVID-19 online information page covers topics for businesses and workers impacted by COVID-19. Topics include:

- Subscribing for updates
- Frequently asked questions
- Workers Q&A
- Business Q&A
- CARES ACT
- COVID-19 rulemaking
- COVID-19 resources
- Action alerts and updates

We are all in this together. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented demand for services, and we thank you for your patience while we work to serve you better.

**Did you know** that you can subscribe for email updates on a number of Employment Security Department topics all at once?

Go to [esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo](http://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo) and select the email icon at the top of the page.



Enter your email address and subscribe by checking the boxes for topics such as:

- COVID-19
- Labor market information
- News releases
- Employer news and resources
- Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Employer information
- SharedWork program
- WorkSource system
- Unemployment insurance
- Training

Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

## U-6 unemployment rate

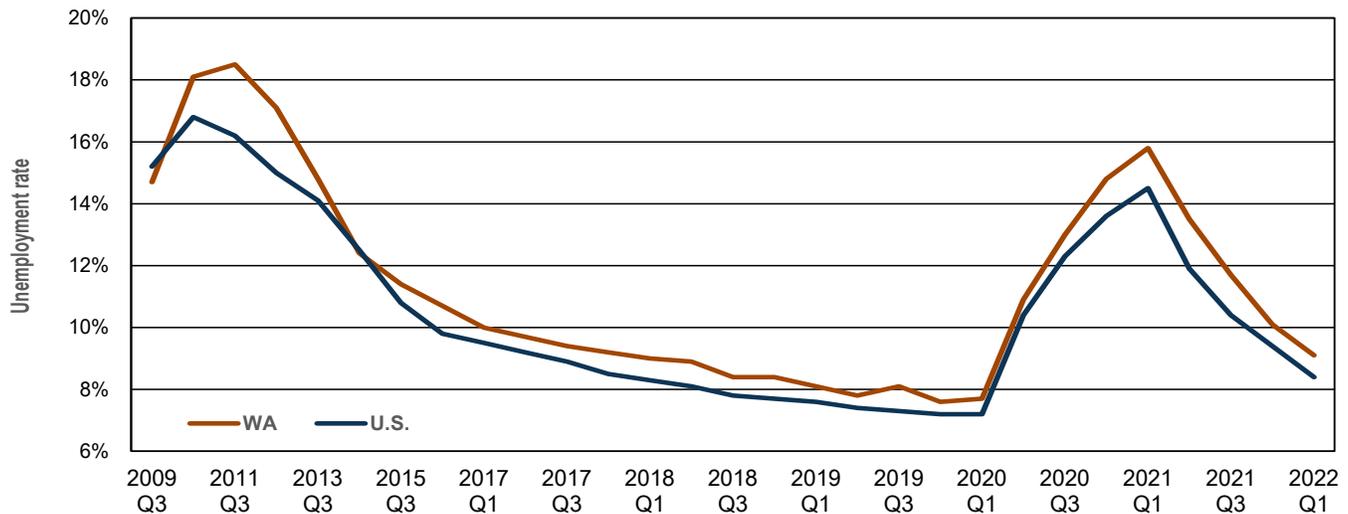
### U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter period from second quarter 2021 through first quarter 2022

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include annual averages for 2021. 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 four-quarter period from second quarter 2021 through first quarter 2022 for Washington state was 9.1 percent. This was lower compared to the 10.1 percent U-6 unemployment rate for the annual 2021 period. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate for the four-quarter period from second quarter 2021 through first quarter 2022 was 8.4 percent.

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 |
|------|---------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| 2022 | WA      | 9.1%  |       |       |                |
|      | U.S.    | 8.4%  |       |       |                |
| 2021 | WA      | 15.8% | 13.5% | 11.7% | 10.1%          |
|      | U.S.    | 14.5% | 11.9% | 10.4% | 9.4%           |
| 2020 | WA      | 8.1%  | 10.9% | 13.0% | 14.8%          |
|      | U.S.    | 7.7%  | 10.4% | 12.3% | 13.6%          |
| 2019 | WA      | 8.1%  | 7.8%  | 8.1%  | 7.6%           |
|      | U.S.    | 7.6%  | 7.4%  | 7.3%  | 7.2%           |
| 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%           |

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/stait.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 12,300 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in nine major industries and decreased in four in April.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 12,800 and government employment decreased by 500.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services increased by 4,200 overall, with 3,600 jobs gained in employment services.
- Education and health services employment rose by 1,900 overall, with 1,000 jobs gained in education services.
- Employment in manufacturing rose by 1,800 overall, led by 600 jobs gained in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 1,000 over the month, with 800 jobs gained in arts, entertainment and recreation.
- Transportation, warehousing and utilities employment increased by 900 overall, with 700 jobs gained in truck transportation.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, March 2022 to April 2022

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

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Total nonfarm</b>                      | <b>12,300</b> |
| Professional and business services        | 4,200         |
| Information                               | 2,600         |
| Education and health services             | 1,900         |
| Manufacturing                             | 1,800         |
| Leisure and hospitality                   | 1,000         |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | 900           |
| Other services                            | 400           |
| Retail trade                              | 300           |
| Construction                              | 200           |
| Mining and logging                        | -100          |
| Wholesale trade                           | -100          |
| Financial activities                      | -300          |
| Government                                | -500          |

As we navigate the COVID-19 developments in Washington state and beyond, we know Washington state businesses, nonprofits, city and county municipalities, educational institutions, as well as economic and workforce development professionals, are looking for sound data about the short and long term economic and workforce impacts to their individual businesses, industries and regions.

If you have specific questions regarding labor market information, please send your emails to [data@esd.wa.gov](mailto:data@esd.wa.gov).

## Industry employment in Washington, not seasonally adjusted

### Change by industry over the year

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington gained an estimated 186,800 jobs from April 2021 through April 2022.

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 6.6 percent, up an estimated 180,700 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 1.1 percent, up an estimated 6,100 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 57,600, with food services and drinking places adding 40,400 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 40,200, with 17,500 jobs added in administrative and support services.
- Information employment increased by 11,800, with 3,400 jobs added by software publishers.
- Construction employment rose 10,300 overall, with 7,100 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in retail trade is up 7,500 overall, led by an increase of 8,100 in other retail trade.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, April 2021 through April 2022

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

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Total nonfarm</b>                      | <b>186,800</b> |
| Leisure and hospitality                   | 57,600         |
| Professional and business services        | 40,200         |
| Education and health services             | 18,100         |
| Information                               | 11,800         |
| Construction                              | 10,300         |
| Manufacturing                             | 8,600          |
| Other services                            | 8,400          |
| Wholesale trade                           | 7,700          |
| Retail trade                              | 7,500          |
| Government                                | 6,100          |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | 5,400          |
| Financial activities                      | 5,400          |
| Mining and logging                        | -300           |

## 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, April 2022

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

|   | Normal seasonal change | Estimated change | Seasonally adjusted change |
|---|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Total nonfarm</b>                      | <b>17,800</b>          | <b>30,100</b>    | <b>12,300</b>              |
| Leisure and hospitality                   | 6,500                  | 7,500            | 1,000                      |
| Government                                | 5,500                  | 5,000            | -500                       |
| Professional and business services        | 4,700                  | 8,900            | 4,200                      |
| Wholesale trade                           | 1,500                  | 1,400            | -100                       |
| Other services                            | 1,300                  | 1,700            | 400                        |
| Education and health services             | 1,000                  | 2,900            | 1,900                      |
| Construction                              | 1,000                  | 1,200            | 200                        |
| Financial activities                      | 500                    | 200              | -300                       |
| Retail trade                              | 0                      | 300              | 300                        |
| Mining and logging                        | 0                      | -100             | -100                       |
| Manufacturing                             | -1,100                 | 700              | 1,800                      |
| Information                               | -1,500                 | 1,100            | 2,600                      |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | -1,600                 | -700             | 900                        |

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 17,800 from March to April. This year the state gained an estimated 30,100 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 12,300 jobs.

- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 6,500 in April. The estimated gain was 7,500, so employment increased by 1,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 4,200 in professional and business services in April. The normal seasonal increase is 4,700. It is estimated to have increased this April by 8,900.
- The estimated employment increase in construction was 1,200. The normal seasonal increase is 1,000, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment increased by 200.
- Employment in retail trade is normally unchanged. It is estimated to have increased by 300 this April so it increased by 300 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 1,100 in April. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 1,800 as the estimated increase was 700.

## 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 December 2021. Employment estimates for April 2022 presented in this report were based on the new data, plus seasonal adjustments.

Based on benchmarked December 2021 data:

- The two largest upward revisions were for professional and business services, and for education and health services, up 8,200 and 7,500, respectively.
- Government had the largest downward revision at 9,900.

Quarterly benchmarked industry employment, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, December 2021

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

| Industry sector                           | Revisions to<br>December 2021<br>employment level |
|---|---|
| <b>Total nonfarm</b>                      | <b>15,900</b>                                     |
| Professional and business services        | 8,200   |
| Education and health services             | 7,500   |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | 5,800   |
| Wholesale trade                           | 4,200   |
| Manufacturing                             | 3,600   |
| Leisure and hospitality                   | 2,900   |
| Construction                              | 1,100   |
| Other services                            | 1,000   |
| Mining and logging                        | -300  |
| Financial activities                      | -400  |
| Information                               | -1,200  |
| Retail trade                              | -6,600  |
| Government                                | -9,900  |

## Media inquiries and contact information

Due to the high volume of requests for information, please send your emails to [media@esd.wa.gov](mailto:media@esd.wa.gov) so that we can forward your requests to the appropriate staff.

For labor market information questions, please send your emails to [data@esd.wa.gov](mailto:data@esd.wa.gov).

### Statewide labor economist:

Paul Turek, Ph.D.  
[Paul.turek@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Paul.turek@esd.wa.gov)  
 360-706-3044

### Regional labor economists:

Scott Bailey  
[Scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov)  
 360-810-0048

Don Meseck  
[Don.meseck@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Don.meseck@esd.wa.gov)  
 509-574-0176

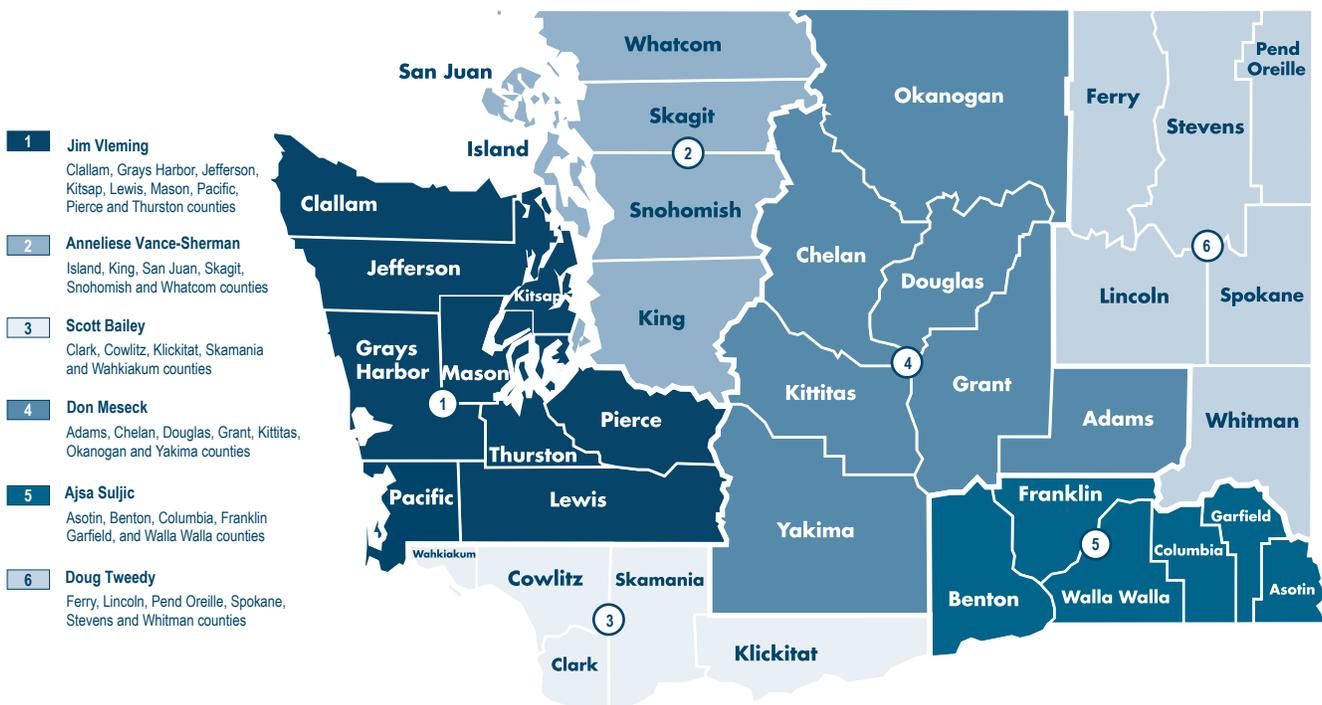
Ajsa Suljic  
[Ajsa.suljic@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Ajsa.suljic@esd.wa.gov)  
 509-734-5928

Doug Tweedy  
[dtweedy@esd.wa.gov](mailto:dtweedy@esd.wa.gov)  
 509-434-5278

Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D.  
[Anneliese.vancesherman@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Anneliese.vancesherman@esd.wa.gov)  
 425-258-6315

Jim Vleming  
[Jim.vleming@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Jim.vleming@esd.wa.gov)  
 360-819-3427

## Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., May 24, 2022. The publication schedule for 2022 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Language assistance services for limited English proficient individuals are available free of charge. Washington Relay Service: 711.

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