Unemployment rates (03/2021)

1Statewide: 03/2021: 5.4%
1Statewide: 03/2020: 5.3%
2Highest county rate: 03/2021: 9.8% (Ferry)
2Lowest county rate: 03/2021: 4.5% (Asotin)

1 = seasonally adjusted; 2 = not seasonally adjusted

Jobs (growth/loss 03/2021)

Month/month: 23,100 (preliminary)
Year/year: -166,400 or -4.8%
Since recession start (2/20): -160,700 or -4.6%

Top growth industries:
Leisure and hospitality +9,200
Government +4,500
Education and health services +2,600

Total jobs (labor force): 3,849,500
Total covered employment: 3,640,000
Job losses during great recession (12/07-6/09): -151,400
Job losses since recession start (2/20): -160,700
Unemployed, seeking work: 209,500

Unemployment claims (3/2021)

Claimants (regular benefits), 3/2021: 123,147
CY15 = 221,326; CY16 = 210,554; CY17 = 224,823;
CY18 = 187,603; CY19 = 196,545; CY20 = 898,712

Continued regular claims: -28% since 3/2020
Regular benefits paid, 03/2021: $185.2M
CY15 = $1.0B; CY16 = $1.0B; CY17 = $1.03B;
CY18 = $995.4M; CY19 = $1.06B; CY20 = $5.0B

Average weekly benefit (regular claims), 3/2021: $453
CY15 = $418; CY16 = $473; CY17 = $484
CY18 = $467; CY19 = $478; CY20 = $446

Highest/lowest weekly benefit: $844 / $201

Long-term unemployed (LTU)

Definition: unemployed more than 26 weeks
LTU job seekers in Washington, 04/2020 - 03/2021: 66,500
LTU = of all unemployed job seekers: 19.2%
LTU = of total labor force (3.9M): 1.3%
Male: 60%
Female: 40%

Average wage/minimum wage in Washington

Average yearly wage, 2019: $69,700 (+6.7% from 2018)
Average weekly wage, 2019: $1,340
Minimum wage, 2019: $12.00

Unemployment taxes/trust fund

Taxes collected, Q4-2020: $318.9M
CY14 = $1.52B; CY15 = $1.33B; CY16 = $1.18B;
CY17 = $1.12B; CY18 = $1.09B; CY19 = $1.09B; CY20 = $1.20B

Low/high tax rates, 2021: 0.23-6.02%, Avg. = 1.06%
($130-$3,401 per worker earning = / > $56,500/year)

Taxable wage base: 2021: $56,500; 2020: $52,700
Trust fund balance, 3/31/2021: $1.50B

WorkSource services (as of 3/31/21)

Total jobs listed on WorkSourceWA.com 1,119,615*
Total employers with job postings 16,753*
Total employers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts: 23,923*
Total job seekers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts: 727,040*
WorkSource customers who found jobs: 103,176**
*Since WorkSourceWA.com go-live May 2016
**Rolling four quarters (CY2019 Q3 through CY2020 Q2)

ESD employees (as of 3/31/21)

Number of employees: 2,360 (1,805 perm)
Employee ages <25 = 1.4%; 25-39 = 26.5%; 40-54 = 38.6%; 55+ = 33.5%
Employees of color: 31.8%

Toll-free numbers

For UI claimants
- “Regular” claims: 800-318-6022
- Training benefits: 877-600-7701
- Debt collection unit (overpayments): 866-697-4831
- Trade Act: 888-317-0480
- Assistance with eServices sign-in: 855-682-0785

For employers
- UI benefits questions: 877-504-5607
- Web tax filing help and employer tax questions: 855-829-9243 (855-TAX-WAGE)
- SharedWork help line: 800-752-2500
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit: 800-669-9271

Other
- Veterans (Dept. of Veterans Affairs): 800-562-2308
- WorkSourceWA.com sign-in assistance: 888-316-5627
- Washington Service Corps: 888-713-6080
- Labor market information: 833-572-8421
- Benefit and tax fraud: 800-246-9763
- Federal bonding program: 800-669-9271
- Paid Family and Medical Leave: 833-717-2273

Washington Relay Service

Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/program.
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.