ESD Facts & Figures
December 2021

Unemployment rates (11/2021)

1 Statewide: 11/2021: 4.7%
2 Statewide: 11/2020: 6.7%
3 Highest county rate: 11/2021: 5.9% (Ferry)
4 Lowest county rate: 11/2021: 2.2% (Asotin)

1 = seasonally adjusted; 2 = not seasonally adjusted

Jobs (growth/loss 11/2021)

Month/month: 12,800 (preliminary)
Year/year: 147,200 or 4.5%
Since recession start (2/20): -28,600 or -0.8%

Top growth industries:
Leisure and hospitality +4,800
Government +4,700
Information +1,900

Total jobs (labor force): 3,936,700
Total covered employment: 3,426,100
Job losses during great recession (12/07-6/09): -151,400
Job losses since recession start (2/20): -28,600
Unemployed, seeking work: 184,600

www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo

Unemployment claims (11/2021)

Claimants (regular benefits), 11/2021: 46,554
CY15 = 221,326; CY16 = 210,554; CY17 = 224,823; CY18 = 187,603; CY19 = 196,545; CY20 = 898,712
Continued regular claims: -70% since 11/2020
Regular benefits paid, 11/2021: $77.5M
CY15 = $1.0B; CY16 = $1.0B; CY17 = $1.03B; CY18 = $995.4M; CY19 = $1.06B; CY20 = $5.0B
Average weekly benefit (regular claims), 11/2021: $537
CY15 = $418; CY16 = $473; CY17 = $484; CY18 = $467; CY19 = $478; CY20 = $446
Highest/lowest weekly benefit: $929 / $295

Long-term unemployed (LTU)

Definition: unemployed more than 26 weeks
LTU job seekers in Washington, 12/2020 - 11/2021: 76,200
LTU = of all unemployed job seekers: 33.3%
LTU = of total labor force (3.9M): 1.9%
Male: 59%
Female: 41%

Average wage/minimum wage in Washington

Average yearly wage, 2020: $76,741 (+10.1% from 2019)
Average weekly wage, 2020: $1,475
Minimum wage, 2020: $13.69

Unemployment taxes/trust fund

Taxes collected, Q3-2021: $491.6M
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, 11/30/21: $1.88B

WorkSource services (as of 11/30/21)

Total jobs listed on WorkSourceWA.com: 1,344,296*
Total employers with job postings: 18,947*
Total employers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts: 26,992*
Total job seekers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts: 810,901*
WorkSource customers who found jobs: 87,650**

*Since WorkSourceWA.com go-live May 2016
**Rolling four quarters (CY2020 Q1 through CY2020 Q4)

ESD employees (as of 11/30/21)

Number of employees: 2,916 (2,042 perm)
Employee ages <25 = 2.0%; 25-39 = 27.4%; 40-54 = 39.7%; 55+ = 30.9%
Employees of color: 46.0%

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.