ESD Facts & Figures
February 2022

Unemployment rates (12/2021)

1Statewide: 12/2021: 4.5%
1Statewide: 12/2020: 4.7%
2Highest county rate: 12/2021: 7.0% (Ferry)
2Lowest county rate: 12/2021: 2.7% (Asotin)

1 = seasonally adjusted; 2 = not seasonally adjusted

Jobs (growth/loss 1/2022)

Month/month: 14,000 (preliminary)
Year/year: 178,100 or 5.4%
Since recession start (2/20): -32,500 or -0.9%

Top growth industries:
Government +3,700
Retail trade +3,200
Professional and business services +2,800

Total jobs (labor force): 3,952,900
Total covered employment: 3,445,100
Job losses during great recession (12/07-6/09): -151,400
Job losses since recession start (2/20): -32,500
Unemployed, seeking work: 176,900

Unemployment taxes/trust fund

Taxes collected, Q4-2021: $324.0M
CY14 = $1.52B; CY15 = $1.33B; CY16 = $1.18B; CY17 = $1.12B; CY18 = $1.09B; CY19 = $1.08B; CY20 = $1.20B; CY21 = $1.60B
Low/high tax rates, 2021: 0.23-6.02%, Avg. = 1.06%
($130-$3,401 per worker earning = / > $56,500/year)
Taxable wage base: 2022: $62,500; 2021: $56,500
Trust fund balance, 01/31/2022: $1.94B

WorkSource services (as of 1/31/22)

Total jobs listed on WorkSourceWA.com 1,402,058*
Total employers with job postings 19,240*
Total employers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts: 27,409*
Total job seekers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts: 823,055*
WorkSource customers who found jobs: 59,102**

*Since WorkSourceWA.com go-live May 2016
**Rolling four quarters (CY2020 Q3 through CY2021 Q2)

Unemployment claims (01/2022)

Claimants (regular benefits), 01/2022: 64,530
CY16 = 210,554; CY17 = 224,823; CY18 =187,603; CY19 =196,545; CY20 = 888,712; CY21 =341,774
Continued regular claims: -64% since 01/2021
Regular benefits paid, 01/2022: $114.2M
Average weekly benefit (regular claims), 01/2022 $562
Average yearly wage, 2020: $76,741 (+10.1% from 2019)
Average weekly wage, 2020: $1,475
Minimum wage, 2022: $14.49

Highest/lowest weekly benefit: $929 / $295

Unemployed, seeking work: 176,900

Long-term unemployed (LTU)

Definition: unemployed more than 26 weeks
LTU job seekers in Washington, 02/2021 - 01/2022: 72,400
LTU = of all unemployed job seekers: 33.2%
LTU = of total labor force (3.9M): 1.8%
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, 2022: $14.49

Lowest county rate: 12/2021: 2.7% (Asotin)

Unemployed, seeking work: 176,900

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.