

Unemployment rates (05/2021)

¹ Statewide:	05/2021: 5.3%
¹ Statewide:	05/2020: 12.5%
² Highest county rate:	05/2021: 7.7% (Pacific)
² Lowest county rate:	05/2021: 3.8% (Asotin)

¹ = seasonally adjusted; ² = not seasonally adjusted

Jobs (growth/loss 05/2021)

Month/month:	8,300 (preliminary)
Year/year:	248,900 or 8.0%
Since recession start (2/20):	-107,000 or -3.0%

Top growth industries:

Leisure and hospitality	+6,300
Professional and business services	+3,500
Government	+1,300

Total jobs (labor force):	3,875,600
Total covered employment:	3,670,300
Job losses during great recession (12/07-6/09)	-151,400
Job losses since recession start (2/20):	-107,000
Unemployed, seeking work:	205,200

www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo

Unemployment claims (5/2021)

Claimants (regular benefits), 5/2021:	93,489
CY15 = 221,326; CY16 = 210,554; CY17 = 224,823; CY18 = 187,603; CY19 = 196,545; CY20 = 898,712	

Continued regular claims: -86% since 5/2020

Regular benefits paid, 05/2021:	\$151.2M
CY15 = \$1.0B; CY16 = \$1.0B; CY17 = \$1.03B; CY18 = \$995.4M; CY19 = \$1.06B; CY20=\$5.0B	

Average weekly benefit (regular claims), 5/2021	\$485
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, 06/2020 - 05/2021:	75,800
LTU = of all unemployed job seekers:	26.7%
LTU = of total labor force (3.9M):	1.9%
Male:	56%
Female:	44%

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, Q1-2021:	\$206.5M
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, 5/30/2021:	\$1.87B

WorkSource services (as of 5/31/21)

Total jobs listed on WorkSourceWA.com	1,173,620*
Total employers with job postings	17,461*
Total employers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts:	24,846*
Total job seekers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts:	741,158*
WorkSource customers who found jobs:	103,313**

*Since WorkSourceWA.com go-live May 2016

**Rolling four quarters (CY2019 Q3 through CY2020 Q2)

ESD employees (as of 5/31/21)

Number of employees:	2,368 (1,856 perm)
Employee ages <25 = 1.4%; 25-39 = 26.1%; 40-54 = 38.9%; 55+ = 33.6%	
Employees of color:	31.9%

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.