

Unemployment rates (02/2021)

¹ Statewide:	02/2021: 5.6%
¹ Statewide:	02/2020: 4.1%
² Highest county rate:	02/2021: 10.2% (Ferry)
² Lowest county rate:	02/2021: 4.3% (Asotin)

¹ = seasonally adjusted; ² = not seasonally adjusted

Jobs (growth/loss 02/2021)

Month/month:	24,500 (preliminary)
Year/year:	-213,800 or -6.2%
Since recession start (2/20):	-200,800 or -5.8%

Top growth industries:

Leisure and hospitality	+12,700
Professional and business services	+2,500
Education and health services	+2,400

Total jobs (labor force):	3,837,400
Total covered employment:	3,621,500
Job losses during great recession (12/07-6/09)	-151,400
Job losses since recession start (2/20):	-200,800
Unemployed, seeking work:	215,900

www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo

Unemployment claims (2/2021)

Claimants (regular benefits), 2/2021:	135,008
CY15 = 221,326; CY16 = 210,554; CY17 = 224,823; CY18 = 187,603; CY19 = 196,545; CY20 = 898,712	

Continued regular claims: +128% since 2/2020

Regular benefits paid, 02/2021:	\$187.2M
CY15 = \$1.0B; CY16 = \$1.0B; CY17 = \$1.03B; CY18 = \$995.4M; CY19 = \$1.06B; CY20 = \$5.0B	

Average weekly benefit (regular claims), 2/2021	\$455
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, 02/2020 - 01/2021:	52,300
LTU = of all unemployed job seekers:	15.7%
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, 2/28/2021:	\$1.64B

WorkSource services (as of 2/28/21)

Total jobs listed on WorkSourceWA.com	1,091,433*
Total employers with job postings	16,419*
Total employers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts:	23,463*
Total job seekers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts:	720,019*
WorkSource customers who found jobs:	100,412**

*Since WorkSourceWA.com go-live May 2016

**Rolling four quarters (CY2019 Q2 through CY2020 Q1)

ESD employees (as of 2/28/21)

Number of employees:	2,360 (1,805 perm)
Employee ages <25 = 1.4%; 25-39 = 26.6%; 40-54 = 38.7%; 55+ = 33.3%	
Employees of color:	31.5%

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.