ESD Facts & Figures
November 2021

Unemployment rates (10/2021)

1Statewide: 10/2021: 5.0%
1Statewide: 10/2020: 7.0%
2Highest county rate: 10/2021: 6.5% (Ferry)
2Lowest county rate: 10/2021: 2.8% (Asotin)

= seasonally adjusted; = not seasonally adjusted

Jobs (growth/loss 10/2021)

Month/month: 6,300 (preliminary)
Year/year: 156,600 or 4.8%
Since recession start (2/20): -28,800 or -0.8%

Top growth industries:
Manufacturing +6,000
Professional and business services +5,600
Retail trade +2,800

Total jobs (labor force): 3,935,600
Total covered employment: 3,420,100
Job losses during great recession (12/07-6/09): -151,400
Job losses since recession start (2/20): -28,800
Unemployed, seeking work: 198,100
www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo

Unemployment claims (10/2021)

Claimants (regular benefits), 10/2021: 49,964
CY15 = 221,326; CY16 = 210,554; CY17 = 224,823;
CY18 = 187,603; CY19 = 196,545; CY20 = 898,712

Continued regular claims: -68% since 10/2020
Regular benefits paid, 10/2021: $80.7M
CY15 = $1.0B; CY16 = $1.0B; CY17 = $1.03B;
CY18 = $995.4M; CY19 = $1.06B; CY20=$5.0B

Average weekly benefit (regular claims), 10/2021: $527
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, 11/2020 - 10/2021: 77,700
LTU = of all unemployed job seekers: 32.0%
LTU = of total labor force (3.9M): 2.0%
Male: 57%
Female: 43%

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, 10/31/2021: $1.73B

WorkSource services (as of 10/31/21)

Total jobs listed on WorkSourceWA.com 1,317,330*
Total employers with job postings 18,790*
Total employers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts: 26,751*
Total job seekers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts: 805,106*
WorkSource customers who found jobs: 87,618**

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

ESD employees (as of 10/31/21)

Number of employees: 2,918 (2,005 perm)
Employee ages <25 = 2.2%; 25-39 = 27.5%;
40-54 = 39.4%; 55+ = 30.9%
Employees of color: 45.7%

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.