

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 5.0%

United States 4.6%

Seasonally adjusted

October 2021



Employment Security Department
WASHINGTON STATE



For workers and businesses affected by COVID-19, Employment Security has updated information on the website at esd.wa.gov. For labor market information questions, please send your emails to data@esd.wa.gov.

Employment estimates in this report are generated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Monthly employment estimates are subject to revision in subsequent months when more sample data become available. BLS data in this report are rounded to the nearest 100.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 6,300 in October 2021.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 15,600 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 9,300 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for October 2020 through October 2021 indicate an increase in employment of 156,600 for the state. The private sector gained 138,000 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 18,600 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2021 is 5.0 percent. The revised estimated September 2021 unemployment rate is at 5.1 percent. The October 2020 unemployment rate was 7.0 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The September 2021 preliminary estimated gain of 17,600 jobs was revised to a gain of 18,800 jobs.

For more information, call Paul Turek at 360-706-3044.

Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The **resident civilian labor force** is the total number of people in the workforce, employed and unemployed, ages 16 and up.

The number of **unemployed** is the estimated number of people who currently do not have a job, are available for work and have actively looked for work in the last four weeks.

The **unemployment rate** is the ratio of the estimated number of unemployed divided by the civilian labor force.

Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted
United States and Washington state, September and October 2020 and 2021
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	October 2021 (Preliminary)	September 2021 (Revised)	October 2020 (Revised)	September 2020 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.8%	6.9%	7.8%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.1%	7.0%	8.0%
Resident labor force	3,935,600	3,928,000	3,981,800	3,870,000
Unemployed	198,100	198,700	277,800	309,300
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.9%	6.6%	7.3%
Resident labor force	1,754,400	1,752,500	1,735,700	1,733,100
Unemployed	86,000	86,600	115,200	126,200

Labor Market and Economic Analysis
November 2021

¹Most of the employment numbers discussed in this report refers to jobs, not people. For example, if a person holds two positions, these positions are counted as two jobs in the employment series. In the section titled "Unemployment," these positions refer to individuals, not jobs. In this case, a person holding two jobs is counted only once.

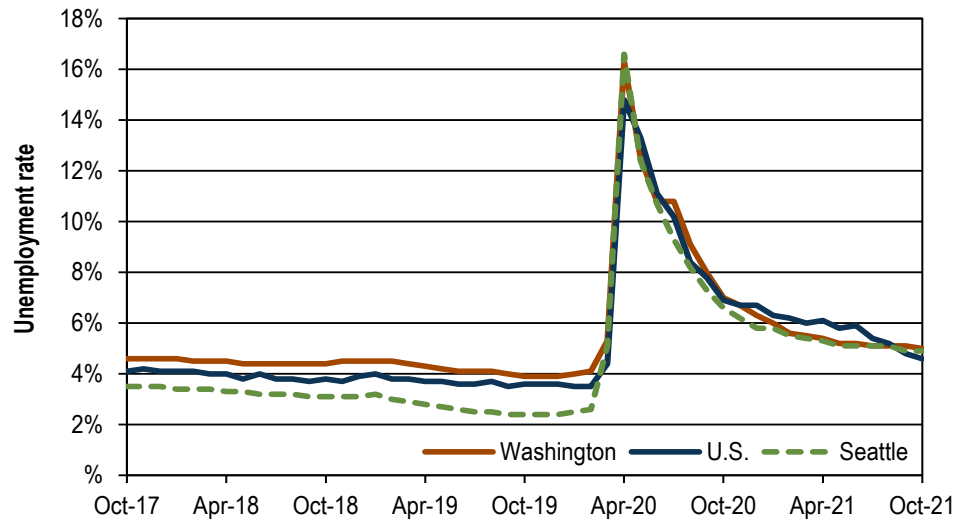
Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2021 is 5.0 percent. The revised estimated September 2021 unemployment rate is 5.1 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 600 in October 2021 compared to September 2021. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 8,200. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 7,600 people in the labor force.

The preliminary October 2021 unemployment rate is 2.0 percentage points lower than the October 2020 rate of 7.0 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
U.S., Washington and Seattle, October 2017 through October 2021
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



October 2021 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 4.6%
Washington (preliminary) 5.0%
Seattle area (preliminary) 4.9%

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 6,300 jobs from September 2021 to October 2021.

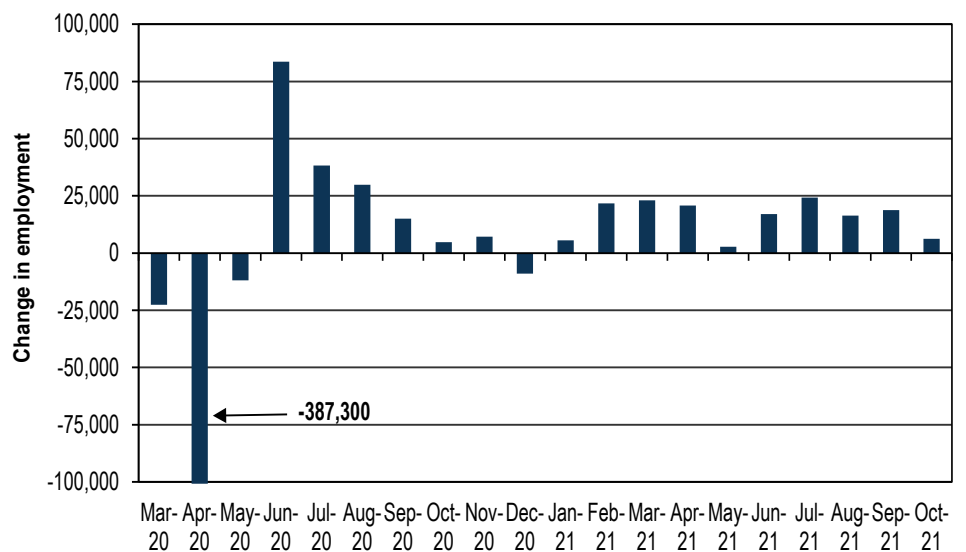
Recent employment change:

August 2021: up 16,400 jobs (revised)

September 2021: up 18,800 jobs (revised)

October 2021: up 6,300 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, March 2020 through October 2021
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics



Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

February 2020

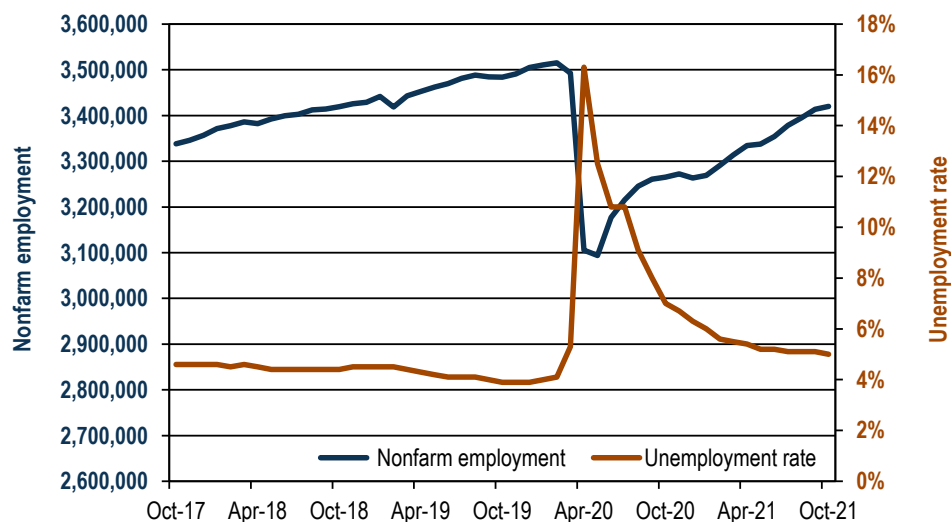
(Start of 2020 employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 3,515,500
Unemployment rate: 4.1%

October 2021 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,420,100
Unemployment rate: 5.0%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, October 2017 through October 2021
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Workers and businesses affected by COVID-19

Employment Security's **COVID-19 online information page** covers topics for businesses and workers impacted by COVID-19. Topics include:

- Subscribing for updates
- Frequently asked questions
- Workers Q&A
- Business Q&A
- CARES ACT
- COVID-19 rulemaking
- COVID-19 resources
- Action alerts and updates

We are all in this together. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented demand for services, but we are building capacity, updating technology, and we thank you for your patience while we work to serve you better.

Did you know that you can subscribe for email updates on a number of Employment Security Department topics all at once? Go to esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo and select the email icon at the top of the page.



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U-6 unemployment rate

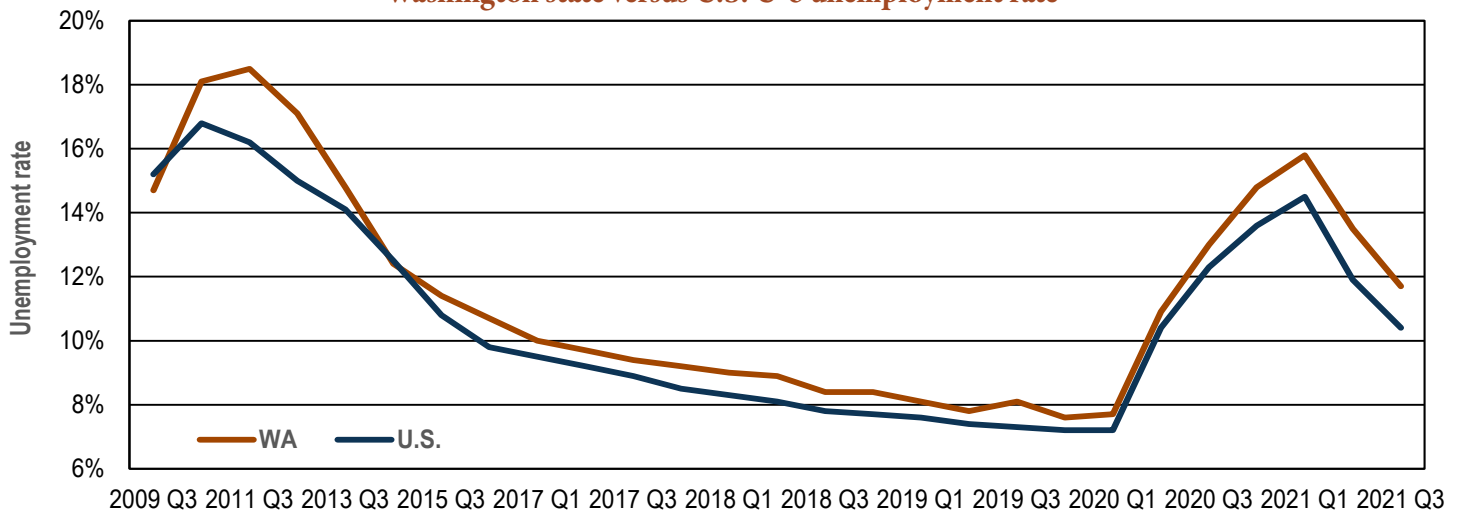
U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter period ending third quarter 2021

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include annual averages for 2021. One such alternative measure is the U-6 rate, which considers not only the unemployed population in the official “U-3” unemployment rate, but also marginally

attached workers and those employed part time for economic reasons. The U-6 rate is defined by BLS as the “total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.” This U-6 measure measures the “unemployed, underemployed, and those who are not looking but who want a job.”

The U-6 unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2020 through the third quarter 2021 for Washington state was 11.7 percent. This was lower compared to the 13.5 percent U-6 unemployment rate for the third quarter 2020 through the second quarter 2021. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2020 through the third quarter 2021 was 10.4 percent.

**Alternate measures of labor underutilization, four-quarter moving average
Washington state versus U.S. U-6 unemployment rate**



Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2021	WA	15.8%	13.5%	11.7%	
	U.S.	14.5%	11.9%	10.4%	
2020	WA	8.1%	10.9%	13.0%	14.8%
	U.S.	7.7%	10.4%	12.3%	13.6%
2019	WA	8.1%	7.8%	8.1%	7.6%
	U.S.	7.6%	7.4%	7.3%	7.2%
2018	WA	9.0%	8.9%	8.4%	8.4%
	U.S.	8.3%	8.1%	7.8%	7.7%
2017	WA	10.0%	9.7%	9.4%	9.2%
	U.S.	9.5%	9.2%	8.9%	8.5%
2016	WA	10.9%	10.7%	10.7%	10.3%
	U.S.	10.1%	9.9%	9.8%	9.6%
2015	WA	12.0%	11.7%	11.4%	11.0%
	U.S.	11.6%	11.3%	10.8%	10.4%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>.

Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted

One-month employment change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington gained an estimated 6,300 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in seven major industries, decreased in five, and was unchanged in one in October.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 15,600 and government employment decreased by 9,300.
- Manufacturing employment rose by 6,000, with 1,600 jobs gained in computer and electronic product manufacturing
- Employment in professional and business services rose by 5,600 overall, with 2,800 jobs gained in employment services.
- Retail trade employment increased by 2,800 overall, with 1,600 jobs gained in general merchandise stores.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 1,700 over the month, led by 1,200 jobs added in accommodation and food services.
- The number of jobs in financial activities increased by 1,100 overall, with 700 jobs gained in real estate, rental and leasing.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, September 2021 to October 2021

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Total nonfarm	6,300
Manufacturing	6,000
Professional and business services	5,600
Retail trade	2,800
Leisure and hospitality	1,700
Financial activities	1,100
Information	900
Other services	200
Mining and logging	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-100
Education and health services	-200
Construction	-800
Wholesale trade	-1,600
Government	-9,300

As we navigate the COVID-19 developments in Washington state and beyond, we know Washington state businesses, nonprofits, city and county municipalities, educational institutions, as well as economic and workforce development professionals, are looking for sound data about the short and long term economic and workforce impacts to their individual businesses, industries and regions.

If you have specific questions regarding labor market information, please send your emails to data@esd.wa.gov.

Industry employment in Washington, not seasonally adjusted

Change by industry over the year

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington gained an estimated 156,600 jobs from October 2020 through October 2021.

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 5.1 percent, up an estimated 138,000 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 3.4 percent, up an estimated 18,600 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 46,500, with food services and drinking places adding 32,800 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 26,700, with 15,400 jobs added in professional, scientific, and technical services.
- Education and health services employment increased by 10,900, with 7,000 jobs added in education services.
- Construction employment rose 9,000 overall, with 3,500 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in manufacturing is up 6,300, led by an increase of 2,400 in food manufacturing.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted
Washington state, October 2020 through October 2021

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Total nonfarm	156,600
Leisure and hospitality	46,500
Professional and business services	26,700
Government	18,600
Information	12,200
Education and health services	10,900
Construction	9,000
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	7,700
Financial activities	6,400
Other services	6,300
Manufacturing	6,300
Wholesale trade	4,000
Retail trade	2,100
Mining and logging	-100

Seasonally adjusted employment

Seasonally adjusted numbers account for normal seasonal patterns that occur year after year, such as strong seasonal hiring in retail trade around the holidays. Taking into account normal seasonal variations makes it possible to see unusual changes in employment levels.

Normal seasonal change is the expected monthly change in employment based on history.

Estimated change is the employment change over the month based on BLS survey data.

Seasonally adjusted change is change in employment accounting for normal seasonal patterns.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change
Washington state, October 2021

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	8,900	15,200	6,300
Government	20,400	11,100	-9,300
Education and health services	2,300	2,100	-200
Retail trade	1,400	4,200	2,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	800	700	-100
Financial activities	200	1,300	1,100
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Wholesale trade	-200	-1,800	-1,600
Other services	-400	-200	200
Professional and business services	-500	5,100	5,600
Construction	-700	-1,500	-800
Information	-1,600	-700	900
Manufacturing	-2,500	3,500	6,000
Leisure and hospitality	-10,300	-8,600	1,700

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 8,900 from September to October. This year the state gained an estimated 15,200 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 6,300 jobs.

- Employment in retail trade normally rises by 1,400. It is estimated to have increased by 4,200 this October so it increased by 2,800 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 5,600 in professional and business services in October. The normal seasonal decrease is 500. It is estimated to have increased this October by 5,100.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 1,500. The normal seasonal decrease is 700, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment decreased by 800.
- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 2,500 in October. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 6,000 as the estimated increase was 3,500.
- The normal seasonal loss in leisure and hospitality employment is 10,300 in October. The estimated loss was 8,600, so employment increased by 1,700 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Benchmarking highlights

Benchmarking is a process that replaces employment estimates with the actual number of job gains or losses.

Each month, economists estimate monthly job gains and losses based on a survey of employers. Each quarter, economists benchmark the estimates by replacing them with data from employer tax records before applying seasonal adjustments.

Benchmarked employment data are now available through June 2021. Employment estimates for October 2021 presented in this report were based on the new data, plus seasonal adjustments.

Based on benchmarked June 2021 data:

- The two largest upward revisions were for government and for transportation, warehousing and utilities, up 4,200 and 3,300, respectively.
- Education and health services had the largest downward revision of -7,400.

Quarterly benchmarked industry employment, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, June 2021

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Industry sector	Revisions to June 2021 employment level
Total nonfarm	-9,400
Government	4,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	3,300
Other services	2,100
Information	1,100
Construction	300
Professional and business services	200
Mining and logging	100
Manufacturing	100
Financial activities	-1,800
Leisure and hospitality	-3,600
Wholesale trade	-3,600
Retail trade	-4,400
Education and health services	-7,400

Media inquiries and contact information

Due to the high volume of requests for information, please send your emails to media@esd.wa.gov so that we can forward your requests to the appropriate staff.

For labor market information questions, please send your emails to data@esd.wa.gov.

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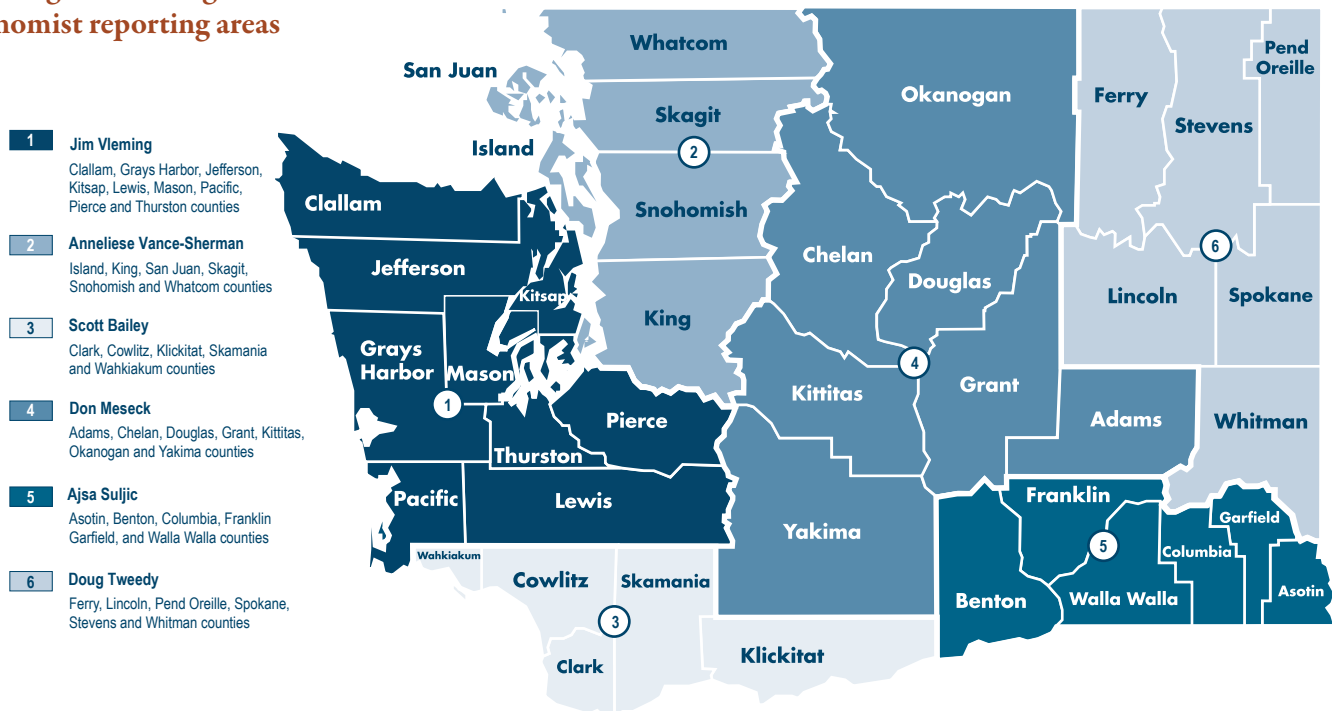
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., October 23, 2021.

The publication schedule for 2021 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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