

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.4%

United States 4.0%

Seasonally adjusted

January 2022



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 5,700 in January 2022.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 4,500 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 1,200 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for January 2021 through January 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 186,700 for the state. The private sector gained 164,200 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 22,500 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2022 is 4.4 percent. The revised estimated December 2021 unemployment rate is at 4.5 percent. The January 2021 unemployment rate was 6.0 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The December 2021 preliminary estimated gain of 14,000 jobs was revised to a gain of 13,600 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, December 2020 and 2021 and January 2021 and 2022
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	January 2022 (Preliminary)	December 2021 (Revised)	January 2021 (Revised)	December 2020 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	4.0%	3.9%	6.4%	6.7%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.5%	6.0%	6.3%
Resident labor force	3,961,100	3,952,900	3,835,200	3,830,400
Unemployed	174,700	176,900	228,600	239,500
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.5%	4.1%	5.8%	5.8%
Resident labor force	1,735,800	1,755,000	1,737,800	1,735,800
Unemployed	61,000	72,100	100,400	101,500

Data Architecture, Transformation and Analytics Division
March 2022

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 January 2022 is 4.4 percent. The revised estimated December 2021 unemployment rate is 4.5 percent.

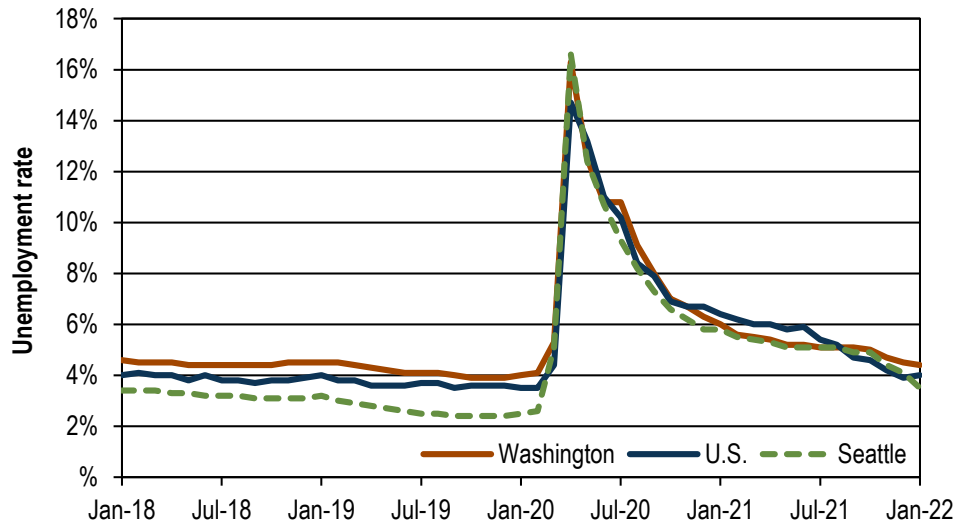
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 2,200 in January 2022 compared to December 2021. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 10,400. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 8,200 people in the labor force.

The preliminary January 2022 unemployment rate is 1.6 percentage points lower than the January 2021 rate of 6.0 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, January 2018 through January 2022

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



January 2022 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 4.0%

Washington (preliminary) 4.4%

Seattle area (preliminary) 3.5%

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 5,700 jobs from December 2021 to January 2022.

Recent employment change:

November 2021: up 13,200 jobs (revised)

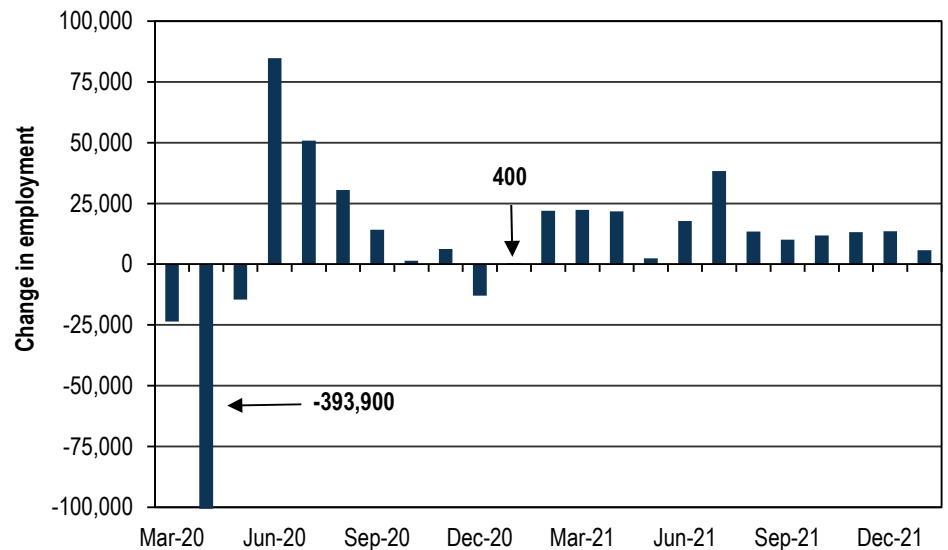
December 2021: up 13,600 jobs (revised)

January 2022: up 5,700 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, March 2020 through January 2022

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; 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: 3,514,600

Unemployment rate: 4.1%

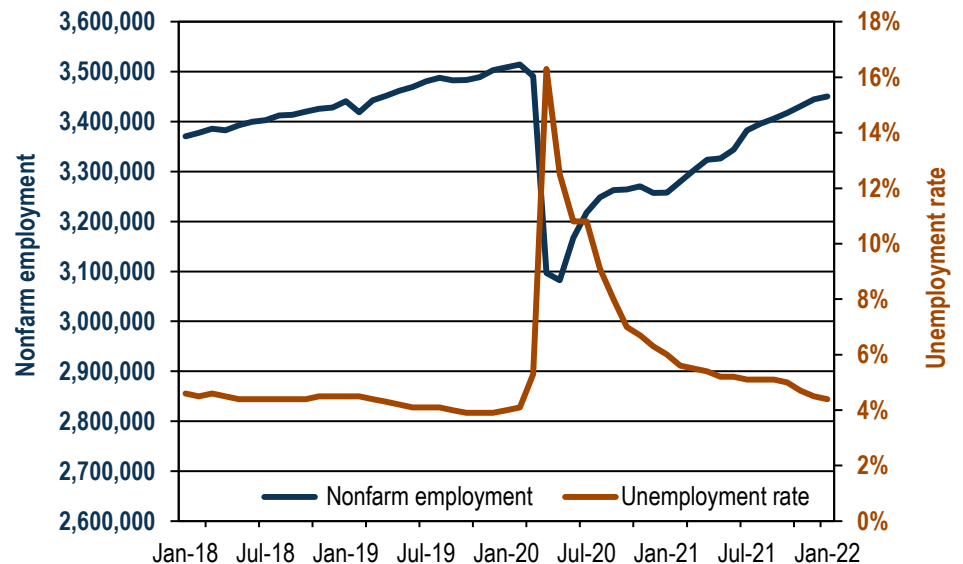
January 2022 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,450,200

Unemployment rate: 4.4%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, January 2018 through January 2022

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; 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.



Enter your email address and subscribe by checking the boxes for topics such as:

- COVID-19
- Labor market information
- News releases
- Employer news and resources
- Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Employer information
- SharedWork program
- WorkSource system
- Unemployment insurance
- Training

Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

U-6 unemployment rate

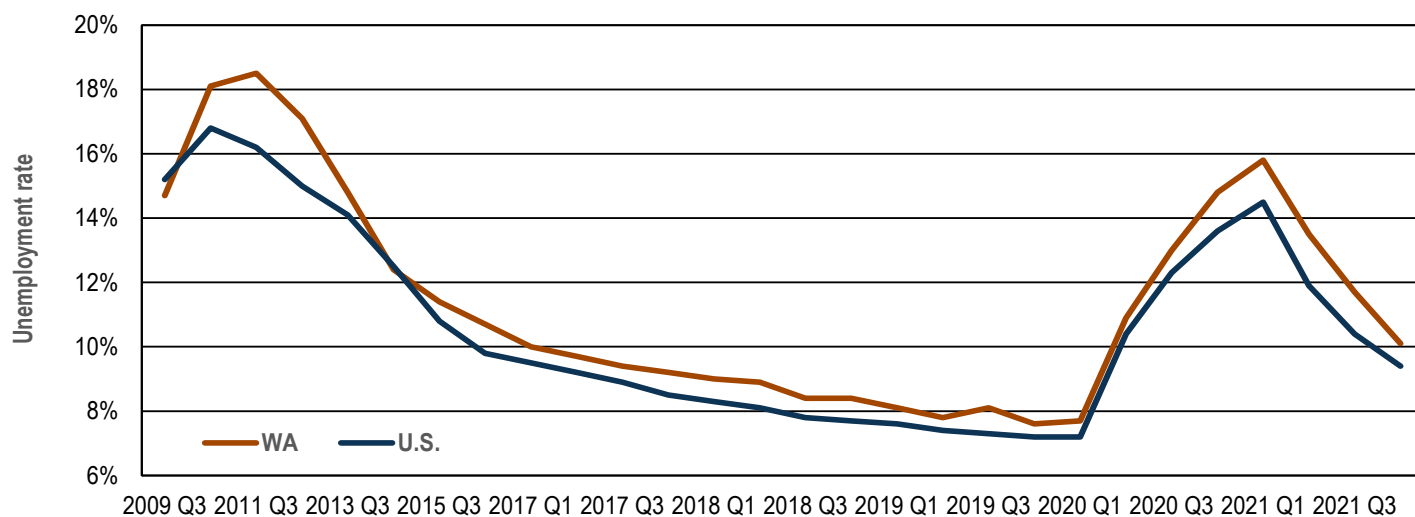
U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter annual 2021 period

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 annual 2021 period for Washington state was 10.1 percent. This was lower compared to the 11.7 percent U-6 unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2020 through the third quarter 2021. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate for the annual 2021 period was 9.4 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%	10.1%
	U.S.	14.5%	11.9%	10.4%	9.4%
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/stait.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 5,700 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in nine major industries and decreased in four in January.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 4,500 and government employment increased by 1,200.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 2,000 over the month, led by 1,900 jobs gained in food services and drinking places.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services increased by 1,300 overall, with 3,000 jobs gained in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Retail trade employment increased by 500 overall, led by 2,700 jobs gained in general merchandise stores.
- Manufacturing employment fell by 600 overall, with 400 jobs lost in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Employment in transportation, warehousing and utilities fell by 800 overall, with 1,000 jobs lost in transportation and warehousing.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, December 2021 to January 2022

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

Total nonfarm	5,700
Leisure and hospitality	2,000
Professional and business services	1,300
Government	1,200
Wholesale trade	1,100
Retail trade	500
Construction	500
Other services	300
Education and health services	200
Financial activities	200
Mining and logging	-100
Information	-100
Manufacturing	-600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-800

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 186,700 jobs from January 2021 through January 2022.

- Overall, all 13 major industries expanded.
- Private sector employment rose 6.2 percent, up an estimated 164,200 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 4.1 percent, up an estimated 22,500 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 83,000, with food services and drinking places adding 64,000 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 24,800, with 13,900 jobs added in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Information employment increased by 14,000, with 4,500 jobs added by software publishers.
- Construction employment rose 7,200 overall, with 6,100 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in manufacturing is up 1,200 overall, led by an increase of 1,500 in food manufacturing.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted
Washington state, January 2021 through January 2022

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

Total nonfarm	186,700
Leisure and hospitality	83,000
Professional and business services	24,800
Government	22,500
Information	14,000
Education and health services	6,200
Construction	7,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	4,400
Financial activities	5,400
Other services	4,700
Manufacturing	1,200
Wholesale trade	900
Retail trade	12,300
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, January 2022

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

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	-47,000	-41,300	5,700
Information	200	100	-100
Mining and logging	-100	-200	-100
Government	-200	1,000	1,200
Financial activities	-300	-100	200
Other services	-900	-600	300
Wholesale trade	-1,200	-100	1,100
Education and health services	-1,500	-1,300	200
Manufacturing	-2,200	-2,800	-600
Leisure and hospitality	-4,600	-2,600	2,000
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-6,900	-7,700	-800
Construction	-7,500	-7,000	500
Professional and business services	-8,400	-7,100	1,300
Retail trade	-13,400	-12,900	500

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 47,000 from December to January. This year the state lost an estimated 41,300 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 5,700 jobs.

- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 2,200 in January. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment decreased by 600 as the estimated decrease was 2,800.
- The normal seasonal loss in leisure and hospitality employment is 4,600 in January. The estimated loss was 2,600, so employment increased by 2,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 7,000. The normal seasonal decrease is 7,500, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment increased by 500.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 1,300 in professional and business services in January. The normal seasonal decrease is 8,400. It is estimated to have decreased this January by 7,100.
- Employment in retail trade normally falls by 13,400. It is estimated to have decreased by 12,900 this January so it increased by 500 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.

With the release of January 2022 data, industry employment numbers have also been revised through the annual benchmarking process administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked employment data are now available through September 2021. Employment estimates for January 2022 presented in this report were based on the new data, plus seasonal adjustments.

The effect of these revisions on the underlying trend in nonfarm industry employment was minor. A table showing revised total nonfarm industry employment data on a seasonally adjusted basis from January to December 2021 [is available](#).

Based on benchmarked September 2021 data:

- The largest upward revision was for retail trade, up 6,900.
- Other services had the largest downward revision of 8,000.

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

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

Industry sector	Revisions to September 2021 employment level
Total nonfarm	-7,900
Retail trade	6,900
Professional and business services	5,500
Government	4,300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,000
Mining and logging	300
Information	200
Leisure and hospitality	0
Financial activities	-1,200
Construction	-2,800
Manufacturing	-3,500
Wholesale trade	-4,900
Education and health services	-5,700
Other services	-8,000

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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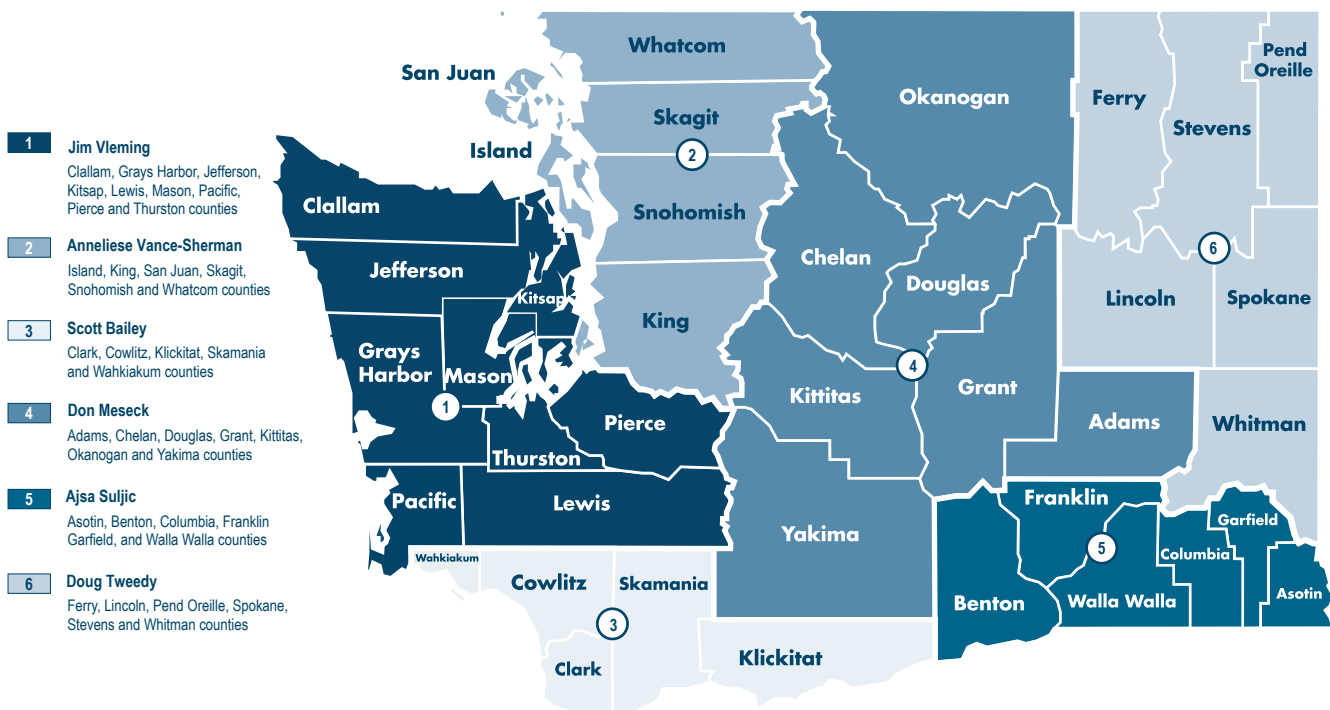
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., March 8, 2022. The publication schedule for 2022 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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