

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.3%

United States 3.8%

Seasonally adjusted

February 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 31,700 in February 2022.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 24,400 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 7,300 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for February 2021 through February 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 191,900 for the state. The private sector gained 172,700 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 19,200 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2022 is 4.3 percent. The revised estimated January 2022 unemployment rate is at 4.4 percent. The February 2021 unemployment rate was 6.1 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The January 2022 preliminary estimated gain of 5,700 jobs was revised to a gain of 3,000 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, January and February 2021 and 2022

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

	February 2022 (Preliminary)	January 2022 (Revised)	February 2021 (Revised)	January 2021 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.0%	6.2%	6.4%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.4%	6.1%	6.3%
Resident labor force	3,982,400	3,960,400	3,871,100	3,866,700
Unemployed	170,800	173,900	234,500	242,100
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.5%	5.4%	5.7%
Resident labor force	1,746,000	1,735,500	1,703,000	1,703,500
Unemployed	58,800	60,700	91,700	96,800

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 February 2022 is 4.3 percent. The revised estimated January 2022 unemployment rate is 4.4 percent.

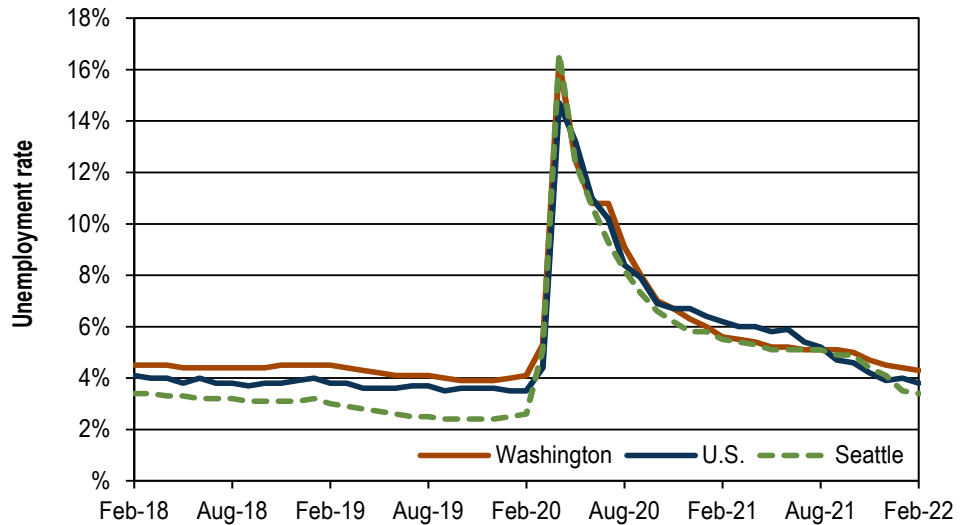
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 3,100 in February 2022 compared to January 2022. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 25,100. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 22,000 people in the labor force.

The preliminary February 2022 unemployment rate is 1.8 percentage points lower than the February 2021 rate of 6.1 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

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

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



February 2022 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.8%
 Washington (preliminary) 4.3%
 Seattle area (preliminary) 3.4%

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 31,700 jobs from January 2022 to February 2022.

Recent employment change:

December 2021: up 13,600 jobs (revised)

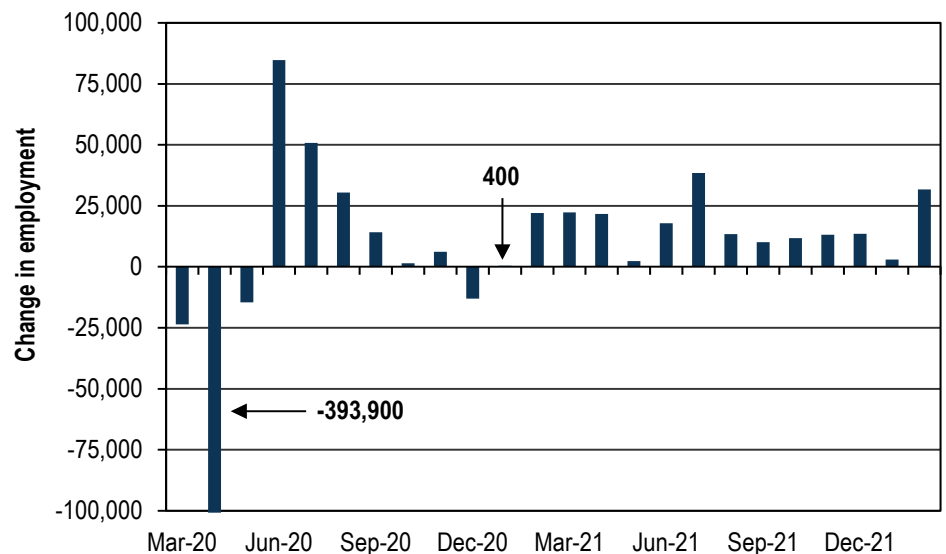
January 2022: up 3,000 jobs (revised)

February 2022: up 31,700 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, March 2020 through February 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%

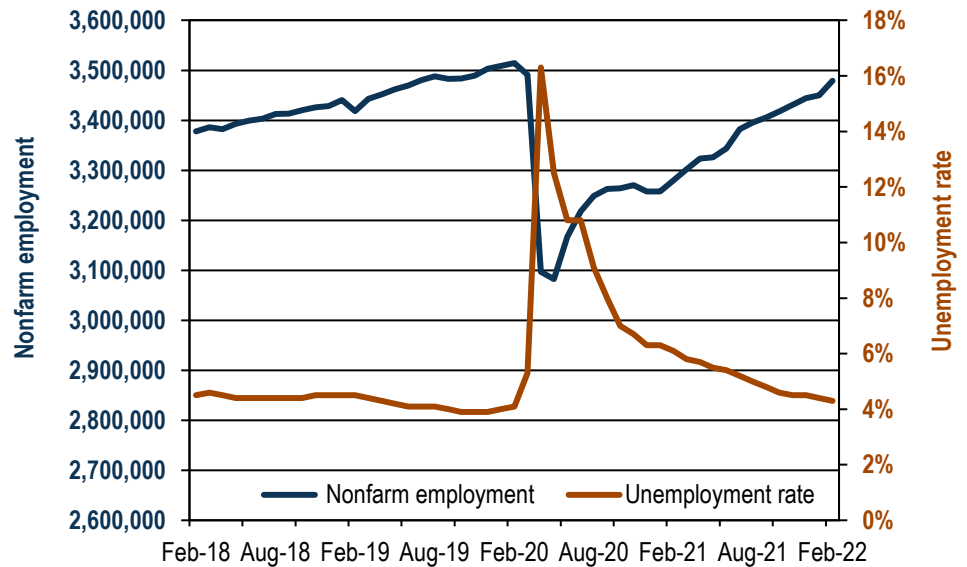
February 2022 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,479,200

Unemployment rate: 4.3%

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

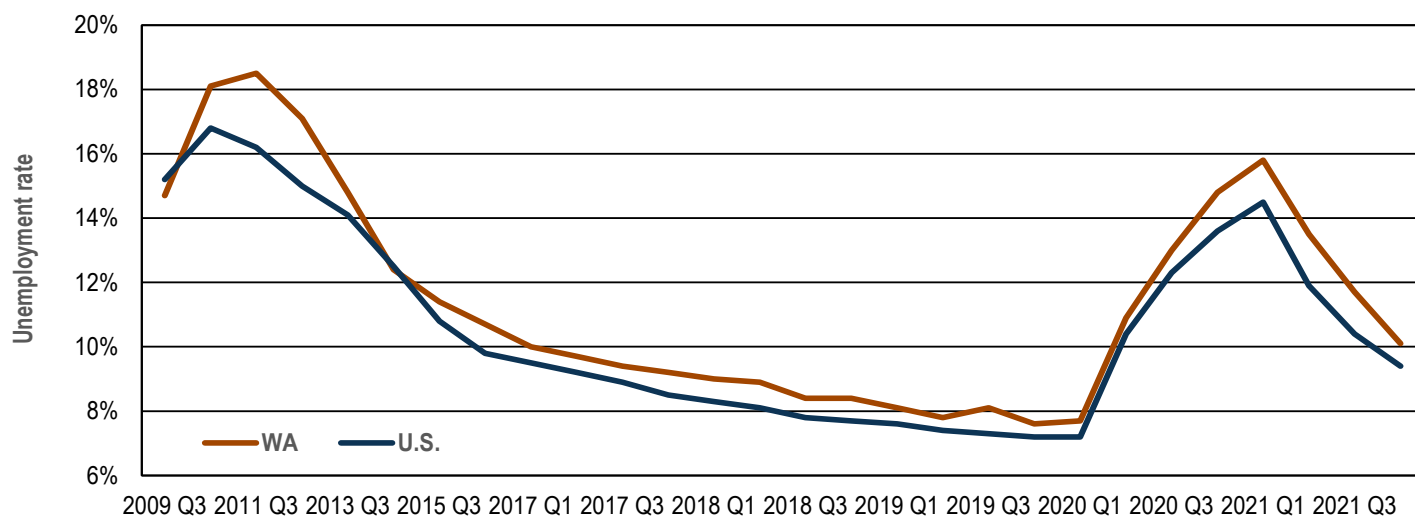
U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter annual 2021 period

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 31,700 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in twelve major industries and was unchanged in one in February.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 24,400 and government employment increased by 7,300.
- Education and health services employment rose by 6,800 overall, with 3,100 jobs gained in ambulatory health care services.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 5,200 over the month, led by 2,500 jobs gained in food services and drinking places.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services increased by 4,400 overall, with 3,600 jobs gained in employment services.
- Construction employment increased by 2,500 overall, led by 3,400 jobs gained by specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in transportation, warehousing and utilities rose by 1,000 overall, with 1,100 jobs gained in transportation and warehousing.

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

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

Total nonfarm	31,700
Government	7,300
Education and health services	6,800
Leisure and hospitality	5,200
Professional and business services	4,400
Construction	2,500
Wholesale trade	1,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,000
Other services	900
Retail trade	700
Manufacturing	600
Financial activities	300
Information	200
Mining and logging	0

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 191,900 jobs from February 2021 through February 2022.

- Overall, all thirteen major industries expanded.
- Private sector employment rose 6.4 percent, up an estimated 172,700 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 3.5 percent, up an estimated 19,200 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 72,000, with food services and drinking places adding 52,700 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 31,200, with 16,900 jobs added in administrative and support services.
- Construction employment rose 13,700 overall, with 11,800 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in retail trade is up 13,300 overall, led by an increase of 5,900 in other retail trade.
- Information employment increased by 12,700, with 4,300 jobs added by software publishers.

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

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

Total nonfarm	191,900
Leisure and hospitality	72,000
Professional and business services	31,200
Government	19,200
Construction	13,700
Retail trade	13,300
Information	12,700
Education and health services	6,700
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	6,200
Financial activities	5,400
Other services	5,400
Manufacturing	4,200
Wholesale trade	1,800
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, February 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	10,700	42,400	31,700
Construction	6,000	8,500	2,500
Professional and business services	3,600	8,000	4,400
Education and health services	2,900	9,700	6,800
Leisure and hospitality	1,200	6,400	5,200
Manufacturing	1,200	1,800	600
Other services	1,100	2,000	900
Financial activities	100	400	300
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Wholesale trade	-200	1,600	1,800
Information	-300	-100	200
Government	-500	6,800	7,300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-800	200	1,000
Retail trade	-3,600	-2,900	700

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 10,700 from January to February. This year the state gained an estimated 42,400 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 31,700 jobs..

- The estimated employment increase in construction was 8,500. The normal seasonal increase is 6,000, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment increased by 2,500.
- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 1,200 in February. The estimated gain was 6,400, so employment increased by 5,200 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Typically, manufacturing employment increases by 1,200 in February. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 600 as the estimated increase was 1,800.
- Employment in retail trade normally falls by 3,600. It is estimated to have decreased by 2,900 this February so it increased by 700 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

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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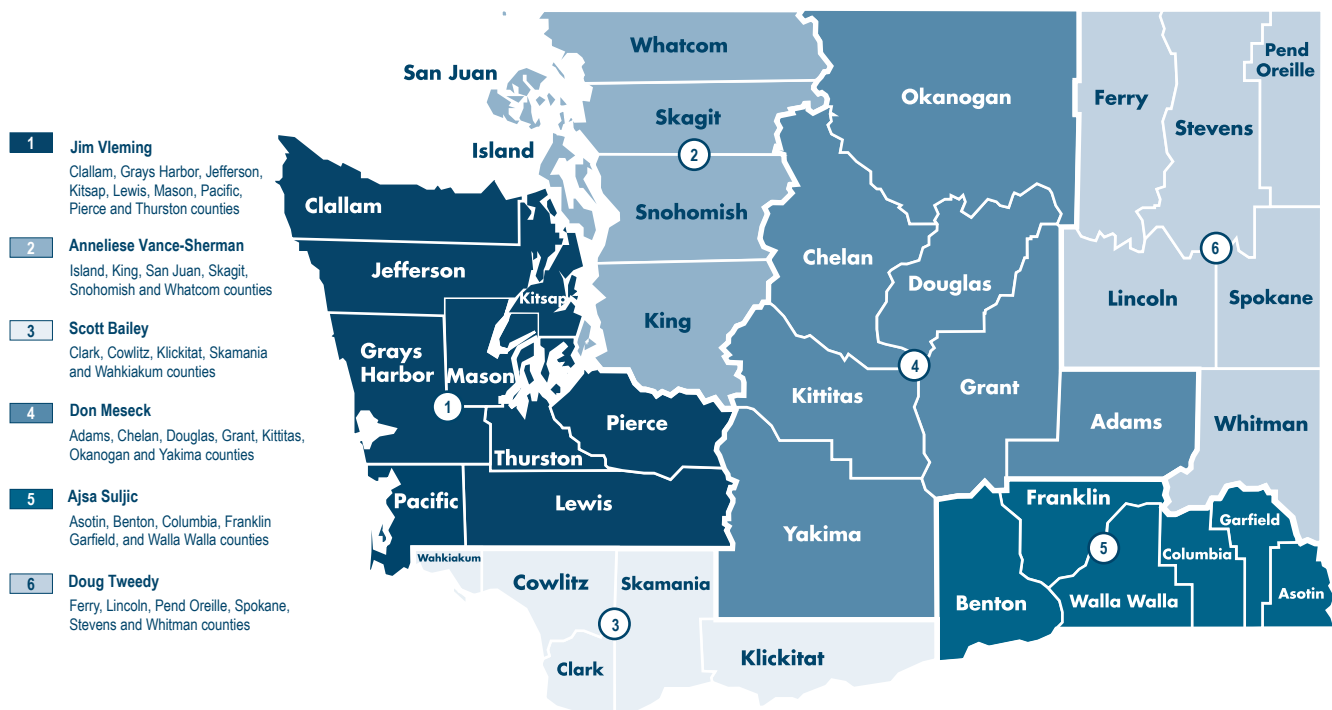
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., March 29, 2022. The publication schedule for 2022 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/programs. 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.

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