

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.2%

United States 3.6%

Seasonally adjusted

March 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 8,800 in March 2022.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 9,200 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 400 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for March 2021 through March 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 173,000 for the state. The private sector gained 159,600 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 13,400 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2022 is 4.2 percent. The revised estimated February 2022 unemployment rate is at 4.3 percent. The March 2021 unemployment rate was 5.8 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The February 2022 preliminary estimated gain of 31,700 jobs was revised to a gain of 28,000 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, February and March 2021 and 2022
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	March 2022 (Preliminary)	February 2022 (Revised)	March 2021 (Revised)	February 2021 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.8%	6.0%	6.2%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.3%	5.8%	6.1%
Resident labor force	4,003,500	3,981,800	3,878,000	3,871,100
Unemployed	166,200	170,100	226,800	234,500
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.1%	3.4%	5.2%	5.4%
Resident labor force	1,753,300	1,745,800	1,704,000	1,703,000
Unemployed	54,800	58,600	88,300	91,700

Data Architecture, Transformation
and Analytics Division
April 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 March 2022 is 4.2 percent. The revised estimated February 2022 unemployment rate is 4.3 percent.

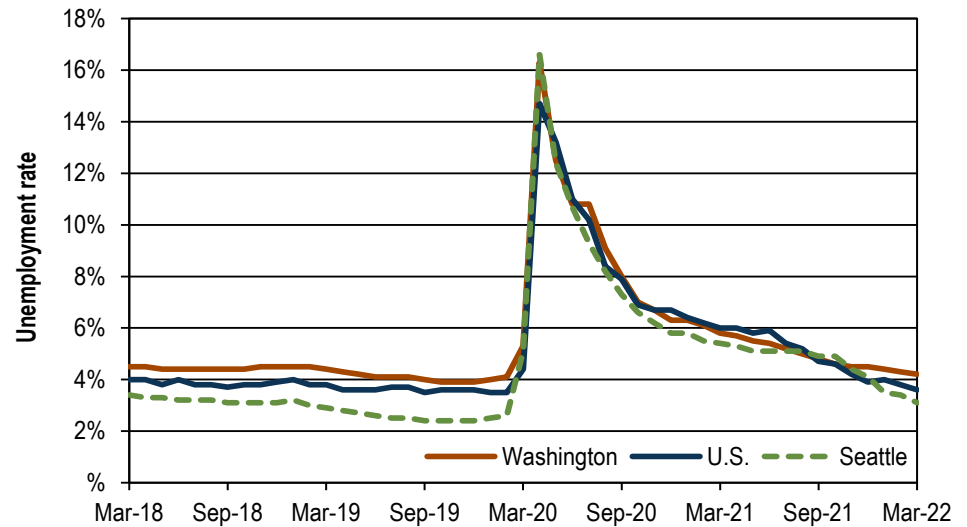
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 3,900 in March 2022 compared to February 2022. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 25,600. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 21,700 people in the labor force.

The preliminary March 2022 unemployment rate is 1.6 percentage points lower than the March 2021 rate of 5.8 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

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

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



March 2022 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.6%
 Washington (preliminary) 4.2%
 Seattle area (preliminary) 3.1%

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 8,800 jobs from February 2022 to March 2022.

Recent employment change:

January 2022: up 3,000 jobs (revised)

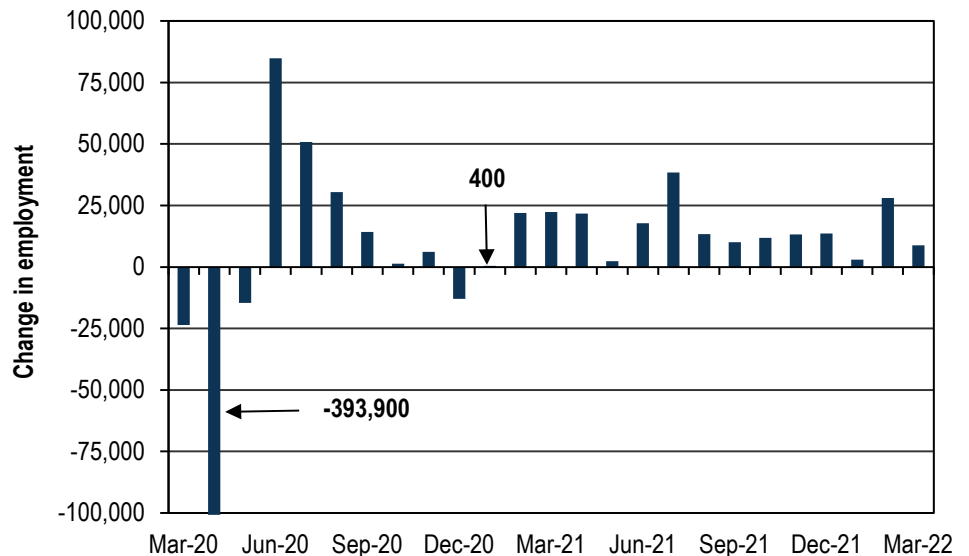
February 2022: up 28,000 jobs (revised)

March 2022: up 8,800 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, March 2020 through March 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%

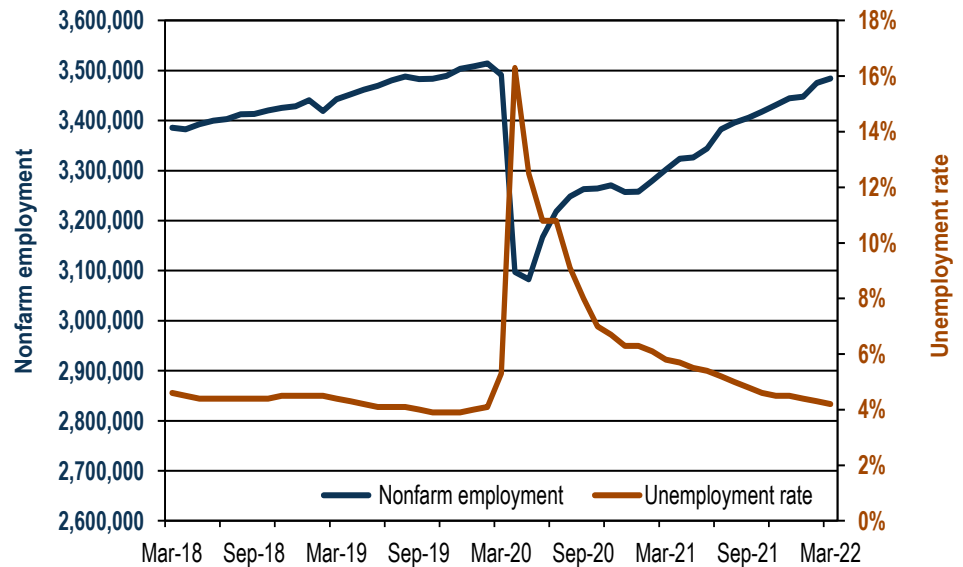
March 2022 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,484,300

Unemployment rate: 4.2%

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

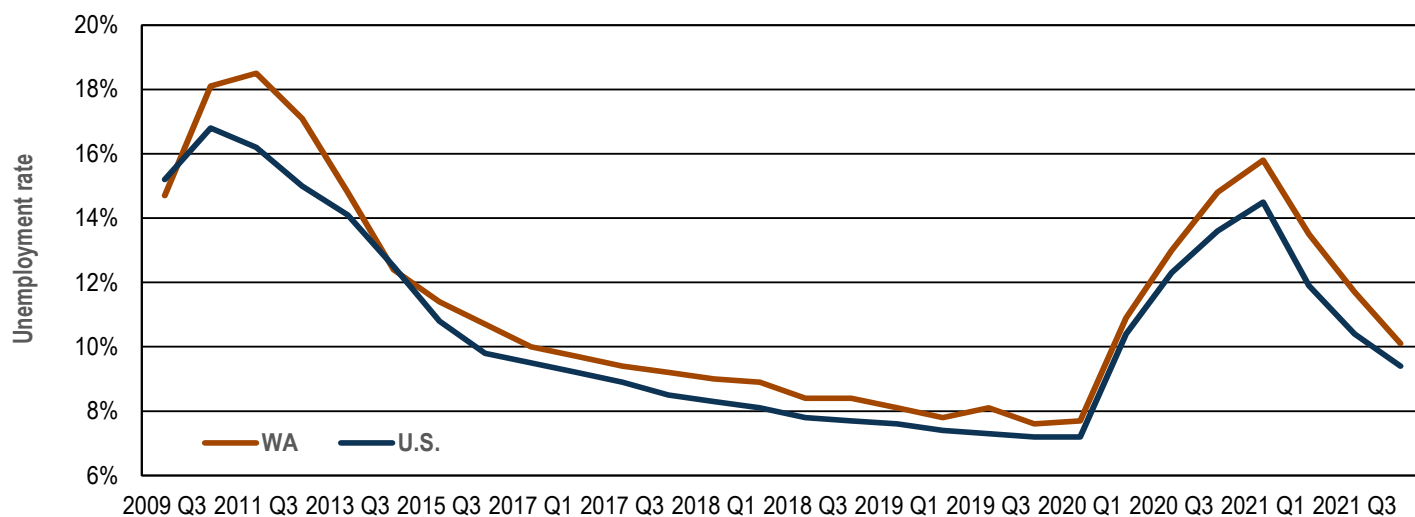
U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter annual 2021 period

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 8,800 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in nine major industries, decreased in three and was unchanged in one in March.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 9,200 and government employment decreased by 400.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services increased by 2,300 overall, with 1,500 jobs gained in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 1,400 over the month, with 1,700 jobs gained in food services and drinking places.
- Construction employment increased by 1,300 overall, with 2,300 jobs gained by specialty trade contractors.
- Education and health services employment rose by 1,200 overall, with 1,400 jobs gained in social assistance.
- Employment in manufacturing rose by 1,200 overall, led by 600 jobs gained in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.

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

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

Total nonfarm	8,800
Professional and business services	2,300
Leisure and hospitality	1,400
Information	1,400
Construction	1,300
Education and health services	1,200
Manufacturing	1,200
Other services	600
Financial activities	600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	500
Mining and logging	0
Wholesale trade	-300
Government	-400
Retail trade	-1,000

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 173,000 jobs from March 2021 through March 2022.

- Overall, all thirteen major industries expanded.
- Private sector employment rose 5.9 percent, up an estimated 159,600 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 2.4 percent, up an estimated 13,400 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 63,700, with food services and drinking places adding 48,500 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 30,200, with 15,800 jobs added in administrative and support services.
- Construction employment rose 13,100 overall, with 13,000 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in retail trade is up 12,200 overall, led by an increase of 6,300 in other retail trade.
- Information employment increased by 12,200, with 5,000 jobs added by software publishers.

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

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

Total nonfarm	173,000
Leisure and hospitality	63,700
Professional and business services	30,200
Government	13,400
Construction	13,100
Retail trade	12,200
Information	12,200
Education and health services	6,200
Other services	5,700
Financial activities	5,300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5,100
Manufacturing	4,800
Wholesale trade	1,000
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, March 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	14,600	23,400	8,800
Construction	4,100	5,400	1,300
Leisure and hospitality	3,800	5,200	1,400
Professional and business services	3,500	5,800	2,300
Education and health services	1,900	3,100	1,200
Government	1,200	800	-400
Information	900	2,300	1,400
Wholesale trade	600	300	-300
Other services	100	700	600
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-100	400	500
Retail trade	-100	-1,100	-1,000
Manufacturing	-200	1,000	1,200
Financial activities	-1,100	-500	600

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 14,600 from February to March. This year the state gained an estimated 23,400 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 8,800 jobs.

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

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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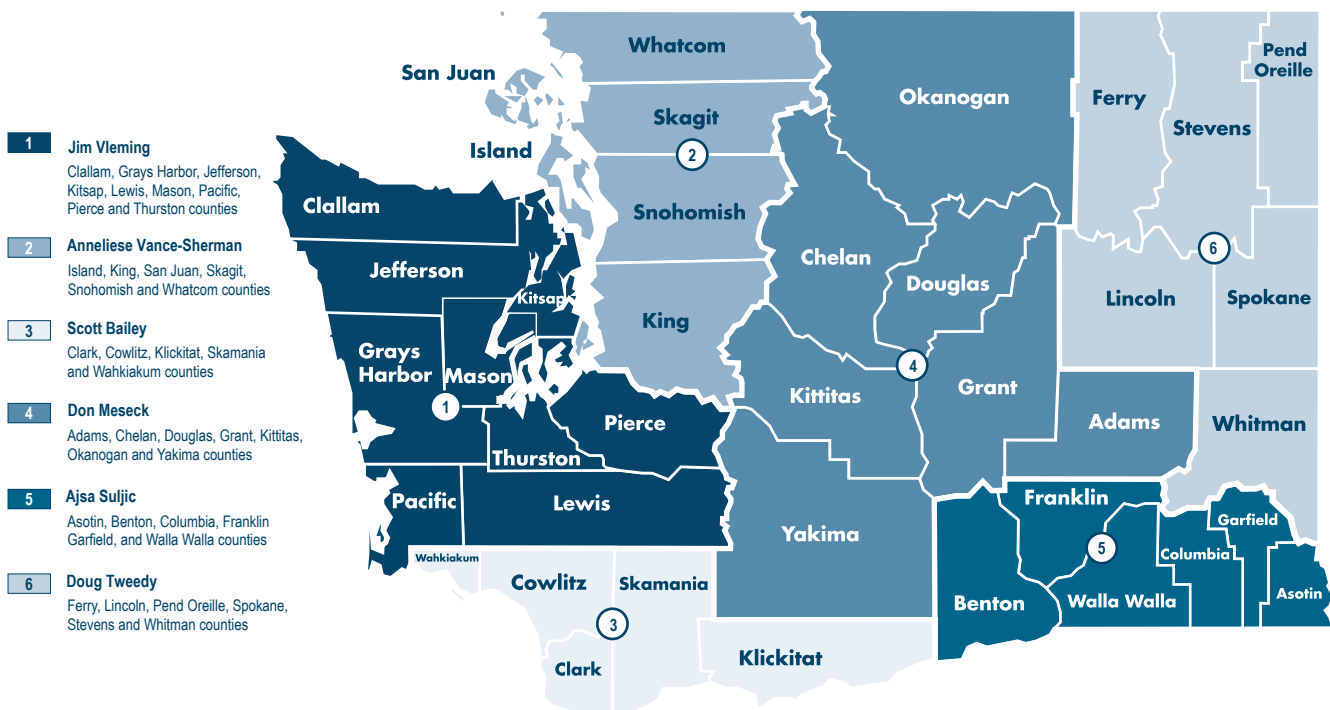
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., April 19, 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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