

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 3.9%

United States 3.6%

Seasonally adjusted

May 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 fell by 2,300 in May 2022.¹ BLS estimates the private sector lost 2,100 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 200 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for May 2021 through May 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 181,800 for the state. The private sector gained 174,600 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 7,200 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2022 is 3.9 percent. The revised estimated April 2022 unemployment rate is at 4.1 percent. The May 2021 unemployment rate was 5.5 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The April 2022 preliminary estimated gain of 12,300 jobs was revised to a gain of 17,600 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, April and May 2021 and 2022
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	May 2022 (Preliminary)	April 2022 (Revised)	May 2021 (Revised)	April 2021 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.6%	5.8%	6.0%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.1%	5.5%	5.7%
Resident labor force	4,036,300	4,023,300	3,894,500	3,886,800
Unemployed	158,900	163,000	213,200	220,200
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	2.7%	2.9%	4.8%	5.0%
Resident labor force	1,776,200	1,765,000	1,707,300	1,706,200
Unemployed	48,300	51,600	81,100	85,300

Data Architecture, Transformation
and Analytics Division
June 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 May 2022 is 3.9 percent. The revised estimated April 2022 unemployment rate is 4.1 percent.

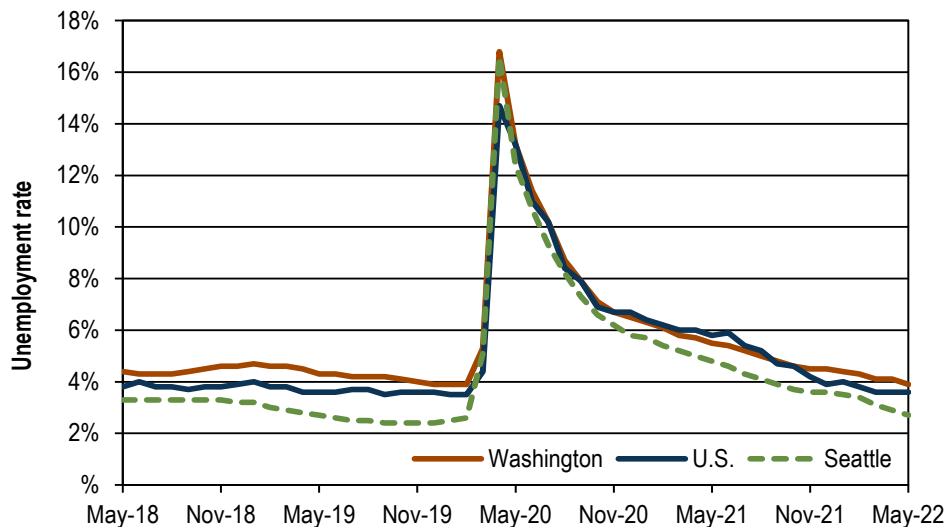
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 4,100 in May 2022 compared to April 2022. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 17,100. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 13,000 people in the labor force.

The preliminary May 2022 unemployment rate is 1.6 percentage points lower than the May 2021 rate of 5.5 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

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

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



May 2022 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.6%
 Washington (preliminary) 3.9%
 Seattle area (preliminary) 2.7%

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment decreased by 2,300 jobs from April 2022 to May 2022.

Recent employment change:

March 2022: up 9,000 jobs (revised)

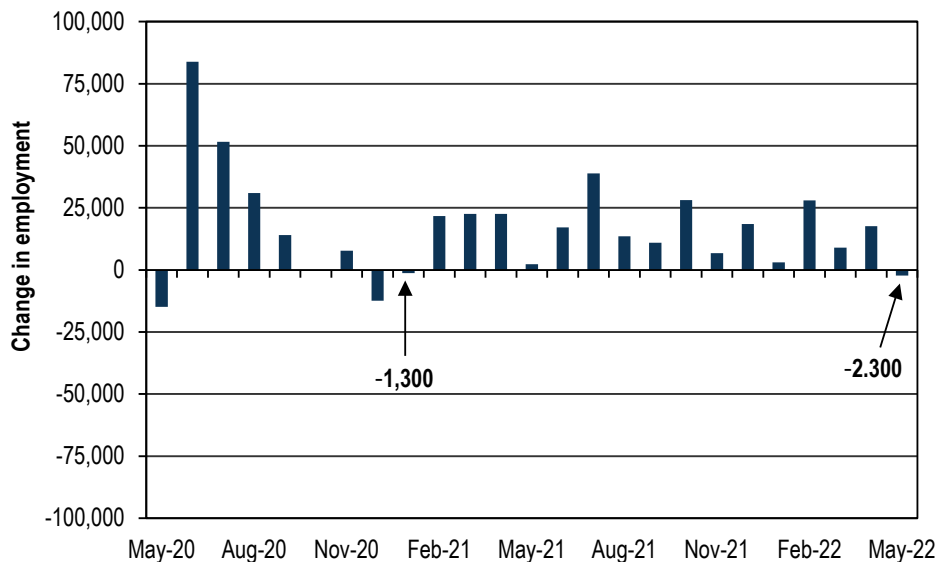
April 2022: up 17,600 jobs (revised)

May 2022: down 2,300 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, May 2020 through May 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: 3.9%

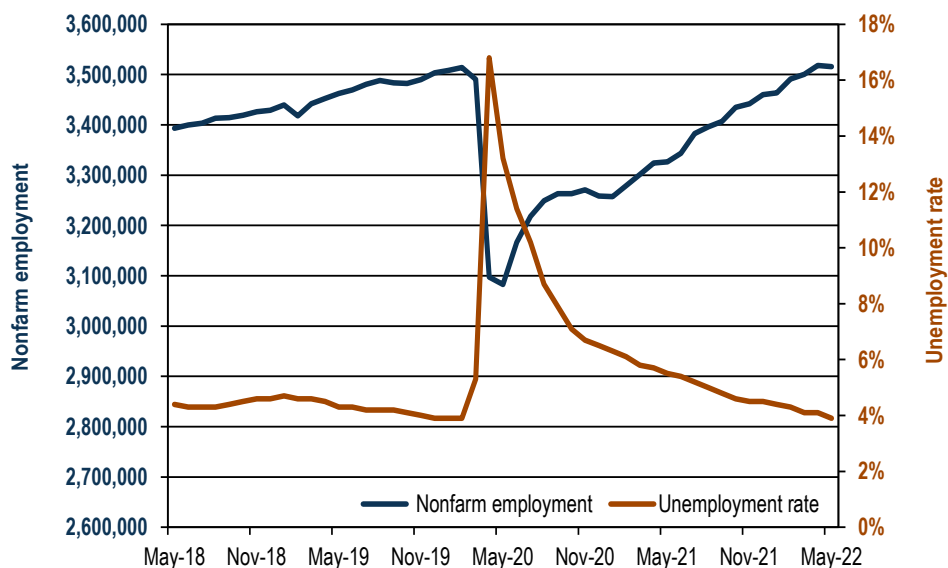
May 2022 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,515,700

Unemployment rate: 3.9%

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

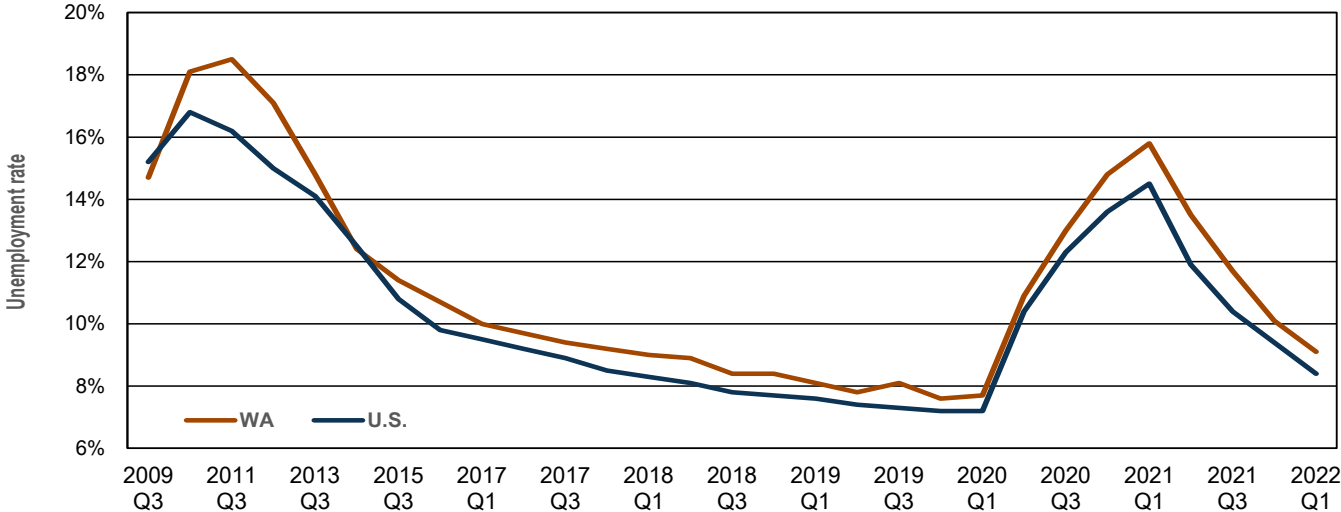
U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter period from second quarter 2021 through first quarter 2022

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 four-quarter period from second quarter 2021 through first quarter 2022 for Washington state was 9.1 percent. This was lower compared to the 10.1 percent U-6 unemployment rate for the annual 2021 period. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate for the four-quarter period from second quarter 2021 through first quarter 2022 was 8.4 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
2022	WA	9.1%			
	U.S.	8.4%			
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%

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 lost an estimated 2,300 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in eight major industries and decreased in five in April.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have decreased by 2,100 and government employment decreased by 200.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 2,400 overall, with 2,800 jobs gained in food services and drinking places.
- Employment in manufacturing rose by 1,500, led by 1,200 jobs gained in durable goods production.
- Education and health services employment rose by 1,200 overall, with 600 jobs gained in education services and 600 jobs gained in health services.
- The number of jobs in construction increased by 800 overall, with 1,500 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Retail trade employment decreased by 6,600 overall, with 3,000 jobs lost by general merchandise stores.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, April 2022 to May 2022

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

Total nonfarm	-2,300
Leisure and hospitality	2,400
Manufacturing	1,500
Education and health services	1,200
Information	1,000
Wholesale trade	800
Construction	800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	700
Other services	200
Financial activities	-100
Government	-200
Mining and logging	-200
Professional and business services	-3,800
Retail trade	-6,600

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 181,800 jobs from May 2021 through May 2022.

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 6.3 percent, up an estimated 174,600 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 1.3 percent, up an estimated 7,200 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 55,700, with food services and drinking places adding 40,500 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 34,600, with 13,600 jobs added in administrative and support services.
- Information employment increased by 11,400, with 3,300 jobs added by software publishers.
- Employment in manufacturing is up 10,200 overall, led by an increase of 4,300 in transportation equipment manufacturing.
- Construction employment rose 10,100 overall, with 7,100 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.

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

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

Total nonfarm	181,800
Leisure and hospitality	55,700
Professional and business services	34,600
Education and health services	23,300
Information	11,400
Manufacturing	10,200
Construction	10,100
Wholesale trade	9,200
Other services	8,400
Government	7,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5,900
Financial activities	5,200
Retail trade	900
Mining and logging	-300

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, May 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	19,400	17,100	-2,300
Leisure and hospitality	7,000	9,400	2,400
Retail trade	4,300	-2,300	-6,600
Government	2,800	2,600	-200
Manufacturing	2,000	3,500	1,500
Wholesale trade	1,600	2,400	800
Other services	1,300	1,500	200
Construction	900	1,700	800
Financial activities	500	400	-100
Professional and business services	500	-3,300	-3,800
Mining and logging	200	0	-200
Information	-300	700	1,000
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-300	400	700
Education and health services	-1,100	100	1,200

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 19,400 from April to May. This year the state gained an estimated 17,100 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted decrease of 2,300 jobs.

- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 7,000 in May. The estimated gain was 9,400, so employment increased by 2,400 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Employment in retail trade normally increases by 4,300. It is estimated to have decreased by 2,300 this May so it decreased by 6,600 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Typically, manufacturing employment increases by 2,000 in May. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 1,500 as the estimated increase was 3,500.
- The estimated employment increase in construction was 1,700. The normal seasonal increase is 900, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment increased by 800.
- The employment decrease on a seasonally adjusted basis was 3,800 in professional and business services in May. The normal seasonal increase is 500. It is estimated to have decreased this May by 3,300.

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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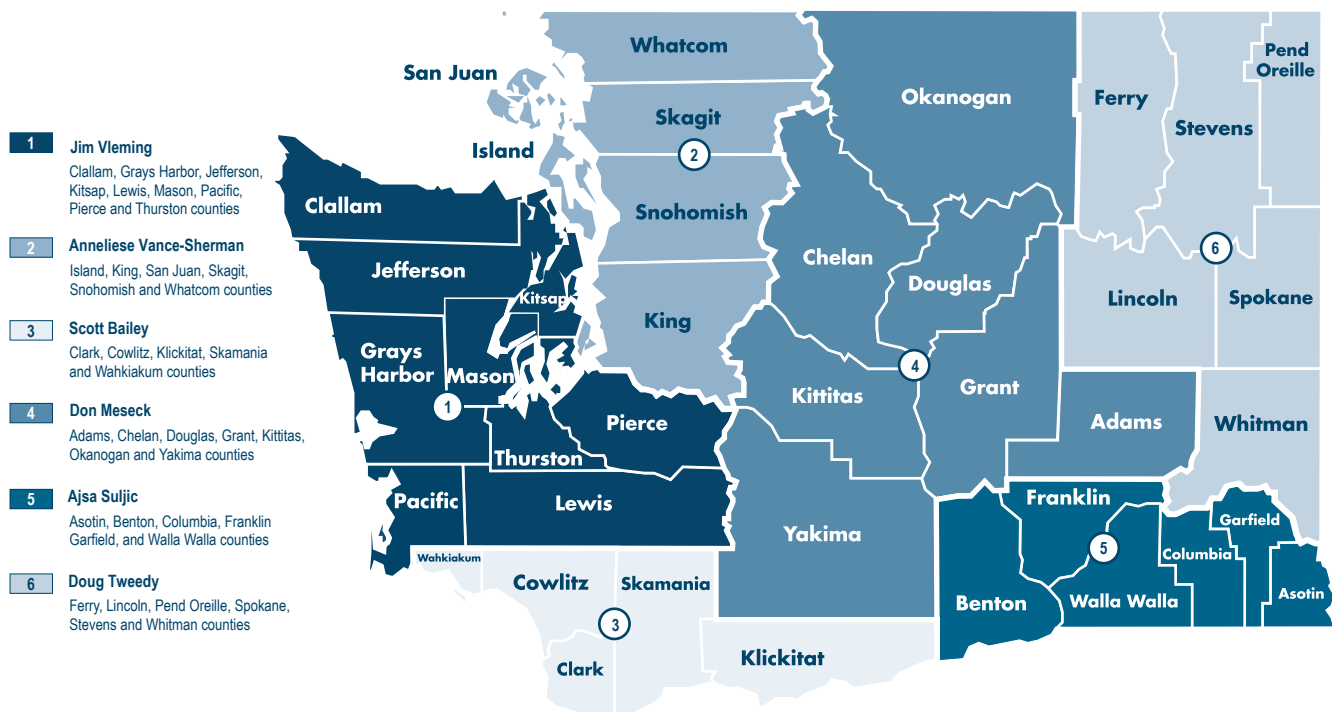
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., June 22, 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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