

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 3.7% United States 3.7%

Seasonally adjusted

August 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 16,100 in August 2022.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 9,400 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 6,700 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for August 2021 through August 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 161,600 for the state. The private sector gained 158,900 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 2,700 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August 2022 is 3.7 percent. The revised estimated July 2022 unemployment rate is at 3.7 percent. The August 2021 unemployment rate was 5.0 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The July 2022 preliminary estimated gain of 6,600 jobs was revised to a gain of 10,200 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, July and August 2021 and 2022
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	August 2022 (Preliminary)	July 2022 (Revised)	August 2021 (Revised)	July 2021 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.5%	5.2%	5.4%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.7%	5.0%	5.2%
Resident labor force	4,020,700	4,030,400	3,929,300	3,916,800
Unemployed	149,600	149,100	197,500	203,800
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	2.6%	2.5%	4.1%	4.3%
Resident labor force	1,779,200	1,783,200	1,717,400	1,713,200
Unemployed	46,300	45,000	70,500	74,400

Data Architecture, Transformation
and Analytics Division
September 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 August 2022 is 3.7 percent. The revised estimated July 2022 unemployment rate is 3.7 percent.

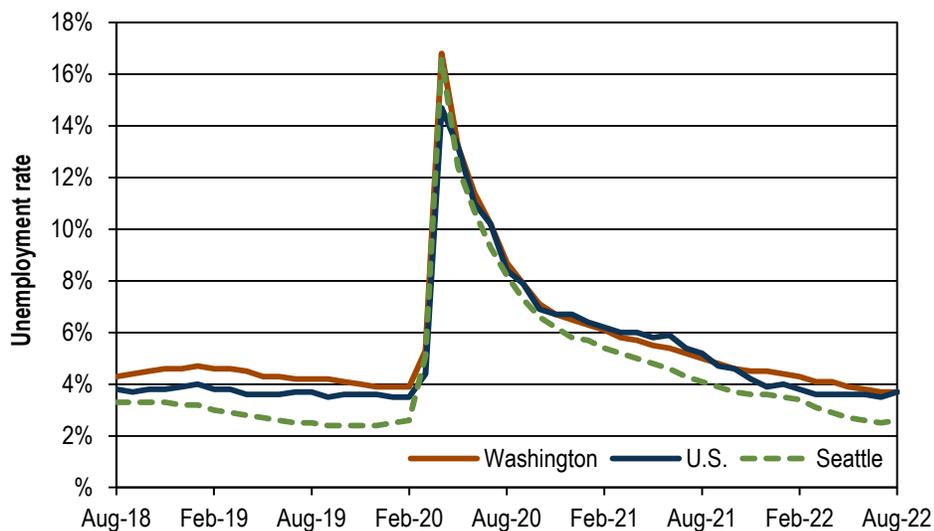
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people rose by 500 in August 2022 compared to July 2022. At the same time, the number of employed people fell by an estimated 10,200. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 9,700 people in the labor force.

The preliminary August 2022 unemployment rate is 1.3 percentage points lower than the July 2021 rate of 5.0 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

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

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



August 2022 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.7%

Washington (preliminary) 3.7%

Seattle area (preliminary) 2.6%

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 16,100 jobs from July 2022 to August 2022.

Recent employment change:

June 2022: up 5,000 jobs (revised)

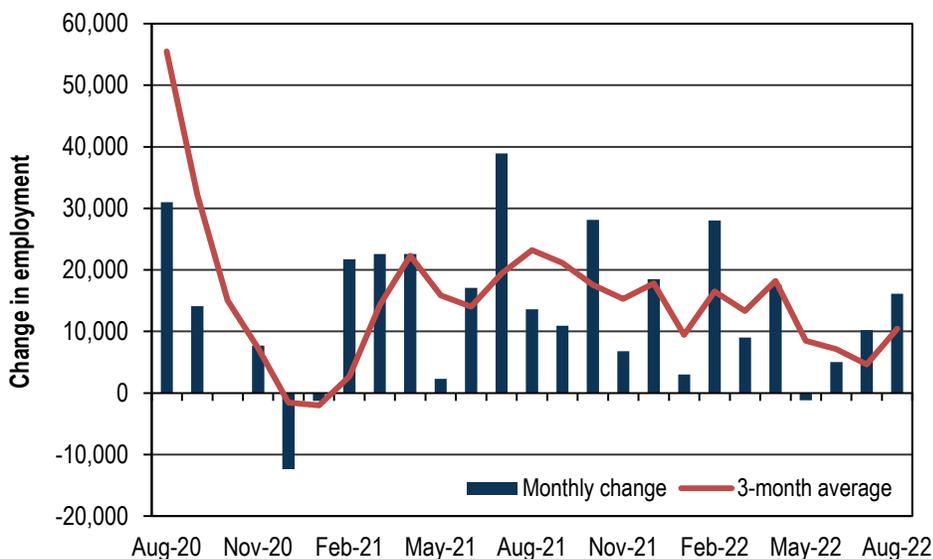
July 2022: up 10,200 jobs (revised)

August 2022: up 16,100 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, August 2020 through August 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: 3,514,000

Unemployment rate: 3.9%

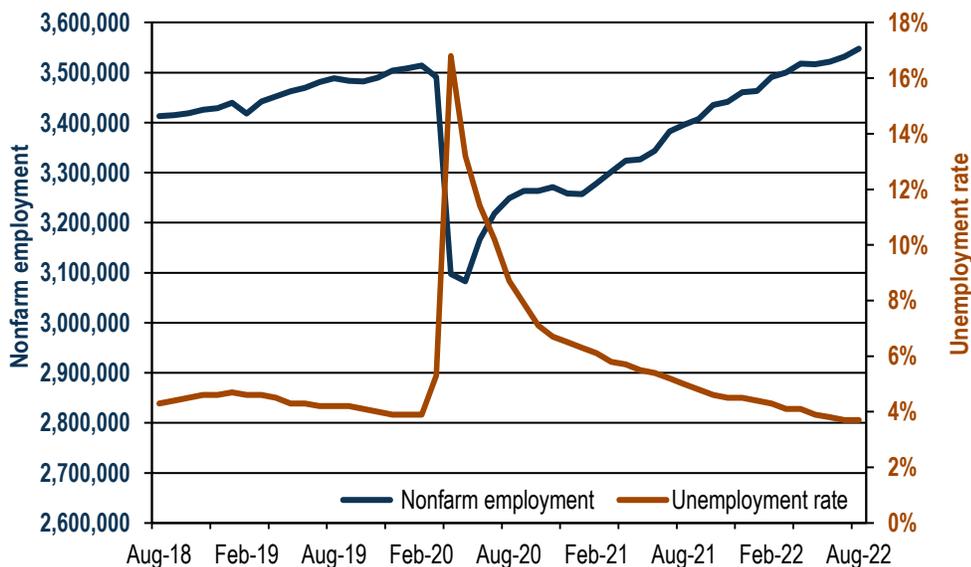
August 2022 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,528,100

Unemployment rate: 3.7%

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

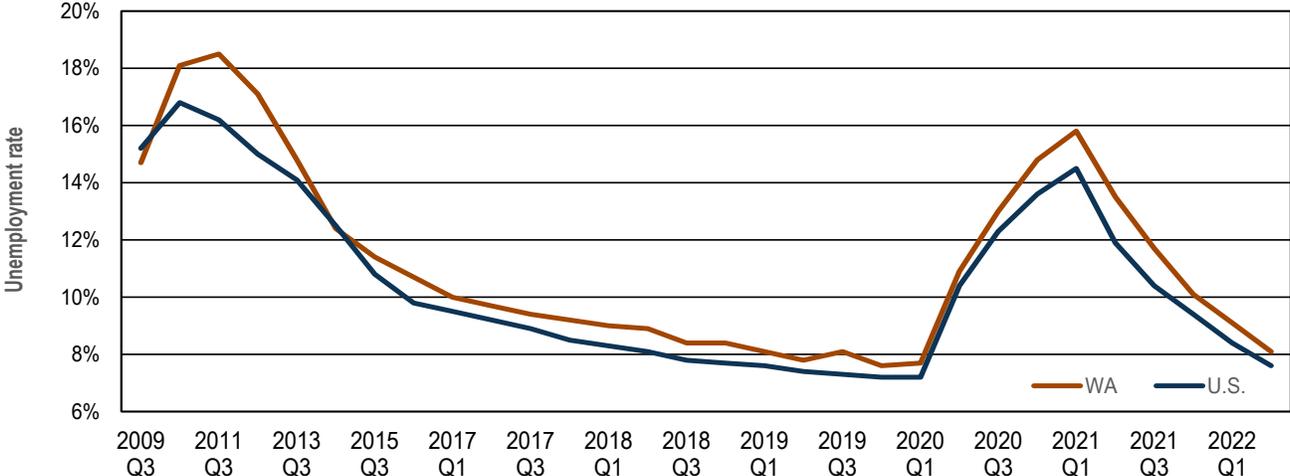
U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter period from third quarter 2021 through second quarter 2022

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include four-quarter rates for third quarter 2021 through second quarter 2022. 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 third quarter 2021 through second quarter 2022 for Washington state was 8.1 percent. This was lower compared to the 9.1 percent U-6 unemployment rate for second quarter 2021 through the first quarter period. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate for the four-quarter period from third quarter 2021 through second quarter 2022 was 7.6 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%	8.1%		
	U.S.	8.4%	7.6%		
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 gained an estimated 16,100 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in ten major industries, decreased in two and was unchanged in one in August.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 9,400 and government employment increased by 6,700.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 2,200 overall, with 2,200 jobs gained in administrative and support services.
- Employment in retail trade rose by 2,000 overall, led by 1,300 jobs added in other retail trade.
- The number of jobs in construction increased by 1,800, led by 700 jobs added in residential building construction.
- Employment in manufacturing increased by 1,000 overall, with 500 jobs added in transportation equipment manufacturing.
- Transportation, warehousing and utilities employment fell by 1,000, with 700 jobs lost in truck transportation.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, July 2022 to August 2022

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

Total nonfarm	16,100
Government	6,700
Education and health services	2,500
Professional and business services	2,200
Retail trade	2,000
Construction	1,800
Wholesale trade	1,000
Manufacturing	1,000
Financial activities	500
Other services	400
Leisure and hospitality	100
Mining and logging	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-1,000
Information	-1,100

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 161,600 jobs from August 2021 through August 2022.

- Overall, twelve major industries expanded and one contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 5.6 percent, up an estimated 158,900 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 0.5 percent, up an estimated 2,700 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 32,500, with food services and drinking places adding 23,400 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 31,900, with 17,600 jobs added in administrative and support services.
- Education and health services employment rose 26,700 overall, with 19,100 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in manufacturing is up 15,500 overall, led by an increase of 4,100 in aerospace products and parts manufacturing.
- Information employment increased by 13,100, with 4,900 jobs added by software publishers.

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

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

Total nonfarm	161,600
Leisure and hospitality	32,500
Professional and business services	31,900
Education and health services	26,700
Manufacturing	15,500
Construction	14,300
Information	13,100
Wholesale trade	11,000
Other services	5,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	4,700
Financial activities	2,900
Government	2,700
Retail trade	1,400
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, August 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	-13,100	3,000	16,100
Professional and business services	1,900	4,100	2,200
Construction	1,500	3,300	1,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,000	0	-1,000
Leisure and hospitality	700	800	100
Wholesale trade	400	1,400	1,000
Financial activities	400	900	500
Information	100	-1,000	-1,100
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Education and health services	-200	2,300	2,500
Retail trade	-600	1,400	2,000
Manufacturing	-600	400	1,000
Other services	-600	-200	400
Government	-17,100	-10,400	6,700

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 13,100 from July to August. This year the state gained an estimated 3,000 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 16,100 jobs.

- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 2,200 in professional and business services in August. The normal seasonal increase is 1,900. It is estimated to have increased this August by 4,100.
- The estimated employment increase in construction was 3,300. The normal seasonal increase is 1,500, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment increased by 1,800.
- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 700 in August. The estimated gain was 800, so employment increased by 100 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Employment in retail trade normally decreases by 600. It is estimated to have increased by 1,400 this August so it increased by 2,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 600 in August. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 1,000 as the estimated increase was 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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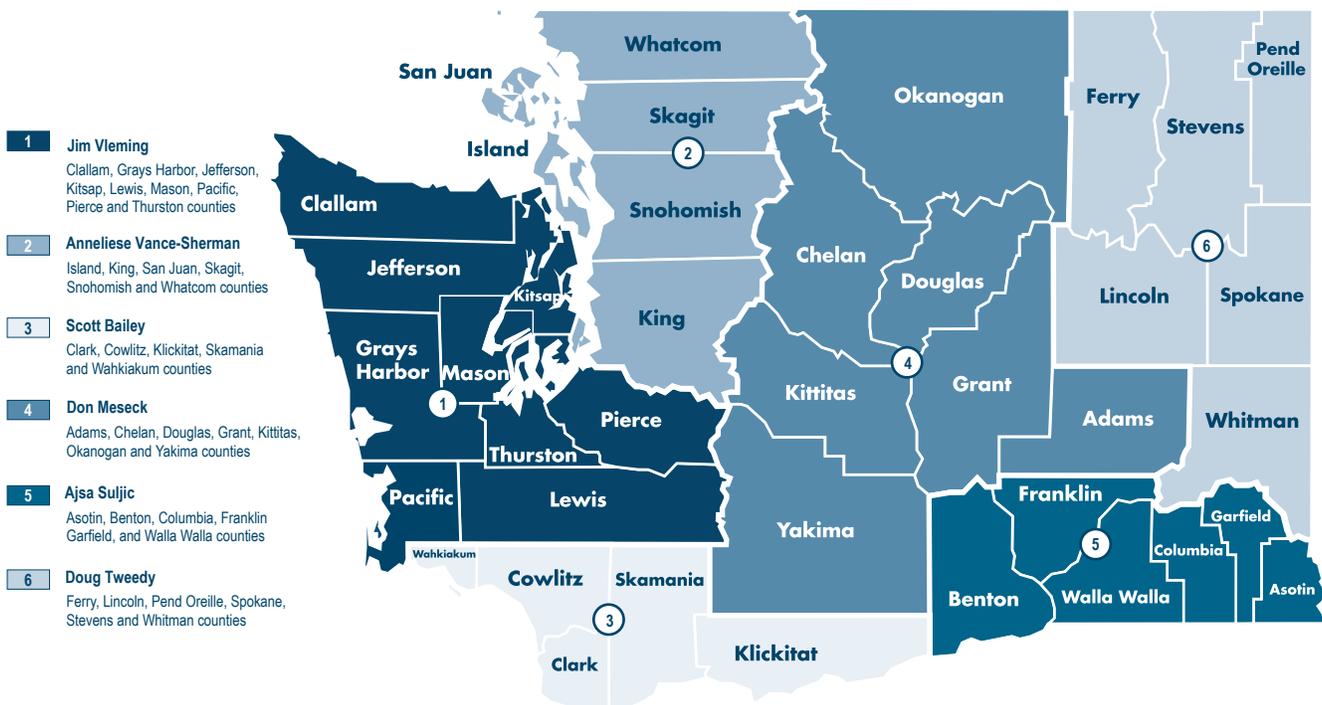
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., September 20, 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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