

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 3.7% United States 3.5%

Seasonally adjusted

September 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 1,500 in September 2022.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 9,200 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 7,700 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for September 2021 through September 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 149,100 for the state. The private sector gained 151,100 jobs while the public sector lost an estimated 2,000 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September 2022 is 3.7 percent. The revised estimated August 2022 unemployment rate is at 3.7 percent. The September 2021 unemployment rate was 4.8 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The August 2022 preliminary estimated gain of 16,100 jobs was revised to a gain of 21,700 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, August and September 2021 and 2022
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	September 2022 (Preliminary)	August 2022 (Revised)	September 2021 (Revised)	August 2021 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.7%	4.7%	5.2%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.7%	4.8%	5.0%
Resident labor force	4,012,300	4,020,400	3,939,000	3,929,300
Unemployed	150,200	149,200	189,400	197,500
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	2.7%	2.6%	3.9%	4.1%
Resident labor force	1,777,900	1,779,100	1,722,000	1,717,400
Unemployed	47,500	46,200	66,700	70,500

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

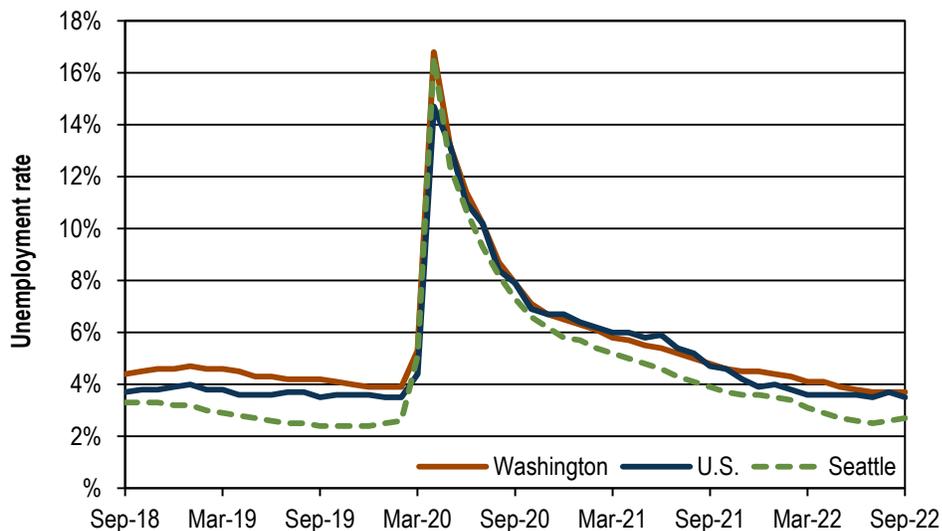
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people rose by 1,000 in September 2022 compared to August 2022. At the same time, the number of employed people fell by an estimated 9,100. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 8,100 people in the labor force.

The preliminary September 2022 unemployment rate is 1.1 percentage points lower than the September 2021 rate of 4.8 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

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

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



September 2022 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.5%
 Washington (preliminary) 3.7%
 Seattle area (preliminary) 2.7%

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 1,500 jobs from August 2022 to September 2022.

Recent employment change:

July 2022: up 10,200 jobs (revised)

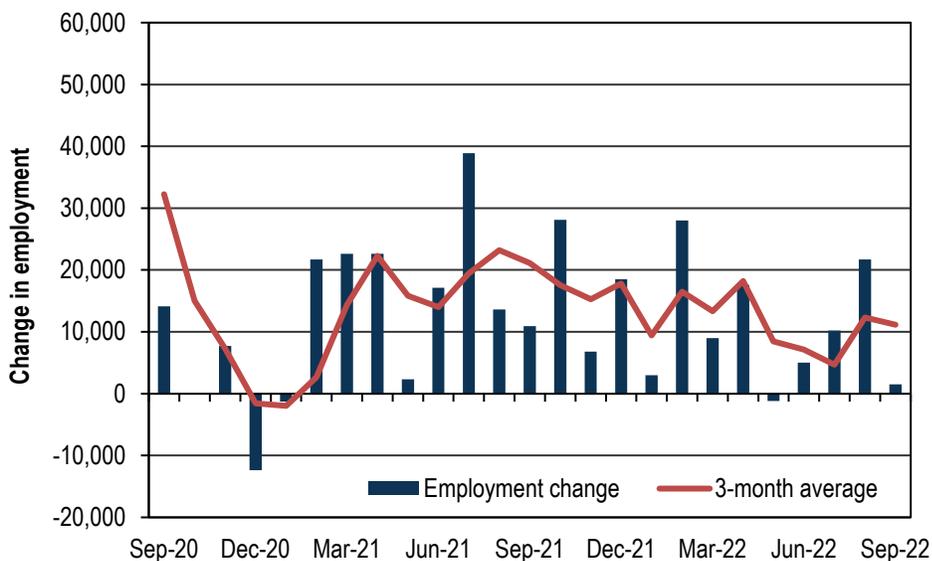
August 2022: up 21,700 jobs (revised)

September 2022: up 1,500 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, September 2020 through September 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%

September 2022 (preliminary)

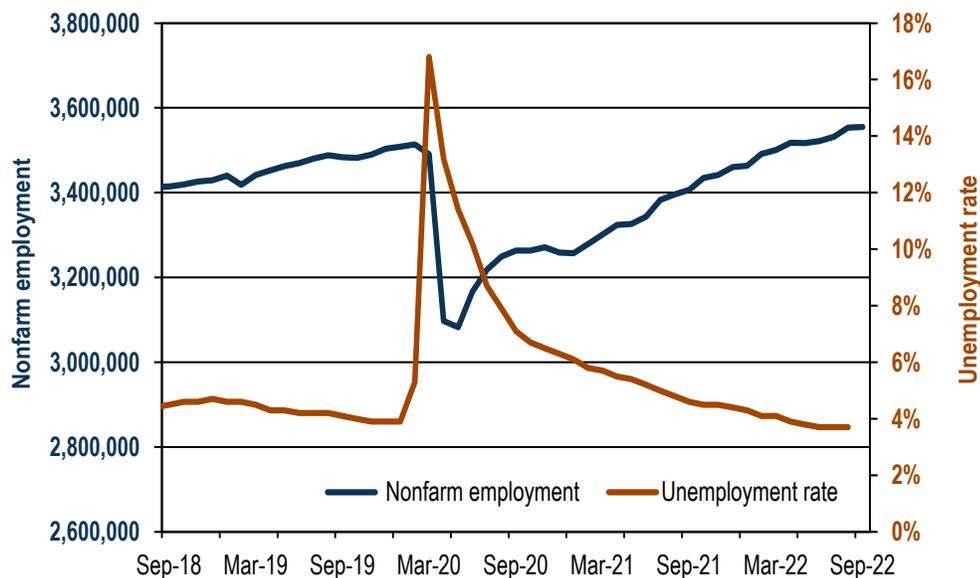
Nonfarm employment: 3,555,200

Unemployment rate: 3.7%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, September 2018 through September 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

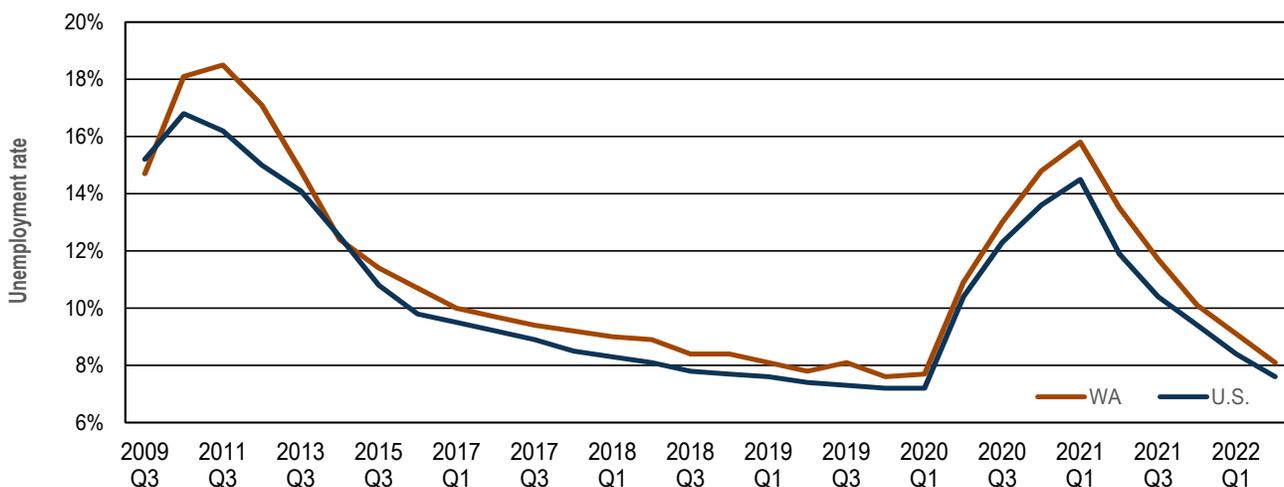
U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter period from third quarter 2021 through second quarter 2022

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 1,500 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in nine major industries, and decreased in four in September.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 9,200 and government employment decreased by 7,700.
- Transportation, warehousing and utilities employment rose by 2,700, led by 600 jobs gained in truck transportation.
- Employment in information rose by 2,400, with 1,000 jobs added by software publishers.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 1,800 overall, with 800 jobs gained in administrative and support services.
- Employment in financial activities increased by 1,300 overall, as 1,300 jobs were added in real estate, rental and leasing.
- The number of jobs in construction decreased by 1,300, with 700 jobs lost in residential building construction.

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

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

Total nonfarm	1,500
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,700
Information	2,400
Professional and business services	1,800
Financial activities	1,300
Wholesale trade	1,200
Education and health services	600
Retail trade	500
Leisure and hospitality	300
Mining and logging	100
Other services	-100
Manufacturing	-300
Construction	-1,300
Government	-7,700

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 149,100 jobs from September 2021 through September 2022.

- Overall, ten major industries expanded and three contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 5.3 percent, up an estimated 151,100 jobs.
- Public sector employment fell 0.4 percent, down an estimated 2,000 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 32,900, with food services and drinking places adding 24,300 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 29,100, with 14,300 jobs added in administrative and support services.
- Education and health services employment rose 26,400 overall, with 21,400 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in manufacturing is up 14,400 overall, led by an increase of 8,000 in aerospace products and parts manufacturing.
- Information employment increased by 15,600, with 4,500 jobs added by software publishers.

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

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

Total nonfarm	149,100
Leisure and hospitality	32,900
Professional and business services	29,100
Education and health services	26,400
Manufacturing	14,400
Construction	11,000
Information	15,600
Wholesale trade	11,600
Other services	4,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5,600
Financial activities	2,700
Government	-2,000
Retail trade	-2,200
Mining and logging	-200

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, September 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	-3,600	-2,100	1,500
Government	10,700	3,000	-7,700
Education and health services	4,100	4,700	600
Wholesale trade	500	1,700	1,200
Information	200	2,600	2,400
Mining and logging	0	100	100
Manufacturing	-300	-600	-300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-500	2,200	2,700
Financial activities	-1,200	100	1,300
Other services	-1,700	-1,800	-100
Construction	-2,300	-3,600	-1,300
Retail trade	-3,300	-2,800	500
Professional and business services	-4,000	-2,200	1,800
Leisure and hospitality	-5,800	-5,500	300

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 3,600 from August to September. This year the state lost an estimated 2,100 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 1,500 jobs.

- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 300 in September. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment decreased by 300 as the estimated decrease was 600.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 3,600. The normal seasonal decrease is 2,300, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment decreased by 1,300.
- Employment in retail trade normally decreases by 3,300. It is estimated to have decreased by 2,800 this September so it increased by 500 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 1,800 in professional and business services in September. The normal seasonal decrease is 4,000. It is estimated to have decreased this September by 2,200.
- The normal seasonal loss in leisure and hospitality employment is 5,800 in September. The estimated loss was 5,500, so employment increased by 300 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.

Statewide labor economist:

Paul Turek, Ph.D.
Paul.turek@esd.wa.gov
 360-706-3044

Regional labor economists:

Scott Bailey
Scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov
 360-810-0048

Don Meseck
Don.meseck@esd.wa.gov
 509-574-0176

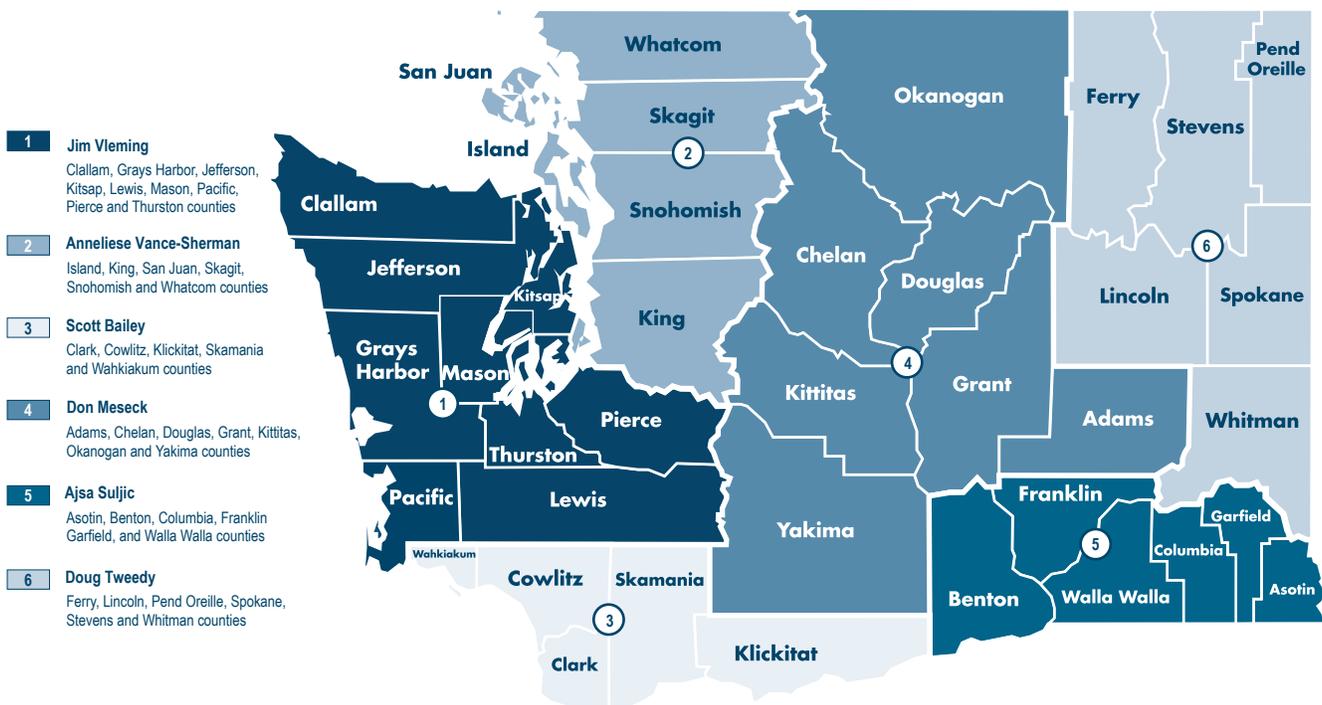
Ajsa Suljic
Ajsa.suljic@esd.wa.gov
 509-734-5928

Doug Tweedy
Doug.tweedy@esd.wa.gov
 509-434-5278

Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D.
Anneliese.vancesherman@esd.wa.gov
 425-258-6315

Jim Vleming
Jim.vleming@esd.wa.gov
 360-819-3427

Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., October 25, 2022. The publication schedule for 2022 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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