

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 3.8% **United States 3.7%**

Seasonally adjusted

October 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 5,400 in October 2022.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 3,800 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 1,600 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for October 2021 through October 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 130,300 for the state. The private sector gained 119,100 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 11,200 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2022 is 3.8 percent. The revised estimated September 2022 unemployment rate is at 3.7 percent. The October 2021 unemployment rate was 4.6 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The September 2022 preliminary estimated gain of 1,500 jobs was revised to a gain of 7,900 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, September and October 2021 and 2022
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	October 2022 (Preliminary)	September 2022 (Revised)	October 2021 (Revised)	September 2021 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.5%	4.6%	4.7%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.7%	4.6%	4.8%
Resident labor force	4,008,100	4,012,000	3,947,600	3,939,000
Unemployed	153,700	149,900	3,765,400	189,400
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	2.8%	2.7%	3.7%	3.9%
Resident labor force	1,777,100	1,777,800	1,725,700	1,722,000
Unemployed	49,800	47,400	63,500	66,700

Data Architecture, Transformation and Analytics Division
November 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.

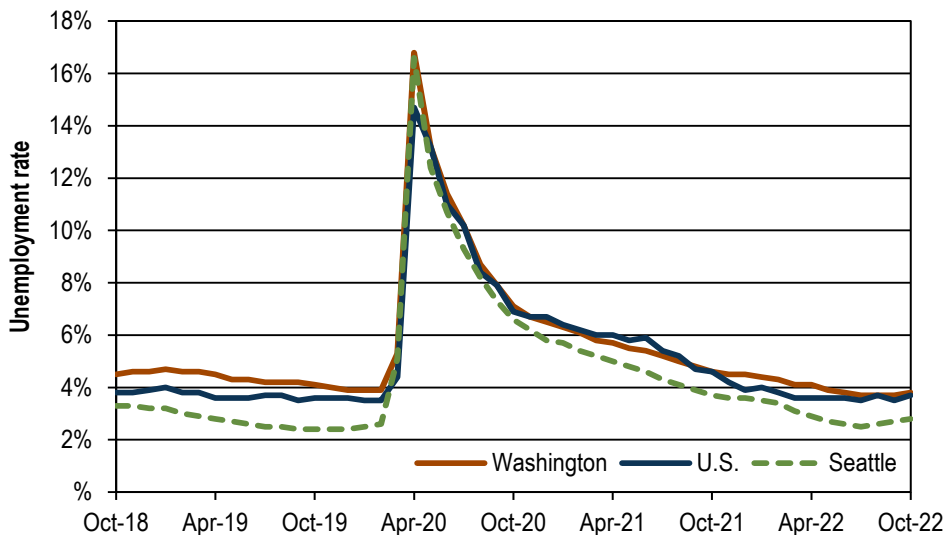
Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2022 is 3.8 percent. The revised estimated September 2022 unemployment rate is 3.7 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people rose by 3,800 in October 2022 compared to September 2022. At the same time, the number of employed people fell by an estimated 7,700. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 3,900 people in the labor force.

The preliminary October 2022 unemployment rate is 0.8 percentage points lower than the October 2021 rate of 4.6 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
U.S., Washington and Seattle, October 2018 through October 2022
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



October 2022 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.7%
Washington (preliminary) 3.8%
Seattle area (preliminary) 2.8%

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 5,400 jobs from September 2022 to October 2022.

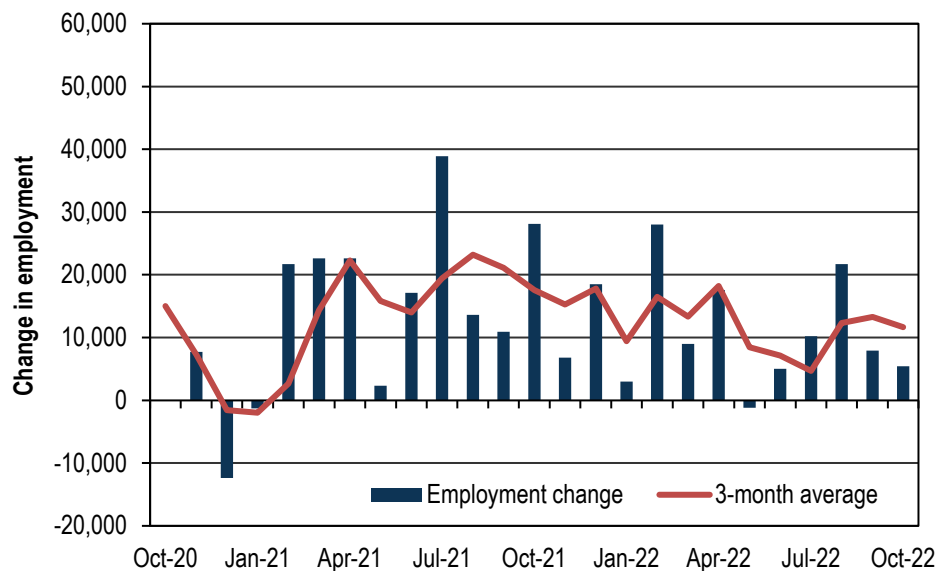
Recent employment change:

August 2022: up 21,700 jobs (revised)

September 2022: up 7,900 jobs (revised)

October 2022: up 5,400 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, October 2020 through October 2022
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; 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%

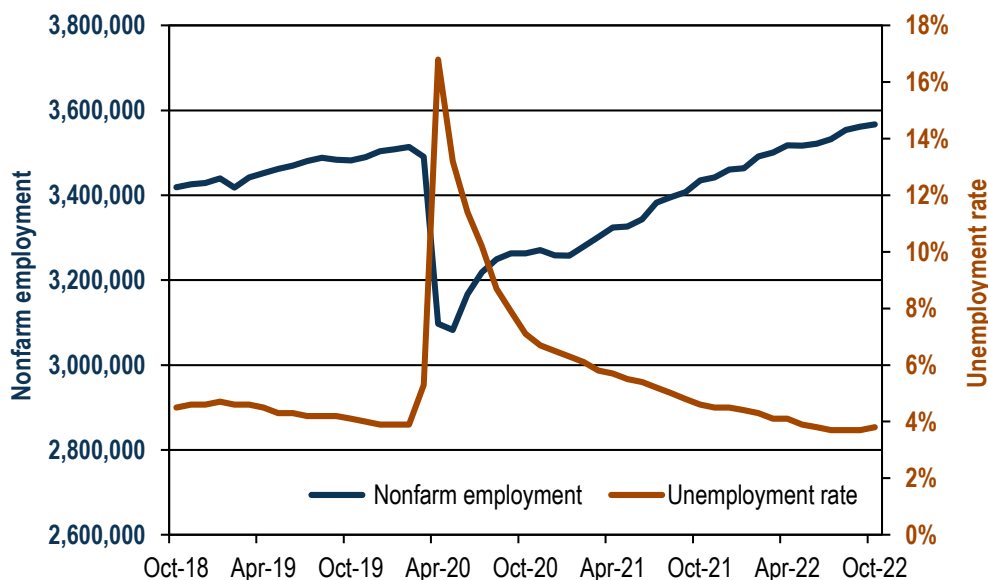
October 2022 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,567,000

Unemployment rate: 3.8%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, October 2018 through October 2022

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; 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

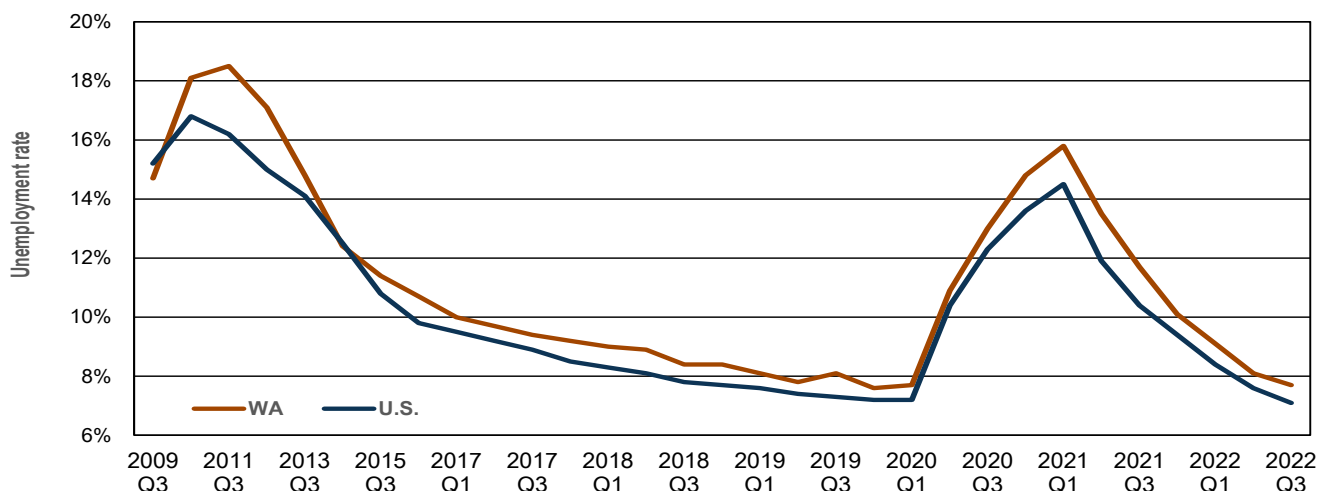
U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter period from fourth quarter 2021 through third quarter 2022

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include four-quarter rates for fourth quarter 2021 through third 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 fourth quarter 2021 through third quarter 2022 for Washington state was 7.7 percent. This was lower compared to the 8.1 percent U-6 unemployment rate for the third quarter 2021 through second quarter 2022 period. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate for the four-quarter period from fourth quarter 2021 through third quarter 2022 was 7.1 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%	7.7%	
	U.S.	8.4%	7.6%	7.1%	
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 5,400 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in nine major industries, and decreased in four in October.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 3,800 and government employment increased by 1,600.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 1,800 overall, with 800 jobs gained in computer systems design and related services.
- Transportation, warehousing and utilities employment rose by 1,200, led by 600 jobs gained in truck transportation.
- The number of jobs in construction increased by 700, with 700 jobs gained from specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in financial activities decreased by 700 overall, as 700 jobs were lost from insurance carriers and related activities.
- Employment in information decreased by 5,900, with 600 jobs lost by software publishers.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, September 2022 to October 2022
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Current Employment Statistics

Total nonfarm	5,400
Leisure and hospitality	4,400
Professional and business services	1,800
Education and health services	1,800
Government	1,600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,200
Construction	700
Wholesale trade	600
Other services	500
Manufacturing	500
Mining and logging	-100
Financial activities	-700
Retail trade	-1,000
Information	-5,900

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 130,300 jobs from October 2021 through October 2022.

- Overall, eleven major industries expanded and two contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 4.1 percent, up an estimated 119,100 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 2.0 percent, up an estimated 11,200 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 31,200, with food services and drinking places adding 21,700 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 24,300, with 9,900 jobs added in administrative and support services.
- Education and health services employment rose 17,700 overall, with 13,700 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in manufacturing is up 12,000 overall, led by an increase of 4,800 in aerospace products and parts manufacturing.
- Information employment increased by 8,400, with 3,800 jobs added by software publishers.

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

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

Total nonfarm	130,300
Leisure and hospitality	31,200
Professional and business services	24,300
Education and health services	17,700
Manufacturing	12,000
Government	11,200
Construction	11,100
Wholesale trade	9,300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5,900
Information	8,400
Other services	4,100
Financial activities	1,700
Mining and logging	-400
Retail trade	-6,200

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, October 2022

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

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	800	6,200	5,400
Government	13,400	15,000	1,600
Education and health services	2,700	4,500	1,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,300	2,500	1,200
Retail trade	600	-400	-1,000
Financial activities	200	-500	-700
Mining and logging	-100	-200	-100
Other services	-400	100	500
Wholesale trade	-900	-300	600
Information	-1,200	-7,100	-5,900
Professional and business services	-1,300	500	1,800
Construction	-1,900	-1,200	700
Manufacturing	-2,200	-1,700	500
Leisure and hospitality	-9,400	-5,000	4,400

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 800 from September to October. This year the state gained an estimated 6,200 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 5,400 jobs.

- Employment in retail trade normally increases by 600. It is estimated to have decreased by 400 this October so it decreased by 1,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 1,800 in professional and business services in October. The normal seasonal decrease is 1,300. It is estimated to have increased this October by 500.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 1,200. The normal seasonal decrease is 1,900, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment increased by 700.
- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 2,200 in October. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 500 as the estimated decrease was 1,700.
- The normal seasonal loss in leisure and hospitality employment is 9,400 in October. The estimated loss was 5,000, so employment increased by 4,400 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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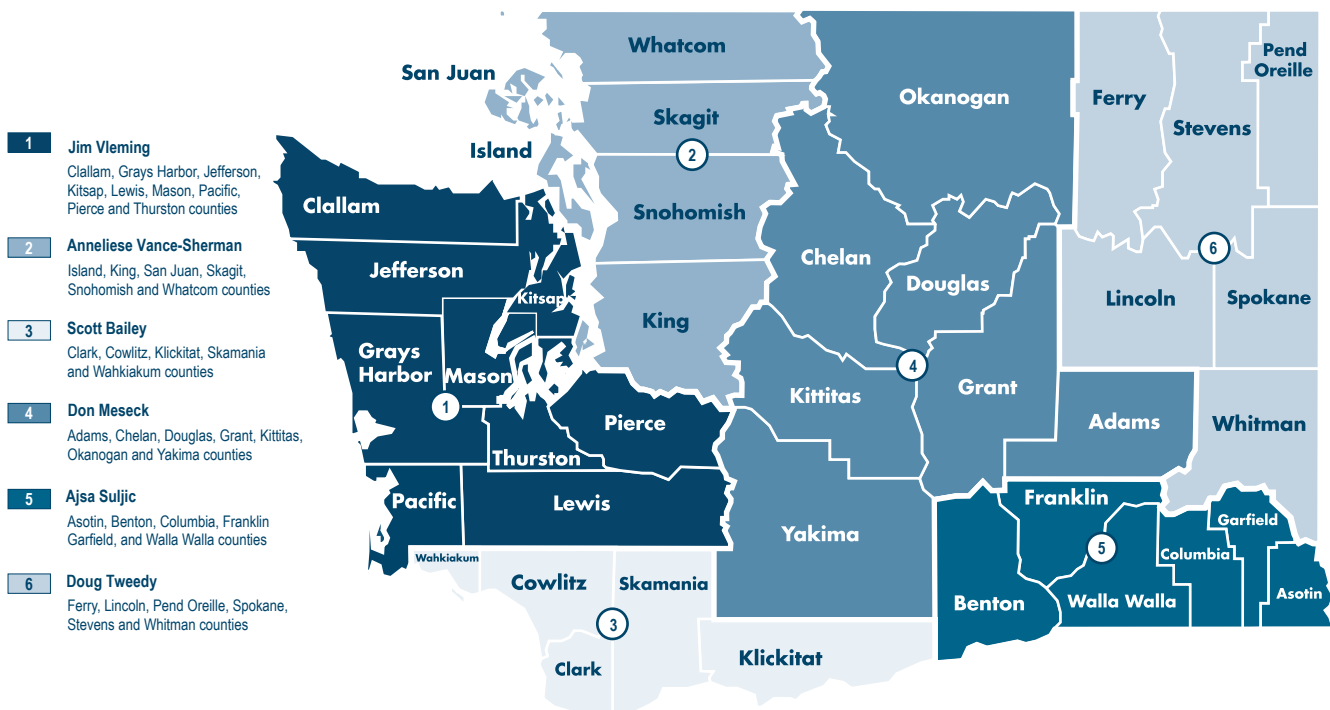
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., November 22, 2022. The publication schedule for 2022 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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