

State of the state: Washington's labor market

Employment Services Advisory Committee
November 12, 2014

Cynthia Forland, Director, Labor Market and Performance Analysis



Washington recovery continues

- Recovered all jobs lost during the recession, but
- Recession and recovery mixed across industries.
- Divergent recovery across the state.
- The working population is aging.
- Demand for unemployment benefits and employment services has been decreasing.

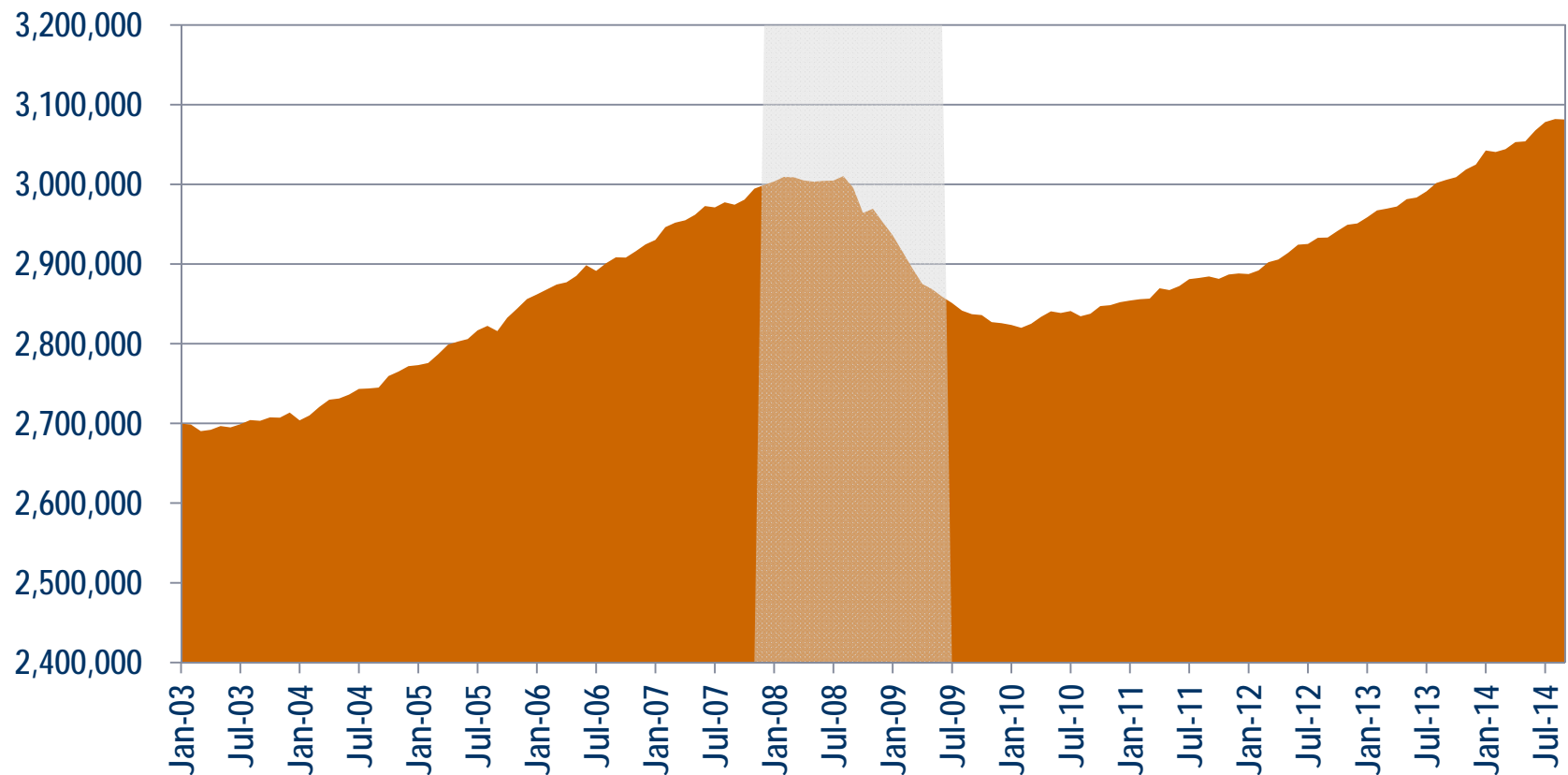
Summary of key Washington labor-market indicators

Washington state

Total nonfarm employment, Sep 2014	3.08 million
Year-over-year new jobs added, Sep 2013 to Sep 2014	75,900
Unemployment rate, Sep 2014	5.7%
Employment rate, Sep 2014	58.8%
Total unemployment insurance claimants, Sep 2014	57,621
Average weekly benefit, Sep 2014	\$411
Average weeks of unemployment insurance benefits, Oct 2013 to Sep 2014	15.7
Total monthly benefit exhaustions, Sep 2014	4,300

Nonfarm employment in Washington

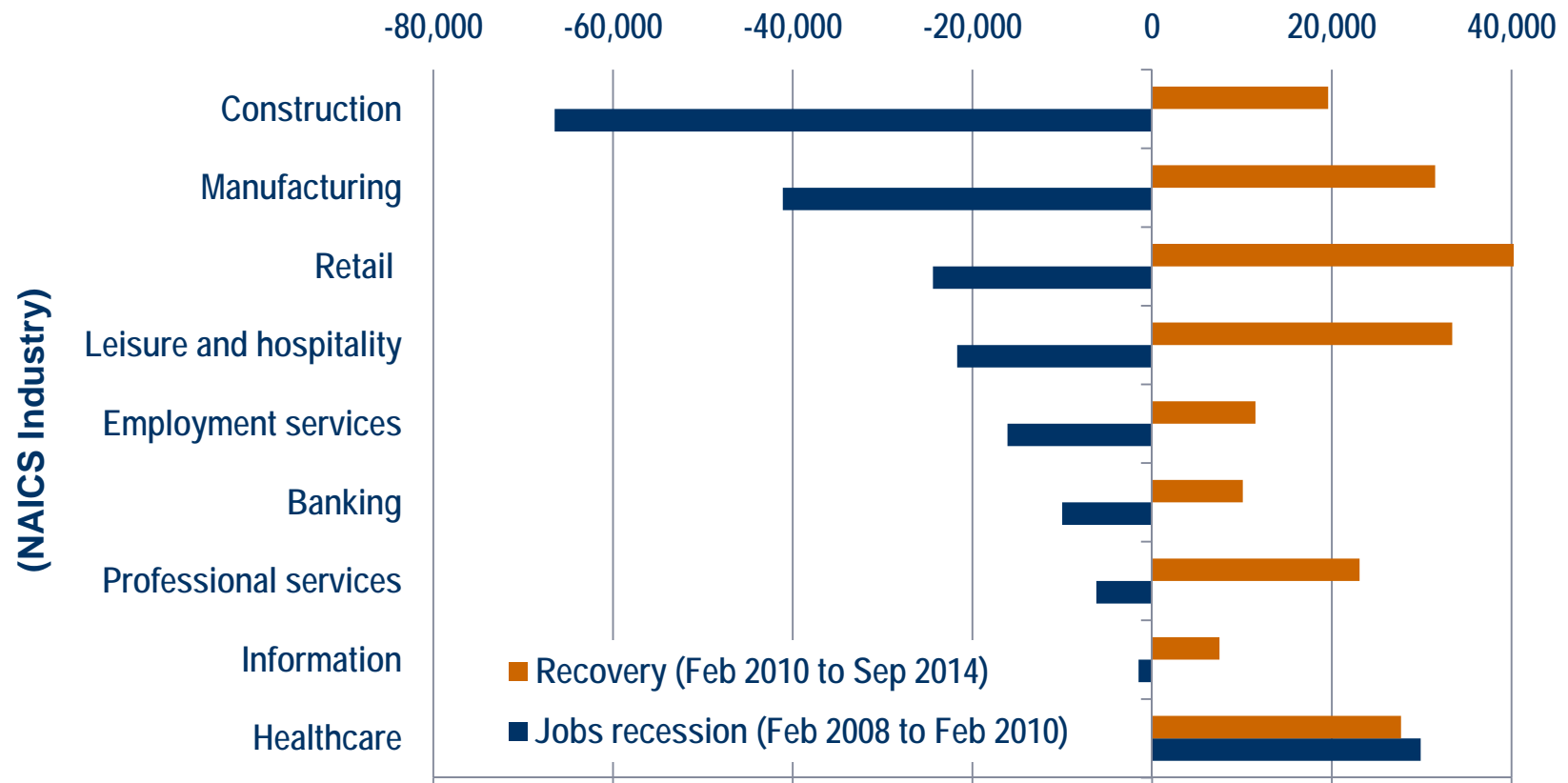
Currently up 70,900 from pre-recession peak



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

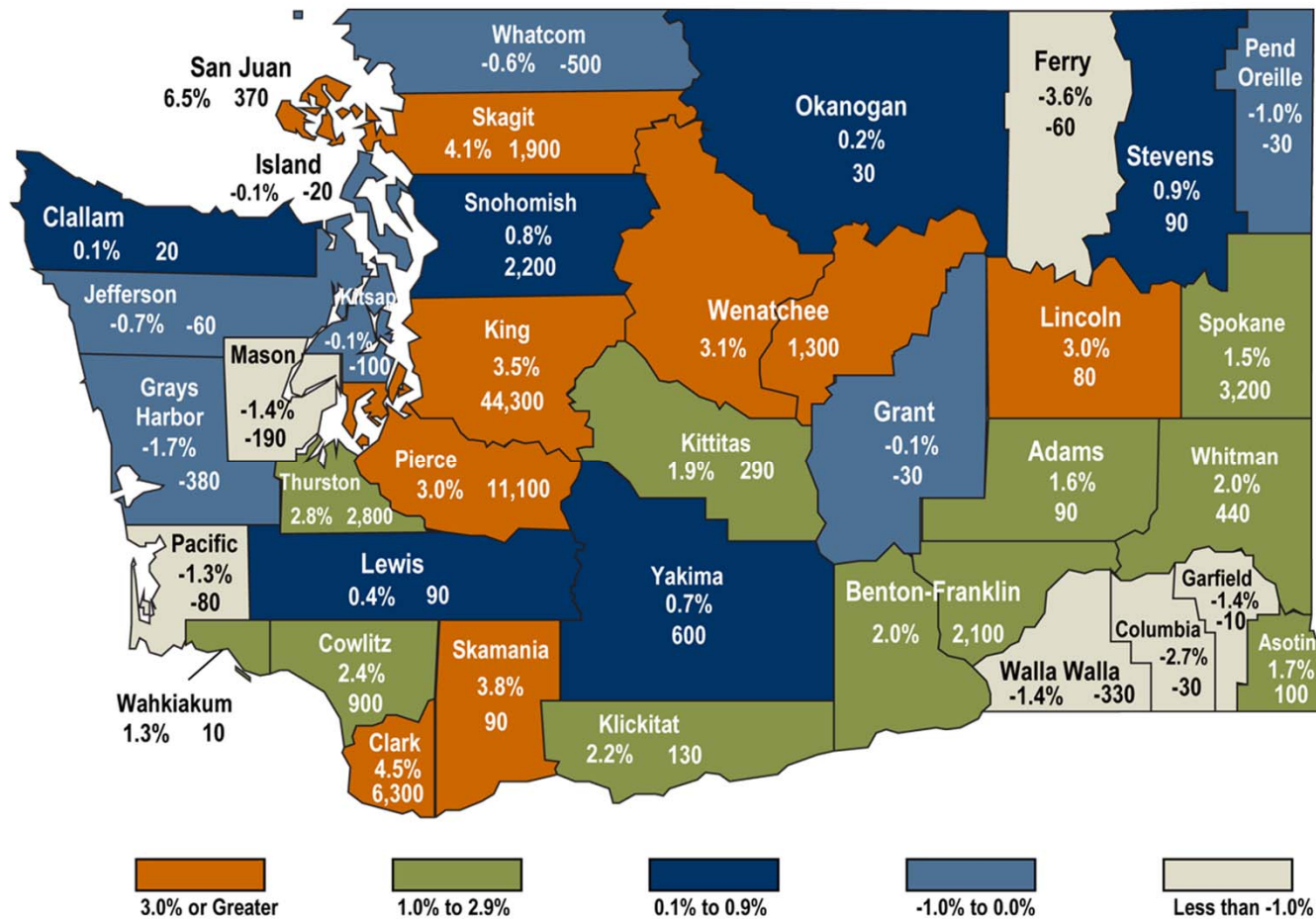
Employment changes in Washington

Recovery mixed across industries

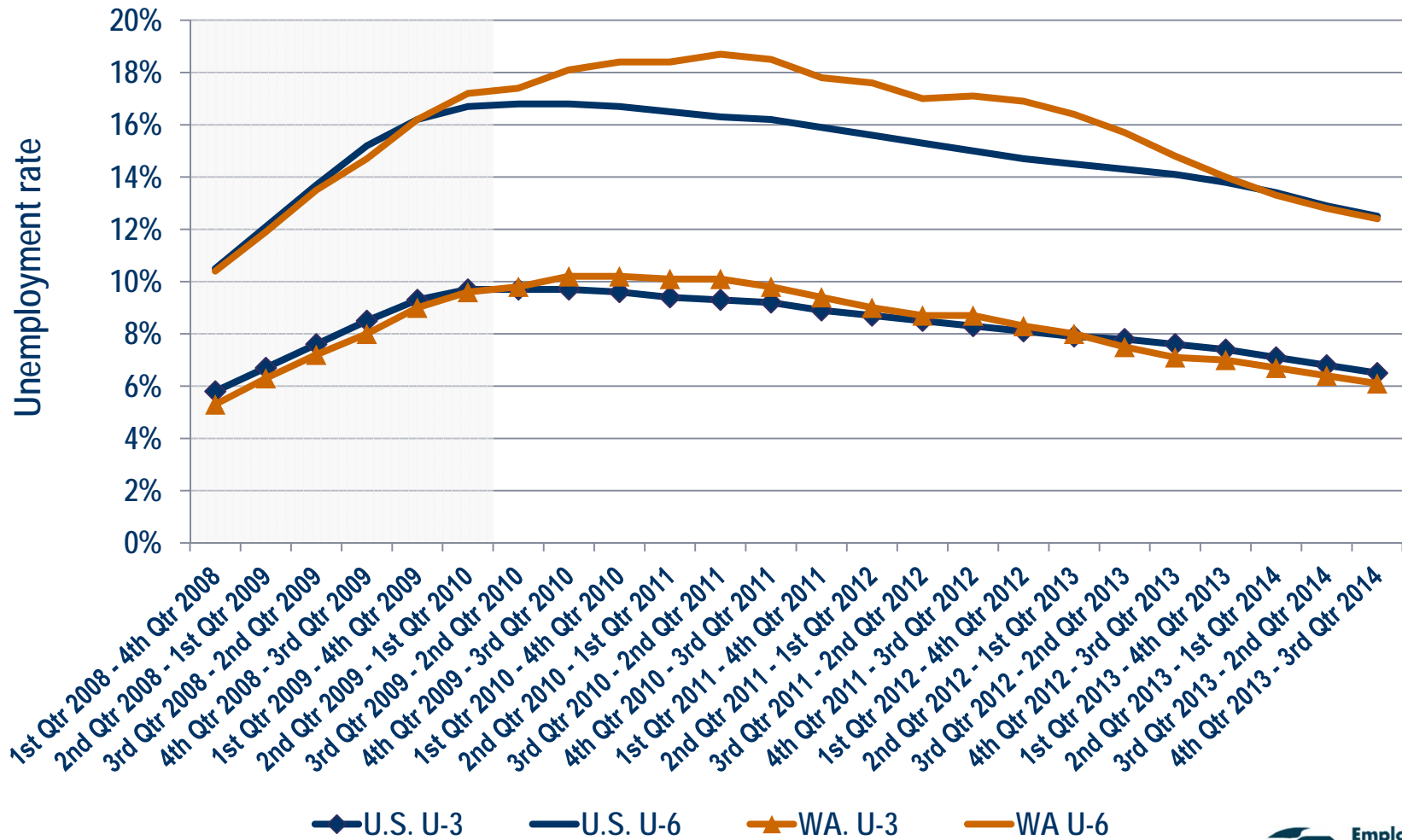


Job growth and decline across state

September 2013 to September 2014

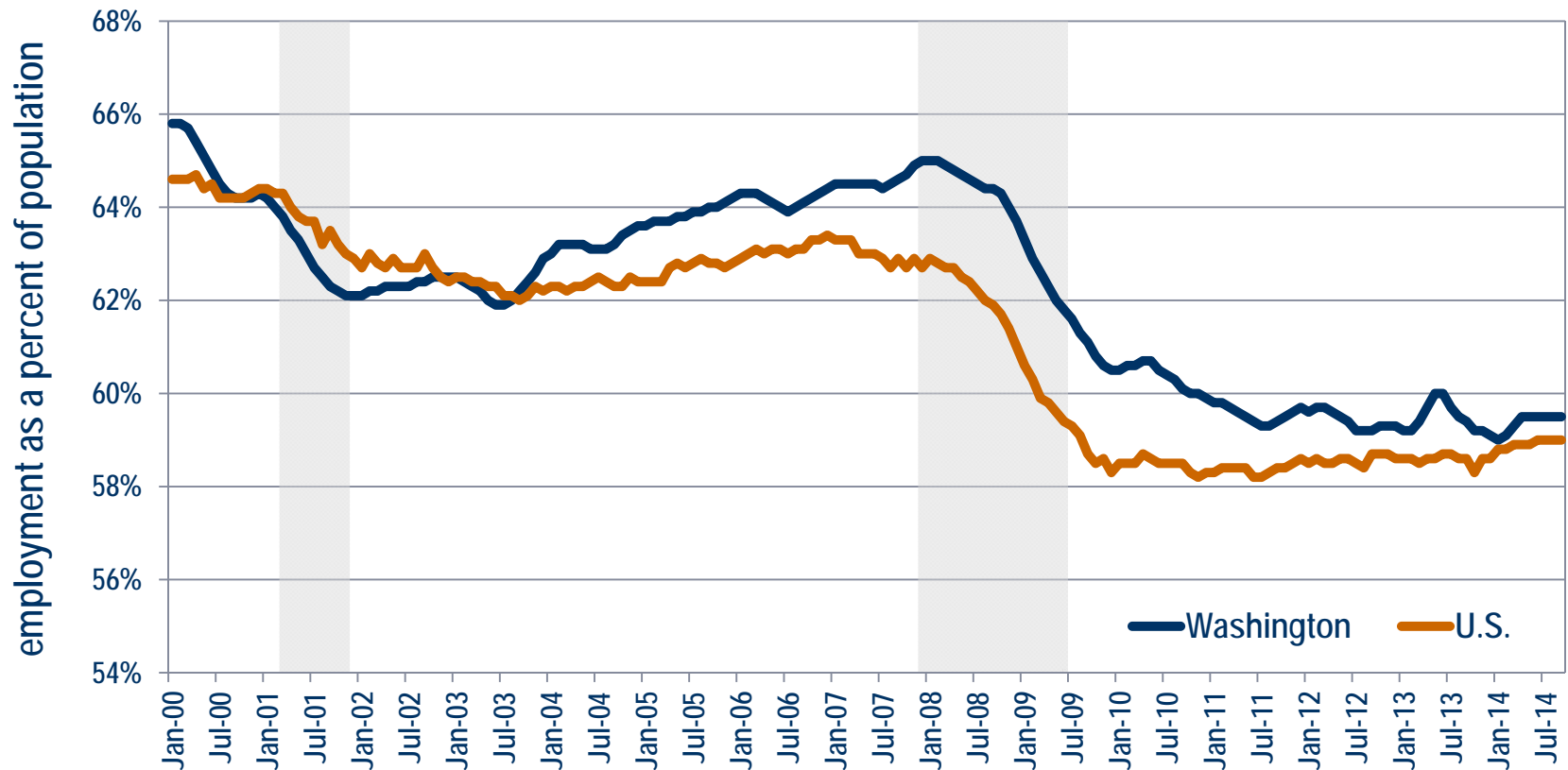


Underemployment

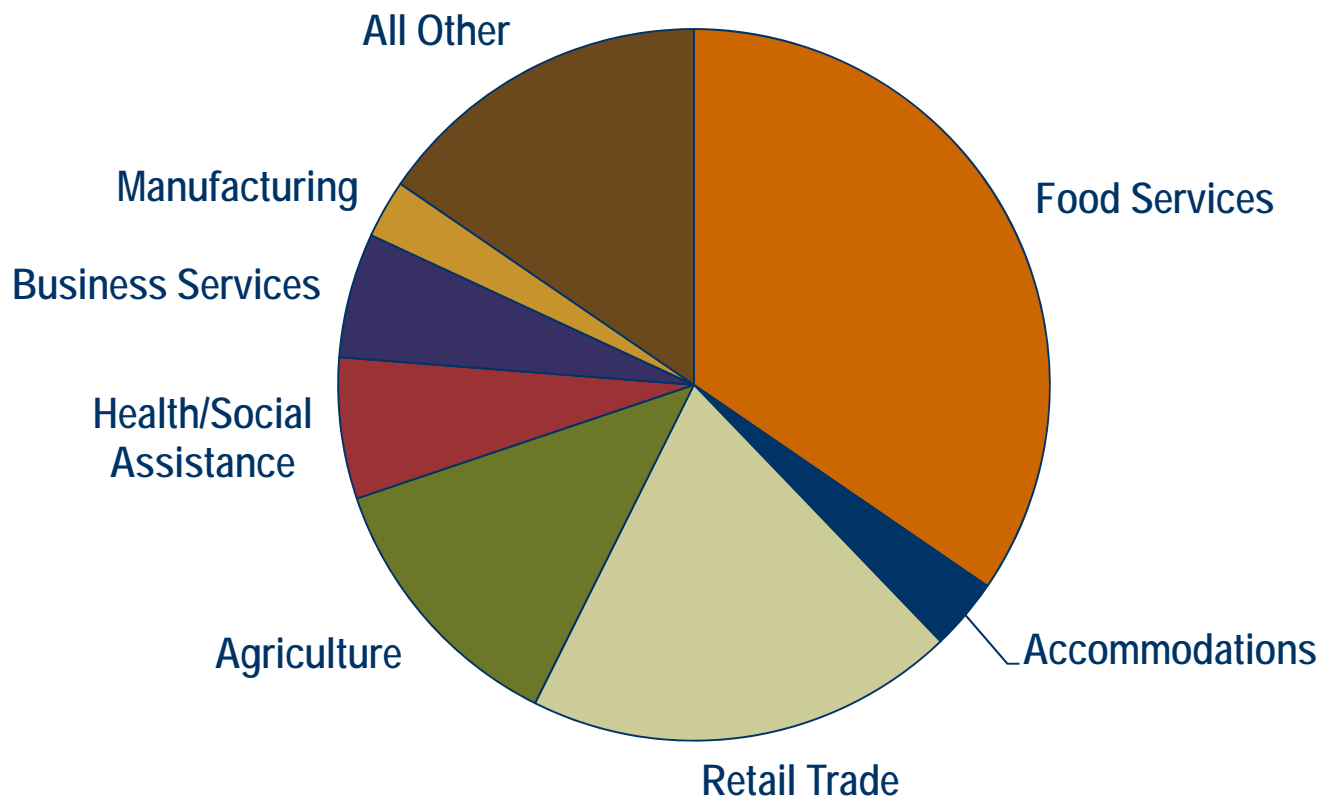


Employment rates

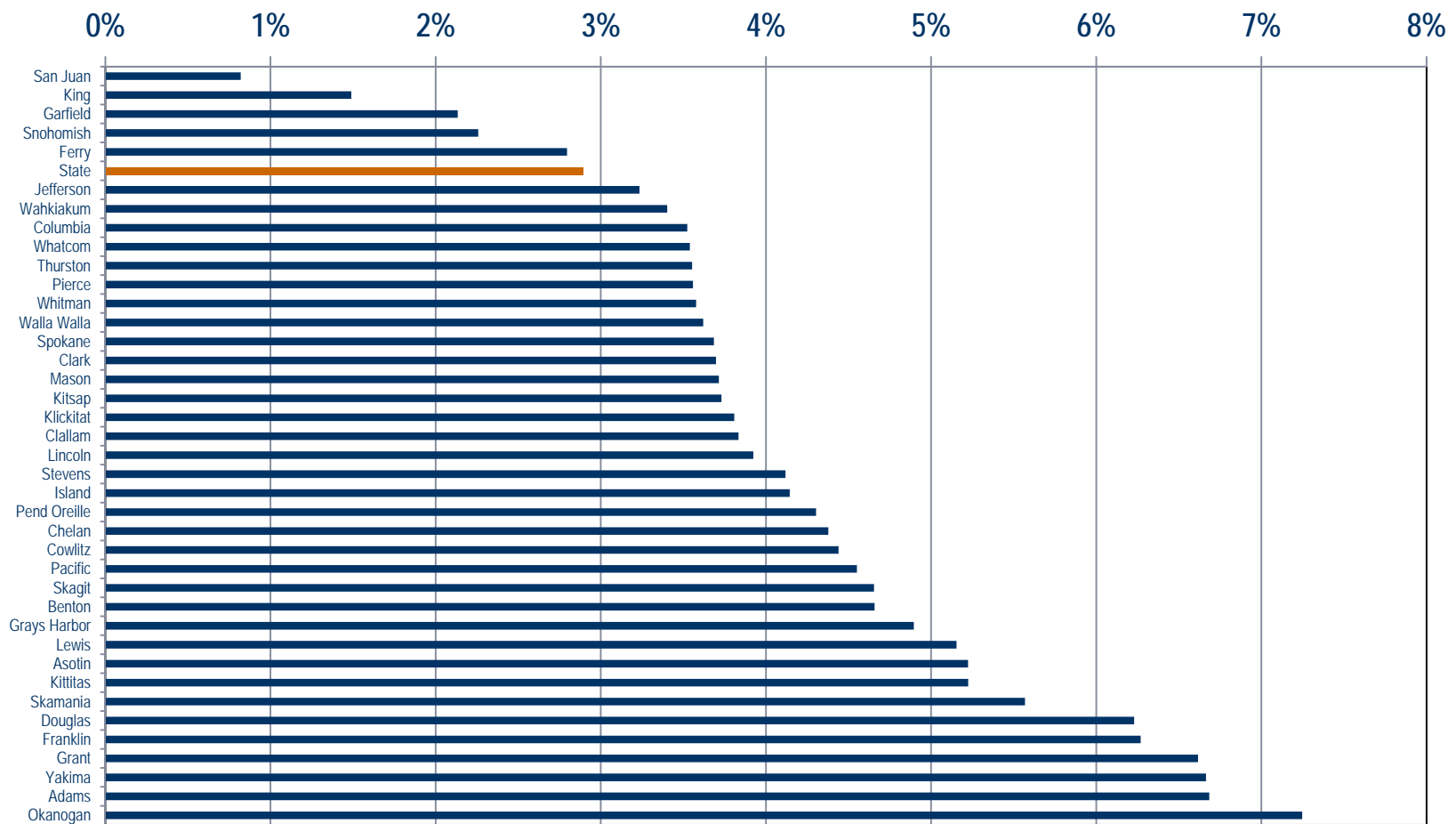
Employment rates have been flat since January 2009



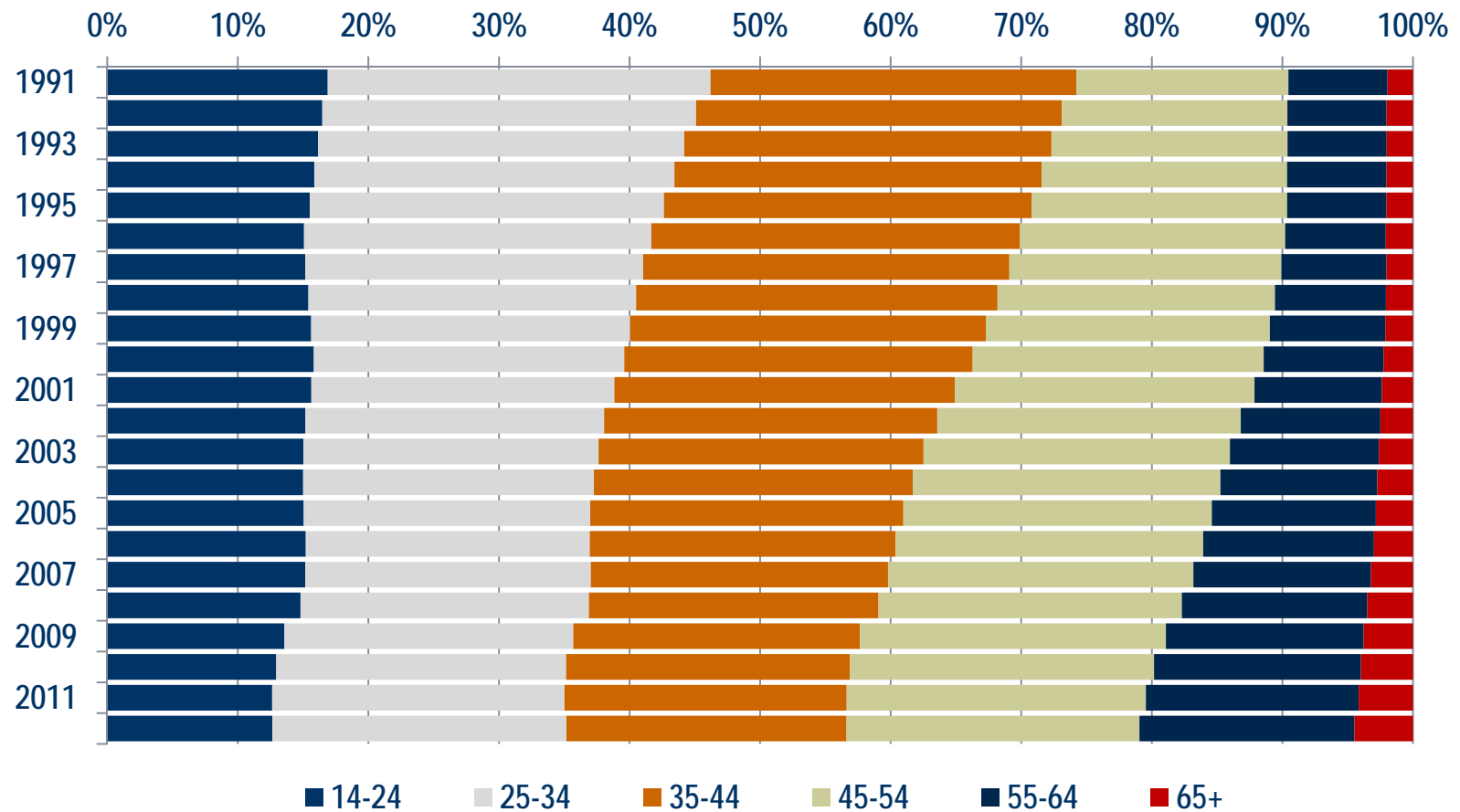
Minimum wage jobs by industry



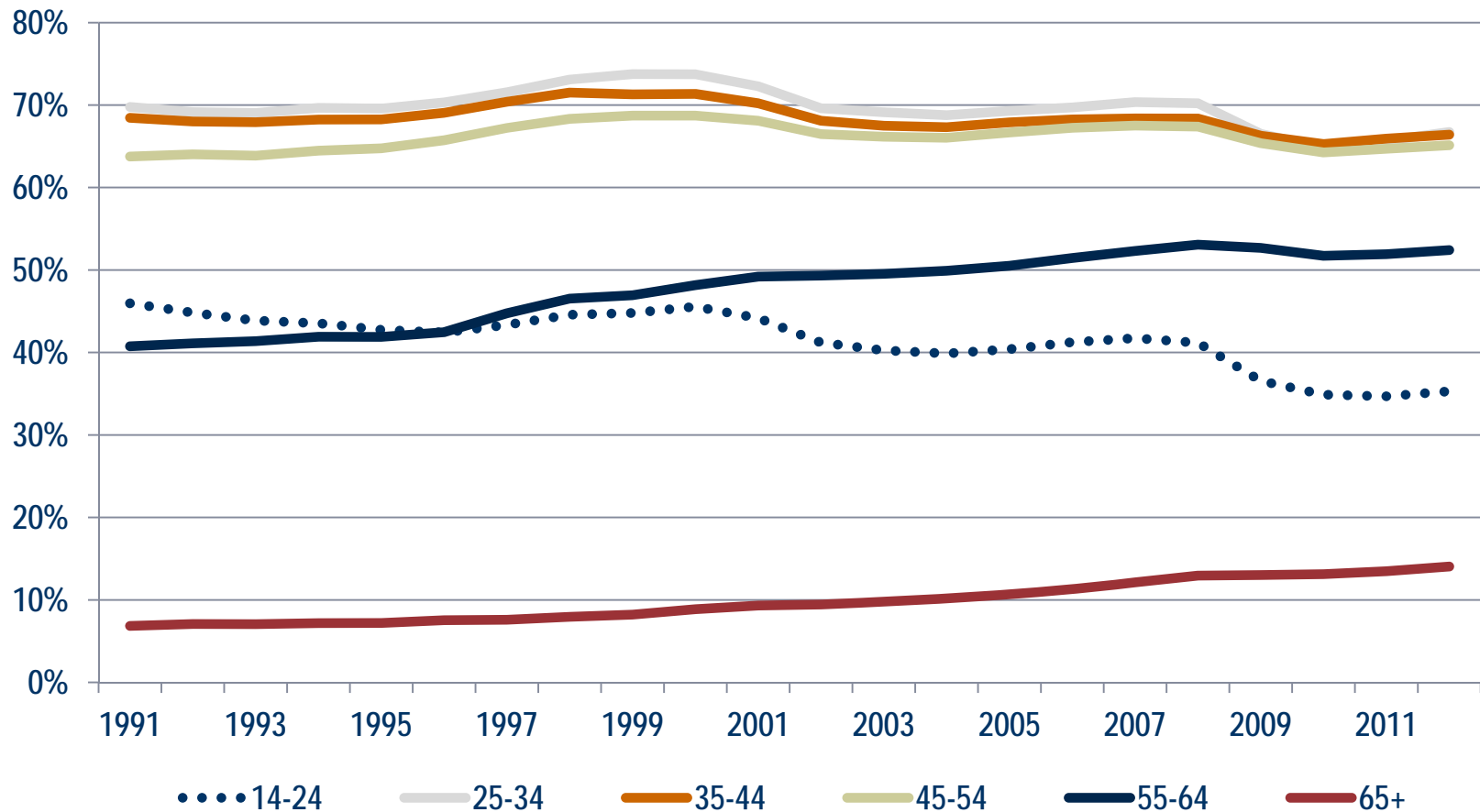
Minimum wage jobs by county



Percent of Washington's workforce by age groups



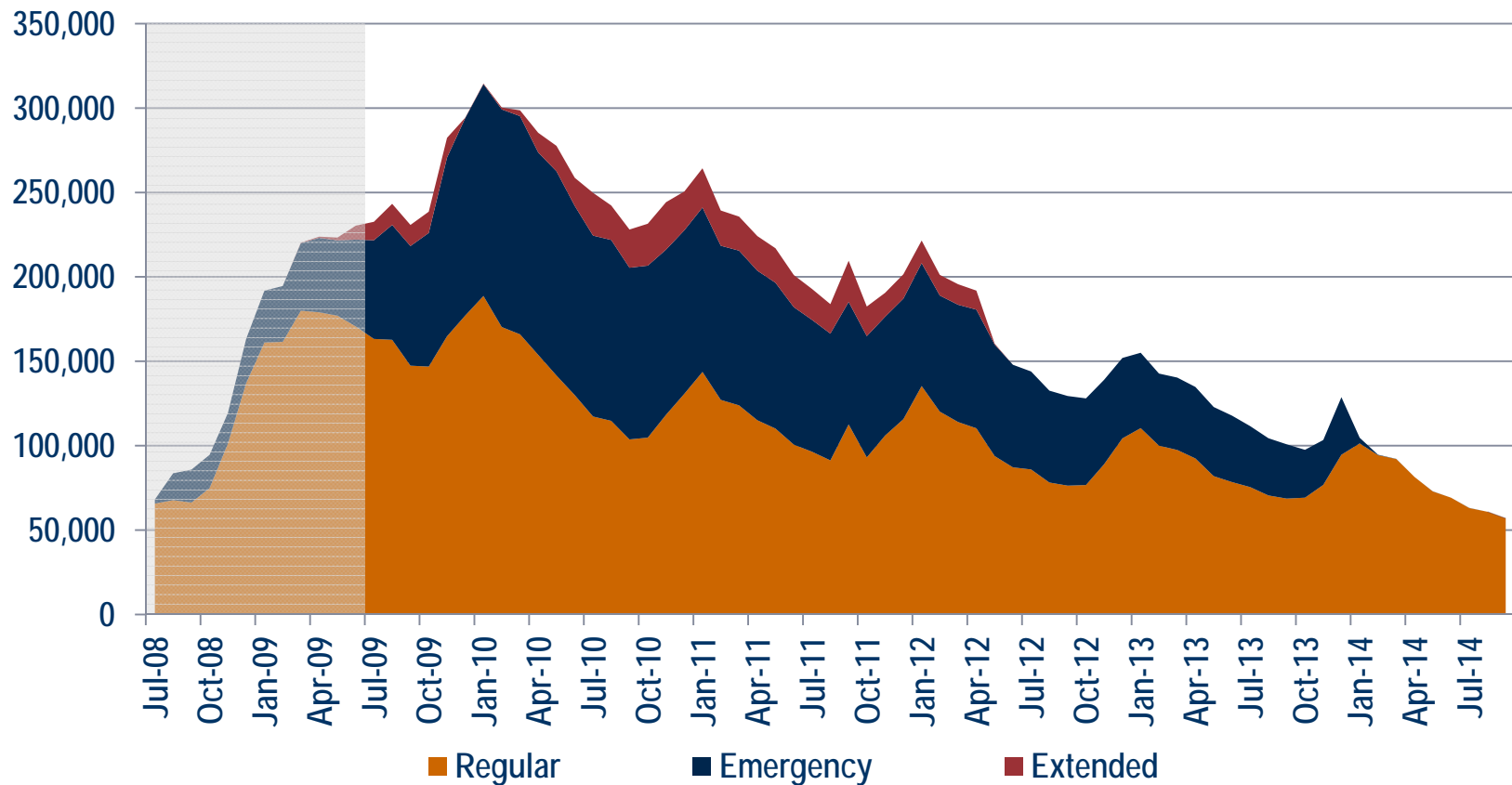
Employment as a percent of population by age groups



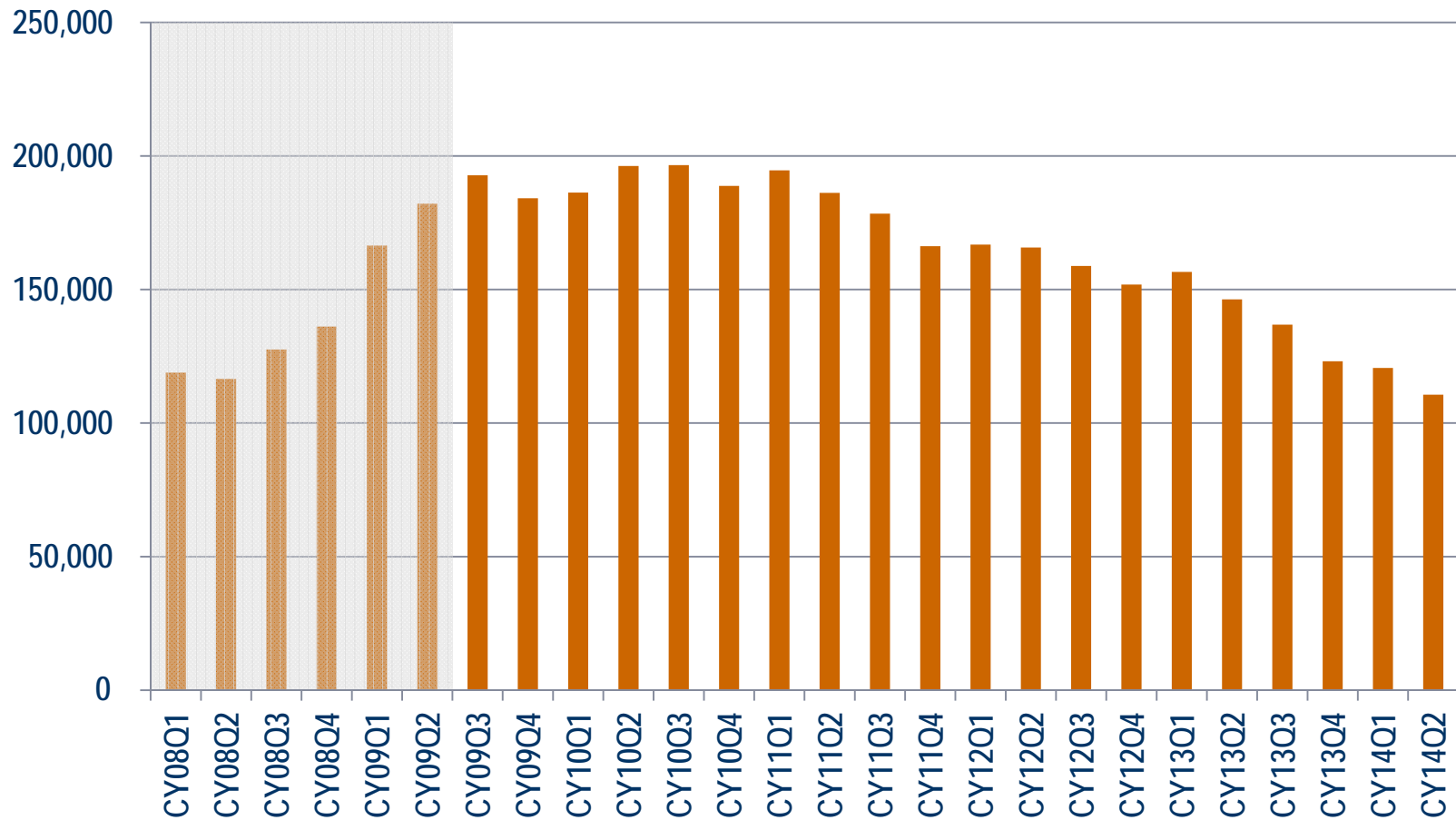
12 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD

Unemployment benefits

Recipients down 80 percent from peak

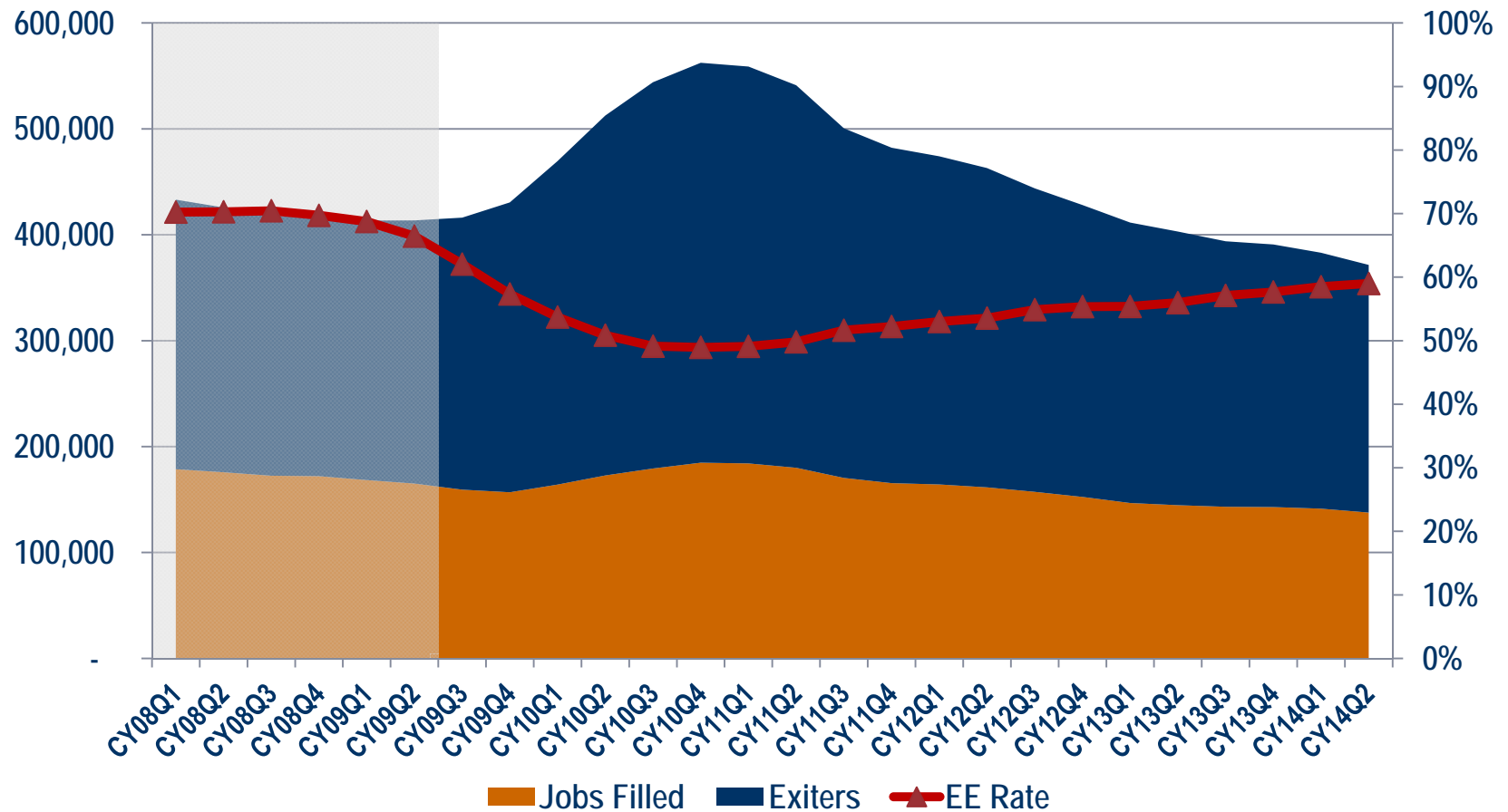


WorkSource customers



14 Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA, SKIES, Go2 and SSMS Data

Employment rates



Washington recovery continues

- Recovered all jobs lost during the recession, but
- Recession and recovery mixed across industries.
- Divergent recovery across the state.
- The working population is aging.
- Demand for unemployment benefits and employment services has been decreasing.