## Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Business Employment Dynamics July to September 2021

#### Figure 1

Net change in jobs, seasonally adjusted, U.S. and Washington state, third quarter 2004 through third quarter 2021.

#### Figure 2

Gross job gains and losses, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, third quarter 2004 through third quarter 2021.

#### Figure 3

Net change in job gains and losses by industry sector, seasonally adjusted, United States, third quarter 2021.

#### Figure 4

Net change in job gains and losses by industry sector, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, third quarter 2021.

#### Figure 5

Net change in jobs by industry sector, seasonally adjusted, Washington state, third quarter 2020 and 2021.

Data Architecture, Transformation and Analytics Division

May 2022



Washington State Business Employment Dynamics Third Quarter 2021



In third quarter 2021, July to September, seasonally adjusted job gains in Washington's private sector totaled 200,914 while job losses from businesses closing or contracting totaled 159,079. The result of these changes was a net gain of 41,835 jobs during the third quarter. These numbers show the key changes in private sector employment, also called Business Employment Dynamics (BED).

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Business Employment Dynamics data series highlights the forces driving labor market dynamics at the state and national levels. Job gains and losses at private business establishments are tracked showing employment changes due to establishment openings or closings versus adding or shedding jobs at existing firms. The most recent BED data cover events through third quarter 2021.

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## Net job gains continue for the state and nation in third quarter 2021

Nationally, job gains exceeded job losses in 44 states for a net private sector employment gain of 1,313,000. The number of jobs gained during the third quarter were more than the 893,000 jobs gained during the previous quarter, but less than the 1,685,000 jobs gained over first quarter 2021. Added together, the number of jobs gained in third quarter 2020 through third quarter 2021 have recovered roughly 68 percent of the jobs lost during second quarter 2020. Washington state gained 41,835 jobs in third quarter 2021. The increase for Washington continues to help offset the sharp downturn from second quarter 2020 when the state lost 346,712 jobs.

*Figure 1* depicts the changing business employment dynamic and compares Washington state to national trends. On a national and state basis, net job gains and losses are sensitive to the business cycle. During the 2007 recession, net job losses increased before bottoming out in first quarter 2009. Net job growth resumed in second quarter 2010 and carried through until the next recession, resulting from efforts to reduce the effects of the pandemic. Job growth had begun to pick up in third quarter 2020 for the state and nation, helping to confirm the end of the Covid-19 recession in April.

## **Figure 1.** Net change in jobs, seasonally adjusted United States and Washington state, third quarter 2004 through third quarter 2021 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series





#### Note: Shaded areas are U.S. recession periods.

At the national level, gross job gains were 8.8 million at opening and expanding establishments. Closing and contracting establishments lost 7.5 million jobs. Gross job losses were 6.2 percent of private sector employment. Opening establishments provided 1.7 million jobs. Washington state gained 200,914 jobs from new and expanding private businesses and lost 159,079 jobs from businesses closing or contracting for a net gain of 41,835 jobs in third quarter 2021. This compares to a net gain of 23,744 jobs in second quarter 2021 and a net gain of 69,970 jobs in third quarter 2020.

### More labor market information is available at: www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo

For more on the Business Employment Dynamics data series, visit: www.bls.gov/bdm

Figure 2 shows the quarterly pattern of gross job gains and losses in Washington state.



Gross job gains and gross job losses both rose in third quarter 2021.

Note: Shaded areas are U.S. recession periods

Figure 2. Gross job gains and losses, seasonally adjusted Washington state, third quarter 2004 through third quarter 2021

# Nationally, most major industries reported net job gains

The data in *Figure 3* illustrate the net change in industry employment for the U.S. Total private sector employment rose by 1,313,000 in third quarter 2021. Service-providing industries had a seasonally adjusted net gain of 1,244,000 jobs and goods-producing industries posted a net gain of 69,000 jobs. In third quarter 2021, ten industry sectors reported job gains compared with twelve reporting gains during third quarter 2020.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series





# Washington state industry employment

*Figure 4* shows net employment changes in Washington state industry sectors. Total private sector employment had a net increase of 41,835. Nine industry sectors reported net job gains in third quarter 2021 and two industry sectors showed job losses. The top three industry sectors showing job gains were leisure and hospitality with a gain of 19,515, followed by professional and business services (8,350) and information (5,278). The industry that experienced the most job losses was education and health services (2,841).

# **Figure 4.** Net change in job gains and losses by industry sector, seasonally adjusted Washington state, third quarter 2021

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series





Comparing third quarter 2021 to third quarter 2020 in Washington state (*Figure 5*):

- Four of eleven private industry sectors had higher net gains in third quarter 2021 compared with third quarter 2020.
- Manufacturing had the largest net improvement from year to year with a gain of 1,137 jobs in third quarter 2021 compared with a loss of 10,051 in third quarter 2020.
- Retail trade had the lowest net gain from year to year with a gain of 4,383 jobs in third quarter 2021 compared with a gain of 22,984 in third quarter 2020.

**Figure 5**. Net change in jobs by industry sector, seasonally adjusted Washington state, third quarter 2020 and 2021 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data series



Washington had more net gains in jobs in four major industries in third quarter 2021 compared with third quarter 2020.

**Note:** data for natural resources, mining and utilities are not disclosed in order to maintain employer confidentiality.

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## Contact an economist online!

We have seven regional economists serving local labor markets in Washington. Regional economists can help you find and use labormarket data, fulfill special data requests and answer questions about the labor market in your area. They serve professionals and organizations in their areas for WorkSource offices, workforce development councils, non-profit organizations, higher education, businesses and the news media. Molly Webster, *QCEW Supervisor* Molly.webster@esd.wa.gov 360-890-3739 Danell McMillian, *QCEW* Research Analyst Danell.mcmillian@esd.wa.gov 360-890-3740

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