

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 3.6%

United States 3.8%

Seasonally adjusted

August 2023



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 2,900 in August 2023.1 BLS estimates the private sector gained 2,700 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 200 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for August 2022 through August 2023 indicate an increase in employment of 55,200 for the state. The private sector gained 46,600 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 8,600 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August 2023 is 3.6 percent. The revised estimated July 2023 unemployment rate is at 3.6 percent. The August 2022 unemployment rate was 4.3 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The July 2023 preliminary estimated loss of 6,400 jobs was revised to a loss of 6,300 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 2022 and 2023

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

	August 2023 (Preliminary)	July 2023 (Revised)	August 2022 (Revised)	July 2022 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.5%	3.7%	3.5%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.6%	4.3%	4.1%
Resident labor force	4,067,300	4,069,300	4,001,000	3,994,800
Unemployed	146,100	147,400	170,300	162,800
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%	2.9%
Resident labor force	1,821,600	1,817,200	1,776,900	1,774,900
Unemployed	57,900	55,900	54,500	52,100

Data Architecture, Transformation
and Analytics Division
August 2023

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 2023 is 3.6 percent. The revised estimated July 2023 unemployment rate is 3.6 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 1,300 in August 2023 compared to July 2023. At the same time, the number of employed people fell by an estimated 700. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 2,000 people in the labor force.

The preliminary August 2023 unemployment rate is 0.7 percentage points lower than the August 2022 rate of 4.3 percent.

August 2023 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.8%

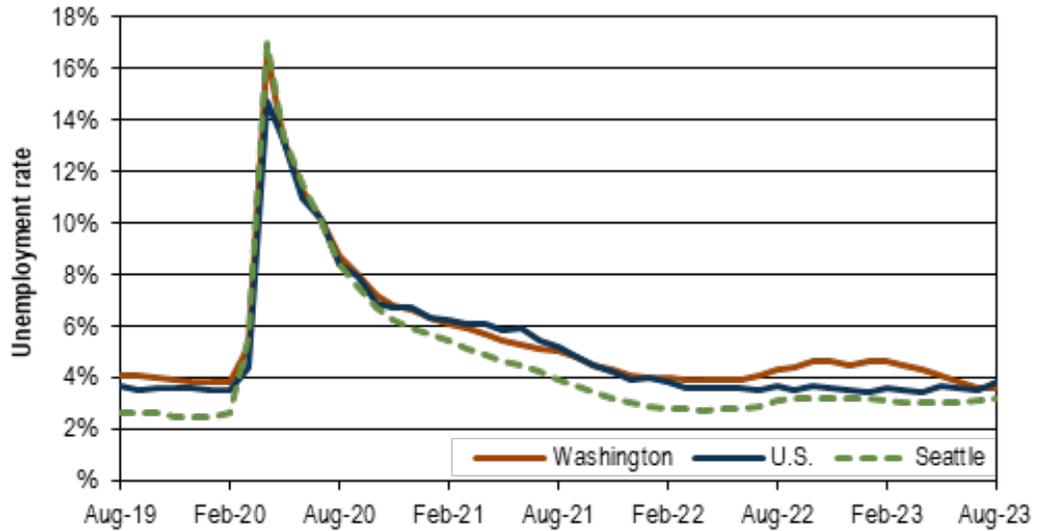
Washington (preliminary) 3.6%

Seattle area (preliminary) 3.2%

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, August 2019 through August 2023

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



Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 2,900 jobs from July 2023 to August 2023.

Recent employment change

June 2023: up 13,100 jobs (revised)

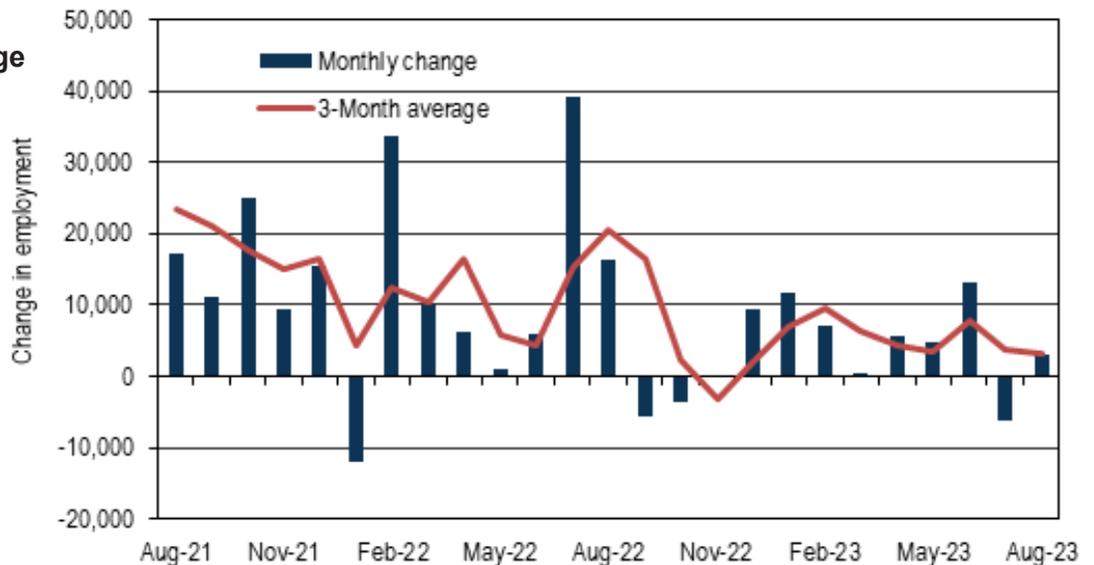
July 2023: down 6,300 jobs (revised)

August 2023: up 2,900 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, August 2021 through August 2023

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: 3,510,800

Unemployment rate: 3.8%

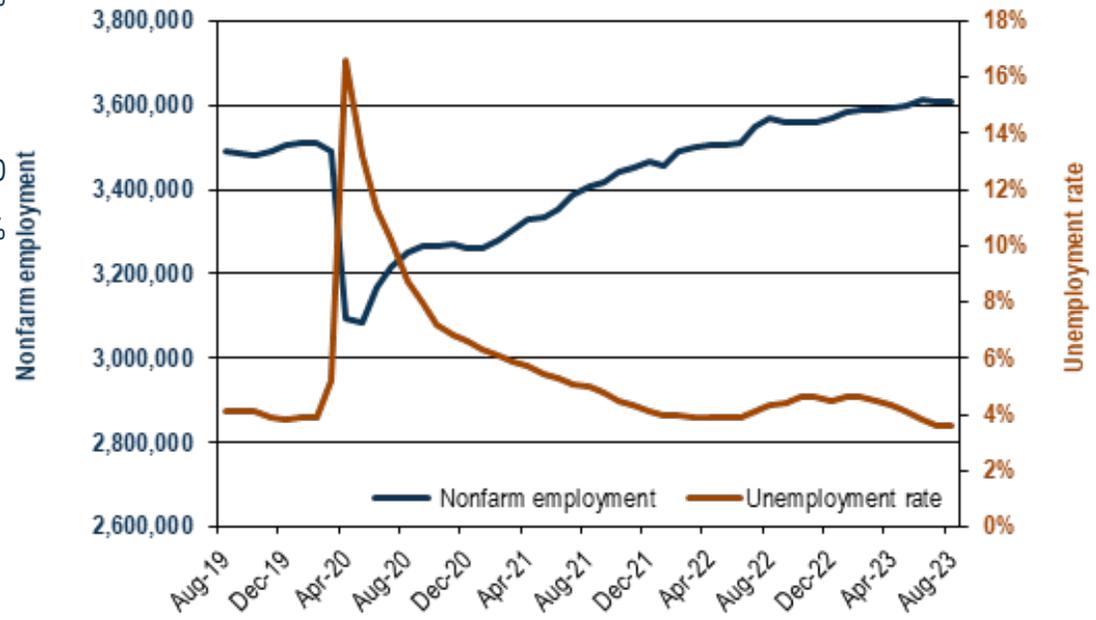
July 2023 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,609,500

Unemployment rate: 3.6%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, August 2019 through August 2023

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, but we are building capacity, updating technology, 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

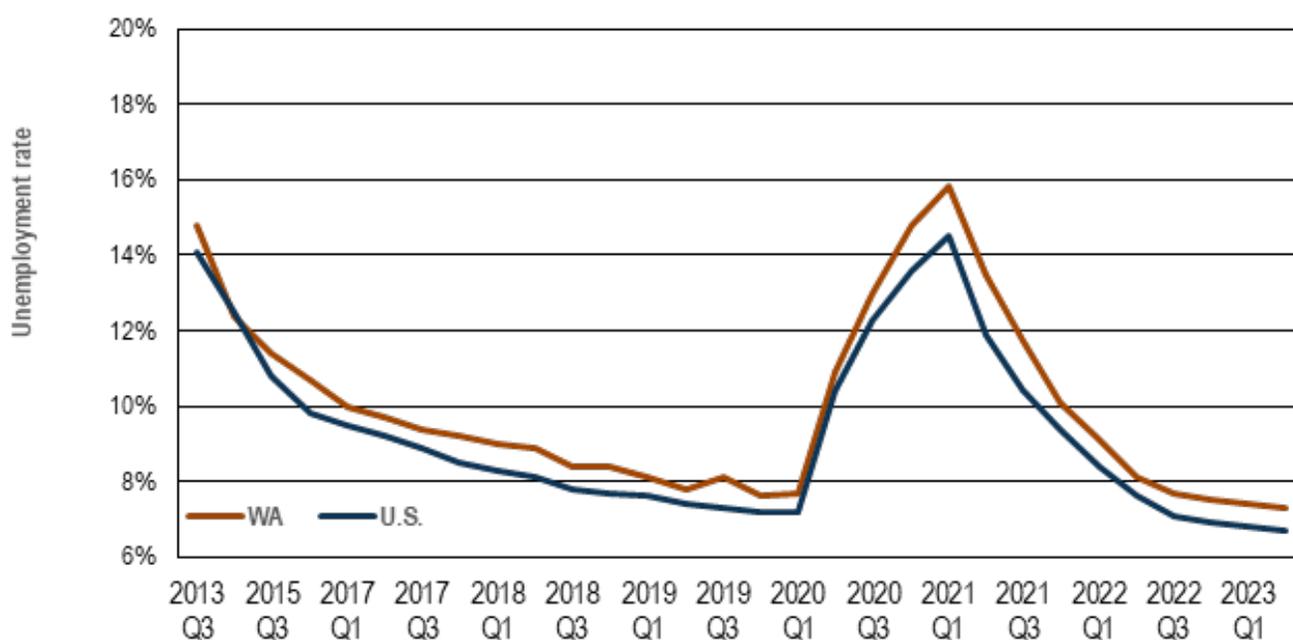
Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

U-6: Broader annual average unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter period through second quarter 2023

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include four-quarter rates through second quarter 2023. 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 annual average unemployment rate for the four-quarter period through second quarter 2023 for Washington state was 7.3 percent. This was lower compared to the 7.4 percent average for the four-quarter period through first quarter 2023. The U.S. U-6 average for the four-quarter period through second quarter 2023 was 6.7 percent.



Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2023	WA	7.4%	7.3%		
	U.S.	6.8%	6.7%		
2022	WA	9.1%	8.1%	7.7%	7.5%
	U.S.	8.4%	7.6%	7.1%	6.9%
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%

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 added an estimated 2,900 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in seven major industries and decreased in six.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 2,700 and government employment increased by 200.
- Manufacturing employment rose by 2,800, led by 500 jobs gained in transportation equipment manufacturing.
- The number of jobs in leisure and hospitality increased by 1,300, with 600 jobs gained in arts, entertainment, and recreation.
- Employment in other services increased by 1,100 overall, with 700 jobs added in personal and laundry services.
- Retail trade employment decreased by 1,000 overall, with 1,600 jobs lost in other trade.
- Professional and business services employment decreased by 2,700, with 2,400 jobs lost in employment services.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, July 2023 to August 2023

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

Total nonfarm	2,900
Manufacturing	2,800
Leisure and hospitality	1,300
Wholesale trade	1,100
Other services	1,100
Construction	700
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	500
Government	200
Financial activities	-100
Mining and logging	-100
Education and health services	-300
Information	-600
Retail trade	-1,000
Professional and business services	-2,700

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 55,200 jobs from August 2022 through August 2023.

- Overall, nine major industries expanded and four decreased.
- Private sector employment rose 1.5 percent, up an estimated 46,600 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 1.6 percent, up an estimated 8,600 jobs.
- Education and health services employment rose by 22,400 overall, with 19,400 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 18,700, with food services and drinking places adding 11,300 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment increased by 5,000, with 6,700 jobs gained in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Employment in construction is up 4,000 overall, led by an increase of 4,300 by specialty trade contractors.
- Professional and business services employment decreased by 6,400, with 11,000 jobs lost in employment services.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted
Washington state, August 2022 through August 2023

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

Total nonfarm	55,200
Education and health services	22,400
Leisure and hospitality	18,700
Government	8,600
Other services	7,400
Manufacturing	5,000
Financial activities	4,300
Construction	4,000
Wholesale trade	3,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	300
Mining and logging	-200
Retail trade	-3,200
Professional and business services	-6,400
Information	-8,900

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 2023

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

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	-8,500	-5,600	2,900
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,800	2,300	500
Professional and business services	1,700	-1,000	-2,700
Construction	1,200	1,900	700
Information	600	0	-600
Education and health services	500	200	-300
Manufacturing	400	3,200	2,800
Wholesale trade	200	1,300	1,100
Financial activities	200	100	-100
Mining and logging	100	0	-100
Other services	-400	700	1,100
Leisure and hospitality	-800	500	1,300
Retail trade	-800	-1,800	-1,000
Government	-13,200	-13,000	200

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 8,500 from July to August. This year the state lost an estimated 5,600 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 2,900 jobs.

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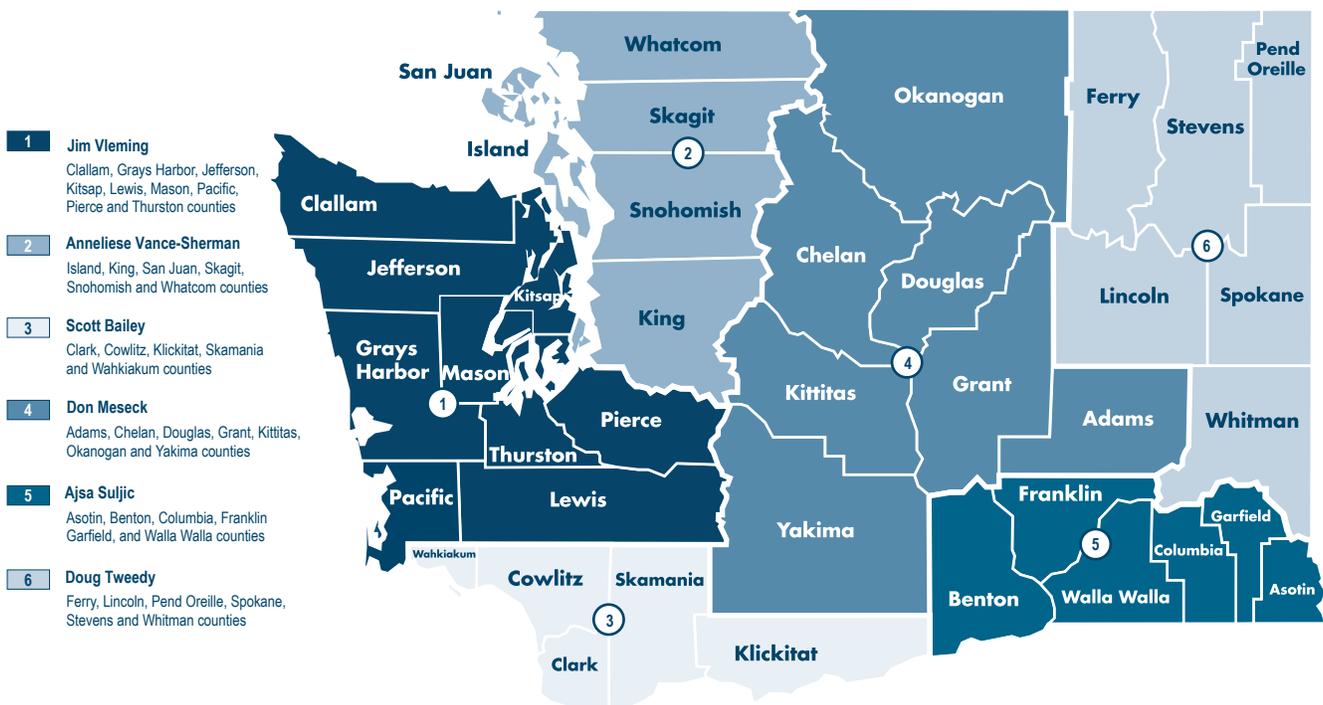
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., September 19, 2023. The publication schedule for 2023 can be found at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>

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