

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.0%

United States 3.7%

Seasonally adjusted

November 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 dipped by 2,600 in November 2023.1 BLS estimates the private sector lost 3,600 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 1,000 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for November 2022 through November 2023 indicate an increase in employment of 40,700 for the state. The private sector gained 20,600 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 20,100 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2023 was 4.0 percent. The revised estimated unemployment rate for October 2023 remained 3.8 percent. The November 2022 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 October 2023 preliminary estimated gain of 7,900 jobs was revised downward to a gain of 3,100 jobs.

For more information, call Anneliese Vance-Sherman at 564-900-0748

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, October and November 2022 and 2023

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

	November 2023 (Preliminary)	October 2023 (Revised)	November 2022 (Revised)	October 2022 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.9%	3.6%	3.7%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.0%	3.8%	4.6%	4.6%
Resident labor force	4,057,865	4,055,976	4,016,453	4,014,624
Unemployed	161,716	153,315	183,636	177,698
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.4%	3.2%	3.2%
Resident labor force	1,820,950	1,817,235	1,781,394	1,781,071
Unemployed	64,810	61,097	57,511	57,648

Data Architecture, Transformation and Analytics Division
November 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 November 2023 was 4.0 percent. The revised estimate for October 2023 was 3.8 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed Washington residents rose by 8,401 in November 2023 compared to the previous month. At the same time, the number of employed Washington residents fell by an estimated 6,512. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 1,889 workers in the labor force.

The preliminary November 2023 unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage points below the November 2022 rate of 4.6 percent.

November 2023 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.7%

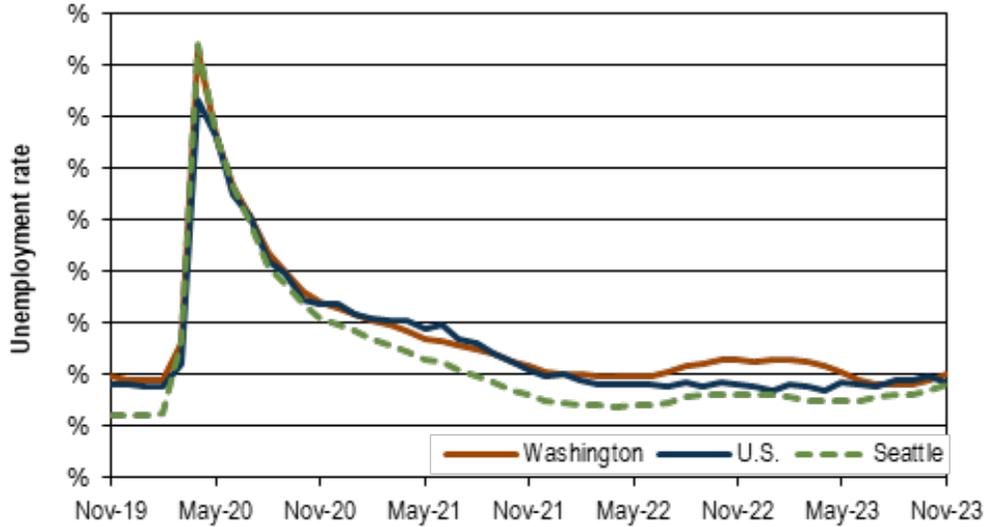
Washington (preliminary) 4.0%

Seattle area (preliminary) 3.6%

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, November 2019 through November 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 decreased by 2,600 jobs from October 2023 to November 2023.

Recent employment change

September 2023: up 4,900 jobs (revised)

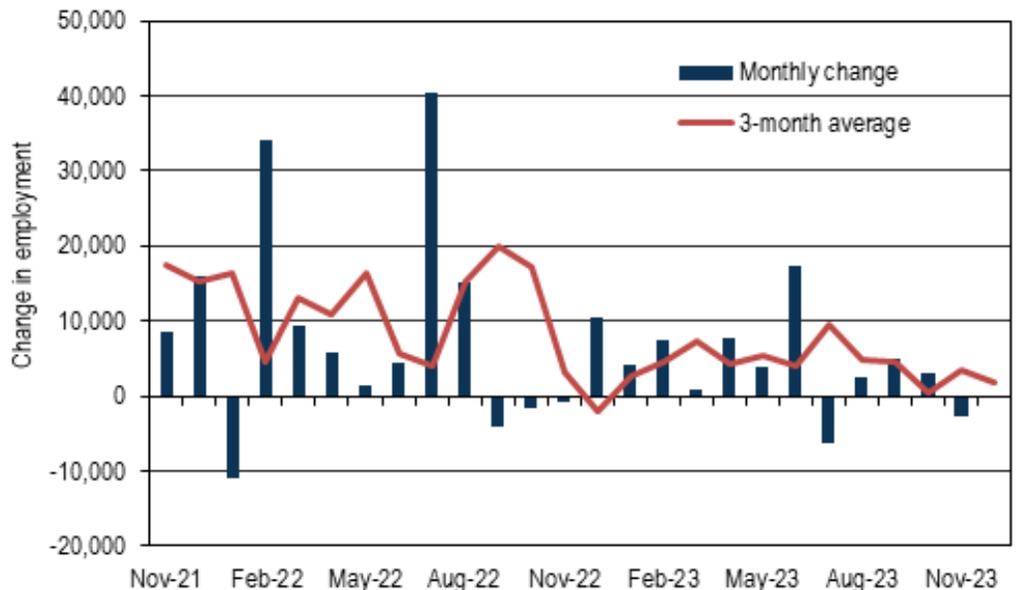
October 2023: up 3,100 jobs (revised)

November 2023: down 2,600 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, November 2021 through November 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: 3,512,000

Unemployment rate: 3.8%

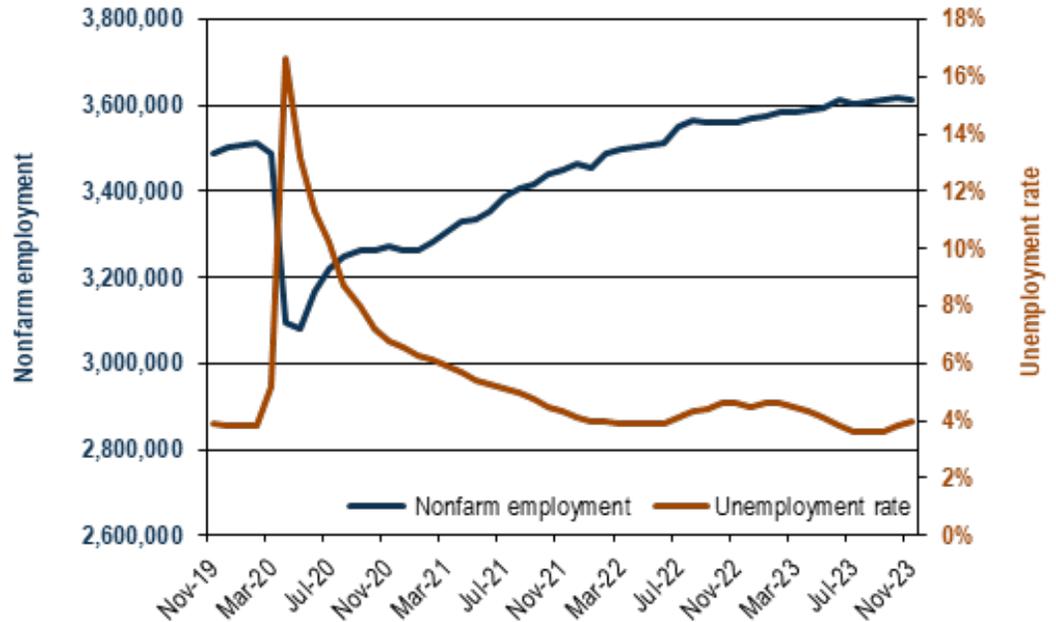
November 2023 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,613,500

Unemployment rate: 4.0%

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

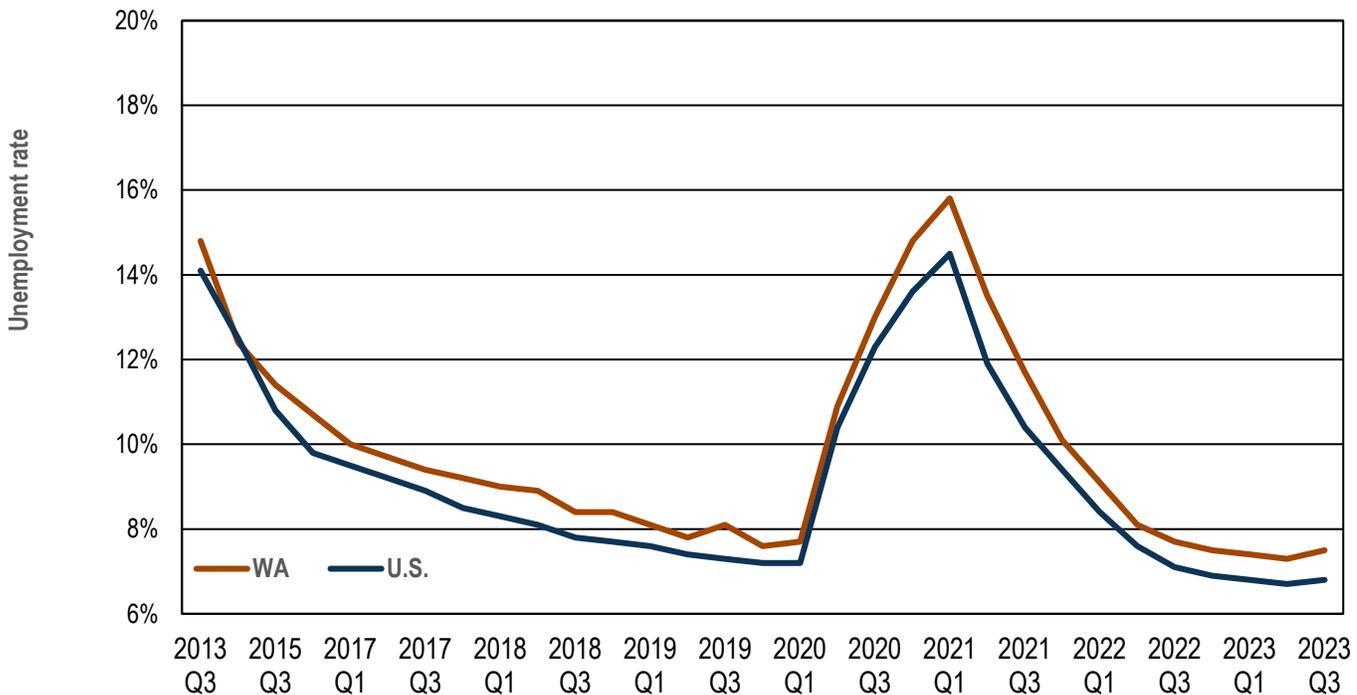
Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

U-6: Broader annual average unemployment measure increased in the four-quarter period through third 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 the third quarter of 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 third quarter 2023 for Washington state was 7.5 percent. This was above the 7.3 percent average for the four-quarter period through second quarter 2023. The U.S. U-6 average for the four-quarter period through third quarter 2023 was 6.8 percent.



Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2023	WA	7.4%	7.3%	7.5%	
	U.S.	6.8%	6.7%	6.8%	
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 shed an estimated 2,600 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in four major industry sectors and decreased in eight.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have decreased by 3,600 and government employment increased by 1,000 in November.
- The largest sector level gains were observed in manufacturing (up 1,400); employment gains were largely attributable to hiring by employers in the state's aerospace product and parts manufacturing industry.
- Government employment increases were concentrated in local government, outside of local educational services.
- Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 900 with the largest observed gains attributable to arts, entertainment and recreation (+1,000).
- Employment in the professional and business services fell by 2,600, with losses concentrated in administrative and support services (-1,800).
- Employment in construction decreased by 800 overall. Losses were concentrated among specialty trade contractors (-2,200).

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, October 2023 to November 2023

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

Total nonfarm	-2,600
Manufacturing	1,400
Government	1,000
Leisure and hospitality	900
Wholesale Trade	200
Mining and logging	0
Education and Health Services	-100
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-100
Other Services	-200
Financial Activities	-200
Retail Trade	-600
Construction	-800
Information	-1,500
Professional and Business Services	-2,600

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 40,700 jobs from November 2022 to November 2023.

- Overall, employment in seven major industries expanded and six decreased.
- Private sector employment rose 0.7 percent, up an estimated 20,600 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 3.5 percent, up an estimated 20,100 jobs.
- Education and health services employment increased by 19,000 overall, with 18,500 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality was up 10,300, with arts, entertainment and recreation adding 5,300 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment increased by 5,200, with 6,100 jobs gained in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Employment in construction dropped by 7,800 overall, with the greatest observed losses observed among specialty trade contractors (-5,400).
- Information sector employment dropped by 7,100 over the year. Losses directly attributable to software publishing amounted to 1,600 jobs.

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

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

Total nonfarm	40,700
Government	20,100
Education and health services	19,000
Leisure and hospitality	10,300
Manufacturing	5,200
Wholesale trade	4,500
Other services	2,300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,100
Mining and logging	-100
Financial activities	-200
Retail trade	-2,900
Professional and business services	-4,700
Information	-7,100
Construction	-7,800

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, November 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	-8,900	-11,500	-2,600
Manufacturing	-1,200	200	1,400
Government	800	1,800	1,000
Leisure and Hospitality	-5,600	-4,700	900
Wholesale Trade	-400	-200	200
Mining and Logging	-100	-100	0
Education and Health Services	200	100	-100
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,800	1,700	-100
Other Services	-800	-1,000	-200
Financial Activities	-200	-400	-200
Retail Trade	5,100	4,500	-600
Construction	-5,500	-6,300	-800
Information	-400	-1,900	-1,500
Professional and Business Services	-2,600	-5,200	-2,600

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases from October to November. This year, the expected one-month decrease was 8,900. The actual estimated employment losses were estimated at 11,500 in November, amounting to a seasonally adjusted decrease of 2,600 jobs.

- The largest seasonally adjusted increase in employment was observed in manufacturing. The normal seasonal change would have been a loss of 1,200 jobs however 200 jobs were added, resulting in a seasonally adjusted increase of 1,400 jobs.
- Typically, holiday hiring boosts retail trade employment by 5,100 in November. The actual estimated increase was 4,500 resulting in a seasonally adjusted decrease of 600 retail jobs.

