

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 3.6%

United States 3.5%

Seasonally adjusted

July 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 fell by 6,400 in June 2023.¹ BLS estimates the private sector lost 1,400 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 5,000 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for July 2022 through July 2023 indicate an increase in employment of 57,900 for the state. The private sector gained 43,600 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 14,300 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2023 is 3.6 percent. The revised estimated June 2023 unemployment rate is at 3.8 percent. The July 2022 unemployment rate was 4.1 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The June 2023 preliminary estimated gain of 11,900 jobs was revised to a gain of 13,100 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, June and July 2022 and 2023

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

	July 2023 (Preliminary)	June 2023 (Revised)	July 2022 (Revised)	June 2022 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.8%	4.1%	3.9%
Resident labor force	4,069,400	4,067,900	3,994,800	3,989,300
Unemployed	147,600	154,400	162,800	157,500
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	3.1%	3.0%	2.9%	2.8%
Resident labor force	1,817,200	1,810,800	1,774,900	1,772,500
Unemployed	56,000	54,800	52,100	50,100

Data Architecture, Transformation and Analytics Division
July 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 July 2023 is 3.6 percent. The revised estimated June 2023 unemployment rate is 3.8 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 6,800 in July 2023 compared to June 2023. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 8,300. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 1,500 people in the labor force.

The preliminary July 2023 unemployment rate is 0.5 percentage points lower than the July 2022 rate of 4.1 percent.

July 2023 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.5%

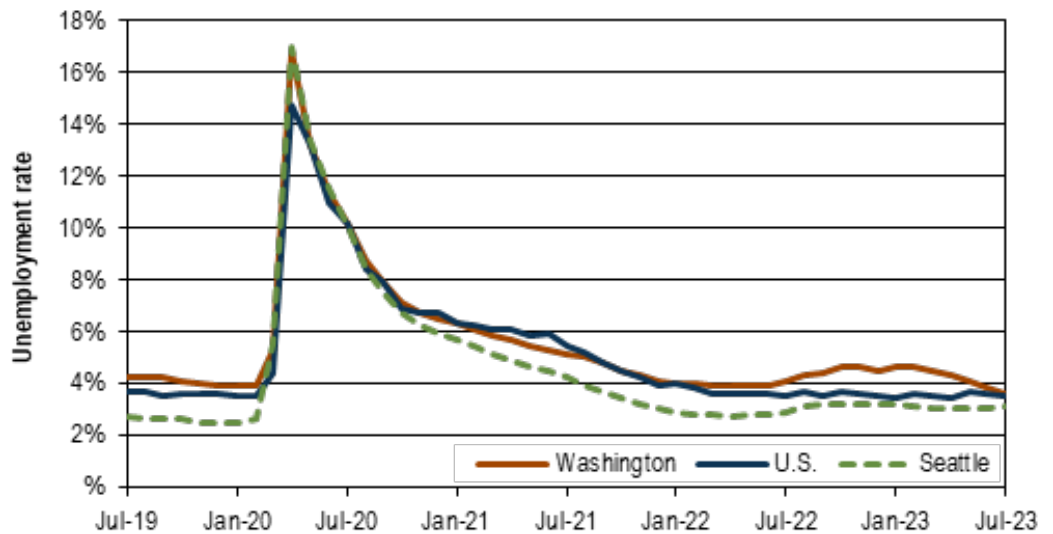
Washington (preliminary) 3.6%

Seattle area (preliminary) 3.1%

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, June 2019 through June 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 6,400 jobs from June 2023 to July 2023..

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, July 2021 through July 2023

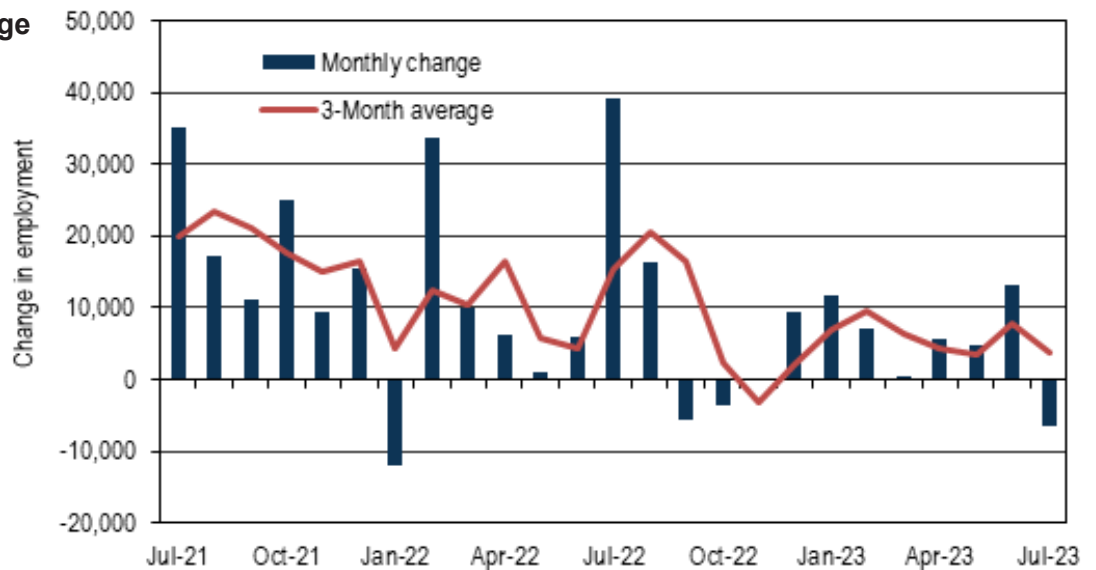
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Recent employment change

May 2023: up 4,700 jobs (revised)

June 2023: up 13,100 jobs (revised)

July 2023: down 6,400 jobs (preliminary)



Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

February 2020 (start of 2020 employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 3,510,800

Unemployment rate: 3.8%

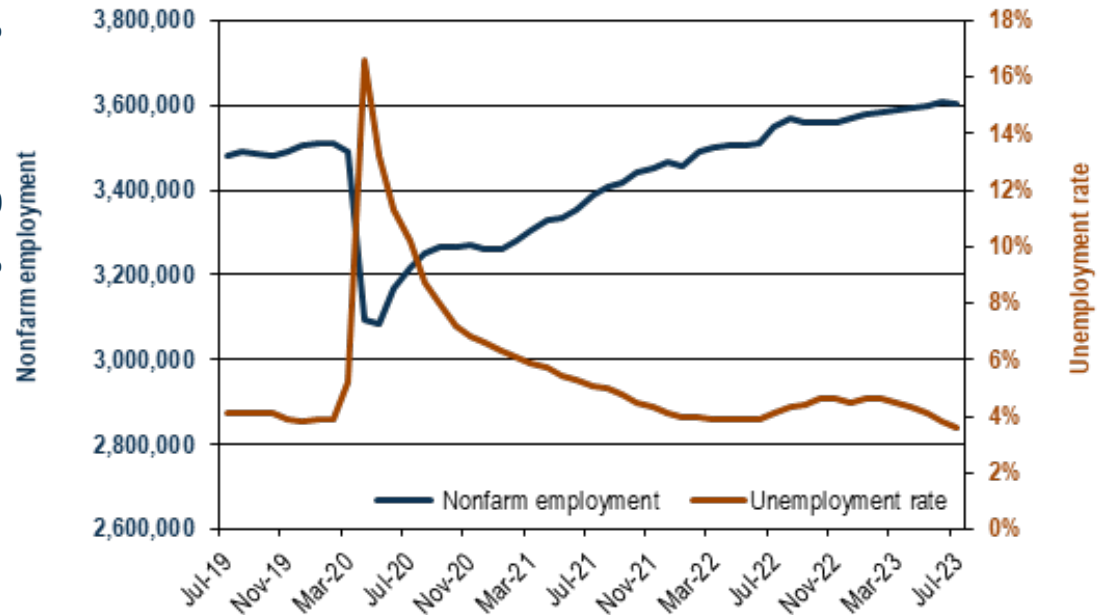
July 2023 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,603,200

Unemployment rate: 3.6%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, July 2019 through July 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
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- Training

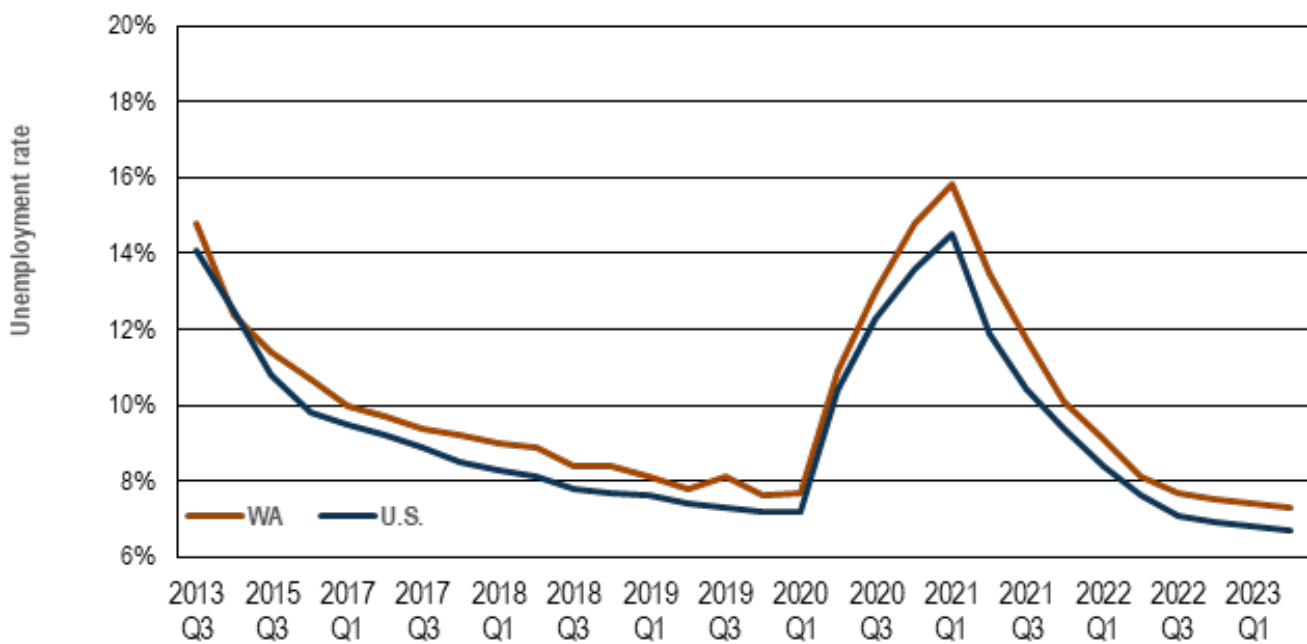
Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

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 lost an estimated 6,400 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in four major industries, decreased in eight and was unchanged in one in July.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have decreased by 1,400 and government employment decreased by 5,000.
- Employment in other services increased by 1,600 overall, with 1,600 jobs added in personal and laundry services.
- The number of jobs in education and health services increased by 2,900 overall, with 3,200 jobs gained in ambulatory health care services.
- Professional and business services employment decreased by 1,400 overall, with 1,600 jobs lost in employment services.
- Manufacturing employment fell by 1,200, led by 1,100 jobs lost in food manufacturing.
- Construction employment decreased by 2,500 overall, with 1,600 jobs lost by specialty trade contractors.

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

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

Total nonfarm	-6,400
Education and health services	2,900
Other services	1,600
Financial activities	700
Wholesale trade	200
Mining and logging	0
Leisure and hospitality	-100
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-300
Information	-500
Retail trade	-800
Manufacturing	-1,200
Professional and business services	-1,400
Construction	-2,500
Government	-5,000

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 57,900 jobs from July 2022 through July 2023.

- Overall, eight major industries expanded and five decreased.
- Private sector employment rose 1.5 percent, up an estimated 43,600 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 2.6 percent, up an estimated 14,300 jobs.
- Education and health services employment rose by 25,900 overall, with 19,800 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 20,000, with food services and drinking places adding 12,800 jobs.
- Employment in construction is up 2,500 overall, led by an increase of 3,000 by specialty trade contractors.
- Manufacturing employment increased by 2,400, with 7,100 jobs gained in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Professional and business services employment decreased by 5,700, with 10,500 jobs lost in employment services.

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

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

Total nonfarm	57,900
Education and health services	25,900
Leisure and hospitality	20,000
Government	14,300
Other services	6,700
Construction	2,500
Manufacturing	2,400
Wholesale trade	2,200
Financial activities	600
Mining and logging	-300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-1,000
Retail trade	-2,100
Professional and business services	-5,700
Information	-7,600

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, July 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	-8,000	-14,400	-6,400
Manufacturing	2,100	900	-1,200
Leisure and hospitality	1,900	1,800	-100
Wholesale trade	1,000	1,200	200
Information	1,000	500	-500
Other services	900	2,500	1,600
Construction	800	-1,700	-2,500
Retail trade	200	-600	-800
Financial activities	100	800	700
Professional and business services	100	-1,300	-1,400
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-300	-600	-300
Education and health services	-4,300	-1,400	2,900
Government	-11,500	-16,500	-5,000

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 8,000 from June to July. This year the state lost an estimated 14,400 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted decrease of 6,400 jobs.

- Typically, manufacturing employment increases by 2,100 in July. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment decreased by 1,200 as the estimated increase was 900.
- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 1,900 in July. The estimated gain was 1,800, so employment decreased by 100 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 1,700. The normal seasonal increase is 800, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment decreased by 2,500.
- Employment in retail trade normally increases by 200. It is estimated to have decreased by 600 this July so it decreased by 800 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment decrease on a seasonally adjusted basis was 1,400 in professional and business services in June. The normal seasonal increase is 100. It is estimated to have decreased this July by 1,300.

Benchmarking Highlights

Benchmarking is a process that replaces employment estimates with the actual number of job gains or losses.

Each month, economists estimate monthly job gains and losses based on a survey of employers. Each quarter, economists benchmark the estimates by replacing them with data from employer tax records before applying seasonal adjustments.

Benchmarked employment data are now available through March 2023. Employment estimates for July 2023 presented in this report were based on the new data, plus seasonal adjustments.

Quarterly benchmarked industry employment, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, March 2023

Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

	Revisions to March 2023 employment level
Total nonfarm	-23,600
Construction	1,300
Information	1,200
Wholesale trade	1,100
Leisure and hospitality	500
Mining and logging	-200
Financial activities	-200
Other services	-600
Retail trade	-1,000
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-1,900
Government	-4,100
Manufacturing	-4,300
Education and health services	-7,700
Professional and business services	-7,700

Based on benchmarked March 2023 data:

- The two largest upward revisions were for construction and for information, up 1,300 and 1,200, respectively.
- Professional and business services, and education and health services had the largest downward revisions, both at 7,700.

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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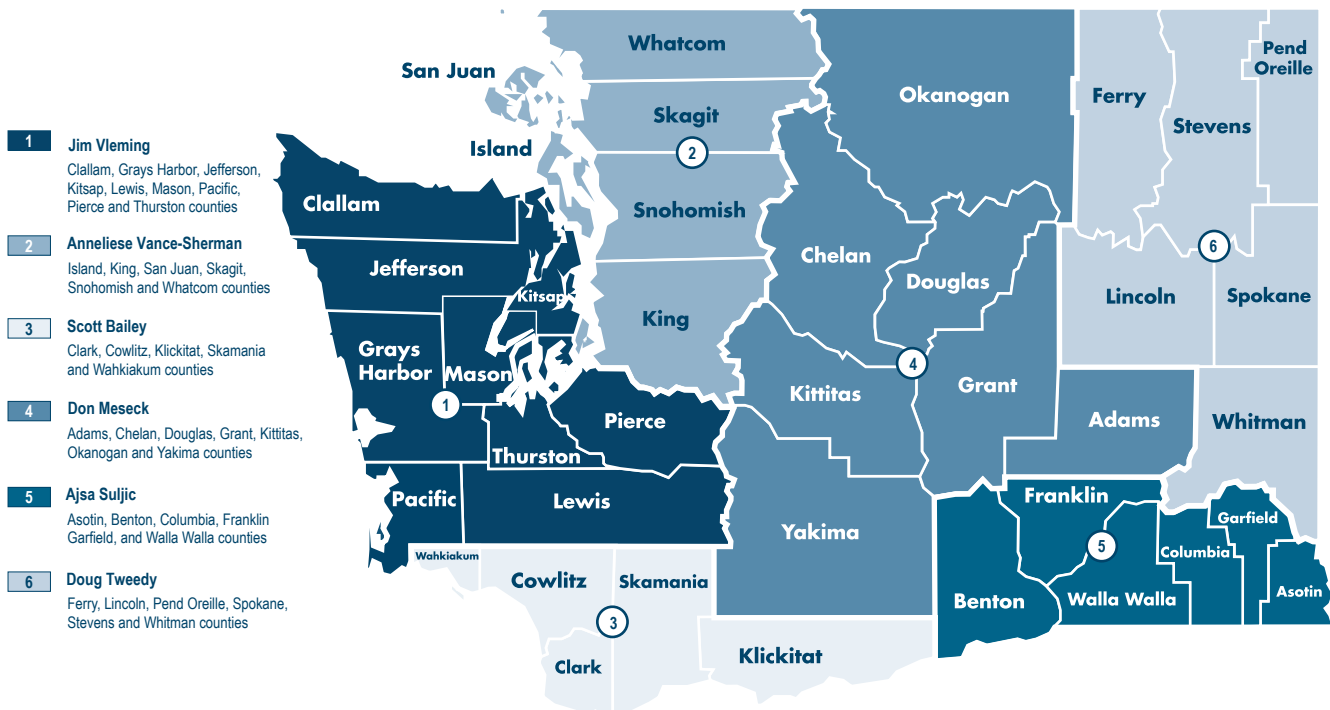
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Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., August 22, 2023. The publication schedule for 2023 can be found at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>

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