

Facts and figures: March 2026

This report presents varying data periods. See [“about these data”](#) at the end of this document for more information.

Unemployment rates

| Rate type | Mar 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2025 |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Statewide rate | 5.1% | 5.1% | 4.5% |
| Lowest county | Asotin | Asotin | Asotin |
| Lowest county rate | 3.3% | 3.8% | 3.4% |
| Highest county | Ferry | Ferry | Ferry |
| Highest county rate | 8.8% | 10.1% | 8.4% |

Labor force

| Characteristic | Mar 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2025 | Difference Feb - Mar | Difference 2025 - 2026 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Labor force | 4,064,428 | 4,066,423 | 4,047,126 | -1,995 | 17,302 |
| Unemployed, seeking work | 209,044 | 208,125 | 181,390 | 919 | 27,654 |
| Total nonfarm employment | 3,641,400 | 3,644,600 | 3,627,100 | -3,200 | 14,300 |

Top growth industries

| Industry | Job increases |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Construction | 1,700 |
| Wholesale trade | 800 |
| Mining and logging | 200 |

Unemployment claims

| Benefit | Mar 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2025 |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Regular benefits claimants | 75,907 | 77,405 | 74,688 |
| Continued regular claims | 5.2% | 11.9% | 27.2% |
| Regular benefits paid | \$188.5M | \$187.3M | \$168.3M |
| Average weekly benefit | \$753 | \$748 | \$716 |

Unemployment benefit range

| High/Low | Fiscal Year 2025 | Fiscal Year 2024 |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Lowest weekly benefit | \$342 | \$323 |
| Highest weekly benefit | \$1,079 | \$1,019 |

Long-term unemployment

| Demographic | Mar 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2025 |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Total LTU job seekers | 51,300 | 48,100 | 36,800 |
| Percent of job seekers | 24.7% | 23.1% | 20.8% |
| Percent of total labor force | 1.3% | 1.2% | 0.9% |
| Percent male | 72% | 68% | 53% |
| Percent female | 28% | 32% | 47% |

Paid Family and Medical Leave claims and benefits

| PFML statistic | Mar 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2025 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Applications submitted | 28,150 | 31,234 | 25,126 |
| 12-month change (%) | 12.0% | 9.88% | 8.1% |
| Leaves paid | 59,985 | 60,660 | 55,854 |
| Benefits approved - family | \$88,448,076 | \$90,429,092 | \$82,006,121 |
| Benefits approved - medical | \$90,350,056 | \$87,872,091 | \$77,841,924 |
| Average weekly payment | \$944.62 | \$937.69 | \$907.31 |

Paid Family and Medical Leave premiums and account balance

| Quarterly measure | Q4 2025 | Q4 2024 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Premiums collected | \$545.0M | \$419.4M |
| Account balance | \$16.6M | \$115.2M |

Paid Family and Medical Leave premiums and account rates

| Annual measure | Calendar Year 2025 | Calendar Year 2024 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Premium rate | 0.9% | 0.7% |
| Employer responsibility | 28.5% | 28.6% |
| Premium wage cap | \$176,100 | \$168,600 |

Unemployment insurance trust fund

| Quarterly measure | Q4 2024 | Q3 2024 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Taxes collected | \$455.9M | \$565.6M |
| Trust Fund balance | \$3.7B | \$3.7B |

WorkSource services

| Statistic | Mar 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2025 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| WorkSource participants | 71,099 | 71,465 | 79,807 |
| Job seekers assisted with employment | 34,026 | 34,229 | 41,687 |
| Job postings | 53,361 | 39,807 | 29,579 |
| Employers posting jobs | 1,154 | 1,102 | 1,200 |
| Employers provided a WorkSource service | 477 | 313 | 740 |

ESD employees

| Demographic | Mar 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2025 |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Total employees | 2,186 | 2,181 | 2,264 |
| Permanent employees | 2,066 | 2,054 | 2,181 |
| Employees of color | 25.98% | 25.95% | 26.3% |

ESD employee ages

| Employee ages | <25 | 25-39 | 40-54 | 55+ |
|----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Percent of employees | 0.6% | 22.5% | 40.3% | 36.6% |

About these data

Reporting period differences

The following reported figures do not include October 2025 data:

- Unemployment rates
- Labor force

[The delay in data for this month's report](#) is the result of the federal government shutdown in October and November of 2025. During that period, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) suspended their collection and release of labor market data.

BLS rescheduled November publication data to Jan. 2026. BLS canceled October data reporting because it couldn't collect the monthly survey data during the shutdown.

Sources

ESD Human Resource Management System (HRMS), Employment Security Department/LMIR; [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Employment Security Department/LMIR](#); [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Employment Security Department/LMIR](#); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey; Employment Security Department/Leave and Care/WA Paid Leave Administrative Data