

# The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.2%

United States 3.6%

Seasonally adjusted

December 2022



**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](http://esd.wa.gov). For labor market information questions, please send your emails to [data@esd.wa.gov](mailto: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 2,500 in December 2022.1 BLS estimates the private sector gained 1,600 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 900 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for December 2021 through December 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 121,200 for the state. The private sector gained 110,000 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 11,200 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2022 is 4.2 percent. The revised estimated November 2022 unemployment rate is at 4.0 percent. The December 2021 unemployment rate was 4.5 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The November 2022 preliminary estimated gain of 13,100 jobs was revised to a gain of 12,000 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, November and December 2021 and 2022

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

	December 2022 (Preliminary)	November 2022 (Revised)	December 2021 (Revised)	November 2021 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.6%	3.9%	4.2%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.0%	4.5%	4.5%
Resident labor force	4,002,500	4,003,100	3,943,800	3,946,200
Unemployed	167,500	160,800	177,100	178,400
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment rate	3.0%	2.9%	3.6%	3.6%
Resident labor force	1,770,000	1,772,600	1,726,100	1,726,700
Unemployed	51,600	49,300	62,000	62,500

Data Architecture, Transformation and Analytics Division  
December 2022

<sup>1</sup>Most 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.

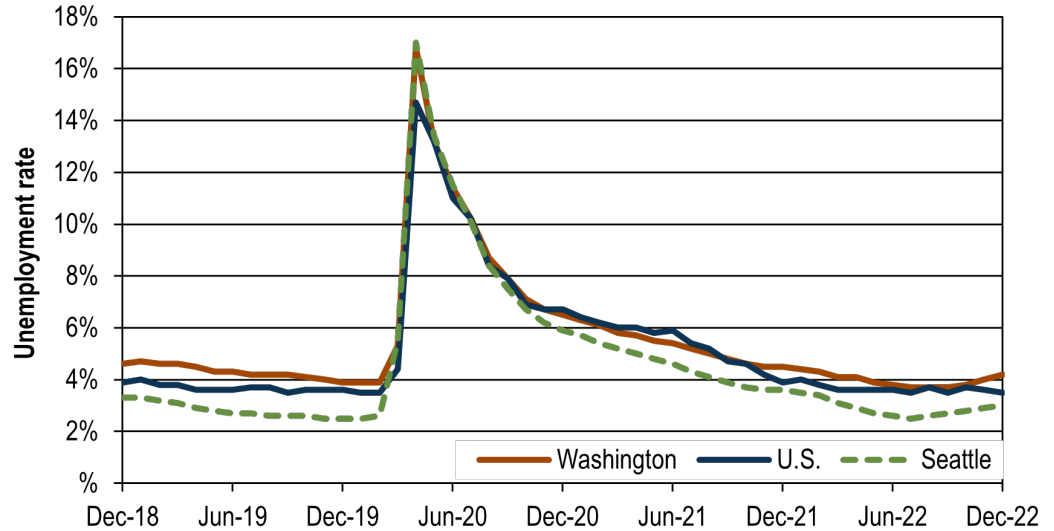
## Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2022 is 4.2 percent. The revised estimated November 2022 unemployment rate is 4.0 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people rose by 6,700 in December 2022 compared to November 2022. At the same time, the number of employed people fell by an estimated 7,300. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 600 people in the labor force.

The preliminary December 2022 unemployment rate is 0.3 percentage points lower than the December 2021 rate of 4.5 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted  
U.S., Washington and Seattle, December 2018 through December 2022  
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 2,500 jobs from November 2022 to December 2022.

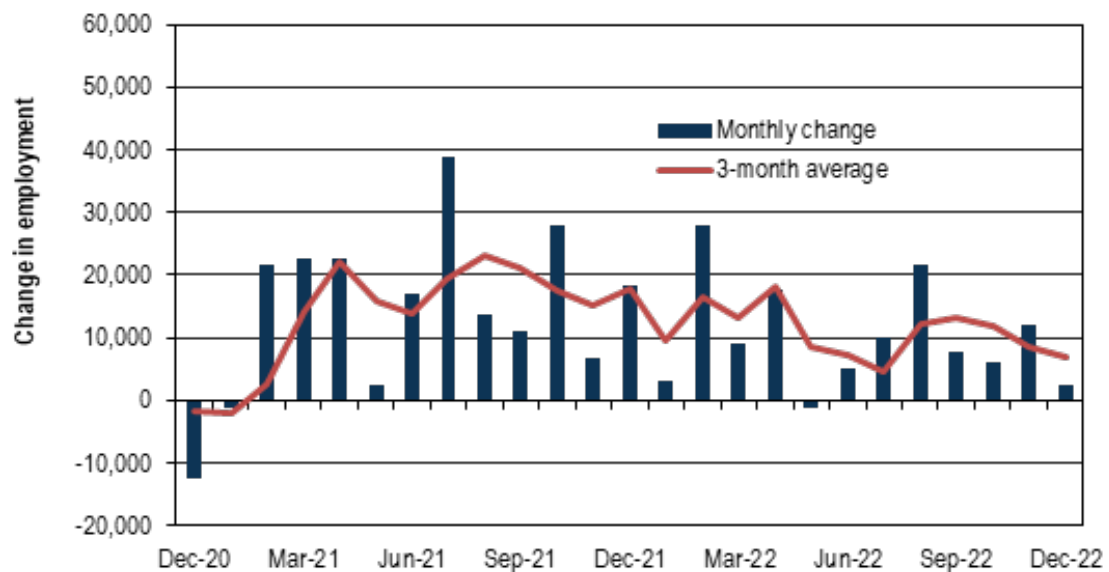
Recent employment change

October 2022: up 6,000 jobs (revised)

November 2022: up 12,000 jobs (revised)

December 2022: up 2,500 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, December 2020 through December 2022  
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:** 3,514,000

**Unemployment rate:** 3.9%

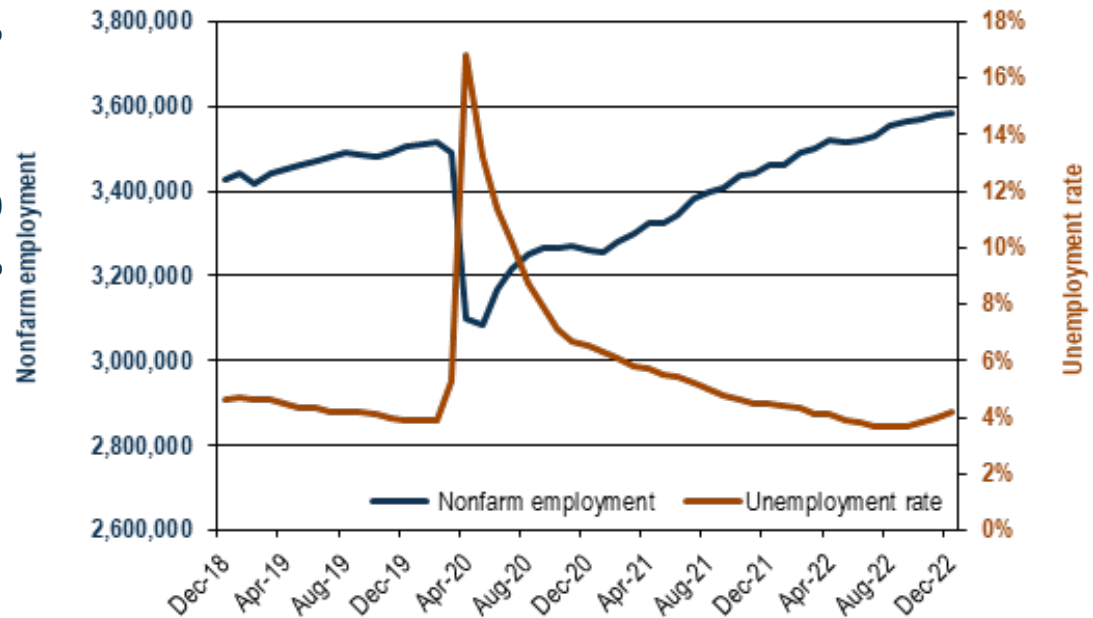
**December 2022 (preliminary)**

**Nonfarm employment:** 3,582,100

**Unemployment rate:** 4.2%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, December 2018 through December 2022

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](https://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

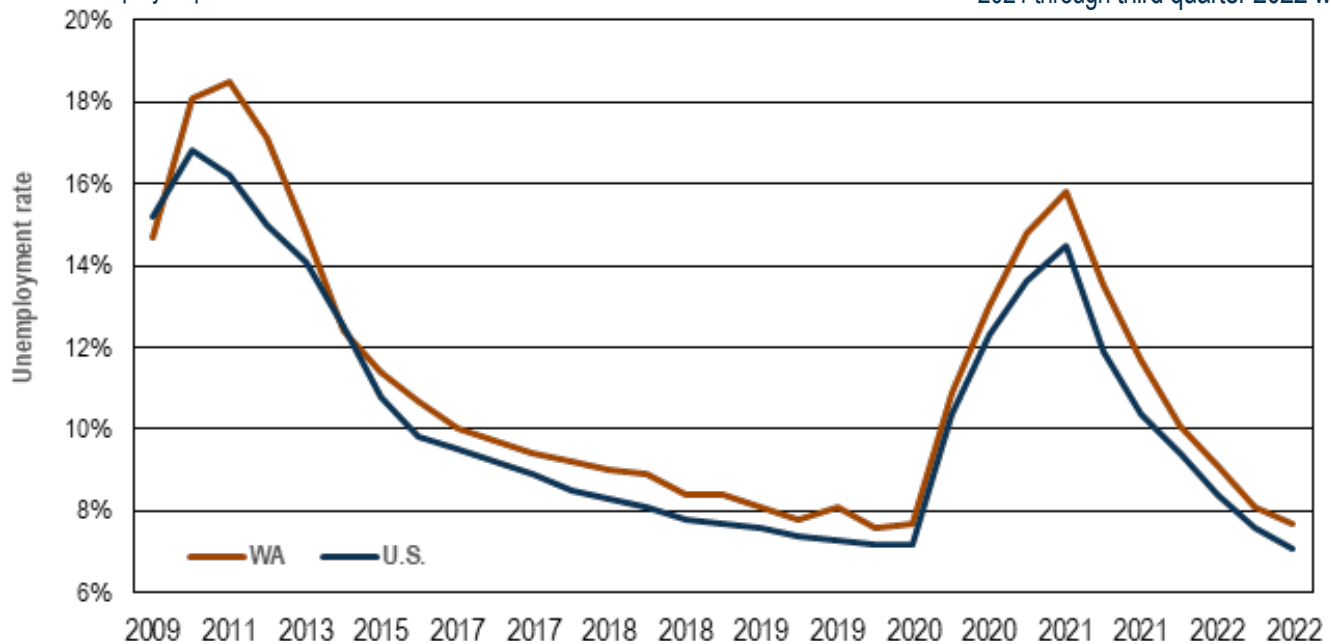
Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

## U-6 unemployment rate

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include four-quarter rates for fourth quarter 2021 through third quarter 2022. 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 unemployment rate for the four-quarter period from fourth quarter 2021 through third quarter 2022 for Washington state was 7.7 percent. This was lower compared to the 8.1 percent U-6 unemployment rate for the third quarter 2021 through second quarter 2022 period. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate for the four-quarter period from fourth quarter 2021 through third quarter 2022 was 7.1



Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2022	WA	9.1%	8.1%		
	U.S.	8.4%	7.6%	7.1%	
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%
2016	WA	10.9%	10.7%	10.7%	10.3%
	U.S.	10.1%	9.9%	9.8%	9.6%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/sta1t.htm>.

## Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted

### One-month employment change by industry

- Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington gained an estimated 2,500 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:
- Overall, employment increased in seven major industries, decreased in five and was unchanged in one in December.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 1,600 and government employment increased by 900.
- Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 2,400, as 1,300 jobs were gained in arts, entertainment and recreation.
- Education and health services employment rose by 1,300 overall, with 1,400 jobs gained in education services.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 1,200 overall, with 2,700 jobs gained in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Employment in financial activities increased by 1,100, with 1,100 jobs added in real estate, rental and leasing.
- The number of jobs in construction decreased by 3,700, with 2,900 jobs lost from specialty trade contractors.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, November 2022 to December 2022

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>2,500</b>
Leisure and hospitality	2,400
Other services	1,700
Education and health services	1,300
Professional and business services	1,200
Financial activities	1,100
Government	900
Wholesale trade	500
Mining and logging	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-500
Retail trade	-600
Information	-900
Manufacturing	-900
Construction	-3,700

## 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 121,200 jobs from December 2021 through December 2022.

- Overall, eleven major industries expanded and two contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 3.8 percent, up an estimated 110,000 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 2.0 percent, up an estimated 11,200 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 30,100, with food services and drinking places adding 22,800 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 19,400, with 5,600 jobs added in administrative and support services.
- Education and health services employment rose 22,500 overall, with 18,700 jobs added in health services and social assistance.
- Employment in manufacturing is up 8,300 overall, led by an increase of 4,700 in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Retail trade employment decreased by 5,000, with 4,400 jobs lost by general merchandise stores.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, December 2021 through December 2022

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>121,200</b>
Leisure and hospitality	30,100
Education and health services	22,500
Professional and business services	19,400
Government	11,200
Information	8,700
Manufacturing	8,300
Wholesale trade	7,700
Construction	6,000
Other services	5,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5,000
Financial activities	2,300
Mining and logging	-200
Retail trade	-5,000



## 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, December 2022

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

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>-5,900</b>	<b>-3,400</b>	<b>2,500</b>
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	4,000	3,500	-500
Retail trade	3,100	2,500	-600
Leisure and hospitality	700	3,100	2,400
Other services	0	1,700	1,700
Information	-100	-1,000	-900
Mining and logging	-200	-200	0
Financial activities	-400	700	1,100
Wholesale trade	-700	-200	500
Education and health services	-1,300	0	1,300
Manufacturing	-1,900	-2,800	-900
Professional and business services	-2,800	-1,600	1,200
Government	-2,800	-1,900	900
Construction	-3,500	-7,200	-3,700

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 5,900 from November to December. This year the state lost an estimated 3,400 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 2,500 jobs.

- Employment in retail trade normally increases by 3,100. It is estimated to have increased by 2,500 this December so it decreased by 600 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 1,200

in professional and business services in December. The normal seasonal decrease is 2,800. It is estimated to have decreased this December by 1,600.

- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 1,900 in November. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment decreased by 900 as the estimated decrease was 2,800.

- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 7,200. The normal seasonal decrease is 3,500, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment decreased by 3,700.
- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 700 in December. The estimated gain was 3,100, so employment increased by 2,400 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](mailto: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](mailto:data@esd.wa.gov).

### Statewide labor economist:

Paul Turek, Ph.D.  
[Paul.turek@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Paul.turek@esd.wa.gov)  
 360-706-3044

### Regional labor economists:

Scott Bailey  
[Scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov)  
 360-810-0048

Don Meseck  
[Don.meseck@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Don.meseck@esd.wa.gov)  
 509-607-3267

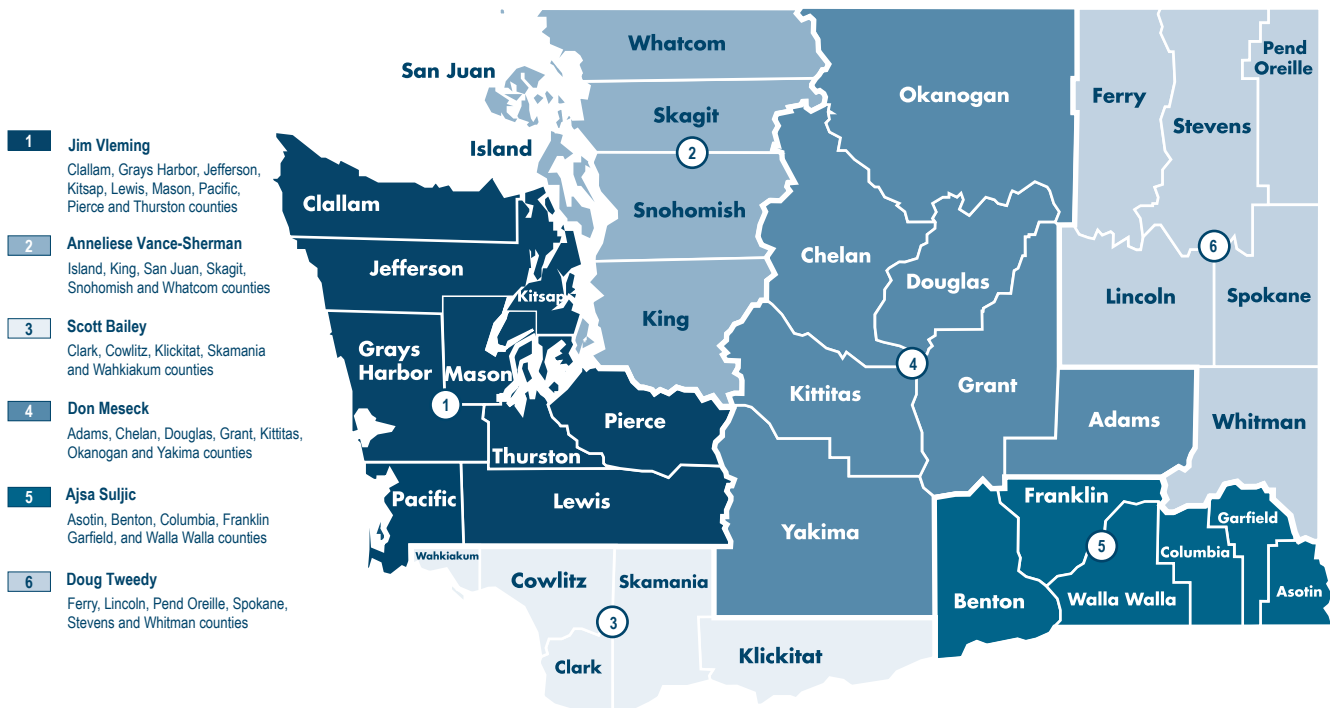
Ajsa Suljic  
[Ajsa.suljic@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Ajsa.suljic@esd.wa.gov)  
 509-734-5928

Doug Tweedy  
[dtweedy@esd.wa.gov](mailto:dtweedy@esd.wa.gov)  
 509-434-5278

Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D.  
[Anneliese.vancesherman@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Anneliese.vancesherman@esd.wa.gov)  
 425-258-6315

Jim Vleming  
[Jim.vleming@esd.wa.gov](mailto:Jim.vleming@esd.wa.gov)  
 360-819-3427

## Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., January 24, 2023. The publication schedule for 2022 can be found at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>

Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Language assistance services for limited English proficient individuals are available free of charge. Washington Relay Service: 711.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, expressed or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.