



## Employment Security: Helping workers and businesses succeed

### FACT SHEET

Roughly 1,632 employees working for the Washington Employment Security Department (ESD) across the state help workers and employers succeed in the global economy by delivering superior employment services, timely benefits and a fair and stable unemployment-insurance system.

#### WorkSource

ESD is an active partner in the WorkSource system, working with Workforce Development Councils, state agencies, community and technical colleges, school districts, business, labor and non-profits to connect employers with qualified job seekers.

ESD is currently gathering data for 2018. In 2017, WorkSource staff at nearly 50 locations across Washington provided staffing services to some 4,800 employers and helped some 106,000 job seekers find jobs. In addition, Washington employers used the department's new [WorkSourceWA.com](http://WorkSourceWA.com) employment website to post some 229,000 job openings, and more than 150,000 job seekers set up accounts on the website to post resumes, search for and apply for jobs.

#### Unemployment insurance

Employment Security also administers Washington's unemployment insurance system. Unemployment benefits keep our state's economic engine moving by replacing a small portion of lost wages to laid-off workers.

ESD is currently gathering data for 2018. In 2017, the department paid \$1.03 billion in unemployment benefits to 224,823 jobless workers. The average weekly benefit amount in 2017 was \$484.

**Employment Security is an active partner in the WorkSource system.**

The department also collected \$1.12 billion in unemployment taxes from Washington businesses in 2017. Each employer's tax rate is recalculated annually based on a formula established in state law. At the end of 2017, the unemployment insurance fund held \$4.3 billion, enough to pay benefits for about 16 months in a severe recession.





## Labor Market Data

ESD collects, analyzes and disseminates job-related data about Washington and its regions and communities. The department publishes numerous reports, including monthly unemployment and job growth/loss announcements, twice-a-year job vacancy surveys, average wage information, job benefits reports, etc. An exhaustive array of information is available online at [esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo](http://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo).

## On the web

The Employment Security Department's websites ([esd.wa.gov](http://esd.wa.gov) and [WorkSourceWA.com](http://WorkSourceWA.com)) contain information to assist workers and businesses.

