

Unemployment rates (03/2020)

¹ Statewide:	03/2020: 5.1%
¹ Statewide:	03/2019: 4.5%
² Highest county rate:	3/2020: 12.8% (Ferry)
² Lowest county rate:	3/2020: 3.6% (Whitman)
¹ = seasonally adjusted; ² = not seasonally adjusted	

Jobs (growth/loss 03/2020)

Month/month:	-11,100 (preliminary)
Year/year:	+64,400 or +1.8%
Since recession start (12/07):	+477,000 or +15.7%

Top Growth industries:

Construction	+2,500
Professional and business services	+1,500
Government	+600

Declining industries:

Leisure and hospitality	-12,300
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Total jobs (labor force):	3,889,700
Total covered employment:	3,507,200
Job losses during recession (12/07-6/09)	-151,300
Job gains since recovery (6/09):	605,600
Unemployed, seeking work:	197,600

www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo

Unemployment claims (03/2020)

Claimants, 03/2020:	185,458 / YTD = 221,229
CY14 = 249,160; CY15 = 221,326; CY16 = 210,554;	
CY17 = 224,823; CY18 = 187,603; CY19 = 196,545	

Continued regular claims:	+150% since 03/2019
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Benefits paid, 03/2020:	\$183.0M / YTD: \$404.2M
CY14 = \$1.1B; CY15 = \$1.0B; CY16 = \$1.0B;	
CY17 = \$1.03B; CY18 = \$995.4M; CY19 = \$1.06B	

Average weekly benefit, 03/2020	\$464
CY14 = \$398; CY15 = \$418; CY16 = \$473;	
CY17 = \$484; CY18 = \$467; CY19 = \$478	

Highest/lowest weekly benefit:	\$790 / \$188
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Average weeks on regular benefits, 04/2019–03/2020:	13.5
CY13 = 16.2; CY14 = 15.6; CY15 = 14.9;	
CY16=14.8; CY17= 14.9; CY18 = 15.6; CY19=16.9	

Long-term unemployed (LTU)

Definition: unemployed more than 26 weeks	
LTU job seekers in Washington, 04/2019 - 03/2020:	33,500
LTU = of all unemployed job seekers:	20.6%
LTU = of total labor force (3.9M):	0.8%
Male:	62%
Female:	38%

Average wage/minimum wage in Washington

Average yearly wage, 2018:	\$65,301 (+5.5% from 2017)
Average weekly wage, 2018:	\$1,255
Minimum wage, 2019:	\$12.00

Unemployment taxes/trust fund

Taxes collected, Q4-2019:	\$234.6M
CY13 = \$1.37B; CY14 = \$1.52B; CY15 = \$1.33B;	
CY16 = \$1.18B; CY17 = \$1.12B; CY18 = \$1.09B	
Low/high tax rates, 2019:	0.13-5.72%, Avg. = 1.24%
(\$61-\$2,706 per worker earning = / > \$47,300/year)	
Taxable wage base:	2020: \$52,700; 2019: \$49,800
Trust fund balance, 03/31/2020:	\$4.6B

WorkSource services (as of 3/31/20)

Total jobs listed on WorkSourceWA.com	912,153*
Total employers with job postings	14,541*
Total employers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts:	20,615*
Total job seekers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts:	553,042*
WorkSource customers who found jobs:	114,909**

*Since WorkSourceWA.com go-live May 2016

**Rolling four quarters (CY2018 Q3 through CY2019 Q2)

ESD employees (as of 3/31/20)

Number of employees:	1,730 (1,661 perm)
Employee ages <25 = 1.3%; 25-39 = 23.4%; 40-54 = 37.5%; 55+ = 37.8%	
Employees of color:	28.5%

Toll-free numbers

For UI claimants

- "Regular" claims: 800-318-6022
- Training benefits: 877-600-7701
- General unemployment questions: 833-572-8400
- Debt collection unit (overpayments): 866-697-4831
- Trade Act: 888-317-0480
- Assistance with eServices sign-in: 855-682-0785

For employers

- UI benefits questions: 877-504-5607
- Web tax filing help and employer tax questions: 855-829-9243 (855-TAX-WAGE)
- SharedWork help line: 800-752-2500
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit: 800-669-9271

Other

- Veterans (Dept. of Veterans Affairs): 800-562-2308
- WorkSourceWA.com sign-in assistance: 888-316-5627
- Washington Service Corps: 888-713-6080
- Labor market information: 360-890-3735
- Benefit and tax fraud: 800-246-9763
- Federal bonding program: 800-669-9271
- Paid Family and Medical Leave: 833-717-2273

Washington Relay Service

Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/program. 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.