

Unemployment rates (05/2020)

¹ Statewide:	05/2020: 15.1%
¹ Statewide:	05/2019: 4.4%
² Highest county rate:	5/2020: 19.3% (Grays Harbor)
² Lowest county rate:	5/2020: 7.7% (Whitman)

¹ = *seasonally adjusted*; ² = *not seasonally adjusted*

Jobs (growth/loss 05/2020)

Month/month:	52,500 (preliminary)
Year/year:	-408,200 or -11.7%
Since recession start (12/07):	61,400 or 2.0%

Declining industries:

Construction	30,000
Leisure and hospitality	22,600
Education and health services	7,000
Manufacturing	5,800

Total jobs (labor force):	3,943,500
Total covered employment:	3,082,800
Job losses during recession (12/07-6/09)	-150,400
Job gains since recovery (6/09):	190,000
Unemployed, seeking work:	594,300

www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo

Unemployment claims (05/2020)

Claimants (regular benefits), 05/2020:	627,818
CY14 = 249,160; CY15 = 221,326; CY16 = 210,554; CY17 = 224,823; CY18 = 187,603; CY19 = 196,545	
Continued regular claims:	+1,371% since 05/2019
Regular benefits paid, 05/2020:	\$930.3M
CY14 = \$1.1B; CY15 = \$1.0B; CY16 = \$1.0B; CY17 = \$1.03B; CY18 = \$995.4M; CY19 = \$1.06B	

Average weekly benefit, 05/2020	\$497
CY14 = \$398; CY15 = \$418; CY16 = \$473; CY17 = \$484; CY18 = \$467; CY19 = \$478	

Highest/lowest weekly benefit:	\$790 / \$188
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Long-term unemployed (LTU)

Definition: unemployed more than 26 weeks	
LTU job seekers in Washington, 06/2019 - 05/2020:	34,800
LTU = of all unemployed job seekers:	14.6%
LTU = of total labor force (3.9M):	0.9%
Male:	68%
Female:	32%

Average wage/minimum wage in Washington

Average yearly wage, 2019:	\$69,700 (+6.7% from 2018)
Average weekly wage, 2019:	\$1,340
Minimum wage, 2019:	\$12.00

Unemployment taxes/trust fund

Taxes collected, Q1-2020:	\$178.3M
CY13 = \$1.37B; CY14 = \$1.52B; CY15 = \$1.33B; CY16 = \$1.18B; CY17 = \$1.12B; CY18 = \$1.09B; CY19 = \$1.09B	
Low/high tax rates, 2020:	0.13-5.72%, Avg. = 1.08%
	(\$68-\$3,014 per worker earning = / > \$52,700/year)
Taxable wage base:	2020: \$52,700; 2019: \$49,800
Trust fund balance, 05/28/2020:	\$3.3B

WorkSource services (as of 5/31/20)

Total jobs listed on WorkSourceWA.com	938,560*
Total employers with job postings	14,832*
Total employers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts:	21,213*
Total job seekers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts:	615,316*
WorkSource customers who found jobs:	114,972**

*Since WorkSourceWA.com go-live May 2016

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

ESD employees (as of 5/31/20)

Number of employees:	2,067 (1,715 perm)
Employee ages <25 = 1.4%; 25-39 = 24.6%; 40-54 = 38.4%; 55+ = 35.6%	
Employees of color:	27.8%

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.