Unemployment rates (11/2020)

1Statewide: 11/2020: 6.0%
1Statewide: 11/2019: 4.0%
2Highest county rate: 11/2020: 9.6% (Grays Harbor)
2Lowest county rate: 11/2020: 4.3% (Asotin)

1 = seasonally adjusted; 2 = not seasonally adjusted

Jobs (growth/loss 11/2020)

Month/month: 100 (preliminary)
Year/year: -170,300 or -4.9%
Since recession start (2/20): -137,200 or -4.0%

Top growth industries:
Professional and business services +6,600
Other services +800

Declining industries:
Government -2,500

Total jobs (labor force): 3,839,900
Total covered employment: 3,610,400
Job losses during great recession (12/07-6/09) -150,400
Job losses since recession start (2/20): -137,200
Unemployed, seeking work: 229,500

www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo

Unemployment claims (11/2020)

Claimants (regular benefits), 11/2020: 166,649
CY14 = 249,160; CY15 = 221,326; CY16 = 210,554;
CY17 = 224,823; CY18 = 187,603; CY19 = 196,545

Continued regular claims: +191% since 11/2019

Regular benefits paid, 11/2020: $214.5M
CY14 = $1.1B; CY15 = $1.0B; CY16 = $1.0B;
CY17 = $1.03B; CY18 = $995.4M; CY19 = $1.06B

Average weekly benefit (regular claims), 11/2020 $451
CY14 = $398; CY15 = $418; CY16 = $473;
CY17 = $484; CY18 = $467; CY19 = $478

Highest/lowest weekly benefit: $844 / $201

Long-term unemployed (LTU)

Definition: unemployed more than 26 weeks
LTU = of all unemployed job seekers: 14.8%
LTU = of total labor force (3.9M): 1.2%
Male: 61%
Female: 39%

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, Q3-2020: $330.8M
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: 2021: $56,500; 2020: $52,700
Trust fund balance, 11/30/2020: $1.96B

WorkSource services (as of 11/30/20)

Total jobs listed on WorkSourceWA.com: 1,038,539*
Total employers with job postings: 15,934*
Total employers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts: 22,779*
Total job seekers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts: 695,019*
WorkSource customers who found jobs: 105,452**

*Since WorkSourceWA.com go-live May 2016
**Rolling four quarters (CY2019 Q1 through CY2019 Q4)

ESD employees (as of 11/30/20)

Number of employees: 2,329 (1,780 perm)
Employee ages <25 = 1.5%; 25-39 = 26.1%;
40-54 = 38.6%; 55+ = 33.8%
Employees of color: 30.44%

Toll-free numbers

For UI claimants
• “Regular” claims: 800-318-6022
• Training benefits: 877-600-7701
• 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: 833-572-8421
• 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