

Unemployment rates (12/2020)

¹ Statewide:	12/2020: 7.1%
¹ Statewide:	12/2019: 4.0%
² Highest county rate:	12/2020: 10.7% (Pacific)
² Lowest county rate:	12/2020: 4.6% (Asotin)

¹ = seasonally adjusted; ² = not seasonally adjusted

Jobs (growth/loss 12/2020)

Month/month:	-9,900 (preliminary)
Year/year:	-189,000 or -5.4%
Since recession start (2/20):	-144,500 or -4.1%

Top growth industries:

Professional and business services	+18,900
Retail trade	+4,800

Declining industries:

Leisure and hospitality	-20,600
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Total jobs (labor force):	3,864,700
Total covered employment:	3,592,200
Job losses during great recession (12/07-6/09)	-150,400
Job losses since recession start (2/20):	-144,500
Unemployed, seeking work:	272,500

www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo

Unemployment claims (12/2020)

Claimants (regular benefits), 12/2020:	168,529
CY14 = 249,160; CY15 = 221,326; CY16 = 210,554; CY17 = 224,823; CY18 = 187,603; CY19 = 196,545	
Continued regular claims:	+167% since 12/2019
Regular benefits paid, 12/2020:	\$256.9M
CY14 = \$1.1B; CY15 = \$1.0B; CY16 = \$1.0B; CY17 = \$1.03B; CY18 = \$995.4M; CY19 = \$1.06B	
Average weekly benefit (regular claims), 12/2020	\$444
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 job seekers in Washington, 01/2020 - 12/2020:	51,300
LTU = of all unemployed job seekers:	15.7%
LTU = of total labor force (3.9M):	1.3%
Male:	59%
Female:	41%

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, 12/31/2020:	\$1.79B

WorkSource services (as of 12/31/20)

Total jobs listed on WorkSourceWA.com	1,052,144*
Total employers with job postings	16,059*
Total employers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts:	22,947*
Total job seekers with WorkSourceWA.com accounts:	703,326*
WorkSource customers who found jobs:	100,372**

*Since WorkSourceWA.com go-live May 2016

**Rolling four quarters (CY2019 Q2 through CY2020 Q1)

ESD employees (as of 12/31/20)

Number of employees:	2,350 (1,794 perm)
Employee ages <25 = 1.5%; 25-39 = 26.5%; 40-54 = 38.4%; 55+ = 33.6%	
Employees of color:	31.3%

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 free of charge. Washington Relay Service: 711.