Unemployment rates (12/2020)

Statewide: 12/2020: 7.1%
Statewide: 12/2019: 4.0%
Highest county rate: 12/2020: 10.7% (Pacifc)
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

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

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)

ESDL 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: 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 helpline: 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: 888-713-6208
• 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.