



# Monthly Employment Report

June 2020



**For workers and businesses affected by COVID-19, Employment Security has programs that may help. Please see ESD's website for more information. For labor market information questions, please send your emails to lmea@esd.wa.gov.**

Employment estimates in this report are generated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Monthly employment estimates are subject to revision in subsequent months when more sample data become available. BLS data in this report are rounded to the nearest 100.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 71,000 in June 2020.<sup>1</sup> BLS estimates the private sector gained 71,700 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 700 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for June 2019 through June 2020 indicate a decrease in employment of 312,400 for the state. The private sector lost 265,700 jobs while the public sector lost an estimated 46,700 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2020 is 9.8 percent. The revised estimated May 2020 unemployment rate is at 15.1 percent. The June 2019 unemployment rate was 4.3 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. May's preliminary estimated gain of 52,500 jobs was revised to a gain of 146,400 jobs.

For more information, call Paul Turek, labor economist at 360-706-3044.

## Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The **resident civilian labor force** is the total number of people in the workforce, employed and unemployed, ages 16 and up.

The number of **unemployed** is the estimated number of people who currently do not have a job, are available for work and have actively looked for work in the last four weeks.

The **unemployment rate** is the ratio of the estimated number of unemployed divided by the civilian labor force.

Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted  
United States and Washington state, May and June 2019 and 2020  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	June 2020 (Preliminary)	May 2020 (Revised)	June 2019 (Revised)	May 2019 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment rate				
Seasonally adjusted	11.1%	13.3%	3.7%	3.6%
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment rate	9.8%	15.1%	4.3%	4.4%
Resident labor force	3,951,000	3,945,500	3,908,000	3,898,200
Unemployed	388,400	593,900	168,900	170,800
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment rate	9.3%	14.5%	2.9%	2.9%
Resident labor force	1,780,800	1,705,600	1,728,000	1,723,500
Unemployed	165,400	246,600	49,600	50,300



<sup>1</sup>Most of the employment numbers discussed in this report refers to jobs, not people. For example, if a person holds two positions, these positions are counted as two jobs in the employment series. In the section titled "Unemployment," these positions refer to individuals, not jobs. In this case, a person holding two jobs is counted only once.

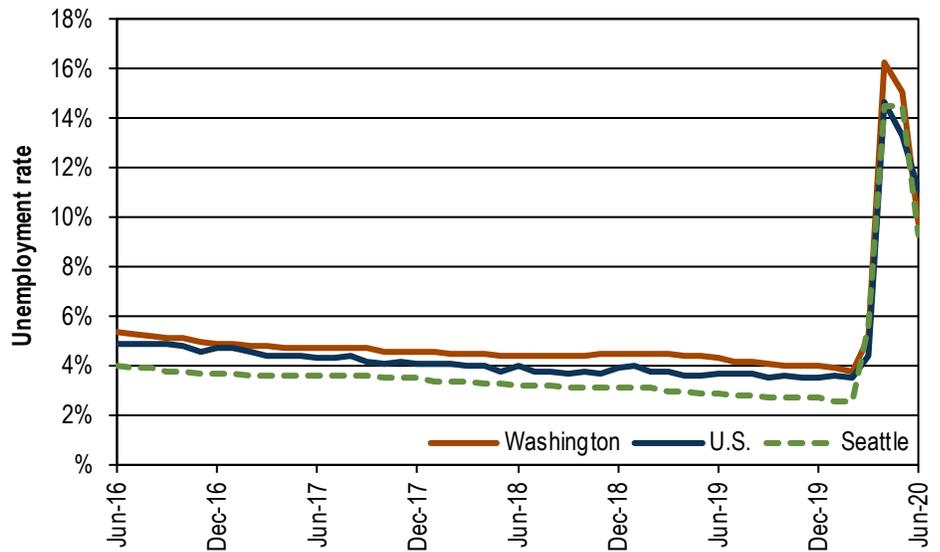
## Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2020 is 9.8 percent. The revised estimated May 2020 unemployment rate is 15.1 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 205,500 in June 2020 compared to May 2020. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 211,000. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 5,500 people in the labor force.

The preliminary June 2020 unemployment rate is 5.5 percentage points higher than the June 2019 rate of 4.3 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted  
U.S., Washington and Seattle, June 2016 through June 2020  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



**June 2020 preliminary unemployment rates:**

U.S. (preliminary) 11.1%  
Washington (preliminary) 9.8%  
Seattle area (preliminary) 9.3%

## Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 71,700 jobs from May 2020 to June 2020.

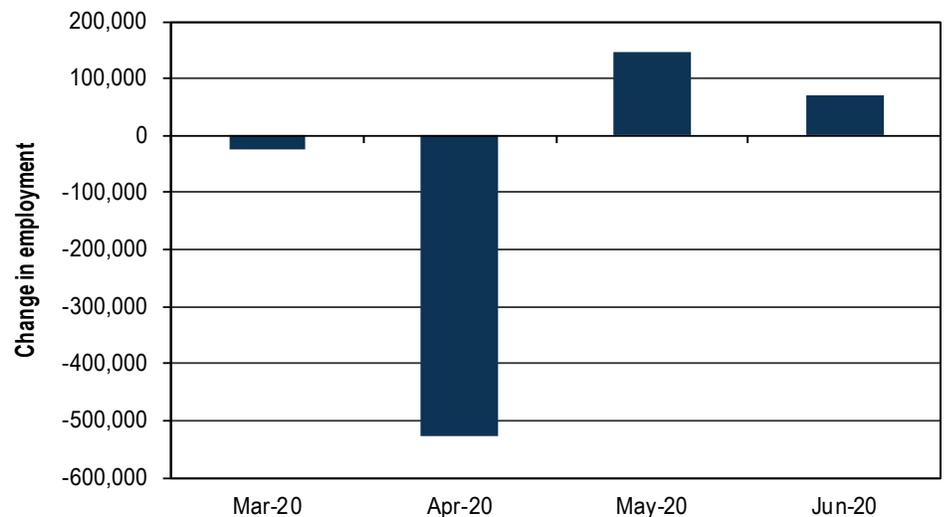
**Recent employment change:**

**April 2020:** down 528,600 jobs (revised)

**May 2020:** up 146,400 jobs (revised)

**June 2020:** up 71,000 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, March 2020 through June 2020  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics



## Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

### March 2008

(start of 2008 employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 3,008,000  
Unemployment rate: 4.8%

### February 2010

(end of 2008 employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,824,000  
Unemployment rate: 10.4%

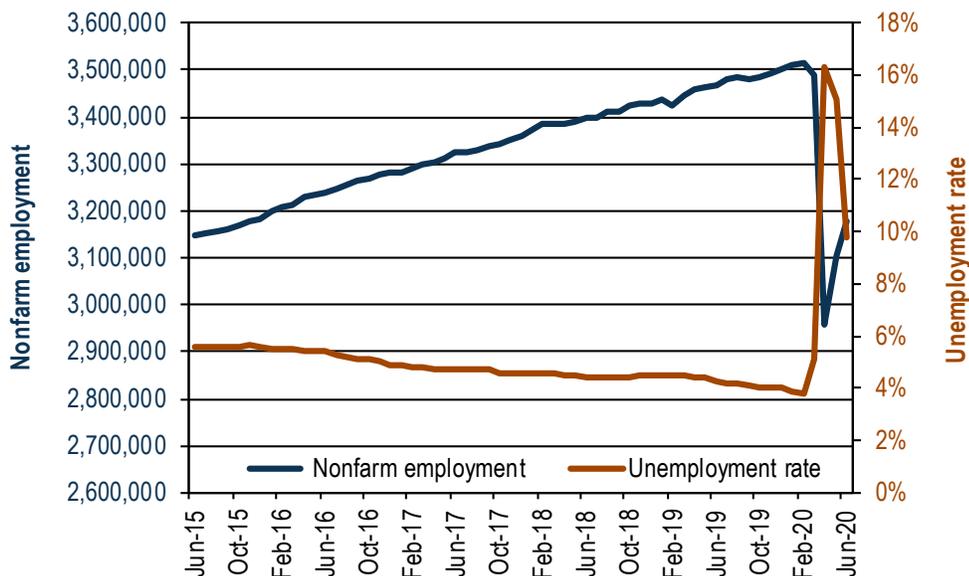
### June 2020 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,176,900  
Unemployment rate: 9.8%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, June 2015 through June 2020

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



## Workers and businesses affected by COVID-19

Employment Security's **COVID-19 online information page** covers topics for businesses and workers impacted by COVID-19. Topics include:

- Subscribing for updates
- Frequently asked questions
- Workers Q&A
- Business Q&A
- CARES ACT
- Federal stimulus updates
- Eligibility checker
- COVID-19 rulemaking
- Action alerts and updates

We are all in this together. COVID-19 has created an unprecedented demand for services, but we are building capacity, updating technology, and we thank you for your patience while we work to serve you better.

**Did you know** that you can subscribe for email updates on a number of Employment Security Department topics all at once? Go to [esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo](https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo) and select the email icon at the top of the page.



Enter your email address and subscribe by checking the boxes for topics such as:

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Many more to come, so sign up today for your email updates!

## U-6 unemployment rate

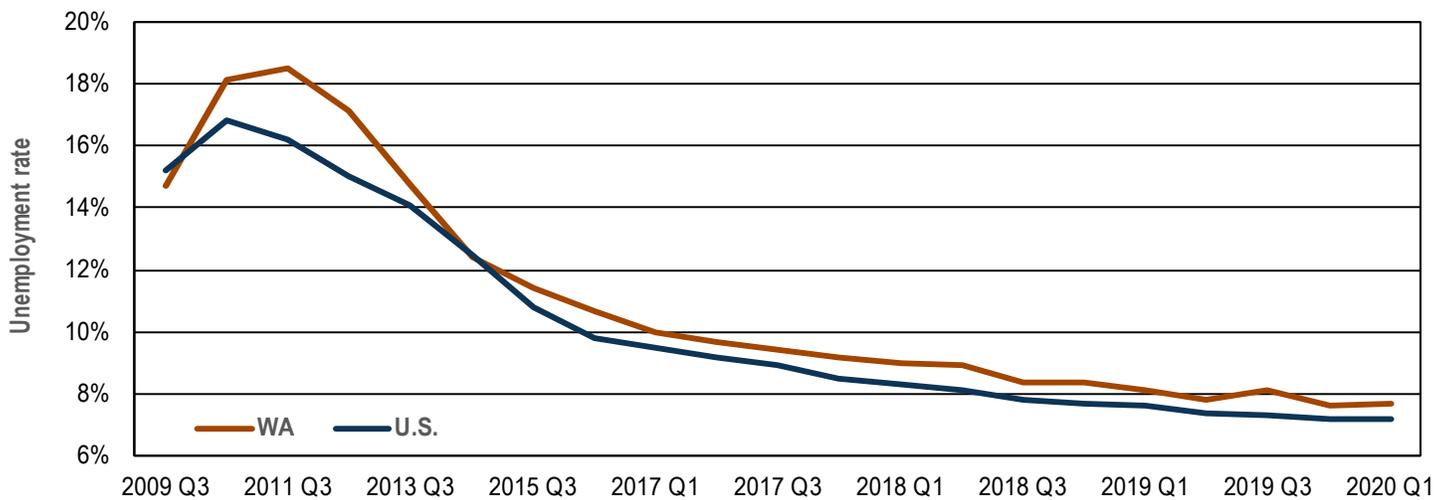
### U-6: Broader unemployment measure increased in the four-quarter period ending first quarter 2020

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include annual averages for first quarter 2020. One such alternative measure is the U-6 rate, which considers not only the unemployed population in

the official “U-3” unemployment rate, but also marginally attached workers and those employed part time for economic reasons. The U-6 rate is defined by BLS as the “total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.” This U-6 measure measures the

“unemployed, underemployed, and those who are not looking but who want a job.”

The U-6 annual unemployment rate for first quarter 2020 for Washington state was 7.7 percent. This was higher compared to the 7.6 percent U-6 unemployment 2019 annual rate. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in first quarter 2020.



Alternate measures of labor underutilization, four-quarter moving average  
Washington state versus U.S. U-6 unemployment rate

Year	WA/U.S.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Annual average
2020	WA	7.7%			
	U.S.	7.2%			
2019	WA	8.1%	7.8%	8.1%	7.6%
	U.S.	7.6%	7.4%	7.3%	7.2%
2018	WA	9.0%	8.9%	8.4%	8.4%
	U.S.	8.3%	8.1%	7.8%	7.7%
2017	WA	10.0%	9.7%	9.4%	9.2%
	U.S.	9.5%	9.2%	8.9%	8.5%
2016	WA	10.9%	10.7%	10.7%	10.3%
	U.S.	10.1%	9.9%	9.8%	9.6%
2015	WA	12.0%	11.7%	11.4%	11.0%
	U.S.	11.6%	11.3%	10.8%	10.4%
2014	WA	13.3%	12.8%	12.4%	12.5%
	U.S.	13.4%	12.9%	12.5%	12.0%
2013	WA	16.4%	15.7%	14.8%	14.0%
	U.S.	14.5%	14.3%	14.1%	13.8%
2012	WA	17.6%	17.0%	17.1%	16.9%
	U.S.	15.6%	15.3%	15.0%	14.7%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>.

## Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted

### One-month employment change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington gained an estimated 71,000 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in eleven major industries and contracted in two in June.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 71,700 and government employment decreased by 700.
- Retail employment rose by 19,400, with 11,200 jobs gained in other retail trade.
- The number of jobs in leisure and hospitality increased by 18,100, with an increase of 15,500 in food services and drinking places.
- Education and health services employment rose by 14,800 overall, with 10,600 jobs added in ambulatory health care services.
- Employment in construction increased by 8,500 with 4,700 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in professional and business services increased by 4,100, with 3,800 jobs added in administrative and support services.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, May 2020 to June 2020

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>71,000</b>
Retail trade	19,400
Leisure and hospitality	18,100
Education and health services	14,800
Construction	8,500
Professional and business services	4,100
Other services	3,600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,300
Financial activities	1,800
Wholesale trade	1,100
Manufacturing	100
Mining and logging	100
Government	-700
Information	-2,200

### As we navigate the COVID-19 developments

in Washington state and beyond, we know Washington state businesses, nonprofits, city and county municipalities, educational institutions, as well as economic and workforce development professionals, are looking for sound data about the short and long term economic and workforce impacts to their individual businesses, industries and regions.

Since the current situation is still evolving, we will share information as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you have specific questions regarding labor market information, please send your emails to [lmea@esd.wa.gov](mailto:lmea@esd.wa.gov).

## Industry employment in Washington, not seasonally adjusted

### Change by industry over the year

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington lost an estimated 312,400 jobs from June 2019 through June 2020.

- Overall, all thirteen major industries contracted.
- Private sector employment fell 9.2 percent, down an estimated 265,700 jobs.
- Public sector employment fell 7.8 percent, down an estimated 46,700 jobs.
- Retail trade subtracted 1,200 jobs overall, with the most jobs lost by clothing and clothing accessories stores.
- Professional and business services employment decreased by 6,900 overall, with the most jobs lost in employment services.
- Employment in manufacturing is down 24,500, led by a decrease of 8,100 in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Education and health services employment decreased by 36,300, with 15,600 jobs lost in social assistance.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is down by 135,800, with food services and drinking places shedding 85,300 jobs.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, June 2019 through June 2020

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>-312,400</b>
Mining and logging	-500
Retail trade	-1,200
Information	-3,300
Financial activities	-5,000
Professional and business services	-6,900
Wholesale trade	-7,000
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-7,300
Construction	-13,000
Manufacturing	-24,500
Other services	-24,900
Education and health services	-36,300
Government	-46,700
Leisure and hospitality	-135,800

## Seasonally adjusted employment

Seasonally adjusted numbers account for normal seasonal patterns that occur year after year, such as strong seasonal hiring in retail trade around the holidays. Taking into account normal seasonal variations makes it possible to see unusual changes in employment levels.

**Normal seasonal change** is the expected monthly change in employment based on history.

**Estimated change** is the employment change over the month based on BLS survey data.

**Seasonally adjusted change** is change in employment accounting for normal seasonal patterns.

Normal seasonal change, estimated change and seasonally adjusted change  
Washington state, June 2020

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>39,900</b>	<b>110,900</b>	<b>71,000</b>
Leisure and hospitality	16,100	34,200	18,100
Construction	8,000	16,500	8,500
Retail trade	6,400	25,800	19,400
Professional and business services	4,200	8,300	4,100
Manufacturing	3,700	3,800	100
Other services	3,100	6,700	3,600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2,200	4,500	2,300
Financial activities	1,600	3,400	1,800
Information	1,500	-700	-2,200
Wholesale trade	800	1,900	1,100
Mining and logging	100	200	100
Education and health services	-2,300	12,500	14,800
Government	-5,500	-6,200	-700

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 39,900 from May to June. This year the state gained an estimated 110,900 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 71,000 jobs.

- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 16,100 in June. The estimated gain was 34,200, so employment increased by 18,100 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment increase in construction was 16,500. The normal seasonal increase is 8,000, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment rose by 8,500.
- Employment in retail trade normally rises by 6,400. It is estimated to have increased by 25,800 this June, so it increased by 19,400 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 4,100 in professional and business services in June. The normal seasonal increase is 4,200. It is estimated to have increased this June by 8,300.
- Typically, manufacturing increases by 3,700 in June. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 100 as the estimated increase was 3,800.

## Media inquiries and contact information

Due to the high volume of requests for information, please send your emails to [media@esd.wa.gov](mailto:media@esd.wa.gov) so that we can forward your requests to the appropriate staff.

For labor market information questions, please send your emails to [lmea@esd.wa.gov](mailto:lmea@esd.wa.gov).

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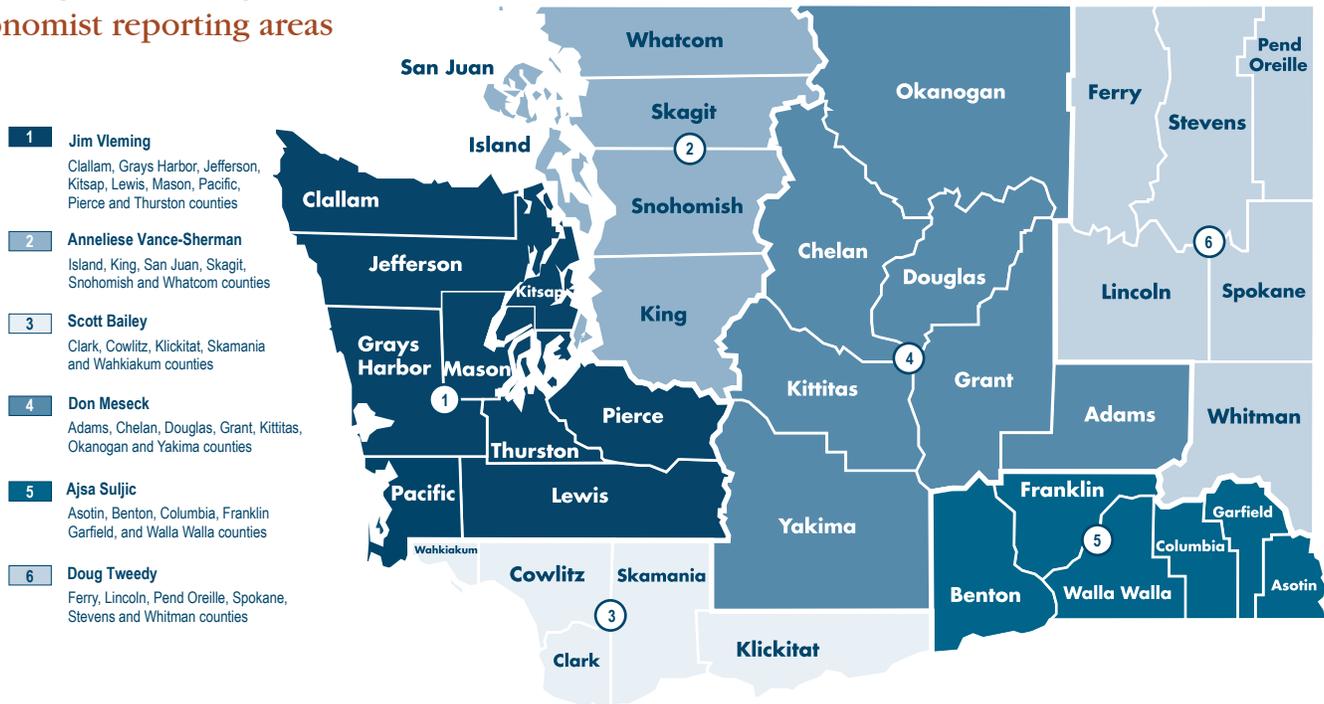
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## Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., July 21, 2020. The publication schedule for 2020 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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