



# Monthly Employment Report

November 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 100 in November 2020.<sup>1</sup> BLS estimates the private sector gained 2,600 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 2,500 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for November 2019 through November 2020 indicate a decrease in employment of 170,300 for the state. The private sector lost 127,200 jobs while the public sector lost an estimated 43,100 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2020 is 6.0 percent. The revised estimated October 2020 unemployment rate is at 6.0 percent. The November 2019 unemployment rate was 4.0 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. October's preliminary estimated gain of 1,000 jobs was revised to a gain of 22,800 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, October and November 2019 and 2020  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	November 2020 (Preliminary)	October 2020 (Revised)	November 2019 (Revised)	October 2019 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment rate				
Seasonally adjusted	6.7%	6.9%	3.5%	3.6%
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment rate	6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Resident labor force	3,839,900	3,995,300	3,946,500	3,946,400
Unemployed	229,500	237,800	158,500	158,900
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.8%	2.7%	2.7%
Resident labor force	1,694,200	1,701,100	1,742,400	1,742,700
Unemployed	75,600	82,400	46,300	46,400



<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 November 2020 is 6.0 percent. The revised estimated October 2020 unemployment rate is 6.0 percent.

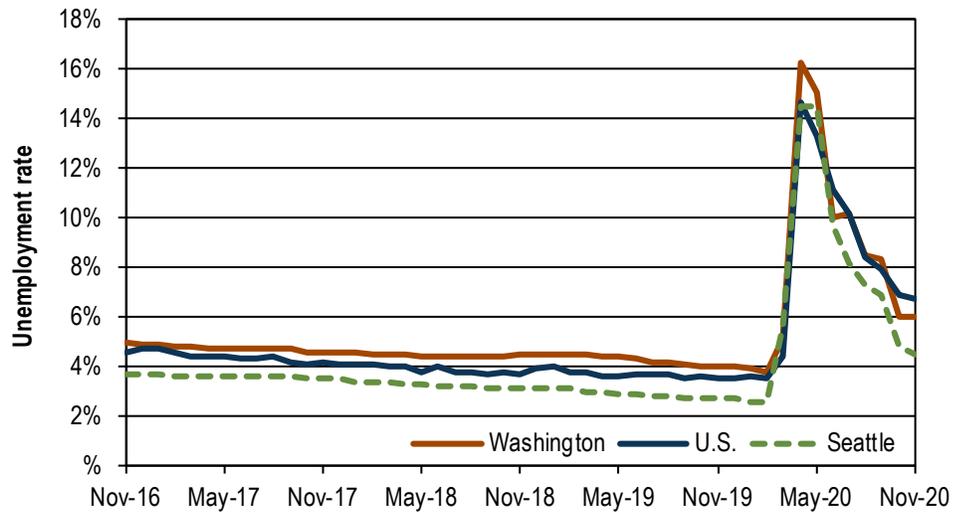
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 8,300 in November 2020 compared to October 2020. At the same time, the number of employed people fell by an estimated 147,100. Overall, this amounted to a decrease of 155,400 people in the labor force.

The preliminary November 2020 unemployment rate is 2.0 percentage points higher than the November 2019 rate of 4.0 percent.

### Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, November 2016 through November 2020

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



**November 2020 preliminary unemployment rates:**

U.S. (preliminary) 6.7%  
 Washington (preliminary) 6.0%  
 Seattle area (preliminary) 4.5%

## Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 100 jobs from October 2020 to November 2020.

### Recent employment change:

**September 2020:** up 9,300 jobs (revised)

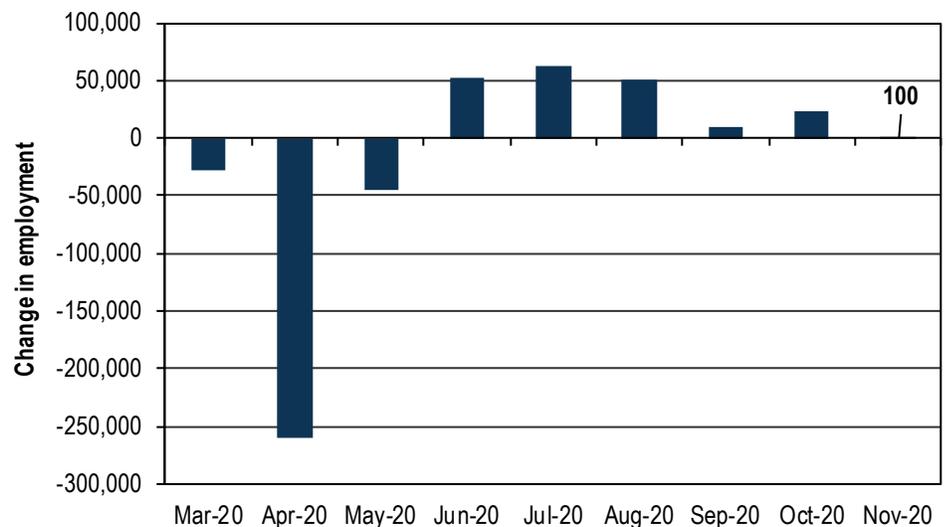
**October 2020:** up 22,800 jobs (revised)

**November 2020:** up 100 jobs (preliminary)

### Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, March 2020 through November 2020

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



## Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

### February 2020

(Start of 2020 employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 3,480,800

Unemployment rate: 3.8%

### November 2020 (preliminary)

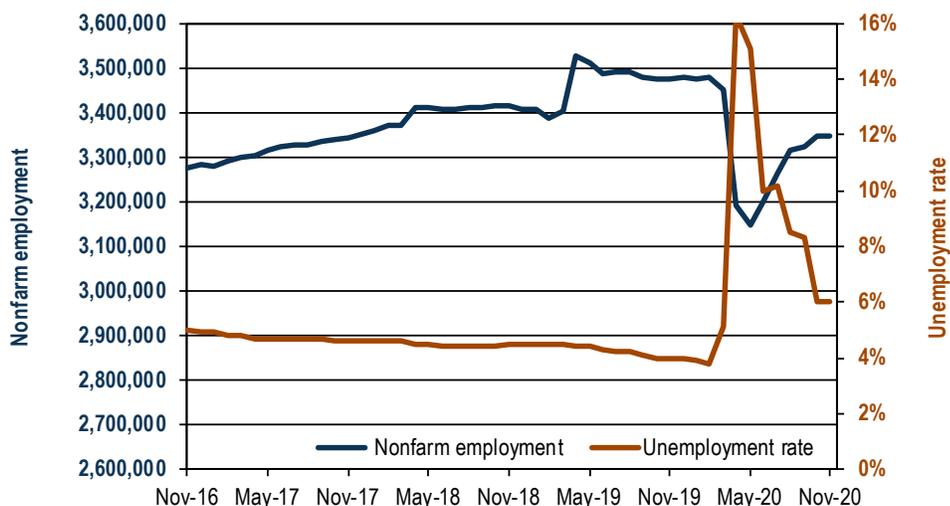
Nonfarm employment: 3,346,300

Unemployment rate: 6.0%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, November 2016 through November 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

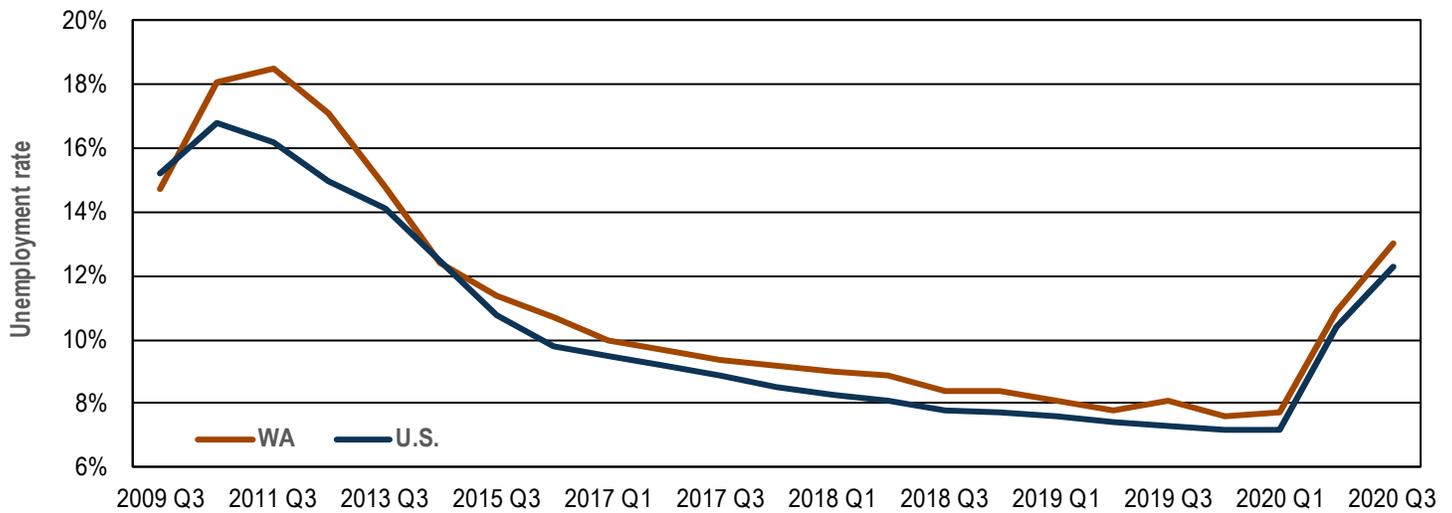
### U-6: Broader unemployment measure increased in the four-quarter period ending third quarter 2020

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 third quarter 2020 for Washington state was 13.0 percent. This was higher compared to the 10.9 percent U-6 unemployment 2020 second quarter rate. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate was 12.3 percent in third 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	8.1%	10.9%	13.0%	
	U.S.	7.7%	10.4%	12.3%	
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 100 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in six major industries, contracted in six and was unchanged in one in November.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 2,600 and government employment decreased by 2,500.
- Employment in professional and business services increased by 6,000, with 3,100 jobs added in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Financial activities employment rose by 700 overall, with 500 jobs gained by insurance carriers and related activities.
- Transportation, warehousing and utilities employment rose by 500 overall, with 400 jobs added in air transportation.
- The number of jobs in manufacturing decreased by 1,500 overall, with a decrease of 900 in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality decreased by 2,300, with 3,000 jobs lost in food services and drinking places.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, October 2020 to November 2020

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>100</b>
Professional and business services	6,000
Other services	800
Financial activities	700
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	500
Construction	200
Education and health services	100
Mining and logging	0
Information	-300
Retail trade	-600
Wholesale trade	-1,000
Manufacturing	-1,500
Leisure and hospitality	-2,300
Government	-2,500

### 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 170,300 jobs from November 2019 through November 2020.

- Overall, four major industries expanded and nine contracted.
- Private sector employment fell 4.4 percent, down an estimated 127,200 jobs.
- Public sector employment fell 7.2 percent, down an estimated 43,100 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 6,900 overall, with the most jobs gained in professional, scientific, and technical services.
- Retail trade employment rose 1,000 overall, with the most jobs gained in general merchandise stores.
- Education and health services employment decreased by 14,100, with 10,200 jobs lost in private education services.
- Employment in manufacturing is down 25,500, led by a decrease of 13,800 in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is down by 71,200, with food services and drinking places shedding 41,000 jobs.

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

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

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>-170,300</b>
Professional and business services	6,900
Information	3,100
Construction	1,200
Retail trade	1,000
Mining and logging	-400
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-400
Financial activities	-3,100
Wholesale trade	-12,100
Other services	-12,600
Education and health services	-14,100
Manufacturing	-25,500
Government	-43,100
Leisure and hospitality	-71,200

## 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, November 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>16,200</b>	<b>16,300</b>	<b>100</b>
Retail trade	6,300	5,700	-600
Government	5,000	2,500	-2,500
Professional and business services	3,300	9,300	6,000
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	3,200	3,700	500
Education and health services	2,300	2,400	100
Information	600	300	-300
Wholesale trade	400	-600	-1,000
Manufacturing	0	-1,500	-1,500
Financial activities	-100	600	700
Mining and logging	-100	-100	0
Leisure and hospitality	-900	-3,200	-2,300
Other services	-1,000	-200	800
Construction	-2,800	-2,600	200

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically increases by 16,200 from October to November. This year the state gained an estimated 16,300 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 100 jobs.

- Employment in retail trade normally rises by 6,300. It is estimated to have increased by 5,700 this November, so it decreased by 600 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 6,000 in professional and business services in November. The normal seasonal increase is 3,300. It is estimated to have increased this November by 9,300.
- Typically, manufacturing employment is unchanged in November. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment decreased by 1,500 as the estimated decrease was 1,500.
- The normal seasonal loss in leisure and hospitality employment is 900 in November. The estimated loss was 3,200, so employment decreased by 2,300 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 2,600. The normal seasonal decrease is 2,800, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment rose by 200.

## 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).

### Statewide labor economist:

Paul Turek, Ph.D.  
[pturek@esd.wa.gov](mailto:pturek@esd.wa.gov)  
 360-706-3044

### Regional labor economists:

Scott Bailey  
[scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov](mailto:scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov)  
 360-810-0048

Don Meseck  
[dmeseck@esd.wa.gov](mailto:dmeseck@esd.wa.gov)  
 509-574-0176

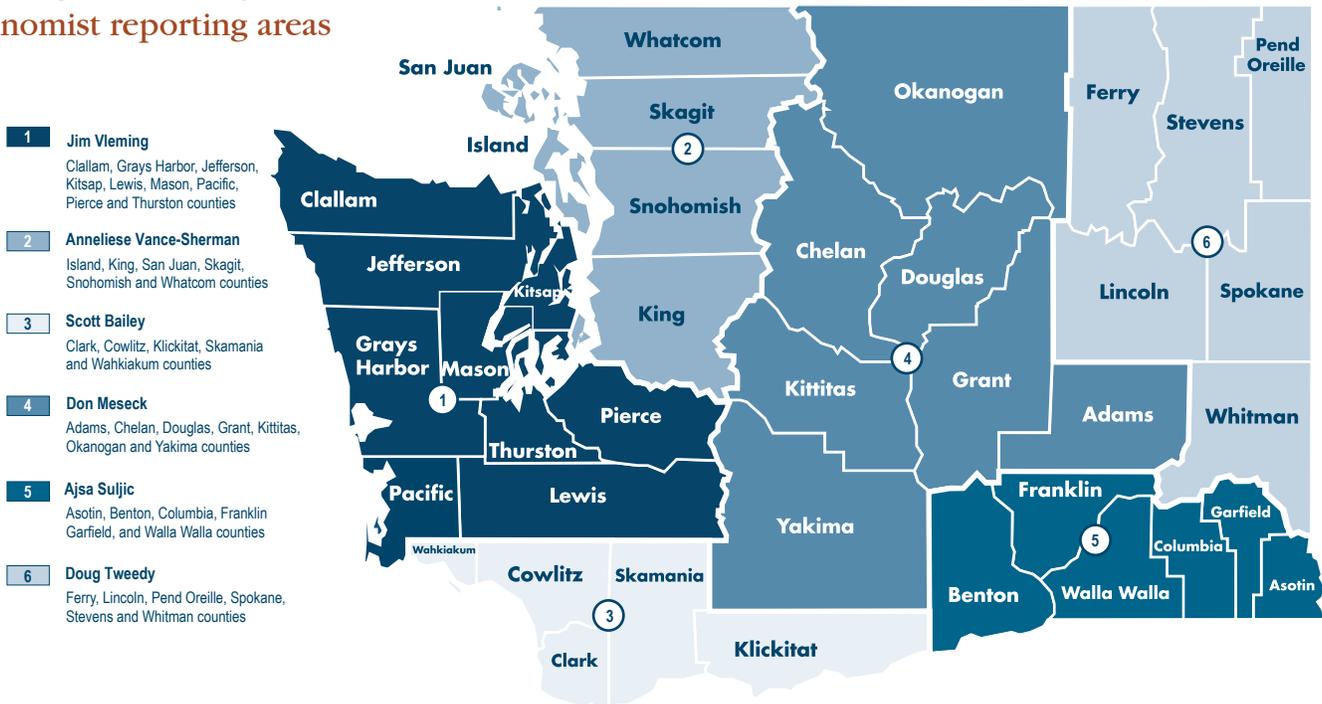
Ajsa Suljic  
[asuljic@esd.wa.gov](mailto:asuljic@esd.wa.gov)  
 509-734-5928

Doug Tweedy  
[dtweedy@esd.wa.gov](mailto:dtweedy@esd.wa.gov)  
 509-434-5278

Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D.  
[avancesherman@esd.wa.gov](mailto:avancesherman@esd.wa.gov)  
 425-258-6315

Jim Vleming  
[jvleming@esd.wa.gov](mailto:jvleming@esd.wa.gov)  
 360-819-3427

## Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., December 22, 2020. The publication schedule for 2020 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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