

# The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.7%

United States 4.2%

Seasonally adjusted

November 2021



**Employment Security Department**  
WASHINGTON STATE



For workers and businesses affected by COVID-19, Employment Security has updated information on the website at [esd.wa.gov](http://esd.wa.gov). For labor market information questions, please send your emails to [data@esd.wa.gov](mailto:data@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 12,800 in November 2021.<sup>1</sup> BLS estimates the private sector gained 8,100 jobs during the month, and the public sector gained 4,700 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for November 2020 through November 2021 indicate an increase in employment of 147,200 for the state. The private sector gained 127,100 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 20,100 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2021 is 4.7 percent. The revised estimated October 2021 unemployment rate is at 5.0 percent. The November 2020 unemployment rate was 6.7 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The October 2021 preliminary estimated gain of 6,300 jobs was revised to a loss of 500 jobs.

For more information, call Paul Turek 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 2020 and 2021  
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

|                                 | November 2021<br>(Preliminary) | October 2021<br>(Revised) | November 2020<br>(Revised) | October 2020<br>(Revised) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>United States</b>            |                                |                           |                            |                           |
| Unemployment rate               | 4.2%                           | 4.6%                      | 6.7%                       | 6.9%                      |
| <i>Seasonally adjusted</i>      |                                |                           |                            |                           |
| <b>Washington</b>               |                                |                           |                            |                           |
| Unemployment rate               | 4.7%                           | 5.0%                      | 6.7%                       | 7.0%                      |
| Resident labor force            | 3,936,700                      | 3,935,000                 | 3,843,000                  | 3,981,800                 |
| Unemployed                      | 184,600                        | 198,100                   | 256,500                    | 277,800                   |
| <b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b> |                                |                           |                            |                           |
| Unemployment rate               | 4.4%                           | 4.9%                      | 6.2%                       | 6.6%                      |
| Resident labor force            | 1,747,200                      | 1,754,100                 | 1,735,900                  | 1,735,700                 |
| Unemployed                      | 76,500                         | 86,000                    | 107,600                    | 115,200                   |

<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 2021 is 4.7 percent. The revised estimated October 2021 unemployment rate is 5.0 percent.

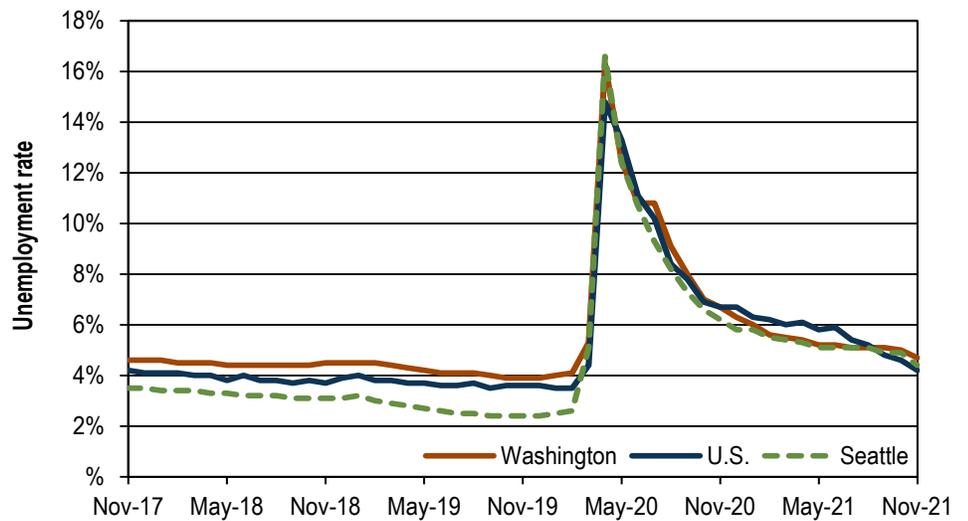
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 13,500 in November 2021 compared to October 2021. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 15,200. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 1,700 people in the labor force.

The preliminary November 2021 unemployment rate is 2.0 percentage points lower than the November 2020 rate of 6.7 percent.

### Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

U.S., Washington and Seattle, November 2017 through November 2021

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



### November 2021 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 4.2%  
 Washington (preliminary) 4.7%  
 Seattle area (preliminary) 4.4%

## Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 12,800 jobs from October 2021 to November 2021.

### Recent employment change:

**September 2021:** up 18,800 jobs (revised)

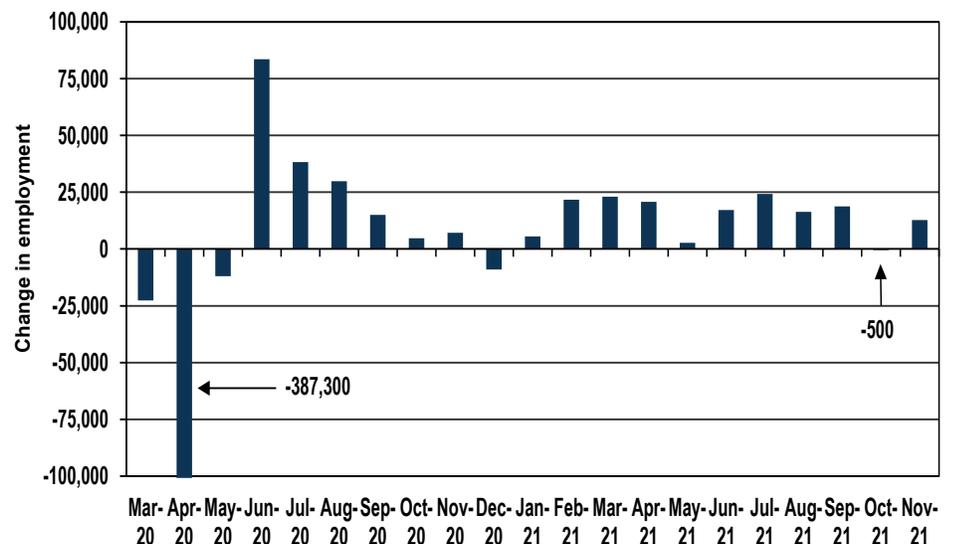
**October 2021:** down 500 jobs (revised)

**November 2021:** up 12,800 jobs (preliminary)

### Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, March 2020 through November 2021

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



## Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

### February 2020

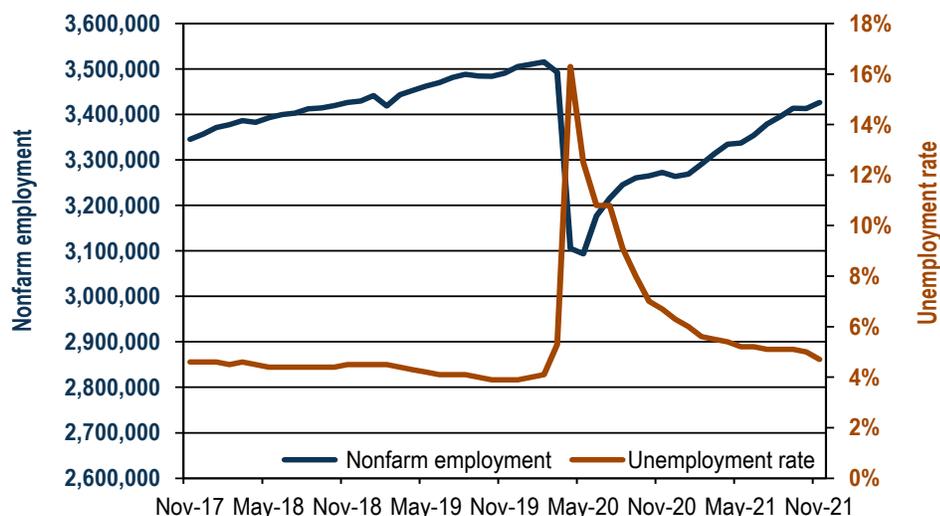
(Start of 2020 employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 3,515,500  
Unemployment rate: 4.1%

### November 2021 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,426,100  
Unemployment rate: 4.7%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, November 2017 through November 2021  
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA; 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
- COVID-19 rulemaking
- COVID-19 resources
- Action alerts and updates

We are all in this together. The COVID-19 pandemic 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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Training

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

## U-6 unemployment rate

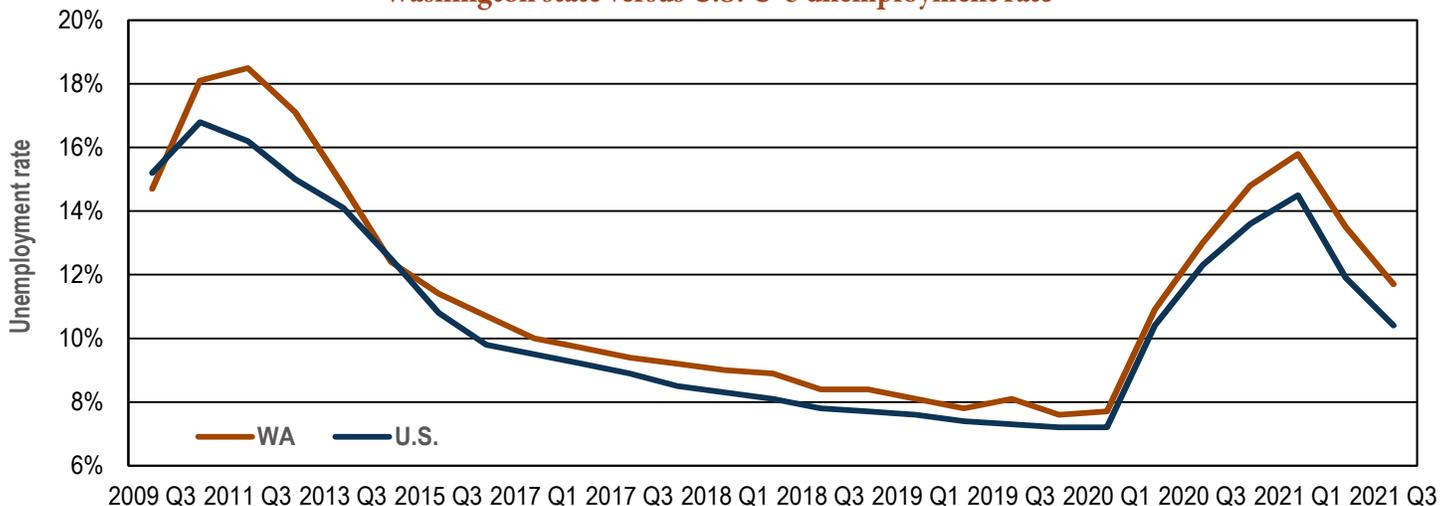
### U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter period ending third quarter 2021

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated its “alternative measures of labor underutilization” for states to include annual averages for 2021. 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 unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2020 through the third quarter 2021 for Washington state was 11.7 percent. This was lower compared to the 13.5 percent U-6 unemployment rate for the third quarter 2020 through the second quarter 2021. The U.S. U-6 unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2020 through the third quarter 2021 was 10.4 percent.

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 |
|------|---------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| 2021 | WA      | 15.8% | 13.5% | 11.7% |                |
|      | U.S.    | 14.5% | 11.9% | 10.4% |                |
| 2020 | WA      | 8.1%  | 10.9% | 13.0% | 14.8%          |
|      | U.S.    | 7.7%  | 10.4% | 12.3% | 13.6%          |
| 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%          |

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 12,800 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in eight major industries and decreased in five in November.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 8,100 and government employment increased by 4,700.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 4,800 over the month, led by 3,800 jobs added in food services and drinking places.
- Employment in construction rose by 1,800 overall, with 2,900 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Retail trade employment increased by 1,500 overall, led by 1,500 jobs gained in food and beverage stores.
- Manufacturing employment rose by 1,400 overall, with 1,300 jobs gained in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- The number of jobs in transportation, warehousing and utilities decreased by 800 overall, with 600 jobs lost in truck transportation.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, October 2021 to November 2021

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

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Total nonfarm</b>                      | <b>12,800</b> |
| Leisure and hospitality                   | 4,800         |
| Government                                | 4,700         |
| Information                               | 1,900         |
| Construction                              | 1,800         |
| Retail trade                              | 1,500         |
| Manufacturing                             | 1,400         |
| Mining and logging                        | 100           |
| Professional and business services        | 100           |
| Financial activities                      | -400          |
| Education and health services             | -700          |
| Other services                            | -700          |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | -800          |
| Wholesale trade                           | -900          |

**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.

If you have specific questions regarding labor market information, please send your emails to [data@esd.wa.gov](mailto:data@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 gained an estimated 147,200 jobs from November 2020 through November 2021.

- Overall, eleven major industries expanded, one contracted and one remained unchanged.
- Private sector employment rose 4.6 percent, up an estimated 127,100 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 3.7 percent, up an estimated 20,100 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 50,800, with food services and drinking places adding 36,800 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 21,300, with 8,400 jobs added in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Education and health services employment increased by 9,300, with 6,500 jobs added in education services.
- Construction employment rose 9,200 overall, with 5,800 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in manufacturing is up 5,500, led by an increase of 1,900 in food manufacturing.

Estimated employment change by industry over the year, not seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, November 2020 through November 2021

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

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Total nonfarm</b>                      | <b>147,200</b> |
| Leisure and hospitality                   | 50,800         |
| Professional and business services        | 21,300         |
| Government                                | 20,100         |
| Information                               | 13,200         |
| Education and health services             | 9,300          |
| Construction                              | 9,200          |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | 6,700          |
| Financial activities                      | 5,900          |
| Other services                            | 4,700          |
| Manufacturing                             | 5,500          |
| Wholesale trade                           | 2,100          |
| Retail trade                              | -1,600         |
| Mining and logging                        | 0              |

## 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 2021

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

|   | Normal seasonal change | Estimated change | Seasonally adjusted change |
|---|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Total nonfarm</b>                      | <b>-4,000</b>          | <b>8,800</b>     | <b>12,800</b>              |
| Retail trade                              | 5,000                  | 6,500            | 1,500                      |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | 1,900                  | 1,100            | -800                       |
| Professional and business services        | 300                    | 400              | 100                        |
| Education and health services             | 100                    | -600             | -700                       |
| Mining and logging                        | -100                   | 0                | 100                        |
| Information                               | -200                   | 1,700            | 1,900                      |
| Wholesale trade                           | -600                   | -1,500           | -900                       |
| Financial activities                      | -900                   | -1,300           | -400                       |
| Other services                            | -1,000                 | -1,700           | -700                       |
| Manufacturing                             | -1,200                 | 200              | 1,400                      |
| Government                                | -1,600                 | 3,100            | 4,700                      |
| Leisure and hospitality                   | -2,600                 | 2,200            | 4,800                      |
| Construction                              | -3,100                 | -1,300           | 1,800                      |

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 4,000 from October to November. This year the state gained an estimated 8,800 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 12,800 jobs.

- Employment in retail trade normally rises by 5,000. It is estimated to have increased by 6,500 this November so it increased by 1,500 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 100 in professional and business services in November. The normal seasonal decrease is 300. It is estimated to have increased this November by 400.
- Typically, manufacturing employment decreases by 1,200 in November. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment increased by 1,400 as the estimated increase was 200.
- The normal seasonal loss in leisure and hospitality employment is 2,600 in November. The estimated gain was 2,200, so employment increased by 4,800 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 1,300. The normal seasonal decrease is 3,100, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment increased by 1,800.

## 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 [data@esd.wa.gov](mailto:data@esd.wa.gov).

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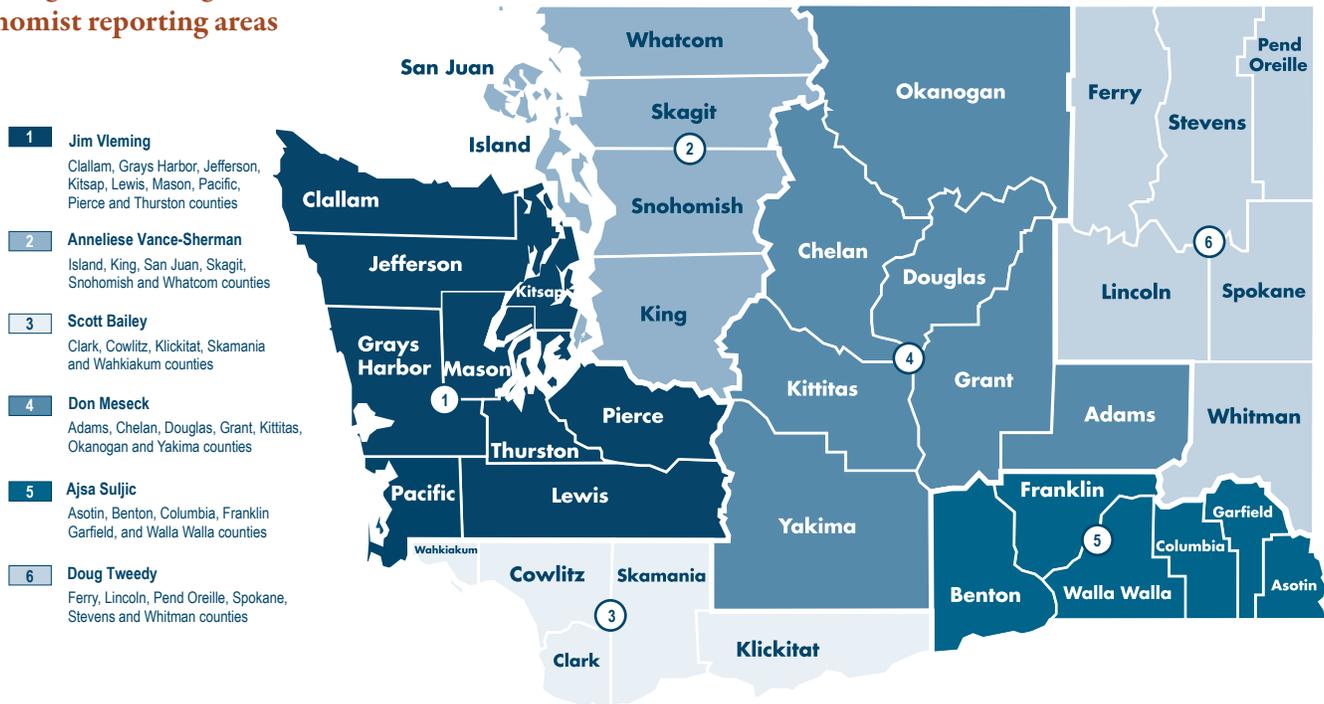
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## Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., December 21, 2021.

The publication schedule for 2021 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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