

The Monthly Employment Report

Washington 4.5%

United States 3.9%

Seasonally adjusted

December 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. For labor market information questions, please send your emails to 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 14,000 in December 2021.¹ BLS estimates the private sector gained 10,300 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 3,700 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for December 2020 through November 2021 indicate an increase in employment of 178,100 for the state. The private sector gained 159,700 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 18,400 jobs over the year.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2021 is 4.5 percent. The revised estimated November 2021 unemployment rate is at 4.7 percent. The December 2020 unemployment rate was 6.3 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The November 2021 preliminary estimated gain of 12,800 jobs was revised to a gain of 17,800 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, November and December 2020 and 2021
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	December 2021 (Preliminary)	November 2021 (Revised)	December 2020 (Revised)	November 2020 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.2%	6.7%	6.7%
<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>				
Washington				
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.7%	6.3%	6.7%
Resident labor force	3,952,900	3,937,900	3,830,400	3,843,000
Unemployed	176,900	185,700	239,500	256,500
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.4%	5.8%	6.2%
Resident labor force	1,755,000	1,747,400	1,735,800	1,735,900
Unemployed	72,100	76,700	101,500	107,600

Data Architecture, Transformation and Analytics (DATA Division)
January 2022

¹Most 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 December 2021 is 4.5 percent. The revised estimated November 2021 unemployment rate is 4.7 percent.

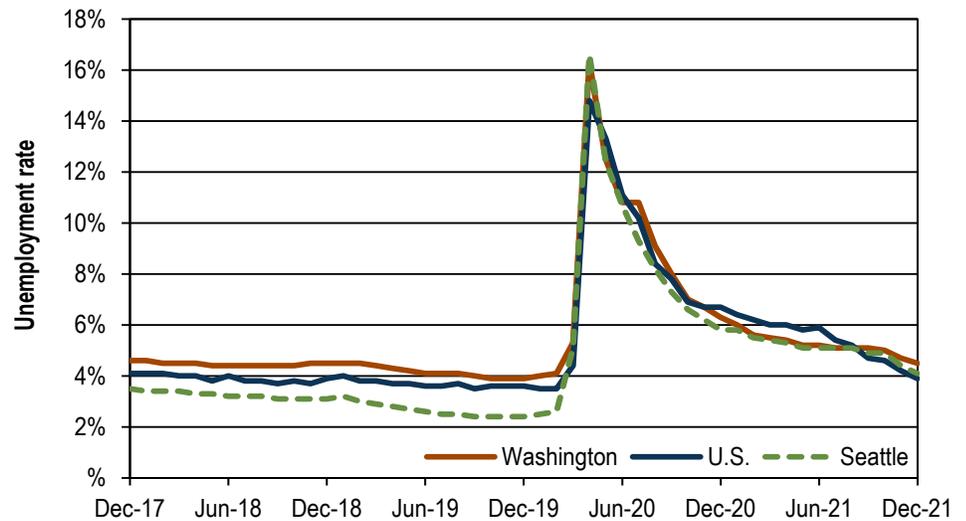
According to BLS estimates, the number of unemployed people fell by 8,800 in December 2021 compared to November 2021. At the same time, the number of employed people rose by an estimated 23,800. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 15,000 people in the labor force.

The preliminary December 2021 unemployment rate is 1.8 percentage points lower than the December 2020 rate of 6.3 percent.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted

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

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



December 2021 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 3.9%
 Washington (preliminary) 4.5%
 Seattle area (preliminary) 4.1%

Employment change, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state nonfarm employment increased by 14,000 jobs from November 2021 to December 2021.

Recent employment change:

October 2021: down 500 jobs (revised)

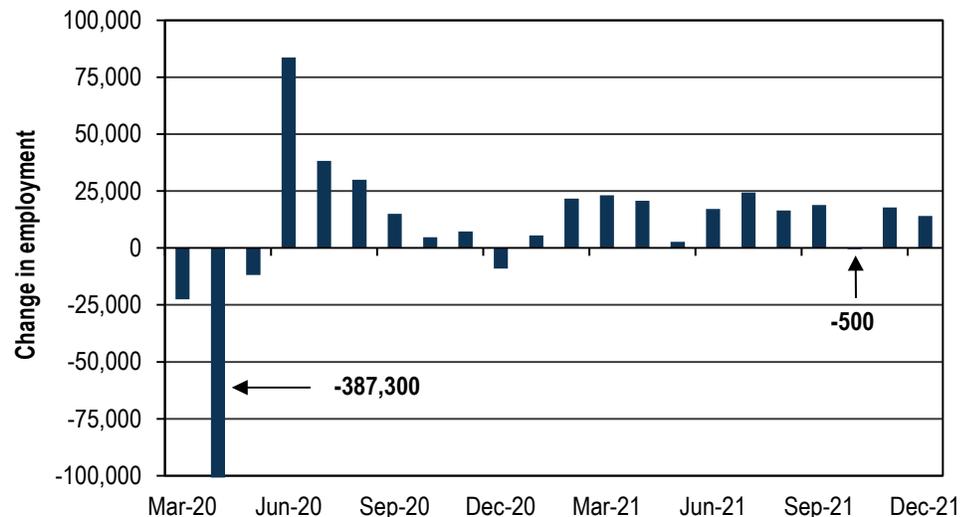
November 2021: up 17,800 jobs (revised)

December 2021: up 14,000 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, March 2020 through December 2021

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



Employment and unemployment, seasonally adjusted

February 2020

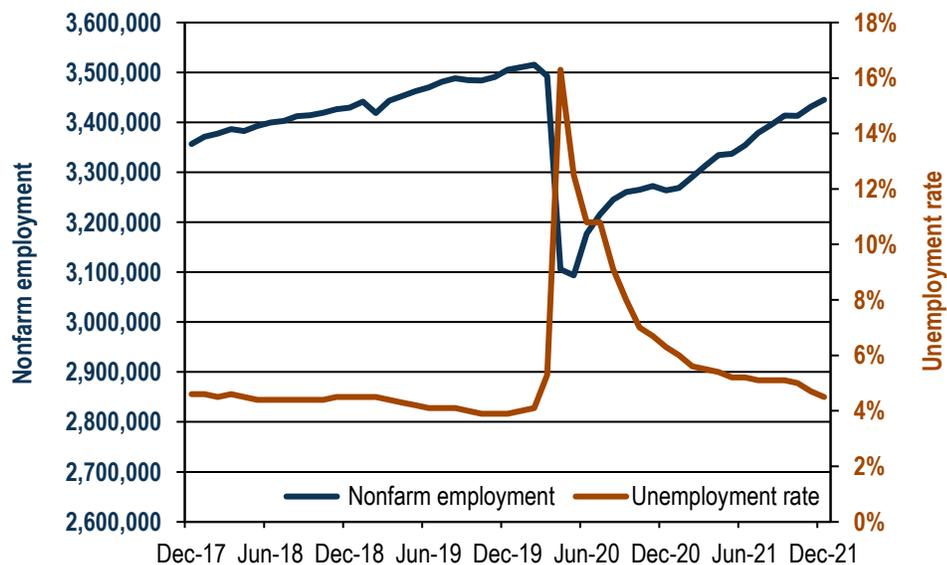
(Start of 2020 employment recession in Washington)

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

December 2021 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 3,445,100
Unemployment rate: 4.7%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, December 2017 through December 2021
Source: Employment Security Department/DATA Division; 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 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:

COVID-19
Labor market information
News releases
Employer news and resources
Paid Family and Medical Leave
Employer information
SharedWork program
WorkSource system
Unemployment insurance
Training

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

U-6 unemployment rate

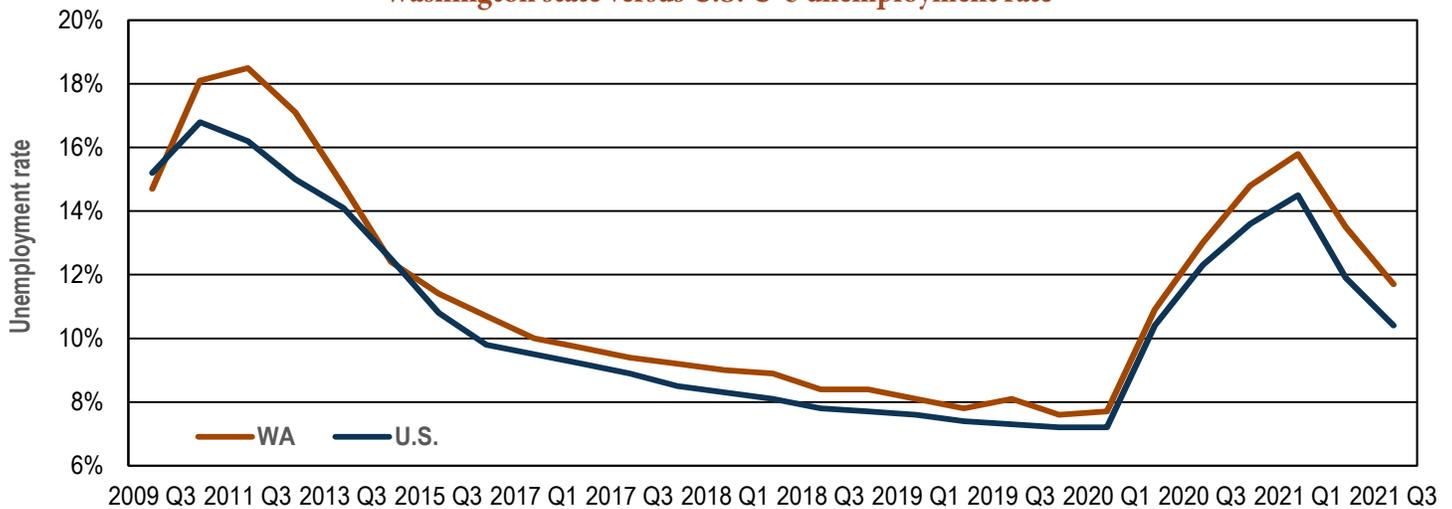
U-6: Broader unemployment measure decreased in the four-quarter period ending third quarter 2021

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 14,000 jobs during the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, employment increased in ten major industries, decreased in two and was unchanged in one in December.
- Private sector employment is estimated to have increased by 10,300 and government employment increased by 3,700.
- Retail trade employment increased by 3,200 overall, led by 1,200 jobs gained in motor vehicle and parts dealers.
- The number of jobs in professional and business services increased by 2,800 overall, with 1,800 jobs gained in employment services.
- Employment in construction rose by 1,300 overall, with 1,400 jobs added in heavy and civil engineering.
- Manufacturing employment fell by 1,000 overall, with 1,100 jobs lost in aerospace product and parts manufacturing.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality decreased by 2,200 over the month, led by 1,900 jobs lost in food services and drinking places.

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

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

Total nonfarm	14,000
Government	3,700
Retail trade	3,200
Professional and business services	2,800
Wholesale trade	2,400
Construction	1,300
Information	1,200
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,000
Education and health services	900
Financial activities	400
Other services	300
Mining and logging	0
Manufacturing	-1,000
Leisure and hospitality	-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.

If you have specific questions regarding labor market information, please send your emails to 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 178,100 jobs from December 2020 through December 2021.

- Overall, 12 major industries expanded and one contracted.
- Private sector employment rose 5.9 percent, up an estimated 159,700 jobs.
- Public sector employment rose 3.4 percent, up an estimated 18,400 jobs.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality is up by 78,600, with food services and drinking places adding 60,800 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment increased by 17,800, with 9,500 jobs added in employment services.
- Information employment increased by 15,800, with 5,300 jobs added by software publishers.
- Construction employment rose 9,400 overall, with 4,800 jobs added by specialty trade contractors.
- Employment in manufacturing is up 5,500, led by an increase of 900 in food manufacturing.

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

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

Total nonfarm	178,100
Leisure and hospitality	78,600
Government	18,400
Professional and business services	17,800
Information	15,600
Construction	9,400
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	8,900
Education and health services	7,700
Other services	5,800
Manufacturing	5,500
Financial activities	5,300
Wholesale trade	2,600
Retail trade	2,600
Mining and logging	-100

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, December 2021

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

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	-6,800	7,200	14,000
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	4,800	5,800	1,000
Leisure and hospitality	2,000	-200	-2,200
Retail trade	1,500	4,700	3,200
Information	1,400	2,600	1,200
Manufacturing	0	-1,000	-1,000
Mining and logging	-100	-100	0
Other services	-700	-400	300
Financial activities	-1,000	-600	400
Wholesale trade	-1,200	1,200	2,400
Education and health services	-2,400	-1,500	900
Construction	-2,800	-1,500	1,300
Professional and business services	-3,900	-1,100	2,800
Government	-4,400	-700	3,700

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically decreases by 6,800 from November to December. This year the state gained an estimated 7,200 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 14,000 jobs.

- The normal seasonal gain in leisure and hospitality employment is 2,000 in December. The estimated loss was 200, so employment decreased by 2,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Employment in retail trade normally rises by 1,500. It is estimated to have increased by 4,700 this December so it increased by 3,200 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The estimated employment decrease in construction was 1,500. The normal seasonal decrease is 2,800, so on a seasonally adjusted basis, construction employment increased by 1,300.
- Typically, manufacturing employment is unchanged in December. On a seasonally adjusted basis, manufacturing employment decreased by 1,000 as the estimated decrease was 1,000.
- The employment increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was 2,800 in professional and business services in December. The normal seasonal decrease is 3,900. It is estimated to have decreased this December by 1,100.

Media inquiries and contact information

Due to the high volume of requests for information, please send your emails to 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.

Statewide labor economist:

Paul Turek, Ph.D.
Paul.turek@esd.wa.gov
 360-706-3044

Regional labor economists:

Scott Bailey
scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov
 360-810-0048

Don Meseck
Don.meseck@esd.wa.gov
 509-574-0176

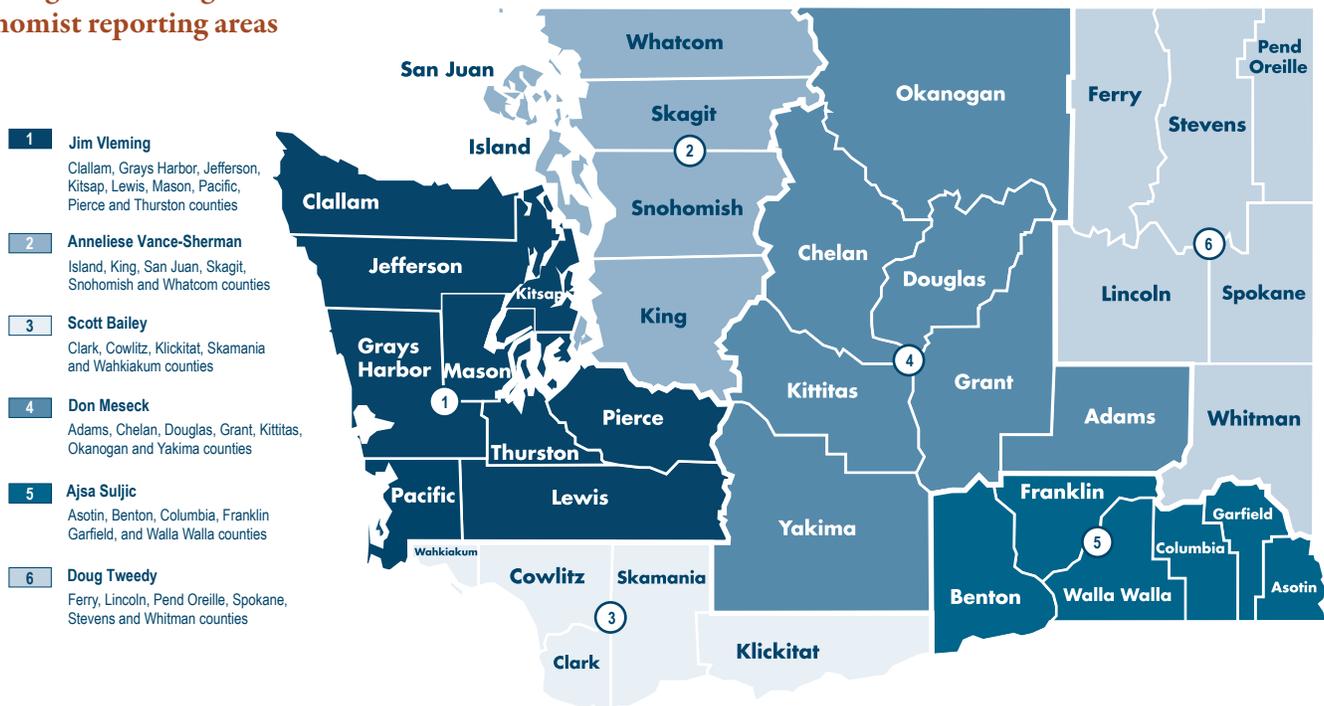
Ajsa Suljic
Ajsa.suljic@esd.wa.gov
 509-734-5928

Doug Tweedy
dtweedy@esd.wa.gov
 509-434-5278

Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D.
Anneliese.vancesherman@esd.wa.gov
 425-258-6315

Jim Vleming
Jim.vleming@esd.wa.gov
 360-819-3427

Washington state regional labor economist reporting areas



The county level information will be available at 10 a.m., January 25, 2022.

The publication schedule for 2022 is posted at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>.

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