



Washington State

Employment Situation Report for April 2011

From March 2011 to April 2011, Washington state added 5,800 jobs¹ on a seasonally adjusted basis. The private sector grew by 8,300 jobs and the public sector lost 2,500 jobs over the month.

From April 2010 to April 2011, Washington job gains totaled 41,500. The private sector added 49,400 jobs over the year and the public sector lost 7,900 jobs. More than half of the over-the-year gains have been in the 2011 calendar year.

Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2011 dropped to 9.1 percent from March's rate of 9.2 percent. The April 2010 rate was 9.8 percent.

March 2011 revisions: March's preliminary employment gain of 1,100 jobs was revised up to 3,200 jobs. The largest revisions came in construction (1,800); government (1,400); transportation, warehousing and utilities (700); and wholesale trade (400). Employment in professional and business services was revised down 900 jobs. March's preliminary unemployment rate of 9.2 percent remained unchanged.

For more information, contact Dave Wallace at 360-407-4577.

Employment estimates in this report are generated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Due to recent changes in the method BLS uses to produce these data, we expect increased volatility in the estimates.

[Online Glossary](#)

Resident Civilian Labor Force and Unemployment, Seasonally Adjusted

The **civilian labor force** is the total number of people in the work force, 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.

	April 2011 (Preliminary)	March 2011 (Revised)	April 2010 (Revised)	March 2010 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment Rate	9.0%	8.8%	9.8%	9.7%
Washington				
Unemployment Rate	9.1%	9.2%	9.8%	9.9%
Resident Labor Force	3,486,600	3,501,100	3,540,300	3,538,800
Unemployed	317,500	321,700	346,900	351,500
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment Rate	8.7%	8.6%	9.2%	9.2%
Resident Labor Force	1,473,500	1,480,800	1,494,500	1,493,800
Unemployed	128,000	127,800	136,800	137,800

Washington State
Employment Security Department

Labor Market and Economic Analysis

May 2011



Unemployment, Seasonally Adjusted

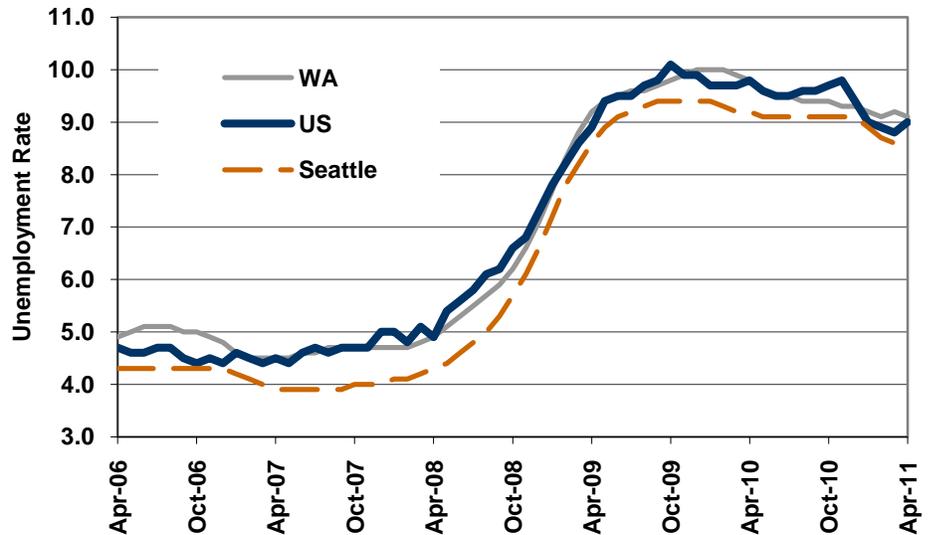
Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2011 dropped to 9.1 percent from March's rate of 9.2 percent. The preliminary March unemployment rate was unchanged. Both the number of employed (-10,300) and unemployed (-4,200) declined in April. However the percentage decrease in the number unemployed was greater than the percentage decrease in the number employed, so the unemployment rate dropped.

The April 2011 unemployment rate is 0.7 percent below the April 2010 rate of 9.8 percent.

April 2011 unemployment rates:

U.S.:	9.0%
Washington:	9.1%
Seattle area:	8.7%

U.S., Washington and Seattle Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted 2006 through 2011



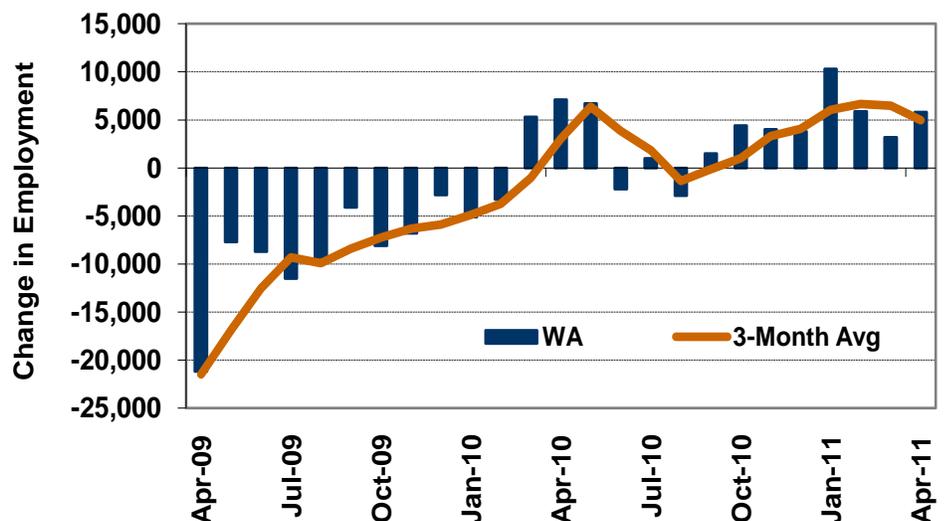
Employment Change and Moving Average, Seasonally Adjusted

Washington state added 5,800 jobs from March 2011 to April 2011, and 41,500 jobs from April 2010 to April 2011.

Recent employment change:

February 2011:	Up 5,900 jobs (revised)
March 2011:	Up 3,200 jobs (revised)
April 2011:	Up 5,800 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly Employment Change and Three-Month Moving Average, Seasonally Adjusted Washington State, April 2009 through April 2011



Industry Employment in Washington, Seasonally Adjusted

Over the Month Employment Change by Industry, Seasonally Adjusted Washington State, March 2011 to April 2011

Total Nonfarm	5,800
Construction	2,400
Professional and Business Services	1,700
Manufacturing	1,200
<i>Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing</i>	500
Retail Trade	900
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	900
Information	900
Education and Health Services	900
Financial Activities	500
Wholesale Trade	200
Mining and Logging	0
Leisure and Hospitality	-500
Other Services	-800
Government	-2,500

- Construction had a good month, up 2,400 jobs.
- Manufacturing added 1,200 jobs with the main drivers being aerospace (500 jobs) and food manufacturing (600 jobs).
- Almost all of the gains in professional and business services came from two industries: employment services (1,000 jobs) and computer systems design and related services (600 jobs).
- Increases in the education and health services sector were driven by gains in the ambulatory health care services industry and nursing and residential care facilities industry.
- Losses in the leisure and hospitality industry were largely due to declines in the arts, entertainment and recreation industry and accommodation industry. Both industries suffered declines of 900 jobs over the month.
- All levels of government shed jobs in April: federal (-1,100), state (-800), local (-600).

Over the Year Employment Change by Industry, Seasonally Adjusted Washington State, April 2010 to April 2011

Total Nonfarm	41,500
Professional and Business Services	25,500
Education and Health Services	6,300
Manufacturing	5,900
<i>Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing</i>	3,100
Leisure and Hospitality	4,200
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	3,000
Retail Trade	2,900
Wholesale Trade	2,000
Information	700
Financial Activities	200
Mining and Logging	100
Construction	-600
Other Services	-800
Government	-7,900

- Over the year, job growth was slightly higher among service industries (up 1.5 percent) than among goods producers (up 1.3 percent).
- More than half of the annual payroll gains came from the professional and business services sector (25,500 jobs).
- Manufacturing added nearly 6,000 jobs, a strong turnaround from performance during the recession.
- Annual losses in construction are drastically down. From April 2010 to April 2011 the sector only lost 600 jobs.
- Government was the only sector to suffer significant annual losses.

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. Smoothing out the large, regular fluctuations makes it possible to see unusual changes in unemployment levels.

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

Actual change is the employment change over the month.

Seasonally adjusted change is change in employment taking into account the normal seasonal movement.

Normal, Actual and Seasonally Adjusted Employment Washington State, April 2011

	Normal Seasonal Change	Actual Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
Total Nonfarm	19,400	25,200	5,800
Total Private	14,700	23,000	8,300
Mining and Logging	0	0	0
Construction	2,400	4,800	2,400
Manufacturing	300	1,500	1,200
Wholesale Trade	300	500	200
Retail Trade	1,100	2,000	900
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	600	1,500	900
Information	-800	100	900
Financial Activities	400	900	500
Professional and Business Services	2,700	4,400	1,700
Education and Health Services	1,100	2,000	900
Leisure and Hospitality	6,000	5,500	-500
Other Services	500	-300	-800
Government	4,700	2,200	-2,500

Quarterly Benchmarking

Benchmarking is a process that replaces employment estimates with the actual number of job gains or losses. Economists estimate monthly job gains and losses based on a survey of employers. Employment estimates are benchmarked quarterly using information from employer tax records.

Benchmarked employment data is now available for the quarter ending December 2010. Employment estimates for April 2011 were based on this new data.

Based on benchmarked December 2010 data:

- Washington state added 16,900 more jobs in December 2010 than originally estimated. Most of these jobs were in service-providing industries.
- The actual number of jobs in some sectors was less than initially estimated. Notable downward revisions were in the financial activities sector (-2,400 jobs); the wholesale sector (-2,300 jobs); the education and health services sector (-1,600 jobs in the education services industry); and the professional and business services sector (-1,200 jobs in the employment services industry).
- Significant upward revisions in the number of jobs were in the professional and business services sector (up 3,700 jobs); the government sector (up 3,200 jobs in the state government education industry); the leisure and hospitality sector (up 2,400 in the arts, entertainment and recreation industry); the construction sector (up 3,000 jobs); and the transportation, warehousing and utilities sector (up 2,300 jobs).

Each time employment estimates are benchmarked, estimates for subsequent months are recalculated. Based on benchmarked December 2010 data, employment estimates for January, February and March 2011 have been recalculated.

Quarterly Benchmarked Industry Employment Washington State, December 2010

	Revised Employment Change
Total Nonfarm	16,900
Professional and Business Services	3,700
Government	3,700
Leisure and Hospitality	3,100
Construction	3,000
Retail Trade	2,700
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,300
Other Services	2,300
Manufacturing	1,300
Mining and Logging	200
Education and Health Services	-200
Information	-500
Wholesale Trade	-2,300
Financial Activities	-2,400

Contacts

Greg Weeks, Ph.D., *Director*
Labor Market and
Economic Analysis
360-407-4500

Dave Wallace
Acting Chief Economist
dbwallace@esd.wa.gov
360-407-4577

Economists:

Greg Morgan
grmorgan@esd.wa.gov
360-407-4576

Alex Roubinchtein, Ph.D.
aroubinchtein@esd.wa.gov
360-407-4581

Chris Thomas
cthomas@esd.wa.gov
360-407-4582

Keyi Lu
klu@esd.wa.gov
360-407-4579

Washington State Employment Situation Report is designed to provide an accurate, up-to-date portrayal of Washington's economic vitality as it is reflected through our labor market data.

Regional Labor Economists:

Scott Bailey, *Southwest Washington*
scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov
360-735-4995

Mark Berreth, *N. Central Washington*
mberreth@esd.wa.gov
509-665-3737

Reinhold Groepler, Ph.D.,
N.W. Washington
rgroepler@esd.wa.gov
360-676-3253

Arum Kone, *Eastern Washington*
akone@esd.wa.gov
509-527-1844

Don Meseck, *S. Central Washington*
dmeseck@esd.wa.gov
509-963-2606

Desiree Phair, *King County*
dphair@esd.wa.gov
206-448-0474 ext. 3073

Elizabeth Scott, Ph.D.,
Olympic Consortium
escott@esd.wa.gov
360-337-4784

Ajsa Suljic, *Benton-Franklin*
asuljic@esd.wa.gov
509-734-5928

Paul Turek, Ph.D., *Pierce*
pturek@esd.wa.gov
253-593-7336

Doug Tweedy, *Spokane*
dtweedy@esd.wa.gov
509-532-3188

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

Jim Vleming, *Pacific Mountain*
jvleming@esd.wa.gov
360-407-4584

¹ Most of the employment numbers discussed in this report refer to jobs, not persons. 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.

Note: Due to changes in the processing of the monthly employment data by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the county level information will be available at 10 a.m., May 24, 2011. The publication schedule for 2011 can be found at: www.workforceexplorer.com/article.asp?ARTICLEID=517&PAGEID=&SUBID=.

The Employment Security Department is an equal-opportunity employer and provider of programs and services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities.