

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](#)

# Washington State

## Employment Situation Report for May 2011

From April 2011 to May 2011, Washington state lost 700 jobs<sup>1</sup> on a seasonally adjusted basis. The private sector was down 900 jobs and the public sector added 200 jobs over the month.

From May 2010 to May 2011, Washington job gains totaled 33,300. The private sector added 49,400 jobs over the year and the public sector lost 16,100 jobs. More than 70 percent of the annual gains have occurred in the 2011 calendar year.

Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May 2011 fell to 9.1 percent from April's revised rate of 9.2 percent. The May 2010 rate was 9.6 percent.

**April 2011 revisions:** April's preliminary employment gain of 5,800 jobs was revised down to a gain of 4,700 jobs. The largest downward revisions came from the food manufacturing industry (-600 jobs) and the arts, entertainment and recreation industry (-500 jobs). The largest upward revisions came from the federal government (+900 jobs) and state government education (+700 jobs). April's preliminary unemployment rate of 9.1 percent was upwardly revised to 9.2.

For more information, call Acting Chief Economist Dave Wallace at 360-407-4577.

### Resident Civilian Labor Force and Unemployment, Seasonally Adjusted

The **resident 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.

	May 2011 (Preliminary)	April 2011 (Revised)	May 2010 (Revised)	April 2010 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment Rate	9.1%	9.0%	9.6%	9.8%
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment Rate	9.1%	9.2%	9.6%	9.8%
Resident Labor Force	3,483,400	3,488,400	3,537,500	3,540,300
Unemployed	316,900	319,400	341,300	346,900
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment Rate	8.6%	8.7%	9.1%	9.2%
Resident Labor Force	1,468,200	1,474,200	1,494,300	1,494,500
Unemployed	126,600	128,800	136,000	136,800

Washington State  
Employment Security Department

Labor Market and Economic Analysis

June 2011



## Unemployment, Seasonally Adjusted

Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2011 fell to 9.1 percent from April's revised rate of 9.2 percent. The number of unemployed and the number of employed both declined by about 2,500. However, the percentage decline in the unemployed was much greater than the percentage decline in the employed, pushing down the overall unemployment rate.

The May 2011 unemployment rate is 0.5 percent below the May 2010 rate of 9.6 percent.

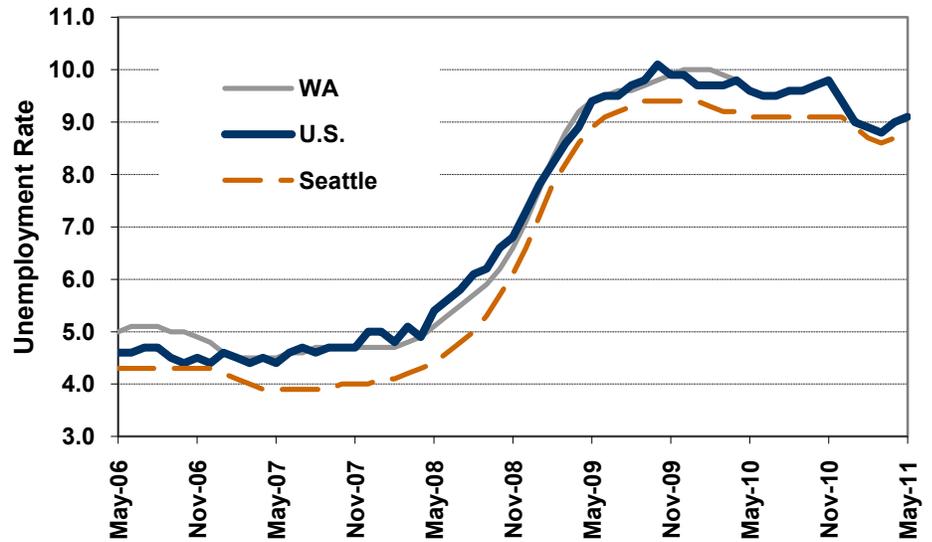
May 2011 unemployment rates:

U.S.: 9.1%

Washington: 9.1%

Seattle area: 8.6%

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



## Employment Change and Moving Average, Seasonally Adjusted

Washington state lost 700 jobs from April 2011 to May 2011 and added 33,300 jobs from May 2010 to May 2011.

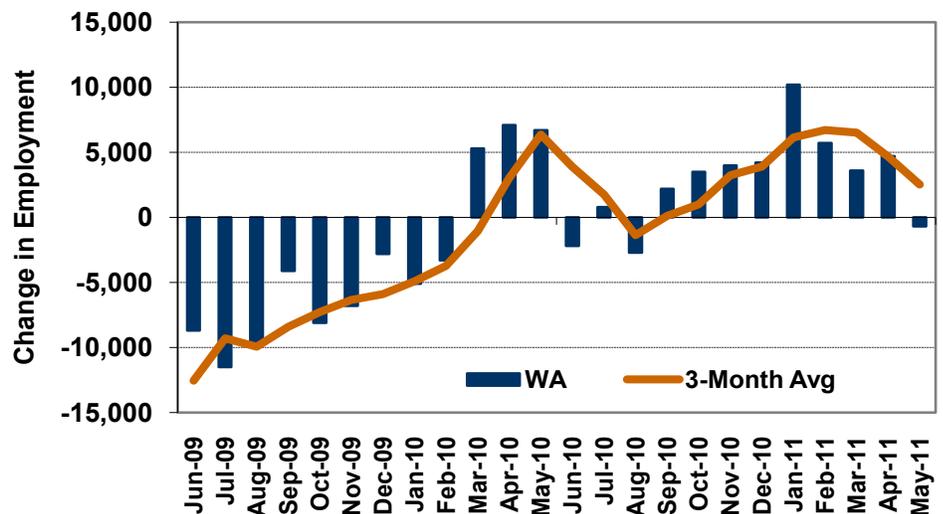
Recent employment change:

March 2011: Up 3,600 jobs (revised)

April 2011: Up 4,700 jobs (revised)

May 2011: Down 700 jobs (preliminary)

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



## Industry Employment in Washington, Seasonally Adjusted

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

<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>-700</b>
Leisure and Hospitality	3,200
Professional and Business Services	900
Construction	700
Government	200
Other Services	100
Mining and Logging	0
Information	-100
Manufacturing	-200
<i>Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Education and Health Services	-300
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-600
Financial Activities	-900
Retail Trade	-1,600
Wholesale Trade	-2,100

- It was a very good month for the leisure and hospitality sector, up 3,200 jobs. Growth largely came from the food services and drinking places industry, which added 2,900 jobs.
- Construction grew by 700 jobs. It was the third month out of the last four to see growth in construction.
- The wholesale trade sector lost more jobs (-2,100) over the month than any other sector.
- Retail trade lost 1,600 jobs, with the bulk coming from the general merchandise stores industry (-1,000 jobs).
- The employment services industry lost 500 jobs, making it the first month since August 2010 to see job declines.
- Durable goods manufacturing was up 1,500 jobs, driven by a jump of 1,000 jobs in aerospace.
- The uptick in public sector employment came from the federal level (+100) and state government education (+300 jobs).

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

<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>33,300</b>
Professional and Business Services	25,100
Leisure and Hospitality	8,500
Education and Health Services	6,200
Manufacturing	4,800
<i>Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing</i>	<i>4,500</i>
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,200
Retail Trade	1,400
Information	900
Construction	500
Wholesale Trade	500
Mining and Logging	100
Financial Activities	0
Other Services	-800
Government	-16,100

- Over the year, Washington employment grew by 1.2 percent, led by a 2.2 percent gain in the private sector.
- Job growth was slightly higher among goods-producing industries (+1.3 percent) than among service-providing industries (+1.2 percent).
- Three-quarters of the annual payroll gains came from the professional and business services sector (+25,100 jobs).
- Between May 2010 and May 2011, aerospace added 4,500 jobs, accounting for all but 300 of the annual job growth in the manufacturing sector.
- For the first time since the recession, construction posted net annual gains (+500 jobs).
- Government was the only sector to suffer significant annual losses. However, it should be remembered that May 2010 was the highpoint of Census employment, so 12-month comparisons include the fall from peak employment.

## 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

Industry Sector	Normal Seasonal Change	Actual Change	Seasonally Adjusted Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>17,900</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>-700</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>-900</b>
Mining and Logging	300	300	0
Construction	3,200	3,900	700
Manufacturing	700	500	-200
Wholesale Trade	900	-1,200	-2,100
Retail Trade	3,300	1,700	-1,600
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	500	-100	-600
Information	900	800	-100
Financial Activities	400	-500	-900
Professional and Business Services	-800	100	900
Education and Health Services	600	300	-300
Leisure and Hospitality	5,800	9,000	3,200
Other Services	600	700	100
Government	1,500	1,700	200

- Leisure and hospitality traditionally shows the most seasonal growth, typically up by 5,800 jobs. Since the actual job growth came in at 9,000 jobs, the seasonally adjusted change was a gain of 3,200 jobs.
- The professional and business services sector usually experiences a decline of 800 jobs in May. This year the sector managed to grow by 100 jobs, amounting to seasonally adjusted growth of 900.

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**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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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., June 21, 2011. The publication schedule for 2011 can be found at: [www.workforceexplorer.com/article.asp?ARTICLEID=517&PAGEID=&SUBID=](http://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 individuals with disabilities.