



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

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

Monthly Employment Report

for March 2012

Preliminary estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show that Washington state added 3,300 jobs from February to March 2012, on a seasonally adjusted basis. BLS estimates the private sector increased by 2,000 jobs over the month, and the public sector gained an estimated 1,300 jobs. Since September 2010, the state has had only one month of job losses.

BLS estimates from March 2011 to March 2012 show a total gain of 58,300 jobs for the state. Over the year, the private sector added an estimated 62,800 jobs, and the public sector lost an estimated 4,500 jobs.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2012 remained at 8.3 percent. The preliminary February 2012 unemployment rate of 8.2 percent was upwardly revised to 8.3 percent. The March 2011 rate was 9.4 percent.

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision.

February 2012 jobs revisions: February's preliminary gain of 4,200 jobs was revised upward to a gain of 4,800 jobs. The industry sectors with the biggest positive revisions were construction (600 jobs higher), education and health services (500 jobs higher) and wholesale trade (400 jobs higher). The sectors with the biggest downward revisions were leisure and hospitality (800 jobs lower), professional and business services (800 jobs lower) and financial activities (200 jobs lower).

For more information, call 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.

	March 2012 (Preliminary)	February 2012 (Revised)	March 2011 (Revised)	February 2011 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate	8.2%	8.3%	8.9%	9.0%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	8.3%	8.3%	9.4%	9.5%
Resident labor force	3,502,300	3,498,100	3,487,500	3,491,100
Unemployed	289,400	289,900	327,200	330,200
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	7.3%	7.4%	8.7%	8.9%
Resident labor force	1,485,900	1,489,700	1,483,100	1,484,100
Unemployed	108,500	110,800	129,200	131,500

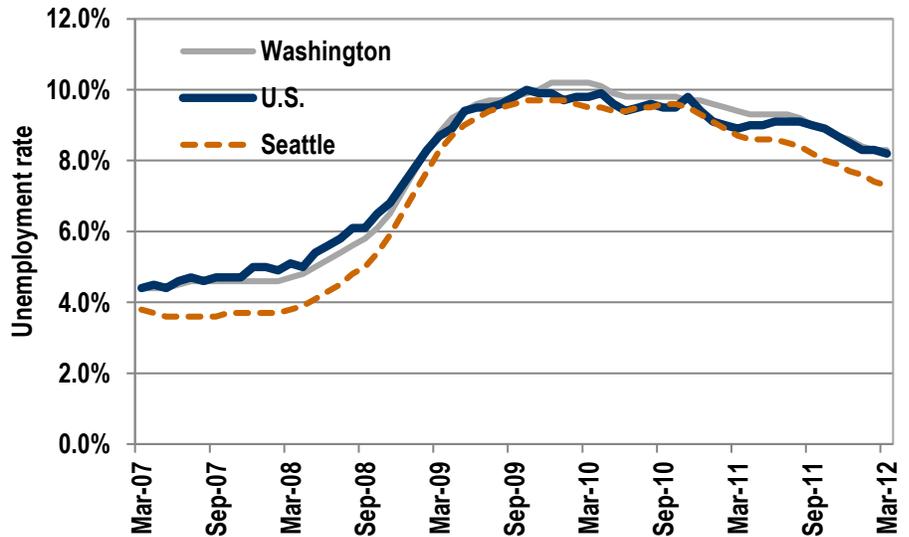
Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

Based on a BLS/U.S. Census Bureau survey of households, Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2012 remained at 8.3 percent. The preliminary February unemployment rate of 8.2 was revised up to 8.3 percent.

The BLS estimates the number of jobless people who were actively seeking work decreased by 500. At the same time, the number of employed workers rose by an estimated 4,700. Overall, this amounted to an increase of 4,200 people in the labor force.

The preliminary March 2012 unemployment rate is 1.1 percentage points below the March 2011 rate of 9.4 percent.

U.S., Washington and Seattle unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
March 2007 through March 2012
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



March 2012 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary): 8.2%
Washington (preliminary): 8.3%
Seattle area (preliminary): 7.3%

Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state gained 3,300 jobs from February 2012 to March 2012 and added 58,300 jobs from March 2011 to March 2012.

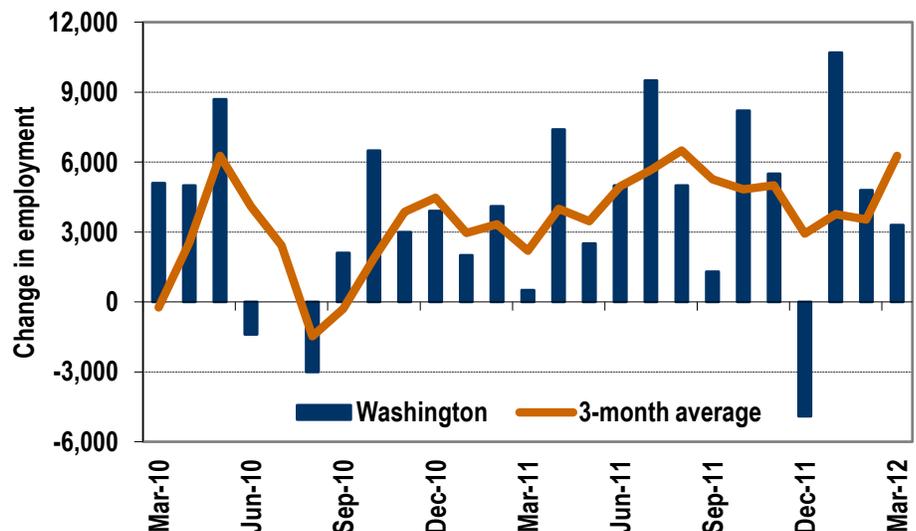
Recent employment change

January 2011:
Up 10,700 jobs (revised)

February 2012:
Up 4,800 jobs (revised)

March 2012:
Up 3,300 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change and three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, March 2010 through March 2012
Source: Employment Security Dept./LMEA; Bureau of Labor Statistics



Employment and the unemployment since the start of the recession, seasonally adjusted

February 2008 (start of recent employment recession in Washington state):

Nonfarm employment: 2,973,400
Unemployment rate: 4.6%

February 2010 (end of recent employment recession in Washington state):

Nonfarm employment: 2,771,200
Unemployment rate: 10.2%

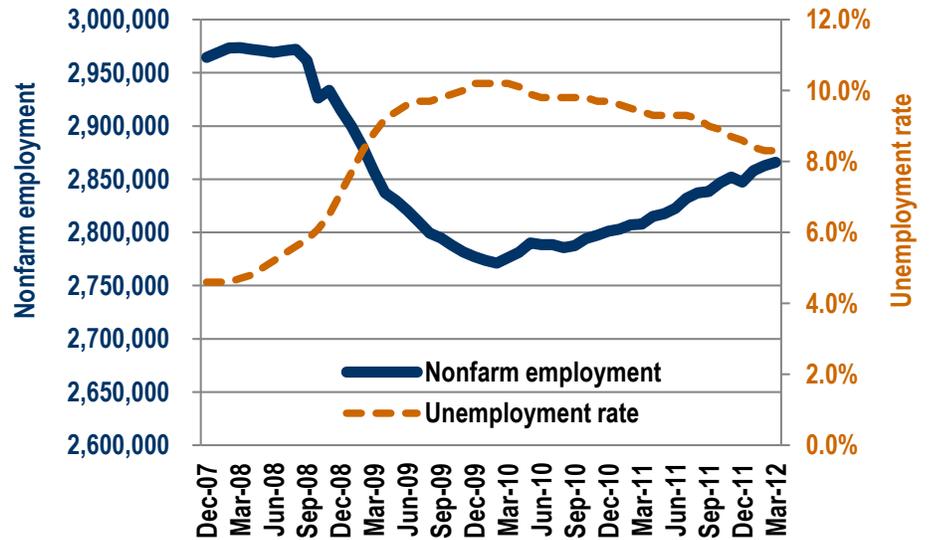
March 2012 (preliminary):

Nonfarm employment: 2,866,000
Unemployment rate: 8.3%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment since the start of the recession, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, December 2007 through March 2012

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted

One-month employment change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses, Washington state gained an estimated 3,300 jobs over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, nine sectors expanded in March, two contracted and two remained flat.
- The state has now added jobs three months in a row and in 18 of the last 19 months.
- The private sector was up an estimated 2,000 jobs, and government was up by an estimated 1,300 jobs.
- Government led all other sectors with an estimated gain of 1,300 jobs. Federal government lost 300 jobs, state government added 400 jobs (a gain of 700 education jobs and a loss of 300 other state jobs) and local government gained 1,200 jobs (mostly in K-12 education).
- Retail trade had a strong month, up by an estimated 1,200 jobs. Growth was driven by 1,100 jobs added in general merchandise stores and another 600 jobs added in motor-vehicle and parts dealers.
- Education and health services lost more jobs than any sector, down an estimated 1,600. Losses were shared equally between the education and healthcare components (each down 800 jobs).
- Transportation, warehousing and utilities (down an estimated 1,500) lost the second-most jobs among all sectors. Losses were concentrated in the transportation side of the ledger.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, February 2012 to March 2012
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Total nonfarm	3,300
Government	1,300
Retail trade	1,200
Manufacturing	1,000
<i>Aerospace product and parts manufacturing</i>	400
Financial activities	1,000
Other services	800
Construction	500
Wholesale trade	400
Professional and business services	100
Leisure and hospitality	100
Mining and logging	0
Information	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-1,500
Education and health services	-1,600

Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted, continued

Year-over-year employment change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses, Washington state added an estimated 58,300 jobs over the year, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, 10 sectors grew and three sectors contracted.
- Private-sector employment grew by 2.8 percent, adding an estimated 62,800 jobs.
- Job growth was substantially higher among goods-producing industries (up 4.2 percent) than among service-providing industries (up 1.7 percent).
- Manufacturing led all sectors in annual job growth, adding an estimated 14,600 jobs. The aerospace industry accounted for 9,400 of those jobs.
- Other sectors with strong growth over the year were leisure and hospitality (up an estimated 11,800 jobs) and education and health services (up an estimated 9,600 jobs).
- Government continues to lead all sectors in annual losses, down an estimated 4,500 jobs. State government lost 2,500 jobs over the year, federal lost 1,400 jobs and local government lost 600 jobs.

Estimated year-over-year employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, March 2011 to March 2012

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Total nonfarm	58,300
Manufacturing	14,600
<i>Aerospace product and parts manufacturing</i>	9,400
Leisure and hospitality	11,800
Education and health services	9,600
Wholesale trade	7,000
Retail trade	6,600
Professional and business services	6,400
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	3,200
Construction	2,700
Financial activities	700
Other services	700
Information	-200
Mining and logging	-300
Government	-4,500

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 history.

Estimated change is the employment change over the month based on BLS survey data.

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

Normal, estimated and seasonally adjusted employment
Washington state, March 2012
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry sector	Normal seasonal change	Actual change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	11,600	14,900	3,300
Total private	10,400	12,400	2,000
Leisure and hospitality	3,600	3,700	100
Construction	2,000	2,500	500
Professional and business services	1,800	1,900	100
Government	1,200	2,500	1,300
Education and health services	1,200	-400	-1,600
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,000	-500	-1,500
Wholesale trade	400	800	400
Retail trade	300	1,500	1,200
Financial activities	300	1,300	1,000
Other services	100	900	800
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Manufacturing	-100	900	1,000
Information	-200	-200	0

Based on historical patterns, Washington state typically gains 11,600 jobs between February and March. This year, the state gained an estimated 14,900 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 3,300 jobs.

- The leisure and hospitality sector typically adds the most jobs in March (3,600 jobs). In March 2012, the sector had an estimated gain of 3,700 amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 100 jobs.
- The information sector typically loses 200 jobs in March, more than any other sector. The unadjusted job loss for information last month was estimated at 200 jobs, meaning there was no change on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The education and health services sector saw the largest divergence from historical trends in March. Usually, the sector gains 1,200 jobs. However, this year it saw a loss of 400 jobs, leading to a seasonally adjusted loss of 1,600 jobs.

Total agricultural employment summary, not seasonally adjusted

Statewide agricultural employment increased 3.5 percent from February to March.

Over the year, statewide agricultural employment increased 6.4 percent, driven largely by an increase in apple pruning.

All six of the state's agricultural reporting areas had increases in total agricultural employment over the year. The largest increase (1,630 jobs) was in the North Central reporting area.

Agricultural employment estimates are developed by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis branch of the Employment Security Department. Estimates are based on a monthly survey of agricultural producers conducted by Employment Security.

For agricultural reporting, we divide the state into six areas based on geography and types of agricultural activity. View a map of Washington's agricultural reporting areas at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/industry-reports/agricultural-employment-and-wage-report/map-of-washingtons-agricultural-areas>.

Total agricultural employment
Washington state, March 2012
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA

	Mar. 2012 (Prel.)	Feb. 2012 (Rev.)	Mar. 2011 (Rev.)	Change		Percent change	
				Feb. 11 - Mar. 12	Mar. 11 - Mar. 12	Feb. 11 - Mar. 12	Mar. 11 - Mar. 12
Statewide	66,680	64,430	62,650	2,250	4,030	3.5%	6.4%
Western	10,290	9,650	9,680	650	610	6.6%	6.3%
South Central	20,150	19,370	20,140	780	10	4.0%	0.0%
North Central	14,280	14,450	12,650	-170	1,630	-1.2%	12.9%
Columbia Basin	8,570	8,520	7,950	50	620	0.6%	7.8%
South Eastern	11,940	11,130	10,890	810	1,050	7.3%	9.6%
Eastern	1,450	1,310	1,340	140	110	10.7%	8.2%

Totals may not add due to rounding. We report only agricultural employment covered by unemployment insurance, not adjusted for multiple jobholders.

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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., Apr. 24, 2012. The publication schedule for 2012 can be found at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/economic-reports/monthly-employment-report>.

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