

Monthly Employment Report

for September 2012



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.

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 1,200 jobs from August 2012 to September 2012. BLS estimates the private sector declined by 1,500 over the month and the public sector gained 2,700 jobs.

BLS estimates from September 2011 to September 2012 show a total job gain of 58,500 for the state. During the 12-month period, private employment is estimated to have increased by 53,900, while public sector employment increased by 4,600 jobs.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September 2012 fell to 8.5 percent. The estimated August 2012 unemployment rate of 8.6 percent was unchanged. The September 2011 unemployment rate was 9.0 percent.

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

September 2012 jobs revisions: The preliminary estimated employment loss of 1,100 in August was revised to a gain of 2,500.

For more information, call Joe Elling at 360-407-4531.

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.

	September 2012 (Preliminary)	August 2012 (Revised)	September 2011 (Revised)	August 2011 (Revised)
United States				
Unemployment rate <i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	7.8%	8.1%	9.0%	9.1%
Washington				
Unemployment rate	8.5%	8.6%	9.0%	9.2%
Resident labor force	3,495,500	3,497,900	3,483,500	3,479,700
Unemployed	296,400	302,100	315,100	319,600
Seattle/Bellevue/Everett				
Unemployment rate	7.6%	7.8%	8.2%	8.4%
Resident labor force	1,511,500	1,506,800	1,497,700	1,494,500
Unemployed	114,200	116,900	122,700	124,900

Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

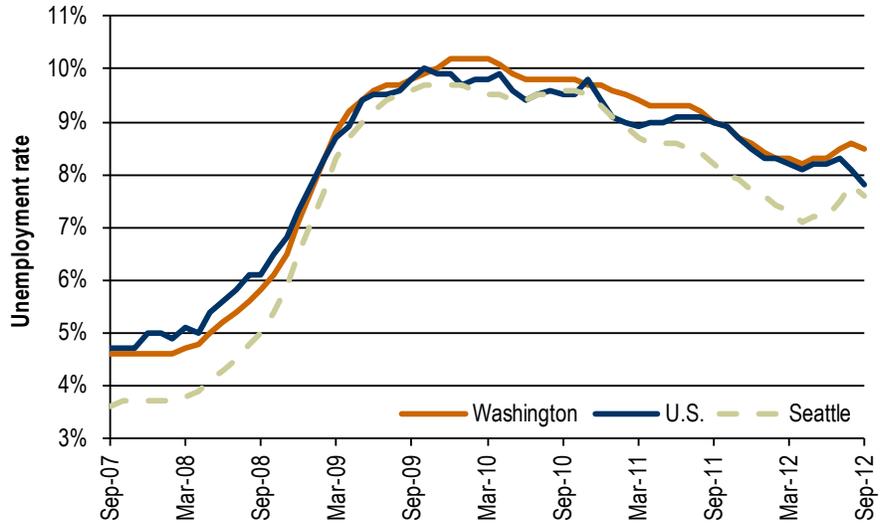
The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September 2012 was 8.5 percent. The preliminary August unemployment rate of 8.6 percent was unchanged.

According to BLS estimates, the number of jobless people who were actively seeking work fell by 5,700 in September compared to August. At the same time, the number of employed workers rose by an estimated 3,300. Overall, this amounted to a drop of 2,400 people in the labor force.

The preliminary September 2012 unemployment rate is 0.5 percentage points below the September 2011 rate of 9.0 percent.

U.S., Washington and Seattle unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
September 2007 through September 2012

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



September 2012 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 7.8%
Washington (preliminary) 8.5%
Seattle area (preliminary) 7.6%

Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state employment increased by 1,200 jobs from August 2012 to September 2012 and 58,500 jobs from September 2011 to September 2012.

Recent employment change

July 2012: up 5,400 jobs (revised)

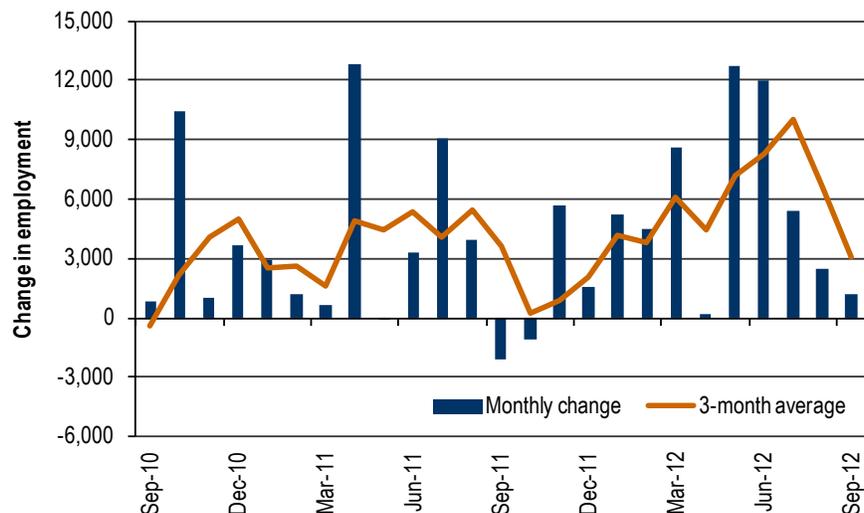
August 2012: up 2,500 jobs (revised)

September 2012: up 1,200 jobs (preliminary)

Monthly employment change and three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, September 2010 through September 2012

Source: Employment Security Dept./LMEA; U.S. 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)

Nonfarm employment: 2,976,000
Unemployment rate: 4.6%

February 2010 (end of recent employment recession in Washington)

Nonfarm employment: 2,770,300
Unemployment rate: 10.2%

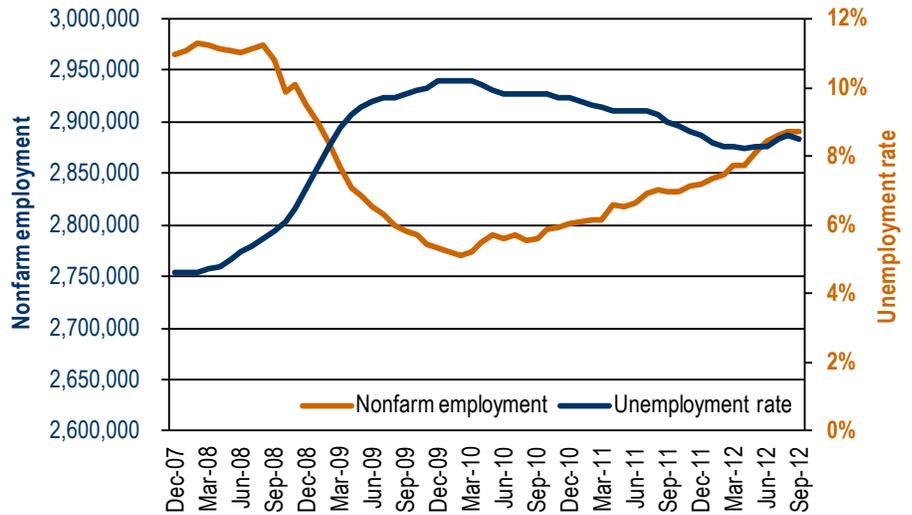
September 2012 (preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 2,891,200
Unemployment rate: 8.5%

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

Washington state, December 2007 through September 2012

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted

One-month employment change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses, Washington gained an estimated 1,200 jobs, net, over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis:

- Overall, three industries expanded in September, six contracted and no change in two.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have fallen by 1,500, while government employment rose by 2,700.
- Employment in manufacturing fell by 1,300 jobs. Aerospace product and parts manufacturing employment was up 1,100.
- Nondurable goods manufacturing employment dropped 1,800 with 1,200 of that in food processing.
- Retail trade employment fell by 1,100. Employment in motor vehicles and parts dealers and food and beverage stores each fell by 400.
- Wholesale trade employment declined by 900 over the month. Merchant wholesaler employment in nondurable goods was down by 1,300 jobs, while employment in merchant wholesalers of durable goods and electronic markets and agents and brokers each increased by 200.
- Education and health services employment dropped by 300. The number of education-based jobs was up 200 while health services employment fell by 500.
- State government was down by an estimated 800 jobs over the month. Local government employment was up 3,000, Federal government employment was up 500.

Estimated one-month employment change

by industry, seasonally adjusted

Washington state, August 2012 to September 2012

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Total nonfarm	1,200
Leisure and hospitality	3,900
Government	2,700
Professional and business services	800
Mining and logging	0
Construction	0
Information	-300
Education and health services	-300
Financial activities	-500
Wholesale Trade	-900
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	-900
Other services	-900
Retail trade	-1,100
Manufacturing	-1,300

Industry employment in Washington, seasonally adjusted, continued

Year-over-year change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses, Washington added an estimated 58,500 jobs over the year:

- Overall, 11 sectors grew, one sector contracted and another was unchanged.
- Private-sector employment rose 2.4 percent, up an estimated 53,900 jobs.
- Public-sector employment increased 0.9 percent, a net gain of 4,600 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment is estimated to have grown by 11,700 from September 2011 to September 2012. Durable goods manufacturers added 10,700 jobs with 7,800 of the increase in aerospace product and parts manufacturing. Nondurable goods manufacturers added 1,000 jobs.
- Professional and business services added an estimated 11,100 jobs over the last twelve months. Within the sector, administrative and support services grew by 8,500 jobs, accounting and bookkeeping services by 2,200 jobs and computer systems design and related services by 2,100 jobs.
- Retail trade grew by an estimated 5,400 jobs.
- Total government employment rose by 4,600. Local government added 6,100 jobs, state government employment added 100 jobs and federal government employment fell 1,600.

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

Washington state, September 2011 to September 2012

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Total nonfarm	58,500
Manufacturing	11,700
Professional and business services	11,100
Leisure and hospitality	9,800
Construction	4,700
Government	4,600
Retail trade	4,500
Wholesale trade	3,600
Financial activities	2,900
Other services	2,800
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,500
Education and health services	1,500
Mining and logging	0
Information	-200

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 taking into account the normal seasonal movement.

Normal, estimated and seasonally adjusted employment
Washington state, September 2012
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry sector	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
Total nonfarm	10,500	11,700	1,200
Government	10,400	13,100	2,700
Education and health services	5,100	4,800	-300
Manufacturing	1,500	200	-1,300
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	800	-100	-900
Construction	0	0	0
Mining and logging	0	0	0
Wholesale trade	-100	-1,000	-900
Professional and business services	-600	200	800
Financial activities	-700	-1,200	-500
Information	-1,000	-1,300	-300
Other services	-1,300	-2,200	-900
Retail trade	-1,400	-2,500	-1,100
Leisure and hospitality	-2,200	1,700	3,900

Based on historical patterns, Washington typically rises by 10,500 jobs from August to September. This year, the state had an estimated gain of 11,700 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 1,200 jobs.

- Government employment increased by 13,100 relative to the normal seasonal increase of 10,400. On a seasonally adjusted basis it was up 2,700.
- The leisure and hospitality industry registered a seasonally adjusted gain of 3,900 jobs as the actual increase was 1,700 relative to a typical seasonal decline of 2,200 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment rose by 200 in September. Typically the September increase is 1,500. This mix yielded a seasonally adjusted drop of 1,300 jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted retail trade employment dropped by 1,100 as actual employment fell by 2,500 compared to the normal seasonal decline of 1,400.

Total agricultural employment summary, not seasonally adjusted

Statewide from August to September agricultural employment decreased 1.8 percent.

Year-over-year statewide, agricultural employment increased 10.1 percent. This was primarily due to a 22.8 percent increase in the apple harvest.

Regionally over the past year, all six areas had increases in total agricultural employment. The largest increase (4,700 jobs) was in the South Central reporting area. Eastern reporting area had the smallest increase (80 jobs).

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, September 2012 Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA

	Sept. '12 Preliminary	Aug. '12 Revised	Sept. '11 Revised	Change Aug. '11- Sept. '12	Sept. '11 - Sept. '12	Percent change Aug. '12 - Sept. '12	Sept. '11 - Sept. '12
State	117,750	115,680	106,930	2,070	10,820	1.8%	10.1%
Western	12,680	14,650	12,530	-1,970	150	-13.4%	1.2%
South Central	39,740	37,270	35,040	2,470	4,700	6.6%	13.4%
North Central	27,370	29,780	24,820	-2,410	2,550	-8.1%	10.3%
Columbia Basin	16,290	13,500	14,590	2,790	1,700	20.7%	11.7%
South Eastern	19,580	18,330	17,940	1,250	1,640	6.8%	9.1%
Eastern	2,090	2,150	2,010	-60	80	-2.8%	4.0%

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., October 23, 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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