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.

# Monthly Employment Report

## for November 2012

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 1,600 from October 2012 to November 2012. BLS estimates the private sector added 2,400 jobs over the month and the public sector lost 800 jobs.

BLS estimates from November 2011 to November 2012 show a total non-seasonally adjusted job gain of 46,200 for the state. Over the year the private sector added 46,500 jobs while the public sector lost an estimated 300 jobs.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2012 fell to 7.8 percent. The estimated October 2012 unemployment rate of 8.2 percent was unchanged. The November 2011 unemployment rate was 8.7 percent.

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

October 2012 jobs revisions: October's preliminary estimated gain of 6,700 jobs was revised to a gain of 8,100 jobs.

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.

Resident civilian labor force and unemployment, seasonally adjusted
United States and Washington state, October and November, 2011 and 2012
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

| | November 2012 (Preliminary) | October 2012 (Revised) | November 2011 (Revised) | October 2011 (Revised) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **United States** | | | | |
| Unemployment rate | | | | |
| *Seasonally adjusted* | 7.7% | 7.9% | 8.7% | 8.9% |
| **Washington** | | | | |
| Unemployment rate | 7.8% | 8.2% | 8.7% | 8.9% |
| Resident labor force | 3,470,300 | 3,483,900 | 3,489,800 | 3,487,100 |
| Unemployed | 269,700 | 285,900 | 304,700 | 309,900 |
| **Seattle/Bellevue/Everett** | | | | |
| Unemployment rate | 6.9% | 7.3% | 7.9% | 8.0% |
| Resident labor force | 1,500,000 | 1,505,000 | 1,501,400 | 1,500,000 |
| Unemployed | 102,900 | 109,700 | 118,100 | 120,400 |

**Washington State Employment Security Department**
Labor Market and Economic Analysis
December 2012

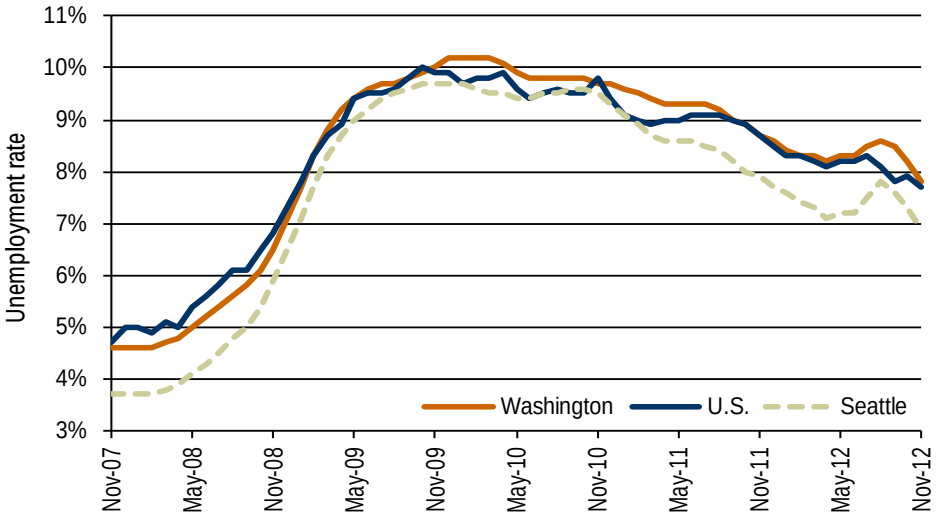
## Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2012 was 7.8 percent. The preliminary October unemployment rate of 8.2 percent was unchanged.

According to BLS estimates, the number of jobless people who were actively seeking work fell by 16,200 in November compared to October. At the same time, the number of employed workers rose by an estimated 2,600. Overall, this amounted to a drop of 13,600 people in the labor force.

The preliminary November 2012 unemployment rate is 0.9 percentage points below the November 2011 rate of 9.0 percent.

U.S., Washington and Seattle unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
November 2007 through November 2012
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics




November 2012 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 7.7%
Washington (preliminary) 7.8%
Seattle area (preliminary) 6.9%

## Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

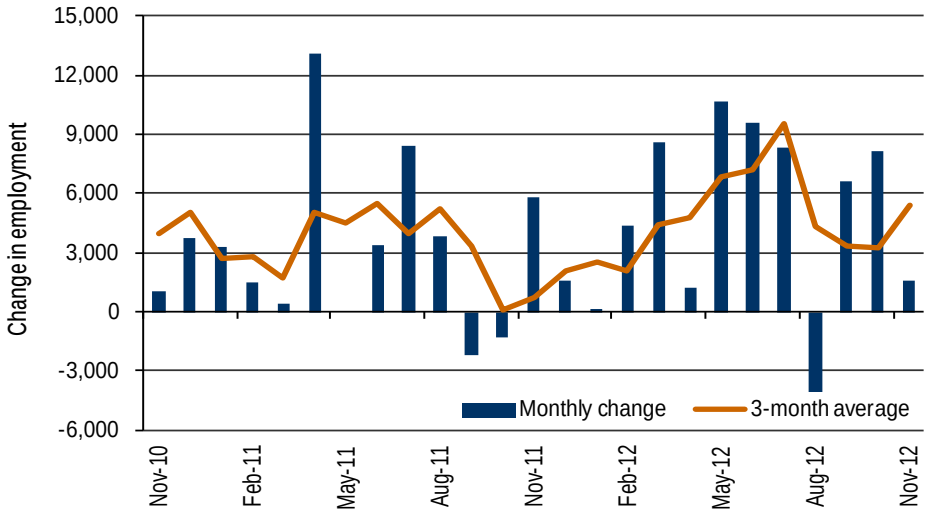
Based on BLS estimates, Washington state employment increased by 1,600 jobs from October 2012 to November 2012.

**Recent employment change**
September 2012: up 6,600 jobs (revised)

October 2012: up 8,100 jobs (revised)

November 2012: up 1,600 jobs (preliminary)

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



## Employment and the unemployment, seasonally adjusted

**February 2008**
**(start of recent employment recession in Washington)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nonfarm employment: | 2,976,500 |
| Unemployment rate: | 4.6% |

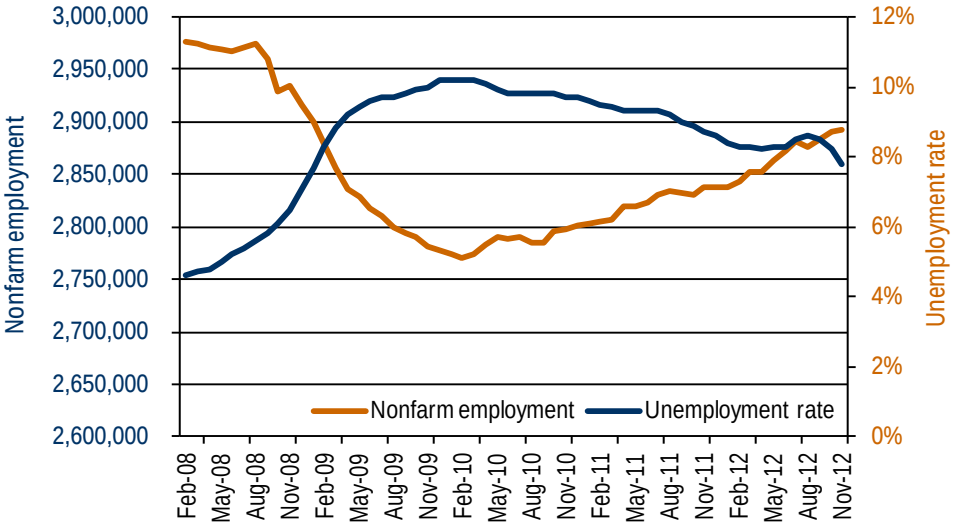
**February 2010**
**(end of recent employment recession in Washington)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nonfarm employment: | 2,770,600 |
| Unemployment rate: | 10.2% |

**November 2012**
**(preliminary)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nonfarm employment: | 2,892,800 |
| Unemployment rate: | 7.8% |

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, February 2008 through November 2012
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



# 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 1,600 jobs, net, over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis

- Overall, eight industries expanded in November, three contracted, one was unchanged and government employment fell.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have increased by 2,400, while government employment fell by 800.
- Retail trade employment rose by 2,500. The biggest gain was in what is classified as other retail trade, which includes online retailers. General merchandise and clothing and accessory retailers added 600 jobs each in November.
- Construction employment increased by 1,400 led by gains of 800 jobs in both heavy and civil engineering and specialty trade contractors.
- The leisure and hospitality industry added 1,200 jobs.
- The number of people employed in professional business services fell by 2,900.
- Employment in financial activities dropped by 1,300. All of the decline was in real estate, renting and leasing.
- All sectors of the wholesale trade industry lost jobs in November. Employment among merchant wholesalers fell by 400 and there was a 600 drop in the electronic markets and agents and brokers sector.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted
Washington state, October 2012 to November 2012
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

| | |
|---|---|
| Total nonfarm | 1,600 |
| Retail trade | 2,500 |
| Construction | 1,400 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 1,200 |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | 800 |
| Education and health services | 600 |
| Other services | 600 |
| Manufacturing | 400 |
| Information | 100 |
| Mining and logging | 0 |
| Government | -800 |
| Wholesale Trade | -1,000 |
| Financial activities | -1,300 |
| Professional and business services | -2,900 |

## Industry employment in Washington, not seasonally adjusted

### Year-over-year change by industry

Based on a BLS survey of businesses and governments, Washington added an estimated 46,200 jobs over the year.

- Overall, nine industries grew, three contracted and government employment declined.
- Private-sector employment rose 2.0 percent, up an estimated 46,500 jobs.
- Public-sector employment declined 0.1 percent, a net loss of 300 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment is estimated to have grown by 10,600 from November 2011 to November 2012. Durable goods manufacturers added 9,300 jobs with 6,000 of the increase in aerospace product and parts manufacturing. Nondurable goods manufacturers added 1,300.
- Employment in construction was up 7,900 with the number of employed in the specialty trade contractor sector up 6,200.
- Retailers added 6,800 jobs from November 2011 to November 2012.

Estimated year-over-year employment change by industry, not seasonally adjusted
Washington state, November 2011 to November 2012
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

| | |
|---|---|
| Total nonfarm | 46,200 |
| Manufacturing | 10,600 |
| Construction | 7,900 |
| Retail trade | 6,800 |
| Professional and business services | 6,400 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 5,700 |
| Education and health services | 4,100 |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | 2,900 |
| Financial activities | 2,000 |
| Other services | 1,100 |
| Information | -200 |
| Government | -300 |
| Mining and logging | -400 |
| Wholesale trade | -400 |

- Total government employment in November 2012 was down by 300 relative to November 2011. Federal government employment fell by 1,500 while state government employment rose by 1,100 and local government employment up by 100. State government education employment was up 1,700 and local government education employment increased by 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. 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, November 2012
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

| | Normal seasonal change | Estimated change | Seasonally adjusted change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total nonfarm | -4,400 | -2,800 | 1,600 |
| Retail trade | 7,800 | 10,300 | 2,500 |
| Government | 4,600 | 3,800 | -800 |
| Education and health services | 800 | 1,400 | 600 |
| Financial activities | 100 | -1,200 | -1,300 |
| Wholesale trade | 100 | -900 | -1,000 |
| Professional and business services | -100 | -3,000 | -2,900 |
| Information | -100 | 0 | 100 |
| Mining and logging | -200 | -200 | 0 |
| Transportation, warehousing and utilities | -500 | 300 | 800 |
| Manufacturing | -2,900 | -2,500 | 400 |
| Construction | -5,800 | -4,400 | 1,400 |
| Leisure and hospitality | -6,900 | -5,700 | 1,200 |

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically falls by 4,400 from October to November. This year the state had an estimated loss of 2,800 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted increase of 1,600 jobs.

- The normal seasonal increase in retail trade employment is 7,800 in November. The increase this November was 10,300 yielding a 2,500 gain on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Construction employment normally declines by 5,800 in November. The actual decline was 4,400 leading to an estimated increase of 1,400 on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated decline of 100 jobs in professional and business services in November.
- Typically employment in financial activities rises by 100 in November. On a seasonally adjusted basis financial activities employment fell by 1,400 as the actual decline was 1,300.

## Total agricultural employment summary

Statewide from October to November agricultural employment decreased 29.5 percent.

Year over year statewide, agricultural employment increased 9.1 percent.

Regionally over the past year, all six areas had increases in total agricultural employment. The largest increase (1,860 jobs) was in the Columbia Basin reporting area. Eastern reporting area had the smallest increase (110 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, November 2012
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA

| | | | | Change | | Percent change | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov. '12 Preliminary | Oct. '12 Revised | Nov. '11 Revised | Oct. '12- Nov. '12 | Nov. '11 - Nov. '12 | Oct. '12 - Nov. '12 | Nov. '11 - Nov. '12 |
| State | 85,170 | 120,730 | 78,060 | -35,550 | 7,110 | -29.5% | 9.1% |
| Western | 10,490 | 12,730 | 9,640 | -2,240 | 850 | -17.6% | 8.8% |
| South Central | 26,450 | 35,490 | 25,610 | -9,040 | 840 | -25.5% | 3.3% |
| North Central | 19,080 | 30,200 | 17,380 | -11,120 | 1,700 | -36.8% | 9.8% |
| Columbia Basin | 12,500 | 18,890 | 10,640 | -6,390 | 1,860 | -33.8% | 17.5% |
| South Eastern | 15,120 | 21,560 | 13,370 | -6,440 | 1,750 | -29.9% | 13.1% |
| Eastern | 1,530 | 1,850 | 1,420 | -320 | 110 | -17.3% | 7.7% |

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

## Contacts


*Chief Economist:*

**Joe Elling**
jelling@esd.wa.gov
360-407-4531

*Economists:*

**Bruce Nimmo**
bnimmo@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

*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

**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 Court, Ph.D.,**
***Olympic Consortium, Island and San Juan counties***
ecourt@esd.wa.gov
360-621-3909

**Ajsa Suljic,** ***Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield and Walla Walla counties***
asuljic@esd.wa.gov
509-734-5928

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

**Doug Tweedy,** ***Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman counties***
dtweedy@esd.wa.gov
509-532-3188

**Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D.,**
***Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties***
avancesherman@esd.wa.gov
425-258-6315

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

**Washington Relay Service: 800-833-6384**


---

[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., December 26, 2012. The publication schedule for 2012 can be found at: https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/economic-reports/monthly-employment-report.*


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





LM-12-0281