



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 December 2012

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington fell by 7,900 from November 2012 to December 2012. BLS estimates the private sector lost 3,200 jobs over the month and the public sector lost 4,700 jobs.

BLS estimates from December 2011 to December 2012 show a total not seasonally adjusted job gain of 42,100 for the state. Over the year the private sector added 42,600 jobs while the public sector lost an estimated 500 jobs.

Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2012 fell to 7.6 percent. The estimated November 2012 unemployment rate of 7.8 percent was revised down to 7.7 percent. The December 2011 unemployment rate was 8.6 percent.

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

November 2012 jobs revisions: November's preliminary estimated gain of 1,600 jobs was revised to a gain of 3,600 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, November and December, 2011 and 2012  
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

	December 2012 (Preliminary)	November 2012 (Revised)	December 2011 (Revised)	November 2011 (Revised)
<b>United States</b>				
Unemployment rate <i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	7.8%	7.8%	8.5%	8.6%
<b>Washington</b>				
Unemployment rate	7.6%	7.7%	8.6%	8.7%
Resident labor force	3,463,300	3,469,500	3,492,400	3,489,800
Unemployed	262,500	268,800	300,000	304,700
<b>Seattle/Bellevue/Everett</b>				
Unemployment rate	6.5%	6.8%	7.7%	7.9%
Resident labor force	1,494,500	1,499,700	1,501,900	1,501,400
Unemployed	97,500	102,600	115,800	118,100

## Unemployment, seasonally adjusted

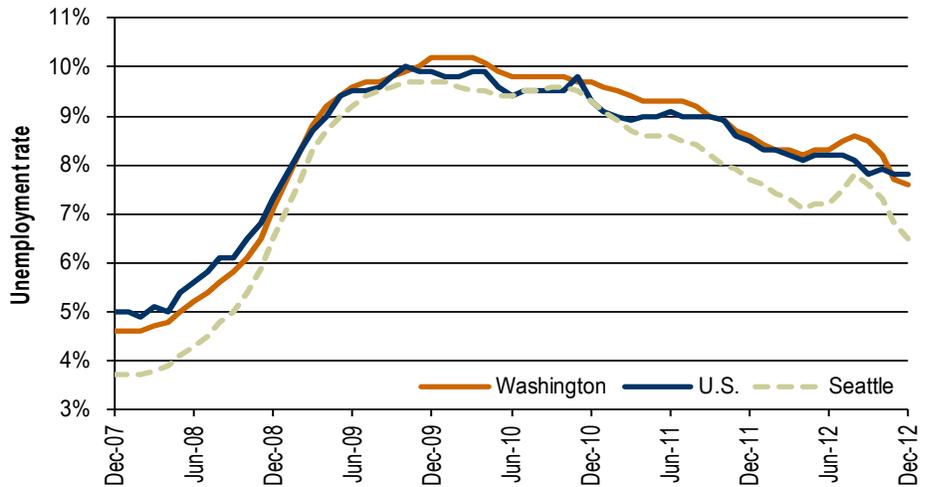
The BLS estimates Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2012 was 7.6 percent. The preliminary November unemployment rate of 7.8 percent was revised down to 7.7 percent.

According to BLS estimates, the number of jobless people who were actively seeking work fell by 6,300 in December compared to November. At the same time, the number of employed workers rose by an estimated 100. Overall, this amounted to a drop of 6,200 people in the labor force.

The preliminary December 2012 unemployment rate is 1 percentage point below the December 2011 rate of 8.6 percent.

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

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



December 2012 preliminary unemployment rates:

U.S. (preliminary) 7.8%  
Washington (preliminary) 7.6%  
Seattle area (preliminary) 6.5%

## Employment change and moving average, seasonally adjusted

Based on BLS estimates, Washington state employment fell by 7,900 jobs from December 2012 to December 2012.

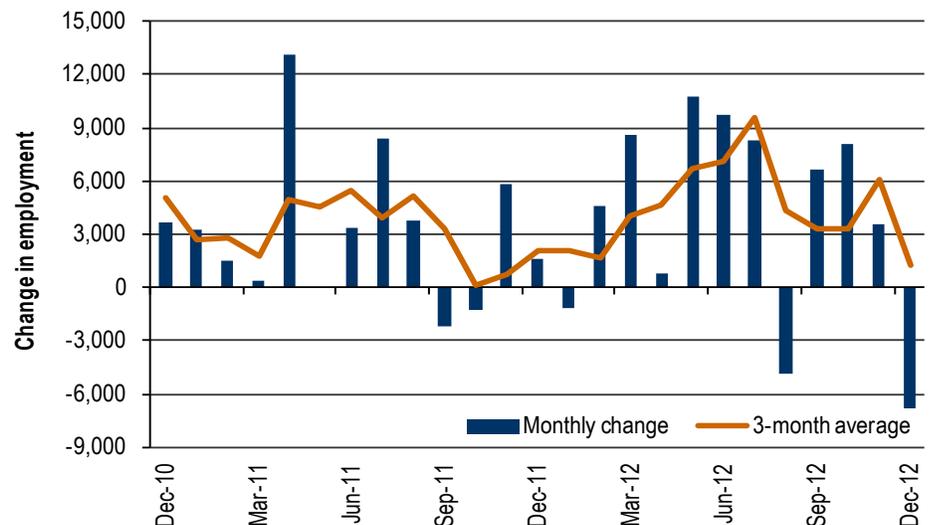
**Recent employment change**  
October 2012: up 8,100 jobs (revised)

November 2012: up 3,600 jobs (revised)

December 2012: down 7,900 jobs (preliminary)

### Monthly employment change and three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted Washington state, December 2010 through December 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%

December 2012

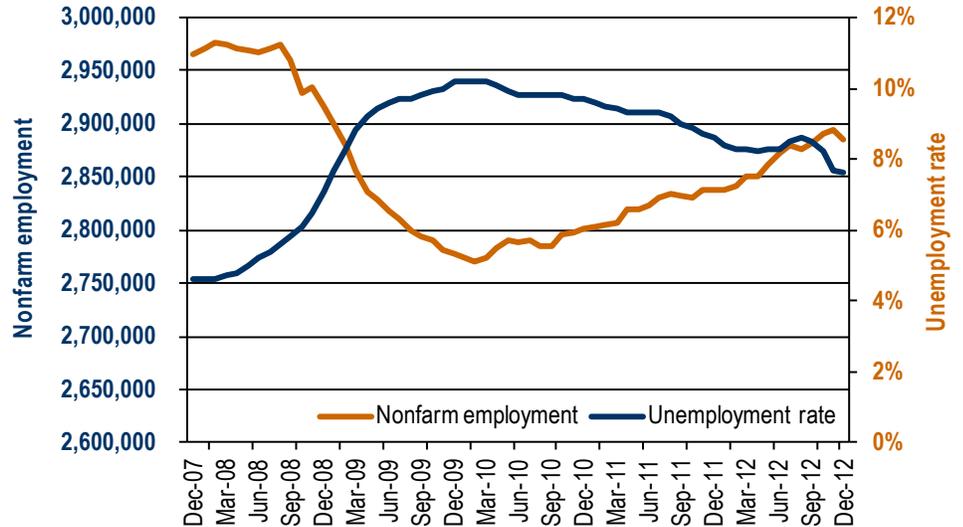
(preliminary)

Nonfarm employment: 2,885,600

Unemployment rate: 7.6%

Nonfarm employment and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, December 2007 through December 2012

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; 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 lost an estimated 7,900 jobs, net, over the month, on a seasonally adjusted basis.

- Overall, four industries expanded in December, four contracted, four were unchanged and government employment fell.
- Private-sector employment is estimated to have fallen by 3,200, while government employment fell by 4,700.
- Construction employment rose by 3,100.
- The leisure and hospitality industry added 1,400 jobs.
- The number of people employed in education and health services rose by 500.
- Employment in retail trade dropped by 4,100. Employment in the clothing and accessories and other retail trade segments both fell by 1,200.
- Professional and business services employment declined by 1,900. The number of jobs in the employment services segment declined by 2,900.

Estimated one-month employment change by industry, seasonally adjusted  
Washington state, November 2012 through December 2012

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>-7,900</b>
Construction	3,100
Leisure and hospitality	1,400
Education and health services	500
Wholesale trade	200
Mining and logging	0
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	0
Information	0
Financial activities	0
Manufacturing	-900
Other services	-1,500
Professional and business services	-1,900
Retail trade	-4,100
Government	-4,700

## 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 42,100 jobs over the year.

- Overall, employment in nine industries grew, three contracted and government employment declined.
- Private-sector employment rose 1.9 percent, up an estimated 42,600 jobs.
- Public-sector employment declined 0.1 percent, a net loss of 500 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment is estimated to have grown by 10,900 from December 2011 to December 2012. Durable goods manufacturers added 9,700 jobs with 6,300 of the increase in aerospace product and parts manufacturing. Nondurable goods manufacturers added 1,200. Employment in the food manufacturing segment rose by 1,100 jobs.
- Employment in construction was up 9,500 with the number of employed in the specialty trade contractor sector up 7,200.
- Retailers added 3,600 jobs from December 2011 to December 2012.

Estimated year-over-year employment change by industry, not seasonally adjusted Washington state, December 2011 to December 2012

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>42,100</b>
Manufacturing	10,900
Construction	9,500
Leisure and hospitality	6,500
Professional and business services	5,300
Retail trade	3,600
Education and health services	3,400
Financial activities	2,400
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,600
Other services	400
Wholesale trade	-200
Information	-300
Mining and logging	-500
Government	-500

- Total government employment in December 2012 was down by 500 relative to December 2011. Federal government employment fell by 1,300 while state government employment rose by 800 and local government employment was unchanged. State government education employment was up 1,800 and local government education employment increased by 1,300.

## 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, December 2012

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

	Normal seasonal change	Estimated change	Seasonally adjusted change
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>-10,200</b>	<b>-18,100</b>	<b>-7,900</b>
Retail trade	4,300	200	-4,100
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	1,200	1,200	0
Other services	500	-1,000	-1,500
Leisure and hospitality	200	1,600	1,400
Financial activities	100	100	0
Mining and logging	-200	-200	0
Information	-300	-300	0
Wholesale trade	-800	-600	200
Manufacturing	-1,300	-2,200	-900
Education and health services	-1,800	-1,300	500
Professional and business services	-2,000	-3,900	-1,900
Construction	-4,500	-1,400	3,100
Government	-5,600	-10,300	-4,700

Based on historical patterns, Washington employment typically falls by 10,200 from November to December. This year the state had an estimated loss of 18,100 jobs, amounting to a seasonally adjusted decline of 7,900 jobs.

- The normal seasonal increase in retail trade employment is 4,300 in December. The increase in December 2012 was 200 yielding a 4,100 drop on a seasonally adjusted basis.
- Construction employment normally declines by 4,500 in December. The actual decline was 1,400 leading to an estimated increase of 3,100 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

- The change on a seasonally adjusted basis was an estimated decline of 1,900 jobs in professional and business services in December.
- Typically government employment falls by 5,600 in December. On a seasonally adjusted basis government employment fell by 4,700 as the actual decline was 10,300.

## Total agricultural employment summary

Statewide from November to December agricultural employment decreased 24.4 percent.

Year over year statewide, agricultural employment increased 9.4 percent.

Regionally over the past year, all six areas had increases in total agricultural employment. The largest increase (1,850 jobs) was in the North Central reporting area. Eastern reporting area had the smallest increase (90 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-washington-agricultural-areas>.

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

	Change				Percent change		
	Dec. '12 Preliminary	Nov. '12 Revised	Dec. '11 Revised	Nov. '12- Dec. '12	Dec. '11 - Dec. '12	Nov. '12 - Dec. '12	Dec. '11 - Dec. '12
<b>State</b>	<b>64,770</b>	<b>85,620</b>	<b>59,180</b>	<b>-20,850</b>	<b>5,590</b>	<b>-24.4%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
Western	9,570	10,500	9,210	-930	360	-8.9%	3.9%
South Central	21,020	26,460	19,270	-5,440	1,750	-20.6%	9.1%
North Central	14,320	19,090	12,470	-4,770	1,850	-25.0%	14.8%
Columbia Basin	8,140	12,520	7,130	-4,380	1,010	-35.0%	14.2%
South Eastern	10,270	15,530	9,740	-5,260	530	-33.9%	5.4%
Eastern	1,450	1,520	1,360	-70	90	-4.6%	6.6%

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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<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., January 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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