Washington State Employment Security Department

Labor Market and Economic Analysis

LMEA

Washington Labor Market Quarterly Review

Volume 33, Number 4 October - December 2009

INDICATORS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Washington (Seasonally Adjusted)	
October 2009	9.3%
November 2009	9.0%
December 2009 (prel)	9.5%

United States (Seasonally Adjusted)	
October 2009	10.2%
November 2009	10.0%
December 2009 (prel)	10.0%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

Washington (Seasonally Adjusted)

(in thousands)	
October 2009	2,813.2
November 2009	2,810.9
December 2009 (prel)	2,807.1

Percent Change (over the year)	
October 2008-2009	-4.1%
November 2008-2009	-4.2%
December 2008-2009 (prel)	-3.6%

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Occupations and the Recent Recession

The Help Wanted OnLine/ Unemployment Claims Indicator

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There have been many efforts to analyze employment patterns during the recent recession, both to see the effect of the downturn as well as to better understand its underlying causes. Much of this analysis dwells on how certain industries fare, and the role they play in business cycle fluctuations. Conversely, there has been little analysis focusing on occupations during this business cycle. For example, we can draw some reliable conclusions about employment in the construction industry in this recessionary cycle, but have relatively little to say about the impact of the recession on administrative assistants.

The primary reason for this lack of focus on detailed occupations is that there is so little occupational data available that can be used for this purpose. In recent years, the primary source of occupational data has been the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) data series, which contains estimates of current and projected employment, openings, and wages. The Washington State Employment Security Department publishes employment estimates and projections by occupation on a once-a-year basis, but they are not designed for comparisons in time[1]. Historical data are not made publicly available, essentially making business cycle analysis as a function of detailed occupations impossible.

One of the few other sources of occupational data is the unemployment insurance (UI) claims data. We can track UI claims[2] on a monthly basis and see how individuals fare during the months identified with the recession. The downside to the

[1] The statement from BLS on this issue is; "Although the OES survey methodology is designed to create detailed cross-sectional employment and wage estimates for the U.S., states, metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas, across industry and by industry, it is less useful for comparisons of two or more points in time. Challenges in using OES data as a time series include changes in the occupational, industrial, and geographical classification systems; changes in the way data are collected; changes in the survey reference period; and changes in mean wage estimation methodology, as well as permanent features of the methodology." www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm#Ques29

[2] The UI claims data does not include extended benefits. This exclusion allows for use of the UI claims data as a time series.

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In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor

UI claims data is that these data only represent a portion of the labor force – those who have lost their job for one reason or another and have filed for unemployment insurance. UI claims can be seen as part of the supply of labor that employers could draw from to fill hiring needs.

Recently another source of occupational data has become available – Help Wanted OnLine Advertisements[3] (HWOL). These data in part represent the other side of the labor market, the demand for workers. The availability of these demand-side data led to the idea of adding it to the existing supply-side data source (UI claims), to create something akin to a supply and demand indicator. The idea is that a *UI claims-to-HWOL* ratio should give an indication as to how relatively hard or easy it should be to find work in a given labor market. For example, one might look at the given *UI claims-to-HWOL* ratio to determine how difficult a job search it will be for civil engineers in King County, or for truck drivers throughout the state. To calculate this ratio, UI claims are divided by HWOL to produce an index that can be used to indicate how well an occupation fares during a given period; in this case the recession.

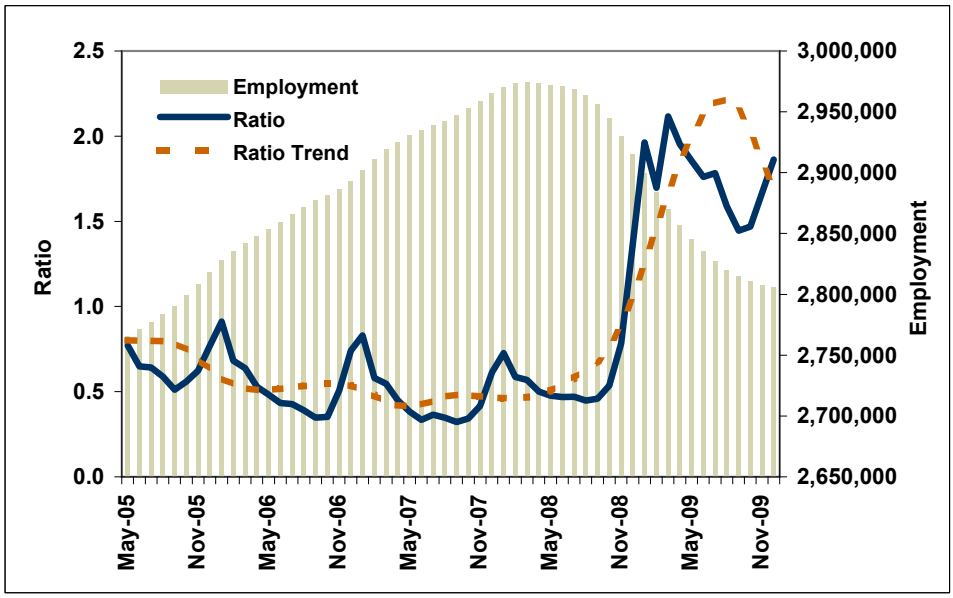
The reader will note in the following tables that the estimated ratio ranges from a low of 0.01 (for registered nurses in 2007) to a high of 58.0 (for carpenters in 2009). These estimates represent the extremes. More commonly, the ratio ranges from around 0.10 to less than 5.0. Overall, a higher *UI claims-to-HWOL* ratio indicates a relatively difficult job market for a job seeker in that given occupation, while a low ratio indicates a relatively easier job market for job seekers in that given occupation. A ratio of 1.0 implies a balance of "supply" and "demand."

This report next examines how the ratio compares to employment trends and how the overall *UI claims-to-HWOL* ratio has varied by region. Hereafter, the overall ratio will be referred to as the "composite ratio" to distinguish it from specific occupational ratios. Following that, we examine how occupational groups and specific occupations fared during the recession.

The Ratio Compared to Employment Trends

In *Figure 1*, the composite claims-to-advertisements ratio as well as the trend-cycle[4] of the ratios for Washington state are compared to overall employment trends (the trend-cycle of the employment series). Statewide employment began a steep decline in September 2008, falling by 4.8 percent by September 2009. During that same period, the composite ratio more than tripled. The composite ratio clearly reflects a worsening labor market for job seekers during this period. Overall, the employment and composite claims-

Figure 1. The Composite Claims-to-Advertisements Ratio and Seasonally Adjusted Employment, Washington State, May 2005 through December 2009
Source: LMEA/Employment Security Department, Unemployment Insurance Continued Claims/Help Wanted OnLine (HWOL) Advertisements



[3] Background information and technical notes on this new data series are available at: www.conference-board.org/economics/helpwantedOnline.cfm. The underlying data for this series are provided by Wanted Technologies Corporation.

[4] Trend cycle distinguishes seasonal and irregular variations from the overall data and is more suitable for analyzing trends.

to-advertisements ratio series exhibits a significant negative correlation, which is consistent with expectations that better employment trends coexist with better labor market situations.

The declining trend in the composite claims-to-advertisements ratio from September 2009 to December 2009 may indicate the relative improvement in the labor market. The economy as measured by GDP has begun growing and job losses have fallen substantially from the highs of 2009. However, the labor market remains one in which there are approximately six job seekers for each job opening. During this time, the state still continued to register job losses. The composite ratio is still much greater than it was in the prior recession.

Table 1. The Composite Claims-to-Advertisements Ratio for Total Occupational Employment for Workforce Development Areas Washington State, 2007 and 2009
Source: LMEA/Employment Security Department, Unemployment Insurance Continued Claims/Help Wanted OnLine (HWOL) Advertisements

Area	2007	2009	Growth
Washington State	0.45	1.75	3.92
Olympic Consortium	0.65	1.75	2.67
Pacific Mountain	2.46	2.67	1.08
Northwest	0.63	2.39	3.78
Snohomish County	0.85	4.18	4.91
Seattle-King County	0.19	1.01	5.22
Pierce County	0.48	1.50	3.16
Southwest Washington	0.69	3.23	4.66
North Central Washington	1.62	3.55	2.19
South Central	1.51	2.60	1.72
Eastern Washington	0.94	1.84	1.96
Benton-Franklin	0.81	1.23	1.52
Spokane	0.67	1.89	2.82

Note: Data in all three columns are rounded.

The Geography of the Recession

The recession began in December 2007, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). While the NBER has yet to announce an official end to the recession, at the time of this writing there is a fairly strong consensus that the end of the recession will be pegged as occurring sometime in the latter half of 2009. For this reason, annual composite ratios for 2007 and 2009 for each of Washington's 12 Workforce Development Areas (WDA) are tabulated in *Table 1.*

For the entire state, the ratio increased by almost four-fold between 2007 and 2009. These ratios increased sharply for all areas except the Pacific Mountain WDA (which includes Thurston and surrounding counties). Seattle-King County has the largest increases in ratio, increasing by more than five times. This county is closely followed by Snohomish County and Southwest Washington WDA (the Vancouver area) with ratio increases close to five times. For Pacific Mountain, the claims-to-advertisements ratio did not increase significantly, but it already had the largest ratio at the beginning of the recession in 2007. Three other areas have ratio increases of less than two times: Benton-Franklin, South Central, and Eastern Washington.

Although King County has the largest increase in the claims-to-advertisements ratio, the absolute value of the ratio in 2009 remains the lowest among all areas. UI claims were just slightly larger than HWOL advertisements (1.01) for King County. Benton-Franklin (1.23) had the second lowest ratio followed by Pierce County (1.50).

Occupations During the Recession

Occupational Groups

Occupational data are organized by the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational groups are typically identified by two-digit SOC codes, but more detailed occupations are identified by six-digit SOC codes. For example, management occupations are listed under the two-digit SOC code "11," while sales managers are listed under the six-digit code "11-2022."

Similar to the analysis by area, ratios have been calculated for the year 2007 and 2009 to see how occupations have fared during the current economic downturn. At the two-digit level of

occupational aggregation, with a few exceptions, the occupational claims-to-advertisements ratio rose across all occupational groups[5] and areas during the current recession. Occupational exceptions are concentrated in the Pacific Mountain area, where the claims-to-advertisements ratio decreased for health care practitioners and technical, health care support, and sales and related. In addition, the ratio fell for personal care and service occupations in Spokane County.

However, between 2008 and 2009, the claims-to-advertisements ratio increased for all significant occupational groups in all areas.

The occupational groups most affected by the recession were those with the largest absolute increase in the claims-to-advertisements ratio (excluding farming[6]). Statewide, these occupational groups included:

- construction and extraction;
- production;
- transportation and material moving;
- installation, maintenance, and repair; and
- building and grounds cleaning and maintenance.

For all of these occupational groups the ratio has increased to more than 2.5. The largest overall increase is for the construction and extraction occupational group; rising from a ratio of 3.9 to a ratio of 26.4 – an increase of 6.8 times.

The occupational groups least affected by the recession are those with the smallest absolute increases in their ratios. For the state, these occupational groups include:

- health care practitioners and technical;
- health care support;
- computer and mathematical;
- life, physical, and social science; and
- sales and related occupations.

We can also look at occupations that continue to experience a "shortage" of supply compared to demand. There are five occupational groups listed in order of increasing ratios in this category for 2009 – health care practitioners and technical; computer and mathematical; health care support; life, physical, and social science; and community and social services. Note that four of these occupational groups are also among those with the smallest increases in their ratios (previous paragraph).

Detailed Occupations

At the state level, there is only one detailed occupation in which the ratio of claims to advertisements decreased slightly from 2007 to 2009 – loan interviewers and clerks (*Table 2*). This is a relatively small occupation, and the number of claims still exceeds the number of advertised openings in 2009.

Based on this occupational claims-to-advertisements indicator, we can conclude that no occupation (other than loan interviewers and clerks) was completely recession resistant in Washington state. In 2009, about one-third (34 of 115) of occupations analyzed had fewer continued claims than advertised

Table 2. Top Ten Detailed Occupations with the Smallest Absolute Increase in Claims-to-Advertisements Ratio, Washington State, 2007 and 2009
Source: LMEA/Employment Security Department, Unemployment Insurance Continued Claims/Help Wanted OnLine (HWOL) Advertisements

SOC	Title	2007	2009	Difference
43-4131	Loan Interviewers & Clerks	1.47	1.39	-0.09
29-1111	Registered Nurses	0.01	0.04	0.02
11-9111	Medical & Health Services Managers	0.05	0.11	0.06
29-2061	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	0.11	0.17	0.06
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	0.26	0.37	0.11
29-2071	Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	0.19	0.31	0.11
15-1099	Computer Specialists, All Other	0.02	0.15	0.13
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	0.26	0.41	0.15
15-1051	Computer Systems Analysts	0.03	0.21	0.18
41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	0.10	0.30	0.19

Note: The SOC codes used for HWOL are SOC-ONET, which are originally eight digits, whereas the claims are based on six-digit SOC codes. For the purpose of this table, only six-digit SOC codes are displayed. Details may not add up due to rounding.

[5] This ratio includes only occupations with sufficient numbers to be considered useful and important. We define a number as useful and important if the average minimum among continued claims and HWOL advertisements during the 2007 to 2009 period is larger than 50. We consider such occupations as representative and comparable. For all further analyses, only these occupations are considered.

[6] This occupational group is excluded from all further analysis because internet advertisements do not represent actual demand in this field.

Table 3. Top Ten Occupations with the Lowest Number of Claims Relative to Advertised Openings, Washington State, 2009
Source: LMEA/Employment Security Department, Unemployment Insurance Continued Claims/Help Wanted OnLine (HWOL) Advertisements

SOC	Title	Average Number of Advertised Openings in 2009	Average Number of Claims in 2009
29-1111	Registered Nurses	7,580	276
11-9111	Medical & Health Services Managers	1,574	174
15-1099	Computer Specialists, All Other	1,457	221
29-2061	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocatnl. Nurses	790	135
15-1051	Computer Systems Analysts	2,181	452
41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	588	174
29-2071	Medical Records & Health Information Techs.	388	119
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	266	98
43-3071	Tellers	531	209
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	211	87

Note: The SOC codes used for HWOL are SOC-ONET, which are originally eight digits, whereas the claims are based on six-digit SOC codes. For the purpose of this table, only six-digit SOC codes are displayed. Details may not add up due to rounding.

openings and therefore remain relatively attractive for job seekers. However, the condition of the labor market deteriorated significantly from 2007, when 92 of 115 occupations had fewer claims than the number of advertised openings.

Table 2 identifies the occupations that fared best between 2007 and 2009. *Table 3* ignores change and focuses on the conditions that existed in 2009. *Table 3* lists the top 10 detailed occupations with the lowest average number of claims-to-advertised openings in 2009, which indicate the occupation where one is more likely to find a job.

At the other end of the spectrum were occupations that were hardest hit by the recession.

Table 4. Ten Occupations with the Largest Absolute Increase in the Claims-to-Advertisements Ratio, Washington State, 2007 compared to 2009
Source: LMEA/Employment Security Department, Unemployment Insurance Continued Claims/Help Wanted OnLine (HWOL) Advertisements

SOC	Title	2007	2009	Difference
47-2031	Carpenters	6.23	58.03	51.80
47-2061	Construction Laborers	6.28	51.07	44.79
51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	1.78	28.41	26.64
11-9199	Managers, All Other	3.73	26.80	23.08
47-2111	Electricians	1.92	18.01	16.09
51-4041	Machinists	0.66	14.97	14.31
47-2141	Painters, Construction & Maintenance	2.59	16.26	13.67
43-5071	Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	1.02	14.28	13.26
53-7051	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	1.81	13.25	11.44
51-9061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	1.73	12.93	11.19

Note: The SOC codes used for HWOL are SOC-ONET, which are originally eight digits, whereas the claims are based on six-digit SOC codes. For the purpose of this table, only six-digit SOC codes are displayed.

Table 4 lists the 10 occupations most affected by the recession based on the absolute difference between the claims-to-advertisements ratio in 2007 and 2009. It should come as little surprise to note that the list is dominated by construction and production type occupations. These were the sectors hardest hit by the recent economic downturn. Job seekers in these occupations will continue to face challenges in obtaining employment.

Occupations with the lowest average number of claims-to-advertised openings indicate the occupation where one is more likely to find a job.

Industries during the Recession

As mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, certain sectors have been affected differently in this recessionary cycle and this in turn has impacted occupations differently. To give a background context to this discussion, *Table 5* shows industry patterns during the recessionary period.

Overall estimated industry employment trends[7] are consistent with occupational claims-to-advertisements ratio trends during the current recession. For example, occupations related to the construction industry (as noted in the previous section) were the hardest hit based on the occupational claims-to-advertisements ratio. This condition is mirrored on the industry side as employment in the construction sector registered the largest decline of 28.3 percent. The employment decline for construction during the recent recession is 4.7 times larger than declines during previous recessions.

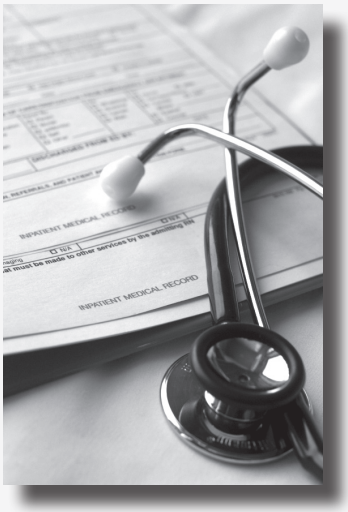
In contrast are health-related occupations and some computer-related occupations that show the smallest recession impact on the occupational claims-to-advertisements ratio. This condition is reflected on the industry side by the software publishing industry. All estimated sub-industries of health services have had positive indexes of employment changes and are estimated to be recession resistant as well.

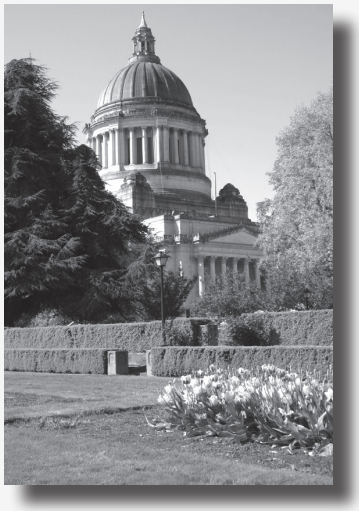
Table 5. Indexes of Employment Changes for Washington State
December 2007 to December 2009
Source: LMEA/Employment Security Department

Industry	2007 Employment	Index of Decline
Total Nonfarm	2,935,684	-5.8%
Mining and Logging	8,183	-26.5%
Construction	209,128	-28.3%
Manufacturing	293,202	-12.9%
Wholesale Trade	129,109	-7.5%
Retail Trade	327,996	-8.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	96,078	-6.8%
Information	102,702	-3.9%
Financial Activities	155,461	-7.3%
Professional and Business Services	345,557	-8.5%
Education and Health Services	348,311	0.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	280,645	-6.7%
Other Services	105,493	-3.3%
Government	533,929	0.3%
Federal Government	68,669	0.3%
Total State Government	149,315	-1.7%
State Government Educational Services	80,201	-2.0%
Total Local Government	316,211	0.3%
Local Government Educational Services	152,062	0.2%
Other Local Government	164,009	0.3%

Recession Resistant

Education Services


Health Services


Local Government

[7] To calculate the estimates for the current recession, take the difference between minimum employment between July 2008 and December 2009 (preliminary CES estimations) and maximum employment from December 2007 to June 2008 and divide the difference by the 2007 average annual employment. Trend-cycle series are used for this analysis. A positive number shows that the industry did not experience a decline. It is recession resistant.

Conclusion

Some of the findings of this report come with little surprise, for example construction related occupations which suffered disproportionately during the recent recession. Health care occupations, also not surprisingly, went through the downturn in a relatively unscathed fashion.

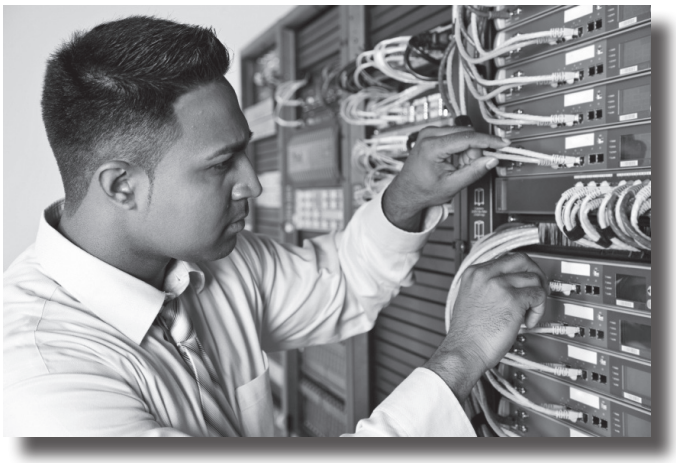
There were some occupations for which labor market conditions worsened considerably that were less obvious than the example of construction. Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks had one of the highest increases in the claims-to-advertisement ratios during the recession period. Industrial truck and tractor operators, and inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers had an even larger increase in the ratio between 2007 and 2009. These occupations are closely linked to business activity and hence suffered when that activity fell off.

While the consistent demand for health care occupations is well-known, a lesser known recession-proof occupation has been hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists. Many service occupations have seen declining demand in the face of consumer belt-tightening, but the demand for these services has been resilient.

The IT related occupations of computer specialists and computer systems analysts also had one of the lowest claims-to-advertisement ratios in 2009, indicating sustained demand for their services. For many businesses these services are deemed to be so fundamental to their operations that they can ill afford to cut them.

Insurance sales agents and tellers are at face value surprising to see on a list of occupations with relatively favorable labor market conditions in 2009. Since sales generate most of insurance companies' revenue, it therefore is necessary to employ sales agents. Despite the woes in the banking industry, most people continue to use banking services, and these transactions typically require interactions with tellers.

The claims-to-advertisement ratio has been a valuable tool in identifying both growing and declining occupations during our recent recessionary period. Whatever economic conditions are in store for the future, the ratio should continue to assist in better understanding labor market conditions.



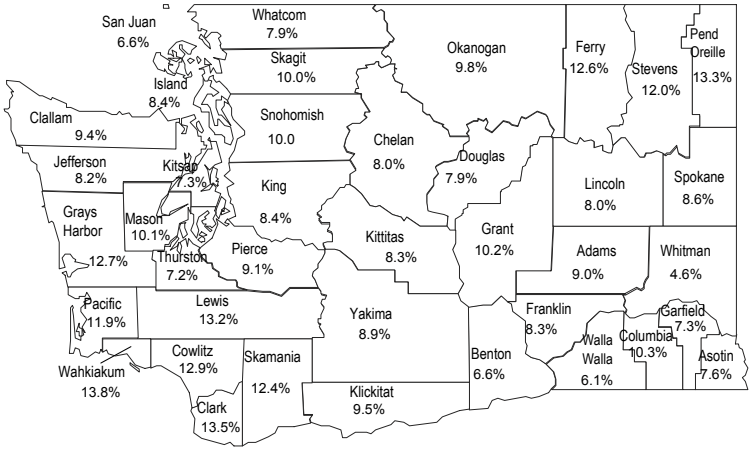
Fourth Quarter Stats-At-A-Glance

Monthly Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and U.S.

(In Thousands)	Oct. 2009 (Revised)	Nov. 2009 (Revised)	Dec. 2009 (Prel)
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate:			
Washington State	9.3%	9.0%	9.5%
United States	10.2%	10.0%	10.0%
Washington State Not Seasonally Adjusted:			
Resident Civilian Labor Force	3,547.8	3,511.0	3,502.8
Employment	3,239.1	3,197.6	3,168.6
Unemployment	308.7	313.4	334.3
Percent of Labor Force	8.7%	8.9%	9.5%

Average Unemployment Rates by County October, November, and December 2009 Washington = 9.0% / United States = 9.5%

Not Seasonally Adjusted



Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Washington State Counties and MSAs 1/

Date: 1/26/10
Benchmark: March 2009

Not Seasonally Adjusted	October 2009 Revised				November 2009 Revised				December 2009 Preliminary			
	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate
Washington State Total	3,547,810	3,239,070	308,730	8.7	3,510,970	3,197,570	313,400	8.9	3,502,840	3,168,570	334,270	9.5
Bellingham MSA	106,580	98,670	7,920	7.4	107,330	98,890	8,440	7.9	107,450	98,520	8,920	8.3
Bremerton MSA	121,220	112,650	8,560	7.1	121,960	113,130	8,830	7.2	121,850	112,610	9,240	7.6
Kennewick-Pasco-Richland MSA	131,680	123,860	7,810	5.9	128,120	119,000	9,110	7.1	127,100	116,760	10,330	8.1
Benton County 2/	95,890	90,330	5,560	5.8	92,860	86,790	6,070	6.5	91,950	85,150	6,800	7.4
Franklin County 2/	35,790	33,540	2,250	6.3	35,260	32,220	3,040	8.6	35,140	31,610	3,530	10.0
Longview MSA (Cowlitz)	43,560	38,170	5,400	12.4	44,110	38,370	5,740	13.0	42,870	37,190	5,680	13.3
Mt. Vernon-Anacortes MSA (Skagit)	59,100	53,700	5,400	9.1	58,680	52,820	5,860	10.0	58,110	51,820	6,290	10.8
Olympia MSA	131,840	122,720	9,120	6.9	133,690	124,110	9,580	7.2	133,620	123,450	10,180	7.6
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MD*	1,504,800	1,368,630	136,170	9.0	1,488,270	1,363,090	125,190	8.4	1,486,910	1,353,640	133,270	9.0
King County 2/	1,119,300	1,021,970	97,320	8.7	1,106,570	1,017,830	88,740	8.0	1,104,820	1,010,780	94,050	8.5
Snohomish County 2/	385,510	346,660	38,850	10.1	381,710	345,260	36,450	9.5	382,090	342,860	39,220	10.3
Spokane MSA	241,550	222,380	19,170	7.9	242,130	221,620	20,510	8.5	242,410	219,810	22,600	9.3
Tacoma Metropolitan Division	398,480	363,850	34,630	8.7	402,870	366,640	36,230	9.0	402,440	364,080	38,350	9.5
Wenatchee MSA	63,910	59,850	4,070	6.4	57,020	52,230	4,780	8.4	58,520	53,020	5,500	9.4
Chelan County 2/	42,130	39,450	2,680	6.4	37,620	34,430	3,190	8.5	38,600	34,950	3,650	9.5
Douglas County 2/	21,790	20,400	1,390	6.4	19,400	17,800	1,600	8.2	19,920	18,070	1,850	9.3
Yakima MSA	130,230	121,450	8,770	6.7	118,870	107,860	11,010	9.3	119,880	106,700	13,180	11.0
Aberdeen MSA (Grays Harbor)	30,750	27,110	3,640	11.8	31,180	27,150	4,030	12.9	31,210	27,010	4,200	13.4
Centralia MSA (Lewis)	30,760	27,110	3,650	11.9	31,390	27,150	4,240	13.5	31,050	26,680	4,380	14.1
Ellensburg MSA (Kittitas)	21,250	19,670	1,580	7.4	20,640	18,930	1,700	8.3	19,780	17,920	1,860	9.4
Moses Lake MSA (Grant)	44,420	40,940	3,480	7.8	40,140	35,910	4,230	10.5	39,640	34,690	4,950	12.5
Oak Harbor MSA (Island County)	33,090	30,440	2,650	8.0	33,280	30,520	2,750	8.3	33,130	30,210	2,920	8.8
Port Angeles MSA (Clallam)	30,020	27,440	2,580	8.6	30,070	27,230	2,840	9.4	30,000	26,960	3,040	10.1
PulMSAn MSA (Whitman)	22,150	21,150	1,000	4.5	22,110	21,110	1,000	4.5	21,880	20,860	1,020	4.7
Shelton MSA (Mason)	26,180	23,660	2,520	9.6	26,420	23,770	2,650	10.0	25,130	22,440	2,690	10.7
Walla Walla MSA (Walla Walla)	32,320	30,570	1,760	5.4	31,730	29,810	1,920	6.0	30,030	27,990	2,050	6.8
Adams	8,950	8,390	560	6.3	7,890	7,130	760	9.6	7,840	6,930	910	11.7
Asotin 2/	10,850	10,030	820	7.6	10,840	9,990	850	7.8	10,710	9,920	800	7.4
Clark 2/	217,920	189,750	28,170	12.9	220,850	190,360	30,490	13.8	219,800	189,570	30,230	13.8
Columbia	1,530	1,390	140	9.1	1,500	1,340	160	10.4	1,530	1,360	170	10.9
Ferry	2,990	2,660	330	11.1	3,040	2,660	380	12.4	3,050	2,620	430	14.2
Garfield	1,020	960	60	5.5	1,000	930	70	7.3	1,010	910	90	9.1
Jefferson	13,120	12,120	1,000	7.6	13,120	12,060	1,060	8.1	13,140	11,970	1,160	8.9
Klickitat	10,760	9,900	860	8.0	10,330	9,280	1,050	10.2	10,250	9,180	1,080	10.5
Lincoln	4,790	4,440	350	7.3	4,670	4,310	370	7.8	4,710	4,290	420	8.9
Okanogan	24,080	22,350	1,730	7.2	19,890	17,840	2,050	10.3	20,130	17,610	2,520	12.5
Pacific	9,210	8,200	1,010	10.9	9,150	7,990	1,150	12.6	9,020	7,930	1,100	12.1
Pend Oreille	5,340	4,690	650	12.2	5,410	4,670	740	13.7	5,330	4,580	750	14.0
San Juan	8,300	7,830	470	5.7	8,110	7,570	540	6.7	8,030	7,430	600	7.4
Skamania 2/	5,090	4,510	570	11.2	5,220	4,530	700	13.3	5,150	4,510	640	12.4
Stevens	18,480	16,510	1,970	10.6	18,450	16,260	2,190	11.9	18,640	16,130	2,510	13.5
Wahkiakum	1,520	1,330	190	12.3	1,530	1,300	230	14.8	1,500	1,290	210	14.2

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data
2/ Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.
*Metropolitan Division

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment in Washington State, Place of Work 1/

Seasonally Adjusted

Quarterly Benchmark: March 2009 *In Thousands* **Industry**	**Dec. 2009 (Prel)**	**Nov. 2009 (Rev)**	**Oct. 2009 (Rev)**	**Sep. 2009 (Rev)**	**Aug. 2009 (Rev)**	**July 2009 (Rev)**
Total Nonfarm	**2,807,100**	**2,810,900**	**2,812,000**	**2,817,000**	**2,828,000**	**2,833,900**
Mining and Logging	5,600	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900	6,000
Logging	3,700	3,800	3,700	3,600	3,700	3,700
Construction	**152,200**	**154,100**	**156,200**	**156,900**	**159,900**	**161,400**
Construction of Buildings	38,900	39,100	39,800	40,200	41,000	40,800
Heavy and Civil Engineering	19,300	19,500	19,400	19,300	19,400	19,500
Speciality Trade Contractors	94,000	95,500	97,000	97,400	99,500	101,100
Manufacturing	**258,800**	**259,200**	**258,800**	**260,900**	**262,300**	**263,800**
Durable Goods	185,000	184,900	184,700	186,700	187,500	189,400
Wood Products	12,700	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,900	13,200
Fabricated Metal Products	16,600	16,600	16,500	16,800	16,900	17,100
Computer and Electronic Products	19,200	19,100	19,200	19,400	19,600	19,600
Transportation Equipment	90,400	90,200	90,100	91,100	91,400	92,600
Aerospace Products and Parts	80,900	80,700	80,800	81,400	81,800	83,000
Nondurable Goods	73,800	74,300	74,100	74,200	74,800	74,400
Food Manufacturing	32,100	32,400	32,600	33,000	33,900	33,500
Wholesale Trade	**121,600**	**121,800**	**122,400**	**122,100**	**122,400**	**123,100**
Retail Trade	**305,900**	**305,500**	**307,000**	**309,000**	**310,500**	**312,400**
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	35,200	35,600	35,900	36,000	36,100	36,400
Food and Beverage Stores	60,600	60,800	60,400	60,500	60,900	61,500
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	27,400	27,700	27,900	28,300	28,200	28,800
General Merchandise Stores	60,800	60,600	61,900	62,400	62,700	62,400
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	**89,800**	**90,500**	**89,600**	**90,400**	**90,300**	**90,300**
Utilities	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,200	5,200	5,200
Transportation and Warehousing	84,700	85,400	84,500	85,200	85,100	85,100
Air Transportation	10,100	10,100	10,200	10,100	10,200	10,100
Water Transportation	3,600	3,600	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Truck Transportation	21,500	21,600	22,000	22,300	22,500	22,500
Support Activities for Transportation	17,300	17,400	17,200	17,600	17,500	17,400
Support Activities for Water Transportation	5,100	5,300	5,000	5,400	5,200	5,200
Warehousing and Storage	9,600	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,600	9,800
Information	**101,500**	**101,900**	**102,600**	**102,000**	**101,700**	**102,900**
Software Publishers	51,100	51,100	51,300	50,900	50,800	51,500
Telecommunications	24,700	24,800	24,900	24,900	25,000	25,100
Financial Activities	**142,700**	**143,500**	**143,700**	**143,400**	**143,000**	**143,200**
Finance and Insurance	93,800	94,100	94,200	94,300	94,300	94,700
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	45,500	45,400	45,800	46,000	45,900	45,900
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	36,600	36,800	36,800	37,000	37,100	37,400
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	48,900	49,400	49,500	49,100	48,700	48,500
Professional and Business Services	**329,500**	**328,800**	**325,600**	**323,800**	**324,200**	**325,500**
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	161,000	161,300	161,100	160,600	160,800	160,600
Legal Services	21,200	21,200	21,200	21,100	21,100	21,200
Architectural and Engineering Services	34,300	34,600	34,500	34,600	34,400	34,700
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	31,900	31,900	31,000	31,100	31,100	31,500
Management of Companies and Enterprises	31,300	31,600	31,600	31,900	32,100	32,700
Admin and Support and Waste Management and Remediation	137,200	135,900	132,900	131,300	131,300	132,200
Employment Services	37,100	37,100	36,000	34,900	35,000	35,900
Education and Health Services	**379,600**	**378,800**	**376,900**	**376,500**	**375,700**	**375,300**
Education Services	50,900	50,600	50,000	49,900	50,300	49,400
Hospitals	73,700	73,600	73,300	73,200	72,500	72,500
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	60,200	60,300	60,100	60,000	59,800	59,800
Social Assistance	62,800	62,400	62,200	62,100	62,100	62,200
Leisure and Hospitality	**267,100**	**266,600**	**268,000**	**271,700**	**272,500**	**271,600**
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	44,800	44,500	44,900	45,500	46,200	46,200
Accommodation	28,200	28,300	28,900	29,200	29,300	29,600
Food Services and Drinking Places	194,100	193,800	194,200	197,000	197,000	195,800
Government	**548,600**	**550,100**	**550,300**	**550,300**	**554,900**	**553,200**
Federal Government	72,300	72,400	73,000	73,000	72,900	73,000
Total State Government	150,600	150,600	150,400	149,000	149,700	151,200
State Government Educational Services	80,100	79,900	80,100	78,500	78,100	80,300
Total Local Government	325,700	327,100	326,900	328,300	332,300	329,000
Local Government Educational Services	156,300	156,800	156,600	157,700	161,100	158,500
Workers in Labor-Management Disputes	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis branch using a Quarterly Benchmark process.
This process uses the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently second quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present.

The Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA) branch has primary responsibility for providing occupational information analysis and commentary on Washington's current labor market situation. These publications and others are available on the Workforce Explorer Web site.

NOTE: Analysis contained on pages 1-4 is based on quarterly benchmarked payroll employment data detailed in Table 1 and labor force estimates detailed in Table 3.

Washington State
Employment Situation Report for January

Executive Summary March 2, 2010

Washington's seasonally adjusted employment[1] rose by 12,400 between December 2009 and January 2010. After revisions, this is the first increase in employment in over a year.

Two very different pictures are emerging when viewing month-over-month changes or changes over the year. Over the month, all industry sectors added jobs with the exception of other services and transportation, warehousing, and utilities. However, over the year the situation is reversed, and all sectors except education and health services shed jobs.

Retail trade (+3,000 jobs), education and health services (+2,800), and construction (+2,700) led all sectors in growth between December 2009 and January 2010. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities was down 900 jobs over the month and other services declined by 800 jobs. Construction lost more jobs (-32,700) than any other sector between January 2009 and January 2010. Manufacturing employment fell by 20,100, while leisure and hospitality dropped by 14,400 over the year.

Washington's unemployment rate rose to 9.3 percent from December's downwardly revised level of 9.2 percent. The labor force increased by 0.1 percent between December and January while the number of unemployed rose by 1.1 percent.

For more information, contact Dave Wallace at (360) 438-4818.

Washington State Monthly Employment Change (thousands) along with 3-Month Moving Average

[1] Most of the employment numbers discussed in this report refer to jobs, not persons. For example, if a person holds down two positions, these positions are counted as two jobs in the employment series. In the section titled *Labor Force Unemployment Data*, these positions are referring to people, not jobs. In this case, a person holding down two jobs is counted only once.

CONTENT

Table 1 — **Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment in Washington State, Place of Work,** seasonally adjusted, quarterly benchmarked

Table 2 — **Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment in Washington State, Place of Work,** NOT seasonally adjusted, annually benchmarked

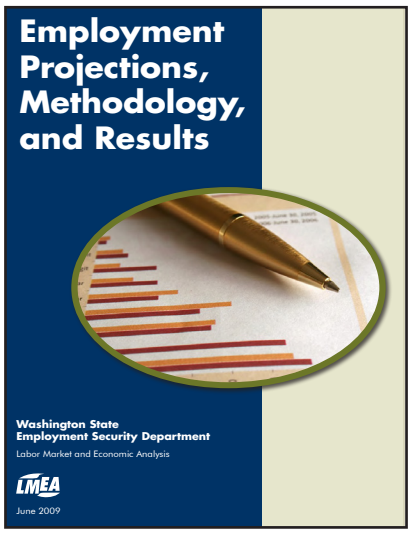
Table 3 — **Resident Civilian Labor Force and Unemployment,** seasonally adjusted

Table 4 — **Resident Labor Force in Washington State and Labor Market Areas,** NOT seasonally adjusted

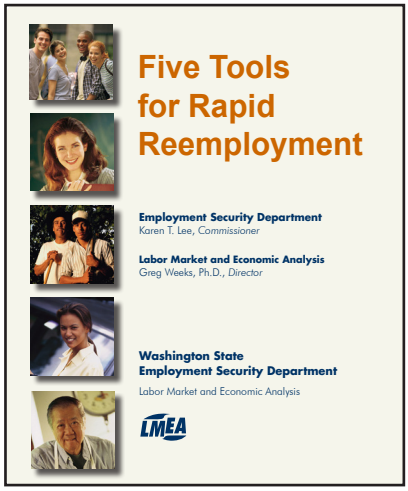
Washington State Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis
LMEA

Glossary – Click Here!

- **Washington State Employment Situation Report** – A monthly tool giving you an up-to-date report on the state of the state economy as reflected in our labor market data. Employment by industry and labor force data at the state and substate level are displayed.

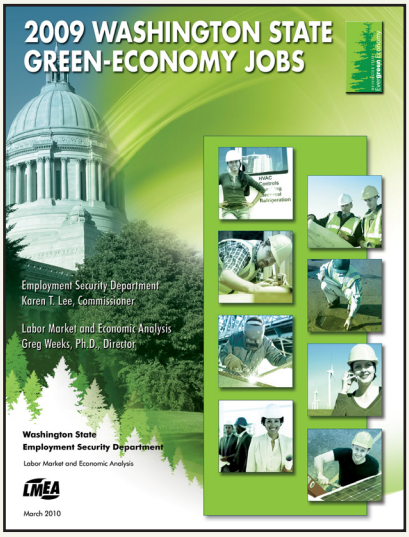


- **Employment Projections, Methodology, and Results** – An online report explaining employment projections, methodology, and results that are used by policy makers, job seekers, and economic analysts. Currently, industry forecasts are produced for two, five, and ten years into the future.



- **Five Tools for Rapid Reemployment** – This booklet helps job seekers and WorkSource staff make better use of the Workforce Explorer Web site. It contains employment data, all kinds of jobs, wages paid, types of businesses, numbers employed, and the forecasts for employment in every area of the state. In particular, five job-search-related tools have been created on the site to aid in job searches.

What's New



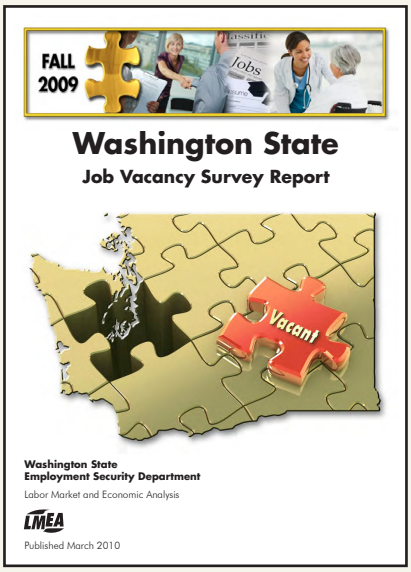
This report will be available on the Workforce Explorer Web site in April 2010.

2009 Washington State Green-Economy Jobs Report

This report presents the findings of the 2009 Green Jobs Survey of private- and public-sector employers in Washington state. The survey was requested by the state Legislature, as outlined in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2227 (E2SHB 2227). The goal of the study was to identify the number and type of green jobs in the state, and to compare the results to the baseline established by the 2008 survey of green jobs.

Green jobs were defined as those where employees were directly engaged in work in at least one of the four green core areas:

- increasing energy efficiency,
- producing renewable energy,
- preventing and reducing environmental pollution, and/or
- providing mitigation or cleanup of environmental pollution.



This report is now available on the Workforce Explorer Web site.

Washington State Fall 2009 Job Vacancy Survey Report

This report depicts point-in-time estimates of job vacancies in Washington based on a survey of 18,551 employers with an average of two or more employees.

The survey gathers information about the following job requirements and characteristics:

- Wage offered
- Full-time/part-time status
- Permanent/temporary status
- Duration of vacancy
- Newly created positions vs. replacement opening
- Educational requirements
- Licensing/certification requirements
- Experience requirements

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

Washington Labor Market Quarterly Review

Published by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA) branch

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www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State Employment Security Department

Labor Market and Economic Analysis

LMEA