



# Washington Labor Market Quarterly Review

Volume 34, Number 1

January - March 2010

## INDICATORS

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

#### Washington

##### (Seasonally Adjusted)

January 2010	9.3%
February 2010	9.4%
March 2010 (prel)	9.5%

#### United States

##### (Seasonally Adjusted)

January 2010	9.7%
February 2010	9.7%
March 2010 (prel)	9.7%

### NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

#### Washington (Seasonally Adjusted)

##### (in thousands)

January 2010	2,793.4
February 2010	2,785.3
March 2010 (prel)	2,786.9

#### Percent Change (over the year)

January 2009-2010	-3.8%
February 2009-2010	-3.2%
March 2009-2010 (prel)	-2.4%

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## Minimum Wage Jobs and Median Hourly Wage in Washington State: 2009 Update

By Scott Bailey, Regional Economist

- Washington continues to have the highest minimum wage in the nation.
- The percentage of jobs that paid at, or near, the minimum wage declined through 2008 as the recession took hold, indicating that low-wage, part-time jobs were the first to be eliminated from the state's economy. A similar trend occurred during the 2001 recession.
- Washington's median hourly wage increased as the recession deepened, because job losses were concentrated in lower-wage jobs. The number of jobs paying above \$50 per hour actually increased during the downturn.
- Despite a sharp decline in the number of jobs paying below \$10 per hour, the number of minimum wage jobs rebounded in the first two quarters of 2009. In the second quarter of 2009, the number of minimum wage jobs and their percentage of total employment was the highest on record going back to 2000.
- Minimum wage jobs continue to be concentrated in three industries: food services, agriculture, and retail trade.
- Counties east of the Cascades have a higher proportion of minimum wage jobs, due in part to a high proportion of jobs in the aforementioned industries.

### Minimum Wages Jobs: Introduction

Nationally, the minimum wage finished a three-stage increase in July 2009, reaching \$7.25 per hour. The federal minimum wage is not indexed to inflation, so it will not increase again without new Congressional legislation.

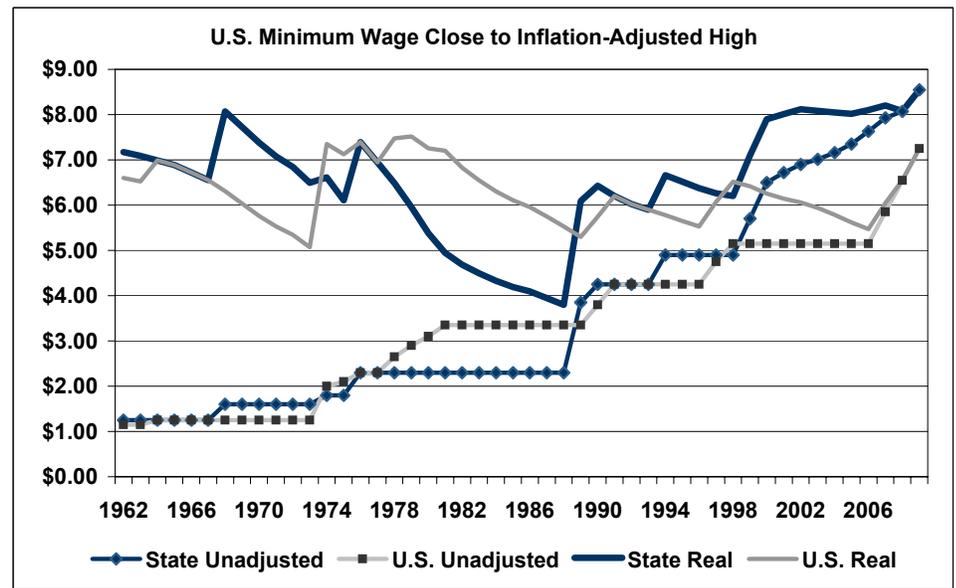
In Washington, the minimum wage was \$8.55 per hour in 2009, the highest in the nation. The rate is due to a 1998 voter-approved initiative that automatically indexed the state's minimum wage to a measure of inflation, specifically the Seattle Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Since prices in Seattle declined

slightly this past year, there will be no adjustment to the state minimum in 2010.

Oregon had the second highest minimum wage in 2009, at \$8.40, followed by Vermont at \$8.06. California, Connecticut, Illinois, and Massachusetts each established a minimum wage of \$8.00 in 2009. Overall, 14 states had minimums higher than the federal standard, and 26 states matched it. Ten states indexed their minimums so that they will adjust automatically with inflation each year. Five states still have no legal minimum wage and therefore revert to the federal minimum.<sup>1</sup> Because inflation was negligible in 2009, it appears there will be no changes in state minimum wages in 2010, with the exception of Illinois, which is slated to raise its minimum to \$8.25 in July.

As shown in *Figure 1*, until recently the federal minimum wage, after adjustment for inflation, was close to its lowest point since its inception. Historically, the minimum wage has been increased, allowed to decline against inflation for a number of years, and then readjusted. Indexing has eliminated the sawtooth pattern in Washington; this year's minimum wage is now roughly the same as in 1968. In stark contrast, the U.S. minimum was more than \$2 per hour below its 1979 peak. With inflation on the rise, the U.S. minimum will still be well below

Figure 1. Washington and U.S. Statutory Minimum Wage, Nominal and Adjusted for Inflation Using U.S. Personal Consumption Expenditure Price Deflator<sup>2</sup>, in 2009 Constant Dollars, 1962 through 2009  
Washington State Employment Security Department, U.S. Department of Labor



(on the order of 60 cents per hour) its peak in the 1970s.

### Minimum Wage Jobs Over Time

In the second quarter of 2009, 3.1 percent of jobs in the state of Washington paid the minimum wage when employment is calculated on a full-time equivalency (FTE) basis.<sup>3</sup> This figure represents the highest percentage since 1990. The number of minimum wage jobs, at almost 67,000, was also at an all-time high.

During the 1990s, minimum wage jobs averaged around 1 percent of total employment. The percentage fluctuated from as low as half of a percent up to 1.5 percent (*Figure 2*). The

first large increase in the state minimum wage in 1999 had a modest effect on the number of minimum wage jobs offered by employers, but the second wage hike in 2000 appeared to compress the bottom of the wage scale. Since then, between 1.8 percent and 2.8 percent of all jobs have paid the minimum wage, with two exceptions: the low of 1.5 percent in the third quarter of 2001, during the middle of the recession, and the high in the most recent quarter.

Beginning in 1994, the percentage of jobs paying the minimum wage became more volatile from quarter to quarter. In 1999, however, a regular seasonal pattern emerged, with the first three quarters roughly equal and a drop in the percentage in the fourth quarter.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/america.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the chained consumer price index (C-CPI-U) is a better measure of changes in the cost of living than the CPI-U. The C-CPI-U is not available before 1999. The PCE Price Deflator uses the same methodology as the C-CPI-U, tracks it closely and is available historically so it was used to adjust for inflation. See <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/superlink.htm> and [http://www.bea.gov/papers/pdf/cpi\\_pce.pdf](http://www.bea.gov/papers/pdf/cpi_pce.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Minimum wage jobs were defined as those having an hourly wage within 2 percent of the minimum, to cover rounding errors. One FTE job is equal to 2,080 hours worked. The state wage database does not include federal employment, and jobs at private households were excluded from the analysis.

Figure 2. Percent of Jobs Paying the Minimum Wage, FTE Basis, State of Washington Quarterly, First Quarter 1990 through Second Quarter 2009  
Washington State Employment Security Department



These percentages are calculated on an FTE (full-time equivalency) basis of 520 hours worked in a quarter – the equivalent of working a 40-hour week all 13 weeks over the three-month period.<sup>4</sup> Because many minimum wage jobs are part time and tend to be of shorter duration than average, the actual number and percentage of workers with minimum wage jobs at any point in time are higher than indicated. In second quarter 2009, 6.4 percent of jobs – where a job is any employee-employer relationship during those three months – paid the minimum wage. A point-in-time count would be somewhere between the FTE employment of 3.1 percent and the all-job employment of 6.4 percent.

<sup>4</sup> Some quarters have one day more or less than the usual, so total regular work hours may range from 512 to 528. All data were adjusted based on the actual regular work hours in each quarter.

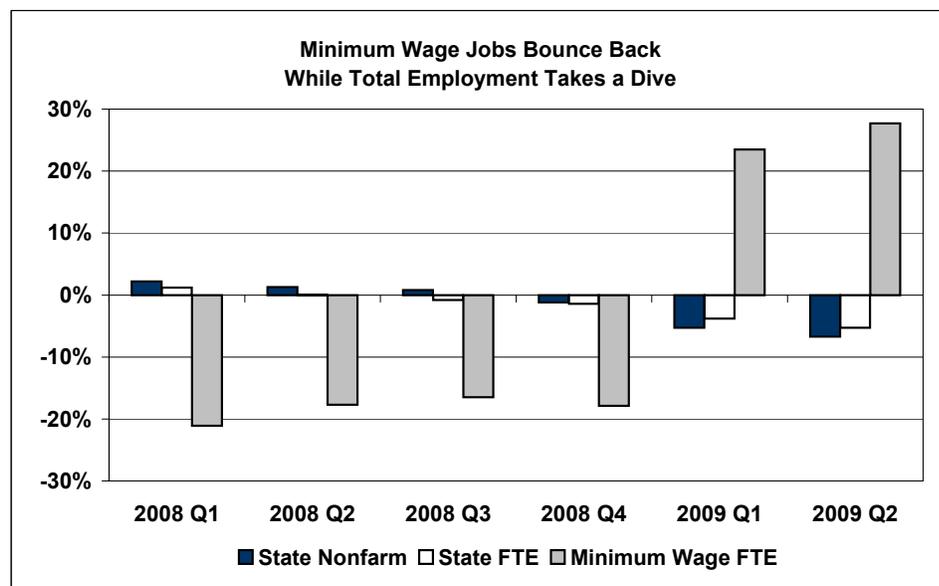
### Recent Trends

As the state slid into recession in 2008, the number of minimum wage jobs declined substantially. If one compares the first quarter of 2008 with the first quarter of 2007, the number of FTE mini-

um wage jobs fell by a whopping 21 percent – from over 59,000 to fewer than 47,000 – while total FTE employment was 2 percent higher. Over the subsequent three quarters, minimum wage jobs continued to be 17 to 18 percent lower than same-quarter employment in 2007, while total FTE employment was only slightly below 2007 levels. The decline in minimum wage jobs cut across every sector, but was particularly heavy in retail trade. This finding of minimum wage jobs being the first to be eliminated in a recession also held true in 2001.

However, in 2009, the number of minimum wage jobs bounced back, even though the number of jobs paying below \$10 per hour was declining (see this report’s final section). The 58,000 minimum wage jobs in first quarter 2009 were only slightly fewer than the 59,000 in

Figure 3. Year-Over-Year Change in Quarterly Employment: Total Nonfarm Employment (except for Federal Government), Total FTE Employment, and Total FTE Minimum Wage Employment, State of Washington Quarterly, 1st Quarter 2008 Through 2nd Quarter 2009  
Washington State Employment Security Department



pre-recession 2007, and second quarter 2009 surpassed second quarter 2007 job counts by more than 3,000 jobs or 5 percent. This rebound occurred across all sectors, even as these sectors were slashing payrolls.

Why did the number of minimum wage jobs increase while low-wage jobs in general were being cut? At the beginning of 2009, the minimum wage was adjusted upward by 5.9 percent, based on the increase in the Seattle Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for the August 2007 to August 2008 time period. This tended to compress jobs at the lower end of the wage spectrum. At the same time, the quarterly price index for Personal Consumption Expenditures was declining in the fourth quarter of 2008 and first quarter of 2009, as housing and gas prices dropped. The drop in prices increased the inflation-adjusted minimum wage, heightening the compression effect and increasing the number of jobs that fell within the threshold definition of minimum wage jobs used in this report (within 2 percent of the legal minimum). So there were fewer lower-wage jobs, but more of them were clustered at or near the minimum wage.

## Minimum Wage Jobs By Industry

Minimum wage jobs continue to be concentrated in a handful of industries. Since 1990, food services, agriculture, and retail trade accounted for about two-thirds of the total minimum

wage jobs. For the four quarters ending in the second quarter of 2009, accommodations and food services hosted 35 percent of the state's minimum wage jobs. Another 17 percent of these low-wage jobs were in agriculture, and 17 percent were in retail trade.

Looking at it another way, 12 percent of agricultural jobs paid at or near the minimum wage. On fruit and nut farms 15 percent paid the minimum. Fifteen percent of accommodations and food services jobs paid minimum

wage. Twenty-eight percent of all jobs at limited-service restaurants, such as fast-food outlets, were at or near \$8.55 per hour.

There are many industries in which minimum wage jobs are relatively rare (1 percent or less of all jobs), including mining, utilities, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, transportation, information, finance and insurance, professional services, corporate offices, private educational services, health care, and state and local government. *Fig-*

Figure 4. Minimum Wage Jobs by Industry  
Average of the Four Quarters Ending Second Quarter 2009  
Source: Washington State Employment Security Department

NAICS	Industry	FTE* Minimum Wage Jobs	Percent of all Minimum Wage Jobs	Percent of all FTE Jobs in Industry
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	9,038	17%	12%
1113	Fruit and Tree Nut Farming	4,539	9%	15%
21	Mining	3	0%	0%
22	Utilities	1	0%	0%
23	Construction	263	0%	0%
31	Manufacturing	1,253	2%	0%
42	Wholesale Trade	863	2%	1%
44	Retail Trade	8,863	17%	4%
4451	Grocery Stores	1,467	3%	4%
4471	Gasoline Stations	1,195	2%	13%
452	General Merchandise Stores	1,253	2%	5%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	583	1%	1%
51	Information	757	1%	1%
52	Finance and Insurance	148	0%	0%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	827	2%	2%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Svcs.	489	1%	0%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	41	0%	0%
56	Admin. and Support and Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	1,918	4%	2%
561320	Temporary Help Agencies	714	1%	2%
61	Educational Services	188	0%	1%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	2,906	6%	1%
624410	Child Day Care Services	1,101	2%	10%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,690	3%	7%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	20,116	38%	15%
721	Lodging	1,449	3%	7%
7221	Full-Service Restaurants	4,706	9%	9%
7222	Limited-Service Eating Places	13,240	25%	28%
81	Other Services	1,627	3%	3%
92	State Government	139	0%	0%
93	Local Government	919	2%	0%
	Unknown	96	0%	1%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52,728</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2%</b>

\*One FTE job = 520 hours worked per quarter (full-time, 40-hour workweek).

ure 4 lists minimum wage jobs by major sector and provides data for those detailed industries with the most jobs.

## Minimum Wage Jobs By Region

Minimum wage jobs are distributed unequally around the state, as shown in *Figure 5* and in the maps that follow. In the four quarters ending in second quarter 2009, 9.4 percent of FTE jobs in Okanogan County paid the minimum wage, while in King County, only 1.1 percent paid the minimum. Minimum wage jobs were 5.1 percent of FTE employment in rural counties, 4.4 percent of micropolitan employment, 3.7 percent of MSA employment, and 1.4 percent of metropolitan division employment. For the area west of the Cascades, minimum wage jobs accounted for 2.7 percent of jobs while the figure was 4.7 percent for east of the Cascades.

Some of the disparity is explained by the varied industrial makeup of the regions in the state. The three primary sectors for minimum wage jobs – accommodations and food services, retail trade, and agriculture – are more prevalent in areas with a higher ratio of minimum wage jobs. For example, in the second quarter of 2009, these sectors made up 22 percent of statewide jobs, but were 30 percent of jobs east of the Cascades and only 19 percent on the west side.

Higher living costs in urban areas were also a likely contributor, exerting both a push and a pull on wages relative to rural

areas. As a result, in metro areas a smaller percentage of jobs in retail trade and accommodations and food services pay the minimum wage than in rural areas.

Finally, in the case of accommodations and food services, the business structure also has a significant impact on wage rates. Rural counties with destination

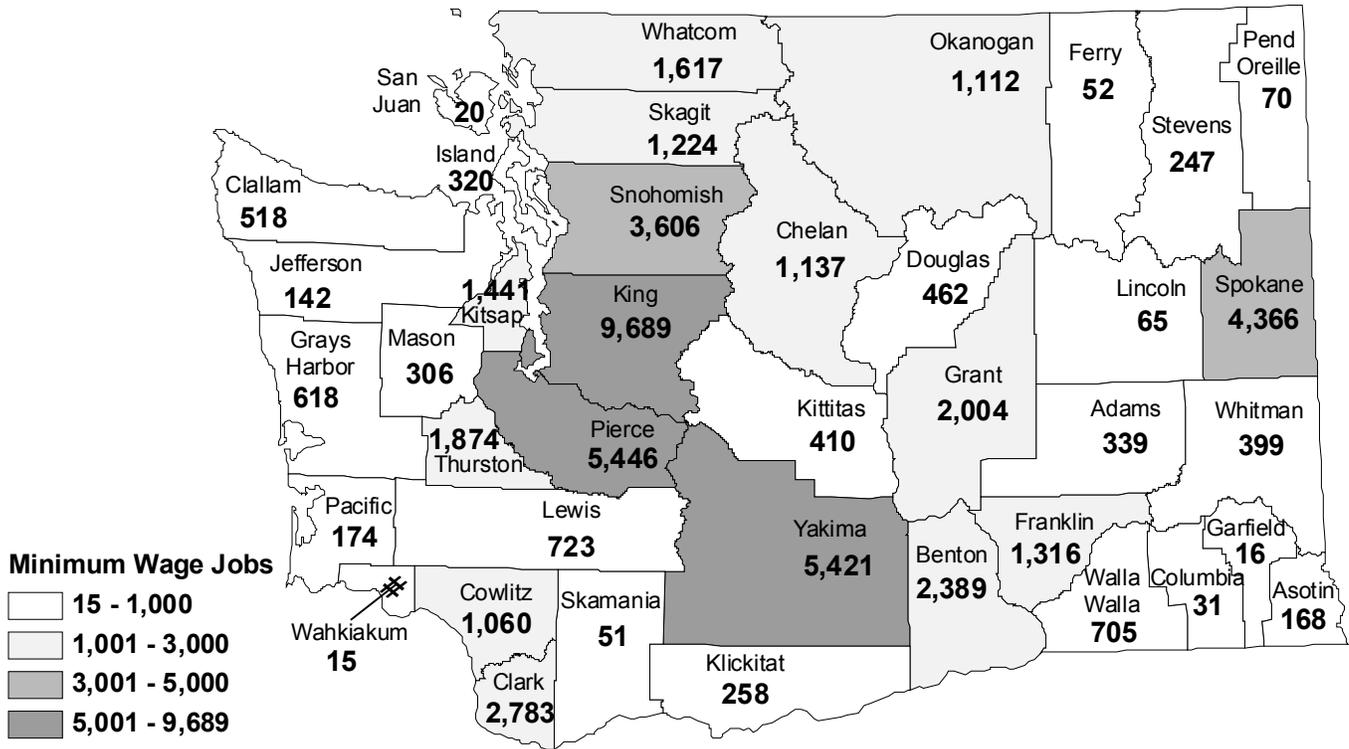
Figure 5. Minimum Wage Jobs by Geographic Area  
Average of the Four Quarters Ending Second Quarter 2009  
Source: Washington State Employment Security Department

Area	FTE* Minimum Wage Jobs	Percent of all Minimum Wage Jobs	Percent of all FTE Jobs in Area
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,728</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
Metropolitan Division (MD)	18,742	35.5%	1.4%
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	25,088	47.6%	3.7%
Micropolitan Area	6,003	11.4%	4.4%
Rural Counties	2,756	5.2%	5.1%
Adams	339	0.6%	6.6%
Asotin	168	0.3%	4.7%
Benton (MSA)	2,389	4.5%	4.0%
Chelan (MSA)	1,137	2.2%	4.0%
Clallam (Micro)	518	1.0%	3.3%
Clark (MSA)	2,783	5.3%	2.9%
Columbia	31	0.1%	3.3%
Cowlitz (MSA)	1,060	2.0%	3.9%
Douglas (MSA)	462	0.9%	6.4%
Ferry	52	0.1%	4.8%
Franklin (MSA)	1,316	2.5%	6.3%
Garfield	16	0.0%	3.2%
Grant (Micro)	2,004	3.8%	7.6%
Grays Harbor (Micro)	618	1.2%	3.7%
Island (Micro)	320	0.6%	3.4%
Jefferson	142	0.3%	2.5%
King (MD)	9,689	18.4%	1.1%
Kitsap (MSA)	1,441	2.7%	3.0%
Kittitas (Micro)	410	0.8%	4.2%
Klickitat	258	0.5%	5.1%
Lewis (Micro)	723	1.4%	4.0%
Lincoln	65	0.1%	3.4%
Mason (Micro)	306	0.6%	3.1%
Okanogan	1,112	2.1%	9.4%
Pacific	174	0.3%	4.2%
Pend Oreille	70	0.1%	3.2%
Pierce (MD)	5,446	10.3%	2.8%
San Juan	20	0.0%	0.6%
Skagit (MSA)	1,224	2.3%	3.4%
Skamania (MSA)	51	0.1%	3.8%
Snohomish (MD)	3,606	6.8%	1.9%
Spokane (MSA)	4,366	8.3%	2.9%
Stevens	247	0.5%	3.7%
Thurston (MSA)	1,874	3.6%	2.5%
Wahkiakum	15	0.0%	3.0%
Walla Walla (Micro)	705	1.3%	3.6%
Whatcom (MSA)	1,617	3.1%	2.7%
Whitman (Micro)	399	0.8%	3.3%
Yakima (MSA)	5,421	10.3%	7.0%
Unknown	140	0.3%	0.8%

\*One FTE job = 520 hours worked per quarter (full-time, 40-hour workweek).

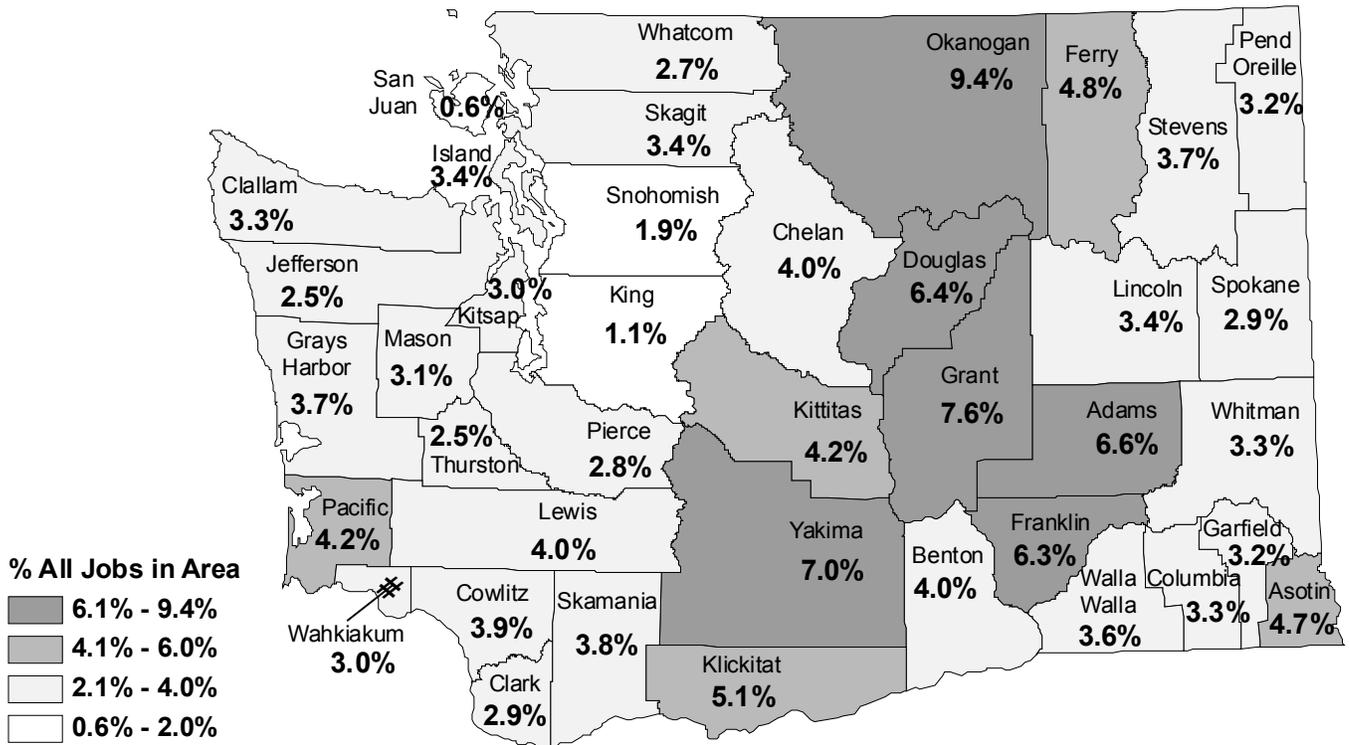
# Number of Full-Time Equivalent Minimum Wage Jobs by County Second Quarter 2009

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department



# Minimum Wage Jobs as a Percent of All Jobs on a Full-Time Equivalent Basis Second Quarter 2009

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department



resorts such as San Juan, Jefferson, and Skamania counties each have a relatively low percentage of minimum wage jobs. Metropolitan counties tend to have a

higher than average concentration of limited-service restaurants, such as fast food outlets. These establishments in turn pay 32 percent of their workers

the minimum wage, while full-service restaurants typically pay only 10 percent of their workers at the minimum level.

## Median Hourly Wages

The previous sections focus on minimum wage jobs. What about the rest of the wage scale? One might expect, based on national news, that wages would be stagnant at best or declining<sup>5</sup>. In fact, just the opposite happened in Washington.

Figure 6 shows the median hourly wage for all non-federal jobs in the state, adjusted for seasonality and inflation. The median went through four distinct stages:

1. Slow growth from 1990 to 1997, when it increased from \$17.00 to \$17.50.
2. Fast growth from 1997 to 2002, when it rose to \$20.00.
3. A period of stagnation from 2002 to 2008, which included a small dip and recovery around the 2001 recession.
4. A sharp rise to \$20.80 at the end of 2008 and early 2009 – the worst two quarters in terms of job loss since the 1930’s Depression. The second quarter of 2009 was a penny off of the previous quarter.

Why did the median hourly wage rise so much during a period with such substantial job losses? Before answering that question, it’s important to note that FTE employment trends differently

than covered employment and nonfarm employment, as shown in Figure 7. In the third quarter of 2008, for example, there were 25,521 more covered jobs than in the third quarter of 2007. However, FTE employment was lower by over 20,000 jobs, due to a decline in hours worked per week. FTE employment may decline even as job counts are higher if hours are being cut. When both jobs and hours are being reduced, the FTE employment will drop more than covered employment.

Figure 6. Median Hourly Wage, FTE Basis, State of Washington, Adjusted for Seasonality and for Inflation Using U.S. Personal Consumption Expenditure Price Deflator, in 2009 Constant Dollars, Quarterly, First Quarter 1990 through Second Quarter 2009, Washington State Employment Security Department



Figure 7. Covered Employment vs. FTE Employment, State of Washington, Washington State Employment Security Department

	Covered Employment	FTE Jobs	Average Work Week
3rd Quarter 2007	2,869,482	2,336,925	32.6
3rd Quarter 2008	2,895,003	2,316,733	32.0
Change	25,521	-20,192	
4th Quarter 2007	2,849,627	2,316,300	32.5
4th Quarter 2008	2,820,325	2,289,364	32.5
Change	-29,302	-26,936	
1st Quarter 2008	2,798,408	2,258,519	32.3
1st Quarter 2009	2,709,868	2,148,597	31.7
Change	-88,540	-109,922	
2nd Quarter 2008	2,858,365	2,377,570	33.3
2nd Quarter 2009	2,732,313	2,197,466	32.2
Change	-126,052	-180,104	

<sup>5</sup>Washington wage data are broader than many national measures of wages, which often are limited to non-supervisory workers. Data in this report include all workers covered by unemployment insurance. While CEOs and other corporate officers are generally not covered, many managers and supervisors are included.

Figure 8. FTE Employment by Hourly Wage Range, State of Washington, Fourth Quarter 2007 vs. Fourth Quarter 2008  
Adjusted for inflation, Washington State Employment Security Department

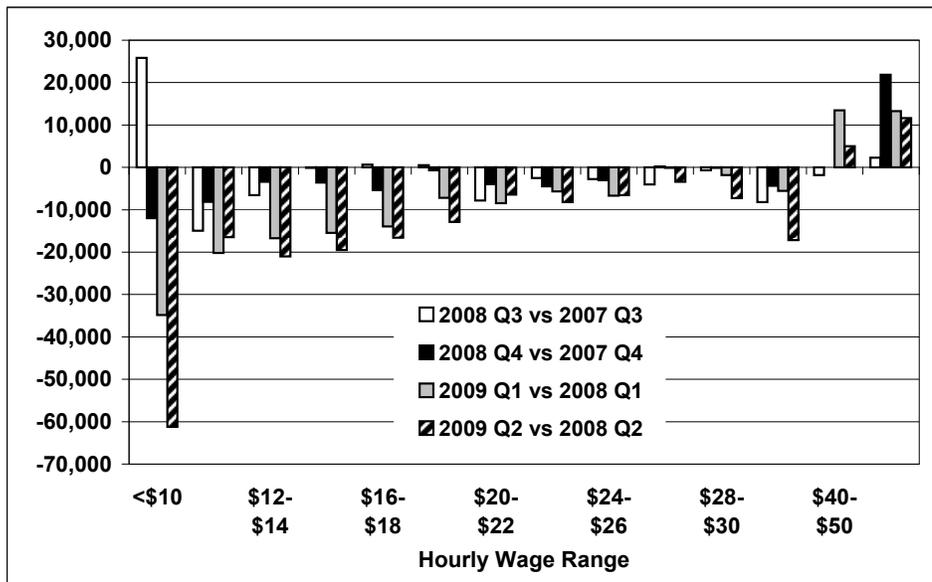
Hourly Wage	FTE Employment		Change
	4th Quarter 2007	4th Quarter 2008	
<\$10.00 per hour	241,065	229,250	-11,816
\$10.00 to \$19.99	901,989	881,462	-20,527
\$20.00 to \$20.99	512,457	501,128	-11,328
\$30.00 to \$30.99	292,165	287,853	-4,312
\$40.00 to \$40.99	179,440	179,489	48
\$50.00 and higher	196,601	218,471	21,871
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,323,717</b>	<b>2,297,653</b>	<b>-26,064</b>

When employment is declining, the median hourly wage will increase if job losses are heavier for lower-wage jobs – and that is exactly what happened in the state of Washington in the last half of 2008 and first half of 2009. *Figure 8* compares jobs by hourly wage range in the fourth

quarter of 2007 with the fourth quarter of 2008. Total FTE employment fell by over 26,000 jobs. The number of jobs paying below \$10 per hour declined by almost 12,000, and counts were lower for jobs paying below \$40 per hour. However, the number of jobs paying \$50 or higher actually increased substantially.

More detailed data for this quarter and other quarters are shown in *Figure 9*. Starting in the fourth quarter of 2008, the pattern is similar: the number of lower wage jobs generally declined, while the number of higher wage jobs – those paying \$40 per hour or more – increased.

Figure 9. Year-over-Year Change in Jobs by Hourly Wage Range, FTE Basis, State of Washington, Adjusted for Inflation, Third Quarter 2008 through Second Quarter 2009, Washington State Employment Security Department



## Summary

Washington paid \$8.55 per hour in minimum wage in 2009, the highest in the nation. In 1998, voters approved an indexing initiative that tied its minimum wage to a measure of inflation.

Through 2008, low-wage, part-time jobs were the first to go as the recession dug in, as the number of jobs paying below \$10 per hour was slashed, including those paying at or near the minimum wage.

In the first two quarters of 2009, however, the number of minimum wage jobs increased, even though the number of low-wage jobs was declining. By the second quarter of 2009, the number of minimum wage jobs and their percentage of total employment exceeded the record set in 2000. The increase in the nominal minimum wage at the beginning of 2009, along with a drop in prices compressed the bottom of the wage scale, so that a higher proportion of low-wage jobs were at or near the minimum wage.

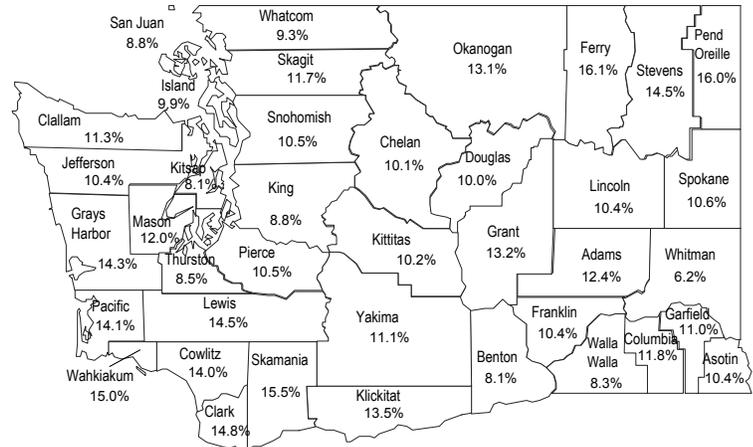
The median hourly wage increased during the worst of the recession because of an increase in jobs at the higher end of the wage scale and disproportionate job losses on the lower end of the wage spectrum.

# First Quarter Stats-At-A-Glance

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

(In Thousands)	Jan. 2010 (Revised)	Feb. 2010 (Revised)	Mar. 2010 (Pre)
<b>Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate:</b>			
Washington State	9.3%	9.4%	9.5%
United States	9.7%	9.7%	9.7%
<b>Washington State Not Seasonally Adjusted:</b>			
Resident Civilian Labor Force	3,516.6	3,497.7	3,529.8
Employment	3,157.9	3,134.5	3,204.0
Unemployment	358.7	363.2	325.8
Percent of Labor Force	10.2%	10.4%	9.2%

## Average Unemployment Rates by County January, February, and March 2010 Washington = 9.0% / United States = 10.4% 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: 4/20/10  
Benchmark: March 2009

Not Seasonally Adjusted	January 2010 Revised				February 2010 Revised				March 2010 Preliminary			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total	3,516,590	3,157,900	358,690	10.2	3,497,650	3,134,490	363,160	10.4	3,526,240	3,178,520	347,720	9.9
Bellingham MSA	106,980	97,070	9,910	9.3	105,960	95,480	10,480	9.9	105,980	95,920	10,060	9.5
Bremerton MSA	125,610	115,430	10,180	8.1	124,380	113,520	10,860	8.7	124,850	114,250	10,610	8.5
Kennewick-Pasco-Richland MSA	129,770	118,420	11,360	8.8	129,090	117,510	11,580	9.0	130,720	120,020	10,700	8.2
Benton County 2/	93,400	85,830	7,570	8.1	92,920	85,180	7,750	8.3	94,190	86,990	7,200	7.6
Franklin County 2/	36,370	32,590	3,790	10.4	36,170	32,340	3,830	10.6	36,530	33,030	3,500	9.6
Longview MSA (Cowlitz)	44,130	37,930	6,200	14.0	43,750	37,460	6,290	14.4	43,680	37,780	5,900	13.5
Mt. Vernon-Anacortes MSA (Skagit)	57,640	50,900	6,740	11.7	57,220	50,230	6,990	12.2	57,620	50,990	6,630	11.5
Olympia MSA	132,450	121,130	11,320	8.5	132,480	120,580	11,910	9.0	134,770	123,130	11,640	8.6
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MD*	1,493,890	1,355,700	138,190	9.3	1,487,390	1,351,740	135,640	9.1	1,499,790	1,371,530	128,270	8.6
King County 2/	1,109,890	1,012,000	97,890	8.8	1,104,980	1,009,040	95,930	8.7	1,114,620	1,023,810	90,810	8.1
Snohomish County 2/	384,000	343,700	40,300	10.5	382,410	342,700	39,710	10.4	385,170	347,710	37,460	9.7
Spokane MSA	240,200	214,790	25,410	10.6	238,910	212,070	26,840	11.2	239,550	214,400	25,140	10.5
Tacoma Metropolitan Division	395,950	354,350	41,590	10.5	393,350	349,420	43,940	11.2	397,140	354,340	42,800	10.8
Wenatchee MSA	60,450	54,390	6,060	10.0	59,880	53,570	6,310	10.5	59,920	53,980	5,940	9.9
Chelan County 2/	39,780	35,780	4,000	10.1	39,440	35,240	4,200	10.7	39,530	35,510	4,020	10.2
Douglas County 2/	20,670	18,600	2,070	10.0	20,430	18,320	2,110	10.3	20,390	18,460	1,930	9.4
Yakima MSA	124,320	110,560	13,760	11.1	124,120	110,000	14,130	11.4	125,600	112,260	13,340	10.6
Aberdeen MSA (Grays Harbor)	31,880	27,320	4,560	14.3	31,660	26,990	4,670	14.7	31,640	27,040	4,600	14.5
Centralia MSA (Lewis)	31,980	27,350	4,630	14.5	31,960	27,180	4,790	15.0	32,400	27,780	4,620	14.3
Ellensburg MSA (Kittitas)	21,170	19,020	2,150	10.2	21,250	18,920	2,330	11.0	21,500	19,330	2,170	10.1
Moses Lake MSA (Grant)	40,150	34,870	5,290	13.2	39,800	34,460	5,340	13.4	40,210	35,360	4,850	12.1
Oak Harbor MSA (Island County)	33,270	29,980	3,300	9.9	33,060	29,600	3,450	10.4	33,300	29,960	3,340	10.0
Port Angeles MSA (Clallam)	30,470	27,040	3,430	11.3	30,690	27,160	3,530	11.5	30,850	27,450	3,400	11.0
Pullman MSA (Whitman)	20,320	19,060	1,260	6.2	20,590	19,170	1,430	6.9	20,890	19,550	1,350	6.4
Shelton MSA (Mason)	25,370	22,320	3,040	12.0	25,180	22,030	3,150	12.5	25,480	22,340	3,140	12.3
Walla Walla MSA (Walla Walla)	30,780	28,220	2,560	8.3	30,850	28,180	2,670	8.6	30,960	28,490	2,470	8.0
Adams	8,070	7,070	1,000	12.4	8,110	7,110	1,000	12.3	8,350	7,360	990	11.8
Asotin 2/	10,360	9,290	1,080	10.4	10,390	9,250	1,140	11.0	10,320	9,350	970	9.4
Clark 2/	219,180	186,790	32,390	14.8	215,700	184,630	31,070	14.4	218,170	186,250	31,910	14.6
Columbia	1,610	1,430	190	11.6	1,620	1,420	200	12.2	1,630	1,440	200	11.9
Ferry	3,100	2,600	500	16.1	3,100	2,560	540	17.5	3,090	2,580	510	16.5
Garfield	1,000	890	110	11.0	1,010	900	110	11.1	1,050	950	90	8.9
Jefferson	13,140	11,780	1,370	10.4	12,960	11,550	1,410	10.9	13,040	11,670	1,370	10.5
Klickitat	10,450	9,050	1,410	13.5	10,470	9,190	1,280	12.2	10,690	9,490	1,200	11.2
Lincoln	4,730	4,240	490	10.3	4,760	4,250	510	10.7	4,830	4,350	480	9.9
Okanogan	20,130	17,500	2,630	13.1	20,310	17,530	2,770	13.7	20,450	17,890	2,560	12.5
Pacific	9,110	7,830	1,280	14.0	8,930	7,650	1,290	14.4	8,960	7,680	1,280	14.3
Pend Oreille	5,560	4,670	890	15.9	5,650	4,670	980	17.4	5,470	4,610	860	15.7
San Juan	7,820	7,140	690	8.8	7,790	7,080	710	9.1	7,910	7,250	660	8.3
Skamania 2/	5,210	4,400	810	15.5	5,080	4,350	730	14.3	5,140	4,390	750	14.6
Stevens	18,720	16,000	2,720	14.5	18,640	15,750	2,880	15.5	18,710	16,000	2,710	14.5
Wahkiakum	1,600	1,370	240	14.7	1,560	1,330	230	14.7	1,570	1,350	230	14.4

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: September 2009

In Thousands

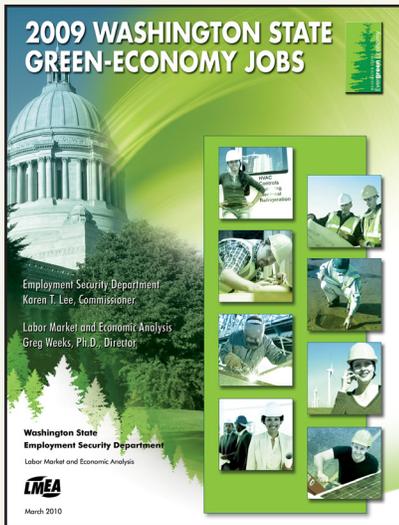
Industry	Oct. 2009 (Rev)	Nov. 2009 (Rev)	Dec. 2009 (Rev)	Jan. 2010 (Rev)	Feb. 2010 (Rev)	Mar. 2010 (Prel)
<b>Total Nonfarm</b> .....	<b>2,797,400</b>	<b>2,790,900</b>	<b>2,782,500</b>	<b>2,793,400</b>	<b>2,785,300</b>	<b>2,786,900</b>
Mining and Logging .....	6,100	6,100	5,700	5,800	6,000	6,200
Logging .....	3,800	3,800	3,600	3,700	3,700	3,800
<b>Construction</b> .....	<b>153,800</b>	<b>149,200</b>	<b>144,500</b>	<b>146,800</b>	<b>143,300</b>	<b>141,900</b>
Construction of Buildings .....	37,200	36,200	36,000	36,800	35,800	36,100
Heavy and Civil Engineering .....	19,000	18,800	18,000	18,300	18,100	18,200
Specialty Trade Contractors .....	97,600	94,200	90,500	91,700	89,400	87,600
<b>Manufacturing</b> .....	<b>259,000</b>	<b>258,800</b>	<b>258,800</b>	<b>259,400</b>	<b>258,400</b>	<b>258,400</b>
Durable Goods .....	183,800	183,500	183,800	184,600	183,400	183,900
Wood Products .....	12,800	12,700	12,600	12,700	12,600	12,700
Fabricated Metal Products .....	16,400	16,400	16,400	16,600	16,700	16,900
Computer and Electronic Products .....	19,000	18,800	19,000	18,900	18,800	19,200
Transportation Equipment .....	90,100	90,100	90,400	90,700	89,700	89,800
Aerospace Products and Parts .....	81,200	81,100	81,400	82,000	81,100	81,200
Nondurable Goods .....	75,200	75,300	75,000	74,800	75,000	74,500
Food Manufacturing .....	34,100	34,000	33,900	33,800	34,000	33,600
<b>Wholesale Trade</b> .....	<b>121,800</b>	<b>121,300</b>	<b>121,700</b>	<b>122,500</b>	<b>122,300</b>	<b>122,600</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b> .....	<b>307,500</b>	<b>306,200</b>	<b>306,900</b>	<b>310,400</b>	<b>311,400</b>	<b>311,900</b>
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers .....	36,200	35,800	35,900	35,700	34,800	34,800
Food and Beverage Stores .....	60,800	61,500	61,400	61,900	62,100	62,300
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores .....	22,300	22,200	21,900	21,900	22,400	22,000
General Merchandise Stores .....	66,600	65,200	64,700	66,000	67,200	67,700
<b>Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities</b> .....	<b>89,400</b>	<b>90,300</b>	<b>89,600</b>	<b>88,600</b>	<b>87,900</b>	<b>88,200</b>
Utilities .....	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,000	5,200
Transportation and Warehousing .....	84,300	85,200	84,500	83,500	82,900	83,000
Air Transportation .....	10,600	10,500	10,500	10,200	10,000	10,200
Water Transportation .....	3,400	3,400	3,500	3,400	3,400	3,400
Truck Transportation .....	22,400	21,800	21,700	22,000	21,900	22,000
Support Activities for Transportation .....	17,300	17,500	17,400	17,000	17,300	17,400
Support Activities for Water Transportation .....	5,000	5,300	5,100	4,700	5,000	5,200
Warehousing and Storage .....	10,400	10,300	10,400	10,500	10,600	10,700
<b>Information</b> .....	<b>102,700</b>	<b>102,100</b>	<b>101,600</b>	<b>102,500</b>	<b>102,300</b>	<b>102,600</b>
Software Publishers .....	51,000	50,800	50,800	50,900	51,200	51,200
Telecommunications .....	25,100	25,000	25,000	24,900	24,800	24,800
<b>Financial Activities</b> .....	<b>141,200</b>	<b>140,900</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,400</b>	<b>140,200</b>	<b>139,500</b>
Finance and Insurance .....	93,000	92,900	92,500	93,200	93,000	92,600
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities .....	44,400	44,000	44,100	44,100	44,300	44,300
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities .....	37,100	37,100	36,800	37,100	37,000	36,400
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing .....	48,200	48,000	47,500	47,200	47,200	46,900
<b>Professional and Business Services</b> .....	<b>324,400</b>	<b>326,700</b>	<b>327,100</b>	<b>328,000</b>	<b>326,300</b>	<b>327,800</b>
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services .....	160,000	160,000	159,700	159,700	159,500	160,100
Legal Services .....	20,900	21,100	21,300	21,300	21,500	21,500
Architectural and Engineering Services .....	34,200	34,100	33,900	33,300	33,400	33,700
Computer Systems Design and Related Services .....	31,700	32,500	32,300	32,500	32,900	32,500
Management of Companies and Enterprises .....	31,400	31,500	31,100	31,200	31,000	31,000
Admin and Support and Waste Management and Remediation .....	133,000	135,200	136,300	137,100	135,800	136,700
Employment Services .....	33,900	34,100	34,100	34,200	34,200	34,600
<b>Education and Health Services</b> .....	<b>373,700</b>	<b>375,900</b>	<b>376,500</b>	<b>379,100</b>	<b>379,100</b>	<b>378,800</b>
Education Services .....	47,900	48,800	49,500	50,400	50,600	50,500
Hospitals .....	72,800	73,100	73,200	73,200	73,100	73,100
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities .....	60,200	60,400	59,900	60,400	61,000	60,600
Social Assistance .....	62,400	62,700	62,900	62,200	62,200	62,500
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b> .....	<b>264,600</b>	<b>260,700</b>	<b>258,900</b>	<b>260,400</b>	<b>259,000</b>	<b>259,500</b>
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation .....	44,500	43,000	42,400	43,000	42,800	43,500
Accommodation .....	29,200	28,500	27,800	28,600	28,700	28,400
Food Services and Drinking Places .....	190,900	189,200	188,700	188,800	187,500	187,600
<b>Government</b> .....	<b>545,300</b>	<b>545,200</b>	<b>543,700</b>	<b>542,800</b>	<b>543,000</b>	<b>543,400</b>
Federal Government .....	72,800	72,200	72,100	73,000	73,000	73,600
Total State Government .....	150,400	150,600	150,600	149,400	149,200	149,400
State Government Educational Services .....	80,100	79,900	80,100	79,500	79,500	79,700
Total Local Government .....	322,100	322,400	321,000	320,400	320,800	320,400
Local Government Educational Services .....	152,300	152,600	152,100	151,800	151,800	152,000
<b>Workers in Labor-Management Disputes</b> .....	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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 third quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present.

# What's New



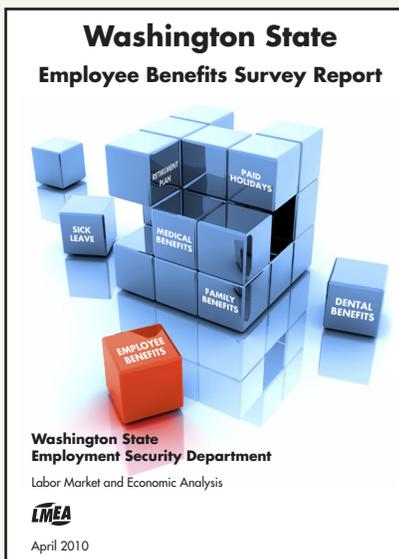
This report is now available on the Workforce Explorer Web site.

## 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 Employee Benefits Survey Report

The Labor Market and Economic Analysis branch surveys a large number of Washington employers about fringe benefits offered to employees.

In the survey, employers are asked several detailed questions about:

- medical insurance,
- retirement plans, and
- paid leave.

The primary goal is to provide job seekers, employers, and policy makers with timely and reliable employee benefits information for decision making.

## Washington Labor Market Quarterly Review

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## Washington State Employment Security Department

Labor Market and Economic Analysis

