Washington State Labor Area Summaries





Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch (360) 438-4800 *Greg Weeks, Director*

In This Issue

Bellingham MSA4
Bremerton PMSA6
Olympia PMSA8
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA10
Snohomish County13
Spokane MSA16
Tacoma PMSA18
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA20
Clark County22
Yakima MSA24
Consumer Price Indexes32

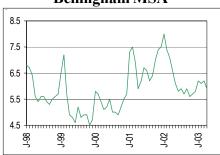


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MSA Jobless Rates 1998-2003

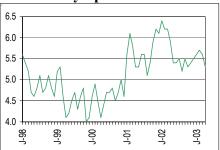
Bellingham MSA



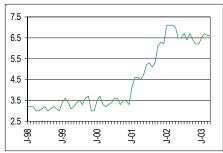
Bremerton PMSA



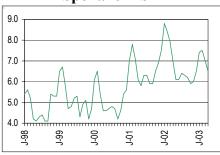
Olympia PMSA



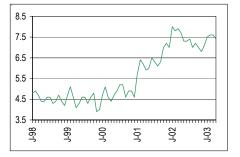
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA



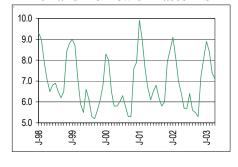
Spokane MSA



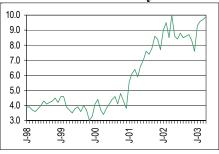
Tacoma PMSA



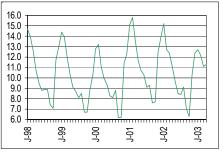
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA



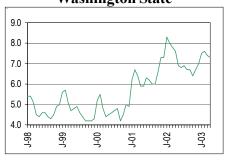
Clark County



Yakima MSA



Washington State



Index of Consumer Confidence 1993-2003



Also in This Issue

Wenatchee LMA	26
Walla Walla County	28
Cowlitz County	30

Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas 1/

Resid				<u>ymen</u>				<u> apor</u>	Warket Areas 1/			
	A	April 2003 Prelim				March 2003 Re				April 2002 Revi		
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	Ul Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp. l	JI Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	Ul Rate
Washington State Total	3,085,800	2,862,000	223,800	7.3	3,105,400	2,875,200	230,200	7.4	3,060,200	2,827,700	232,500	7.6
Bellingham MSA	89,200	84,000	5,300	5.9	89,400	83,900	5,500	6.2	83,500	77,900	5,500	6.6
Bremerton PMSA	101,600	95,300	6,200	6.1	102,500	95,800	6,600	6.4	98,700	92,500	6,200	6.3
Olympia PMSA	108,400	102,700	5,700	5.3	109,000	102,800	6,100	5.6	103,800	97,700	6,100	5.9
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA	1,379,700	1,288,300	91,400	6.6	1,394,600	1,301,900	92,700	6.6	1,381,600	1,285,200	96,400	7.0
King County 2/	1,011,500	946,500	65,000	6.4	1,022,000	956,500	65,500	6.4	1,011,500	944,200	67,300	6.7
Snohomish County 2/	340,400	315,700	24,700	7.3	344,500	319,000	25,500	7.4	342,100	314,900	27,200	7.9
Island County 2/	27,800	26,200	1,600	5.9	28,200	26,400	1,800	6.2	27,930	26,110	1,820	6.5
Spokane MSA	212,000	198,300	13,700	6.5	213,800	198,900	14,900	7.0	212,800	198,200	14,700	6.9
Tacoma PMSA	347,000	321,200	25,700	7.4	350,700	324,100	26,600	7.6	340,800	314,400	26,400	7.7
Tri-Cities MSA	101,900	94,600	7,300	7.1	101,000	93,500	7,400	7.4	98,300	92,000	6,300	6.4
Benton County 2/	77,100	72,100	5,100	6.6	76,400	71,300	5,200	6.8	74,400	70,100	4,300	5.8
Franklin County 2 /	24,700	22,500	2,200	8.9	24,600	22,300	2,300	9.3	23,900	21,900	2,000	8.3
Yakima MSA	105,900	94,000	11,900	11.3	104,400	92,800	11,600	11.1	105,000	93,400	11,600	11.1
Adams	7,960	7,280	680	8.6	7,440	6,630	810	10.9	8,170	7,110	1,060	13.0
Asotin 2/	12,290	11,660	630	5.1	12,260	11,650	610	4.9	11,920	11,050	860	7.3
Chelan-Douglas LMA	51,380	46,530	4,850	9.4	50,540	46,020	4,520	8.9	50,510	45,880	4,630	9.2
Chelan County 2/	34,520	31,090	3,430	9.9	33,950	30,760	3,190	9.4	34,000	30,660	3,340	9.8
Douglas County 2/	16,860	15,440	1,420	8.4	16,590	15,270	1,320	8.0	16,520	15,220	1,300	7.8
Clallam	24,750	22,900	1,840	7.4	24,920	22,890	2,030	8.2	24,800	22,890	1,910	7.7
Clark 2/	185,400	167,000	18,400	9.9	186,900	168,700	18,100	9.7	186,500	167,800	18,700	10.0
Columbia	1,590	1,460	140	8.7	1,220	1,060	160	13.2	1,650	1,470	180	10.7
Cowlitz	39,270	35,270	3,990	10.2	39,720	35,660	4,060	10.2	40,820	35,810	5,010	12.3
Ferry	2,650	2,180	470	17.7	2,680	2,160	520	19.3	2,430	2,060	370	15.2
Garfield	1,270	1,220	50	4.2	1,220	1,140	80	6.6	1,200	1,140	60	4.8
Grant	36,080	32,790	3,300	9.1	35,680	32,030	3,650	10.2	36,460	32,820	3,640	10.0
Grays Harbor	26,790	24,230	2,560	9.5	26,960	24,200	2,760	10.2	25,660	23,280	2,380	9.3
Jefferson	11,840	11,160	690	5.8	11,720	10,930	780	6.7	11,480	10,720	760	6.6
Kittitas	16,720	15,470	1,240	7.4	16,440	15,130	1,310	8.0	15,970	14,870	1,100	6.9
Klickitat	8,020	6,820	1,190	14.9	8,100	6,790	1,310	16.2	8,600	7,130	1,470	17.1
Lewis	29,700	27,060	2,640	8.9	29,920	27,070	2,850	9.5	29,110	26,430	2,670	9.2
Lincoln	4,770	4,530	250	5.1	4,620	4,340	280	6.0	4,700	4,450	250	5.4
Mason	20,150	18,490	1,650	8.2	20,200	18,410	1,790	8.8	18,900	17,470	1,430	7.6
Okanogan	17,990	15,980	2,010	11.2	17,690	15,460	2,230	12.6	17,380	15,360	2,020	11.6
Pacific	8,170	7,430	740	9.1	8,100	7,290	810	10.0	7,720	6,960	770	9.9
Pend Oreille	4,340	3,880	460	10.6	4,500	3,930	570	12.6	4,400	3,920	480	10.9
San Juan	6,470	6,160	310	4.8	6,250	5,890	360	5.7	6,390	6,080	310	4.9
Skagit	52,900	48,910	3,990	7.5	53,040	48,890	4,150	7.8	51,850	47,690	4,170	8.0
Skamania	3,750	3,340	400	10.8	3,730	3,310	430	11.5	3,820	3,320	500	13.2
Stevens	16,320	14,420	1,900	11.6	16,390	14,470	1,930	11.8	16,750	14,720	2,020	12.1
Wahkiakum	1,690	1,560	140	8.0	1,700	1,560	150	8.6	1,730	1,570	160	9.1
Walla Walla	27,530	25,870	1,660	6.0	27,570	25,640	1,930	7.0	27,220	25,240	1,980	7.3
Whitman	20,510	20,060	450	2.2	20,560	20,000	560	2.7	19,650	19,190	450	2.3

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

Directory of LMEA Economists and Areas Served

Economists	Address/Telephone	Areas Served (MSA Counties are Capitalized)
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	dmeseck@esd.wa.gov	
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FAX 546-0401	Pasco, WA 99301-3379	
	schaud@cbc2.org	
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FAX 438-4846	pturek@esd.wa.gov	
Vleming, Jim, Regional Economist	PO Box 9046, MS: 46000	Clallam, Jefferson, KITSAP
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		Skagit
FAX 438-4846	jvleming@esd.wa.gov	
Labor Market Information Center	PO Box 9046, MS 46000	For statewide and area information
1-800-215-1617	Olympia WA 98507-9046	Asotin**
Fax 360/438-4109	dayers@esd.wa.gov	

^{*}For current information on Klickitat County, please contact Scott Bailey at (360) 735-5083.

Revised 7/03

^{**}For current information on Asotin County, please contact Doug Tweedy, Labor Market Analyst, Lewiston ID at (208) 799-5000.

Labor Area Summary Bellingham MSA

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Jim Vleming, *Regional Labor Economist* 605 Woodland Square Loop SE, Olympia, WA 98507-9046 Phone: (360) 438-4821

HIGHLIGHTS

April showers brought more than May flowers as unemployment was down and nonag jobs were up in the Bellingham MSA. The April 2003 unemployment rate fell by three tenths of a point to 5.9 percent of the civilian labor force, while nonagricultural wage and salary employment crept up 700 jobs between March and April to a total of 73.800.

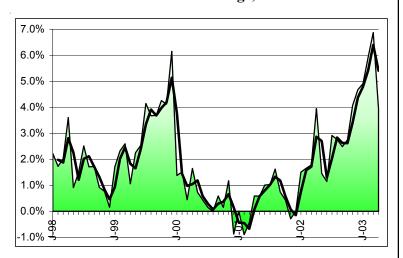
The April unemployment rate counted 84,000 Whatcom county residents at work as 5,300 sought employment. In April 2002, 5,500 county residents were without work as 77,900 cashed paychecks. The resulting unemployment last April was 6.6 percent. When compared to the state figures, the MSA looks to be in good shape. Statewide, the unemployment rate in April was 7.3 percent, down a tenth from March and down from the 7.6 percent of April 2002.

The over-the-month gains in nonag employment were in the Goods Producing sector, which added 400 to payroll and Service Providing, which counted 200 more jobs to the total. April employment in state government was up 100 over the month.

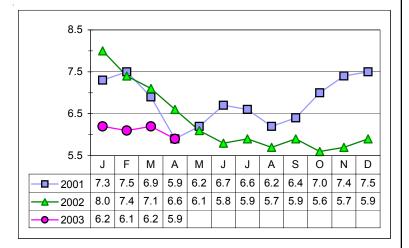
Over-the-year nonag employment was up 3.9 percent or 2,800 jobs. The vast majority of these (2,200) gains were in Construction (+1,500) and Manufacturing (+700). The Manufacturing total was helped by a gain of 500 over-the-year in non-durable goods. Elsewhere, Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 300 jobs as Government employment found room for 100 more paychecks.

The coming months should see continued job gains on the nonag front with the unemployment rate remaining steady. Most of the nonag growth will be spotted in sectors of the economy where spring and summer means more jobs, such as Construction and sectors within the Service Providing industries. The unemployment rate will remain well below the state rate, as the Bellingham MSA is insulated from the doldrums that have plagued the Puget Sound region.

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Bellingham MSA (Whatcom County)

	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	73,800	73,100	71,000	700	2,800	3.9%
TOTAL PRIVATE	58,200	57,600	55,600	600	2,600	4.7%
GOODS PRODUCING	16,000	15,600	13,800	400	2,200	15.9%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	7,000	6,700	5,500	300	1,500	27.3%
MANUFACTURING	8,600	8,500	7,900	100	700	8.9%
Durable Goods	4,600	4,600	4,400	0	200	4.5%
Non Durable Goods	4,000	3,900	3,500	100	500	14.3%
Food Manufacturing	1,600	1,500	1,300	100	300	23.1%
SERVICE PROVIDING	57,700	57,500	57,200	200	500	0.9%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	13,700	13,500	13,400	200	300	2.2%
Wholesale Trade	2,700	2,700	2,500	0	200	8.0%
Retail Trade	9,200	9,000	9,000	200	200	2.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	-100	-5.3%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0	0.0%
GOVERNMENT	15,500	15,500	15,400	0	100	0.6%
Federal Government	1,000	1,000	900	0	100	11.1%
State Government	5,600	5,500	5,800	100	-200	-3.4%
Local Government	9,000	9,000	8,700	0	300	3.4%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Labor Area Summary Bremerton PMSA

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Jim Vleming, *Regional Labor Economist* 605 Woodland Square Loop SE, Olympia, WA 98507-9046 Phone: (360) 438-4821

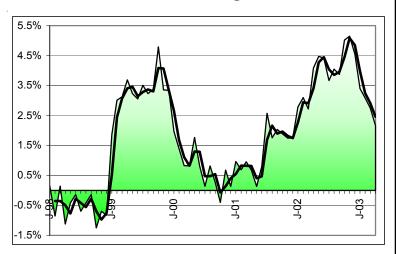
HIGHLIGHTS

The month of April sprouted growth on the nonag side as employment in the Bremerton PMSA gained 800 jobs over the month. The April 2003 total of 78,900 was 2.2 percent, or 1,700 jobs, over the April 2002 total. Over the month, the entire 800 increase was found in the Service Providing sector. Over the same time frame, Government added 300 positions as Information and Financial Activities, and Trade, Transportation and Utilities each added 100 jobs.

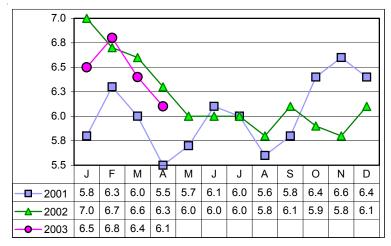
Over the year, the growth was once again concentrated in the Service Providing sector as 1,500 jobs were added to those industries. Between April's, Government payrolls expanded by 500 and Goods Producing added 200 to the total. Over the next few months, nonag employment should continue to show increases, especially in the industries where spring and summer weather play a seasonal role. The end of some military deployments should also bolster the local economy, especially in the trade and service sectors.

On the unemployment side, the rate fell to 6.1 percent, down from the 6.4 of March and the 6.3 of last April. The detail of the preliminary April numbers shows 95,300 Bremerton PMSA residents at work as 6,200 were looking for employment. Statewide, the unemployment rate fell over the month from 7.4 percent to 7.3 percent. Last year, the statewide rate of unemployment was 7.6 percent.

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Bremerton PMSA (Kitsap County)

					Change	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	78,900	78,100	77,230	800	1,670	2.2%
TOTAL PRIVATE	50,700	50,300	49,490	400	1,210	2.4%
GOODS PRODUCING	6,300	6,300	6,110	0	190	3.1%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	4,500	4,500	4,410	0	90	2.0%
MANUFACTURING	1,800	1,800	1,690	0	110	6.5%
SERVICE PROVIDING	72,600	71,800	71,120	800	1,480	2.1%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	12,500	12,400	12,140	100	360	3.0%
Wholesale Trade	1,100	1,100	1,050	0	50	4.8%
Retail Trade	10,400	10,400	10,140	0	260	2.6%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	900	900	950	0	-50	-5.3%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	5,300	5,200	5,060	100	240	4.7%
GOVERNMENT	28,200	27,900	27,740	300	460	1.7%
Federal Government	14,900	14,800	14,730	100	170	1.2%
State and Local Government	13,300	13,100	13,010	200	290	2.2%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Labor Area Summary Olympia PMSA

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Paul Turek, Regional Labor Economist 605 Woodland Square Loop SE, Olympia, WA 98507-9046 Phone: (360) 438-4813

HIGHLIGHTS

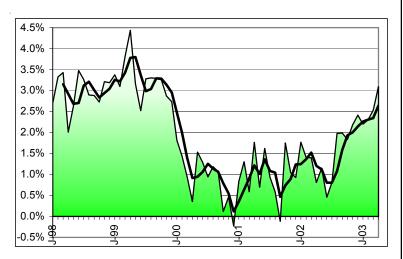
April brought forth a change in season for the Olympia PMSA labor market. The local economy gained 700 jobs as construction activity continued to enliven the area. This sector was responsible for 200 of the additional jobs as work progressed throughout the PMSA. The new Fourth Avenue Bridge in downtown Olympia continued to take shape, while the renovation of the State Capital Building continues. The ongoing expansion of Providence St. Peter Hospital facilities and traffic reconfiguration work in Lacey helped to bolster construction payrolls.

The opening of the Target and Home Depot warehouses in the area helped add 200 jobs to the Transportation, Warehouse, and Utilities sector. The remaining 300 jobs were provided through the Business Services area due primarily to seasonal factors.

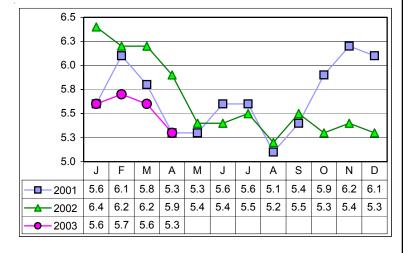
The somewhat sunny labor market picture appeared to help hold the line for job seekers. The local unemployment rate fell three-tenths of one percent to 5.3 percent. Some of this downward movement can probably be attributed to unemployed workers exhausting their benefits and dropping out of the labor force, thus taking some of the shine off of the results. State jobless claims moved higher in recent weeks and are now running at a level consistent with the labor market of 2002.

The return to tougher times for job seekers reflects the caution that business employers continue to display with respect to their spending and hiring plans. As long as this hesitancy lingers, the pace of the economic recovery will remain tortoise-like. The severe budget problems among the state and local governments present another obstacle standing in the way of recovery.

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Continued on page 8

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Olympia PMSA (Thurston County)

			_			
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	90,000	89,300	87,300	700	2,700	3.1%
TOTAL PRIVATE	53,200	52,500	51,800	700	1,400	2.7%
GOODS PRODUCING	8,000	7,800	7,900	200	100	1.3%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	500	500	500	0	0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	4,100	3,900	4,000	200	100	2.5%
MANUFACTURING	3,400	3,400	3,400	0	0	0.0%
SERVICE PROVIDING	82,000	81,500	79,400	500	2,600	3.3%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	13,900	13,700	12,600	200	1,300	10.3%
Wholesale Trade	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	10,700	10,700	9,800	0	900	9.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,600	1,400	1,200	200	400	33.3%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	4,500	4,500	4,600	0	-100	-2.2%
PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS SERVICES	26,800	26,500	26,700	300	100	0.4%
GOVERNMENT	36,800	36,800	35,500	0	1,300	3.7%
Federal Government	1,100	1,000	1,000	100	100	10.0%
State Government	24,000	24,200	23,500	-200	500	2.1%
State Government Educational Services	2,400	2,400	2,300	0	100	4.3%
Local Government	11,700	11,600	11,000	100	700	6.4%
Local Government Educational Services	7,300	7,300	6,900	0	400	5.8%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Continued from page 7

All of this bodes poorly for both the employed and unemployed. The lackluster economic scenario coupled with rising benefits costs are putting increasing pressure on workers' salaries. The weak job market could begin to erode the consumer confidence that had been built with lower gasoline prices and the recent run-up in stock prices. The recent passing of the Federal tax reduction package should relieve some of the pressure beginning this summer, and buy more time for the economy to recover. Whether it will sufficiently kick the recovery up a notch to where the economy begins adding jobs will remain to be seen. This summer's installment of the economy will be one worth watching.

Labor Area Summary Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Roberta Pauer, *Regional Labor Economist* 400 East Pine, Suite 310, Seattle, WA 98122 Phone: (206) 720-3394

HIGHLIGHTS

April's labor market remained weak for the threecounty Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA (King, Snohomish, and Island Counties, combined). The remainder of the year, however, will show some gains.

Unemployment:

The unemployment rate for the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett area was flat between March and April at 6.6 percent of the labor force. But unemployment remained lower than year-ago levels by .4 percentage points, when in April 2002 unemployment was 7.0%. King County, at 6.4 percent unemployment, came in a bit lower than the larger Seattle-Bellevue-Everett region because of the higher jobless rate in Snohomish County, which registered 7.3 percent. The divergence is typical of workforce trends for the two counties within the larger Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA, where King comprises about three-fourths of the total PMSA labor force. Island County, with approximately one percent of the PMSA labor force, registered a jobless rate of 5.9 percent in April.

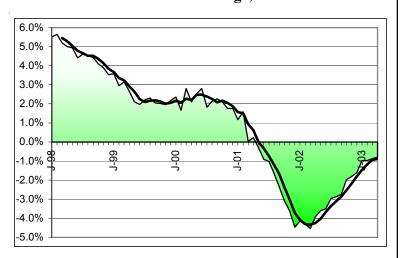
Industry Employment:

Seasonal hiring in April by area employers resulted in a net over-the-month increase of 5,200 jobs in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA.

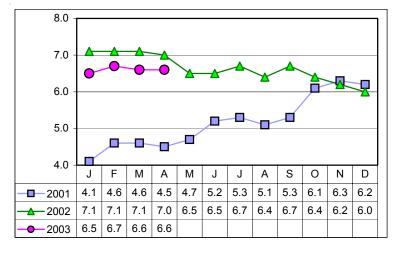
Construction added 1400 spots, Non Durable Goods Manufacturing also increased by 700 jobs, but Durable Goods Manufacturing overall dropped by 200 as Aerospace Products and Parts, driven mainly by layoffs at the Boeing Company, accounted for 500 job losses. Weakness could be seen in slight employment declines in related manufacturing industries such as Navigation, Measuring, Electromedical and Control Instruments category, as well as in Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing.

Trade and Transportation were anemic, as Wholesale Trade dropped 200 jobs and Retail Trade added only 700. Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities stood virtually unchanged over the month. The remainder of the broad Services Providing arena was only slightly positive. Jobs were added in small numbers of a few hundred here and there in Professional and Business Services, Ad-

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



ministrative and Support Services, Education and Health services. The Leisure and Hospitality industries hired seasonally in the amount of 2,000 positions.

Over-the-year net job loss in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA registered minus 10,800 position in April 2003 relative to April 2002.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA (King, Island and Snohomish Counties)

	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Mar-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Mar-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-02	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	1,338.3	1,333.1	1,349.1	1,344.9	5.2	-10.8	4.2	-0.8%
TOTAL PRIVATE	1,134.5	1,129.2	1,147.2	1,142.8	5.3	-12.7	4.4	-1.1%
GOODS PRODUCING	231.0	229.1	244.8	245.1	1.9	-13.8	-0.3	-5.6%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	5.9%
CONSTRUCTION	75.1	73.7	75.7	74.9	1.4	-0.6	8.0	-0.8%
Construction of Buildings	18.9	18.6	19.9	20.3	0.3	-1.0	-0.4	-5.0%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	8.0	7.6	8.0	7.6	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0%
Specialty Trade Contractors	48.2	47.5	47.8	47.0	0.7	0.4	8.0	0.8%
MANUFACTURING	154.1	153.6	167.4	168.5	0.5	-13.3	-1.1	-7.9%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	121.9	122.1	134.6	135.5	-0.2	-12.7	-0.9	-9.4%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	8.6	8.6	9.0	9.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-4.4%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	16.0	16.1	17.1	17.4	-0.1	-1.1	-0.3	-6.4%
Navigation, Measuring, Electromed. & Cntrl	9.1	9.2	9.4	9.5	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-3.2%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	70.3	70.9	80.6	80.8	-0.6	-10.3	-0.2	-12.8%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg	65.4	65.9	75.2	75.9	-0.5	-9.8	-0.7	-13.0%
Non Durable Goods Manufacturing	32.2	31.5	32.8	33.0	0.7	-0.6	-0.2	-1.8%
Food Manufacturing	11.5	11.1	11.4	11.6	0.4	0.1	-0.2	0.9%
SERVICE PROVIDING	-	1,104.0	1,104.3	1,099.8	3.3	3.0	4.5	0.3%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	259.1	258.5	261.1	260.6	0.6	-2.0	0.5	-0.8%
Wholesale Trade	69.2	69.4	69.7	69.9	-0.2	-0.5	-0.2	-0.7%
Retail Trade	139.8	139.1	141.9	141.1	0.7	-2.1	0.8	-1.5%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	16.9	16.7	17.2	17.2	0.2	-0.3	0.0	-1.7%
Food and Beverage Stores	26.9	26.8	27.8	27.7	0.1	-0.9	0.1	-3.2%
Health and Personal Care Stores	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-2.8%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	14.1	14.1	14.0	13.6	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.7%
General Merchandise Stores	17.9	18.0	18.4	18.4	-0.1	-0.5	0.0	-2.7%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	50.1	50.0	49.5	49.6	0.1	0.6	-0.1	1.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	47.5	47.4	46.8	46.9	0.1	0.7	-0.1	1.5%
Air Transportation	12.3	12.5	12.5	12.5	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	-1.6%
Water Transportation	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.6	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	12.0%
Truck Transportation	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.9	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.5%
Support Activities for Transportation	10.6	10.5	9.8	9.9	0.1	8.0	-0.1	8.2%
Support Activities for Water Transportation	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
Warehousing and Storage	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
INFORMATION	73.1	73.2	72.7	73.2	-0.1	0.4	-0.5	0.6%
Newspaper, Book and Directory Publishers	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Software Publishers	35.5	35.4	34.4	34.4	0.1	1.1	0.0	3.2%
Broadcasting, except Internet	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	0.0	0.1	-0.1	3.8%
Telecommunications	19.2	19.8	21.1	21.6	-0.6	-1.9	-0.5	-9.0%
Wired Telecommunications Carriers	5.6	6.0	6.8	7.1	-0.4	-1.2	-0.3	-17.6%
Wireless Telecommunications Carriers	10.5	10.5	10.8	11.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.2	-2.8%

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA (King, Island and Snohomish Counties)

	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Mar-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Mar-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-02	Apr-03 %
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	89.8	89.5	88.2	88.2	0.3	1.6	0.0	1.8%
Finance and Insurance	61.9	61.7	60.9	61.1	0.2	1.0	-0.2	1.6%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	26.7	26.6	26.3	26.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.5%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	26.6	26.6	26.1	26.5	0.0	0.5	-0.4	1.9%
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	27.9	27.8	27.3	27.1	0.1	0.6	0.2	2.2%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	178.3	178.0	178.9	177.7	0.3	-0.6	1.2	-0.3%
Professional, Scientific and Tech Services	88.7	88.8	89.7	89.8	-0.1	-1.0	-0.1	-1.1%
Legal Services	13.1	13.1	12.9	13.0	0.0	0.2	-0.1	1.6%
Accounting, Tax Prep, Bookkpng & Payroll	9.9	10.0	10.5	10.7	-0.1	-0.6	-0.2	-5.7%
Architectural, Engineering and Related	18.3	18.2	18.3	18.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Computer Systems Design and Related	16.7	16.7	18.2	18.4	0.0	-1.5	-0.2	-8.2%
MGMT OF COMPANIES and ENTERPRISES	22.7	22.6	22.2	22.5	0.1	0.5	-0.3	2.3%
ADMIN, SUPPORT, WASTE MGMT & REMED.	66.9	66.6	67.0	65.4	0.3	-0.1	1.6	-0.1%
Administrative and Support Services	64.2	63.8	64.2	62.5	0.4	0.0	1.7	0.0%
Employment Services	26.5	26.7	26.4	25.6	-0.2	0.1	8.0	0.4%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	137.9	137.8	135.7	135.9	0.1	2.2	-0.2	1.6%
Educational Services	21.3	21.6	21.5	22.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.7	-0.9%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	47.7	47.5	46.7	46.5	0.2	1.0	0.2	2.1%
Hospitals	27.0	27.0	26.6	26.5	0.0	0.4	0.1	1.5%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	20.7	20.6	20.3	20.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	2.0%
Social Assistance	21.2	21.1	20.6	20.5	0.1	0.6	0.1	2.9%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	116.3	114.3	117.3	115.6	2.0	-1.0	1.7	-0.9%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	20.5	19.5	21.3	21.1	1.0	-0.8	0.2	-3.8%
Accommodation	12.3	12.2	12.8	12.4	0.1	-0.5	0.4	-3.9%
Food Services and Drinking Places	83.5	82.6	83.2	82.1	0.9	0.3	1.1	0.4%
OTHER SERVICES	49.0	48.8	48.5	46.5	0.2	0.5	2.0	1.0%
Repair and Maintenance	13.8	13.8	13.8	13.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0%
Personal and Laundry Services	13.4	13.4	13.5	13.4	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-0.7%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Prof. and Similar	21.8	21.6	21.2	19.6	0.2	0.6	1.6	2.8%
GOVERNMENT	203.8	203.9	201.9	202.1	-0.1	1.9	-0.2	0.9%
Federal Government	25.3	25.5	25.0	25.0	-0.2	0.3	0.0	1.2%
Total State Government	60.7	61.0	60.1	60.5	-0.3	0.6	-0.4	1.0%
State Government Educational Services	43.9	44.3	43.3	43.7	-0.4	0.6	-0.4	1.4%
Total Local Government	117.8	117.4	116.8	116.6	0.4	1.0	0.2	0.9%
Local Government Educational Services	53.6	53.5	52.3	51.8	0.1	1.3	0.5	2.5%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch using a quarterly benchmark process. This process uses the most recent quarter from the Uunemployment Insurance tax reports (currently fourth quarter 2002) and estimates employment from that point until present.

This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Labor Area Summary Snohomish County

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Donna Thompson, *Regional Labor Economist* 804 Broadway North, Building-B, Everett, WA 98201 Phone: (425) 339-4354

HIGHLIGHTS

The economy in Snohomish County continued to tread water in the month of April. The overall pattern remained similar to the one we saw in March with gains in a few sectors and losses in several sectors. However, unlike March, which saw a net gain of 200 jobs, April saw an overall loss of 300 nonfarm jobs.

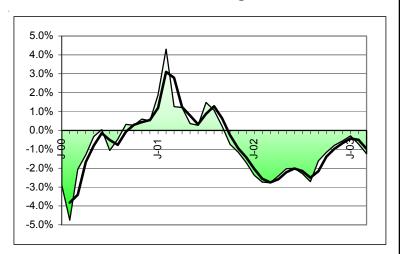
The county unemployment rate remained in step with the state rate, as both dropped 1/10th of a percentage point to 7.3 percent in April. And like the state, the county saw a shrinkage of the labor force. Although unemployment fell by 800, there were also 3,300 fewer people working.

Several sectors posted typical seasonal increases. Construction jobs increased by 300 and Leisure and Hospitality jobs saw a net increase of 300. Accommodation & Food Services were up by 300 and Food Services & Drinking Places were up by 200.

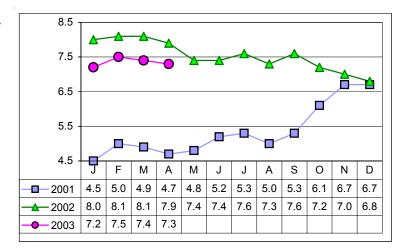
An increase of 300 jobs in Building Material and Garden Supply Stores helped to boost Retail Trade to a net increase of 100 jobs. Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing increased by 100 jobs, which helped boost the whole Financial Activities sector by 100 jobs. Bolstered by the continuing low-interest rate environment, jobs in Financial Activities have increased by 800 over the year.

The Manufacturing Sector lost a total of 100 jobs, primarily due to a loss of 200 Aerospace Product & Parts jobs. Employment Services, which includes temporary help agencies, posted a net loss of 300, which helped to bring down the entire Professional & Business Services sector by 500 jobs.

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Snohomish County

•				Change			
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02	
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %	
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	207.7	208.0	211.5	-0.3	-3.7	-1.8%	
TOTAL PRIVATE	172.7	172.9	176.3	-0.2	-3.6	-2.0%	
GOODS PRODUCING	61.7	61.5	63.9	0.1	-2.3	-3.6%	
SERVICE PROVIDING	146.1	146.5	147.5	-0.4	-1.5	-1.0%	
CONSTRUCTION	18.1	17.9	17.5	0.3	0.6	3.6%	
Construction of Buildings	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	0.0	1.1%	
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2.0	2.0	1.8	0.0	0.3	14.3%	
Specialty Trade Contractors	12.4	12.1	12.1	0.3	0.3	2.5%	
MANUFACTURING	43.5	43.6	46.4	-0.1	-2.9	-6.3%	
Durable Goods	38.9	39.1	41.8	-0.2	-2.9	-6.9%	
Wood Product Manufacturing	1.9	2.0	1.8	0.0	0.2	8.6%	
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2.7	2.6	2.7	0.0	0.0	1.5%	
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	5.1	5.1	5.6	0.0	-0.5	-8.7%	
Electronic Instrument Manufacturing	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.0	-0.1	-2.1%	
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	24.5	24.7	27.9	-0.2	-3.4	-12.1%	
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg	23.3	23.5	26.8	-0.2	-3.5	-13.0%	
Non-Durable Goods	4.6	4.6	4.7	0.1	0.0	-0.6%	
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	34.1	34.0	35.7	0.1	-1.6	-4.4%	
Wholesale Trade	5.9	6.0	5.9	-0.1	0.0	-0.7%	
Retail Trade	25.4	25.3	26.7	0.1	-1.3	-4.9%	
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	4.2	4.1	4.2	0.0	0.0	-0.7%	
Building Material and Garden Supply Stores	3.1	2.9	2.7	0.3	0.4	14.6%	
Food and Beverage Stores	5.4	5.4	5.7	0.0	-0.2	-4.0%	
Health and Personal Care Stores	1.6	1.6	1.7	-0.1	-0.1	-7.7%	
General Merchandise Stores	3.8	3.8	4.4	0.0	-0.6	-13.4%	
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2.8	2.8	3.0	0.0	-0.2	-7.4%	
INFORMATION	3.5	3.5	3.7	0.0	-0.2	-5.2%	
Telecommunications	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	-0.1	-5.6%	
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	11.8	11.7	11.0	0.1	0.8	6.9%	
Finance and Insurance	8.7	8.7	8.1	0.0	0.5	6.7%	
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	3.4	3.3	3.2	0.0	0.2	5.5%	
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	4.9	4.9	4.5	0.0	0.4	8.1%	
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	3.1	3.0	2.9	0.1	0.2	8.2%	
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	15.8	16.3	15.8	-0.5	0.0	0.0%	
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	6.6	6.6	7.0	-0.1	-0.4	-5.7%	
Architectural, Engineering and Related Serv	1.5	1.6	1.8	-0.1	-0.3	-15.4%	
Admin, Support, Waste Man and Remed Serv	7.8	8.0	7.6	-0.3	0.2	2.7%	
Employment Services	2.9	3.1	2.4	-0.3	-0.5	23.9%	

Continued on page 14

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Snohomish County

				Change			
Continued from page 13	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02	
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %	
EDUCATIONAL and HEALTH SERVICES	20.3	20.4	20.1	-0.1	0.2	0.9%	
Ambulatory Health Care Services	8.6	8.6	8.5	0.0	0.1	1.4%	
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	4.6	4.5	4.2	0.1	0.4	8.5%	
Social Assistance	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	0.1	2.7%	
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	17.7	17.5	17.6	0.3	0.2	0.9%	
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2.6	2.6	2.7	0.0	-0.1	-5.2%	
Accommodation and Food Services	15.3	15.0	14.9	0.3	0.5	3.1%	
Food Services and Drinking Places	14.4	14.2	14.1	0.2	0.3	2.4%	
OTHER SERVICES	7.8	7.9	8.5	-0.1	-0.7	-8.0%	
Repair and Maintenance	2.1	2.1	2.4	0.0	-0.3	-11.7%	
Personal and Laundry Services	2.0	2.0	2.2	0.0	-0.2	-9.9%	
Membership Associations and Organizations	3.8	3.8	3.9	-0.1	-0.1	-2.2%	
GOVERNMENT	35.0	35.1	35.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4%	
Federal Government	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0	-0.5%	
State Government	5.3	5.3	5.4	0.0	-0.1	-1.3%	
State Educational Services	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.8%	
Local Government	27.6	27.6	27.6	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2%	
Local Educational Services	14.7	14.8	14.5	-0.1	0.2	1.7%	
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Labor Area Summary Spokane MSA

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Scott Bailey, *Regional Labor Economist* 5411 East Mill Plain Boulevard, Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 735-5043

HIGHLIGHTS

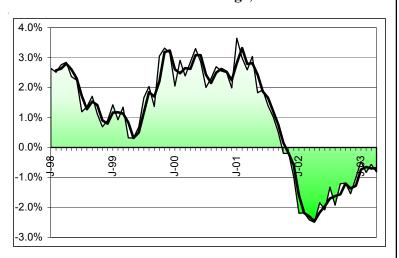
Like a lawn that requires mowing each and every weekend, spring isn't always cause for a sunny disposition, economic or otherwise. Basically, the Spokane MSA is stumbling. Unemployment rates are dropping (a good thing), but so are the number of those employed (not a good thing).

Nonagricultural numbers don't reflect the military personnel, but with Fairchild Air Force Base in the MSA, one cannot discount the major impact 6,000 military and civilian employees have on the local economy. On March 28, 2003, the *Spokane Journal* announced that yet another round of base closures was planned. If Fairchild should close, as Spokane's biggest employer, the elimination of those thousands of jobs would pull nearly \$1-billion out of the local economy. "Ouch" doesn't begin to describe the economic pain that would cause.

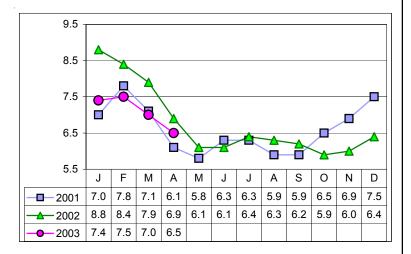
However, the scare has been set aside by the even more disturbing war with Iraq, for Fairchild Air Force Base is the nation's leading air-refueling base—an indispensable part of any military action. And, there are also rumors that the aging fleet of indispensable planes, the KC-135Rs, will be replaced with specially built Boeing KC-767s. If that comes to pass, the outlook for the Spokane economy will be sunny, indeed, for new aircraft would require a base overhaul: new training facilities, new hangers, i.e., more personnel and their families.

For the time being, with Reservists and active military personnel called to serve in the Middle East, the local economy, already contracting due to the national downturn, tightens its belt. It's the "ripple in the pond" effect. A member of a household is called away; the household requires a little less food, a bit less power, maybe uses the car a bit less, too. The grocery store, the power company, the gas station all make a little less profit, have to lay off a few employees. In this instance, as a consequence, while the Spokane MSA gained 1,300 employees in April, hiring was short of seasonal expectations, as in April 2002 when the MSA saw an increase of 1,800 jobs. Payrolls did increase in Construction (+500), Professional & Business Services (+300), and Local Government outside of education (+300).

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Continued on page 17

16

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Spokane MSA (Spokane County)

					Change			
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Mar-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Mar-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-02	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	193.6	192.3	195.2	193.4	1.3	-1.6	1.8	-0.8%
TOTAL PRIVATE	159.2	158.1	160.7	159.0	1.1	-1.5	1.7	-0.9%
GOODS PRODUCING	26.9	26.3	27.7	26.8	0.6	-0.8	0.9	-2.9%
NATURAL RESOURCES and CONSTRUCTION	10.4	9.9	9.9	9.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	5.1%
MANUFACTURING	16.5	16.4	17.8	17.6	0.1	-1.3	0.2	-7.3%
Durable Goods	12.8	12.8	13.7	13.6	0.0	-0.9	0.1	-6.6%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.3	-0.1	-0.4	0.0	-12.1%
SERVICE PROVIDING	166.7	166.0	167.5	166.6	0.7	-0.8	0.9	-0.5%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	40.1	40.0	40.6	40.1	0.1	-0.5	0.5	-1.2%
Wholesale Trade	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.0%
Retail Trade	24.2	24.2	25.0	24.8	0.0	-0.8	0.2	-3.2%
Food and Beverage Stores	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.9	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-2.0%
General Merchandise Stores	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-2.4%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.8	0.1	0.2	0.2	3.3%
INFORMATION	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-6.9%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	12.2	12.2	11.8	11.6	0.0	0.4	0.2	3.4%
Finance and Insurance	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.6	0.0	0.2	0.1	2.3%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	19.0	18.7	18.9	18.3	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.5%
MGMT OF COMPANIES and ENTERPRISES	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-3.6%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	32.2	32.1	31.9	31.7	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.9%
Health and Social Assistance	27.7	27.7	27.4	27.3	0.0	0.3	0.1	1.1%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10.3	10.3	10.1	10.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.0%
Hospitals	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-1.2%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	17.6	17.5	18.2	18.0	0.1	-0.6	0.2	-3.3%
Food Services and Drinking Places	12.9	12.9	13.3	13.2	0.0	-0.4	0.1	-3.0%
OTHER SERVICES	8.5	8.5	8.7	9.5	0.0	-0.2	-0.8	-2.3%
GOVERNMENT	34.4	34.2	34.5	34.4	0.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.3%
Federal Government	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.3%
Total State Government	11.0	11.1	10.9	11.0	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.9%
State Government Educational Services	5.9	6.0	5.9	6.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
Total Local Government	18.9	18.6	19.2	19.0	0.3	-0.3	0.2	-1.6%
Local Government Educational Services	11.4	11.4	11.6	11.6	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-1.7%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch using a quarterly benchmark process. This process uses the most recent quarter from the Uunemployment Insurance tax reports (currently fourth quarter 2002) and estimates employment from that point until present.

This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Continued from page 16

Compared with April 2002, nonfarm employment has fallen by 1,600 jobs, or 0.8 percent. Manufacturing, Retail Trade, and Food Services & Drinking Places have all reduced employment levels. Construction, Finance, and Health care are all in the plus column, the former two due to low mortgage rates that have boosted homebuilding and refinancing.

The most-quoted and yet least precise measure of local economic activity—the unemployment rate—fell half a point in April, from 7.0 percent to 6.5 percent. The bad news: April rates over the past ten years have dropped by an average of a full percentage point. An estimated 13,700 county residents were out of work during the month.

Labor Area Summary Tacoma PMSA

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Chris Johnson, *Regional Labor Economist* 1313 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma, WA 98402 Phone: (253) 593-7336

HIGHLIGHTS

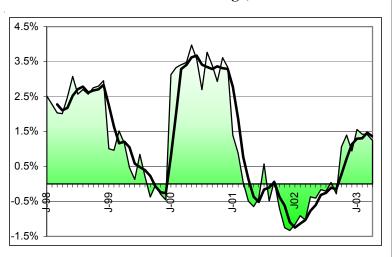
April unemployment in the Tacoma PMSA dipped slightly over the month to land at the preliminary rate of 7.4 percent. This compares to the March revised figure of 7.6 percent and the April 2002 rate of 7.7 percent. The detail shows that in April 2003, 321,200 Pierce county residents were on the job, while 25,700 actively sought employment. The PMSA rates are following the state trend; statewide, the rate fell one-tenth of a point to 7.3 from 7.4 in March. In April 2002, the statewide rate of unemployment was 7.6 percent of the labor force.

On the nonagricultural side, numbers are positive. The March to April shift was a gain of 1,600 jobs. The April preliminary nonag total was 245,200. This figure is 2,000 jobs better than last April is.

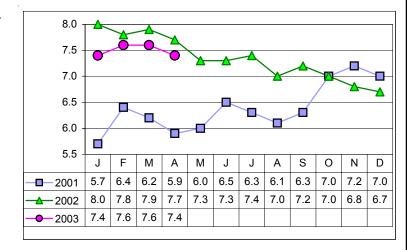
The bulk of the over-the-month job gains occurred in the Service Providing sector; it increased by 1,300 jobs. Goods Producing employment added the remaining 300 jobs of growth. Manufacturing gained 100 of that and Construction counted 200 more. Employment additions in Trade, and Leisure and Hospitality accounted for most of the service change.

Over the year, Goods Producing gained 800 and Service Providing added 1,200. As with the over-the-month data, Construction (+600) and Manufacturing (+200) provided the pulse for the Goods Producing sector. In services, Business Services added 600 to help bolster the over the year gain.

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Tacoma PMSA (Pierce County)

	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Mar-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Mar-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-02	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	245.2	243.6	242.2	240.2	1.6	3.0	2.0	1.2%
TOTAL PRIVATE	191.9	190.2	189.4	187.5	1.7	2.5	1.9	1.3%
GOODS PRODUCING	35.0	34.7	36.2	35.4	0.3	-1.2	0.8	-3.3%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	15.6	15.4	15.6	15.0	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.0%
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.2	9.9	9.6	9.2	0.3	0.6	0.4	6.3%
MANUFACTURING	18.8	18.7	20.0	19.8	0.1	-1.2	0.2	-6.0%
Durable Goods	12.2	12.2	12.8	12.6	0.0	-0.6	0.2	-4.7%
Non-Durable Goods	6.6	6.5	7.2	7.2	0.1	-0.6	0.0	-8.3%
SERVICE PROVIDING	210.2	208.9	206.0	204.8	1.3	4.2	1.2	2.0%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	46.8	46.6	46.0	45.9	0.2	0.8	0.1	1.7%
Wholesale Trade	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.1%
Retail Trade	28.7	28.7	28.3	28.2	0.0	0.4	0.1	1.4%
Food and Beverage Stores	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.6	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-3.6%
General Merchandise Stores	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	-1.9%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	8.9	8.8	8.6	8.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	3.5%
INFORMATION	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.1	0.1	-0.2	0.0	-6.5%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	13.0	13.0	12.8	12.7	0.0	0.2	0.1	1.6%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	20.5	20.4	19.4	18.8	0.1	1.1	0.6	5.7%
ADMIN, SUPPORT, WASTE MGMT & REMED.	11.4	11.3	10.6	10.1	0.1	8.0	0.5	7.5%
Administrative and Support Services	10.5	10.5	9.9	9.3	0.0	0.6	0.6	6.1%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	37.6	37.5	37.5	37.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	12.3	12.3	11.8	11.9	0.0	0.5	-0.1	4.2%
Hospitals	8.3	8.2	7.7	7.7	0.1	0.6	0.0	7.8%
Social Assistance	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	24.8	24.0	23.4	23.0	8.0	1.4	0.4	6.0%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	4.6	4.1	4.1	3.7	0.5	0.5	0.4	12.2%
Food Services and Drinking Places	18.5	18.3	17.9	17.9	0.2	0.6	0.0	3.4%
OTHER SERVICES	11.3	11.2	11.0	11.4	0.1	0.3	-0.4	2.7%
GOVERNMENT	53.3	53.4	52.8	52.7	-0.1	0.5	0.1	0.9%
Federal Government	9.8	9.8	9.5	9.6	0.0	0.3	-0.1	3.2%
Total State Government	11.5	11.6	11.4	11.4	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.9%
State Government Educational Services	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.9	0.0	0.2	-0.1	5.3%
Total Local Government	32.0	32.0	31.9	31.7	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3%
Local Government Educational Services	17.8	17.8	18.6	18.3	0.0	-0.8	0.3	-4.3%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch using a quarterly benchmark process. This process uses the most recent quarter from the Uunemployment Insurance tax reports (currently fourth quarter 2002) and estimates employment from that point until present.

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Labor Area Summary Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Dean Schau, *Regional Labor Economist* 3900 West Court Street, Pasco, WA 99301 Phone: (509) 543-3017

HIGHLIGHTS

The over-the-year rate of job growth for the Tri-Cities during April was 2.8 percent. This was remarkably slower than the rates of 4 to 5 percent achieved over the past several years.

A large part of the slow-down has been the reduced pace of employment gain associated with the Vit-plant. While the April over-the-year gain in jobs at the plant was 1,023, this was down from the 1,443 over-the-year gain averaged during the last eight months of 2002. Since January of this year, the project has added only 200 workers. This, coupled with some slight reductions in other areas of Hanford, has slightly dimmed the bright shinning light that the Tri-Cities has been in a gloomy state economy.

But indeed, the Tri-Cities has added 2,300 nonfarm jobs since April of 2002.

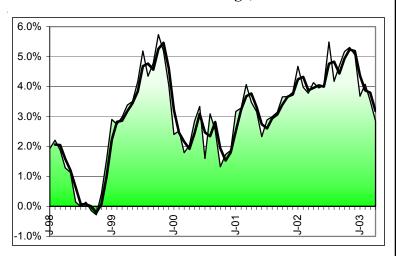
The fastest growing industry has been Construction, followed by Professional, Scientific and Technical Services. Some of the Construction increase has been at the Vitplant; most in residential construction to keep pace with the impact that the plant has had on the local economy. Outside of that, other areas of the community's economy base have been rather lackluster over the past several years.

The community's economic base is the economic activities that bring dollars into the area, and allow the region to pay for goods and services not locally produced. One traditional leg that the Tri-Cities economy has stood on has been farming and food processing.

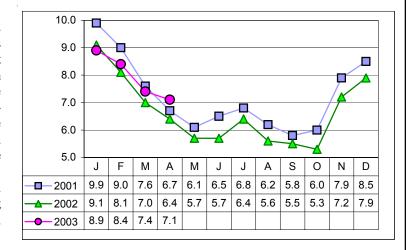
In 2002, the Tri-Cities accounted for roughly 12.2 percent of all farm jobs, followed by the Chelan-Douglas labor market area at 12.1 percent. Yakima County is first with 24.2 percent. Please note, the three largest farm employment regions account for almost 50 percent of the total farm employment in this state. Last year, the 811 Tri-Cities farms generated 9,793 jobs on an annual average basis and a total payroll of \$154,099,854. For comparison basis, please note that this was about 15 percent of the Hanford payroll.

Local food processing is roughly 60 percent of all manufacturing in the community, with the Tri-Cities having the second lowest manufacturing base in the state, following the peninsula-bound Bremerton.

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Continued on page 21

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA (Benton-Franklin Counties)

			_			
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	83,000	82,500	80,700	500	2,300	2.9%
TOTAL PRIVATE	67,400	66,900	65,500	500	1,900	2.9%
GOODS PRODUCING	10,700	10,500	10,300	200	400	3.9%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	5,200	5,000	4,700	200	500	10.6%
MANUFACTURING	5,500	5,500	5,700	0	-200	-3.5%
Food Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	3,400	0	-200	-5.9%
Chemicals and Allied Products	800	800	800	0	0	0.0%
Primary and Fabricated Metal Products	300	300	400	0	-100	-25.0%
Other Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0.0%
SERVICE PROVIDING	72,300	72,000	70,400	300	1,900	2.7%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	13,600	13,600	13,400	0	200	1.5%
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	10,000	10,100	9,700	-100	300	3.1%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0	0.0%
INFORMATION	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0.0%
FINANCE, INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	100	3.4%
SERVICES	39,100	38,800	37,900	300	1,200	3.2%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	10,400	10,300	9,400	100	1,000	10.6%
Health Services	6,500	6,500	6,100	0	400	6.6%
Waste Treatment	9,600	9,600	9,800	0	-200	-2.0%
GOVERNMENT	15,600	15,600	15,200	0	400	2.6%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,300	0	100	7.7%
State and Local Government	14,200	14,200	13,900	0	300	2.2%
Educational Services	7,600	7,600	7,400	0	200	2.7%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Continued from page 20

In other areas of local manufacturing, the remaining 40 percent have been a bit tattered in recent years. This is especially true for metals and chemicals tied to the private nuclear industry. Agricultural chemicals have been hurt as well.

It is in the secondary sectors of the local economy that the Tri-Cities has seen remarkable growth, and this is Vit-boomed and Vit-bound. Particularly impressive has been the growth in Services sector jobs. Services employment has grown from 34,700 jobs in 2001 to 38,500 in 2002. All areas of Services are growing, and some of this is associated with spending at Hanford, but especially impressive has been the growth in Health Services.

The number of persons drawing unemployment benefits in the Tri-Cities was roughly 17 percent greater this April relative to April 2002.

Labor Area Summary Clark County

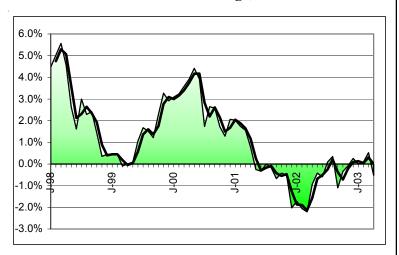
Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Scott Bailey, *Regional Labor Economist* 5411 East Mill Plain Boulevard, Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 735-5043

HIGHLIGHTS

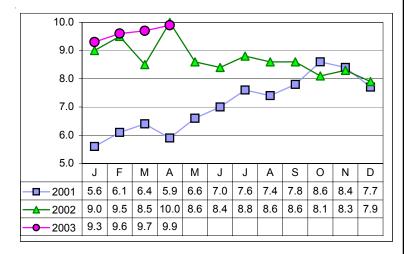
Clark County's labor market showed little sign of improvement in April. Unemployment inched up two tenths of a point to 9.9 percent, essentially unchanged from a year ago. An estimated 18,400 county residents were seeking employment.

Nonfarm employment rose by only 300 jobs over the month, for a total of 115,900. In comparison, April of 2002 brought a 1,500 job increase. As a result, the county went from a 600 job overthe-year growth margin to a 600 job deficit (-0.5 percent). Construction is trailing year-ago payrolls by 900 jobs, and manufacturing is off by 600. "Other services"—which includes corporate headquarters—was also down 600. Health care and K-12 education are the two bright spots, with the former at +800 and the latter adding 700 jobs over the year.

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Clark County

					Change	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	115,900	115,600	116,500	300	-600	-0.5%
CONSTRUCTION, MINING, UTIL. and LOGGING	9,300	9,200	10,200	100	-900	-8.8%
Construction, Mining and Utilities	9,200	9,100	10,100	100	-900	-8.9%
Logging	100	100	100	0	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	12,800	12,900	13,400	-100	-600	-4.5%
Food Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,000	0	100	10.0%
Wood Product Manufacturing	800	800	700	0	100	14.3%
Paper Manufacturing	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0	0.0%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	700	700	900	0	-200	-22.2%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0.0%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,200	1,300	1,100	-100	100	9.1%
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,500	0	-400	-11.4%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	500	500	600	0	-100	-16.7%
Other Manufacturing	2,200	2,200	2,400	0	-200	-8.3%
WHOLESALE TRADE	4,100	4,100	4,200	0	-100	-2.4%
RETAIL TRADE	13,200	13,300	13,000	-100	200	1.5%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	100	5.6%
Food and Beverage Stores	3,000	3,100	3,000	-100	0	0.0%
Health and Personal Care Stores	900	900	900	0	0	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0	0.0%
Other Retail	4,700	4,700	4,600	0	100	2.2%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	3,200	3,200	3,300	0	-100	-3.0%
INFORMATION	2,900	2,800	3,100	100	-200	-6.5%
FINANCE and INSURANCE	3,300	3,200	3,200	100	100	3.1%
REAL ESTATE, RENTAL and LEASING	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	100	4.5%
PROF., SCIENTIFIC and TECHNICAL SERVICES	6,300	6,300	6,100	0	200	3.3%
ADMIN., SUPPORT and WASTE MGMT.	5,100	5,100	5,300	0	-200	-3.8%
EDUCATION SERVICES	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0.0%
HEALTH CARE and SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	13,800	13,700	13,000	100	800	6.2%
Social Assistance	2,300	2,300	2,100	0	200	9.5%
Health Services	11,500	11,400	10,900	100	600	5.5%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT and RECREATION	2,400	2,300	2,400	100	0	0.0%
ACCOMMODATION and FOOD SERVICES	9,700	9,600	9,600	100	100	1.0%
OTHER SERVICES	4,700	4,800	5,300	-100	-600	-11.3%
GOVERNMENT	21,700	21,700	21,100	0	600	2.8%
Federal Government	2,500	2,500	2,700	0	-200	-7.4%
State Government	3,400	3,400	3,400	0	0	0.0%
Local Government	15,800	15,800	15,000	0	800	5.3%
K-12 Education	10,700	10,700	10,000	0	700	7.0%
Other Local Government	5,100	5,100	5,000	0	100	2.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonfarm Employment without logging	115,800	115,500	116,400	300	-600	-0.5%

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Labor Area Summary Yakima MSA

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Don Meseck, *Regional Labor Economist* 400-E 8th Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7486 Phone: (509) 963-2606

HIGHLIGHTS

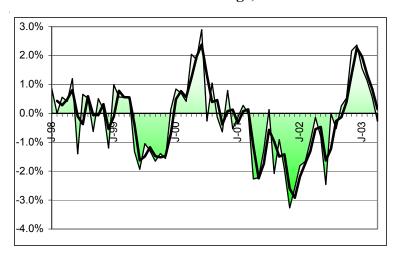
Nonagricultural Employment:

During April 2003, total nonagricultural employment in Yakima County (also called the Yakima Metropolitan Statistical Area or MSA) added about 500 new jobs. Most of this over-the-month upturn occurred at services businesses (+200) and in trade (+200). Retail trade stores gained 100 jobs and wholesale trade businesses contributed another 100. Amongst services businesses, accommodation and food services (i.e., restaurants, taverns, and hotels etc.) took on 100 new staff while health services and social assistance organizations also hired about 100 more personnel.

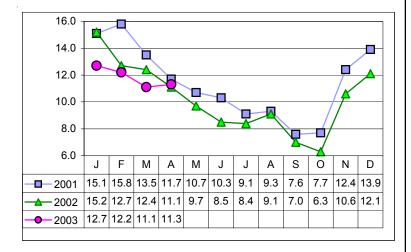
Yakima County's economy started to post positive job-growth rates in September 2002. This job growth continued in October of last year up through March of 2003. However, between April 2002 and this April hiring slowed and the over-the-year employment change rate slipped to a negative 0.3 percent. Virtually all of this downturn is attributable to temporary layoffs in the highly volatile food processing industry (i.e., non-durable goods).

The declining job growth rates in January (+1.6 percent), February (+0.8 percent), March (+0.6 percent), and April (-0.3 percent) of 2003, may indicate that the local economy is starting to run out of steam. Two recent manufacturing cutbacks will not help Yakima County's economic comeback either. As announced in The Yakima Herald, 75 workers were permanently laid off from Alexandria Moulding in Moxee on the 23rd of April, and 63 more employees will be laid off this June at Hi-Country Foods in Selah. Finally, most of Yakima County's April 2002 to April 2003 job growth came from local government hiring which rose 700 jobs over the year. Only 100 of the 700 new local government jobs were in public primary and secondary schools. The balance came from tribal employment or from within town, city, and county governments. It would be better news for the local labor market if this job growth were diversified amongst several industries. The "silver lining" to this cloud hanging over the local economy is that one industry caused much of the over-the-year downturn in nonagricultural employment—food processing (i.e., non-durable goods). Most

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Continued on page 25

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Yakima MSA

	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	73,000	72,500	73,200	500	-200	-0.3%
TOTAL PRIVATE	55,900	55,500	56,800	400	-900	-1.6%
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING and UTILITIES	200	300	300	-100	-100	-33.3%
CONSTRUCTION	2,700	2,600	2,900	100	-200	-6.9%
MANUFACTURING	9,000	9,100	9,900	-100	-900	-9.1%
Durable Goods	4,400	4,300	4,300	100	100	2.3%
Non-Durable Goods	4,600	4,800	5,500	-200	-900	-16.4%
WHOLESALE TRADE	3,900	3,800	3,700	100	200	5.4%
RETAIL TRADE	9,000	8,900	9,000	100	0	0.0%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	1,900	2,000	2,300	-100	-400	-17.4%
INFORMATION, FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4,000	3,900	3,800	100	200	5.3%
SERVICES	25,100	24,900	25,000	200	100	0.4%
Professional and Business Services	4,400	4,500	4,500	-100	-100	-2.2%
Health Services and Social Assistance	10,800	10,700	10,800	100	0	0.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	5,500	5,400	5,300	100	200	3.8%
GOVERNMENT	17,100	17,000	16,400	100	700	4.3%
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0	0.0%
State Government	3,100	3,100	3,000	0	100	3.3%
Local Government	12,700	12,600	12,000	100	700	5.8%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

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Continued from page 24

likely, food processing employment will rebound in May 2003, in keeping with normal seasonal hiring patterns. This should push total nonagricultural employment job growth rates for Yakima County back into the slightly positive column.

Unemployment

Over the year, the Yakima County unemployment rate edged upward from 11.1 percent to 11.3 percent. This 0.2-percent increase in the rate since April 2002 is not that significant. In April 2003, the number of "unemployed" rose to 11,900 people, 300 above the April 2002 level of 11,600. As mentioned earlier in this report, the lion's share of this increase was due to temporary layoffs in the food processing industry. It is most likely that the net number of unemployed will drop next month as these workers return to work. Conversely, the number of "employed" Yakima County residents expanded over the year by 600, to an estimated 94,000 people. However, nonagricultural employment shrank by 200 jobs in this period, and agricultural employment was estimated to have diminished by 100 jobs. If 600 more Yakima County residents were working in April 2003 versus April 2002, one must ask; "Where are they working?" Clearly their jobs, as indicated in these labor force estimates, were not generated within the county. Many of these local residents commuted to jobs outside of Yakima County, especially to the Tri-Cities where numerous jobs have been created by a new \$4 billion federal environmental clean-up program.

Labor Area Summary Wenatchee LMA (Chelan & Douglas Counties)

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Don Meseck, *Regional Labor Economist* 400-E 8th Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7486 Phone: (509) 963-2606

HIGHLIGHTS

Total nonagricultural employment in Chelan and Douglas Counties (also called the Wenatchee Labor Market Area or LMA) expanded by 750 jobs for a 2.1-percent lengthening of payrolls over the month of April 2003. Nonagricultural employment provided 35,730 jobs. The major contributor to this over-the-month advance was the 360-job seasonal gain in the local construction industry.

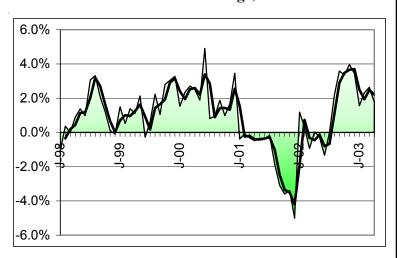
The current April 2002-April 2003 local job growth rate is 1.8 percent. When one compares job growth rates in Washington with corresponding rates in the Wenatchee LMA, the local economy looks pretty good.

Over-the-year job growth in the Wenatchee LMA began in August 2002 and has continued into the first four months of this year. In April 2003, total nonagricultural employment was 620 jobs higher than in April 2002, an expansion of 1.8 percent. However, durable goods manufacturing employment was down by 220 jobs. The good news is that between April 2002 and April 2003 the following industries added jobs: construction (+240), health services and social assistance (+170), retail trade (+140), and government (+130).

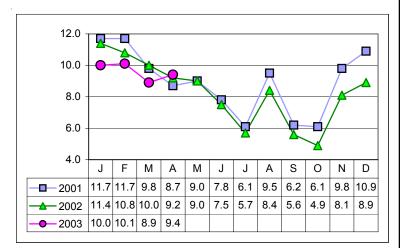
Unemployment:

The unemployment rate in Chelan and Douglas Counties rose from 8.9 percent in March to 9.4 percent in April 2003. According to resident labor force estimates, the number of unemployed residents increased by 330 in April, to 4,850 and the number of employed residents increased by 510, to 46,530. Nonagricultural employment netted 620 new jobs; led by a 240-job advance in construction and 170-job upturn in health services and social assistance.

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Continued on page 27

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Wenatchee LMA (Chelan & Douglas Counties)

					Change	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	35,730	34,980	35,110	750	620	1.8%
TOTAL PRIVATE	27,210	26,530	26,730	680	480	1.8%
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING and UTILITIES	90	110	120	-20	-30	-25.0%
CONSTRUCTION	2,560	2,200	2,320	360	240	10.3%
MANUFACTURING	1,900	1,890	2,190	10	-290	-13.2%
Durable Goods	1,260	1,250	1,480	10	-220	-14.9%
Non-Durable Goods	640	640	720	0	-80	-11.1%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,540	1,540	1,490	0	50	3.4%
RETAIL TRADE	5,850	5,850	5,710	0	140	2.5%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	970	990	1,000	-20	-30	-3.0%
INFORMATION, FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	1,960	1,940	1,960	20	0	0.0%
SERVICES	12,320	12,010	11,940	310	380	3.2%
Health Services and Social Assistance	4,950	4,940	4,780	10	170	3.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	3,750	3,580	3,660	170	90	2.5%
GOVERNMENT	8,520	8,460	8,390	60	130	1.5%
Federal Government	910	880	860	30	50	5.8%
State Government	1,390	1,370	1,380	20	10	0.7%
Local Government	6,220	6,200	6,150	20	70	1.1%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

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Continued from page 26

Agricultural employment also continued its seasonal expansion by adding an estimated 200 new jobs over the month.

Over the year, the local unemployment rate edged upward from 9.2 percent in April 2002 to the current reading of 9.4 percent. Approximately 220 more area residents were unemployed this April than last. However, labor force estimates (i.e., based on place of "residence") indicate 650 more people who live in the Wenatchee LMA were employed in April 2003. Employment in the local labor force is currently estimated to be 46,530, which is 1.4-percent higher than the figure for April 2002. Nonagricultural employment (i.e., based on place of "work") stands at 35,730 jobs in April 2003, 1.8-percent ahead of the figure for the same month last year.

Labor Area Summary Walla Walla County

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Dean Schau, Regional Labor Economist 3900 West Court Street, Pasco, WA 99301 Phone: (509) 543-3017

HIGHLIGHTS

Total nonfarm wage and salary employment in April was up by 140 over the month. Since April of last year, 490 nonfarm jobs have been added to the local economy. This was a respectable gain of 2.1 percent.

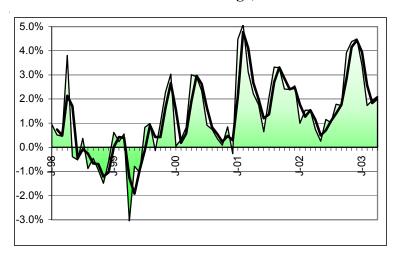
While Construction payrolls were flat over the year, employment in Food Manufacturing was ahead by 4.2 percent. Some of the sector's gain was due to the added payrolls within wineries, which reflects the growing influence this industry has on the local economy.

From March to April, the largest contributor to the 140-job increase was Wholesale Trade, a seasonal rise as produce packers begin to get ready to move this year's vegetable crop. This industry, which is formally know as "wholesale nondurable goods," had 660 employees during April, and may add another 300 by the completion of spring.

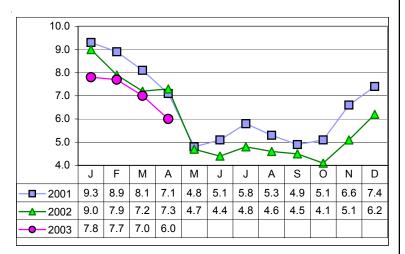
Down on the local farms, agricultural employment also rose seasonally over the month, going from 2,240 in March to 2,780 for April. During April of last year, the count was 2,810.

The over-the-month unemployment rate in Walla Walla County dropped a whole point, from 7.0 percent in March, to 6.0 percent in April. In April 2002, the rate was 7.3 percent.

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Walla Walla County

•					Change	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	23,760	23,620	23,270	140	490	2.1%
TOTAL PRIVATE	18,500	18,310	18,100	190	400	2.2%
GOODS PRODUCING	4,810	4,770	4,700	40	110	2.3%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	960	920	960	40	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	3,860	3,850	3,740	10	120	3.2%
Durable Goods	1,650	1,650	1,640	0	10	0.6%
Wineries	230	220	200	10	30	15.0%
Food Manufacturing	1,980	1,980	1,900	0	80	4.2%
SERVICE PROVIDING	18,930	18,840	18,560	90	370	2.0%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	3,680	3,570	3,560	110	120	3.4%
Wholesale Trade	660	560	670	100	-10	-1.5%
Retail Trade	2,520	2,520	2,410	0	110	4.6%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	450	440	430	10	20	4.7%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	1,340	1,350	1,340	-10	0	0.0%
SERVICES	8,670	8,620	8,500	50	170	2.0%
Educational Services	1,940	1,970	1,920	-30	20	1.0%
GOVERNMENT	5,250	5,310	5,170	-60	80	1.5%
Federal Government	940	930	900	10	40	4.4%
State and Local Government	4,310	4,380	4,270	-70	40	0.9%
Educational Services	2,220	2,300	2,180	-80	40	1.8%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Labor Area Summary Cowlitz County

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Scott Bailey, *Regional Labor Economist* 5411 East Mill Plain Boulevard, Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 735-5043

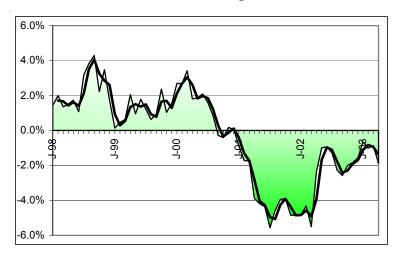
HIGHLIGHTS

Cowlitz County's jobless rate was unchanged at 10.2 percent in April. A year ago, it was 12.3 percent. The number of unemployed county residents was estimated at 4,000.

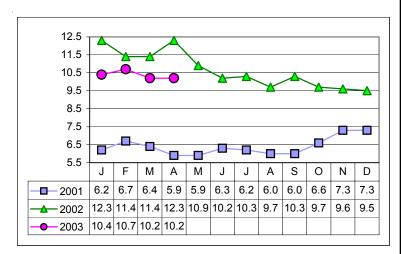
Nonfarm employment dipped by a slight 20 jobs to 35,370. Transportation & Warehousing, which bounces up and down with activity in the ports, fell by 120 jobs. K-12 education slipped by 90 jobs. Small gains in Retail Trade, Finance & Insurance, Accommodations & Food Services, and Other Services helped make up most of the decline

The over-the-year improvement indicated by the unemployment rate stands in stark contrast to the loss of 680 nonfarm jobs over the year. Eight out of eleven major sectors are in the red, led by Manufacturing (-440), Transportation & Warehousing (-130), and Retail Trade (-110). Government (+80) and Finance & Insurance (+50) are two of the few positives.

Nonag Employment Over-the-Year % Change, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Cowlitz County

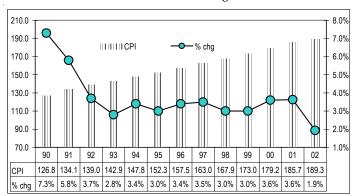
					Change	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-02
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	Apr-03	Apr-03	Apr-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	35,370	35,390	36,050	-20	-680	-1.9%
CONSTRUCTION, MINING, UTIL. and LOGGING	3,070	3,070	3,150	0	-80	-2.5%
Construction, Mining and Utilities	2,360	2,350	2,400	10	-40	-1.7%
Logging	710	720	750	-10	-40	-5.3%
MANUFACTURING	6,760	6,750	7,200	10	-440	-6.1%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,050	1,040	1,180	10	-130	-11.0%
Paper Manufacturing	2,820	2,870	3,030	-50	-210	-6.9%
Other Manufacturing	2,890	2,840	2,990	50	-100	-3.3%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,050	1,040	1,120	10	-70	-6.3%
RETAIL TRADE	4,220	4,190	4,330	30	-110	-2.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	930	930	980	0	-50	-5.1%
General Merchandise Stores	920	960	980	-40	-60	-6.1%
Other Retail	2,370	2,300	2,370	70	0	0.0%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	1,050	1,170	1,180	-120	-130	-11.0%
FINANCE and INSURANCE	1,010	970	960	40	50	5.2%
ADMIN., SUPPORT and WASTE MGMT.	830	830	840	0	-10	-1.2%
HEALTH CARE and SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	4,650	4,670	4,690	-20	-40	-0.9%
ACCOMMODATION and FOOD SERVICES	2,860	2,820	2,870	40	-10	-0.3%
OTHER SERVICES	3,940	3,900	3,860	40	80	2.1%
GOVERNMENT	5,930	5,980	5,850	-50	80	1.4%
Federal Government	240	240	250	0	-10	-4.0%
State Government	1,280	1,280	1,240	0	40	3.2%
Local Government	4,410	4,460	4,360	-50	50	1.1%
K-12 Education	2,740	2,830	2,730	-90	10	0.4%
Other Local Government	1,670	1,630	1,630	40	40	2.5%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	10	10	0	0	10	0.0%
Nonfarm Employment without logging	34,660	34,670	35,300	-10	-640	-1.8%

^{1/} Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information can be found on the Internet at:

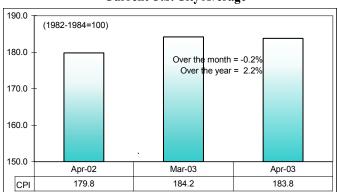
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Consumer Price Indexes

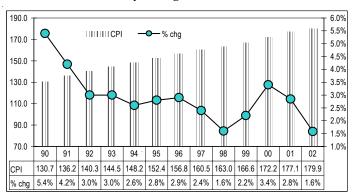
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Average 1990-2003



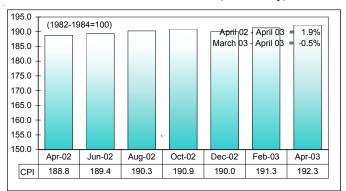
Current U.S. City Average



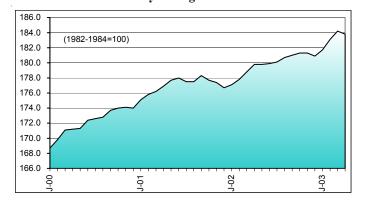
U.S. City Average 1990-2003



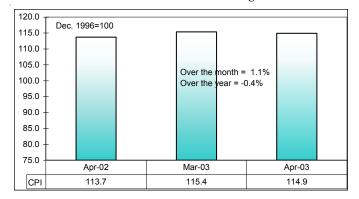
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton (bi-monthly)



U.S. City Average 1999-2003



Current West-B/C Average



Note: Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton now published bi-monthly on even months. Class "West-B/C" index covers populations 1,500,000 or less. Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CIP program. Each index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is subject to more error. Local indexes show greater volatility than the national index, but long-term trends are similar. **The Bureau of Labor Statistics urges the use of the national average CXIP in escalator clauses.** The Consumer Price Index is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services, such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical care, and other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living.

Technical Notes

This release is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous months are subject to revisions. Industries are classified in accord with the North America Industrial Classification System (NAICS), and implimented with the release of January 2003 data. The benchmark for all estimates is December 2002. Material in this publication may be reproduced without special permission (but credit is welcome).

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during or received pay for the pay period through the twelfth of each month. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work. The data is not strictly comparable with labor force data, which represents persons by place of residence.

Excluded from wage and salary estimates are proprietors, self-employed workers, private household employees, and unpaid family workers. A small percentage of wage and salary workers cannot be assigned to specific counties because of the nature of their jobs. Therefore, county data will not necessarily sum to state totals.

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Washington State Labor Area Summaries are published monthly by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch: Greg Weeks, Director

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