

Washington State Labor Area Summaries



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

In This Issue

Bellingham MSA.....	4
Bremerton PMSA.....	6
Olympia PMSA.....	8
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA.....	10
Snohomish County.....	13
Spokane MSA.....	16
Tacoma PMSA.....	18
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA.....	20
Clark County.....	22
Yakima MSA.....	24
Consumer Price Indexes.....	32



August 2003
Volume 18, Number 8

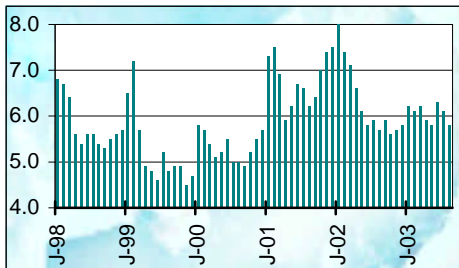
For this and more labor market information,
visit our newest website.

www.workforceexplorer.com

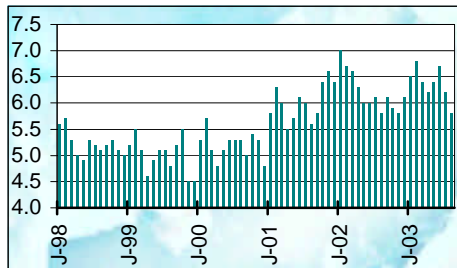
Employment Security is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities.

MSA Jobless Rates 1998-2003

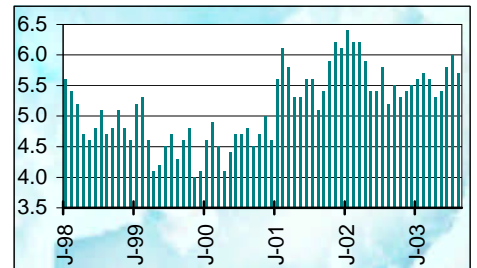
Bellingham MSA



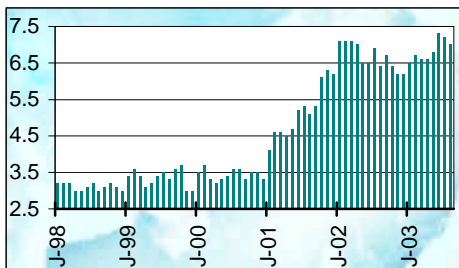
Bremerton PMSA



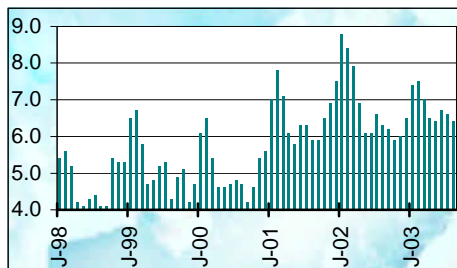
Olympia PMSA



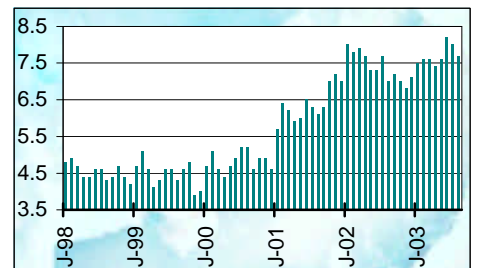
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA



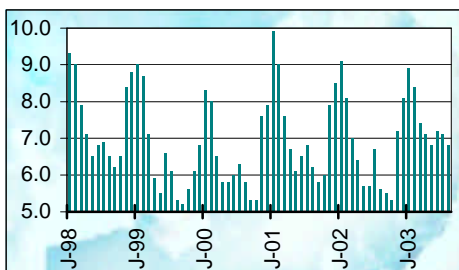
Spokane MSA



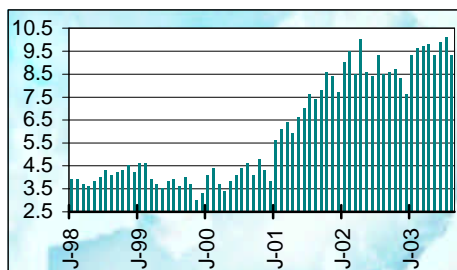
Tacoma PMSA



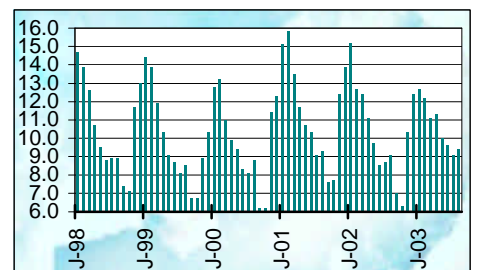
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA



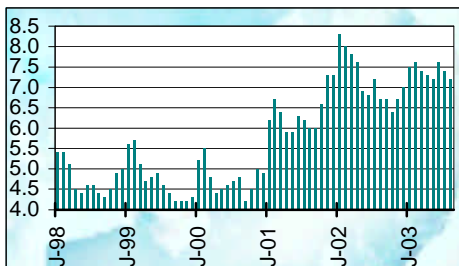
Clark County



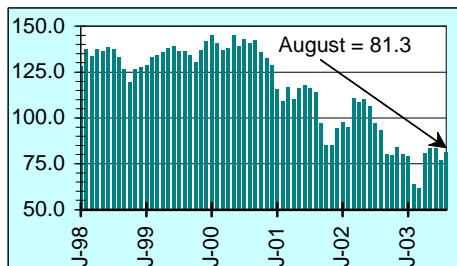
Yakima MSA



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

<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>	August 2003 Preliminary				July 2003 Revised				August 2002 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate
Washington State Total	3,109,500	2,886,400	223,100	7.2	3,166,700	2,932,000	234,700	7.4	3,108,500	2,895,900	212,600	6.8
Bellingham MSA	87,800	82,700	5,100	5.8	89,200	83,800	5,500	6.1	86,300	81,500	4,800	5.6
Bremerton PMSA	100,800	95,000	5,800	5.8	102,600	96,300	6,300	6.2	100,600	94,700	5,800	5.8
Olympia PMSA	106,600	100,600	6,000	5.7	108,300	101,800	6,500	6.0	104,100	98,600	5,500	5.3
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA	1,387,400	1,290,400	97,000	7.0	1,401,500	1,300,300	101,200	7.2	1,395,800	1,303,800	92,000	6.6
King County 2/	1,014,700	948,000	66,700	6.6	1,025,700	955,300	70,400	6.9	1,022,400	957,900	64,500	6.3
Snohomish County 2/	344,600	316,200	28,400	8.2	347,400	318,600	28,800	8.3	345,300	319,500	25,800	7.5
Island County 2/	28,100	26,200	1,900	6.7	28,400	26,400	2,000	6.9	28,160	26,480	1,680	6.0
Spokane MSA	209,500	196,100	13,400	6.4	211,900	197,900	14,000	6.6	210,100	196,800	13,300	6.3
Tacoma PMSA	345,900	319,300	26,600	7.7	350,600	322,500	28,000	8.0	344,900	320,000	24,900	7.2
Tri-Cities MSA	103,800	96,800	7,000	6.8	108,900	101,200	7,700	7.1	101,400	95,600	5,900	5.8
Benton County 2/	79,100	73,700	5,400	6.8	82,900	77,100	5,800	7.0	77,200	72,800	4,400	5.8
Franklin County 2/	24,800	23,100	1,700	6.8	26,100	24,100	2,000	7.5	24,200	22,800	1,400	6.0
Yakima MSA	114,100	103,400	10,700	9.4	121,300	110,300	11,000	9.1	112,200	101,700	10,500	9.4
Adams	9,010	8,470	540	5.9	9,470	8,830	640	6.7	9,330	8,840	490	5.3
Asotin 2/	12,260	11,550	710	5.8	12,420	11,730	690	5.6	11,830	11,160	670	5.7
Chelan-Douglas LMA	54,210	49,490	4,720	8.7	61,410	57,510	3,900	6.3	56,020	51,180	4,850	8.6
Chelan County 2/	36,390	33,070	3,320	9.1	41,070	38,430	2,640	6.4	37,570	34,200	3,380	9.0
Douglas County 2/	17,820	16,420	1,400	7.9	20,330	19,080	1,260	6.2	18,450	16,980	1,470	8.0
Clallam	25,750	24,070	1,680	6.5	25,960	24,090	1,870	7.2	25,340	23,740	1,600	6.3
Clark 2/	182,600	165,700	16,900	9.3	185,500	166,800	18,700	10.1	185,900	169,600	16,300	8.8
Columbia	1,180	1,070	110	9.2	1,300	1,170	130	10.0	1,190	1,080	110	9.1
Cowlitz	39,350	35,590	3,760	9.5	40,820	36,630	4,190	10.3	40,750	36,720	4,030	9.9
Ferry	2,650	2,320	330	12.5	2,730	2,360	370	13.5	2,700	2,490	210	7.9
Garfield	1,270	1,240	30	2.2	1,300	1,260	40	3.2	1,270	1,240	30	2.6
Grant	41,300	38,230	3,070	7.4	41,810	38,640	3,170	7.6	39,480	36,720	2,750	7.0
Grays Harbor	26,820	24,550	2,270	8.5	27,400	24,890	2,510	9.2	26,260	24,080	2,180	8.3
Jefferson	12,080	11,460	620	5.1	12,140	11,460	680	5.6	11,750	11,080	670	5.7
Kittitas	15,370	14,490	880	5.7	15,540	14,530	1,010	6.5	15,000	14,240	760	5.1
Klickitat	8,860	7,650	1,210	13.6	9,550	8,290	1,260	13.2	8,230	7,140	1,090	13.3
Lewis	30,310	27,810	2,500	8.2	30,770	28,000	2,770	9.0	29,260	26,940	2,320	7.9
Lincoln	5,170	4,930	240	4.6	5,140	4,910	230	4.5	5,100	4,870	230	4.5
Mason	20,650	19,140	1,510	7.3	20,950	19,310	1,640	7.8	19,400	18,020	1,380	7.1
Okanogan	19,550	17,950	1,600	8.2	22,780	21,250	1,530	6.7	20,110	18,600	1,510	7.5
Pacific	8,430	7,820	610	7.2	8,550	7,890	660	7.7	8,140	7,550	580	7.2
Pend Oreille	4,340	3,980	360	8.4	4,410	4,000	420	9.4	4,470	4,160	310	6.9
San Juan	8,030	7,830	200	2.5	8,160	7,940	220	2.7	7,710	7,480	230	2.9
Skagit	55,270	51,400	3,870	7.0	55,360	51,360	4,000	7.2	55,320	51,530	3,780	6.8
Skamania	3,880	3,520	360	9.3	3,990	3,560	420	10.6	4,080	3,700	380	9.3
Stevens	16,600	15,270	1,330	8.0	17,070	15,570	1,500	8.8	16,980	15,590	1,390	8.2
Wahkiakum	1,740	1,620	120	7.1	1,750	1,600	150	8.7	1,760	1,650	110	6.0
Walla Walla	27,670	26,390	1,280	4.6	28,680	27,380	1,300	4.5	26,650	25,350	1,300	4.9
Whitman	18,940	18,480	460	2.4	17,430	16,940	490	2.8	18,960	18,520	440	2.3

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

Washington State Employment Security Department
 Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch (LMEA)

Directory of LMEA Economists and Areas Served

Economists	Address/Telephone	Areas Served <i>(MSA Counties are Capitalized)</i>
Kirsta Glenn, Chief Economist 360/438-4812 FAX 438-4846	PO Box 9046, MS 46000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 kglenn@esd.wa.gov	Statewide
Cummins, Carolyn, Staff Economist 360/438-4814 FAX 438-4846	PO Box 9046, MS: 46000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 ccummins@esd.wa.gov	Statewide
Wallace, David, Staff Economist 360/438-4818 FAX 438-4846	PO Box 9046, MS: 46000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 dbwallace@esd.wa.gov	Statewide
Graudins, Ivars, Area LMI Supervisor 360/438-4825 FAX 438-4846	PO Box 9046, MS: 46000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 igraudins@esd.wa.gov	Statewide
Bailey, Scott, Regional Economist 360/735-5043 FAX 735-5093	5411 E. Mill Plain, Suite B3 Vancouver, WA 98661 scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov	CLARK, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum
Dillingham, William, Regional Economist 509/532-3188 FAX 532-3035	138 South Arthur Spokane, WA 99202-2259 wdillingham@esd.wa.gov	SPOKANE, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Whitman
Johnson, Chris, Regional Economist 253/593-7336 FAX 593-7377	1313 Tacoma Avenue South Tacoma, WA 98402 chris.johnson@esd.wa.gov	PIERCE
Meseck, Don, Regional Economist 509/963-2606 FAX 963-1992	Central Washington University 400 East 8 th Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926-7486 dmeseck@esd.wa.gov	YAKIMA, Okanogan, Chelan, Adams, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat*
Pauer, Roberta, Regional Economist 206/720-3394 FAX 720-3393	400 E Pine, Suite 310 Seattle, WA 98122 rpauer@esd.wa.gov	KING Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA
Schau, Dean, Regional Economist 509/547-0511 ext. 2217 FAX 546-0401	Columbia Basin College 2600 N 20 th Avenue Pasco, WA 99301-3379 schaud@cbc2.org	BENTON, FRANKLIN, Walla Walla
Thompson, Donna, Regional Economist 425/339-4954 FAX 425/339-1949	PO Box 870 Everett, WA 98206 dthompson@esd.wa.gov	SNOHOMISH
Turek, Paul, Regional Economist 360/438-4813 FAX 438-4846	PO Box 9046, MS: 46000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 pturek@esd.wa.gov	Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, THURSTON
Vleming, Jim, Regional Economist 360/438-4821 FAX 438-4846	PO Box 9046, MS: 46000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 jvleming@esd.wa.gov	Clallam, Jefferson, KITSAP WHATCOM, ISLAND, San Juan Skagit
Labor Market Information Center 1-800-215-1617 Fax 360/438-4109	PO Box 9046, MS 46000 Olympia WA 98507-9046	For statewide and area information Asotin**

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

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

Revised 10/08/03

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Bellingham MSA
Whatcom County

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:

August numbers for the Bellingham MSA were mixed. While the unemployment rate dropped slightly over the month, nonagricultural wage and salary jobs were also down a notch from July.

The unemployment picture in the MSA improved from July to August. The rate fell to 5.8 percent of the labor force, down from the 6.1 revised rate of July. The August 2002 rate was 5.6 percent. To compare the August data, we find 82,700 MSA residents employed, as 5,100 looked for employment. In August 2002, the totals were 81,500 and 4,800 respectively. Statewide, the August rate also dipped to 7.2 percent from the 7.4 of July. Over the year, the state unemployment rate has risen from last August's 6.8 percent.

Locally, the unemployment rate will remain in its current pattern, with not much change forecast for the near term.

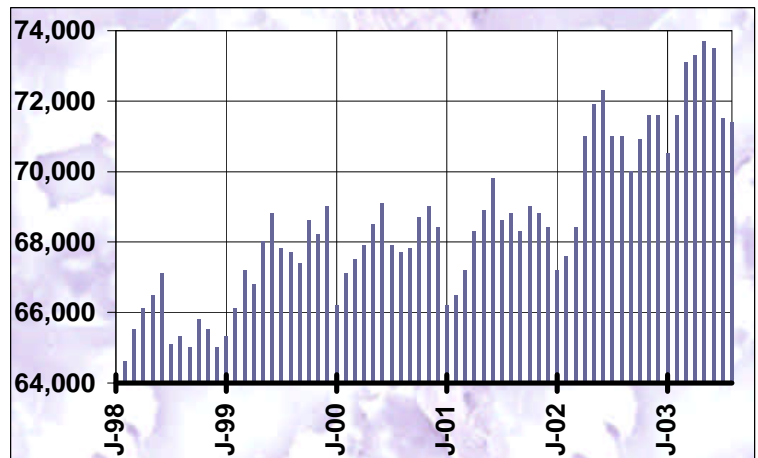
Nonag employment in the MSA totaled 71,400 in August, down 100 from the 71,500 posted in July, but up 400 from August 2002.

Over the month, Government showed a seasonal decline of 400 jobs, while Trade and Construction each posted positive gains of 100. True to the state of the economy, the detail data showed little in the way of movement.

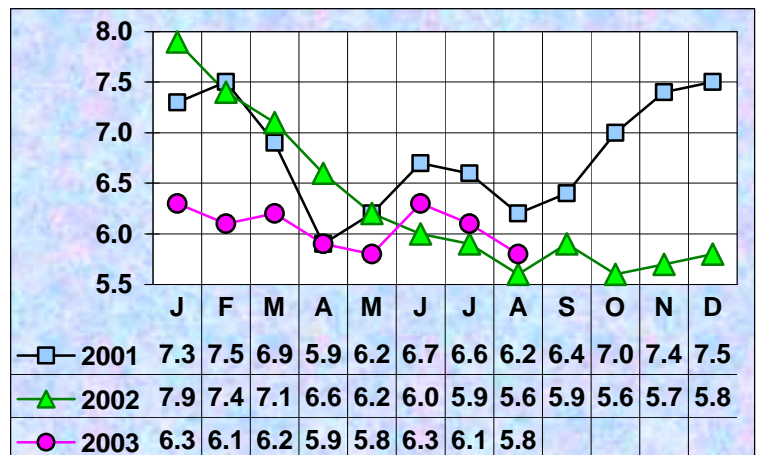
Over the year, the increase of 400 is once again an anemic showing, as both the Goods Producing and Services Providing sectors chug along, with little in the way of growth coming of it. From August to August, Services Providing jobs were the whole change, at plus 400. Food Manufacturing was off 200 over the year, which accounts for the decline in the Goods Producing sector.

A slow state economy and the continuing doubts over the Intalco outcome have been a thorn in the side of the Bellingham MSA. Whether there will be a total closure of the Intalco plant or continued layoffs will impact the numbers as we approach the fall and years' end.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	71,400	71,500	71,000	-100	400	0.6%
TOTAL PRIVATE	58,400	58,200	57,800	200	600	1.0%
GOODS PRODUCING	14,900	14,800	15,000	100	-100	-0.7%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	6,200	6,100	6,200	100	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	8,300	8,300	8,300	0	0	0.0%
Durable Goods	4,600	4,600	4,500	0	100	2.2%
Non Durable Goods	3,700	3,700	3,800	0	-100	-2.6%
Food Manufacturing	1,500	1,500	1,700	0	-200	-11.8%
SERVICES PROVIDING	56,500	56,700	56,100	-200	400	0.7%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	14,000	13,900	13,800	100	200	1.4%
Wholesale Trade	2,800	2,800	2,700	0	100	3.7%
Retail Trade	9,300	9,200	9,200	100	100	1.1%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,000	1,900	2,000	100	0	0.0%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0	0.0%
GOVERNMENT	13,000	13,400	13,200	-400	-200	-1.5%
Federal Government	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0.0%
State Government	3,700	3,800	3,700	-100	0	0.0%
Local Government	8,200	8,600	8,500	-400	-300	-3.5%
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. 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 first quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Bremerton PMSA
Kitsap County

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

Highlights:

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in August found the Bremerton PMSA in a seasonal mood as jobs declined. On the unemployment side, the local economy experienced a decline in the rate of unemployment.

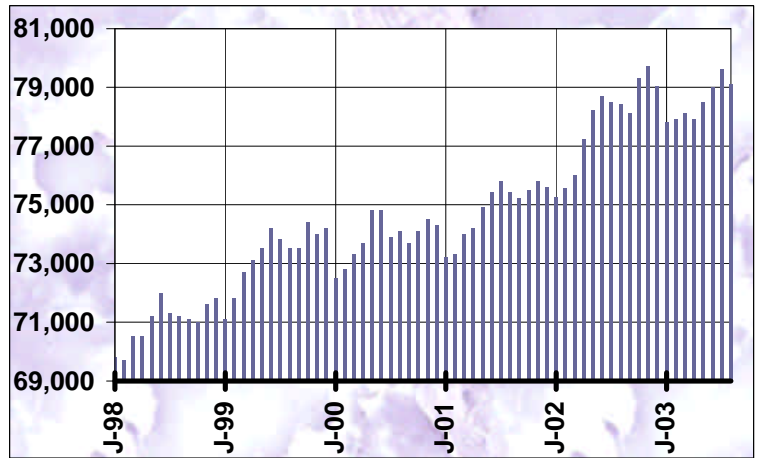
Nonag employment totaled 79,100 in August, down from the 79,600 in July, but up 700 from the August 2002 total. The over-the-month decline is the work of that diabolical seasonal trend, as State and Local Government (education for the most part) cut 800 from the August payroll. The good news is that most of those jobs, and perhaps a few more, will be returning come fall. On the plus side, Construction, Trade and Federal Government all counted 100 more jobs to the total, softening the impact of the state and local drop.

Over the year, nonag jobs are up a total of 700. While a positive figure, the annual growth rate remains below 1.0 percent—a further indication of the overall sluggishness of the state and local economy. The over-the-year gain can be pegged to Services Providing jobs, as that sector posted a gain of 1,000 over the year. Growth was felt in Trade, Government, and Information and Financial Activities. On the downside, Manufacturing and Construction suffered over-the-year losses.

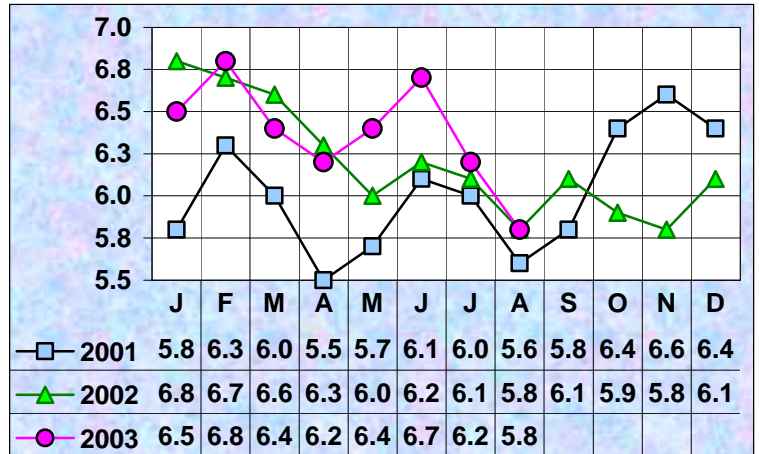
The unemployment rate in the PMSA was 5.8 percent in August. The rate represents a decline from July's 6.2 percent. Over the year, the PMSA rate of unemployment is unchanged. The August 2003 figures show 95,000 Kitsap County residents at work, as 5,800 actively sought employment. In August 2002, 94,700 were employed and 5,800 unemployed—more testimony to the economy running in place.

The coming months will see little in the way of change. The unemployment rate will hover in its current zone, and nonag jobs will be seasonally impacted, but little else can be expected.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	79,100	79,600	78,400	-500	700	0.9%
TOTAL PRIVATE	51,700	51,400	51,400	300	300	0.6%
GOODS PRODUCING	6,300	6,200	6,600	100	-300	-4.5%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	4,600	4,500	4,800	100	-200	-4.2%
MANUFACTURING	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	-100	-5.6%
SERVICES PROVIDING	72,800	73,400	71,800	-600	1,000	1.4%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	12,800	12,700	12,700	100	100	0.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	10,700	10,600	10,500	100	200	1.9%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0.0%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	5,300	5,300	5,200	0	100	1.9%
GOVERNMENT	27,400	28,200	27,000	-800	400	1.5%
Federal Government	15,000	14,900	15,100	100	-100	-0.7%
State and Local Government	12,500	13,300	11,900	-800	600	5.0%
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. 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 first quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State Labor Area Summary Olympia PMSA Thurston County

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

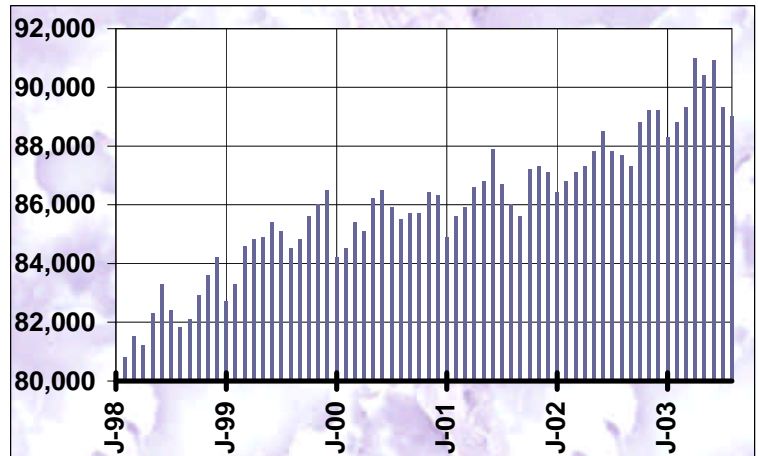
Highlights:

Consumerism, in the form of consumer-generated spending activity, has contributed in keeping the Olympia PMSA moving forward. Evidence of renewed spending continues to mount. The Retail sector posted a strong showing this month, as it added 300 jobs to the local economy. Coinciding with the retail gains was the opening of the new Best Buy store at the Westfield Shoppingtown Capital Mall. Based in Minneapolis, the store sells a line of home electronics, personal computers, and appliances. Although overall employment in the PMSA was down by 300 jobs, the downward pressure was exerted as a result of normal seasonal losses in Government-sponsored Education Services. This sector lost 700 jobs for the month. The Construction, and Professional and Business Services industries weighed in on the positive side of the ledger, as each contributed job gains of 100.

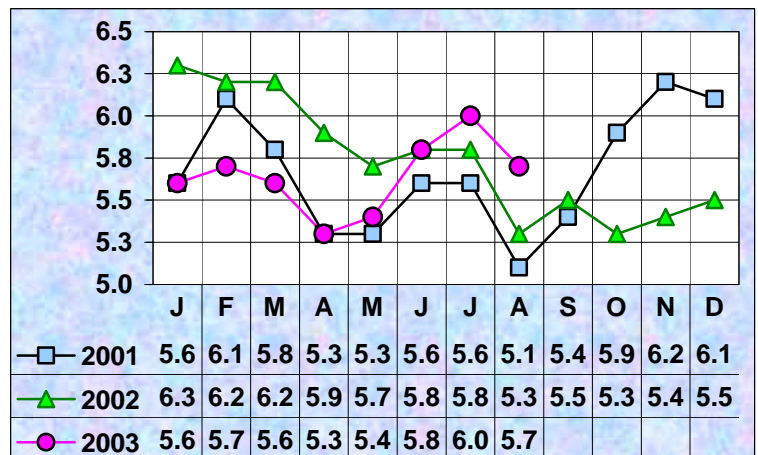
The local labor market provided some mixed signals in terms of resident employment. The county's unemployment rate declined by 0.3 of a percentage point to 5.7 percent. Some of the decline can be attributed to discouraged workers leaving the labor force due to generally weak hiring conditions. A greater response by businesses to hire more workers would consequently stabilize the unemployment rate in the short run, and serve to shore up the lagging labor market. Such news would be greatly welcomed by workers and is a necessity for the recovery in the economy to be complete. Recent economic activity at the national level provides some indication for when this might take place locally.

The national economy is regaining its footing. Job losses are expected to soon abate. The U.S. economy grew at a 3.3 percent annual rate during the second quarter this year, as housing construction and military spending provided a big bounce. Consumer spending also rose by 3.8 percent during the second quarter. Momentum from the reduction in payroll withholdings, child tax credit rebate checks, and the gains from the boom in mortgage refinancing activity has carried over to the third quarter. Personal spending rose 1.7 percent through July and August, and will contribute to strong economic growth in the third quar-

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



ter. The lift from the tax relief is likely to wane in the coming months, however, as the bulk of the tax rebate bounce fades, and no further adjustments to tax withholdings are scheduled until January. The consumers will require help from employers to keep the economy going. Recent feedback from employer surveys indicate that hiring plans are picking up, albeit modestly. It might not exactly signal a breakthrough, but there is cause for optimism.

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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: December 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	89,000	89,300	87,700	-300	1,300	1.5%
TOTAL PRIVATE	54,700	54,200	52,900	500	1,800	3.4%
GOODS PRODUCING	8,500	8,400	8,300	100	200	2.4%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	4,800	4,700	4,400	100	400	9.1%
MANUFACTURING	3,300	3,300	3,500	0	-200	-5.7%
SERVICES PROVIDING	80,500	80,900	79,400	-400	1,100	1.4%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	14,500	14,200	12,900	300	1,600	12.4%
Wholesale Trade	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100	6.3%
Retail Trade	11,100	10,800	10,100	300	1,000	9.9%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,700	1,700	1,200	0	500	41.7%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	4,700	4,700	4,600	0	100	2.2%
PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS SERVICES	27,000	26,900	27,100	100	-100	-0.4%
GOVERNMENT	34,300	35,100	34,800	-800	-500	-1.4%
Federal Government	1,000	1,100	1,000	-100	0	0.0%
State Government	22,700	22,700	22,800	0	-100	-0.4%
State Government Educational Services	1,500	1,600	1,500	-100	0	0.0%
Local Government	10,600	11,300	11,000	-700	-400	-3.6%
Local Government Educational Services	5,900	6,600	6,300	-700	-400	-6.3%
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. 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 fourth quarter 2002) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:
www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA
King, Island and Snohomish Counties

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:

August's labor market remained flat for the three-county Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA. The latter part of the year, however, will show some slight gains.

This labor market comprises King, Snohomish, and Island Counties, combined "PMSA" is a U.S. Department of Labor designation and stands for primary metropolitan statistical area.

Unemployment:

The unemployment rate for the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett area was nearly flat between July and August, dropping only by 0.2 from July's 7.2 percent to August's 7.0 percent of the labor force. That improvement is typical for the season, and represents no real gain in the underlying labor market. But unemployment remained higher than year-ago levels by 0.4 percentage points, when in August, 2002 unemployment was 6.6 percent. King County, at 6.6 percent unemployment in August, came in a bit lower than the larger Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA because of the higher jobless rate in Snohomish County, which registered 8.2 percent. That divergence is typical of workforce trends for the two counties within the larger three-county labor market, 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 6.7 percent in August.

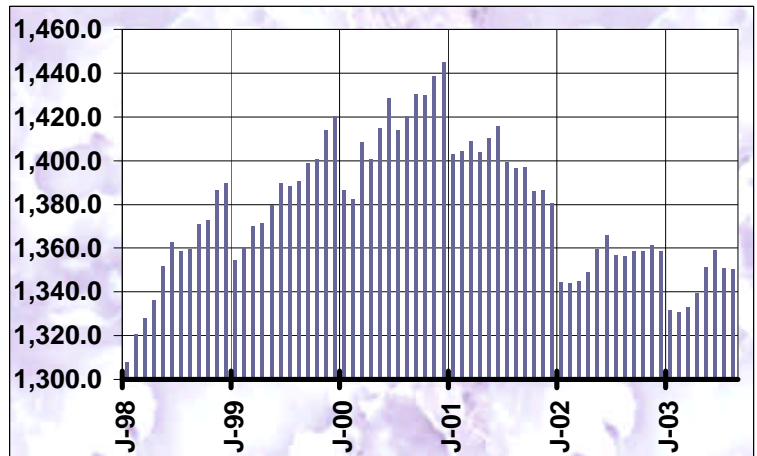
Industry Employment:

Seasonal hiring in August by area employers resulted in the number of jobs being sufficient to pull down the unemployment rate by 0.2 percentage points.

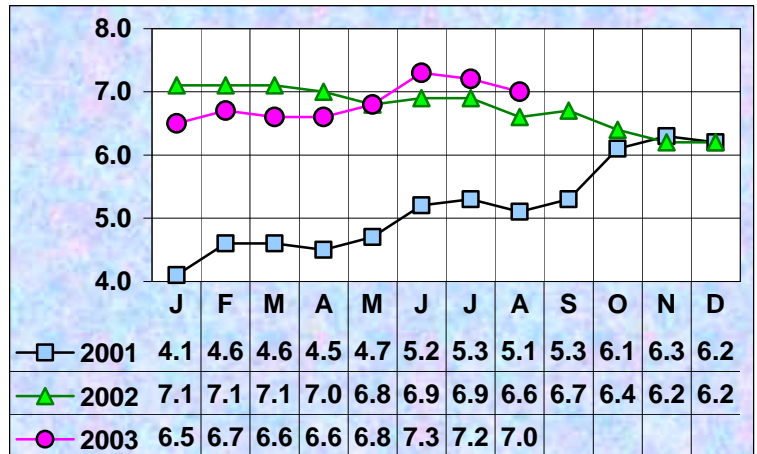
Construction, Trade, Recreation and travel services, Warehousing, Transportation and a variety of other services industries offered some seasonal opportunities to job seekers. But the weakness in Manufacturing continued to operate as a drag on the economy.

Over the year, the total number of jobs in the PMSA's labor market remained in the loss column.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Revised July-02	Change			
					July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	July-02 Aug-02	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	1,350.5	1,350.8	1,356.4	1,356.9	-0.3	-5.9	-0.5	-0.4%
TOTAL PRIVATE	1,159.7	1,154.1	1,168.1	1,163.3	5.6	-8.4	4.8	-0.7%
GOODS PRODUCING	231.3	230.9	248.1	246.8	0.4	-16.8	1.3	-6.8%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.5	0.0	31.3%
CONSTRUCTION	79.6	78.2	82.6	80.2	1.4	-3.0	2.4	-3.6%
Construction of Buildings	20.6	20.1	21.0	20.1	0.5	-0.4	0.9	-1.9%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	8.5	8.2	9.2	9.0	0.3	-0.7	0.2	-7.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	50.5	49.9	52.4	51.1	0.6	-1.9	1.3	-3.6%
MANUFACTURING	149.6	150.6	163.9	165.0	-1.0	-14.3	-1.1	-8.7%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	117.2	117.8	130.2	131.3	-0.6	-13.0	-1.1	-10.0%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	8.4	8.4	9.0	9.1	0.0	-0.6	-0.1	-6.7%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	15.1	15.1	16.8	17.0	0.0	-1.7	-0.2	-10.1%
Navigation., Measuring, Electromed. & Control	8.7	8.7	9.5	9.6	0.0	-0.8	-0.1	-8.4%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	66.3	66.8	76.7	77.4	-0.5	-10.4	-0.7	-13.6%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg	60.9	61.8	71.2	71.9	-0.9	-10.3	-0.7	-14.5%
Non Durable Goods Manufacturing	32.4	32.8	33.7	33.7	-0.4	-1.3	0.0	-3.9%
Food Manufacturing	11.7	12.2	12.3	12.0	-0.5	-0.6	0.3	-4.9%
SERVICES PROVIDING	1,119.2	1,119.9	1,108.3	1,110.1	-0.7	10.9	-1.8	1.0%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	262.0	261.0	265.7	265.8	1.0	-3.7	-0.1	-1.4%
Wholesale Trade	68.9	68.3	69.8	69.5	0.6	-0.9	0.3	-1.3%
Retail Trade	143.0	142.9	144.4	144.7	0.1	-1.4	-0.3	-1.0%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	17.2	17.1	17.5	17.4	0.1	-0.3	0.1	-1.7%
Food and Beverage Stores	27.3	27.2	28.1	28.2	0.1	-0.8	-0.1	-2.8%
Health and Personal Care Stores	7.0	6.9	7.2	7.2	0.1	-0.2	0.0	-2.8%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	14.3	14.1	15.3	15.2	0.2	-1.0	0.1	-6.5%
General Merchandise Stores	20.2	20.2	18.7	18.5	0.0	1.5	0.2	8.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	50.1	49.8	51.5	51.6	0.3	-1.4	-0.1	-2.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	47.3	47.1	48.8	48.9	0.2	-1.5	-0.1	-3.1%
Air Transportation	12.1	12.2	13.1	13.0	-0.1	-1.0	0.1	-7.6%
Water Transportation	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-3.4%
Truck Transportation	7.8	7.7	8.2	8.4	0.1	-0.4	-0.2	-4.9%
Support Activities for Transportation	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	1.9%
Support Activities for Water Transportation	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	12.0%
Warehousing and Storage	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-3.0%
INFORMATION	73.3	72.3	73.6	73.5	1.0	-0.3	0.1	-0.4%
Newspaper, Book and Directory Publishers	5.7	5.6	6.3	6.3	0.1	-0.6	0.0	-9.5%
Software Publishers	37.1	36.5	35.6	35.4	0.6	1.5	0.2	4.2%
Broadcasting, except Internet	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0%
Telecommunications	18.9	19.0	20.8	20.9	-0.1	-1.9	-0.1	-9.1%
Wired Telecommunications Carriers	5.8	5.9	6.5	6.6	-0.1	-0.7	-0.1	-10.8%
Wireless Telecommunications Carriers	10.3	10.3	10.6	10.6	0.0	-0.3	0.0	-2.8%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	92.3	91.8	89.2	88.8	0.5	3.1	0.4	3.5%
Finance and Insurance	63.2	63.1	61.1	60.9	0.1	2.1	0.2	3.4%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	29.3	29.3	26.4	26.2	0.0	2.9	0.2	11.0%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	26.1	26.1	26.4	26.3	0.0	-0.3	0.1	-1.1%
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	29.1	28.7	28.1	27.9	0.4	1.0	0.2	3.6%

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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Revised July-02	Change			
					July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	July-02 Aug-02	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	186.1	184.6	183.6	181.9	1.5	2.5	1.7	1.4%
Professional, Scientific and Tech Services	87.7	87.2	88.4	88.2	0.5	-0.7	0.2	-0.8%
Legal Services	13.5	13.4	13.2	13.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	2.3%
Accounting, Tax Prep, Bookkpng & Payroll	9.6	9.6	9.1	9.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	5.5%
Architectural, Engineering and Related	17.8	17.8	18.4	18.4	0.0	-0.6	0.0	-3.3%
Computer Systems Design and Related	15.5	15.5	17.7	17.8	0.0	-2.2	-0.1	-12.4%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	25.1	25.0	22.8	22.6	0.1	2.3	0.2	10.1%
Admin, Support, Waste Mgmt & Remediation	73.3	72.4	72.4	71.1	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.2%
Administrative and Support Services	70.3	69.4	69.6	68.2	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.0%
Employment Services	28.5	27.9	29.4	28.7	0.6	-0.9	0.7	-3.1%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	134.7	134.3	132.8	132.6	0.4	1.9	0.2	1.4%
Educational Services	19.1	19.3	18.1	18.4	-0.2	1.0	-0.3	5.5%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	48.4	47.9	47.6	47.1	0.5	0.8	0.5	1.7%
Hospitals	26.6	26.6	26.7	26.6	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-0.4%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	20.6	20.5	20.3	20.3	0.1	0.3	0.0	1.5%
Social Assistance	20.0	20.0	20.1	20.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.5%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	129.6	129.0	124.9	123.9	0.6	4.7	1.0	3.8%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	26.3	26.1	23.5	23.4	0.2	2.8	0.1	11.9%
Accommodation	14.2	14.0	13.6	13.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	4.4%
Food Services and Drinking Places	89.1	88.9	87.8	87.1	0.2	1.3	0.7	1.5%
OTHER SERVICES	50.4	50.2	50.2	50.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4%
Repair and Maintenance	13.5	13.4	14.2	14.1	0.1	-0.7	0.1	-4.9%
Personal and Laundry Services	13.7	13.6	13.6	13.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.7%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Prof. and Similar	23.2	23.2	22.4	22.3	0.0	0.8	0.1	3.6%
GOVERNMENT	190.8	196.7	188.3	193.6	-5.9	2.5	-5.3	1.3%
Federal Government	25.8	25.8	25.3	25.4	0.0	0.5	-0.1	2.0%
Total State Government	53.8	53.9	52.9	53.3	-0.1	0.9	-0.4	1.7%
State Government Educational Services	36.7	36.8	36.1	36.5	-0.1	0.6	-0.4	1.7%
Total Local Government	111.2	117.0	110.1	114.9	-5.8	1.1	-4.8	1.0%
Local Government Educational Services	43.8	49.0	42.9	48.5	-5.2	0.9	-5.6	2.1%
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 Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently first quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State 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:

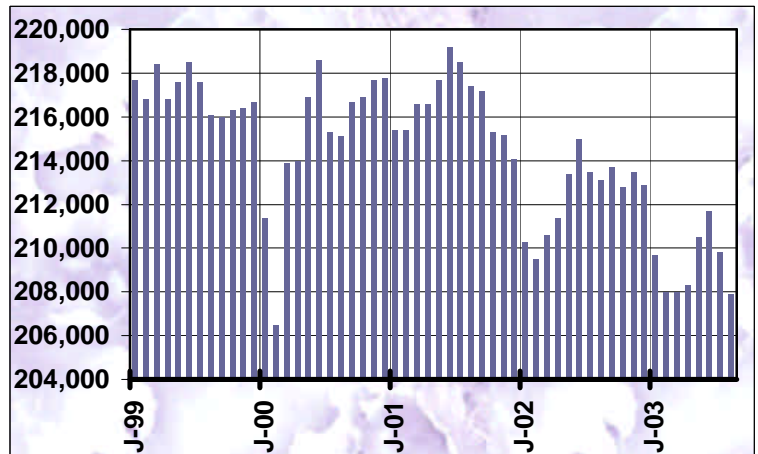
Seasonal declines in Local Education helped push the non-farm job total down by 1,900 jobs in August. The non-farm job total is now 207,900, which is down by 5,200 over the year.

After posting a seventeen-year high of 8.3 percent in July, the August Unemployment Rate declined slightly to 8.2 percent. This number matches the more recent peak in February of 2002 after the massive post 9-11 Boeing layoffs hit the local economy.

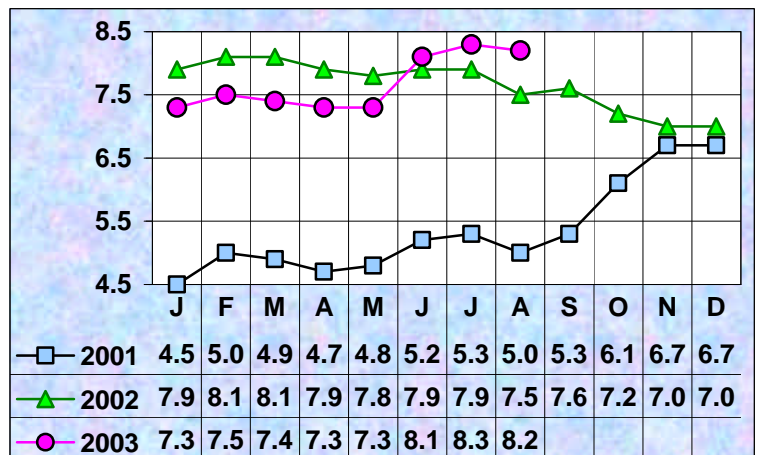
There continues to be an ongoing restructuring of the economy as high paying manufacturing jobs are being replaced by lower paying jobs in services. Manufacturing dropped by 800 jobs, with Aerospace down by 300. Seasonal drops in food processing helped push non-durable goods down by 300. Professional and Business Services increased by 400 jobs.

Construction jobs increased by 600 jobs over the month, helped by several major construction projects. Financial Activities remained flat over the month at 11,600 jobs. Local Education fell by 1,800. Other Local Government dropped by 200 jobs, reflecting ongoing budget tightening by many municipal governments throughout the county.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1999-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Snohomish County

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: September 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	207.9	209.8	213.1	-1.9	-5.2	-2.4%
TOTAL PRIVATE	175.0	174.9	180.8	0.1	-5.8	-3.2%
GOODS PRODUCING	62.1	62.3	65.1	-0.2	-3.0	-4.6%
SERVICES PROVIDING	145.8	147.5	148.0	-1.7	-2.2	-1.5%
CONSTRUCTION	19.4	18.8	19.8	0.6	-0.4	-2.2%
Construction of Buildings	3.4	3.1	3.8	0.2	-0.4	-11.4%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2.2	2.1	2.2	0.1	-0.1	-2.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	13.2	12.9	13.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.7%
MANUFACTURING	42.8	43.5	45.3	-0.8	-2.6	-5.7%
Durable Goods	38.0	38.5	40.3	-0.5	-2.3	-5.7%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	0.0	2.0%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2.6	2.7	2.7	-0.1	0.0	-1.9%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	5.1	5.1	5.4	0.0	-0.3	-6.3%
Electronic Instrument Manufacturing	3.4	3.5	3.6	0.0	-0.2	-4.9%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	23.3	23.6	26.5	-0.3	-3.2	-12.1%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg	21.6	21.9	25.3	-0.3	-3.7	-14.7%
Non-Durable Goods	4.7	5.0	5.0	-0.3	-0.3	-5.2%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	34.9	34.9	36.4	0.0	-1.5	-4.0%
Wholesale Trade	5.9	5.9	6.1	0.0	-0.2	-2.8%
Retail Trade	26.0	26.1	27.3	-0.1	-1.3	-4.7%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.1	1.2%
Building Material and Garden Supply Stores	3.1	3.2	2.8	-0.1	0.3	10.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	5.6	5.5	5.7	0.0	-0.1	-2.1%
Health and Personal Care Stores	1.5	1.6	1.7	0.0	-0.2	-11.9%
General Merchandise Stores	3.8	3.8	4.4	0.0	-0.6	-14.6%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	3.0	2.9	3.0	0.2	0.0	-0.4%
INFORMATION	3.4	3.4	3.7	0.0	-0.3	-6.9%
Telecommunications	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	-2.8%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	11.6	11.6	11.3	0.0	0.3	2.4%
Finance and Insurance	8.6	8.6	8.3	0.0	0.2	2.8%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	3.5	3.4	3.3	0.0	0.2	5.1%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	4.8	4.8	4.6	0.0	0.2	5.2%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	0.2	5.8%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	16.2	15.8	16.7	0.4	-0.4	-2.6%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	6.4	6.2	6.8	0.2	-0.4	-6.1%
Architectural, Engineering and Related Serv	1.3	1.3	1.9	0.1	-0.5	-27.6%
Admin, Support, Waste Mgmt & Remediation Serv	8.3	8.1	8.6	0.2	-0.3	-3.3%
Employment Services	2.9	2.8	3.1	0.1	-0.2	-4.9%

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Snohomish County

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: September 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
EDUCATIONAL and HEALTH SERVICES	20.6	20.7	20.4	0.0	0.2	1.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	8.7	8.8	8.6	-0.1	0.0	0.5%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	4.6	4.6	4.3	0.0	0.3	5.8%
Social Assistance	2.9	2.9	3.1	0.0	-0.3	-8.0%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	18.4	18.3	18.5	0.1	-0.1	-0.4%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2.6	2.6	2.9	0.0	-0.3	-10.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	15.8	15.7	15.5	0.1	0.3	2.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	15.1	15.0	14.6	0.1	0.5	3.6%
OTHER SERVICES	7.7	7.9	8.7	-0.2	-1.0	-11.6%
Repair and Maintenance	2.1	2.0	2.5	0.1	-0.4	-16.9%
Personal and Laundry Services	2.0	2.0	2.2	0.0	-0.2	-10.9%
Membership Associations and Organizations	3.9	4.1	4.1	-0.2	-0.2	-4.2%
GOVERNMENT	32.9	34.9	32.3	-2.0	0.6	1.9%
Federal Government	2.1	2.1	2.3	0.0	-0.2	-6.9%
State Government	4.7	4.7	4.5	0.0	0.2	4.1%
State Educational Services	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	0.1	5.2%
Local Government	26.1	28.1	25.5	-2.0	0.6	2.2%
Local Educational Services	12.1	13.9	11.8	-1.8	0.3	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. 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 2002) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Spokane MSA
Spokane 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

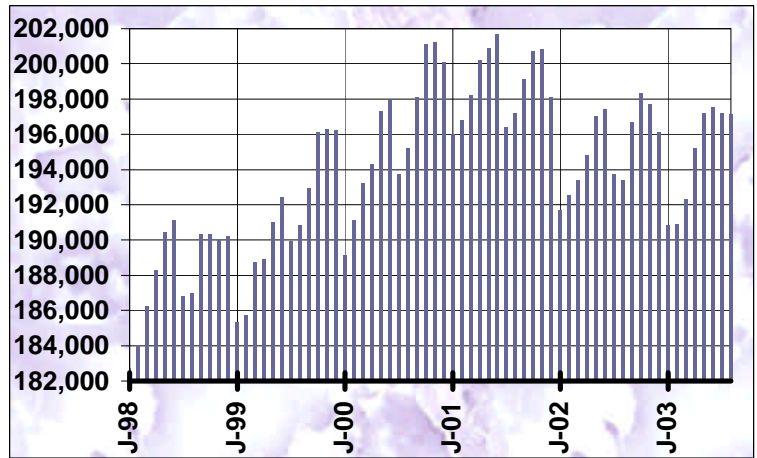
Highlights:

Spokane's labor market showed little change over the month. The August unemployment rate fell by 0.2 of a percent to 6.4 percent. This was only 0.1 higher than a year ago. The seasonally-adjusted rate rose by 0.1, from 6.9 percent to 7.0 percent. The estimated number of unemployed county residents fell by 600 to 13,400, or +100 on a seasonally-adjusted basis.

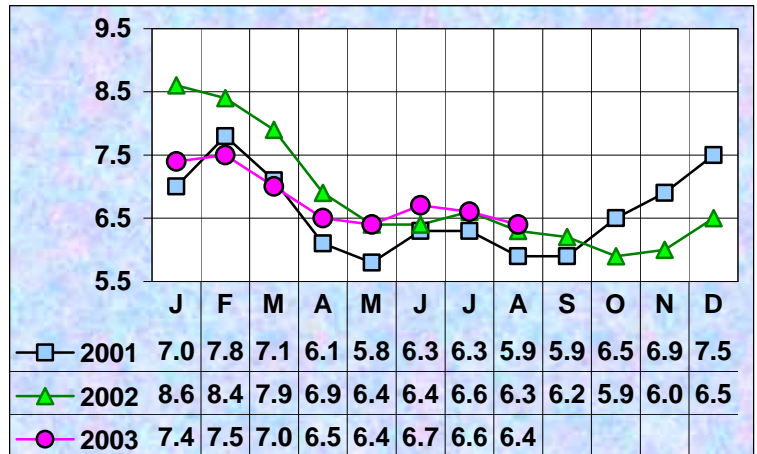
Nonfarm employment in August totaled 197,100, only 100 less than July. The usual summer cutbacks of non-tenured positions at K-12 public schools continued, resulting in a drop of 900 jobs. Colleges and universities, on the other hand, were adding back workers at the rate of 400 jobs. Other industries showed little change.

Nonfarm employment for previous months has been revised, based on tax reports from all reporters through the first quarter of 2003. Because of non-economic code changes—employers that were incorrectly coded to the wrong county and/or industry—data for 2003 is *NOT COMPARABLE* to 2002. For example, a couple of employers in the Finance & Insurance sector were incorrectly coded to other counties in 2002, but are now correctly located in Spokane; as a result, January employment in that industry was revised from 8,900 up to 11,800.

Nonfarm Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Revised July-02	Change			
					July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	July-02 Aug-02	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	197.1	197.2	193.4	193.7	-0.1	3.7	-0.3	1.9%
TOTAL PRIVATE	165.8	165.6	163.4	163.3	0.2	2.4	0.1	1.5%
GOODS PRODUCING	29.3	29.3	29.4	29.4	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.3%
NATURAL RESOURCES and CONSTRUCTION	12.3	12.1	11.6	11.5	0.2	0.7	0.1	6.0%
MANUFACTURING	17.0	17.2	17.8	17.9	-0.2	-0.8	-0.1	-4.5%
Durable Goods	12.9	13.0	13.6	13.7	-0.1	-0.7	-0.1	-5.1%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	2.6	2.7	3.1	3.1	-0.1	-0.5	0.0	-16.1%
SERVICES PROVIDING	167.8	167.9	164.0	164.3	-0.1	3.8	-0.3	2.3%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	41.8	41.7	40.8	40.9	0.1	1.0	-0.1	2.5%
Wholesale Trade	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.7	0.0	0.2	-0.1	2.1%
Retail Trade	25.7	25.6	25.2	25.3	0.1	0.5	-0.1	2.0%
Food and Beverage Stores	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-4.0%
General Merchandise Stores	4.5	4.4	3.9	3.9	0.1	0.6	0.0	15.4%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.9	0.0	0.3	0.1	5.0%
INFORMATION	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	3.6%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	13.5	13.6	12.1	12.0	-0.1	1.4	0.1	11.6%
Finance and Insurance	10.4	10.5	8.9	8.8	-0.1	1.5	0.1	16.9%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	19.6	19.5	19.5	19.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5%
MGMT OF COMPANIES and ENTERPRISES	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	3.6%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	31.3	31.2	31.2	31.3	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.3%
Health and Social Assistance	27.8	27.8	27.7	27.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Hospitals	8.1	8.0	8.2	8.1	0.1	-0.1	0.1	-1.2%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	18.4	18.4	18.8	18.9	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-2.1%
Food Services and Drinking Places	13.2	13.2	13.5	13.5	0.0	-0.3	0.0	-2.2%
OTHER SERVICES	9.0	9.0	8.8	8.8	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.3%
GOVERNMENT	31.3	31.6	30.0	30.4	-0.3	1.3	-0.4	4.3%
Federal Government	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.2%
Total State Government	9.0	8.6	8.7	8.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	3.4%
State Government Educational Services	3.7	3.3	3.6	3.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	2.8%
Total Local Government	17.6	18.3	16.7	17.6	-0.7	0.9	-0.9	5.4%
Local Government Educational Services	9.6	10.5	8.8	9.4	-0.9	0.8	-0.6	9.1%
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 Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently first quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State Labor Area Summary Tacoma PMSA Pierce County

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:

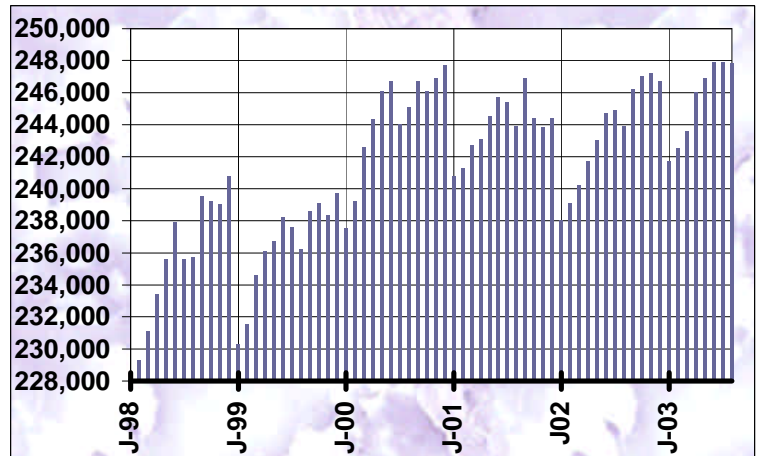
The Tacoma Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (Pierce County) unemployment rate is now half of a point above the statewide rate, at 7.7 percent, which is also 1.7 points above the comparable rate for the United States. (Seasonally adjusted labor force data for the county is not currently available. This is a result of the forcing process used in developing substate unemployment rates from the statewide employment and unemployment estimates.)

Place of work employment in the greater Tacoma area is still positive, but not gaining as aggressively as it did early in 2003.

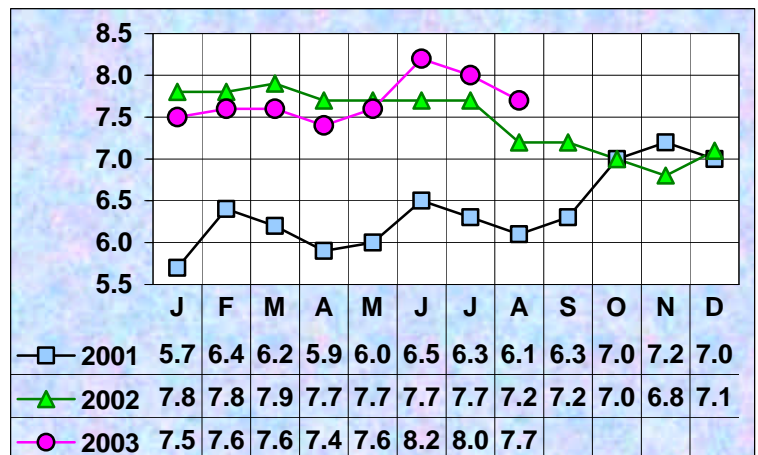
The soft manufacturing sector continues to hold back local job growth, even as services providing employment grew over the year. Government employment (which includes local public schools, state colleges and Tribal business establishments, such as casinos) is essentially flat over the year.

(It is important to recognize that both place of residence and place of work data is for all of Pierce County, not just the City of Tacoma. The Tacoma Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) is a designation by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, used by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for reporting employment and labor force information. Metropolitan Statistical Areas are always composed of one or more counties.)

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Revised July-02	Change			
					July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	July-02 Aug-02	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	247.8	247.9	243.9	244.9	-0.1	3.9	-1.0	1.6%
TOTAL PRIVATE	198.6	197.3	194.3	192.9	1.3	4.3	1.4	2.2%
GOODS PRODUCING	37.5	36.9	38.1	37.7	0.6	-0.6	0.4	-1.6%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	18.0	17.4	17.4	16.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	3.4%
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.0%
MANUFACTURING	18.9	18.9	20.1	20.2	0.0	-1.2	-0.1	-6.0%
Durable Goods	12.0	12.0	12.8	12.9	0.0	-0.8	-0.1	-6.3%
Non-Durable Goods	6.9	6.9	7.3	7.3	0.0	-0.4	0.0	-5.5%
SERVICES PROVIDING	210.3	211.0	205.8	207.2	-0.7	4.5	-1.4	2.2%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	47.8	47.8	47.1	47.2	0.0	0.7	-0.1	1.5%
Wholesale Trade	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
Retail Trade	29.5	29.3	29.3	29.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.7%
Food and Beverage Stores	5.0	5.0	5.8	5.8	0.0	-0.8	0.0	-13.8%
General Merchandise Stores	6.0	5.8	5.4	5.3	0.2	0.6	0.1	11.1%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	9.1	9.2	8.6	8.7	-0.1	0.5	-0.1	5.8%
INFORMATION	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	13.5	13.5	13.0	12.9	0.0	0.5	0.1	3.8%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	21.0	20.6	20.4	19.7	0.4	0.6	0.7	2.9%
ADMIN, SUPPORT, WASTE MGMT & REMED.	12.0	11.6	11.7	11.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	2.6%
Administrative and Support Services	11.1	10.8	10.9	10.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	1.8%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	37.5	37.4	36.4	36.4	0.1	1.1	0.0	3.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	12.5	12.4	12.2	12.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	2.5%
Hospitals	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.2%
Social Assistance	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.3	0.0	4.5%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	26.2	26.0	24.6	24.4	0.2	1.6	0.2	6.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.4%
Food Services and Drinking Places	20.5	20.4	18.8	18.7	0.1	1.7	0.1	9.0%
OTHER SERVICES	12.1	12.1	11.7	11.6	0.0	0.4	0.1	3.4%
GOVERNMENT	49.2	50.6	49.6	52.0	-1.4	-0.4	-2.4	-0.8%
Federal Government	9.9	9.8	10.0	9.9	0.1	-0.1	0.1	-1.0%
Total State Government	10.6	10.3	10.3	10.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	2.9%
State Government Educational Services	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	7.1%
Total Local Government	28.7	30.5	29.3	31.9	-1.8	-0.6	-2.6	-2.0%
Local Government Educational Services	15.3	16.9	15.1	17.7	-1.6	0.2	-2.6	1.3%
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 Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently first quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA
Benton and Franklin Counties

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:

Growing but Slowing

Highlights: While the Tri-Cities economy is basically healthy, that health or economic wellbeing is far from perfect. Also, the rate of growth in nonfarm employment has dropped from the remarkable 4.5 percent of one year ago to 1.5 percent over the year growth when the August 2003 data is reviewed.

Hanford: While employment with the Vit project seemed calm and still moving slowly upward, jobs with the environmental remediation side of Hanford have been trickling downward for the past 10 months or so. When August of this year is compared to August of 2002, the total loss is roughly 520 or 5.2 percent. This is comparing the near peak for the industry in 2002. Much of the decline was between December and January, but for most months since the beginning of this year, the industry has been edging downward.

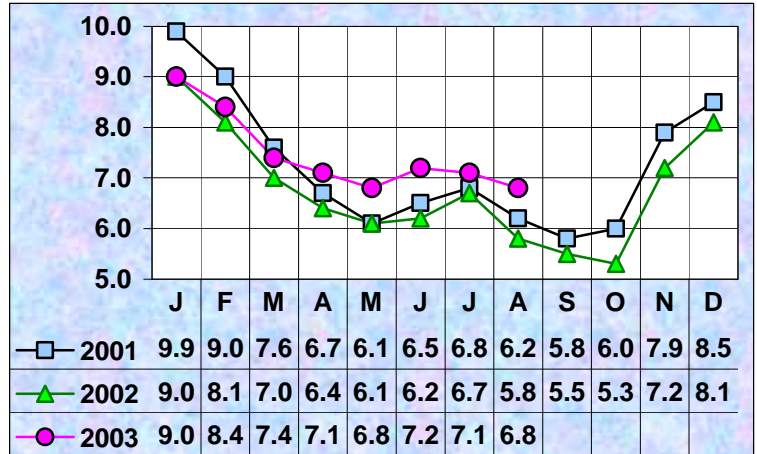
With these job reductions, the number of persons drawing unemployment under regular entitlement in Benton County went from 1,994 at the end of August last year to 2,384 for August this year. This was a gain of nearly twenty percent. Now, the number of persons obtaining extended benefits (after exhausting regular entitlement) went from 108 in August 2002 to 496 this year. This is roughly four and one half times greater than the previous year's total, and this certainly highlights the difficulty persons may be having in finding employment in this economic environment.

In the Tri-Cities, within the unemployment insurance information, the occupations of management, engineers, and engineering technicians show up strongly in the data.

In Franklin County, the increase in persons drawing unemployment insurance was not nearly as large. Regular entitlement went from 691 in August 2002 to 788 this August. Extended benefits went from 21 to 94 over this period.

Construction: Construction employment was flat during August, but up by 320 over the year. Not surprising to anyone driving around the Tri-Cities, the industry leads all others at a rate of growth at 5.8 percent for the year.

Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



Manufacturing: Job totals were up a healthy 2.2 percent, but all of this was due to a 3.4 percent gain in Food Manufacturing, while other areas of Manufacturing posted some negative job numbers.

Trade: Employment in Trade was down 200 due to a 300-seasonal loss in Wholesale Trade which offset the 100 gain in Retail. Since August of last year, while Wholesale Trade was relatively flat, Retail has added 340 jobs.

Services: With 47 percent of all nonfarm jobs in the community, employment in Services was flat over the month and not quite flat over the year. Positive for the category has been Professional, Scientific & Technical Services, where Vit-plant construction has pushed employment in this area up by 250 since August 2002. Also positive over the year was Health Services where employment has grown by 5.1 percent. The negative numbers have in been Waste Treatment, which translates into the River Protection program of the Department of Energy.

Government: Employment in the public sector was down over the month by 700. This was educational workers who were counted off of the school district's payroll, but not unemployed, since they await reemployment in the fall.

Over the year, Government employment was up by 2.7 percent, but this, too, was mainly educational workers. The increase over the year in Federal employment may likely be associated with homeland security measures.

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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: December 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	83,400	84,100	82,200	-700	1,200	1.5%
TOTAL PRIVATE	68,900	68,800	67,980	100	920	1.4%
GOODS PRODUCING	11,800	11,600	11,350	200	450	4.0%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	5,800	5,800	5,480	0	320	5.8%
MANUFACTURING	6,000	5,800	5,870	200	130	2.2%
Food Manufacturing	3,700	3,600	3,580	100	120	3.4%
Chemicals and Allied Products	800	800	840	0	-40	-4.8%
Primary and Fabricated Metal Products	300	300	370	0	-70	-18.9%
Other Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,090	0	10	0.9%
SERVICES PROVIDING	71,700	72,500	70,860	-800	840	1.2%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	13,800	14,000	13,480	-200	320	2.4%
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,400	2,090	-300	10	0.5%
Retail Trade	10,200	10,100	9,860	100	340	3.4%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,600	1,500	1,530	100	70	4.6%
INFORMATION	1,000	1,000	950	0	50	5.3%
FINANCE, INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE	3,000	3,000	2,950	0	50	1.7%
SERVICES	39,200	39,200	39,250	0	-50	-0.1%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	10,300	10,400	10,050	-100	250	2.5%
Health Services	6,600	6,500	6,280	100	320	5.1%
Waste Treatment	9,400	9,400	9,920	0	-520	-5.2%
GOVERNMENT	14,600	15,300	14,220	-700	380	2.7%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,370	0	30	2.2%
State and Local Government	13,100	13,900	12,860	-800	240	1.9%
Educational Services	6,100	6,800	5,900	-700	200	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. 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 fourth quarter 2002) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Down on the Farm: Employment on farms fell seasonally from 14,300 in July to 11,220 in August, which compares favorably with August of last year when the count was 10,680.

It is difficult to discern if the farming sector is coming off of the floor, so to speak. Farm corporate and proprietary income data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that profits in Benton County went from \$50,595,000 in 1997 to a negative \$8,178,000 in 2001—a reversal of roughly \$59 million.

On the Franklin County side of the river, farm profits went from \$69,856,000 in 2001 to \$15,989,000 by 2001.

Labor Force Numbers: Over the year, the labor force grew faster than employment, and this pushed the local rate of employment from 5.8 percent to 6.8 percent. The rate was 0.4 percent below the state's rate for these two Augusts.

One rare event for this month has been the fact that the rate of unemployment in Franklin County matched that of Benton. Generally, the more agricultural Franklin County has a considerably higher unemployment rate. The matching rates this August reflect that many of the layoffs have occurred on the Benton side of the Columbia River.

Washington State 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

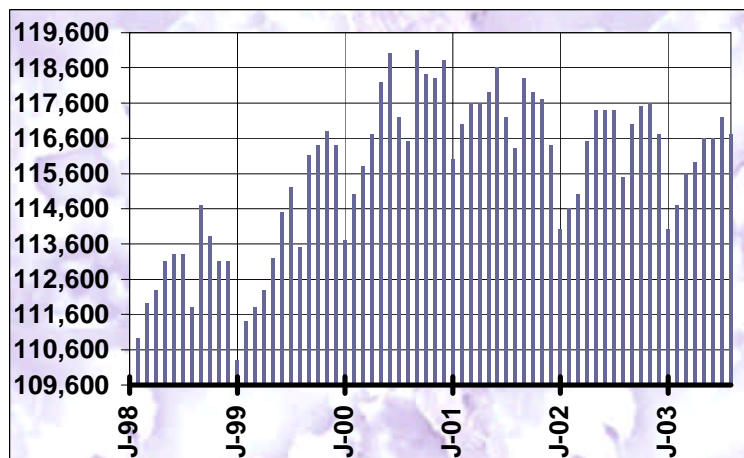
Highlights:

Clark County's unemployment rate fell 0.8 of a point from a revised 10.1 percent down to 9.3 percent. That was still half a point higher than a year ago, and the highest August rate since 1983. The number of unemployed county residents fell by 1,800 to 16,900.

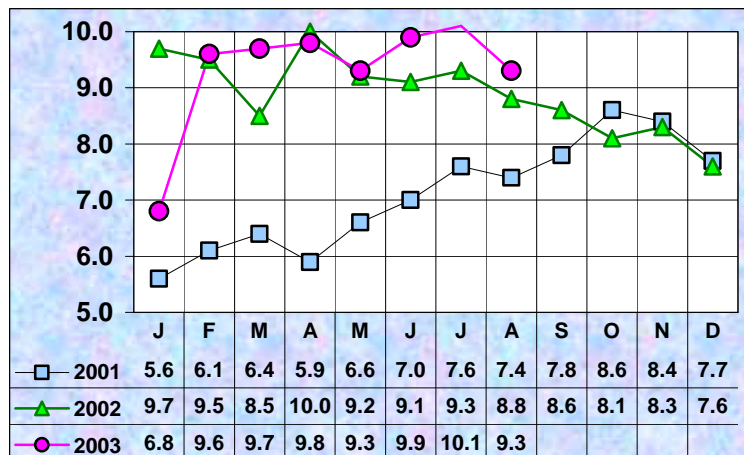
August brought part two of summer education layoffs in K-12 Education, with the job count dropping by 1,900 more jobs, due to temporary layoffs of non-tenured workers. State education, however, hired back 300 workers. Private sector employment rose by 1,000 jobs over the month, with hiring generally following seasonal trends. Gains were scattered across a number of industries, including Recreation Services (+200) and Accommodation and Food Services (+200).

Total nonfarm employment ended up at 116,700, down 500 for the month, but up 1,200 over the year. Construction is down 600 jobs since last summer, a decline of over 5.0 percent. Manufacturing is off by 900 jobs, or 6.0 percent, including a drop of 400 jobs in electronics. Retailers have added 700 jobs, including 400 in General Merchandise Stores, and 200 in Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers. Finance & Insurance has grown by almost 10.0 percent, at plus 300 jobs. Health Care & Social Assistance continues its steady growth, adding 600 jobs over the year. Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation is up 200, while Accommodation & Food Services has lost 200. Government, buoyed by 1,000 new education jobs, has gained 1,300 over the year, and remains the largest source of job growth this year.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Clark County

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: December 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	116,700	117,200	115,500	-500	1,200	1.0%
CONSTRUCTION, MINING, UTIL. and LOGGING	10,500	10,400	11,100	100	-600	-5.4%
Construction, Mining and Utilities	10,400	10,300	11,000	100	-600	-5.5%
Logging	100	100	100	0	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	13,300	13,200	14,200	100	-900	-6.3%
Food Manufacturing	1,300	1,200	1,500	100	-200	-13.3%
Wood Product Manufacturing	700	700	700	0	0	0.0%
Paper Manufacturing	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100	-4.5%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	700	700	700	0	0	0.0%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	-100	-7.7%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0	0.0%
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	3,000	3,000	3,400	0	-400	-11.8%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	500	500	600	0	-100	-16.7%
Other Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0	0.0%
WHOLESALE TRADE	4,300	4,300	4,200	0	100	2.4%
RETAIL TRADE	14,000	13,900	13,300	100	700	5.3%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	2,000	2,000	1,800	0	200	11.1%
Food and Beverage Stores	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	100	3.4%
Health and Personal Care Stores	800	800	900	0	-100	-11.1%
General Merchandise Stores	3,300	3,200	2,900	100	400	13.8%
Other Retail	4,900	4,900	4,800	0	100	2.1%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0	0.0%
INFORMATION	3,000	2,900	2,900	100	100	3.4%
FINANCE and INSURANCE	3,400	3,400	3,100	0	300	9.7%
REAL ESTATE, RENTAL and LEASING	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0	0.0%
PROF., SCIENTIFIC and TECHNICAL SERVICES	6,000	6,000	5,800	0	200	3.4%
ADMIN., SUPPORT and WASTE MGMT.	5,600	5,500	5,500	100	100	1.8%
EDUCATION SERVICES	900	900	900	0	0	0.0%
HEALTH CARE and SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	13,600	13,500	13,000	100	600	4.6%
Social Assistance	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	100	5.3%
Health Services	11,600	11,500	11,100	100	500	4.5%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT and RECREATION	2,900	2,700	2,700	200	200	7.4%
ACCOMMODATION and FOOD SERVICES	9,600	9,400	9,800	200	-200	-2.0%
OTHER SERVICES	4,700	4,700	5,400	0	-700	-13.0%
GOVERNMENT	19,400	20,900	18,100	-1,500	1,300	7.2%
Federal Government	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0	0.0%
State Government	3,100	2,800	2,900	300	200	6.9%
Local Government	13,500	15,300	12,400	-1,800	1,100	8.9%
K-12 Education	8,000	9,900	7,200	-1,900	800	11.1%
Other Local Government	5,500	5,400	5,200	100	300	5.8%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonfarm Employment without logging	116,600	117,100	115,400	-500	1,200	1.0%

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 Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently fourth quarter 2002) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Yakima MSA
Yakima County

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:

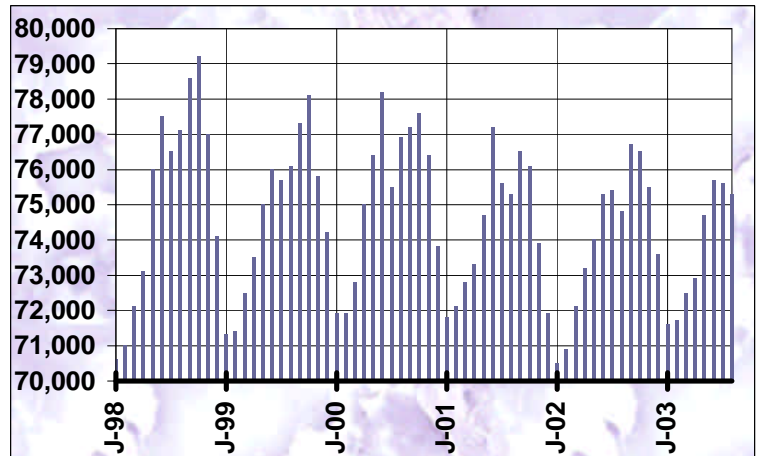
Total nonagricultural employment in Yakima County (also called the Yakima Metropolitan Statistical Area or MSA) contracted 0.4-percent in August 2003. Yakima County's businesses and government provided approximately 75,300 jobs in August, down from the 75,600-figure one month prior. The major source of this over-the-month decline was the 700-job decrease in Local Government due to seasonal layoffs of non-teaching staff at public schools.

Over-the-year rates of change in Washington's nonagricultural employment for the past eleven months show that, although job growth slightly increased during each of the first six months of 2003, the labor market stagnated this July and August. Over-the-year rates of change have not exceeded 0.6 percent since February 2003, and this July and August, the State's job growth rates again slipped back "into the red."

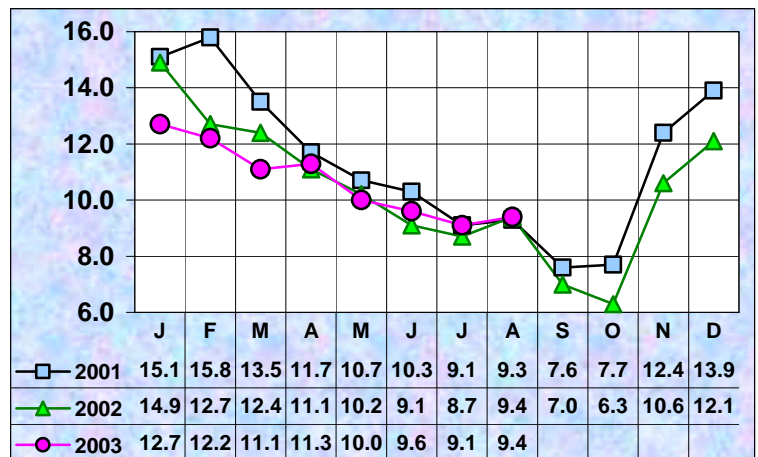
When one compares over-the-year job growth rates in Yakima County from April through August 2003 with corresponding months in 2002, it appears that the local economy is also running out of steam. The pace of job growth here in Yakima County dipped into the negative column in April and May 2003, jumped 1.3 percent in June, and edged upwards 0.3 percent in July, and 0.7 percent in August. Yakima's job growth rates were healthier in the final calendar quarter of 2002 and the first quarter of this year than between April and August 2003. Total nonagricultural employment elevated by approximately 500 jobs this August compared with August 2002, but many of these new jobs were part-time jobs in the local Retail Trade sector.

Between August 2002 and August 2003, the Yakima County unemployment rate remained stable at 9.4 percent. The unemployment rate portrays a local economy that was stagnant over the year, a slightly pessimistic assessment of the current health of the Yakima County economy. Conversely, when one inspects August 2003 nonagricultural and agricultural employment figures, it would be natural to form an overly optimistic opinion about the MSA's economy. Nonagricultural employment added 500 jobs over the year, and the number of agricultural jobs increased by 1,200.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: December 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	75,300	75,600	74,800	-300	500	0.7%
TOTAL PRIVATE	59,600	59,200	59,100	400	500	0.8%
GOODS PRODUCING	13,700	13,500	14,100	200	-400	-2.8%
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING and CONSTRUCTION	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	10,200	10,000	10,600	200	-400	-3.8%
Durable Goods	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0	0.0%
Non-Durable Goods	5,800	5,600	6,200	200	-400	-6.5%
SERVICES PROVIDING	61,600	62,100	60,700	-500	900	1.5%
WHOLESALE TRADE	3,700	3,700	3,700	0	0	0.0%
RETAIL TRADE	9,900	9,800	9,400	100	500	5.3%
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING and UTILITIES	2,300	2,600	2,600	-300	-300	-11.5%
INFORMATION	1,400	1,300	1,300	100	100	7.7%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100	3.8%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	25,800	25,600	25,400	200	400	1.6%
Professional and Business Services	4,800	4,600	4,600	200	200	4.3%
Health Services and Social Assistance	10,900	10,900	10,800	0	100	0.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	5,700	5,700	5,600	0	100	1.8%
GOVERNMENT	15,700	16,400	15,600	-700	0	0.6%
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	-100	-7.1%
State Government	2,800	2,800	2,700	0	100	3.7%
Local Government	11,600	12,300	11,500	-700	100	0.9%
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. 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 fourth quarter 2002) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

However, the nonagricultural and agricultural employment series tally jobs, and do not differentiate between full- and part-time employment. Many new jobs in local retail trade stores, and on farms and orchards are part-time. Hence, the “great” news of August 2002-August 2003 expansions in the nonagricultural and agricultural sectors must be taken with a “grain of salt.” It can be generalized that hiring in Yakima County’s agricultural sector this spring and summer, coupled with a substantial number of local residents working in out-of-county jobs, helped offset a lethargic nonagricultural sector. This has had the effect of keeping Yakima County’s unemployment rate in check.

Washington State 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:

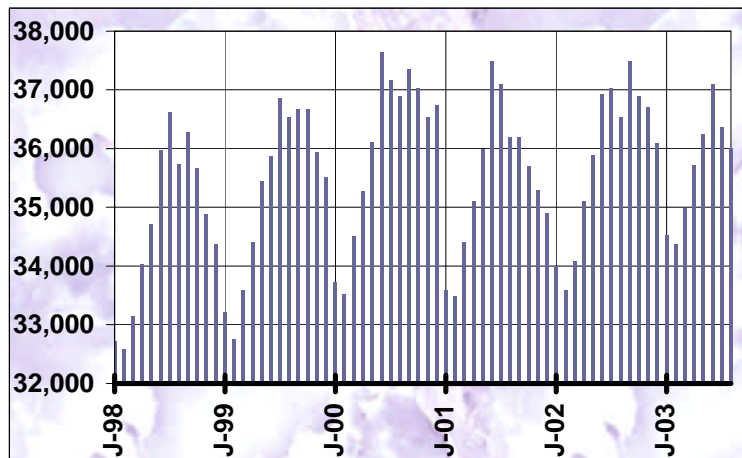
Total nonagricultural employment in Chelan and Douglas counties (also called the Wenatchee Labor Market Area or LMA) contracted by 360 jobs for a 1.0-percent shortening of payrolls over the month of August 2003. Nonagricultural employment provided 36,010 jobs. Wholesale Trade businesses, primarily fresh fruit packinghouses, laid off 200 workers, as this year's bumper cherry crop ended. Of August's 280-job downturn in Local Government, the lion's share was attributable to summer layoffs of non-teaching staff at public schools.

Over-the-year employment changes in Washington's nonagricultural sector during the past eleven months reveal that, although some jobs were added in the first half of 2003, the economy slowed to a virtual standstill this July and August. Over-the-year rates of change have not exceeded 0.6 percent since February 2003, and this July and August, the State's job growth rates again slipped backward "into the red."

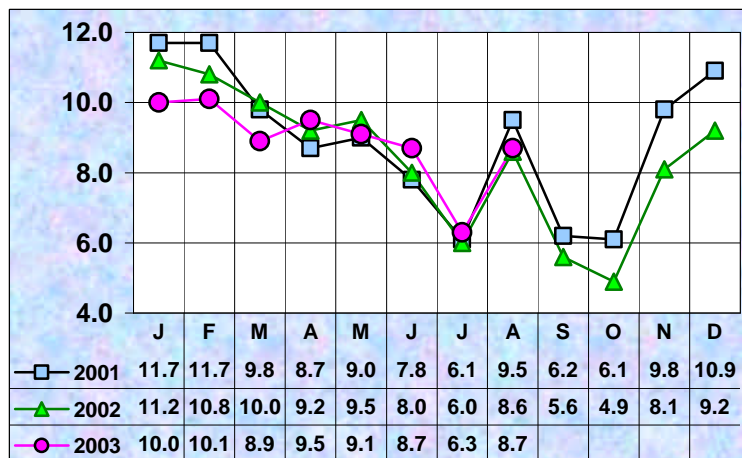
When one compares over-the-year job growth rates in the Wenatchee LMA from June through August 2003 with corresponding months in 2002, it appears that the local economy is running out of steam. The job growth pace in this two-county area dipped into the negative column in June 2003, then edged upward in July, but slipped 1.4 percent in August. Local job growth rates were healthier in the final calendar quarter of 2002, and during the first five months of this year, than during the last three months. This August, total nonagricultural employment in the LMA netted 520 fewer jobs than in August 2002. Manufacturing was down by 200 jobs, Wholesale Trade diminished by 190, and Retail Trade was off by 250. Conversely, Construction, Natural Resources, and Mining employed approximately 370 more workers than in August of 2002.

The local unemployment rate inched upward, from 8.6 percent in August 2002 to the August 2003 reading of 8.7 percent. Although 130 fewer Chelan and Douglas Counties residents were unemployed this August than in the corresponding month last year, the number of residents employed in the labor force was also estimated to have declined by 1,690, a 3.3-percent, over-the-year drop. Nonagricultural employment, as mentioned earlier, shrank by 1.4 percent in this period. This decline in both non-

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



agricultural employment (i.e., "place of work" numbers) and in labor force employment (i.e., "place of residence" figures), indicates that discouraged workers could be leaving the workforce. The good news is that substantial hiring in Chelan and Douglas Counties' agricultural sector has helped counter a cooling nonagricultural sector. The number of jobs on local farms and orchards rose about 500 jobs over the year, a 4.9-percent upturn. This agricultural advance has helped hold the local unemployment rate in check.

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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: December 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	36,010	36,370	36,530	-360	-520	-1.4%
TOTAL PRIVATE	28,010	28,050	28,350	-40	-340	-1.2%
GOODS PRODUCING	5,410	5,220	5,240	190	170	3.2%
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	3,450	3,280	3,080	170	370	12.0%
MANUFACTURING	1,960	1,940	2,160	20	-200	-9.3%
Durable Goods	1,240	1,240	1,420	0	-180	-12.7%
Non-Durable Goods	720	700	740	20	-20	-2.7%
SERVICES PROVIDING	30,600	31,150	31,290	-550	-690	-2.2%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,220	1,420	1,410	-200	-190	-13.5%
RETAIL TRADE	5,180	5,160	5,430	20	-250	-4.6%
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING & UTILITIES	980	950	1,050	30	-70	-6.7%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,170	2,190	2,140	-20	30	1.4%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	13,050	13,110	13,080	-60	-30	-0.2%
Health Services and Social Assistance	4,840	4,850	4,840	-10	0	0.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	4,320	4,340	4,330	-20	-10	-0.2%
GOVERNMENT	8,010	8,320	8,180	-310	-170	-2.1%
Federal Government	1,020	1,020	1,110	0	-90	-8.1%
State Government	1,210	1,240	1,240	-30	-30	-2.4%
Local Government	5,780	6,060	5,830	-280	-50	-0.9%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	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 Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently fourth quarter 2002) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State 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:

Say Goodbye for the Summer

Highlights: The over-the-year rate of job creation of 1.4 percent is certainly not gangbusters. However, with a stagnant state economy, the growth in nonfarm jobs within the county helped push the local rate of unemployment, 4.6 percent, to what appears to be the lowest for any metropolitan region within the state. This compared very favorably to the rate of 7.2 percent posted in August for the state and 6.8 percent for neighboring Tri-Cities.

Manufacturing: Jobs in this sector were up over the month by 70, propelled mainly by seasonal increases in Food Manufacturing. When compared to August of last year, food processing has been adding jobs, while Durable Goods production has been shedding jobs.

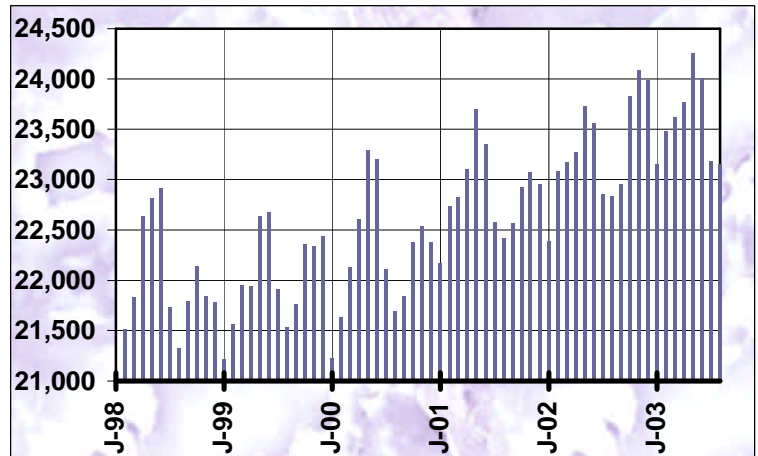
Trade employment was flat over the month but down a bit, with losses in Wholesale and Transportation more than offsetting gains in Retail Trade. Employment in Retail Trade is up a modest 40 jobs when compared to one year ago.

Services: The sector is down over the month due to seasonal changes in private education. It is up moderately over the year due to more jobs in medical services. Preliminary tax data for the first quarter of this year shows that the local medical community provided the county with roughly 3,240 jobs, and an annualized payroll of \$100-million. The tax data also shows that within Services, the Accommodation and Food Services sector generated 1,470 jobs during the first quarter of the year, with an annualized payroll of \$15.3-million

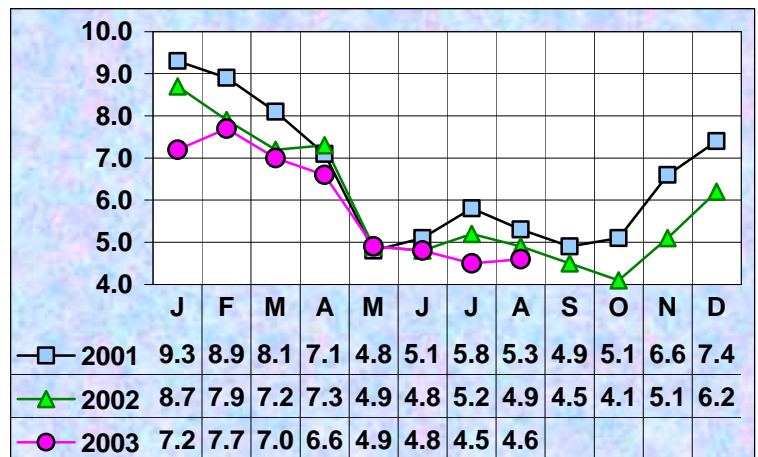
Government: Employment within the public sector fell seasonally as school payroll continue to dwindle into the summer time. The local school districts and Walla Walla Community College also accounted for the 100 over-the-year gain in employment in Government. The majority of the gain was in the local school districts.

Down on the Farm: Farm employment fell seasonally from 4,870 in July to 4,140 in August. This compared

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



favorably with August of last year when the count was 3,940. It is difficult to discern if the farming sector is finally beginning to show some degree of recovery. What is known is that in 1997, farm corporate and proprietary income totaled \$14.7-billion. This measure of farm profitability is distinct from farm worker income, which totaled \$35.1-million in that year. In 2001—the latest year for Bureau of Economic Analysis data—farmer’s corporate and proprietary profit had fallen to a *negative* \$7.8-billion. Farm worker’s income had risen to \$44.6-million.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Walla Walla County

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: December 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	23,150	23,180	22,830	-30	320	1.4%
TOTAL PRIVATE	18,310	18,240	18,080	70	230	1.3%
GOODS PRODUCING	5,090	5,020	4,950	70	140	2.8%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	1,010	1,010	1,050	0	-40	-3.8%
MANUFACTURING	4,080	4,010	3,910	70	170	4.3%
Durable Goods	1,640	1,650	1,710	-10	-70	-4.1%
Wineries	230	240	200	-10	30	15.0%
Food Manufacturing	2,210	2,120	2,000	90	210	10.5%
SERVICES PROVIDING	18,060	18,150	17,870	-90	190	1.1%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	3,830	3,830	3,870	0	-40	-1.0%
Wholesale Trade	790	780	840	10	-50	-6.0%
Retail Trade	2,520	2,530	2,480	-10	40	1.6%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	470	470	500	0	-30	-6.0%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	1,340	1,340	1,340	0	0	0.0%
SERVICES	8,050	8,060	7,920	-10	130	1.6%
Educational Services	1,340	1,360	1,320	-20	20	1.5%
GOVERNMENT	4,840	4,930	4,740	-90	100	2.1%
Federal Government	960	970	960	-10	0	0.0%
State and Local Government	3,880	3,960	3,770	-80	110	2.9%
Educational Services	1,670	1,740	1,570	-70	100	6.4%
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. 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 fourth quarter 2002) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State 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

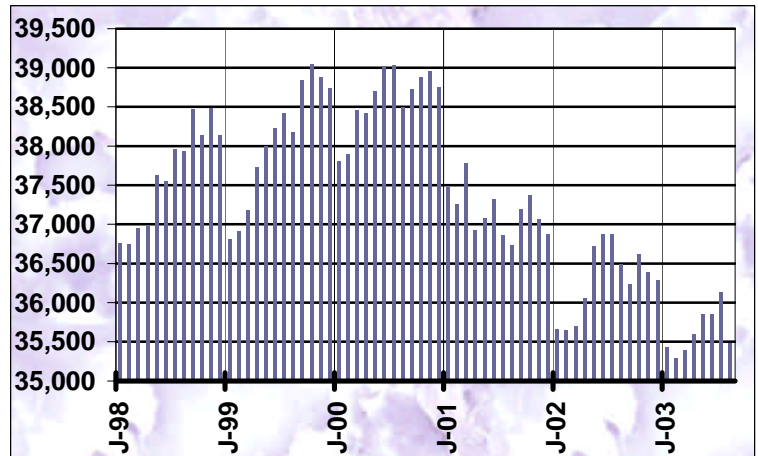
Cowlitz County's jobless rate and nonfarm employment estimates continue to behave in a seemingly contrary fashion. The unemployment rate declined by eight tenths of a point to 9.5 percent in August. The number of unemployed residents dropped by 430 to 3,760. Both numbers compare favorably with last summer, when the rate was 9.9 percent and over 4,000 residents were jobless. Meanwhile, nonfarm employment decreased by 650 jobs, to a total of 35,480, and is down by 1,010 jobs over the year.

So how can job losses mount while unemployment rises? If we look a little closer at the unemployment numbers, we see that the estimated number of employed residents has fallen by about the same amount as nonfarm employment (which is not always the case, but a happy accident here). The labor force data are notoriously imprecise at the county level, and sometimes have a mind of their own). The labor force has dropped by an additional 430—apparently due to unemployed workers dropping out of the labor market (possibly due to moving out of the county). If the 1,400 workers who have dropped out of the labor force had continued to be unemployed, the unemployment rate would be about three points higher.

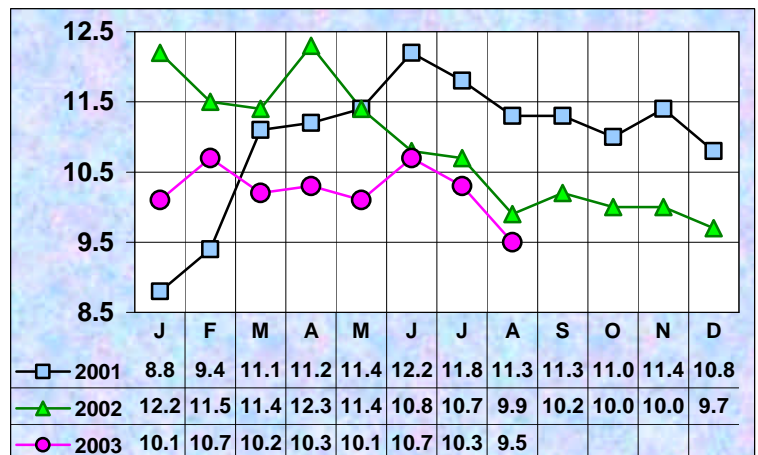
The decline in nonfarm employment over the month was due entirely to seasonal layoffs of non-tenured personnel at K12 public schools. Outside of government, private sector employment was essentially unchanged. Construction rose by 80 jobs, but Manufacturing dipped down by 90. Transportation added 40 jobs, but there were small declines in other sectors.

The loss of over 1,000 jobs in the past twelve months has come mainly in three sectors. Construction is off by 340 jobs. Government is down 190 jobs, due mainly to deeper seasonal layoffs in education, but also a decline of 90 jobs in local noneducation agencies. Finally, Accommodations & Food Services has taken a hit of 170 jobs.

Nonfarm Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Cowlitz County

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: December 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Aug-03	Revised July-03	Revised Aug-02	Change		
				July-03 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03	Aug-02 Aug-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	35,480	36,130	36,490	-650	-1,010	-2.8%
CONSTRUCTION, MINING, UTIL. and LOGGING	3,470	3,390	3,810	80	-340	-8.9%
Construction, Mining and Utilities	2,700	2,620	3,040	80	-340	-11.2%
Logging	770	770	770	0	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	7,020	7,110	7,070	-90	-50	-0.7%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,150	1,170	1,190	-20	-40	-3.4%
Paper Manufacturing	3,000	2,990	3,020	10	-20	-0.7%
Other Manufacturing	2,870	2,950	2,860	-80	10	0.3%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,080	1,090	1,130	-10	-50	-4.4%
RETAIL TRADE	4,450	4,450	4,520	0	-70	-1.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	990	990	1,080	0	-90	-8.3%
General Merchandise Stores	1,120	1,090	1,010	30	110	10.9%
Other Retail	2,340	2,370	2,430	-30	-90	-3.7%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	1,260	1,220	1,260	40	0	0.0%
FINANCE and INSURANCE	970	970	920	0	50	5.4%
ADMIN., SUPPORT and WASTE MGMT.	950	950	990	0	-40	-4.0%
HEALTH CARE and SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	4,680	4,690	4,740	-10	-60	-1.3%
ACCOMMODATION and FOOD SERVICES	2,930	2,920	3,100	10	-170	-5.5%
OTHER SERVICES	3,790	3,800	3,880	-10	-90	-2.3%
GOVERNMENT	4,880	5,540	5,070	-660	-190	-3.7%
Federal Government	280	280	270	0	10	3.7%
State Government	1,050	1,000	1,020	50	30	2.9%
Local Government	3,550	4,260	3,780	-710	-230	-6.1%
K-12 Education	1,880	2,580	2,020	-700	-140	-6.9%
Other Local Government	1,670	1,680	1,760	-10	-90	-5.1%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	10	xx	xx	xx
Nonfarm Employment without logging	34,710	35,360	35,720	-650	-1,010	-2.8%

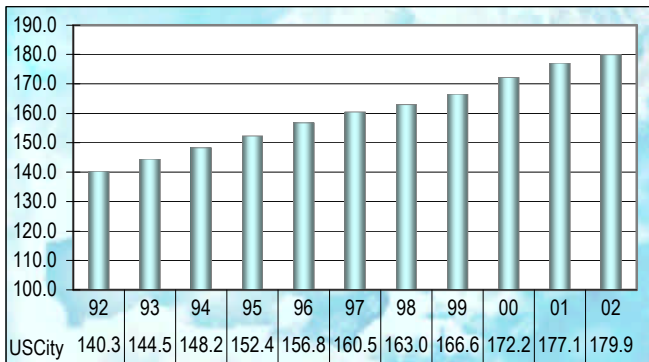
1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. Prepared by the Labor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

For all your labor market information needs, please visit our website at:

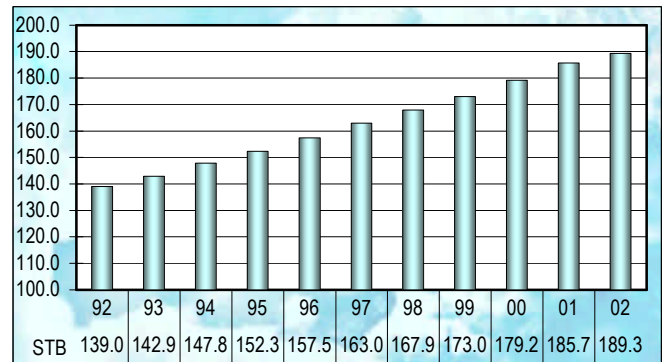
www.workforceexplorer.com

Consumer Price Indexes

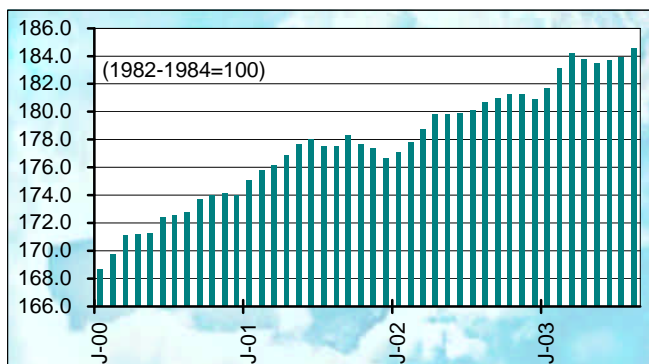
U.S. City Average 1992-2002



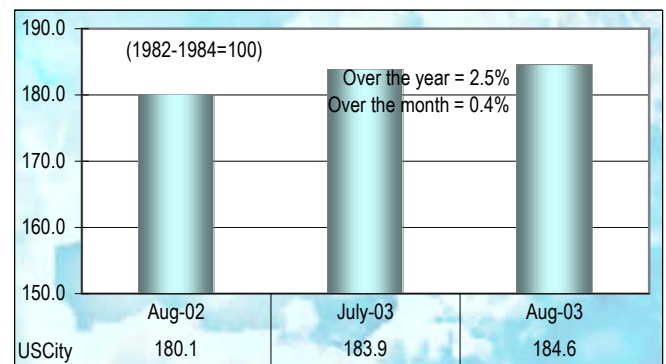
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Average 1992-2002



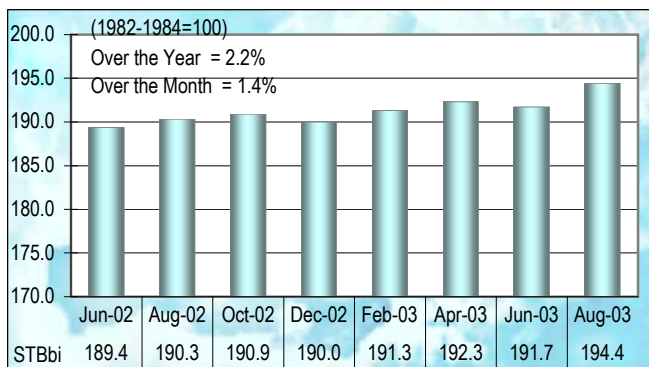
U.S. City Average 2000-2003



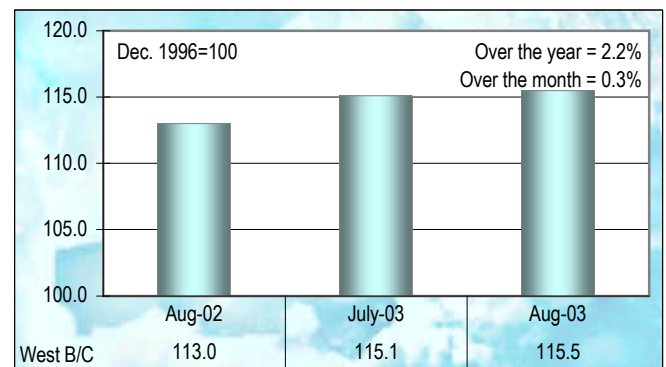
Current U.S. City Average



Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton (bi-monthly)



Current West B/C Average



Note: Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton is published bi-monthly on even months. Class "West-B/C" index covers less than 1,500,000 populations. Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and, as a result, show greater volatility than the national index, but long-term trends are similar. **The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) urges the use of the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.** The Consumer Price Index (for the above tables, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers or CPI-U data) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed listing 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 implemented with the release of January 2003 data. Data is prepared using a quarterly benchmark process, which uses the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance tax reports (currently March 2003 unless otherwise stated) and estimates employment from that point until present. 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.

Use our toll free number **1-800-215-1617** to obtain up-to-date labor market information. Please direct subscription requests or address changes to the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Employment Security Department, PO Box 49046, Olympia, Washington 98507-9046, or call (360) 438-4800. Comments, suggestions and requests for information are also welcome at the editor's e-mail address: *mcamilon@esd.wa.gov*

Please check here if your address has changed. Print new address above the mailing label on the back page and return it to LMEA.

Check here if you no longer wish to receive this publication, and return this page with your mailing label.

catch us on the internet

**Washington State Employment Security
Labor Market & Economic Analysis Branch**

www.workforceexplorer.com

The Right Connection for
Labor Market Information

Metropolitan area nonagricultural information is updated with the
Commissioner's Press Release
each month.

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

Greg Weeks, Director
Ivars Graudins, Supervisor, Planning and Economic Development Information
Tess Camilon, Editor
L.J. Ojard, Graphic Designer

**WASHINGTON STATE
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
LABOR MARKET & ECONOMIC ANALYSIS BRANCH
MAIL STOP 46000
PO BOX 9046
OLYMPIA WA 98507-9046**