

Washington State Labor Area Summaries



Prepared by the
Labor Market and
Economic Analysis Branch
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**Washington State
Employment Security**



**December 2003
Volume 18, Number 12**

This is it!

This is the final hardcopy issue of the
Washington State Labor Area Summaries.

Those of you who answered our October flyer's request for continued mailings will be sent prints of the latest Metropolitan Statistical Area information from our **Workforce Explorer** Internet site.

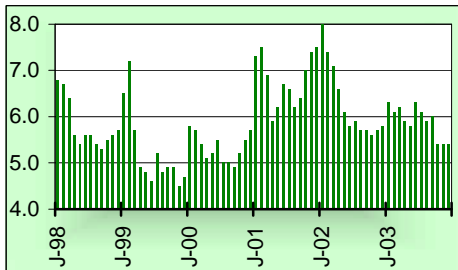
To our faithful readership, thank you.
But this is **NOT** goodbye!

All the latest regional and statewide
labor market information is at:

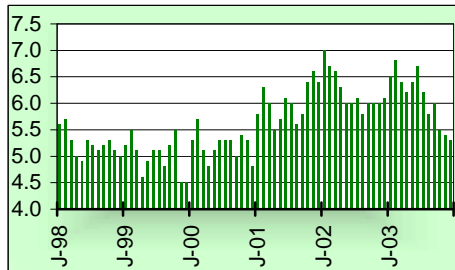
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MSA Jobless Rates 1998-2003

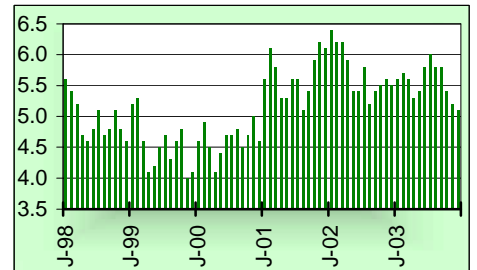
Bellingham MSA



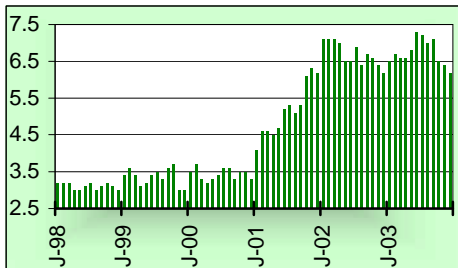
Bremerton PMSA



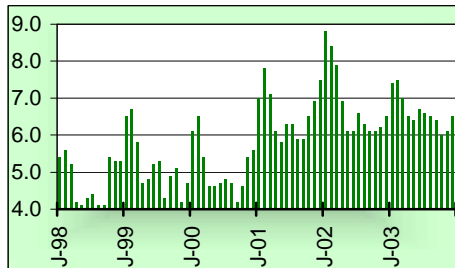
Olympia PMSA



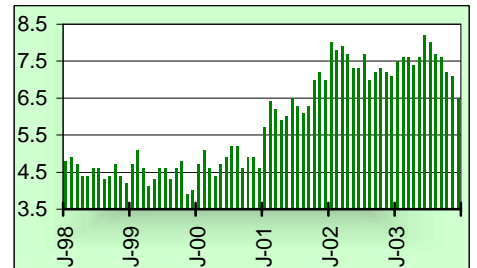
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA



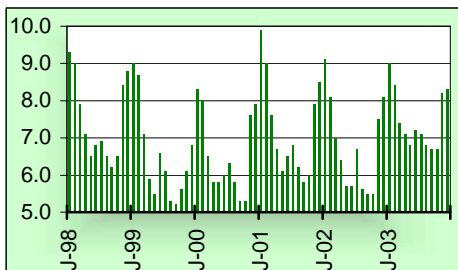
Spokane MSA



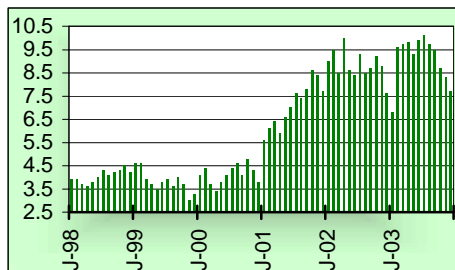
Tacoma PMSA



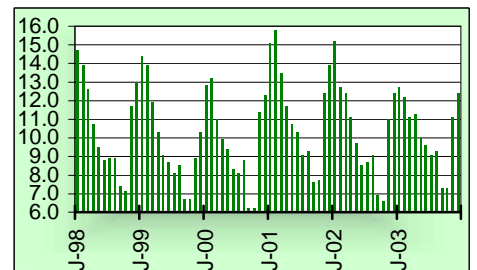
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA



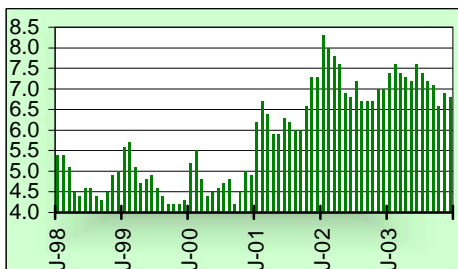
Clark County



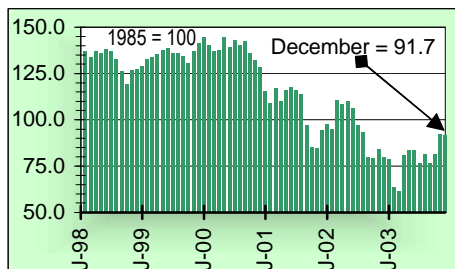
Yakima MSA



Washington State



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

Not Seasonally Adjusted/ Benchmark: December 2002

	December 2003 Preliminary				November 2003 Revised				December 2002 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate
Washington State Total	3,130,800	2,916,800	214,000	6.8	3,112,200	2,898,900	213,300	6.9	3,122,200	2,902,900	219,300	7.0
Bellingham MSA	90,600	85,700	4,900	5.4	90,100	85,300	4,800	5.4	87,000	82,000	5,100	5.8
Bremerton PMSA	103,000	97,600	5,400	5.3	102,200	96,700	5,600	5.4	103,400	97,000	6,400	6.1
Olympia PMSA	111,200	105,600	5,600	5.1	109,700	104,000	5,700	5.2	107,000	101,100	5,900	5.5
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA	1,407,300	1,320,600	86,700	6.2	1,394,600	1,305,900	88,700	6.4	1,415,600	1,327,200	88,400	6.2
King County 2/	1,029,500	970,200	59,300	5.8	1,020,500	959,400	61,100	6.0	1,037,200	975,000	62,100	6.0
Snohomish County 2/	349,200	323,600	25,600	7.3	345,700	320,000	25,700	7.4	349,800	325,200	24,600	7.0
Island County 2/	28,700	26,800	1,900	6.5	28,500	26,500	1,900	6.8	28,680	26,960	1,720	6.0
Spokane MSA	215,600	201,600	14,000	6.5	214,100	201,100	13,000	6.1	216,700	202,500	14,200	6.5
Tacoma PMSA	358,900	334,100	24,800	6.9	354,900	329,900	25,100	7.1	353,200	328,300	24,900	7.1
Tri-Cities MSA	101,400	93,000	8,400	8.3	101,700	93,400	8,400	8.2	100,900	92,700	8,200	8.1
Benton County 2/	76,300	70,900	5,400	7.1	76,500	71,100	5,400	7.0	75,800	70,600	5,100	6.8
Franklin County 2/	25,200	22,200	3,000	11.9	25,200	22,200	3,000	11.9	25,100	22,100	3,100	12.2
Yakima MSA	106,000	92,900	13,100	12.4	106,100	94,400	11,800	11.1	104,100	91,200	12,900	12.4
Adams	7,240	6,320	920	12.8	7,650	6,780	870	11.4	7,720	6,580	1,140	14.8
Asotin 2/	12,230	11,690	540	4.4	12,080	11,550	530	4.4	12,080	11,230	850	7.0
Chelan-Douglas LMA	49,120	44,540	4,580	9.3	49,270	45,020	4,250	8.6	50,440	45,790	4,660	9.2
Chelan County 2/	32,890	29,760	3,130	9.5	33,010	30,080	2,930	8.9	33,840	30,600	3,240	9.6
Douglas County 2/	16,230	14,780	1,450	8.9	16,260	14,940	1,320	8.1	16,610	15,190	1,420	8.5
Clallam	25,310	23,640	1,670	6.6	25,390	23,720	1,670	6.6	25,260	23,120	2,150	8.5
Clark 2/	185,000	170,700	14,300	7.7	182,700	167,400	15,200	8.3	186,000	171,800	14,200	7.6
Columbia	1,130	1,020	110	9.8	1,110	1,000	110	9.9	1,140	980	160	14.2
Cowlitz	39,830	36,320	3,510	8.8	39,820	36,270	3,550	8.9	40,900	36,930	3,970	9.7
Ferry	2,400	2,040	360	15.1	2,390	2,060	330	13.8	2,510	2,200	320	12.6
Garfield	1,100	1,060	40	3.6	1,100	1,060	40	3.4	1,130	1,080	50	4.8
Grant	35,100	31,030	4,070	11.6	37,150	33,430	3,720	10.0	33,940	29,860	4,090	12.0
Grays Harbor	26,630	24,360	2,270	8.5	26,470	24,080	2,380	9.0	26,270	23,710	2,550	9.7
Jefferson	11,970	11,330	640	5.3	11,870	11,240	630	5.3	11,710	10,890	820	7.0
Kittitas	16,090	14,910	1,180	7.3	16,660	15,610	1,050	6.3	15,540	14,430	1,120	7.2
Klickitat	8,020	6,830	1,190	14.8	8,350	7,250	1,100	13.2	7,580	6,490	1,090	14.4
Lewis	30,620	28,200	2,420	7.9	30,630	28,270	2,360	7.7	29,660	27,150	2,510	8.5
Lincoln	4,600	4,310	290	6.3	4,640	4,380	260	5.5	4,490	4,200	290	6.4
Mason	21,580	20,010	1,570	7.3	22,590	21,100	1,500	6.6	19,720	18,160	1,560	7.9
Okanogan	17,040	15,260	1,780	10.4	17,320	15,700	1,620	9.3	17,290	15,220	2,060	11.9
Pacific	7,850	7,230	620	7.9	7,790	7,100	690	8.9	7,800	7,070	730	9.4
Pend Oreille	4,580	4,150	430	9.5	4,520	4,130	390	8.6	4,340	3,950	390	8.9
San Juan	6,270	5,960	310	5.0	6,370	6,080	290	4.5	6,430	6,040	390	6.1
Skagit	53,180	49,240	3,940	7.4	53,120	49,330	3,790	7.1	52,780	48,700	4,080	7.7
Skamania	3,770	3,370	400	10.6	3,830	3,430	400	10.4	3,880	3,480	410	10.5
Stevens	16,990	15,520	1,470	8.7	16,580	15,240	1,340	8.1	16,590	15,080	1,510	9.1
Wahkiakum	1,590	1,500	90	5.8	1,590	1,490	100	6.5	1,730	1,590	140	8.0
Walla Walla	27,530	25,710	1,820	6.6	27,710	26,060	1,660	6.0	27,520	25,810	1,710	6.2
Whitman	19,950	19,450	500	2.5	19,990	19,510	480	2.4	19,900	19,410	500	2.5

Labor Area Summaries, Page 2

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

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:

The end of the year in the Bellingham MSA went out with a whimper, as seasonal influences kept the numbers grounded. The December data showed unemployment in the MSA remaining unchanged, while nonag jobs slipped slightly over the month.

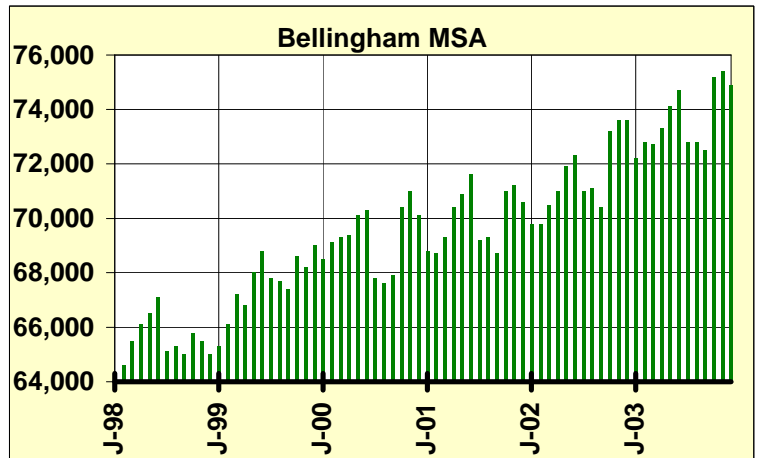
The December detail showed 85,700 Whatcom County residents employed, while 4,900 actively sought work. The 5.4 rate is identical to the November tally, but below the 5.8 of last December, when 82,000 were at work and 5,100 looked for jobs. Statewide the rate fell from 6.9 in November to 6.8 in December. In December 2002, the unemployment rate was an even 7 percent.

Nonag employment in the MSA totaled 74,900 in December, down 500 over the month. Seasonal losses in Construction and Government washed away the lukewarm gain posted in the Trade sector. The preliminary December numbers seem to point to a less-than-festive holiday season, as lingering doubts continue to cloud the economic horizon.

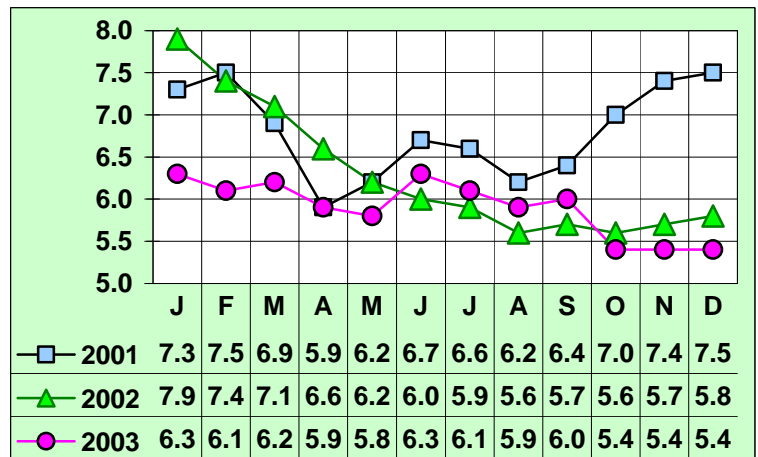
Over-the-year numbers are more encouraging. Between December 2002 and 2003, nonag jobs have gained at a 1.8 percent pace, or 1,300 jobs. As expected, the Services Providing sector was the main push behind the over the year gain; it added 1,400 jobs between Decembers, while Goods Producing employment slipped over the same time frame. Added jobs in Trade (+700) and Government (+100) were the highlights of the annual gain. So, while the monthly data weren't much to write home about, over-the-year data continues to show improvement in the local economy.

The coming months will see winters seasonal impacts grow when weather related activities are affected. Nonag jobs will remain constant. The unemployment rate should continue to stay around its current territory, and over-the-year numbers should continue to show improvement, with the hope that 2004 is where it all comes together.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
BELLINGHAM MSA (Whatcom County)

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
Civilian Labor Force	90,600	90,100	87,000	500	3,600	4.1%
Resident Employment	85,700	85,300	82,000	400	3,700	4.5%
Unemployment	4,900	4,800	5,100	100	-200	-3.9%
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.4	5.8	0.0	-0.4	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title)						
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	74,900	75,400	73,600	-500	1,300	1.8%
TOTAL PRIVATE	58,900	59,000	57,700	-100	1,200	2.1%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	<i>14,900</i>	<i>15,000</i>	<i>15,100</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>-200</i>	<i>-1.3%</i>
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	6,400	6,500	6,200	-100	200	3.2%
MANUFACTURING	8,100	8,100	8,400	0	-300	-3.6%
Durable Goods	4,700	4,600	4,700	100	0	0.0%
Non Durable Goods	3,400	3,500	3,700	-100	-300	-8.1%
Food Manufacturing	1,400	1,500	1,600	-100	-200	-12.5%
<i>SERVICES PROVIDING</i>	<i>60,000</i>	<i>60,400</i>	<i>58,600</i>	<i>-400</i>	<i>1,400</i>	<i>2.4%</i>
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	14,800	14,600	14,100	200	700	5.0%
Wholesale Trade	2,800	2,800	2,700	0	100	3.7%
Retail Trade	10,000	9,900	9,600	100	400	4.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	100	5.6%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	4,200	4,300	4,300	-100	-100	-2.3%
GOVERNMENT	16,000	16,400	15,900	-400	100	0.6%
Federal Government	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0.0%
State Government	5,800	6,100	5,900	-300	-100	-1.7%
Local Government	9,200	9,200	9,000	0	200	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 used the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently the second quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For this and other labor market information, please visit our Internet site 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:

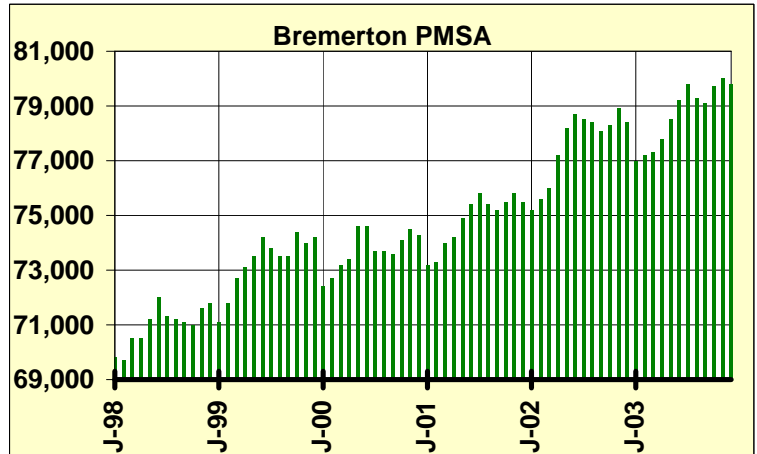
The December numbers have been unwrapped and the Bremerton PMSA found Santa with a mixed bag under the tree. The over-the-month unemployment rate was down; over-the-month nonag employment was down, but over-the-year nonag employment was up.

Nonag employment first: between November and December, nonag jobs slipped a slight 200. In December, 79,800 were employed in the Bremerton PMSA in Nonagricultural wage and salary jobs. The over-the-year losses could be pinned on a 100 job loss in Goods Producing and a 100 loss in Services Providing. Over the month, to name names, the drops were found in Construction and Government, each cutting back 100. On the plus side was Wholesale Trade that added 200 over the same time frame. Over the year, the PMSA continues to show it is moving in the right direction. Between December of last year and this, 1,400 more nonag jobs have been added to the payroll. As is the trend, Services Providing jobs take the credit for the 1.8 percent over the year job growth. Both Trade (+200) and Government (+300) added their fair share to the mix. On the Goods Producing side, jobs slipped by 100 over the year.

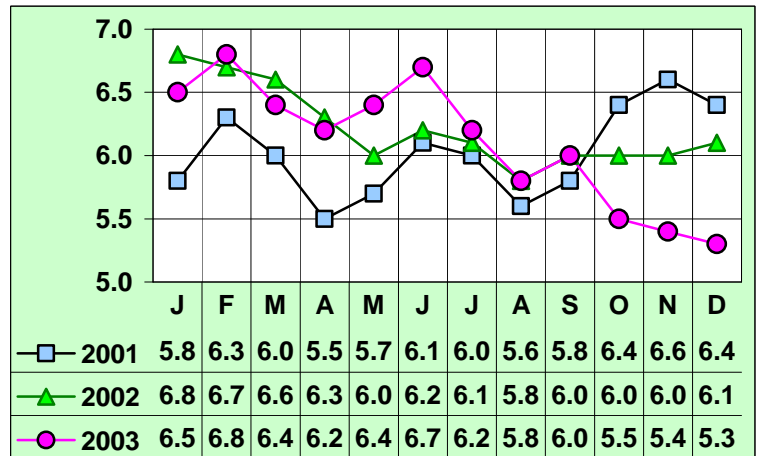
The unemployment rate in the PMSA dropped a notch over the month to 5.3 percent in December, only Olympia at 5.1 percent has a lower rate among the larger metro areas. The detail shows 97,600 employed as 5,400 looked for work. Last year, the unemployment rate in the PMSA was 6.1 percent. Statewide, the unemployment rate in December was 6.8, down from 6.9.

The coming year will bring more of the same, with seasonal impacts influencing the numbers as winter takes hold. The unemployment rate will remain low, and nonag jobs will continue to show over the year gusto, particularly when compared to the state.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
BREMERTON PMSA (Kitsap County)

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
Civilian Labor Force	103,000	102,200	103,400	800	-400	-0.4%
Resident Employment	97,600	96,700	97,000	900	600	0.6%
Unemployment	5,400	5,600	6,400	-200	-1,000	-15.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.4	6.1	-0.1	-0.8	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title)						
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	79,800	80,000	78,400	-200	1,400	1.8%
TOTAL PRIVATE	51,700	51,900	50,700	-200	1,000	2.0%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	6,200	6,300	6,300	-100	-100	-1.6%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	4,400	4,500	4,600	-100	-200	-4.3%
MANUFACTURING	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0	0.0%
<i>SERVICES PROVIDING</i>	73,600	73,600	72,100	0	1,500	2.1%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	13,300	13,300	13,100	0	200	1.5%
Wholesale Trade	1,200	1,300	1,200	-100	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	11,200	11,000	10,900	200	300	2.8%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0.0%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	5,100	5,100	5,200	0	-100	-1.9%
GOVERNMENT	28,000	28,100	27,700	-100	300	1.1%
Federal Government	14,900	15,000	14,800	-100	100	0.7%
State and Local Government	13,200	13,200	13,000	0	200	1.5%
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 used the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently the second quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

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Washington State Labor Area Summary Olympia PMSA Thurston County

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Paul Turek, *Regional Labor Economist*
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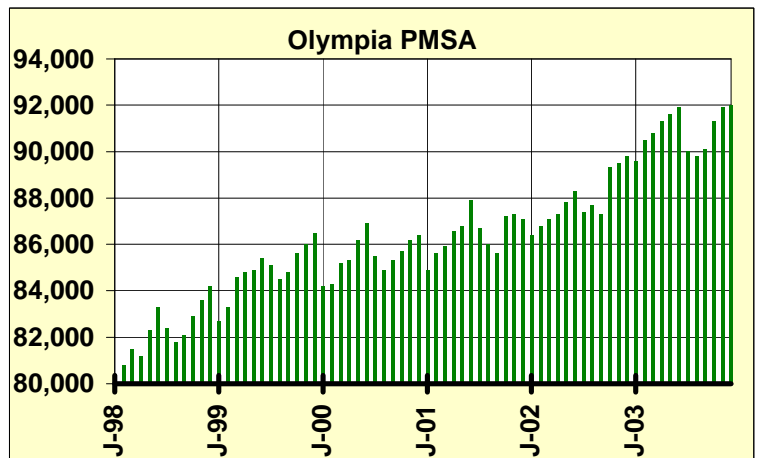
Highlights:

The steady march upward along the recovery/expansion path continued for the Olympia PMSA economy in December of 2003, as the labor market added more jobs and the unemployment rate further declined. Local economic activity produced only 200 net new jobs, but the area's main hallmark has been one of consistency. Over the course of the year in 2002 (December to December), the PMSA produced 2700 new jobs. During the same period of time in 2003, the area generated 2100 new jobs. As benchmark revisions during the second half of 2003 are implemented, there is reason to believe the 2003 second half figures will be revised upward as a result of greatly improved overall economic conditions. That the projected employment gains occur within a year that saw the local economy struggle with a brewery closure and austere state budget measures is laudable. The pace of job creation in the local labor market has been nice but not robust—steady if not spectacular. However, each successive month is adding just a bit more momentum to help accelerate local economic performance.

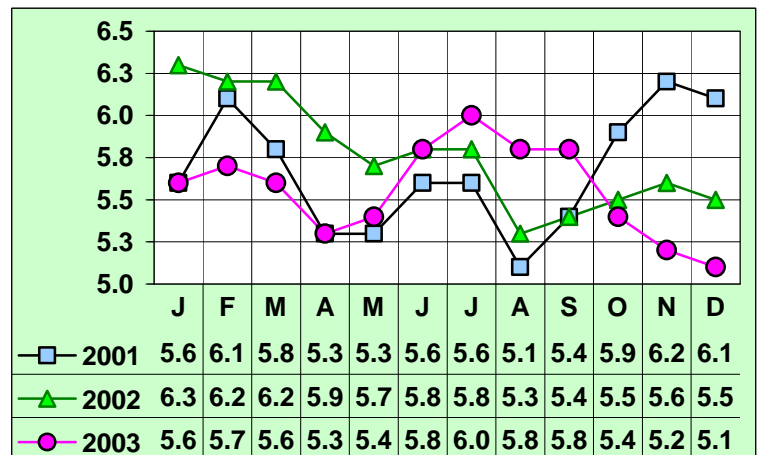
The job gains recorded for December reflect both seasonally-patterned market behavior and local business caution with respect to the unfolding recovery. Construction dropped 100 jobs while Manufacturing was flat. Declines in Leisure and Hospitality along with losses in Food and Drinking Establishments served to take some of the starch out of the Services division. Gains within the sector due to hiring by temporary help firms moved the division into positive territory, with 100 overall jobs added. Retail merchants took a wait and see attitude for the holiday season by adding just 100 new jobs to its payrolls. State Government accounted for the final 100 new jobs added this month.

The brightening employment scenario pushed the local unemployment rate down to 5.2 percent. The long run annual unemployment rate for Olympia, which encompasses both good times and bad, measures around 7 percent. The improvement in economic activity should continue to drag the unemployment rate downward into 4 percent territory during the 2004 year. If economic growth continues through 2005 as expected, the rate could approach the 20 year lows of 4.1 percent seen in April

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



1999 and 4 percent in August 1990. Whether this occurs rests largely upon the absence of inflation. Should the Federal Reserve Board begin to see its emergence, it will undoubtedly move to cool down the economy by restraining the pace of the recovery and accepting a bit more unemployment. Until then, the local economy can be content to warm its hands in the convection ducts of 2004.

LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
OLYMPIA PMSA (Thurston County)
Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
Civilian Labor Force	111,200	109,700	107,000	1,500	4,200	3.9%
Resident Employment	105,600	104,000	101,100	1,600	4,500	4.5%
Unemployment	5,600	5,700	5,900	-100	-300	-5.1%
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.2	5.5	-0.1	-0.4	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title)						
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	91,900	91,700	89,800	200	2,100	2.3%
TOTAL PRIVATE	56,300	56,100	53,900	200	2,400	4.5%
GOODS PRODUCING	8,000	8,100	8,300	-100	-300	-3.6%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	400	400	500	0	-100	-20.0%
CONSTRUCTION	4,400	4,500	4,200	-100	200	4.8%
MANUFACTURING	3,200	3,200	3,600	0	-400	-11.1%
SERVICES PROVIDING	83,900	83,600	81,500	300	2,400	2.9%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	15,400	15,300	14,000	100	1,400	10.0%
Wholesale Trade	1,800	1,800	1,600	0	200	12.5%
Retail Trade	11,700	11,600	11,100	100	600	5.4%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,900	1,900	1,300	0	600	46.2%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	4,800	4,800	4,700	0	100	2.1%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	28,000	27,900	26,900	100	1,100	4.1%
GOVERNMENT	35,700	35,600	35,900	100	-200	-0.6%
Federal Government	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0.0%
State Government	23,400	23,300	23,600	100	-200	-0.8%
State Government Educational Services	2,300	2,400	2,400	-100	-100	-4.2%
Local Government	11,300	11,300	11,300	0	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	6,600	6,600	6,900	0	-300	-4.3%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

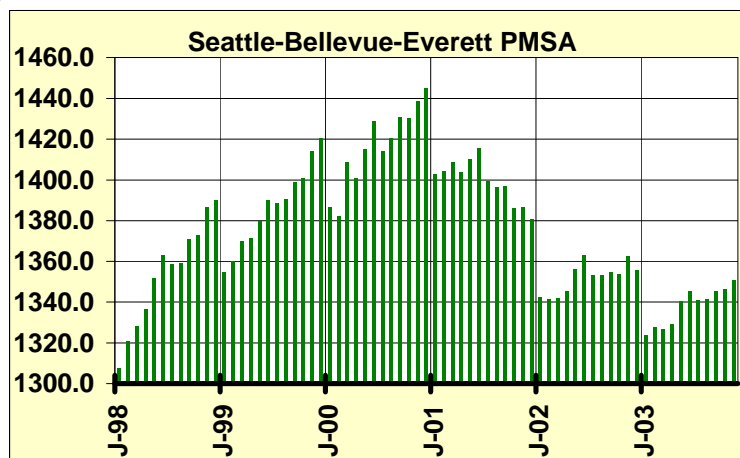
1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch using a Quarterly Benchmark process. This process used the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently the second quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

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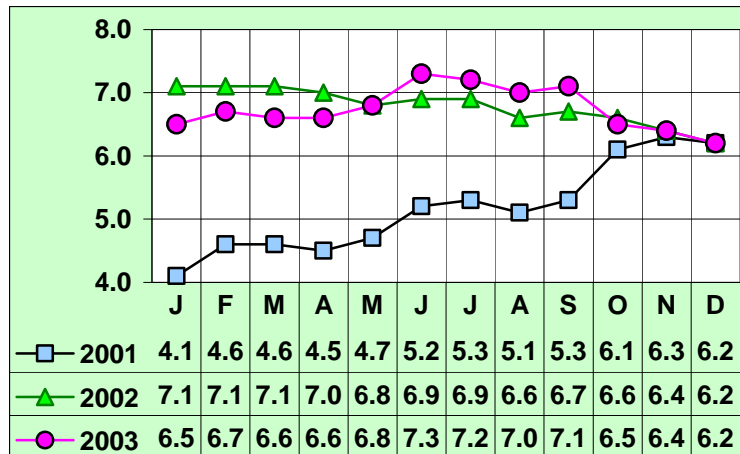
Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA
King, Island and Snohomish Counties

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

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
SEATTLE-BELLEVUE-EVERETT PMSA (King, Island and Snohomish Counties)

Not Seasonally Adjusted/Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Revised Nov-02	Change			
					Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Nov-02 Dec-02	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
Civilian Labor Force	1,407.3	1,394.6	1,415.6	1,401.3	12.7	-8.3	14.3	-0.6%
Resident Employment	1,320.6	1,305.9	1,327.2	1,311.3	14.7	-6.6	15.9	-0.5%
Unemployment	86.7	88.7	88.4	90.1	-2.0	-1.7	-1.7	-1.9%
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title, Numbers in Thousands)								
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	1,343.9	1,345.1	1,355.7	1,362.7	-1.2	-11.8	-7.0	-0.9%
TOTAL PRIVATE	1,140.9	1,138.3	1,152.4	1,154.7	2.6	-11.5	-2.3	-1.0%
GOODS PRODUCING	223.4	224.8	234.8	237.8	-1.4	-11.4	-3.0	-4.9%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	2.1	2.0	1.5	1.5	0.1	0.6	0.0	40.0%
CONSTRUCTION	75.0	76.3	74.8	76.9	-1.3	0.2	-2.1	0.3%
Construction of Buildings	20.5	20.7	19.5	19.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.3	5.1%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	7.8	8.3	7.9	8.4	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-1.3%
Specialty Trade Contractors	46.7	47.3	47.4	48.7	-0.6	-0.7	-1.3	-1.5%
MANUFACTURING	146.3	146.5	158.5	159.4	-0.2	-12.2	-0.9	-7.7%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	114.9	114.9	126.0	126.4	0.0	-11.1	-0.4	-8.8%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	8.6	8.5	8.8	8.8	0.1	-0.2	0.0	-2.3%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	14.9	15.0	16.2	16.2	-0.1	-1.3	0.0	-8.0%
Navigation., Msrg, Electromed. & Control	8.9	9.0	9.3	9.3	-0.1	-0.4	0.0	-4.3%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	65.4	65.4	74.4	74.6	0.0	-9.0	-0.2	-12.1%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg	59.9	59.9	69.3	69.6	0.0	-9.4	-0.3	-13.6%
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	31.4	31.6	32.5	33.0	-0.2	-1.1	-0.5	-3.4%
Food Manufacturing	11.6 <i>2/</i>	11.7 <i>2/</i>	11.7	12.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.9%
SERVICES PROVIDING	1,120.5	1,120.3	1,120.9	1,124.9	0.2	-0.4	-4.0	0.0%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	266.4	263.4	270.2	267.7	3.0	-3.8	2.5	-1.4%
Wholesale Trade	68.0	67.8	68.0	68.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Retail Trade	149.3	146.7	151.6	148.6	2.6	-2.3	3.0	-1.5%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	16.8	16.8	17.1	17.3	0.0	-0.3	-0.2	-1.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	27.1	27.1	28.1	28.3	0.0	-1.0	-0.2	-3.6%
Health and Personal Care Stores	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.1	0.1	-0.1	0.2	-1.4%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	15.5	15.1	16.6	15.7	0.4	-1.1	0.9	-6.6%
General Merchandise Stores	23.0	22.6	22.0	21.1	0.4	1.0	0.9	4.5%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	49.1	48.9	50.6	51.1	0.2	-1.5	-0.5	-3.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	47.6	47.4	49.3	49.7	0.2	-1.7	-0.4	-3.4%
Air Transportation	11.9	12.0	12.8	12.8	-0.1	-0.9	0.0	-7.0%
Water Transportation	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	3.7%
Truck Transportation	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-1.3%
Support Activities for Transportation	10.1	10.1	9.7	10.0	0.0	0.4	-0.3	4.1%
Support Activities for Water Transport	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.9	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	-7.7%
Warehousing and Storage	2.9	2.9	3.3	3.4	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-12.1%
INFORMATION	73.0	72.0	72.8	73.0	1.0	0.2	-0.2	0.3%
Newspaper, Book and Directory Publishers	5.9	5.9	6.4	6.3	0.0	-0.5	0.1	-7.8%
Software Publishers	36.8	36.2	35.4	35.5	0.6	1.4	-0.1	4.0%
Broadcasting, except Internet	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0%
Telecommunications	19.7	19.4	20.3	20.5	0.3	-0.6	-0.2	-3.0%
Wired Telecommunications Carriers	5.7	5.7	6.2	6.3	0.0	-0.5	-0.1	-8.1%
Wireless Telecommunications Carriers	11.0	10.8	10.5	10.5	0.2	0.5	0.0	4.8%

LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
SEATTLE-BELLEVUE-EVERETT PMSA (King, Island and Snohomish Counties)

Not Seasonally Adjusted/Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (continued)	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Revised Nov-02	Change			
					Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Nov-02 Dec-02	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	90.6	90.2	89.0	88.8	0.4	1.6	0.2	1.8%
Finance and Insurance	62.5	62.1	61.2	60.9	0.4	1.3	0.3	2.1%
Credit Intermediation & Related	30.2	29.9	27.2	27.0	0.3	3.0	0.2	11.0%
Insurance Carriers & Related	24.9	24.8	25.8	25.7	0.1	-0.9	0.1	-3.5%
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	28.1	28.1	27.8	27.9	0.0	0.3	-0.1	1.1%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	181.5	181.9	180.2	182.6	-0.4	1.3	-2.4	0.7%
Professional, Scientific and Tech Services	87.5	87.1	88.5	87.9	0.4	-1.0	0.6	-1.1%
Legal Services	13.6	13.5	13.2	13.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	3.0%
Accounting, Tax Prep, Bookkpng & Payroll	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.1%
Architectural, Engineering and Related	17.7	17.8	18.0	18.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-1.7%
Computer Systems Design and Related	15.3	15.2	17.5	17.5	0.1	-2.2	0.0	-12.6%
Mgmt of Companies and Enterprises	24.1	23.9	22.8	22.7	0.2	1.3	0.1	5.7%
Admin, Support, Waste Mgmt & Remediation	69.9	70.9	68.9	72.0	-1.0	1.0	-3.1	1.5%
Administrative and Support Services	67.4	68.5	66.2	69.3	-1.1	1.2	-3.1	1.8%
Employment Services	29.5	30.1	28.4	29.9	-0.6	1.1	-1.5	3.9%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	138.7	139.1	137.3	137.8	-0.4	1.4	-0.5	1.0%
Educational Services	22.4	22.8	22.0	22.5	-0.4	0.4	-0.5	1.8%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	48.8	48.6	47.7	47.6	0.2	1.1	0.1	2.3%
Hospitals	26.7	26.8	26.9	26.9	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.7%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	20.7	20.7	20.4	20.3	0.0	0.3	0.1	1.5%
Social Assistance	20.1	20.2	20.3	20.5	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-1.0%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	118.1	117.9	118.7	117.8	0.2	-0.6	0.9	-0.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	19.9	19.4	21.7	21.0	0.5	-1.8	0.7	-8.3%
Accommodation	13.3	13.6	12.9	13.0	-0.3	0.4	-0.1	3.1%
Food Services and Drinking Places	84.9	84.9	84.1	83.8	0.0	0.8	0.3	1.0%
OTHER SERVICES	49.2	49.0	49.4	49.2	0.2	-0.2	0.2	-0.4%
Repair and Maintenance	13.1	13.0	13.9	13.9	0.1	-0.8	0.0	-5.8%
Personal and Laundry Services	13.5	13.4	13.5	13.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Prof. & Similar	22.6	22.6	22.0	21.9	0.0	0.6	0.1	2.7%
GOVERNMENT	203.0	206.8	203.3	208.0	-3.8	-0.3	-4.7	-0.1%
Federal Government	26.9	26.3	27.2	26.7	0.6	-0.3	0.5	-1.1%
Total State Government	60.2	61.1	59.3	60.9	-0.9	0.9	-1.6	1.5%
State Government Educational Services	43.3	44.2	42.2	43.8	-0.9	1.1	-1.6	2.6%
Total Local Government	115.9	119.4	116.8	120.4	-3.5	-0.9	-3.6	-0.8%
Local Government Educational Services	51.6	51.6	51.7	52.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	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 second quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present. 2/ Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management dispute.

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Washington State Labor Area Summary Snohomish County

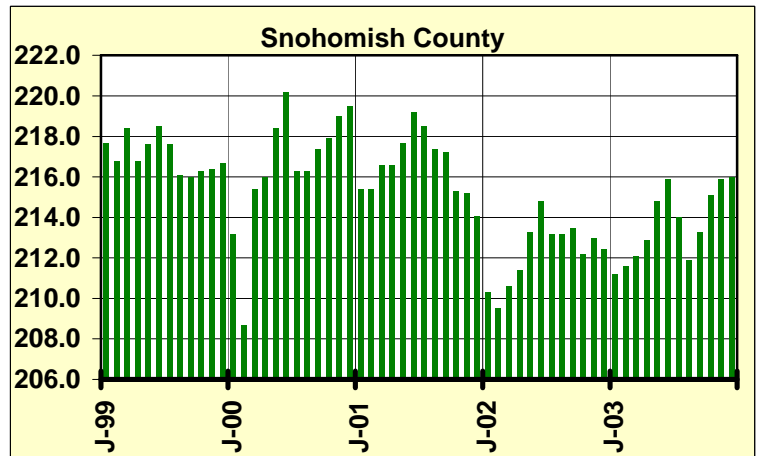
Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Donna Thompson, *Regional Labor Economist*
804 Broadway North, Building-B, Everett, WA 98201 Phone: (425) 339-4354

Highlights:

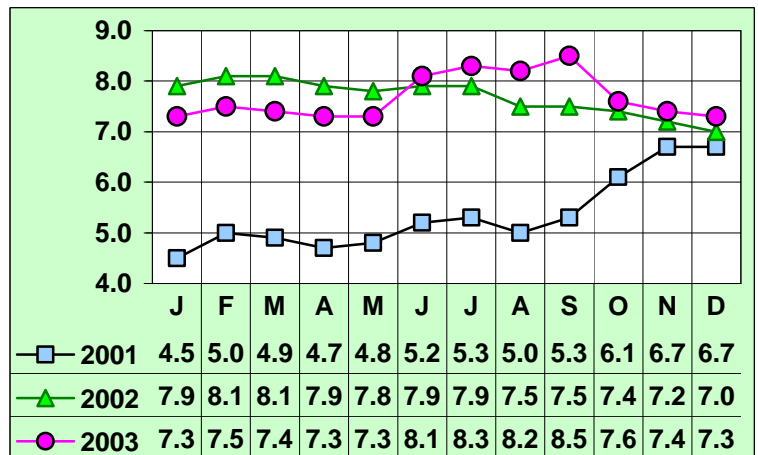
The economy held fairly steady in December, with nonfarm jobs increasing by a modest 100 jobs. The entire Manufacturing sector, including Aerospace, remained even over the month, with Manufacturing posting 41,900 and Aerospace posting 22,400 jobs. After all the losses in this sector, holding steady is a definite plus. Holiday shopping helped boost Retail Trade by 300 jobs. And low interest rates continued to buoy the Financial Activities sector, which increased by 200 jobs. Temporary employment companies posted a loss of 200 jobs over the month. Food Services and Drinking Places lost 100 jobs over the month, but remained up by 500 over the year. The Government sector also remained even over the month. Seasonal hiring by the Post Office helped boost Federal Government jobs by 100. This was offset by a 100 decline in State Education.

The unemployment rate dropped by one tenth of a percentage point to 7.3 percent. The state rate also dropped by one tenth of a percentage point to 6.8 percent. So Snohomish County remains at one-half a percentage point higher than the state rate.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1999-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
SNOHOMISH COUNTY (part of the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA)

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
Civilian Labor Force	349.2	345.7	349.8	3.5	-0.6	-0.2%
Resident Employment	323.6	320.0	325.2	3.6	-1.6	-0.5%
Unemployment	25.6	25.7	24.6	-0.1	1.0	4.1%
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.4	7.0	-0.1	0.3	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title, Numbers in Thousands)						
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	216.0	215.9	212.4	0.1	3.6	1.7%
TOTAL PRIVATE	180.1	180.0	177.7	0.1	2.4	1.3%
GOODS PRODUCING	60.7	60.7	62.0	0.1	-1.3	-2.1%
SERVICES PROVIDING	155.2	155.2	150.3	0.0	4.9	3.3%
CONSTRUCTION	18.3	18.3	17.7	0.0	0.6	3.3%
Construction of Buildings	3.7	3.7	3.2	0.0	0.5	15.8%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2.2	2.3	2.0	-0.1	0.3	13.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	12.4	12.3	12.6	0.1	-0.2	-1.5%
MANUFACTURING	41.9	41.9	43.8	0.1	-1.9	-4.3%
Durable Goods	37.9	37.9	39.1	0.0	-1.2	-3.1%
Wood Product Manufacturing	2.1	2.1	1.8	0.0	0.2	12.7%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.6	-0.1	0.1	5.4%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	5.5	5.5	5.3	-0.1	0.2	3.6%
Electronic Instrument Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	3.5	-0.1	0.5	14.3%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	23.4	23.4	25.6	0.0	-2.2	-8.7%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg	22.4	22.4	24.5	0.0	-2.1	-8.4%
Non-Durable Goods	4.0	3.9	4.7	0.1	-0.7	-14.5%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	38.4	38.0	37.4	0.4	1.0	2.6%
Wholesale Trade	6.2	6.2	6.1	0.0	0.1	1.3%
Retail Trade	28.8	28.5	28.0	0.3	0.8	2.9%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	4.4	4.5	4.3	-0.1	0.1	1.3%
Building Material and Garden Supply Stores	2.1	2.2	2.8	-0.1	-0.7	-26.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	5.1	5.1	5.7	0.0	-0.6	-10.9%
General Merchandise Stores	5.5	5.4	5.2	0.1	0.3	6.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	3.4	3.3	3.3	0.1	0.1	2.6%
INFORMATION	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.0	-0.2	-4.4%
Telecommunications	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-0.1	-8.2%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	12.8	12.6	11.8	0.2	1.0	8.3%
Finance and Insurance	9.6	9.4	8.7	0.1	0.9	9.9%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	3.9	3.9	3.4	0.0	0.5	15.4%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	5.2	5.1	4.9	0.1	0.3	5.6%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	3.3	3.2	3.1	0.0	0.2	5.4%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	17.4	17.8	16.3	-0.5	1.1	6.5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	7.8	8.1	7.0	-0.3	0.8	11.6%
Architectural, Engineering and Related Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	-0.1	0.0	-1.5%
Admin, Support, Waste Mgmt., & Remediation	8.3	8.6	8.0	-0.3	0.3	4.0%
Employment Services	3.1	3.2	2.8	-0.2	0.3	10.2%
EDUCATIONAL and HEALTH SERVICES	20.6	20.7	20.6	-0.1	0.0	-0.1%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	8.7	8.8	8.7	0.0	0.1	0.9%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	0.1	3.0%
Social Assistance	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.9%

LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
SNOHOMISH COUNTY (part of the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA)

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (continued)	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	18.4	18.4	17.6	-0.1	0.7	4.2%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2.9	2.8	2.6	0.1	0.3	10.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	15.4	15.5	15.0	-0.2	0.4	2.4%
Food Services and Drinking Places	14.8	14.8	14.3	-0.1	0.5	3.4%
OTHER SERVICES	8.4	8.3	8.3	0.1	0.1	0.9%
Repair and Maintenance	2.8	2.7	2.4	0.1	0.4	15.1%
Personal and Laundry Services	2.1	2.1	2.2	0.0	-0.1	-3.1%
Membership Associations and Organizations	3.5	3.5	3.8	0.0	-0.3	-7.6%
GOVERNMENT	35.9	35.9	34.6	0.0	1.2	3.6%
Federal Government	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.1	0.0	1.3%
State Government	5.3	5.3	5.1	-0.1	0.2	3.2%
State Educational Services	2.2	2.2	2.1	-0.1	0.0	1.5%
Local Government	28.4	28.4	27.3	0.0	1.1	3.8%
Local Educational Services	14.1	14.1	14.3	0.0	-0.2	-1.2%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	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 used the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently the second quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

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Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Spokane MSA
Spokane County

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, William Dillingham, *Regional Labor Economist*
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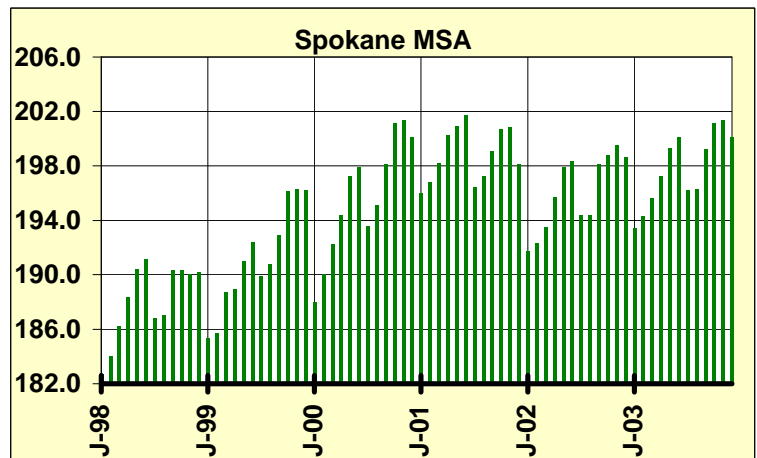
Highlights:

Spokane's labor market indicators, based upon the household survey, showed the expected seasonal movements for December. It is usually characterized by increases from November in the labor force, employment, and unemployment. The labor force was up 1,500, to 215,600, representing the usual seasonal spike in students looking for holiday employment. Employment did rise, but only by 500 (201,600), which indicated that unemployment was up the difference, 1,000 (14,000). As a result, the unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) jumped to 6.5 percent from a revised 6.1 percent in November. December's unadjusted unemployment rate was identical to December 2002's rate. However, both the labor force count and employment were down by about 1,000 from December 2002.

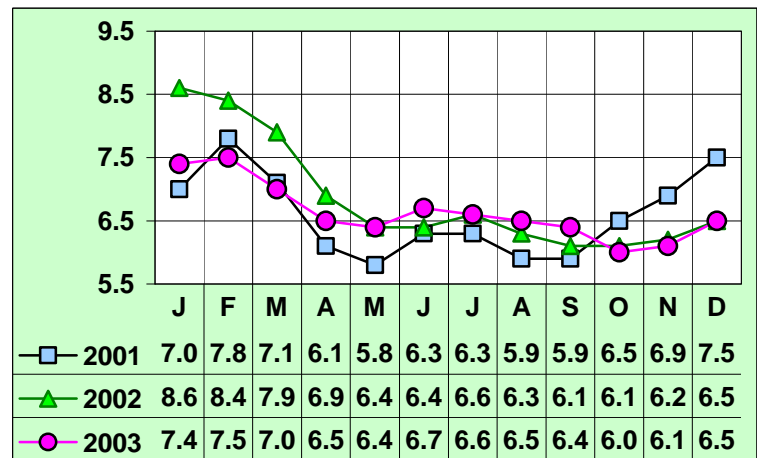
Nonagricultural employment for the month of December stood at a preliminary 199,800, down about 1,700 from November's revised total of 201,500. Private non-farm employment accounted for nearly all the drop, shedding 1,500 positions to 165,100, a drop of one percent. Tellingly, retail stores added only 100 jobs between November and December, contrasted to a gain of 400 jobs during the same time in 2002. All in all, December, again, proved to be a very quiet month in the labor market with little, no, and slightly negative growth among all industries. There were no exceptions.

Over-the-year employment was up a modest 1,200, or six-tenths of one percent, with 1,300 positions added in the private sector. Manufacturing jobs were down 700 from December 2002, offset by a like gain in Professional Services. Eating and Drinking Establishments shed 500, while Wholesale Trade added as many. Financial Activities and Health and Education Services combined to add 1000 jobs to the local economy.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
SPOKANE MSA (Spokane County)

Not Seasonally Adjusted/Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Revised Nov-02	Change			
					Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Nov-02 Dec-02	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE								
Civilian Labor Force	215.6	214.1	216.7	215.2	1.5	-1.1	1.5	-0.5%
Resident Employment	201.6	201.1	202.5	201.9	0.5	-0.9	0.6	-0.4%
Unemployment	14.0	13.0	14.2	13.3	1.0	-0.2	0.9	-1.4%
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.1	6.5	6.2	0.4	0.0	0.3	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title, Numbers in Thousands)								
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	199.8	201.5	198.6	199.5	-1.7	1.2	-0.9	0.6%
TOTAL PRIVATE	165.1	166.6	163.8	164.5	-1.5	1.3	-0.7	0.8%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	27.5	28.5	27.9	28.6	-1.0	-0.4	-0.7	-1.4%
NATURAL RESOURCES and CONSTRUCTION	11.0	11.8	10.7	11.4	-0.8	0.3	-0.7	2.8%
MANUFACTURING	16.5	16.7	17.2	17.2	-0.2	-0.7	0.0	-4.1%
Durable Goods	12.4	12.6	13.0	13.0	-0.2	-0.6	0.0	-4.6%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.9	0.0	-0.4	0.0	-13.8%
<i>SERVICES PROVIDING</i>	172.3	173.0	170.7	170.9	-0.7	1.6	-0.2	0.9%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	42.0	41.8	41.9	41.6	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2%
Wholesale Trade	10.0	10.0	9.5	9.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	5.3%
Retail Trade	25.9	25.8	26.3	25.9	0.1	-0.4	0.4	-1.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-4.1%
General Merchandise Stores	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	6.5%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.2	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
INFORMATION	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-3.4%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	13.6	13.7	13.0	12.9	-0.1	0.6	0.1	4.6%
Finance and Insurance	10.4	10.5	10.0	9.9	-0.1	0.4	0.1	4.0%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	19.4	19.7	18.7	19.0	-0.3	0.7	-0.3	3.7%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	32.7	32.8	32.3	32.2	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.2%
Health and Social Assistance	28.2	28.3	27.8	27.7	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10.7	10.7	10.4	10.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	2.9%
Hospitals	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	17.9	18.1	18.3	18.5	-0.2	-0.4	-0.2	-2.2%
Food Services and Drinking Places	12.8	12.9	13.3	13.4	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-3.8%
OTHER SERVICES	9.2	9.2	8.8	8.9	0.0	0.4	-0.1	4.5%
GOVERNMENT	34.7	34.9	34.8	35.0	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3%
Federal Government	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.7	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0%
Total State Government	10.7	11.0	10.9	11.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-1.8%
State Government Educational Services	5.7	6.0	5.9	6.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-3.4%
Total Local Government	19.2	19.3	19.1	19.1	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5%
Local Government Educational Services	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
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 second quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point until present. For this and other labor market information, visit our Internet site 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

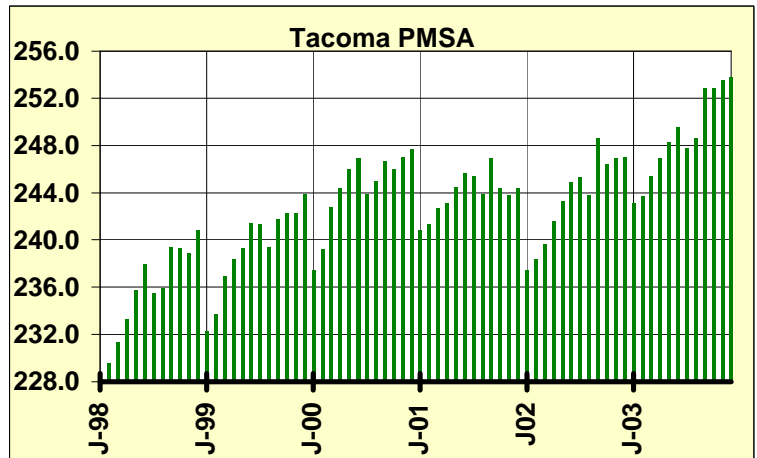
Highlights:

The **Pierce County unemployment rate** has again improved relative to the statewide rate of 6.8 per cent. The county's rate of 6.9 per cent is only a point above the statewide rate, but continues well above (1.4 points) the comparable (not seasonally adjusted) rate for the United States. Pierce County is also identified as the Tacoma Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (Tacoma PMSA). The Tacoma PMSA is a component of the larger Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA), which is also composed of the Olympia (Thurston county), Bremerton (Kitsap county), and Seattle Bellevue Everett (King, Island and Snohomish counties) Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas.)

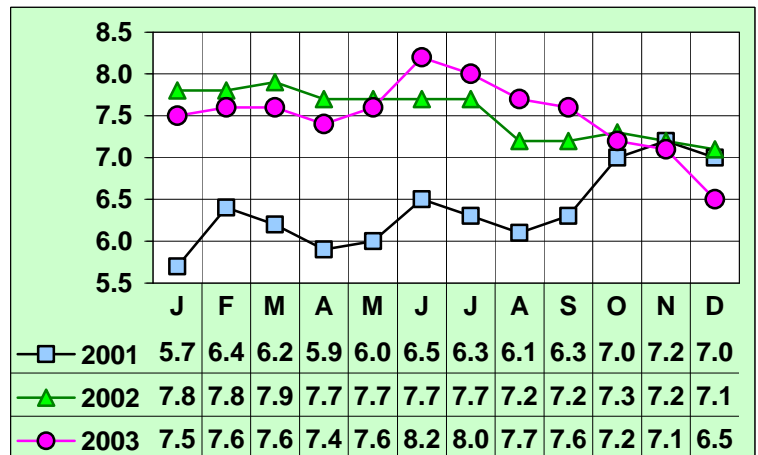
Place of work employment was very stable over the month, and remained up over the year. Construction and Services Providing sectors were the positive factors, as Manufacturing remained off when compared to this time last year.

Government employment (which includes local public schools, state colleges and Tribal business establishments, such as casinos) was up slightly over the year.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



**LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
TACOMA PMSA (Pierce County)**

Not Seasonally Adjusted/Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Revised Nov-02	Change			
					Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Nov-02 Dec-02	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
Civilian Labor Force	358.9	354.9	353.2	349.5	4.0	5.7	3.7	1.6%
Resident Employment	334.1	329.9	328.3	342.3	4.2	5.8	-14.0	1.8%
Unemployment	24.8	25.1	24.9	25.2	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3	-0.4%
Unemployment Rate	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title, Numbers in Thousands)								
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	253.9	253.9	247.0	246.9	0.0	6.9	0.1	2.8%
TOTAL PRIVATE	199.8	199.9	194.0	193.8	-0.1	5.8	0.2	3.0%
GOODS PRODUCING	37.2	37.4	36.1	36.8	-0.2	1.1	-0.7	3.0%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	18.0	18.2	16.3	16.8	-0.2	1.7	-0.5	10.4%
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.6	10.7	9.7	10.0	-0.1	0.9	-0.3	9.3%
MANUFACTURING	18.6	18.6	19.2	19.4	0.0	-0.6	-0.2	-3.1%
Durable Goods	12.1	12.1	12.3	12.4	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	-1.6%
Non-Durable Goods	6.5	6.5	6.9	7.0	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-5.8%
SERVICES PROVIDING	216.7	216.5	210.9	210.1	0.2	5.8	0.8	2.8%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	49.1	48.7	49.1	48.2	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.1	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-2.2%
Retail Trade	30.9	30.5	31.2	30.4	0.4	-0.3	0.8	-1.0%
Food and Beverage Stores	5.1	5.1	5.6	5.7	0.0	-0.5	-0.1	-8.9%
General Merchandise Stores	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	9.3	9.3	8.8	8.7	0.0	0.5	0.1	5.7%
INFORMATION	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	-3.3%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	13.7	13.7	12.9	12.9	0.0	0.8	0.0	6.2%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	20.6	21.0	20.1	20.5	-0.4	0.5	-0.4	2.5%
Admin, Support, Waste Mgmt., & Remediation	12.1	12.5	11.2	11.9	-0.4	0.9	-0.7	8.0%
Administrative and Support Services	11.2	11.6	10.4	11.0	-0.4	0.8	-0.6	7.7%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	39.0	39.0	38.1	38.2	0.0	0.9	-0.1	2.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	12.6	12.6	12.3	12.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	2.4%
Hospitals	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.5%
Social Assistance	7.1	7.1	6.7	6.8	0.0	0.4	-0.1	6.0%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	25.3	25.2	23.3	23.0	0.1	2.0	0.3	8.6%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.4	0.1	0.4	0.3	10.8%
Food Services and Drinking Places	18.8	18.9	18.4	18.4	-0.1	0.4	0.0	2.2%
OTHER SERVICES	12.0	11.9	11.4	11.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	5.3%
GOVERNMENT	54.1	54.0	53.0	53.1	0.1	1.1	-0.1	2.1%
Federal Government	10.1	9.7	9.9	9.8	0.4	0.2	0.1	2.0%
Total State Government	11.4	11.5	11.2	11.3	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	1.8%
State Government Educational Services	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.8	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	2.7%
Total Local Government	32.6	32.8	31.9	32.0	-0.2	0.7	-0.1	2.2%
Local Government Educational Services	18.4	18.6	18.5	18.5	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.5%
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 Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently second quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present. For this and other labor market information, visit our Internet site 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:

Nothing alarming – just that winter has come to farming

Winter has come to the Tri-Cities economy, and with its arrival, the local rate of unemployment seasonally rises above the statewide rate. Nothing alarming – just that winter has come to farming. The impact is greater in the more agrarian Franklin County, where the December rate was 11.9 relative to Benton County’s rate of 7.1 percent. Compared to last year, the rate of unemployment has risen in Benton County and fallen a bit in Franklin.

Hanford looked fairly stable in December, with few lumps of coal given in the form of pink slips.

Construction still held remarkably strong, and was up over the year by 500.

Manufacturing job totals were a mixed bag. Wineries (yes, wine making at the nonfarm level is considered manufacturing), and the large food processing plants held steady over the year. Chemicals rebounded a bit from a hard year 2002. Primary and Fabricated Metals was still down, especially from its peak year of 2000. Other areas of local manufacturing appeared to be holding steady.

Trade, on the Wholesale employment side, remained constant into December, while Retail Trade slightly increased its seasonal advance. Over the year, Retail Trade employment continued to post strong job gains. Food and Beverage Stores lead retailers in job gains.

Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (F.I.R.E.) in terms of jobs was the second fastest growing area of the Tri-Cities economy following Health Care. The job creation in Real Estate was slightly greater than in Finance and Insurance.

Services, like in many other communities, was the “Big Bubba” of jobs, with nearly 47 percent of all non-farm jobs in December as counted in this broad category. This was especially so the Tri-Cities, since the majority of employment with the Department of Energy (DOE) contractors at Hanford are counted in this category.

Roughly 25 percent of all jobs in Services are in Professional and Technical Services. The standout firms are Bechtel National, Lockheed-Martin, and Battelle NWL.

Tri-Cities Employment Growth by Industry
(June 1998 – June 2003)

Industries Employing Over 5000

Professional & Technical	41.9 %
Administrative & Waste Management	12.2 %
Retail (including auto).....	13.5 %
Health Care	52.9 %
Local Education	16.5 %
Food Services.....	9.3 %
Construction.....	24.3 %

Fastest Growth Rates (All Industries)

Health Care	52.9 %
Wineries	45.9 %
Professional & Technical	41.9 %
Entertainment.....	39.7 %
Finance & Insurance	29.1 %
Construction.....	24.3 %

Other Industries of Interest

Manufacturing	- 5.8 %
Food Processing	- 0.7 %
Transportation	0.6 %

Another 25 percent of jobs in Services are in Waste Treatment, where the major employers are CH2M-Hill and Fluor-Daniel.

Government, in the public sector, has been one of the slowest growing sectors of the Tri-Cities labor market. The public sector (local school districts) have added to job totals, followed by State Government, within which most of the job growth has been in higher education, with non-education state employment holding steady over the year at 950 jobs.

Down on the farm, the number of jobs continued to slump, falling from 7,100 in November to 5,700 by December, when only last October, the count was 12,600. During December of 2002, the number of farm jobs was 5,800.

LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
RICHLAND-KENNEWICK-PASCO MSA (Benton and Franklin Counties)

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
Civilian Labor Force	101,400	101,700	100,900	-300	500	0.5%
Resident Employment	93,000	93,400	92,700	-400	300	0.3%
Unemployment	8,400	8,400	8,200	0	200	2.4%
Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.2	8.1	0.1	0.2	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title)						
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	83,400	83,800	82,080	-400	1,320	1.6%
TOTAL PRIVATE	67,800	68,000	66,660	-200	1,140	1.7%
GOODS PRODUCING	10,600	11,000	10,240	-400	360	3.5%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	5,000	5,300	4,640	-300	360	7.8%
MANUFACTURING	5,600	5,700	5,600	-100	0	0.0%
Food Manufacturing	3,300	3,400	3,340	-100	-40	-1.2%
Chemicals and Allied Products	900	900	840	0	60	7.1%
Primary and Fabricated Metal Products	300	300	350	0	-50	-14.3%
Other Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,070	0	30	2.8%
SERVICES PROVIDING	72,800	72,700	71,830	100	970	1.4%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	14,100	14,000	13,750	100	350	2.5%
Wholesale Trade	2,000	2,000	1,990	0	10	0.5%
Retail Trade	10,500	10,400	10,170	100	330	3.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,600	1,600	1,590	0	10	0.6%
INFORMATION	1,000	1,000	970	0	30	3.1%
FINANCE, INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE	3,100	3,100	2,950	0	150	5.1%
SERVICES	39,100	39,000	38,760	100	340	0.9%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	10,400	10,300	10,110	100	290	2.9%
Health Services	6,700	6,600	6,340	100	360	5.7%
Waste Treatment	9,400	9,400	9,980	0	-580	-5.8%
GOVERNMENT	15,500	15,700	15,410	-200	90	0.6%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,440	0	-40	-2.8%
State and Local Government	14,100	14,300	13,960	-200	140	1.0%
Educational Services	7,500	7,500	7,370	0	130	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. Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch using a Quarterly Benchmark process. This process used the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently the second quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

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Labor force numbers had a seasonal drop in farm jobs, which pushed the number of persons drawing unemployment benefits from 1,834 in November in Franklin County to 2,298 for December. In Benton County, the thirty day increase went from 2,995 to 3,348. The number of persons drawing unemployment benefits this December looks remarkably like December of 2002, with beneficiaries slightly lower in Benton County and slightly higher in Franklin. The number of weeks of unemployment benefits claimed is down moderately in both counties, and this, hopefully, indicates the duration of unemployment is down, and people are beginning to find some opportunities for employment. With the Tri-Cities very large number of highly-skilled and high-tech people in the workforce, often times, a revival of the national economy is more meaningful to these workers, if Hanford is *not* in a hiring mode.

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:

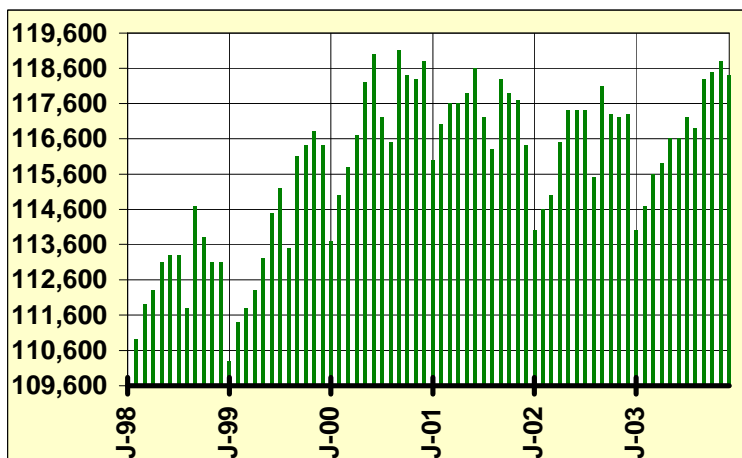
Once again, the preliminary Clark unemployment rate from the previous month was revised substantially upward. November's unemployment rate was revised from 7.6 percent up to 8.3 percent. Look for December's preliminary rate of 7.7 percent to suffer the same fate. If so, the rate would be six or seven tenths of a point higher than December 2002, with over 15,000 county residents unemployed. As it stands, the first crack at annual averages for 2003 shows a slightly higher rate than in 2002 (9.3 versus 9.1), with more unemployed (17,200 versus 16,900), and with 1,800 fewer residents in the labor force. If you add back in those 1,800 residents, and another 4,500 due to population growth, the unemployment rate would be significantly higher.

In 2002, Retail Trade employment in the county expanded by 900 jobs between September and December. Over the same period in 2003, merchants added only 400 jobs. Such was the state of the county economy this winter. Over the month, nonfarm employment fell by 400 jobs, due primarily to seasonal declines in Construction and Food Processing. Total nonfarm employment, at 118,400, was up 1,100 jobs, or 0.9 percent, over the year. Construction and K-12 Education are both at +400 since last December. Finance and Insurance has kicked in 300 jobs and Health Care another 200.

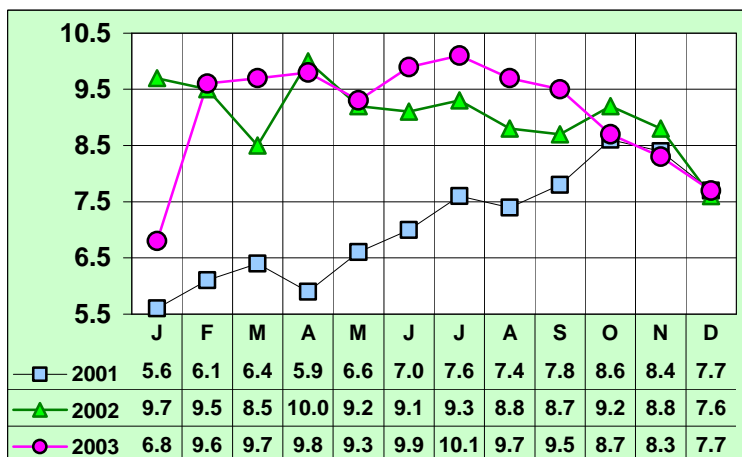
The new year should bring somewhat higher employment growth, beginning soon with the opening of the new Dollar Tree distribution center in Ridgefield. But growth will likely remain in the 1.5 to 2.0 percent range, not enough to put much of a dent in the unemployment rate.

(For a more indepth labor market analysis of Southwest Washington's economy, please visit the Regions section of our Internet site at: www.workforceexplorer.com)

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



**LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
CLARK COUNTY**

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
Civilian Labor Force	185,000	182,700	186,000	2,300	-1,000	-0.5%
Resident Employment	170,700	167,400	171,800	3,300	-1,100	-0.6%
Unemployment	14,300	15,200	14,200	-900	100	0.7%
Unemployment Rate	7.7	8.3	7.6	-0.6	0.1	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title)						
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	118,400	118,800	117,300	-400	1,100	0.9%
CONSTRUCTION, MINING, UTIL. and LOGGING	10,400	10,600	10,000	-200	400	4.0%
Construction, Mining and Utilities	10,300	10,500	9,900	-200	400	4.0%
Logging	100	100	100	0	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	13,100	13,300	13,200	-200	-100	-0.8%
Food Manufacturing	1,100	1,200	1,100	-100	0	0.0%
Wood Product Manufacturing	800	800	700	0	100	14.3%
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	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0.0%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,300	1,300	1,100	0	200	18.2%
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	3,000	3,100	3,100	-100	-100	-3.2%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	500	500	600	0	-100	-16.7%
Other Manufacturing	2,500	2,500	2,600	0	-100	-3.8%
WHOLESALE TRADE	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0	0.0%
RETAIL TRADE	14,100	14,000	14,000	100	100	0.7%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	100	5.6%
Food and Beverage Stores	2,300	2,300	2,600	0	-300	-11.5%
Health and Personal Care Stores	800	800	800	0	0	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	4,100	4,100	3,800	0	300	7.9%
Other Retail	5,000	4,900	5,000	100	0	0.0%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	3,300	3,300	3,300	0	0	0.0%
INFORMATION	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	100	3.2%
FINANCE and INSURANCE	3,500	3,500	3,200	0	300	9.4%
REAL ESTATE, RENTAL and LEASING	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	100	4.5%
PROF., SCIENTIFIC and TECHNICAL SERVICES	5,800	5,800	6,000	0	-200	-3.3%
ADMIN., SUPPORT and WASTE MGMT.	5,000	5,100	4,900	-100	100	2.0%
EDUCATION SERVICES	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0.0%
HEALTH CARE and SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	13,600	13,600	13,400	0	200	1.5%
Social Assistance	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0	0.0%
Health Services	11,500	11,500	11,300	0	200	1.8%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT and RECREATION	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0	0.0%
ACCOMMODATION and FOOD SERVICES	9,400	9,400	9,400	0	0	0.0%
OTHER SERVICES	4,800	4,800	5,100	0	-300	-5.9%
GOVERNMENT	22,000	22,000	21,600	0	400	1.9%
Federal Government	2,600	2,600	2,800	0	-200	-7.1%
State Government	3,500	3,500	3,400	0	100	2.9%
Local Government	15,900	15,900	15,400	0	500	3.2%
K-12 Education	10,800	10,800	10,400	0	400	3.8%
Other Local Government	5,100	5,100	5,000	0	100	2.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Nonfarm Employment without logging</i>	<i>118,300</i>	<i>118,700</i>	<i>117,200</i>	<i>-400</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>0.9%</i>

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 used the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently the first quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

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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:

The total number of nonagricultural jobs dropped 2.4 percent in Yakima County over the month of December 2003. Employment usually drops between November and December and this year was nothing unusual. Seasonal downturns at food processors (i.e., Non-Durable Goods), fresh fruit packinghouses (i.e., Wholesale Trade), and in Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction (primarily in the construction industry) accounted for the lion's share of the downturn.

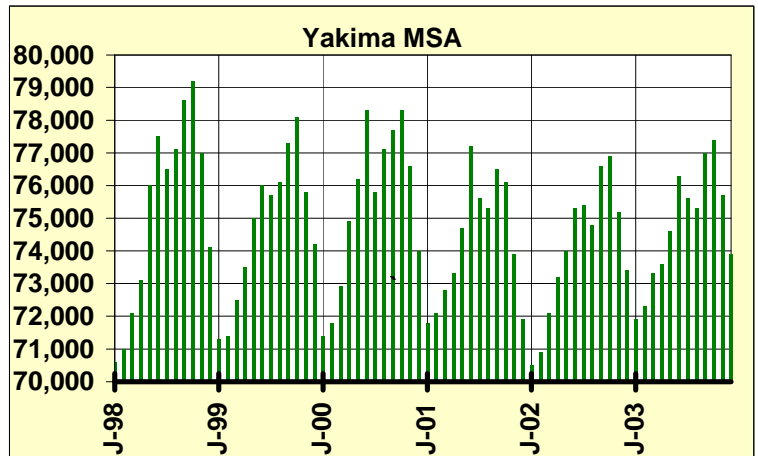
In December 2003, nonagricultural employers across Yakima County provided approximately 0.7-percent more jobs than in the same month one-year prior. On the positive side, Health Services and Social Assistance weighed in with 500 more jobs over the year. Retail Trade employment rose steadily through 2003, driven largely by retail developments along the Valley Mall Boulevard in Union Gap. In December 2003, there were roughly 300 more retail trade jobs than in the same month one-year earlier.

Over the year, total nonagricultural employment in Yakima County increased over the corresponding month in 2002, and four Yakima County industries accounted for most of the 720-job gain: Retail Trade (up 420 jobs), Health Services and Social Assistance (up 170 jobs), Local Government schools (up 100 jobs), and Construction (up 50 jobs). Two industries lost jobs: Wholesale Trade (down 180 jobs), and Durable Goods Manufacturing (down 50 jobs). One of the wild cards that will affect local Durable Goods manufacturing employment in 2004 will be the future of Yakima's Boise Cascade plant, following the recent sale to Eugene-based Frontier Resources, LLC.

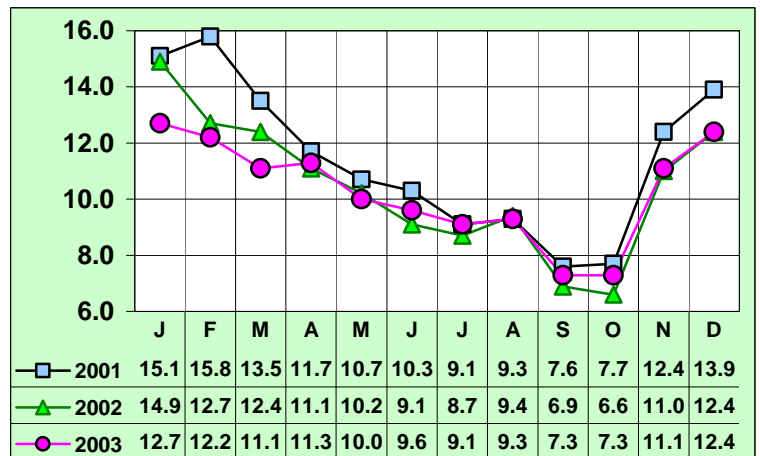
Over the year, Health Services and Social Assistance added 170 new jobs. Hiring at doctors' and dentists' offices, hospitals, and clinics (such as the Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic) was particularly strong in the 4th Quarter, with a growth rate of 3.4 percent in the sector. Employment in Retail Trade also blossomed, and this hiring up-trend will probably continue into 2004.

In December 2003, Yakima County's unemployment rate was 12.4 percent, the same as a year ago. An estimated 13,100 Yakima County residents were out of work this December versus 12,900 in the corresponding month during 2002, a 200-person increase in the number of unemployed. Fewer agricultural jobs available at farms

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
YAKIMA MSA (Yakima County)
Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
Civilian Labor Force	106,000	106,100	104,100	-100	1,900	1.8%
Resident Employment	92,900	94,400	91,200	-1,500	1,700	1.9%
Unemployment	13,100	11,800	12,900	1,300	200	1.6%
Unemployment Rate	12.4	11.1	12.4	1.3	0.0	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title)						
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	73,900	75,700	73,400	-1,800	500	0.7%
TOTAL PRIVATE	57,500	59,200	56,900	-1,700	600	1.1%
GOODS PRODUCING	12,400	13,800	12,300	-1,400	100	0.8%
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING and CONSTRUCTION	3,000	3,300	2,900	-300	100	3.4%
MANUFACTURING	9,400	10,500	9,300	-1,100	100	1.1%
Durable Goods	4,300	4,400	4,300	-100	0	0.0%
Non-Durable Goods	5,100	6,100	5,100	-1,000	0	0.0%
SERVICES PROVIDING	61,500	61,900	61,100	-400	400	0.7%
WHOLESALE TRADE	3,500	3,700	4,000	-200	-500	-12.5%
RETAIL TRADE	9,900	9,900	9,600	0	300	3.1%
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	2,600	2,700	2,500	-100	100	4.0%
INFORMATION	1,400	1,400	1,300	0	100	7.7%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,500	2,500	2,600	0	-100	-3.8%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	25,200	25,300	24,700	-100	500	2.0%
Professional and Business Services	4,500	4,600	4,600	-100	-100	-2.2%
Health Services and Social Assistance	11,100	11,100	10,600	0	500	4.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	5,100	5,100	5,300	0	-200	-3.8%
GOVERNMENT	16,400	16,500	16,500	-100	-100	-0.6%
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	-100	-7.1%
State Government	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0	0.0%
Local Government	12,000	12,100	12,100	-100	-100	-0.8%
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. Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch using a Quarterly Benchmark process. This process used the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently the second quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

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and orchards this month, compared with the identical month in the prior year, pushed the number of unemployed higher. Conversely, the number of employed Yakima County residents rose by 1,700 since December 2002. Many of these new 1,700 employed residents likely commuted to jobs outside of the county, such as to the Tri-Cities, where a new \$4-billion federal environmental clean-up program has created many jobs.

What is in the economic future for Yakima County? Although, no one has a crystal ball on this issue, there appears to be more good economic news than bad as we head into 2004.

(For a more indepth labor market analysis of the Yakima MSA, please visit the Regions section of our Internet site at: www.workforceexplorer.com)

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 340 jobs for a 1.0-percent shortening of payrolls over the month of December 2003. Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction, along with Wholesale Trade each lost 140 jobs during December's seasonal downturn. Local construction firms account for the vast majority of jobs in the combined Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction employment category. As days get shorter and outdoor construction activities subside, workers are laid off. Many jobs in the Wholesale Trade grouping are at fresh fruit packinghouses whose activities dwindle after apple packing/storage subsides. This year was no exception to that rule.

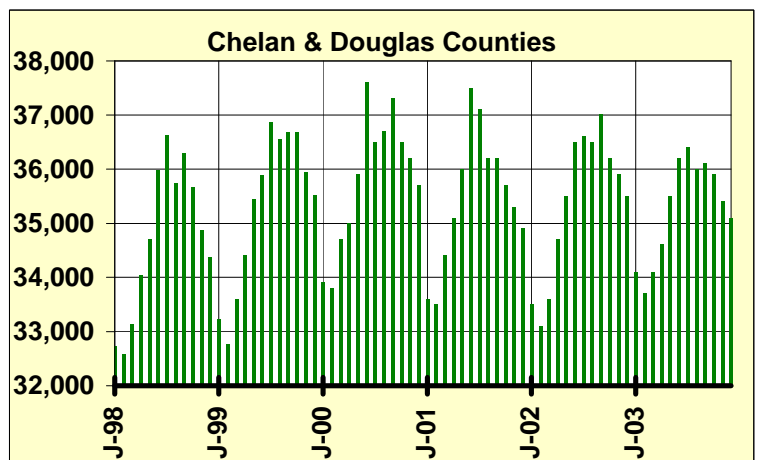
The 2003 Wenatchee labor market can be summarized by the baseball term, "Three-up, and Three-down." Three employment groups that lost jobs over the year were, Wholesale Trade (-180), Durable Goods Manufacturing (-140) and, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (-120 jobs). Three employment groups that gained were Construction, (+150), Health Services and Social Assistance (+100) and, Accommodation and Food Services (+70 jobs).

Unemployment Rates

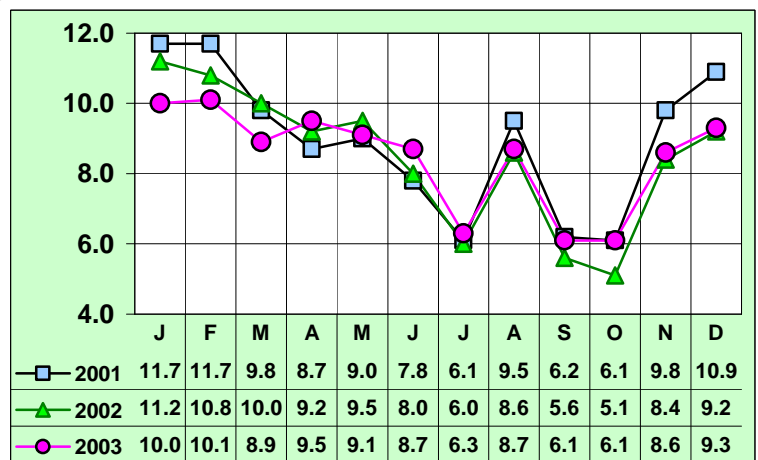
In December 2003, the Wenatchee LMA's unemployment rate was one-tenth of a point higher than the December 2002 figure. An estimated 4,580 residents from Chelan and Douglas Counties were out of work this December versus 4,660 in the corresponding month during 2002, an 80-person decrease in the number of unemployed. Normally this would be a step in the right direction. However, the number of employed residents in Chelan and Douglas Counties also fell by 1,250 since December 2002, hence the slight, over-the-year upturn in the rate.

An analysis of unemployment rate trends during the past year depicts a local economy that slowed in the last half of 2003. Over the year, unemployment rate upturns roughly corresponded with over-the-year nonagricultural employment downturns in the 3rd and 4th Quarters of 2003. There seems to be more good news than

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



bad however, in the national and state economic forecasts. Barring unforeseen economic events, 2004 will likely be a better year for the Chelan and Douglas Counties labor market.

(For a more indepth labor market analysis of the Wenatchee LMA (Chelan and Douglas Counties), please visit the Regions section of our Internet site at: www.workforceexplorer.com)

LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
WENATCHEE LMA (Chelan and Douglas Counties)

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
Civilian Labor Force	49,120	49,270	50,440	-150	-1,320	-2.6%
Resident Employment	44,540	45,020	45,790	-480	-1,250	-2.7%
Unemployment	4,580	4,250	4,660	330	-80	-1.7%
Unemployment Rate	9.3	8.6	9.2	0.7	0.1	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title)						
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	35,100	35,400	35,500	-300	-400	-1.1%
TOTAL PRIVATE	26,700	27,000	27,200	-300	-500	-1.8%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	4,600	4,800	4,900	-200	-300	-6.1%
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION	2,700	2,800	2,700	-100	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	2,000	2,000	2,100	0	-100	-4.8%
Durable Goods	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	-100	-7.7%
Non-Durable Goods	800	800	800	0	0	0.0%
<i>SERVICES PROVIDING</i>	30,400	30,600	30,600	-200	-200	-0.7%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,300	1,400	1,700	-100	-400	-23.5%
RETAIL TRADE	5,600	5,400	5,500	200	100	1.8%
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING & UTILITIES	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	-100	-7.7%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	1,900	2,000	2,000	-100	-100	-5.0%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	12,100	12,200	11,900	-100	200	1.7%
Health Services and Social Assistance	5,000	5,000	4,800	0	200	4.2%
Accommodation and Food Services	3,700	3,700	3,700	0	0	0.0%
GOVERNMENT	8,300	8,400	8,200	-100	100	1.2%
Federal Government	900	900	900	0	0	0.0%
State Government	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0	0.0%
Local Government	6,100	6,200	6,000	-100	100	1.7%
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.

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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:

The major downside from November to December continues to be agriculture. Here, seasonal changes pushed farm employment from 4,340 in October, to 3,080 in November, to 2,380 for December. In December of 2002 the farm employment total was 2,430.

Manufacturing felt seasonal changes, with the wineries and other areas of food processing – except beef – causing employment to fall by 210 from November to December. Since December of 2002, the wineries have continued to be a source of new jobs.

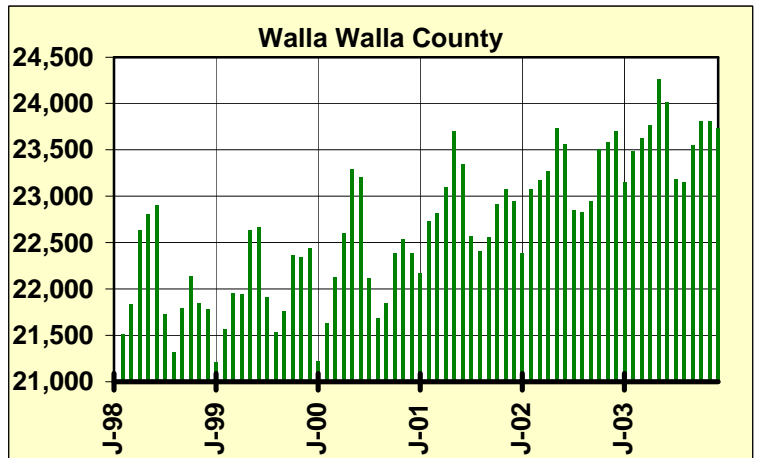
Trade Employment's holiday spending moved Retail Trade employment from 2,530 in November to 2,560 in December. Compared to one year ago, employment has been flat.

Services employment was up by 60 over the month and 30 over the year. The majority of the increase from November to December was in private education. Other areas of the Service Providing sector did not fair as well, especially Health Services. Health Care and Social Services, at the end of the year, employed roughly 3,300 workers.

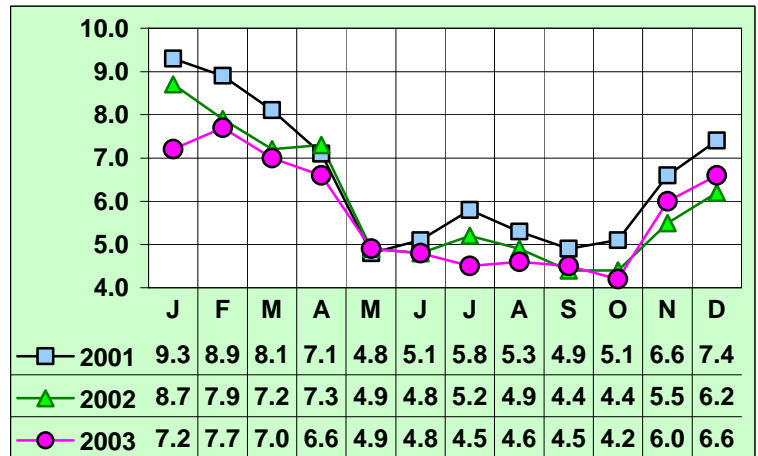
Government employment, although considerably larger than what would be found in most communities, has held very steady over the past twelve months. Most of the little, net jobs growth has been in State and Local Education.

Down on the farm, employment fell from 4,340 in October, to 3,080 in November, to 2,380 in December. December 2002, it was 2,430.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



**LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
WALLA WALLA COUNTY**

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE						
Civilian Labor Force	27,530	27,710	27,520	-180	10	0.0%
Resident Employment	25,710	26,060	25,810	-350	-100	-0.4%
Unemployment	1,820	1,660	1,710	160	110	6.4%
Unemployment Rate	6.6	6.0	6.2	0.6	0.4	
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title)						
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	23,730	23,810	23,700	-80	30	0.1%
TOTAL PRIVATE	18,440	18,620	18,450	-180	-10	-0.1%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	4,780	5,040	4,900	-260	-120	-2.4%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES & MINING	950	960	960	-10	-10	-1.0%
MANUFACTURING	3,840	4,080	3,940	-240	-100	-2.5%
Durable Goods	1,620	1,610	1,660	10	-40	-2.4%
Wineries	210	240	200	-30	10	5.0%
Food Manufacturing	2,010	2,220	2,090	-210	-80	-3.8%
<i>SERVICES PROVIDING</i>	18,940	18,770	18,790	170	150	0.8%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	3,740	3,740	3,680	0	60	1.6%
Wholesale Trade	660	680	600	-20	60	10.0%
Retail Trade	2,560	2,530	2,560	30	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	470	480	480	-10	-10	-2.1%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	1,320	1,310	1,310	10	10	0.8%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	8,600	8,540	8,570	60	30	0.4%
Educational Services	1,960	1,890	1,910	70	50	2.6%
GOVERNMENT	5,280	5,180	5,240	100	40	0.8%
Federal Government	920	920	940	0	-20	-2.1%
State and Local Government	4,350	4,260	4,300	90	50	1.2%
Educational Services	2,200	2,130	2,200	70	0	0.0%
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 used the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently the second quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

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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

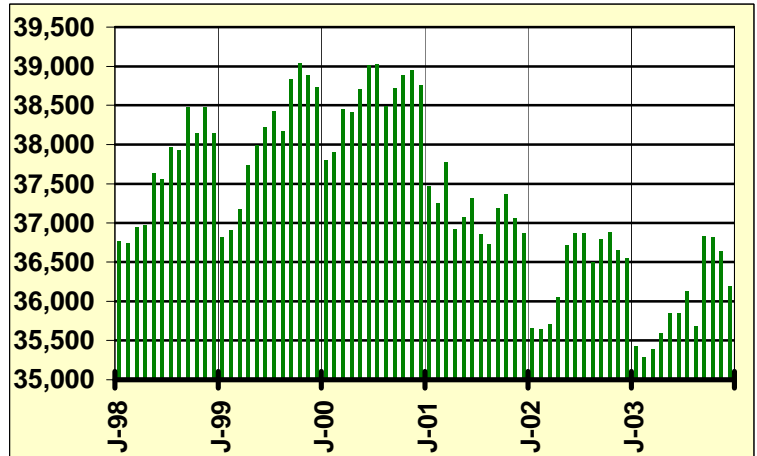
In Cowlitz County, the unemployment rate inched downward by a tenth of a point in December to 8.8 percent. Compared with a year earlier, there were 1,070 fewer residents in the labor force, including 610 fewer *employed*, and 460 fewer *unemployed* persons. There are about 2,000 fewer residents in the labor force than there were three years ago. The preliminary annual average unemployment rate for 2003 of 9.9 percent only looks better than 2002, due to all of the “discouraged workers” who have given up on looking for a job. Revised data for the entire year will be issued in about two months.

Nonfarm employment fell by 450 jobs over the month, down to a total of 36,190. Nearly every major industry group was in a layoff mode. Government payrolls declined by 150 jobs, with losses in K-12 Education (-80) and State Government (-60). Manufacturing shed 90 jobs, including 120 in paper products. Transportation and Warehousing (-60), and Health Care and Social Assistance (-50), were also in the red.

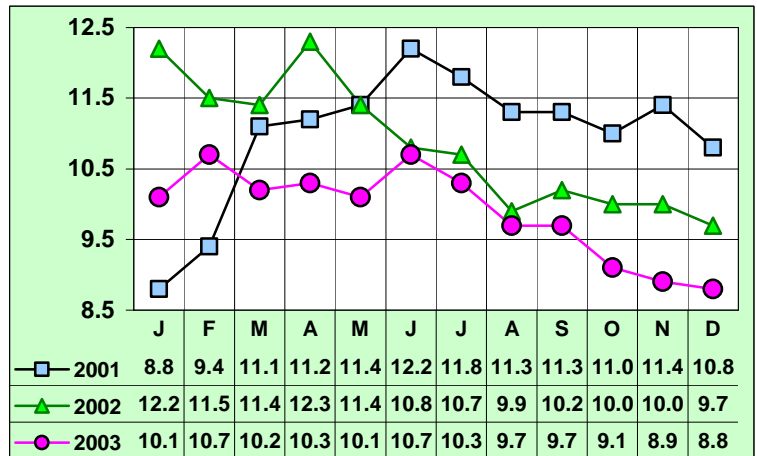
For the year, employment is off by 360 jobs or 1.0 percent. Manufacturing accounts for the entire net loss; paper products has dropped by 260 jobs since last December. General Merchandise Stores, Construction, and K-12 Education have all added employees. Accommodation and Food Services, Transportation and Warehousing, and Administrative and Support Services have gone in the opposite direction.

(For a more indepth labor market analysis of Southwest Washington's economy, please visit the Regions section of our Internet site at: www.workforceexplorer.com)

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



**LABOR MARKET SUMMARY
COWLITZ COUNTY**

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE	Prelim Dec-03	Revised Nov-03	Revised Dec-02	Change		
				Nov-03 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03	Dec-02 Dec-03 %
Civilian Labor Force	39,830	39,820	40,900	10	-1,070	-2.6%
Resident Employment	36,320	36,270	36,930	50	-610	-1.7%
Unemployment	3,510	3,550	3,970	-40	-460	-11.6%
Unemployment Rate	8.8	8.9	9.7	-0.1	-0.9	-9.1%
EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK (NAICS Industry Title)						
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	36,190	36,640	36,550	-450	-360	-1.0%
CONSTRUCTION, MINING, UTIL. and LOGGING	3,440	3,480	3,410	-40	30	0.9%
Construction, Mining and Utilities	2,690	2,730	2,630	-40	60	2.3%
Logging	750	750	780	0	-30	-3.8%
MANUFACTURING	6,780	6,870	7,140	-90	-360	-5.0%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,200	1,210	1,220	-10	-20	-1.6%
Paper Manufacturing	2,730	2,850	2,990	-120	-260	-8.7%
Other Manufacturing	2,850	2,810	2,930	40	-80	-2.7%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,050	1,060	1,060	-10	-10	-0.9%
RETAIL TRADE	4,630	4,630	4,550	0	80	1.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	980	980	1,010	0	-30	-3.0%
General Merchandise Stores	1,230	1,250	1,130	-20	100	8.8%
Other Retail	2,420	2,400	2,410	20	10	0.4%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	1,220	1,280	1,270	-60	-50	-3.9%
FINANCE and INSURANCE	920	920	920	0	0	0.0%
ADMIN., SUPPORT, and WASTE MGMT.	810	840	850	-30	-40	-4.7%
HEALTH CARE and SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	4,710	4,760	4,730	-50	-20	-0.4%
ACCOMMODATION and FOOD SERVICES	2,800	2,820	2,870	-20	-70	-2.4%
OTHER SERVICES	3,880	3,880	3,850	0	30	0.8%
GOVERNMENT	5,950	6,100	5,900	-150	50	0.8%
Federal Government	270	270	260	0	10	3.8%
State Government	1,210	1,270	1,220	-60	-10	-0.8%
Local Government	4,470	4,560	4,420	-90	50	1.1%
K-12 Education	2,860	2,940	2,810	-80	50	1.8%
Other Local Government	1,610	1,620	1,610	-10	0	0.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	10	0	0	0
<i>Nonfarm Employment without logging</i>	<i>35,440</i>	<i>35,890</i>	<i>35,770</i>	<i>-450</i>	<i>-330</i>	<i>-0.9%</i>

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 used the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently the first quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

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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
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Technical Notes

This release is prepared the Employment Security Department's Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch (LMEA). 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 June 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.

Please note: We no longer have a subscriber list. All data in this publication is now available on our Internet site. However, if you wish hard copies of the Metropolitan Area labor information, please make your request to the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Employment Security Department, PO Box 49046, Olympia, Washington 98507-9046, or call (360) 438-4800. You may also call our toll free number 1-800-215-1617 to obtain up-to-date labor market information. Comments, suggestions and requests for information are also welcome at the editor's e-mail address: mcamilon@esd.wa.gov

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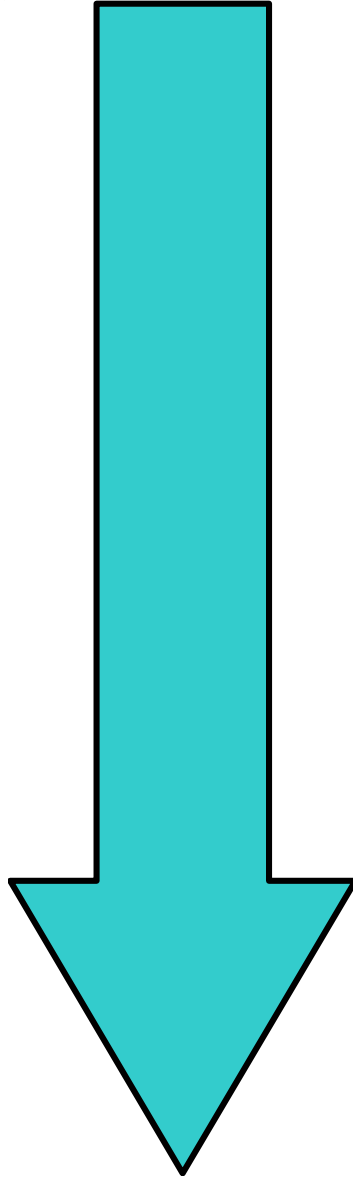
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Metropolitan area nonagricultural information is updated with the
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