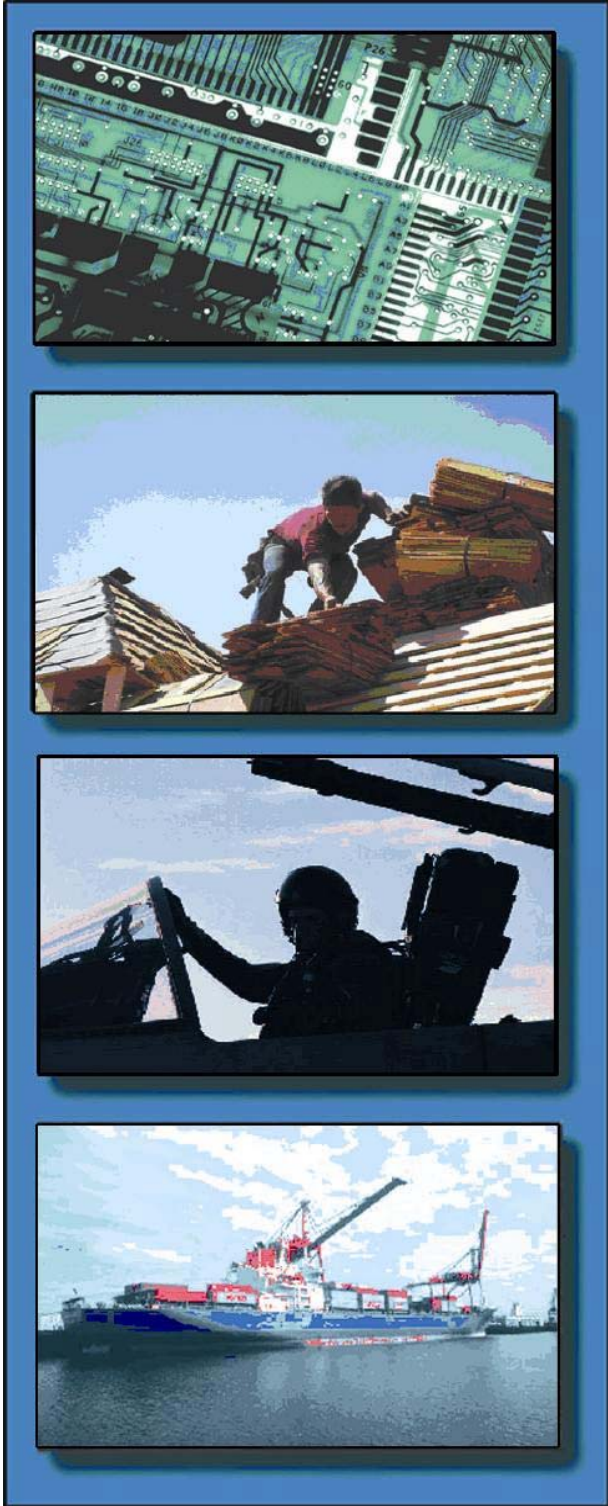


Washington State Labor Area Summaries



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

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**Washington State
Employment Security**

**March 2003
Volume 18, Number 3**

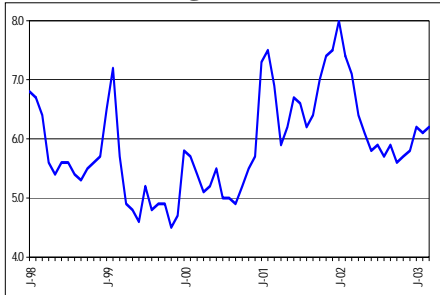
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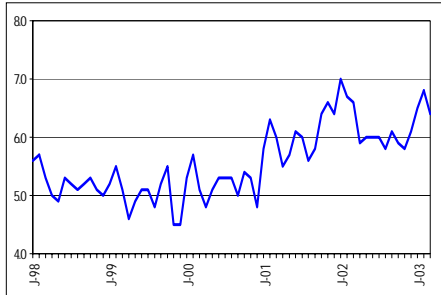
Employment Security is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities.

MSA Jobless Rates 1998-2003

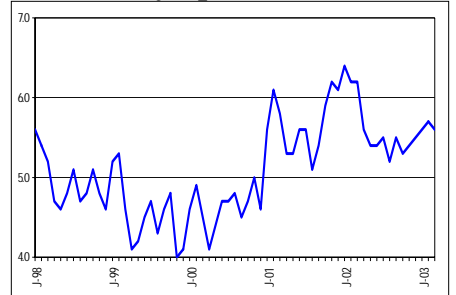
Bellingham MSA



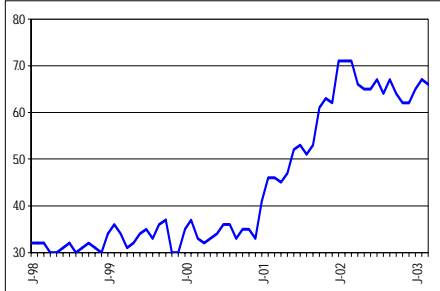
Bremerton PMSA



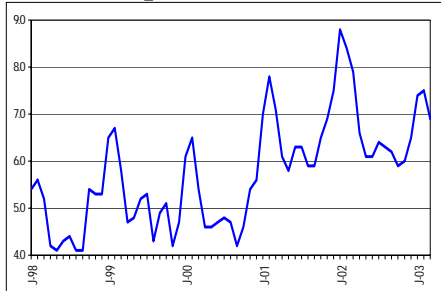
Olympia PMSA



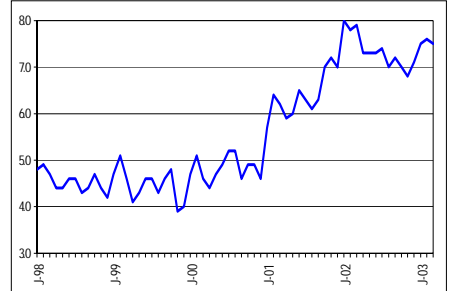
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA



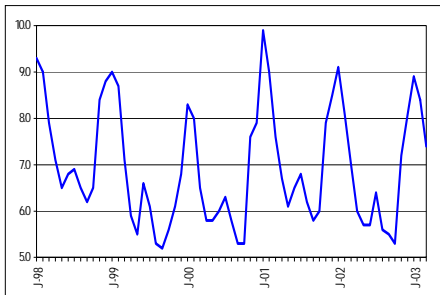
Spokane MSA



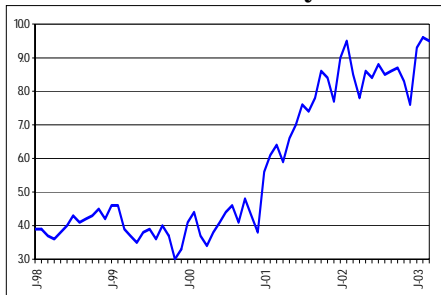
Tacoma PMSA



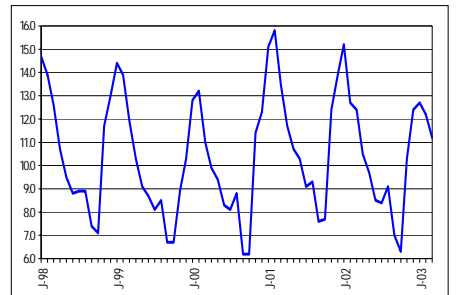
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA



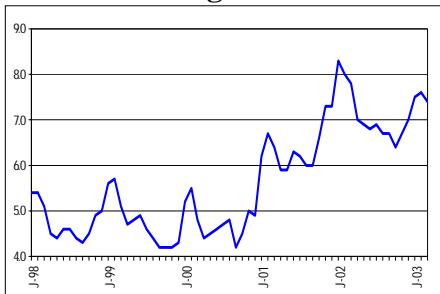
Clark County



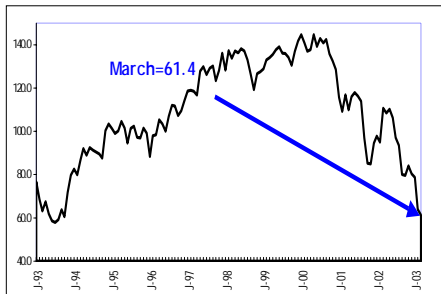
Yakima MSA



Washington State



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

<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>	March 2003 Preliminary				February 2003 Revised				March 2002 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate
Washington State Total	3,103,800	2,874,900	228,900	7.4	3,105,200	2,867,900	237,300	7.6	3,062,300	2,822,800	239,500	7.8
Bellingham MSA	88,100	82,700	5,500	6.2	87,700	82,400	5,300	6.1	83,300	77,400	5,900	7.1
Bremerton PMSA	102,500	96,000	6,500	6.4	102,900	95,900	7,000	6.8	98,300	91,800	6,500	6.6
Olympia PMSA	108,700	102,600	6,000	5.6	108,600	102,400	6,200	5.7	104,100	97,700	6,400	6.2
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA	1,394,500	1,301,900	92,700	6.6	1,399,200	1,305,000	94,200	6.7	1,391,600	1,293,100	98,500	7.1
King County 2/	1,021,800	956,400	65,400	6.4	1,025,200	958,700	66,500	6.5	1,018,700	950,000	68,700	6.7
Snohomish County 2/	344,500	319,000	25,600	7.4	345,700	319,800	26,000	7.5	344,800	316,800	28,000	8.1
Island County 2/	28,200	26,400	1,700	6.1	28,300	26,500	1,800	6.2	28,070	26,270	1,800	6.4
Spokane MSA	213,900	199,100	14,800	6.9	214,400	198,400	16,000	7.5	214,200	197,200	17,000	7.9
Tacoma PMSA	351,200	324,700	26,500	7.5	350,400	323,700	26,700	7.6	342,000	315,000	27,000	7.9
Tri-Cities MSA	101,100	93,600	7,500	7.4	101,300	92,900	8,500	8.4	96,300	89,500	6,800	7.0
Benton County 2/	76,500	71,300	5,200	6.8	76,500	70,700	5,800	7.5	72,800	68,200	4,600	6.3
Franklin County 2/	24,600	22,300	2,300	9.2	24,800	22,100	2,700	10.9	23,540	21,320	2,220	9.4
Yakima MSA	104,300	92,700	11,600	11.2	103,700	91,100	12,600	12.2	103,900	91,100	12,800	12.4
Adams	7,410	6,610	800	10.8	7,340	6,350	990	13.5	7,420	6,550	870	11.7
Asotin 2/	12,280	11,660	620	5.0	12,400	11,550	850	6.8	11,610	10,990	620	5.3
Chelan-Douglas LMA	50,570	46,050	4,520	8.9	50,290	45,220	5,060	10.1	50,030	45,040	4,990	10.0
Chelan County 2/	33,970	30,770	3,190	9.4	33,750	30,220	3,530	10.5	33,630	30,100	3,530	10.5
Douglas County 2/	16,610	15,280	1,330	8.0	16,530	15,000	1,530	9.3	16,400	14,940	1,460	8.9
Clallam	24,900	22,890	2,000	8.0	24,860	22,730	2,130	8.6	24,900	22,750	2,150	8.6
Clark 2/	186,700	169,000	17,700	9.5	187,200	169,200	17,900	9.6	184,000	168,300	15,700	8.5
Columbia	1,230	1,070	160	12.7	1,220	1,060	160	13.5	1,260	1,080	170	13.8
Cowlitz	39,690	35,710	3,980	10.0	39,880	35,620	4,260	10.7	40,530	35,910	4,620	11.4
Ferry	2,700	2,180	520	19.3	2,700	2,180	520	19.2	2,470	2,040	430	17.2
Garfield	1,230	1,160	70	5.7	1,200	1,110	90	7.4	1,120	1,060	60	5.6
Grant	35,790	32,130	3,660	10.2	35,210	31,000	4,210	12.0	35,890	31,840	4,060	11.3
Grays Harbor	26,710	23,960	2,750	10.3	26,450	23,790	2,670	10.1	25,720	22,980	2,740	10.7
Jefferson	11,560	10,800	760	6.6	11,570	10,730	840	7.3	11,220	10,420	800	7.1
Kittitas	16,440	15,130	1,310	8.0	16,210	14,790	1,410	8.7	15,510	14,220	1,290	8.3
Klickitat	8,190	6,920	1,270	15.6	8,080	6,710	1,370	16.9	8,410	7,000	1,410	16.7
Lewis	29,900	27,070	2,830	9.5	29,500	26,770	2,730	9.2	29,140	26,220	2,910	10.0
Lincoln	4,620	4,340	280	6.1	4,550	4,240	310	6.8	4,550	4,240	310	6.8
Mason	20,160	18,390	1,770	8.8	20,100	18,310	1,780	8.9	19,000	17,370	1,630	8.6
Okanogan	17,730	15,490	2,230	12.6	17,370	14,950	2,420	13.9	17,220	14,870	2,350	13.7
Pacific	8,080	7,290	790	9.8	7,950	7,210	740	9.3	7,570	6,820	750	9.9
Pend Oreille	4,480	3,970	520	11.5	4,400	3,840	570	12.8	4,500	3,940	560	12.4
San Juan	6,250	5,900	350	5.6	6,160	5,720	440	7.1	6,030	5,670	360	5.9
Skagit	53,070	48,920	4,150	7.8	52,690	48,560	4,130	7.8	51,740	47,420	4,320	8.3
Skamania	3,710	3,310	400	10.8	3,690	3,230	460	12.6	3,750	3,240	520	13.7
Stevens	16,400	14,480	1,930	11.7	16,560	14,640	1,920	11.6	16,910	14,590	2,330	13.8
Wahkiakum	1,680	1,560	120	6.9	1,680	1,550	130	7.9	1,740	1,570	160	9.4
Walla Walla	27,430	25,660	1,770	6.5	27,640	25,510	2,130	7.7	26,780	24,840	1,940	7.2
Whitman	20,570	20,040	530	2.6	20,150	19,600	560	2.8	19,550	19,040	510	2.6

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.

LMEA April 16, 2003. Benchmark 2002

Washington State Labor Area Summary Bellingham MSA

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

HIGHLIGHTS

The “in like a lion, out like a lamb” phrase for the month of March didn’t apply to the Bellingham MSA as the data was much more “lamb than lion.” The unemployment rate in the MSA nudged up a notch in March to 6.2 percent of the labor force, up from the revised February figure of 6.1 percent. This was, however, down nearly a full point from the 7.1 rate posted in March of 2002. The March preliminary figures showed 82,700 MSA residents at work, with 5,500 actively pursuing employment opportunities. In March 2002, there were 5,900 looking for work, while 77,400 counted paychecks.

Statewide (see chart on page 2), the March preliminary rate fell to 7.4 percent from 7.6 in February, and four-tenths of a percentage point better compared to a year ago.

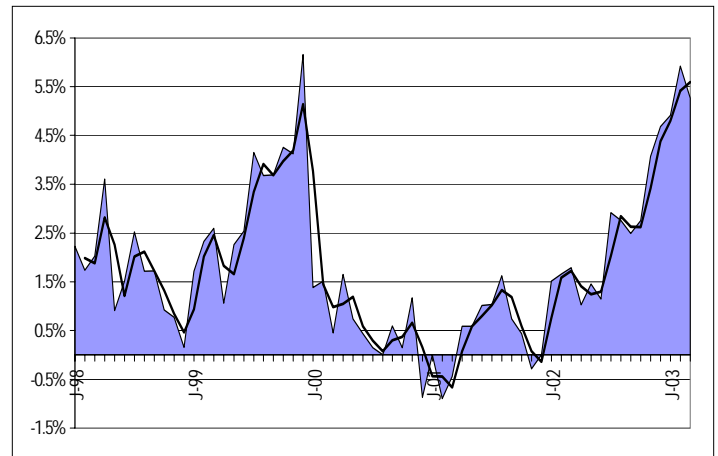
Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the MSA totaled 72,000 in March, up 400 over the month and 3,600 over the year.

Over the month, service providing employment gained 600 jobs while the goods producing sector cut 300 positions. Seasonal losses were noted in construction (-200) and manufacturing (-100). The remaining sectors were silent.

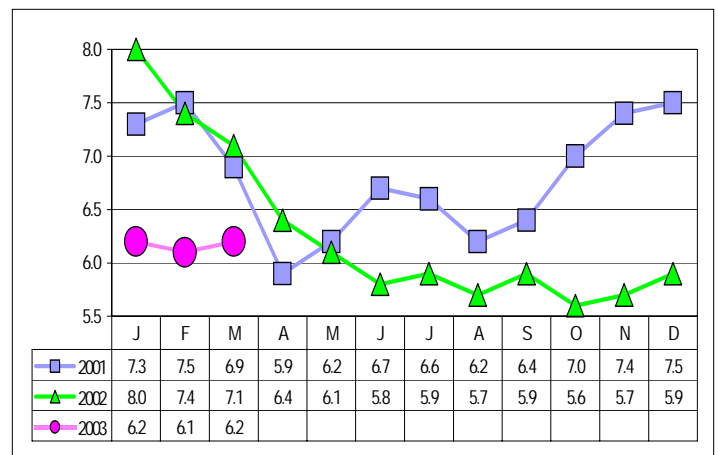
The over-the-year increases can once again be credited to construction. Even the over-the-month data showed a small seasonal decline, with construction activity in the MSA remaining robust. Over-the-year construction employment is up 2,100 or a whopping 39.6 percent. At this point, there is no let-up in sight and these numbers will continue to remain strong at least for the next several months. Also showing some signs of life is the manufacturing sector. Once feeling the energy blues, manufacturing has bounced back by adding 700 jobs over-the-year for an annual growth rate of 9 percent. Government employment also posted a gain of 5 percent or 700 over the year.

The Bellingham MSA outlook remains pleasantly upbeat as the unemployment rate is well below the state average and construction employment is currently a solid player in the local economy.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



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

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	72,000	71,600	68,400	400	3,600	5.3%
TOTAL PRIVATE	58,300	58,000	55,400	300	2,900	5.2%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	16,300	16,600	13,500	-300	2,800	20.7%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	7,400	7,600	5,300	-200	2,100	39.6%
MANUFACTURING	8,500	8,600	7,800	-100	700	9.0%
Durable Goods	4,600	4,600	4,400	0	200	4.5%
Non Durable Goods	3,900	3,900	3,500	0	400	11.4%
Food Manufacturing	1,500	1,500	1,300	0	200	15.4%
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	55,600	55,000	54,900	600	700	1.3%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	13,500	13,400	13,200	100	300	2.3%
Wholesale Trade	2,700	2,700	2,500	0	200	8.0%
Retail Trade	9,000	9,000	8,900	0	100	1.1%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	-100	-5.3%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0	0.0%
GOVERNMENT	13,700	13,600	13,000	100	700	5.4%
Federal Government	1,000	1,000	900	0	100	11.1%
State Government	3,700	3,800	3,600	-100	100	2.8%
Local Government	9,000	8,900	8,500	100	500	5.9%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

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

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Bremerton PMSA

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Nonag employment in the Bremerton PMSA took the month off as change was hard to come by. Total non-agricultural wage and salary employment totaled 78,100 in March, up 200 over-the-month, but up 2,100 over-the-year. From February to March, gains were posted in the following sectors: construction, service providing and in government. On the downside, retail trade lost 200 jobs over this same time period. The remaining sectors of the local economy were not active participants in the over-the-month data.

Over the year, nonag employment grew by a respectable 2.8 percent. The bulk of this growth or 1,700 jobs can be found in the service providing sector, while the goods producing sector kicked in those additional 400 paychecks. The detail shows manufacturing gaining 100 jobs over-the-year, while construction posted an additional 200 jobs from the year-ago level.

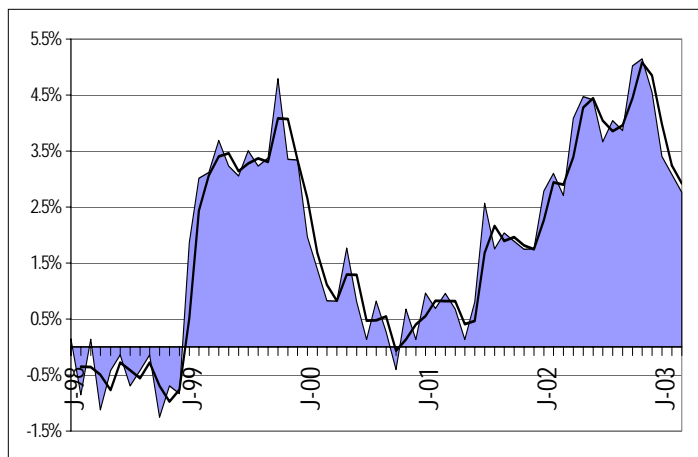
On the unemployment side, the March PMSA rate fell to 6.4 percent from 6.8 in February. Compared to a year ago, the PMSA unemployment rate was at 6.6 percent, an indication that the economic momentum is still going at a pretty slow pace.

Statewide (as shown on page 2), the March 2003 unemployment rate was 7.4 percent, which represented a drop from the 7.6 rate of February and the 7.8 figure of March 2002.

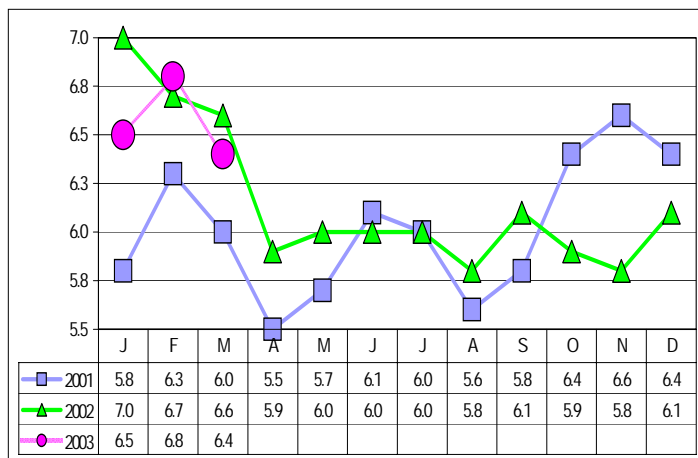
In March, the PMSA had 96,000 residents at work while 6,500 were looking for a job. It is interesting to note that the number of people seeking employment over the year did not reflect any change at all, despite the fact that there were fewer residents employed in March 2002 (91,800).

The near term sees seasonal gains in construction and the service providing sector. The end of some military deployments will also provide missing punch to the local economy as military paychecks will begin to find their way back into the PMSA. Improved weather and longer daylight hours will boost outdoor activities such as construction. Historically speaking, the unemployment rate will continue to fall as April rate typically drops another three-tenths of a percentage point. So, the Bremerton economy will continue to perform better than the state average for at least the foreseeable future.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



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

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	78,100	77,900	76,000	200	2,100	2.8%
TOTAL PRIVATE	50,200	50,100	48,500	100	1,700	3.5%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	6,300	6,200	5,900	100	400	6.8%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	4,500	4,400	4,300	100	200	4.7%
MANUFACTURING	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100	5.9%
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	71,800	71,700	70,100	100	1,700	2.4%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	12,400	12,500	12,000	-100	400	3.3%
Wholesale Trade	1,100	1,100	1,000	0	100	10.0%
Retail Trade	10,300	10,500	10,000	-200	300	3.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	900	900	1,000	0	-100	-10.0%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	5,200	5,200	4,900	0	300	6.1%
GOVERNMENT	27,900	27,800	27,500	100	400	1.5%
Federal Government	14,700	14,700	14,600	0	100	0.7%
State and Local Government	13,200	13,000	12,900	200	300	2.3%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

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

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Olympia PMSA

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

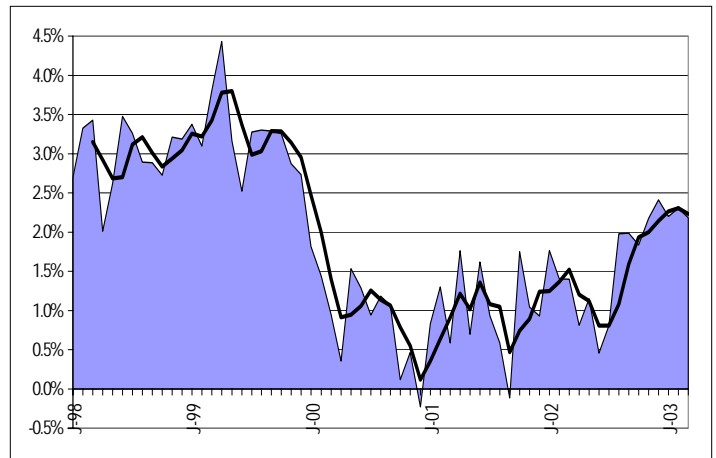
HIGHLIGHTS

Employment conditions in the Olympia PMSA labor market for March 2003 came “in like a lamb” and went “out like a lamb.” Local economic phenomena paused with the rest of the nation while the events of the Iraq war unfolded. Employment gains across the PMSA were modest with 200 jobs being added, below the expected level for this time of year. Weakness in the trade and professional services area were evident. Retail showed no job growth during the month but picked up 1,000 jobs over the course of the year, primarily from big-box store openings like Wal-Mart. Business services gained 200 jobs but showed signs of underlying weakness. Food and beverage business employment, along with hotel accommodations tended to be soft. The renovation of the Capitol Campus and the cancellation of Tumwater Brewery tours appear to be dampening local tourism, thus, accounting for the lackluster performance in the hospitality area.

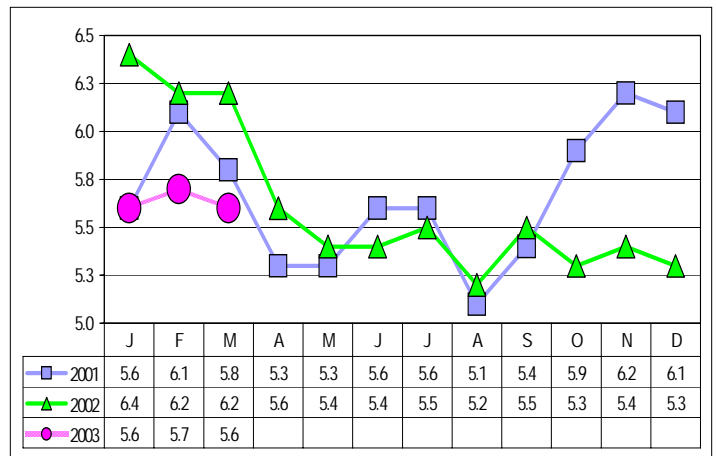
On the positive end, construction generated 100 new jobs as weather conditions improved and work along the Fourth Avenue Bridge progressed. The glacial movement in the labor market generated just enough employment opportunities to absorb the mild growth in the local labor force, thereby holding the local unemployment rate roughly constant at 5.6 percent. The remainder of the state saw its labor market conditions remaining weak this month. Washington’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.0 percent.

Both the state and the Olympia PMSA continued to monitor the nation’s progress on both the war and the economic fronts. The national unemployment rate lingered at 5.8 percent as mixed news prolonged the “jobless recovery.” The advanced estimate of GDP showed the national economy expanded at a 1.6 percent rate during the first quarter of this year. The modest expansion has not been able to

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



Continued on page 8

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

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	89,000	88,800	87,100	200	1,900	2.2%
TOTAL PRIVATE	52,500	52,300	51,000	200	1,500	2.9%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	7,800	7,700	7,600	100	200	2.6%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	400	500	500	-100	-100	-20.0%
CONSTRUCTION	3,900	3,800	3,700	100	200	5.4%
MANUFACTURING	3,500	3,400	3,400	100	100	2.9%
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	81,200	81,100	79,500	100	1,700	2.1%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	13,700	13,800	12,600	-100	1,100	8.7%
Wholesale Trade	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	10,800	10,800	9,800	0	1,000	10.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,300	1,400	1,200	-100	100	8.3%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	4,500	4,500	4,600	0	-100	-2.2%
PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS SERVICES	26,500	26,300	26,200	200	300	1.1%
GOVERNMENT	36,500	36,500	36,100	0	400	1.1%
Federal Government	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0.0%
State Government	23,900	24,000	24,100	-100	-200	-0.8%
State Government Educational Services	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0	0.0%
Local Government	11,600	11,500	11,000	100	600	5.5%
Local Government Educational Services	7,300	7,100	6,800	200	500	7.4%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

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

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Continued from page 7

recapture the lost employment that resulted from the recession, creating a jobless recovery similar to that which occurred during the 1990-1991 downturn. This period of joblessness has been longer according to the U.S. Labor Department. The year-to-year change in private payrolls has been negative for 21 straight months, compared to 18 months in 1990-1991. The quick resolution to the Iraqi conflict coupled with the resulting decline in crude oil prices has served to bolster consumer sentiment. Recent confidence measures from the Conference Board, the University of Michigan, and from ABC News confirmed the widely expected post-war rebound. The news is significant in the sense that it suggests that consumers will strive to maintain their current level of spending.

For the recovery to extend to the labor market, however, there has to be a quick and steep recovery in business confidence. While it is anticipated that businesses will be more likely to hire in the post-war period, the timing for such a move is uncertain. Businesses remain remarkably cautious and do not appear to be willing to hire until they can see the whites of the recovery's eyes. The recent decline in manufacturing activity along with the sustained high level of unemployment insurance claims indicates that labor markets are still contracting. The rebound in labor markets will clearly lag nearly all indicators of a recovery. For the Olympia PMSA, news of the labor market recovery could come like the long awaited cavalry that saves the final scene. The question will be how long the troops can hold out against the impending Tumwater Brewery layoffs and state budget cuts that are surrounding the fort.

Washington State

Labor Area Summary

Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA

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

HIGHLIGHTS

March's labor market situation continued to be fairly weak for the three-county Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA. The remainder of the year, however, will show some improvement for job-seekers and businesses alike.

Unemployment:

The **unemployment rate** for the combined King, Snohomish and Island Counties fell only very slightly, from 6.7 percent in February to March's 6.6 percent. But unemployment remained lower than year-ago levels by 0.5 percentage points. Still, 6.7 percent is much higher than March of 2001 when only 4.6 percent of the labor force was jobless.

King County, at 6.4 percent unemployment, came in a bit lower than the larger Seattle-Bellevue-Everett region, because of the higher jobless rate is Snohomish County (7.4 percent). That divergence within the PMSA is typical of workforce trends for the two counties within the larger Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA. Island County's jobless rate was 6.1 percent in March, compared with 6.4 percent for March of 2002.

Industry Employment:

Weak seasonal hiring in March by area employers resulted in a net over-the-month increase of only 1,000 jobs in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA—much less than would be typical for the month in years past.

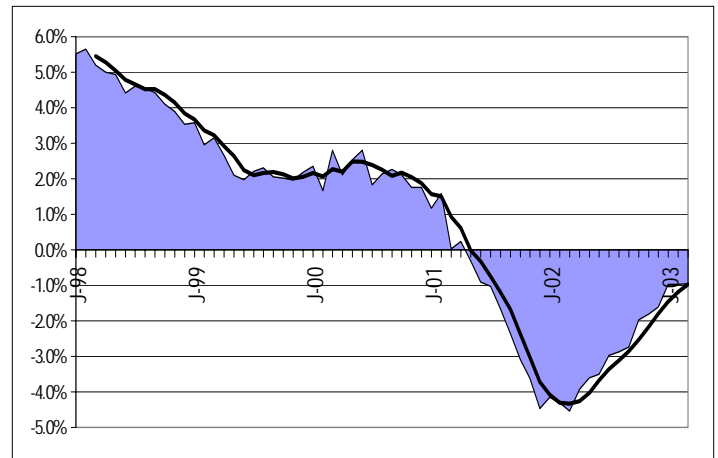
Construction added 300 spots, non-durable manufacturing also increased by 300 jobs, but durable-goods manufacturing dropped by 900. Aerospace products and parts, driven mainly by layoffs at the Boeing Company, accounted for 700 of those 900 job losses. Weakness could be seen in slight employment declines in related manufacturing industries such as navigation, measuring, electromedical and control instruments category, as well as in computer and electronic product manufacturing.

Trade and transportation were anemic, as wholesale trade added 600 jobs but retail trade remained virtually flat at plus 100. Transportation, warehousing and utilities were exactly unchanged in employment over the month.

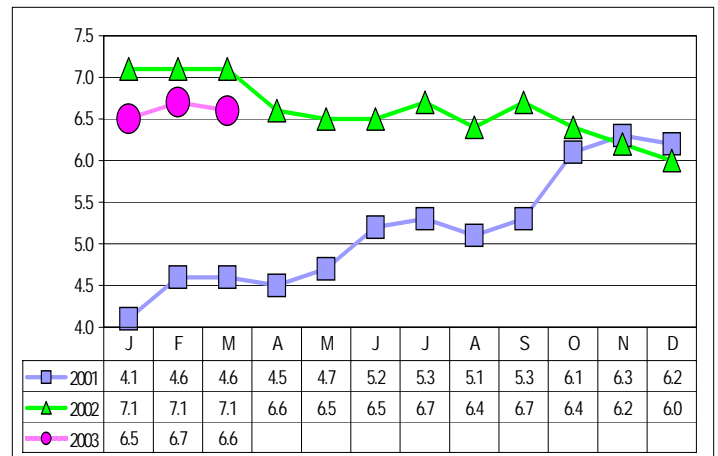
The **remainder** of the broad services-providing arena was only slightly positive. Jobs were added in small numbers of a few hundred here and there in professional and business services, administrative and support services, education and health services, and in the leisure and hospitality industries.

Over-the-year employment losses in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA registered minus -12,900 in March 2003 relative to March 2002.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



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

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Revised Feb-02	Change			
					Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Feb-02 Mar-02	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	1,332.0	1,331.0	1,344.9	1,344.2	1.0	-12.9	0.7	-1.0%
TOTAL PRIVATE	1,128.2	1,126.3	1,142.8	1,141.8	1.9	-14.6	1.0	-1.3%
GOODS PRODUCING	228.3	228.5	245.1	246.0	-0.2	-16.8	-0.9	-6.9%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.6	0.1	-0.3	0.1	-17.6%
CONSTRUCTION	73.3	73.0	74.9	74.8	0.3	-1.6	0.1	-2.1%
Construction of Buildings	18.6	18.7	20.3	20.4	-0.1	-1.7	-0.1	-8.4%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	7.2	7.3	7.6	8.0	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4	-5.3%
Specialty Trade Contractors	47.5	47.0	47.0	46.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.1%
MANUFACTURING	153.6	154.2	168.5	169.6	-0.6	-14.9	-1.1	-8.8%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	122.0	122.9	135.5	136.7	-0.9	-13.5	-1.2	-10.0%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	8.6	8.6	9.1	9.1	0.0	-0.5	0.0	-5.5%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	16.0	16.3	17.4	17.6	-0.3	-1.4	-0.2	-8.0%
Navigation, Measuring, Electromed. & Control	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.5	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	-3.2%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	70.9	71.5	80.8	81.9	-0.6	-9.9	-1.1	-12.3%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg	65.9	66.6	75.9	77.2	-0.7	-10.0	-1.3	-13.2%
Non Durable Goods Manufacturing	31.6	31.3	33.0	32.9	0.3	-1.4	0.1	-4.2%
Food Manufacturing	11.1	11.0	11.6	11.6	0.1	-0.5	0.0	-4.3%
SERVICE PROVIDING	1,103.7	1,102.5	1,099.8	1,098.2	1.2	3.9	1.6	0.4%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	258.3	257.6	260.6	261.4	0.7	-2.3	-0.8	-0.9%
Wholesale Trade	69.4	68.8	69.9	70.0	0.6	-0.5	-0.1	-0.7%
Retail Trade	139.1	139.0	141.1	141.1	0.1	-2.0	0.0	-1.4%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	16.7	16.6	17.2	17.1	0.1	-0.5	0.1	-2.9%
Food and Beverage Stores	26.9	27.0	27.7	27.7	-0.1	-0.8	0.0	-2.9%
Health and Personal Care Stores	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.1	0.0	-0.2	0.1	-2.8%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	14.1	14.0	13.6	13.7	0.1	0.5	-0.1	3.7%
General Merchandise Stores	18.0	18.2	18.4	18.5	-0.2	-0.4	-0.1	-2.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	49.8	49.8	49.6	50.3	0.0	0.2	-0.7	0.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	47.3	47.3	46.9	47.5	0.0	0.4	-0.6	0.9%
Air Transportation	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.9	0.0	0.0	-0.4	0.0%
Water Transportation	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	11.5%
Truck Transportation	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.9	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.5%
Support Activities for Transportation	10.5	10.4	9.9	10.0	0.1	0.6	-0.1	6.1%
Support Activities for Water Transportation	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-4.2%
Warehousing and Storage	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-3.2%
INFORMATION	73.3	73.4	73.2	73.4	-0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.1%
Newspaper, Book and Directory Publishers	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Software Publishers	35.4	35.4	34.4	34.4	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.9%
Broadcasting, except Internet	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Telecommunications	19.8	19.9	21.6	21.8	-0.1	-1.8	-0.2	-8.3%
Wired Telecommunications Carriers	6.0	6.0	7.1	7.1	0.0	-1.1	0.0	-15.5%
Wireless Telecommunications Carriers	10.5	10.5	11.0	11.1	0.0	-0.5	-0.1	-4.5%

Continued on page 11

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

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Revised Feb-02	Change			
					Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Feb-02 Mar-02	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	89.4	89.3	88.2	87.9	0.1	1.2	0.3	1.4%
Finance and Insurance	61.6	61.6	61.1	60.8	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.8%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	26.6	26.6	26.0	25.8	0.0	0.6	0.2	2.3%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	26.6	26.6	26.5	26.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4%
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	27.8	27.7	27.1	27.1	0.1	0.7	0.0	2.6%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	177.9	177.3	177.7	177.3	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	88.7	88.6	89.8	89.9	0.1	-1.1	-0.1	-1.2%
Legal Services	13.1	13.0	13.0	12.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8%
Accounting, Tax Prep, Bookkeeping & Payroll	9.9	9.9	10.7	10.6	0.0	-0.8	0.1	-7.5%
Architectural, Engineering and Related Serv	18.2	18.3	18.3	18.4	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.5%
Computer Systems Design and Related Serv	16.8	16.7	18.4	18.5	0.1	-1.6	-0.1	-8.7%
MGMT OF COMPANIES and ENTERPRISES	22.6	22.6	22.5	22.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4%
ADMIN, SUPPORT, WASTE MGMT and REMED.	66.6	66.1	65.4	64.9	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.8%
Administrative and Support Services	63.8	63.2	62.5	61.9	0.6	1.3	0.6	2.1%
Employment Services	26.7	26.5	25.6	25.6	0.2	1.1	0.0	4.3%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	137.8	137.5	135.9	135.6	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.4%
Educational Services	21.6	21.6	22.2	22.3	0.0	-0.6	-0.1	-2.7%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	47.5	47.4	46.5	46.2	0.1	1.0	0.3	2.2%
Hospitals	27.0	26.9	26.5	26.4	0.1	0.5	0.1	1.9%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	20.6	20.6	20.2	20.3	0.0	0.4	-0.1	2.0%
Social Assistance	21.1	21.0	20.5	20.4	0.1	0.6	0.1	2.9%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	114.4	114.1	115.6	113.9	0.3	-1.2	1.7	-1.0%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	19.6	19.4	21.1	20.7	0.2	-1.5	0.4	-7.1%
Accommodation	12.2	12.1	12.4	12.3	0.1	-0.2	0.1	-1.6%
Food Services and Drinking Places	82.6	82.6	82.1	80.9	0.0	0.5	1.2	0.6%
OTHER SERVICES	48.8	48.6	46.5	46.3	0.2	2.3	0.2	4.9%
Repair and Maintenance	13.8	13.8	13.5	13.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	2.2%
Personal and Laundry Services	13.4	13.3	13.4	13.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Prof. and Similar	21.6	21.5	19.6	19.5	0.1	2.0	0.1	10.2%
GOVERNMENT	203.8	204.7	202.1	202.4	-0.9	1.7	-0.3	0.8%
Federal Government	25.5	25.5	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.0%
Total State Government	61.0	60.5	60.5	60.2	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.8%
State Government Educational Services	44.3	43.9	43.7	43.4	0.4	0.6	0.3	1.4%
Total Local Government	117.3	118.7	116.6	117.2	-1.4	0.7	-0.6	0.6%
Local Government Educational Services	53.6	53.2	51.8	51.6	0.4	1.8	0.2	3.5%
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 in cooperation with the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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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 N., Bldg-B, Everett, WA 98201, (425) 339-4354

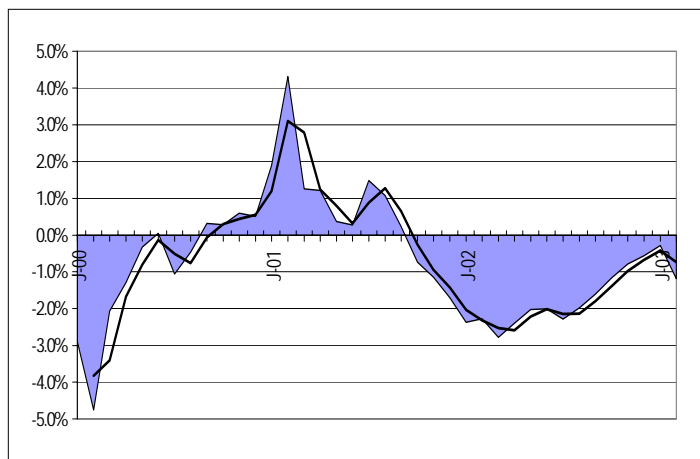
HIGHLIGHTS

The unemployment rate in Snohomish County dropped 1/10th of a percentage point to 7.4 percent in March, matching the state unadjusted rate. In spite of continued layoffs, primarily in Aerospace Products and Parts, the unemployment rate has hovered in the mid-to-low sevens since peaking out at 8.1 percent in February of 2002.

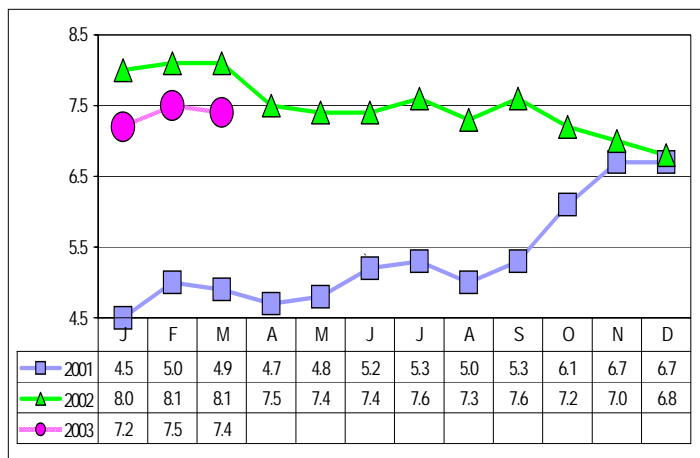
The economic landscape remained fairly flat over the month, with small gains in some areas canceling out small losses in others. There was, however, a net gain of 200, which brought the non-farm job total up to 208,200. Increases tended to follow seasonal patterns, such as Construction gaining 200 jobs. Building material and garden supply stores also gained 200. Government gained 300 jobs, with 200 of that in Local Education. "Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers," "Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing," "Employment Services" and "Educational and Health Services" each gained 100 jobs.

Over-the-year figures also showed a mixture of gains and losses, however, there was a net loss of 2,400 jobs. Manufacturing was down by 3,200 jobs and Aerospace Product and Parts fell by 3,500 over the year. Retail Trade was off by 1,100 jobs and Information was down by 300. On the plus side, Financial Activities gained 1000, with a gain of 800 in Finance and Insurance, and a gain of 200 in Real Estate, Rental and Leasing. Professional and Business Services rose by 900, and Employment Services rose by 1000. Local Education rose by 500 jobs, pushing up Local Government by 300.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Snohomish County

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	208.2	208.0	210.6	0.2	-2.4	-1.2%
TOTAL PRIVATE	173.0	173.2	175.7	-0.2	-2.7	-1.5%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	61.4	61.2	64.1	0.2	-2.7	-4.3%
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	146.8	146.8	146.4	0.0	0.3	0.2%
CONSTRUCTION	17.8	17.6	17.3	0.2	0.5	2.8%
Construction of Buildings	3.2	3.3	3.1	-0.1	0.1	4.8%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2.0	2.0	1.8	0.0	0.3	15.0%
Specialty Trade Contractors	11.9	11.9	11.9	0.1	0.0	0.1%
MANUFACTURING	43.6	43.7	46.9	0.0	-3.2	-6.9%
Durable Goods	39.1	39.1	42.3	0.0	-3.2	-7.5%
Wood Product Manufacturing	2.0	1.9	1.9	0.1	0.1	2.9%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.1	0.0	0.7%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	5.1	5.2	5.8	-0.1	-0.8	-13.0%
Electronic Instrument Manufacturing	3.4	3.4	3.6	-0.1	-0.2	-6.0%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	24.7	25.1	28.1	-0.4	-3.4	-12.0%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg	23.5	23.7	27.0	-0.2	-3.5	-12.9%
Non-Durable Goods	4.5	4.6	4.6	0.0	0.0	-0.8%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	34.0	34.2	35.3	-0.2	-1.3	-3.7%
Wholesale Trade	6.0	5.9	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.8%
Retail Trade	25.3	25.5	26.4	-0.2	-1.1	-4.2%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	4.2	4.1	4.2	0.1	0.0	-0.2%
Building Material and Garden Supply Stores	2.9	2.6	2.5	0.2	0.3	13.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	5.4	5.4	5.6	0.0	-0.2	-3.5%
Health and Personal Care Stores	1.6	1.7	1.7	0.0	-0.1	-5.1%
General Merchandise Stores	3.7	3.8	4.4	-0.1	-0.7	-15.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2.7	2.8	3.0	-0.1	-0.3	-8.4%
INFORMATION	3.5	3.5	3.8	0.0	-0.3	-6.9%
Telecommunications	1.7	1.7	1.9	0.0	-0.2	-8.8%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	11.8	11.7	10.8	0.0	1.0	9.0%
Finance and Insurance	8.7	8.7	7.9	0.0	0.8	10.1%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	3.3	3.4	2.9	0.0	0.4	13.4%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	4.9	4.9	4.5	0.0	0.4	8.1%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	3.1	2.9	2.9	0.1	0.2	6.2%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	16.3	16.3	15.4	0.0	0.9	6.1%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	6.9	7.1	7.0	-0.2	-0.1	-1.2%
Architectural, Engineering and Related Serv	1.6	1.8	1.9	-0.2	-0.3	-13.6%
Admin, Support, Waste Man and Remed Serv	8.1	7.9	7.1	0.2	0.9	12.6%
Employment Services	3.2	3.1	2.2	0.1	1.0	44.4%

Continued on page 14

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Snohomish County

Continued from page 13

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
EDUCATIONAL and HEALTH SERVICES	20.5	20.5	20.4	0.1	0.2	0.8%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	8.6	8.6	8.6	0.0	0.0	0.4%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	4.5	4.4	4.2	0.0	0.3	7.1%
Social Assistance	3.2	3.1	3.0	0.1	0.2	7.3%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	17.6	17.7	17.6	-0.2	0.0	0.0%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2.6	2.6	2.7	0.0	-0.1	-4.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	15.0	15.2	14.9	-0.2	0.2	1.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	14.3	14.5	14.1	-0.2	0.2	1.5%
OTHER SERVICES	7.9	8.0	8.3	-0.1	-0.4	-4.9%
Repair and Maintenance	2.1	2.2	2.4	0.0	-0.2	-9.8%
Personal and Laundry Services	2.0	2.1	2.2	-0.1	-0.2	-9.1%
Membership Associations and Organizations	3.8	3.9	3.8	0.0	0.1	1.6%
GOVERNMENT	35.2	34.8	34.9	0.3	0.2	0.7%
Federal Government	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.3%
State Government	5.3	5.2	5.3	0.0	-0.1	-1.6%
State Educational Services	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.1	2.8%
Local Government	27.7	27.4	27.4	0.3	0.3	1.2%
Local Educational Services	14.8	14.6	14.3	0.2	0.5	3.3%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

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

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Spokane MSA

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, 605 Woodland Square Loop, Olympia WA 98507-9046 (360) 438-4800

HIGHLIGHTS

Despite unseasonable snow falls and the war with Iraq, spring has finally sprung.

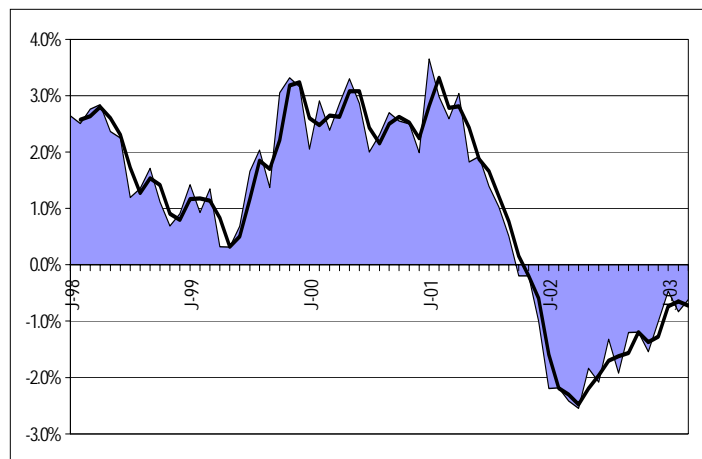
Although minus 1,200 jobs from a year ago, the Spokane MSA showed a substantial over-the-month gain: 1,300 new jobs, with Goods Producing claiming 600, and Service Providing adding 700. Not one industry listing had an over-the-month minus stuck in front of its number. Granted, quite a few sectors neither rose nor fell, like Management of Companies and Enterprises, Leisure and Hospitality, and Other Services, but no ground lost is good, too.

Indeed, March 2003 looked far more optimistic than a year ago. Back then, the local economy had 17,000 job-seekers and 197,200 working. This March, 14,800 were looking and 199,100 were employed. That means the unemployment rate dropped 0.6 of a percent over the month (7.5 to 6.9), and a full point lower than the 7.9 posted for March 2002.

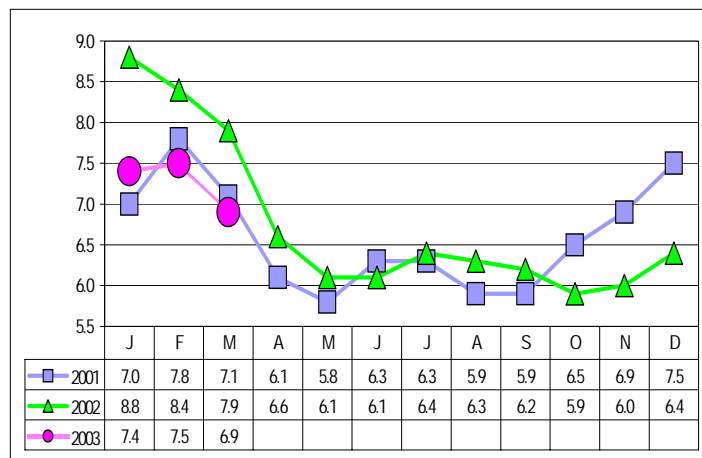
As expected, the Natural Resources and Construction sector snagged the gold star for adding 500 employees between February and March—700 more than a year ago. Professional and Business Services followed suit with 200 monthly and 400 yearly jobs. Also making solid over-the-year gains were Financial Activities at 600, and Education and Health Services at 400.

The economic outlook is steadily improving, and should get even better as spring and summer progress in the Spokane MSA.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



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

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Revised Feb-02	Change			
					Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Feb-02 Mar-02	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	192.2	190.9	193.4	192.5	1.3	-1.2	0.9	-0.6%
TOTAL PRIVATE	158.0	156.8	159.0	158.1	1.2	-1.0	0.9	-0.6%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	26.3	25.7	26.8	26.6	0.6	-0.5	0.2	-1.9%
NATURAL RESOURCES and CONSTRUCTION	9.9	9.4	9.2	9.0	0.5	0.7	0.2	7.6%
MANUFACTURING	16.4	16.3	17.6	17.6	0.1	-1.2	0.0	-6.8%
Durable Goods	12.8	12.7	13.6	13.5	0.1	-0.8	0.1	-5.9%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.2	0.1	-0.3	0.1	-9.1%
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	165.9	165.2	166.6	165.9	0.7	-0.7	0.7	-0.4%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	39.9	39.8	40.1	40.1	0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.5%
Wholesale Trade	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.6	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.1%
Retail Trade	24.1	24.1	24.8	24.7	0.0	-0.7	0.1	-2.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.1	0.1	-0.3	0.1	-7.1%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	5.2%
INFORMATION	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.0	0.1	-0.2	0.0	-6.7%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	12.2	12.1	11.6	11.7	0.1	0.6	-0.1	5.2%
Finance and Insurance	8.9	8.9	8.6	8.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	3.5%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	18.7	18.5	18.3	18.0	0.2	0.4	0.3	2.2%
MGMT OF COMPANIES and ENTERPRISES	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	32.1	32.0	31.7	31.4	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.3%
Health and Social Assistance	27.6	27.5	27.3	27.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.1%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10.3	10.3	10.1	10.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.0%
Hospitals	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.0	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-1.2%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	17.5	17.5	18.0	17.9	0.0	-0.5	0.1	-2.8%
Food Services and Drinking Places	12.8	12.8	13.2	13.1	0.0	-0.4	0.1	-3.0%
OTHER SERVICES	8.5	8.5	9.5	9.4	0.0	-1.0	0.1	-10.5%
GOVERNMENT	34.2	34.1	34.4	34.4	0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.6%
Federal Government	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.3%
Total State Government	11.1	11.1	11.0	11.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.9%
State Government Educational Services	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
Total Local Government	18.6	18.5	19.0	18.9	0.1	-0.4	0.1	-2.1%
Local Government Educational Services	11.4	11.3	11.6	11.5	0.1	-0.2	0.1	-1.7%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture.

Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Columns may not add due to rounding. Prepared in cooperation with the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Washington State Labor Area Summary Tacoma PMSA

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

HIGHLIGHTS

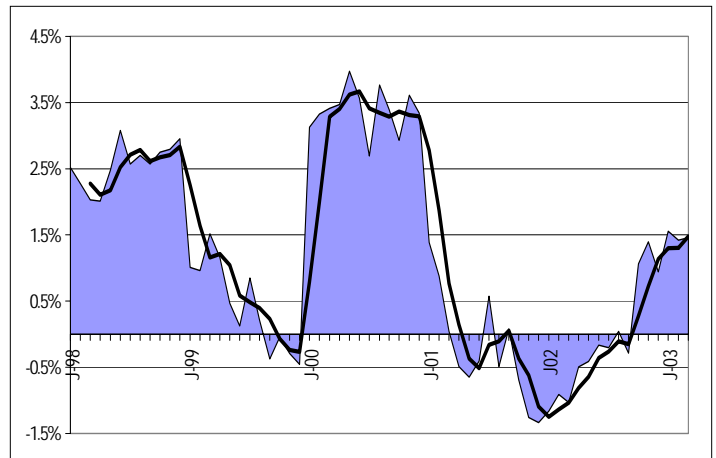
The Pierce County unemployment rate continues to be a tick above the statewide rate of 7.4 percent, coming in for March at 7.5 per cent. The county unemployment rate is 1.3 points above the comparable rate for the U.S. of 6.2 percent. The normal seasonal changes expected with the onset of spring have not arrived (as of yet) in March.

Anticipation of Operation Iraqi Freedom appears to have held back growth in the national economy, with the effect mirrored in Pierce County, but the swift end of the combat phase of operations in Iraq may result in a return to growth in the local economy. On the other hand, the emergence of the *Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)* epidemic in China may, to a lesser extent, slow economic growth related to the Asian economies and international trade.

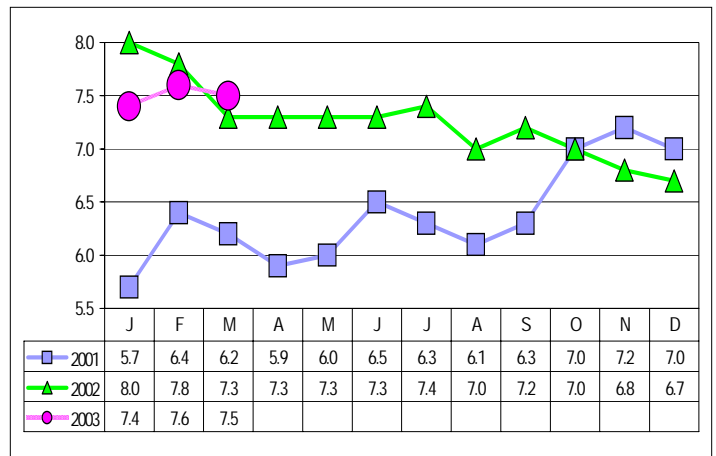
The improvement in Pierce County's place of work employment since January 2002 has stopped for the time being. Over the year, nonagricultural wage and salary employment was up by 3,500 jobs. There was a slight gain month-to-month of 1,200 jobs. Place of work employment in Pierce County for March was 243,700 jobs.

It should be noted that Pierce County is also identified as the *Tacoma Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (Tacoma PMSA)*. Metropolitan statistical areas (except in New England) are always composed of one or more counties. The Tacoma PMSA is a part of the larger *Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA)*, which is composed of Thurston, Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap, King and Island counties.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



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

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Revised Feb02	Change			
					Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Feb-02 Mar-02	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	243.7	242.5	240.2	239.1	1.2	3.5	1.1	1.5%
TOTAL PRIVATE	190.4	189.4	187.5	186.5	1.0	2.9	1.0	1.5%
GOODS PRODUCING	34.9	34.8	35.4	35.7	0.1	-0.5	-0.3	-1.4%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	15.6	15.4	15.0	15.2	0.2	0.6	-0.2	4.0%
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.0	9.7	9.2	9.3	0.3	0.8	-0.1	8.7%
MANUFACTURING	18.7	18.8	19.8	19.9	-0.1	-1.1	-0.1	-5.6%
Durable Goods	12.2	12.2	12.6	12.7	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-3.2%
Non-Durable Goods	6.5	6.6	7.2	7.2	-0.1	-0.7	0.0	-9.7%
SERVICE PROVIDING	208.8	207.7	204.8	203.4	1.1	4.0	1.4	2.0%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	46.6	46.5	45.9	45.6	0.1	0.7	0.3	1.5%
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.1	9.1	8.9	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0%
Retail Trade	28.7	28.7	28.2	28.1	0.0	0.5	0.1	1.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.6	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	-3.6%
General Merchandise Stores	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.9%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	0.1	0.2	0.0	2.3%
INFORMATION	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.2	0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-6.5%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	13.0	12.9	12.7	12.7	0.1	0.3	0.0	2.4%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	20.4	20.1	18.8	18.5	0.3	1.6	0.3	8.5%
ADMIN, SUPPORT, WASTE MGMT & REMED.	11.3	11.1	10.1	9.8	0.2	1.2	0.3	11.9%
Administrative and Support Services	10.5	10.3	9.3	9.0	0.2	1.2	0.3	12.9%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	37.4	37.2	37.2	36.8	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	12.3	12.2	11.9	11.8	0.1	0.4	0.1	3.4%
Hospitals	8.2	8.2	7.7	7.7	0.0	0.5	0.0	6.5%
Social Assistance	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	24.0	23.9	23.0	22.7	0.1	1.0	0.3	4.3%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	4.1	4.1	3.7	3.6	0.0	0.4	0.1	10.8%
Food Services and Drinking Places	18.3	18.3	17.9	17.8	0.0	0.4	0.1	2.2%
OTHER SERVICES	11.2	11.2	11.4	11.3	0.0	-0.2	0.1	-1.8%
GOVERNMENT	53.3	53.1	52.7	52.6	0.2	0.6	0.1	1.1%
Federal Government	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.5	0.0	0.2	0.1	2.1%
Total State Government	11.6	11.5	11.4	11.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	1.8%
State Government Educational Services	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.6%
Total Local Government	31.9	31.8	31.7	31.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.6%
Local Government Educational Services	17.8	17.7	18.3	18.3	0.1	-0.5	0.0	-2.7%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%

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

Columns may not add due to rounding. Prepared in cooperation with the U S Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State Labor Area Summary Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA

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

HIGHLIGHTS

The Tri-Cities economy continues to flourish adding on 2,800 new nonfarm jobs since March of 2002.

From February to March, 800 jobs were added and three-quarters of them were in the private sector relative to government jobs. Jobs at Hanford continue to be the driving force behind the expansion. At Hanford, all is not well as new jobs with the vitrification project slightly outpaced declines with other Department of Energy contractors at the reservation.

This mixed movement of Hanford job gains and losses pushed the number of persons drawing unemployment benefits in Benton County to be twelve percent higher at the end of March of 2003 relative to March of last year. Much of the increase was with well-skilled professional workers.

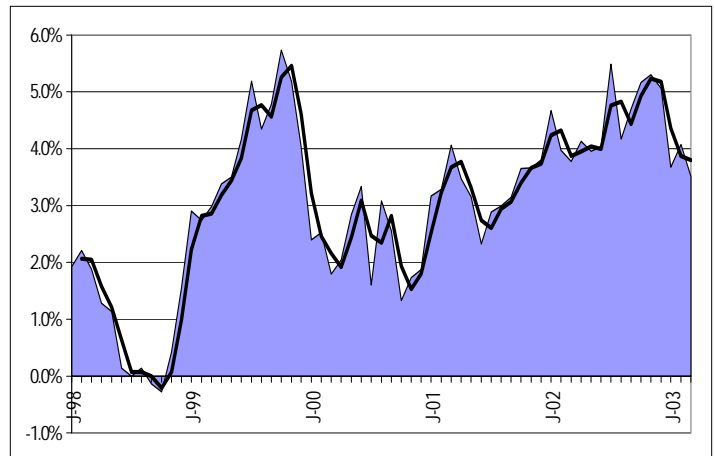
The total number of jobs associated with the Vit-plant at the end of March was 3,263. The over-the-year gain in payrolls at the project was 1,023, with a little less than half of the gain being with craft workers. Since the beginning of this year, the vast majority of the gain has been in that sector of workers.

Since March of last year, the Tri-Cities labor market has grown by 3.5 percent. The fastest growing industry has been professional, scientific and technical services, where employment with Bechtel National is tallied along with Battelle NWL.

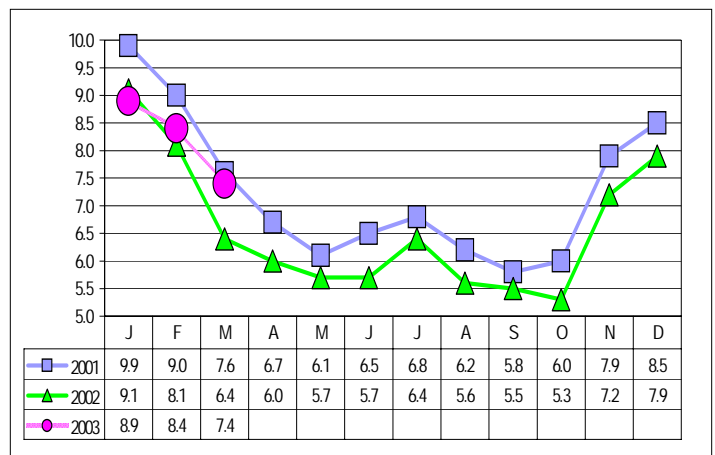
Health services have also grown prodigiously by 400 jobs or an annualized gain of 6.6 percent. Construction employment has grown by 8.7 percent, with much of the work not related to Hanford, but rather, new homes and apartments to accommodate the Hanford workers, their dependents and the workers with new secondary jobs caused by the project.

All was not positive when compared last year; employment in primary and fabricated metal products was down.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



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

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	82,500	81,700	79,700	800	2,800	3.5%
TOTAL PRIVATE	66,900	66,300	64,600	600	2,300	3.6%
GOODS PRODUCING	10,500	10,200	10,200	300	300	2.9%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	5,000	4,800	4,600	200	400	8.7%
MANUFACTURING	5,500	5,400	5,600	100	-100	-1.8%
Food Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	3,300	0	-100	-3.0%
Chemicals and Allied Products	800	800	800	0	0	0.0%
Primary and Fabricated Metal Products	300	300	400	0	-100	-25.0%
Other Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0.0%
SERVICE PROVIDING	72,000	71,500	69,500	500	2,500	3.6%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	13,600	13,500	13,100	100	500	3.8%
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,000	2,100	100	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	10,100	10,000	9,600	100	500	5.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0	0.0%
INFORMATION	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0.0%
FINANCE, INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE	3,000	2,900	2,900	100	100	3.4%
SERVICES	38,800	38,800	37,400	0	1,400	3.7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	10,300	10,400	9,200	-100	1,100	12.0%
Health Services	6,500	6,500	6,100	0	400	6.6%
Waste Treatment	9,600	9,600	9,800	0	-200	-2.0%
GOVERNMENT	15,600	15,300	15,100	300	500	3.3%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,300	0	100	7.7%
State and Local Government	14,200	13,900	13,800	300	400	2.9%
Educational Services	7,600	7,400	7,300	200	300	4.1%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

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

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State Labor Area Summary Clark County

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Scott Bailey, *Regional Labor Economist*, 5411 E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661, (360) 735-5043

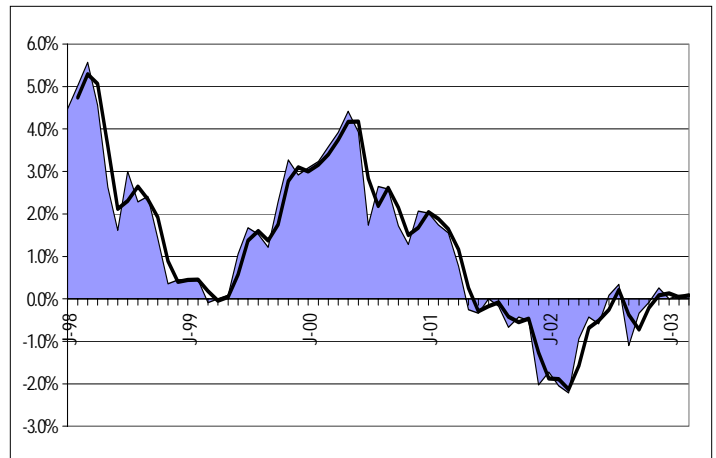
HIGHLIGHTS

For a change, there is some good news for the region. Two new distribution centers will be built along the I-5 corridor over the next year, each to employ in the neighborhood of 100 workers. Dollar Tree will construct a facility in Ridgefield, while Home Depot will lay its foundation in Woodland. Economic development officials in both Clark and Cowlitz counties hinted that more announcements are in the pipeline.

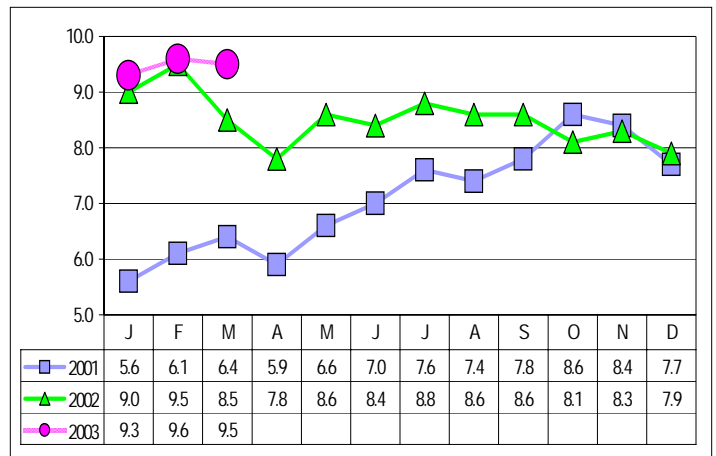
Unemployment was essentially unchanged in Clark County in March, improving just a tenth of a point to 9.5 percent. This was a point higher than a year ago. An estimated 17,700 county residents were seeking employment.

Nonfarm employment increased by 400 jobs to a total of 115,100. Gains were an inch deep spread across a number of industries. Over-the-year employment was up a scant 100 jobs. Health care (+500), K-12 education (+500), and social services (+300) have helped keep the job market afloat. Car and car parts dealers (+200), professional & scientific services (+200), and accommodations & food services (+200) have also abetted job growth. Construction (-700) and manufacturing (-600) remain weak points.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Clark County

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	115,100	114,700	115,000	400	100	0.1%
CONSTRUCTION, MINING, UTIL. and LOGGING	9,200	9,100	9,900	100	-700	-7.1%
Construction, Mining and Utilities	9,100	9,000	9,800	100	-700	-7.1%
Logging	100	100	100	0	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	12,800	12,800	13,400	0	-600	-4.5%
Food Manufacturing	1,100	1,000	1,000	100	100	10.0%
Wood Product Manufacturing	800	800	600	0	200	33.3%
Paper Manufacturing	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100	-4.5%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	700	700	800	0	-100	-12.5%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0.0%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,300	1,200	1,100	100	200	18.2%
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,500	0	-400	-11.4%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	500	600	600	-100	-100	-16.7%
Other Manufacturing	2,100	2,200	2,500	-100	-400	-16.0%
WHOLESALE TRADE	4,100	4,100	4,200	0	-100	-2.4%
RETAIL TRADE	12,900	12,900	12,700	0	200	1.6%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	1,900	1,900	1,700	0	200	11.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	2,900	3,000	2,900	-100	0	0.0%
Health and Personal Care Stores	800	800	800	0	0	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	2,800	2,700	2,700	100	100	3.7%
Other Retail	4,500	4,500	4,600	0	-100	-2.2%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	3,200	3,100	3,300	100	-100	-3.0%
INFORMATION	2,800	2,900	2,900	-100	-100	-3.4%
FINANCE and INSURANCE	3,200	3,300	3,100	-100	100	3.2%
REAL ESTATE, RENTAL and LEASING	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	100	4.5%
PROF., SCIENTIFIC and TECHNICAL SERVICES	6,200	6,200	6,000	0	200	3.3%
ADMIN., SUPPORT and WASTE MGMT.	5,100	5,000	5,000	100	100	2.0%
EDUCATION SERVICES	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0.0%
HEALTH CARE and SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	13,700	13,700	12,900	0	800	6.2%
Social Assistance	2,300	2,300	2,000	0	300	15.0%
Health Services	11,400	11,400	10,900	0	500	4.6%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT and RECREATION	2,300	2,200	2,300	100	0	0.0%
ACCOMMODATION and FOOD SERVICES	9,600	9,600	9,400	0	200	2.1%
OTHER SERVICES	4,800	4,700	5,300	100	-500	-9.4%
GOVERNMENT	21,800	21,700	21,300	100	500	2.3%
Federal Government	2,500	2,500	2,700	0	-200	-7.4%
State Government	3,500	3,400	3,400	100	100	2.9%
Local Government	15,800	15,800	15,200	0	600	3.9%
K-12 Education	10,700	10,700	10,200	0	500	4.9%
Other Local Government	5,100	5,100	5,000	0	100	2.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<i>Nonfarm Employment without logging</i>	115,000	114,600	114,900	400	100	0.1%

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

www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State Labor Area Summary Yakima MSA

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Nonagricultural Employment

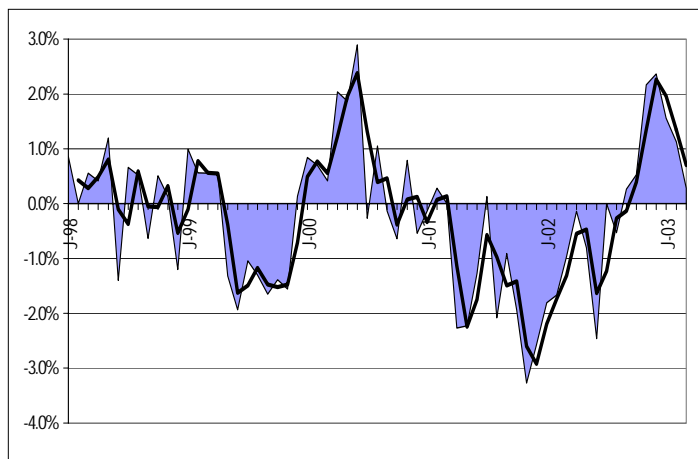
During March 2003, total nonagricultural employment in Yakima County (also called the *Yakima Metropolitan Statistical Area* or MSA) added about 600 new jobs. Most of this over-the-month upturn occurred at service businesses (+600) and construction firms (+200). Among service businesses, accommodation and food services (i.e., restaurants, taverns, and hotels etc.), took on 200 new workers while health services and social assistance hired about 100 more personnel.

An over-the-month downturn of roughly 300 jobs occurred at wholesale trade organizations (i.e., fresh fruit packinghouses). Fortunately, this loss (-300) was not large enough to derail advances in construction and services.

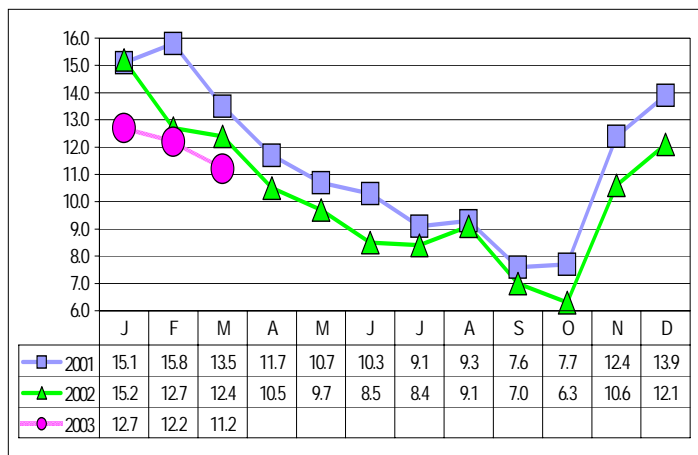
During the fourth quarter of 2002, total nonagricultural employment across Yakima County pulled solidly ahead of the fourth quarter of 2001. However, positive-but-declining job growth rates in January, February, and March of 2003 from 1.7 percent, to 1.1 percent, to 0.3 percent respectively, may indicate that the local economy is starting to run out of steam. Two recent manufacturing cutbacks will not help Yakima County's economic comeback either. As announced in *The Yakima Herald*, 75 workers were permanently laid off from Alexandria Moulding in Moxee on the 23rd of April, and 63 more employees will be laid off this June at Hi-Country Foods in Selah.

Finally, most of Yakima County's March 2002 to March 2003 job growth came from local government hiring. It rose 700 jobs over the year. Only 100 of the 700 new local government jobs were in public primary and secondary schools. The balance came from Indian tribal employment or from town, city, and county governments. It would be much better news for the local labor market if this job growth were diversified among several industries.

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



Unemployment Rates by Month 2001-2003



Continued on page 24

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in the Yakima MSA

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	72,300	71,700	72,100	600	200	0.3%
TOTAL PRIVATE	55,300	54,800	55,800	500	-500	-0.9%
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING and UTILITIES	300	300	300	0	0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	2,600	2,400	2,700	200	-100	-3.7%
MANUFACTURING	9,100	9,000	9,500	100	-400	-4.2%
Durable Goods	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	-100	-2.3%
Non-Durable Goods	4,700	4,700	5,100	0	-400	-7.8%
WHOLESALE TRADE	3,800	4,100	3,900	-300	-100	-2.6%
RETAIL TRADE	8,900	8,900	8,800	0	100	1.1%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	2,000	2,100	2,300	-100	-300	-13.0%
INFORMATION, FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4,000	3,900	3,800	100	200	5.3%
SERVICES	24,700	24,100	24,500	600	200	0.8%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	-100	-5.3%
Health Services and Social Assistance	10,700	10,600	10,500	100	200	1.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	5,400	5,200	5,100	200	300	5.9%
GOVERNMENT	17,000	16,900	16,300	100	700	4.3%
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	-100	-7.1%
State Government	3,100	3,000	3,000	100	100	3.3%
Local Government	12,600	12,500	11,900	100	700	5.9%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

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

www.workforceexplorer.com

Continued from page 23

Unemployment

Over the year, the Yakima County unemployment rate dropped from 12.4 percent to 11.2 percent. This 1.2 percent drop in the rate since March 2002 probably overstates the improvement in the local economy. Why? For an answer we must look a little bit deeper at agricultural and nonagricultural employment (which account for jobs by “place of work”) and resident labor force numbers (which estimates the number of people working by “place of residence”).

The good news for the Yakima County economy is that in March 2003, the number of “unemployed” declined to 11,600 people, which was 1,200 below the March 2002 level of 12,800.

More encouraging news; the number of “employed” Yakima County residents expanded over the year by 1,600, to an estimated 92,700 people. However, nonagricultural employment elevated by only 200 jobs in this period, and agricultural employment was estimated to have diminished by 100 jobs. If 1,600 more Yakima County residents were working in March 2003 versus March 2002, one must ask; “Where are they working?” Much of the employment growth indicated in the labor force estimates is not coming from within Yakima County. Many of the 1,600 additional residents estimated to be working this March commuted to jobs outside of the county, especially to the Tri-Cities, where numerous jobs have been created by a new \$4 billion federal environmental clean-up program.

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 Ave., Ellensburg, WA 98926-7486, (509) 963-2606

HIGHLIGHTS

Total nonagricultural employment in Chelan and Douglas counties (also called the Wenatchee Labor Market Area or LMA) expanded by 580 jobs, for a 1.7-percent lengthening of payrolls, or 34,960 jobs over the month. A major contributor to the advance was largely caused by a 200-job seasonal gain in the local construction industry. Accommodation and food services (i.e., primarily hotels and restaurants) had a good month too, as they hired 100 workers this March.

The economy in the Wenatchee LMA began to post positive over-the-year job growth rates in August 2002 and has not let up since. By March 2003, total nonagricultural employment was 880 jobs higher than in March 2002. However, durable goods manufacturing employment was down by 210 jobs. The good news is that between March 2002 and March 2003 the following industries added jobs: construction (+300), health services and social assistance (+190), local government (+150), and accommodation and food services (+140).

The local construction industry is responding to the growing demand for homes, which has been fueled by favorable interest rates. Wenatchee's Pacific Appraisal Associates (P.L.L.C.), prepares a monthly "Snapshot" report that provides updates on real estate transactions in the Wenatchee Multiple Listing Service (MLS) market area. The MLS market area includes most of Chelan and Douglas Counties, with the exception of the city of Chelan and parts of east Douglas County. According to the April 4th, 2003 "Snapshot" report, the number of homes sold in the MLS area in the first calendar quarter of 2003 increased by 13 percent, and the dollar value of these homes sold rose 17 percent above corresponding figures for the first quarter of 2002. The number of building permits also jumped from 59 in the first quarter 2002, to 76 one-year later. Thus, 2003 will likely be a good year for the local residential construction industry.

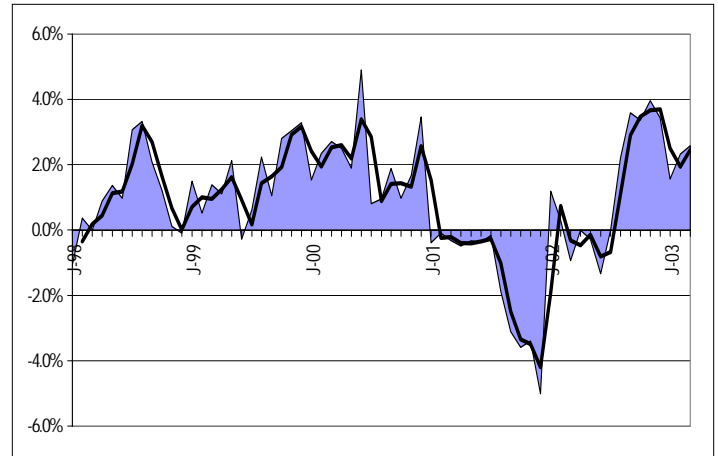
Unemployment

Over the month, the unemployment rate in Chelan and Douglas counties fell from 10.1 percent in February to 8.9 percent in March 2003. According to resident labor force estimates, the number of unemployed residents declined by 540 in March, to 4,520, and the number of employed increased by 830, to 46,050. As stated, nonagricultural employment netted 580 new jobs. Agricultural employment also began its seasonal expansion by adding an estimated 300 new jobs over the month.

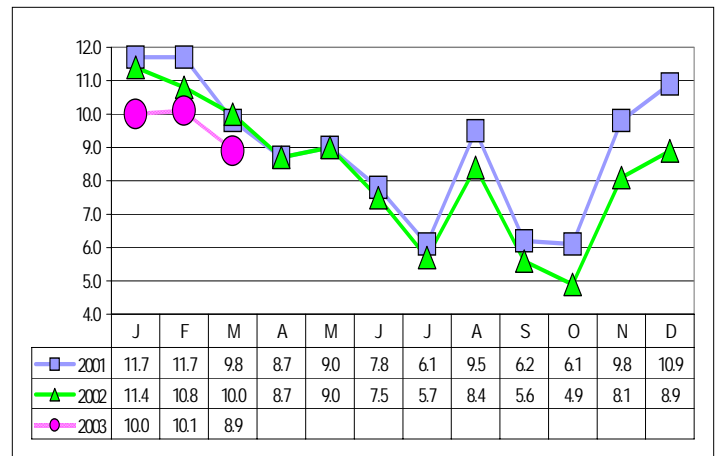
Over the year, the local unemployment rate declined, from 10.0 percent in March 2002 to the current reading of 8.9 percent. This over-the-year contraction in the rate is encouraging, since it is a lower reading than for the corresponding month in at least the two previous years. Approximately 470 fewer Chelan and Douglas Counties residents were unemployed in this March than last. Labor force estimates (i.e., based on place of "residence") indicate 1,010 more people who live in Chelan and Douglas Counties were employed in March 2003. Employment in the local labor force is currently estimated to be 46,050, which is 2.2-percent higher than the figure for March 2002. Nonagricultural employment (i.e., based on place of "work") stands at 34,960 jobs in March 2003, 2.6 percent ahead of the figure for the same month last year.

In relative terms, the local economy is looking pretty good.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



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

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	34,960	34,380	34,080	580	880	2.6%
TOTAL PRIVATE	26,490	26,100	25,830	390	660	2.6%
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING and UTILITIES	110	130	140	-20	-30	-21.4%
CONSTRUCTION	2,210	2,010	1,910	200	300	15.7%
MANUFACTURING	1,890	1,890	2,180	0	-290	-13.3%
Durable Goods	1,250	1,240	1,460	10	-210	-14.4%
Non-Durable Goods	640	650	710	-10	-70	-9.9%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,540	1,480	1,530	60	10	0.7%
RETAIL TRADE	5,820	5,860	5,680	-40	140	2.5%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	990	990	980	0	10	1.0%
INFORMATION, FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	1,940	1,940	1,900	0	40	2.1%
SERVICES	12,000	11,810	11,500	190	500	4.3%
Health Services and Social Assistance	4,920	4,930	4,730	-10	190	4.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	3,580	3,480	3,440	100	140	4.1%
GOVERNMENT	8,470	8,290	8,250	180	220	2.7%
Federal Government	870	850	820	20	50	6.1%
State Government	1,370	1,360	1,360	10	10	0.7%
Local Government	6,220	6,080	6,070	140	150	2.5%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. This and other labor market information is available on the web 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 St., Pasco, WA 99301, (509) 543-3017

HIGHLIGHTS

Total nonfarm employment advanced tepidly from February to March. The majority of the 140-job increase was from the private side of the economy. While employment totals in trade remained relatively sedentary, manufacturing, services and government did show some slight gains. In government, much of the over-the-month gain was in public education. In services, the growth was in private education and health care. The private education employment gain was mainly with student workers.

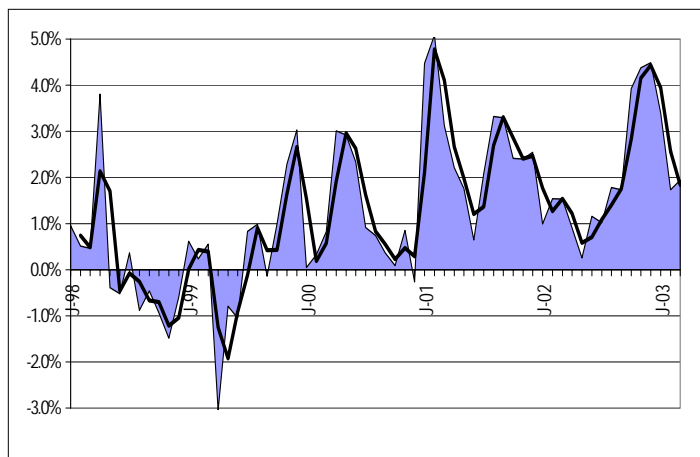
Negative changes did occur with food manufacturing and transportation. In transportation, much of the change was in the western part of the county.

Since March of last year, the Walla Walla labor market has grown by an estimated 1.9 percent, having created 450 additional nonfarm jobs. A healthy mix of the jobs was in the private sector, the remaining 140 were in the government sector.

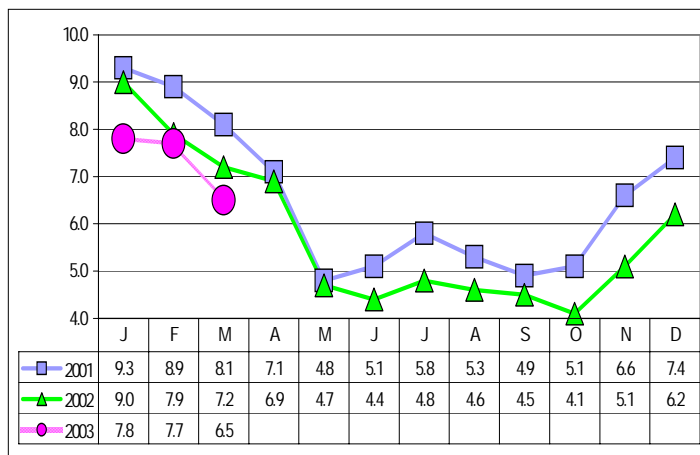
Within government, 120 of the 140 new jobs were with the local school districts and the community college. The 40 over-the-year increase in federal employment may be related to the need to add transportation security

Outside of the public sector, the best job creating engine has been in services, which grew by 150 new jobs. Of those, most were in the health care industry. Excluding the public veteran's hospital, health care now provides roughly 14 percent of all nonfarm jobs in the community.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Walla Walla County

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	23,620	23,480	23,170	140	450	1.9%
TOTAL PRIVATE	18,310	18,200	18,050	110	260	1.4%
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	4,770	4,720	4,720	50	50	1.1%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	920	900	930	20	-10	-1.1%
MANUFACTURING	3,850	3,820	3,780	30	70	1.9%
Durable Goods	1,650	1,630	1,650	20	0	0.0%
Wineries	220	190	220	30	0	0.0%
Food Manufacturing	1,980	2,010	1,920	-30	60	3.1%
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	18,840	18,760	18,460	80	380	2.1%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	3,570	3,580	3,520	-10	50	1.4%
Wholesale Trade	560	560	610	0	-50	-8.2%
Retail Trade	2,520	2,510	2,440	10	80	3.3%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	440	460	430	-20	10	2.3%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	1,350	1,360	1,340	-10	10	0.7%
SERVICES	8,620	8,540	8,470	80	150	1.8%
Educational Services	1,970	1,950	1,960	20	10	0.5%
GOVERNMENT	5,310	5,280	5,130	30	180	3.5%
Federal Government	930	930	890	0	40	4.5%
State and Local Government	4,380	4,350	4,240	30	140	3.3%
Educational Services	2,300	2,280	2,180	20	120	5.5%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

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

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Washington State Labor Area Summary Cowlitz County

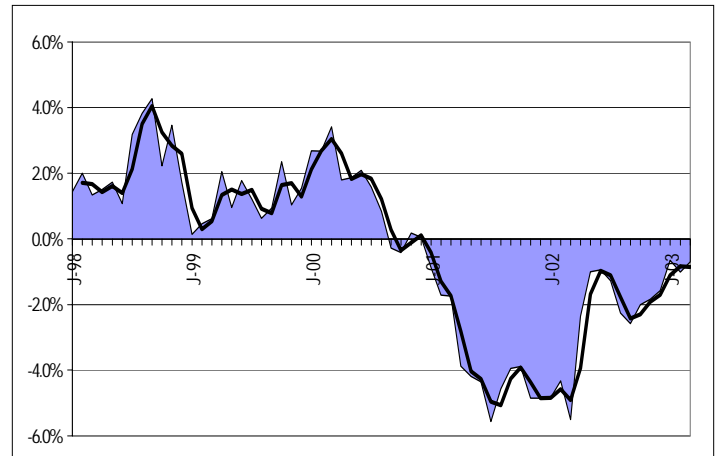
Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, Scott Bailey, *Regional Labor Economist*, 5411 E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661, (360) 735-5043

HIGHLIGHTS

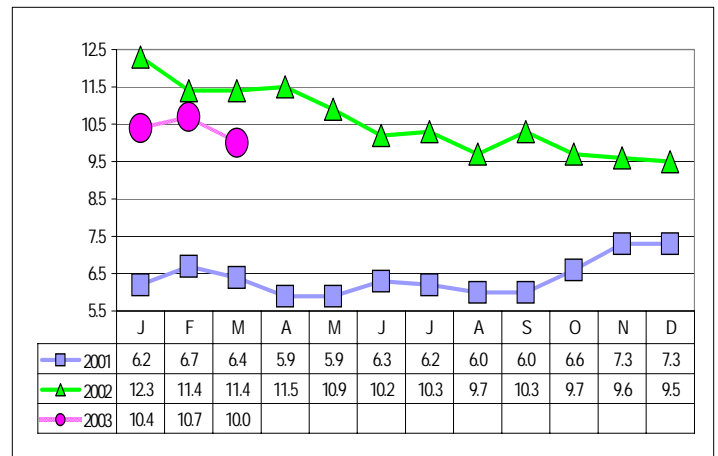
In Cowlitz County this March, the unemployment rate fell seven tenths of a point to 10.0 percent. This was substantially better than the 11.4 percent from February 2002. The number of unemployed county residents dropped slightly below the 4,000 mark.

Nonfarm employment rose by 170 jobs to 35,450. Most of the gain was in transportation & warehousing (+130). Over the year, payrolls have declined by 250 jobs (0.7 percent) due to losses in manufacturing (-430), construction (-50), and wholesale trade (-70). On the plus side, government agencies have added 130 jobs—including 90 at local schools—and retail trade is at +50.

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



**Unemployment Rates by Month
2001-2003**



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Cowlitz County

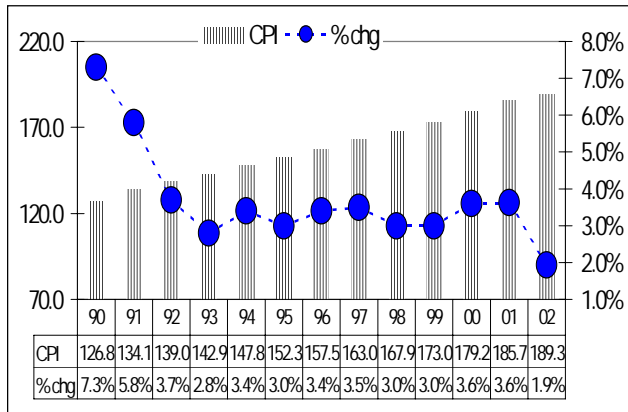
NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Mar-03	Revised Feb-03	Revised Mar-02	Change		
				Feb-03 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03	Mar-02 Mar-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	35,450	35,280	35,700	170	-250	-0.7%
CONSTRUCTION, MINING, UTIL. and LOGGING	3,040	3,060	3,090	-20	-50	-1.6%
Construction, Mining and Utilities	2,320	2,340	2,370	-20	-50	-2.1%
Logging	720	720	720	0	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	6,790	6,840	7,220	-50	-430	-6.0%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,080	1,100	1,170	-20	-90	-7.7%
Paper Manufacturing	2,870	2,920	3,080	-50	-210	-6.8%
Other Manufacturing	2,840	2,820	2,970	20	-130	-4.4%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,040	1,040	1,110	0	-70	-6.3%
RETAIL TRADE	4,200	4,190	4,150	10	50	1.2%
Food and Beverage Stores	930	940	970	-10	-40	-4.1%
General Merchandise Stores	970	960	970	10	0	0.0%
Other Retail	2,300	2,290	2,210	10	90	4.1%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	1,170	1,040	1,190	130	-20	-1.7%
FINANCE and INSURANCE	990	990	960	0	30	3.1%
ADMIN., SUPPORT and WASTE MANAGEMENT	830	800	820	30	10	1.2%
HEALTH CARE and SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	4,670	4,710	4,680	-40	-10	-0.2%
ACCOMMODATION and FOOD SERVICES	2,820	2,780	2,800	40	20	0.7%
OTHER SERVICES	3,910	3,880	3,820	30	90	2.4%
GOVERNMENT	5,990	5,950	5,860	40	130	2.2%
Federal Government	240	240	240	0	0	0.0%
State Government	1,280	1,250	1,240	30	40	3.2%
Local Government	4,470	4,460	4,380	10	90	2.1%
K-12 Education	2,820	2,830	2,730	-10	90	3.3%
Other Local Government	1,650	1,630	1,650	20	0	0.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	10	10	0	0	0	0.0%
<i>Nonfarm Employment without logging</i>	34,730	34,560	34,980	170	-250	-0.7%

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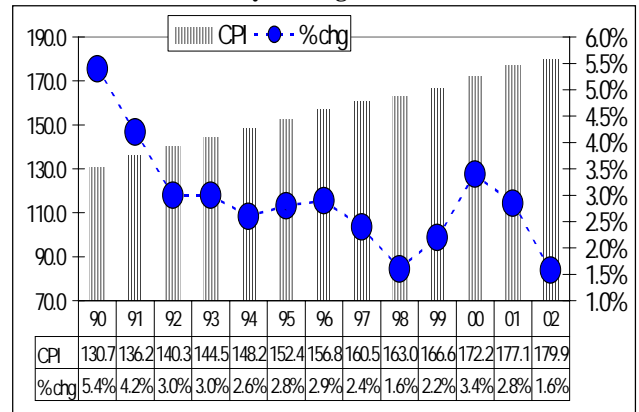
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Consumer Price Indexes

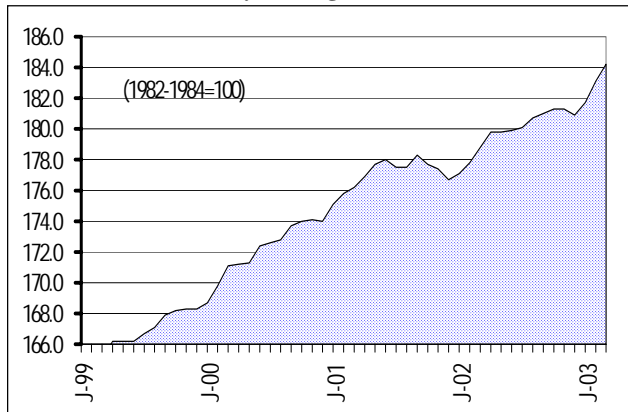
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Average 1990-2003



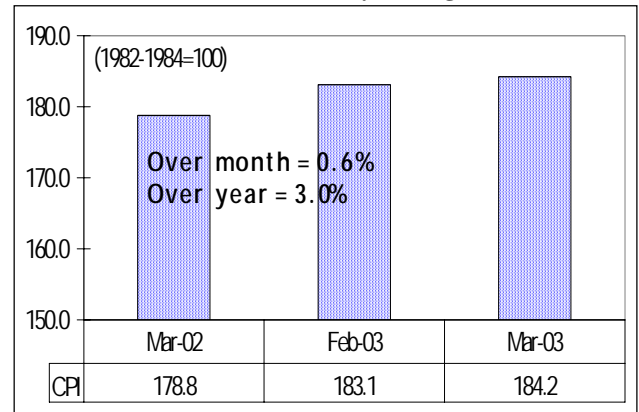
U.S. City Average 1990-2003



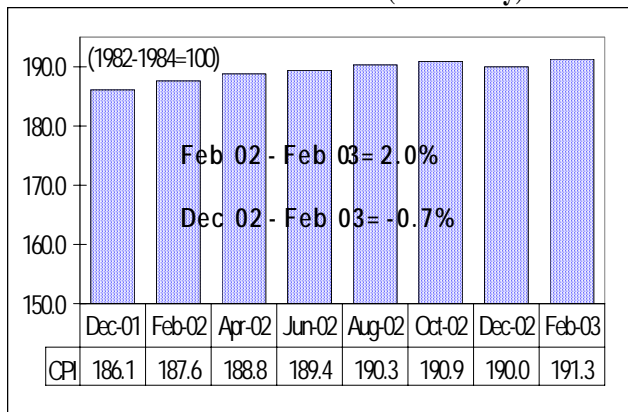
U.S. City Average 1999-2003



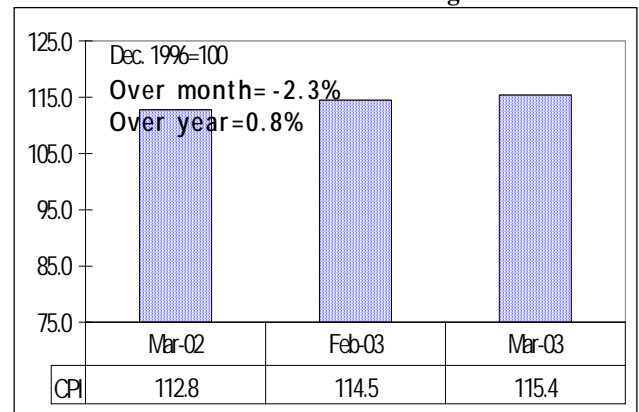
Current U.S. City Average



Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton (bi-monthly)



Current West-B/C Average



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

Technical Notes

This release is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous months are subject to revisions. Industries are classified in accord with the *North America Industrial Classification System (NAICS)*, and implemented with the release of January 2003 data. The benchmark for all estimates is March 2001. 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) 498-3152. Comments, suggestions and requests for information are also welcome at the editor's e-mail address: mcamilon@esd.wa.gov

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