

Urgent subscriber information inside...

Washington State Labor Area Summaries



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

In This Issue

Subscription Form.....	1
Bellingham MSA.....	4
Bremerton PMSA	6
Olympia PMSA	8
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA.....	10
Snohomish County	13
Spokane MSA.....	16
Tacoma PMSA	18
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA.....	20
Clark County	22
Yakima MSA.....	24
Consumer Price Indexes	32



October 2003
Volume 18, Number 10

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URGENT NOTICE!

Washington State Labor Area Summaries,

the monthly publication produced by the Washington State
Labor Market & Economic Analysis Branch,

is changing

(beginning with the *November 2003* issue).

In an effort to provide you with the most current data and to allow you quicker access to the latest information, we are going to begin posting individual labor area summaries to our website *as they become available*—and not wait for all area data to be compiled into a single publication.

Did you know...

You can already get the specific area data you need, including some narratives and charts, and print them at your convenience. But beginning with the November issue, the information will be available sooner, and will be more extensive and in-depth than was possible in the limited pages of a hardcopy publication.

However...

We currently have a list of approximately 1,500 subscribers who receive the LAS publication through the *US Postal Service*, and we will continue to print and mail monthly issues to those who indicate on the form below they still want metropolitan information in a printed form.

Please note...

We are creating a *new* subscription list.

For you to keep receiving a hardcopy (or hardcopies) of the *Washington State Labor Area Summaries*, please fill in the form below and mail it within 30 days of receipt of this issue to the address printed on the reverse of this page.

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ADDRESS: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ Number of Copies each month: _____

For labor area summaries and all your labor market information needs, visit our internet site:

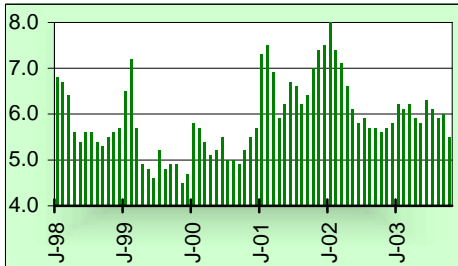
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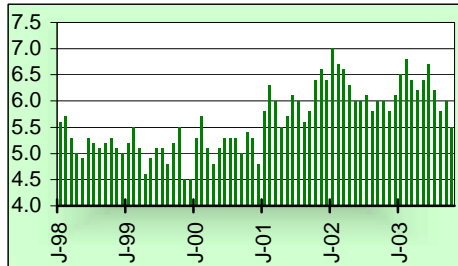
Employment Security Department
Labor Market & Economic Analysis Branch
Mail Stop 46000
PO Box 9046
Olympia WA 98507-9046

MSA Jobless Rates 1998-2003

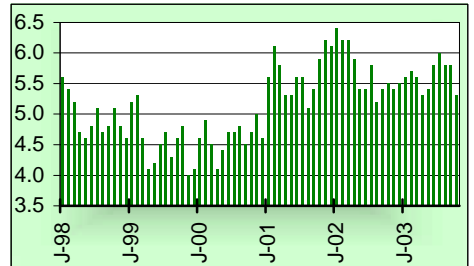
Bellingham MSA



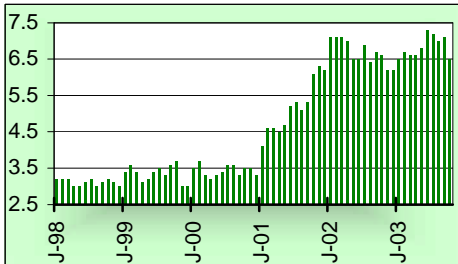
Bremerton PMSA



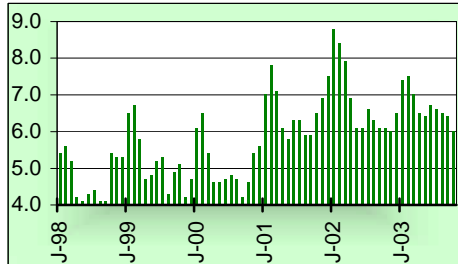
Olympia PMSA



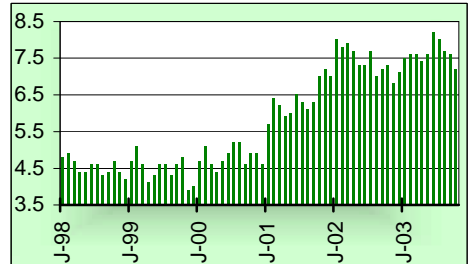
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA



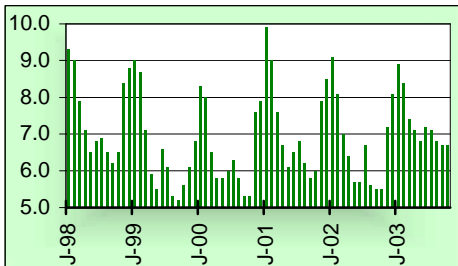
Spokane MSA



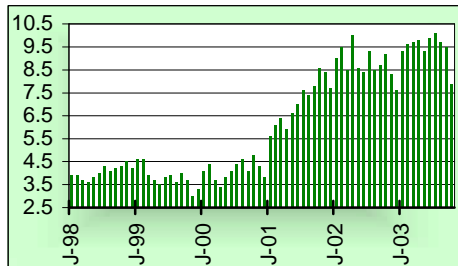
Tacoma PMSA



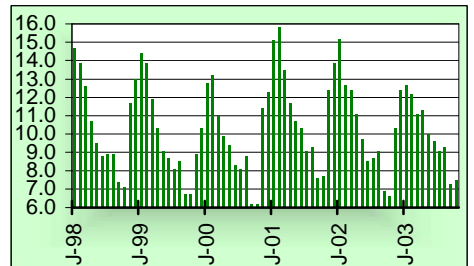
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco MSA



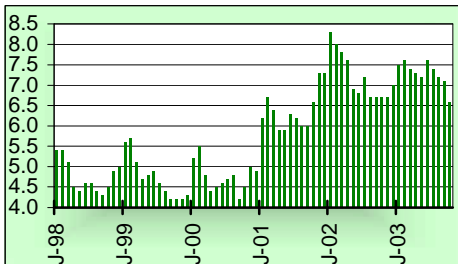
Clark County



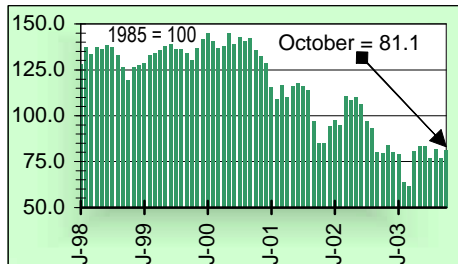
Yakima MSA



Washington State



Index of Consumer Confidence 1993-2003



Also in This Issue

- Wenatchee LMA 26
- Walla Walla County 28
- Cowlitz County 30

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

Not Seasonally Adjusted/ Benchmark: December 2002

	October 2003 Preliminary				September 2003 Revised				October 2002 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	UI Rate
Washington State Total	3,142,400	2,935,200	207,200	6.6	3,089,700	2,870,700	219,000	7.1	3,149,100	2,938,400	210,700	6.7
Bellingham MSA	88,800	83,900	4,900	5.5	84,600	79,500	5,100	6.0	85,700	80,900	4,800	5.6
Bremerton PMSA	101,800	96,200	5,600	5.5	99,400	93,500	5,900	6.0	102,200	96,100	6,100	6.0
Olympia PMSA	109,000	103,200	5,800	5.3	106,400	100,200	6,200	5.8	105,400	99,600	5,800	5.5
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA	1,391,600	1,300,600	91,000	6.5	1,369,900	1,272,800	97,100	7.1	1,403,700	1,310,800	92,900	6.6
King County 2/	1,018,100	955,500	62,600	6.1	1,001,300	935,100	66,100	6.6	1,028,300	963,000	65,200	6.3
Snohomish County 2/	345,300	318,700	26,600	7.7	340,900	311,900	29,000	8.5	347,000	321,200	25,800	7.4
Island County 2/	28,200	26,400	1,800	6.3	27,800	25,900	1,900	6.9	28,430	26,630	1,810	6.4
Spokane MSA	213,200	200,500	12,700	6.0	208,500	195,200	13,300	6.4	216,500	203,300	13,100	6.1
Tacoma PMSA	353,600	328,100	25,500	7.2	349,100	322,500	26,600	7.6	350,400	324,700	25,700	7.3
Tri-Cities MSA	105,900	98,800	7,100	6.7	104,600	97,600	7,000	6.7	105,700	99,900	5,800	5.5
Benton County 2/	80,500	75,300	5,200	6.5	79,700	74,300	5,300	6.7	80,500	76,100	4,400	5.5
Franklin County 2/	25,400	23,500	1,900	7.4	25,000	23,200	1,700	6.9	25,200	23,800	1,400	5.6
Yakima MSA	117,800	109,000	8,800	7.5	118,500	109,800	8,700	7.3	117,200	109,500	7,700	6.6
Adams	8,820	8,340	480	5.5	8,750	8,270	480	5.5	8,970	8,500	480	5.3
Asotin 2/	12,110	11,530	580	4.8	12,030	11,410	620	5.2	11,800	11,190	610	5.2
Chelan-Douglas LMA	56,980	53,500	3,480	6.1	57,090	53,460	3,620	6.3	56,990	54,080	2,910	5.1
Chelan County 2/	38,160	35,750	2,410	6.3	38,150	35,730	2,430	6.4	38,220	36,140	2,080	5.4
Douglas County 2/	18,810	17,750	1,060	5.6	18,930	17,740	1,200	6.3	18,770	17,940	830	4.4
Clallam	25,380	23,840	1,540	6.1	25,170	23,580	1,580	6.3	25,410	23,760	1,650	6.5
Clark 2/	184,000	169,500	14,500	7.9	179,400	162,400	17,000	9.5	187,900	170,700	17,200	9.2
Columbia	1,100	1,020	80	7.5	1,170	1,060	110	9.4	1,170	1,030	140	11.6
Cowlitz	39,150	35,620	3,530	9.0	38,790	35,030	3,760	9.7	41,770	37,600	4,170	10.0
Ferry	2,420	2,120	300	12.6	2,420	2,130	280	11.8	2,520	2,310	210	8.3
Garfield	1,140	1,110	30	2.5	1,190	1,150	40	3.0	1,200	1,150	50	3.8
Grant	42,450	39,690	2,760	6.5	41,520	38,770	2,750	6.6	40,650	38,220	2,430	6.0
Grays Harbor	26,930	24,500	2,430	9.0	26,490	24,260	2,220	8.4	26,430	23,870	2,560	9.7
Jefferson	12,040	11,420	620	5.2	12,020	11,370	650	5.4	11,920	11,220	700	5.9
Kittitas	16,760	15,860	900	5.4	15,820	14,940	880	5.5	16,730	15,870	860	5.2
Klickitat	9,030	7,990	1,040	11.5	9,250	8,150	1,100	11.9	8,010	7,200	810	10.2
Lewis	30,660	28,380	2,280	7.4	30,070	27,640	2,420	8.1	29,950	27,540	2,410	8.0
Lincoln	4,740	4,530	210	4.5	4,970	4,730	240	4.9	4,680	4,440	240	5.1
Mason	22,190	20,660	1,530	6.9	20,520	18,940	1,580	7.7	20,340	18,890	1,450	7.1
Okanogan	22,090	20,790	1,300	5.9	20,170	18,760	1,420	7.0	22,470	21,100	1,370	6.1
Pacific	7,990	7,370	620	7.8	8,150	7,530	630	7.7	7,940	7,290	640	8.1
Pend Oreille	4,260	3,910	350	8.2	4,270	3,890	390	9.1	4,340	4,010	330	7.6
San Juan	6,690	6,440	250	3.7	7,320	7,100	220	3.0	6,830	6,560	280	4.0
Skagit	53,360	49,680	3,680	6.9	53,330	49,570	3,760	7.1	53,880	50,040	3,840	7.1
Skamania	3,820	3,460	360	9.3	3,790	3,440	340	9.1	3,950	3,600	350	8.9
Stevens	16,540	15,380	1,160	7.0	16,380	15,150	1,220	7.5	16,690	15,420	1,280	7.7
Wahkiakum	1,610	1,510	100	6.0	1,680	1,550	130	7.6	1,760	1,640	120	6.5
Walla Walla	28,540	27,320	1,220	4.3	27,090	25,870	1,230	4.5	28,070	26,840	1,230	4.4
Whitman	19,940	19,540	400	2.0	19,840	19,390	440	2.2	19,960	19,540	420	2.1

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 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>
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Wallace, David, Staff Economist 360/438-4818 FAX 438-4846	PO Box 9046, MS: 46000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 dbwallace@esd.wa.gov	Statewide
Graudins, Ivars, Area LMI Supervisor 360/438-4825 FAX 438-4846	PO Box 9046, MS: 46000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 igraudins@esd.wa.gov	Statewide
Bailey, Scott, Regional Economist 360/735-5043 FAX 735-5093	5411 East Mill Plain Blvd., Suite B3 Vancouver, WA 98661 scott.bailey@esd.wa.gov	CLARK, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum
Dillingham, William, Regional Economist 509/532-3188 FAX 532-3035	130 South Arthur Spokane, WA 99202-2259 wdillingham@esd.wa.gov	SPOKANE, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Whitman
Johnson, Chris, Regional Economist 253/593-7336 FAX 593-7377	1313 Tacoma Avenue South Tacoma, WA 98402 chris.johnson@esd.wa.gov	PIERCE
Meseck, Don, Regional Economist 509/963-2606 FAX 963-1992	Central Washington University 400 East 8 th Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926-7486 dmeseck@esd.wa.gov	YAKIMA, Okanogan, Chelan, Adams, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat*
Pauer, Roberta, Regional Economist 206/720-3394 FAX 720-3393	400 East Pine, Suite 310 Seattle, WA 98122 rpauer@esd.wa.gov	KING Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA
Schau, Dean, Regional Economist 509/547-0511 ext. 2217 FAX 546-0401	Columbia Basin College 2600 North 20 th Avenue Pasco, WA 99301-3379 schaud@cbc2.org	BENTON, FRANKLIN, Walla Walla
Thompson, Donna, Regional Economist 425/339-4954 FAX 425/339-1949	PO Box 870 Everett, WA 98206 dthompson@esd.wa.gov	SNOHOMISH
Turek, Paul, Regional Economist 360/438-4813 FAX 438-4846	PO Box 9046, MS: 46000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 pturek@esd.wa.gov	Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, THURSTON
Vleming, Jim, Regional Economist 360/438-4821 FAX 438-4846	PO Box 9046, MS: 46000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 jvleming@esd.wa.gov	Clallam, Jefferson, KITSAP WHATCOM, ISLAND, San Juan Skagit
Labor Market Information Center 1-800-215-1617 Fax 360/438-4109	PO Box 9046, MS 46000 Olympia WA 98507-9046	For statewide and area information Asotin**

*For current information on Klickitat County, please contact Scott Bailey at (360) 735-5043.

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

Revised 11/12/03

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Bellingham MSA
Whatcom County

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

Highlights:

October proved to be much more treat than trick in the Bellingham MSA. The preliminary October figures were positive on both fronts. The unemployment rate fell by half a point over the month and nonagricultural wage and salary jobs rose by nearly 3,000 over the same span.

On the unemployment side, the rate fell to 5.5 percent in October, down from the 6.0 percent of September, and a notch better than last October's rate of 5.6 percent. In October 2003, 83,900 Whatcom County residents were counted as employed, while 4,900 sought work. Last October, 80,900 were at work, while 4,800 actively looked for employment.

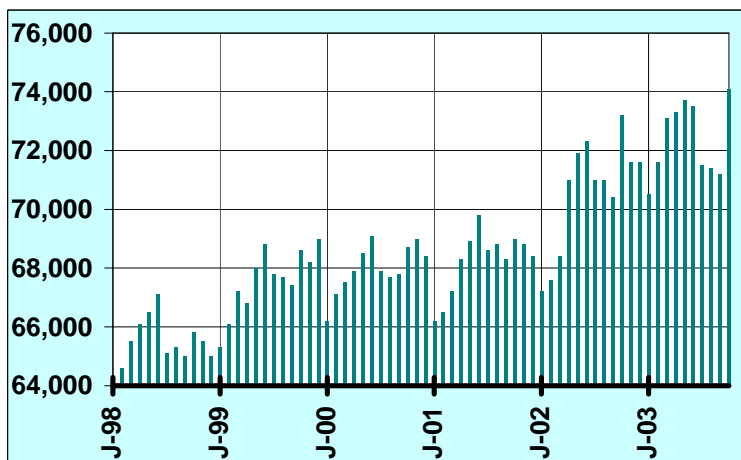
Statewide, the unemployment also dropped half a point over the month to land at 6.6 percent. Last October the state unemployment rate was 6.7 percent.

Nonag jobs in the MSA climbed to a total of 74,100 in October, up 2,900 from September and 900 above last October's total of 73,200. The good news in October can be attributed to seasonal gains in State Government, specifically Education, as that sector added 2,600 to payroll in October. Overall, Government provides 15,900 paychecks in the MSA, or over 21 percent of the total nonag jobs.

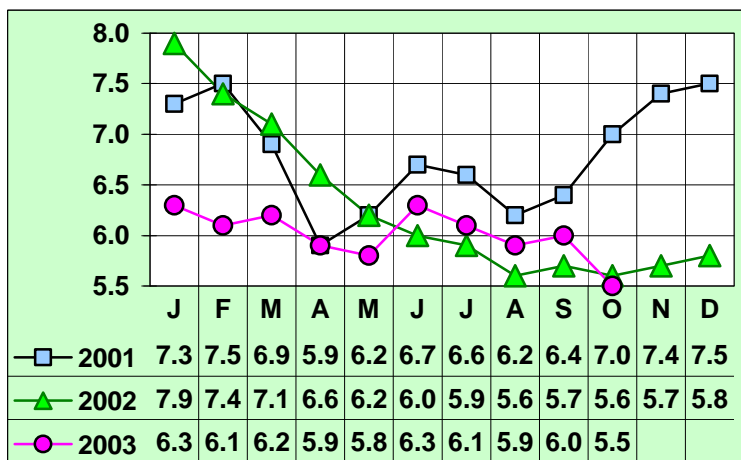
Elsewhere, Retail Trade added 200 jobs. The downside found Manufacturing off 100 jobs, and Information & Financial Activities also losing 100 positions. Employment in the Construction sector was flat.

Over the year, the 900-job gain represents a growth rate of 1.2 percent. The bread and butter of this gain were—as expected—in the Services Providing sector, adding 1,200 jobs over the month. The gains in Trade (+500) and Government (+400) was the force behind the gain. Taking an over-the-year fall was the Goods Producing sector, which dropped by 300 over the year. Making up that loss were Nondurable Goods, off 200, and Construction, which was down 100 over the year.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	74,100	71,200	73,200	2,900	900	1.2%
TOTAL PRIVATE	58,300	58,400	57,700	-100	600	1.0%
GOODS PRODUCING	14,900	15,100	15,200	-200	-300	-2.0%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	6,300	6,300	6,400	0	-100	-1.6%
MANUFACTURING	8,200	8,300	8,400	-100	-200	-2.4%
Durable Goods	4,600	4,600	4,600	0	0	0.0%
Non Durable Goods	3,600	3,700	3,800	-100	-200	-5.3%
Food Manufacturing	1,500	1,600	1,700	-100	-200	-11.8%
SERVICES PROVIDING	59,200	56,100	58,000	3,100	1,200	2.1%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	14,200	13,900	13,700	300	500	3.6%
Wholesale Trade	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100	3.8%
Retail Trade	9,500	9,300	9,300	200	200	2.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,900	2,000	1,800	-100	100	5.6%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	4,200	4,300	4,300	-100	-100	-2.3%
GOVERNMENT	15,900	12,800	15,500	3,100	400	2.6%
Federal Government	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0.0%
State Government	6,000	3,400	5,600	2,600	400	7.1%
Local Government	8,900	8,400	8,900	500	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 first quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For more labor market information, please visit our website at: www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State Labor Area Summary Bremerton PMSA Kitsap County

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

Highlights:

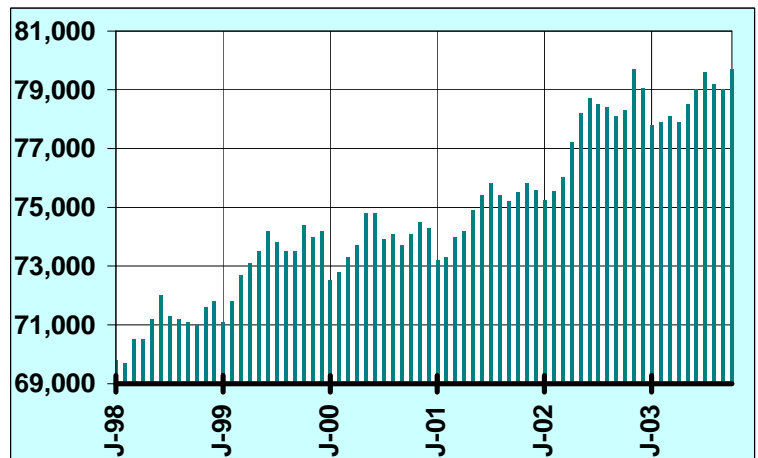
Things are looking up in the Bremerton PMSA, as the October figures show lower unemployment and job gains in nonag employment. While the state economy has been slow to find its feet, the Kitsap Peninsula appears to be putting its shoes on and is ready to go to work.

Nonag employment in the PMSA rose to 79,700 in October, up 700 over the month and 1,400 over the year. The seasonal gains in Government can take much of the credit for the increase, as jobs in that sector gained the sum of 700. Employment in Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 400 jobs over the month, and Manufacturing employment chimed in with a 100 gain from September to October. On the flip side, job losses of 200 occurred in Information and Financial Activities, and a loss of 100 jobs was felt in Federal Government employment.

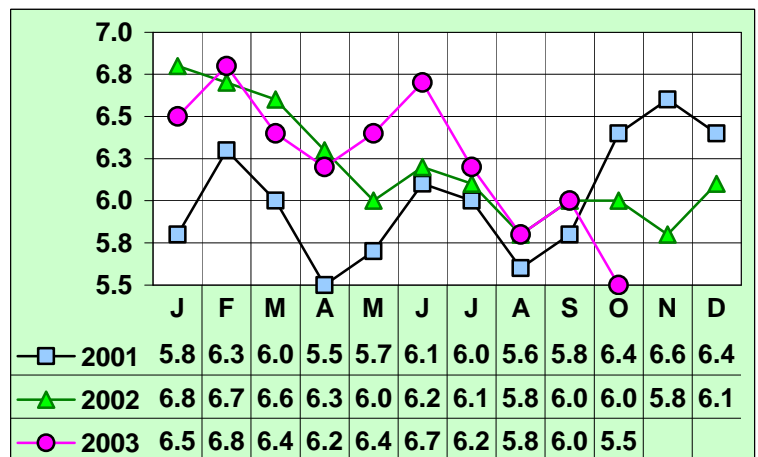
Over the year, nonag employment in the PMSA is up 1.8 percent or 1,400 jobs. All of this gain can be found in the Services Providing sector, with Retail Trade (+500), and State and Local Government (+400) leading the way. On the loss side were the Goods Producing sector (-100) and Information (-100). The over-the-year growth rate is a good sign of a recovering local economy.

The unemployment rate in the PMSA fell in October to 5.5 percent, down from 6.0 percent in September and 6.0 percent in October of 2002. The rate in the PMSA compares favorably to the statewide rate in October 2003 of 6.6 percent, down from the 7.1 in September, and 6.7 in October of last year. In October 2003, there were 96,200 PMSA residents at work, and 5,600 looking for employment. In October of last year 96,100 were employed compared to 6,100 actively pursuing employment.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	79,700	79,000	78,300	700	1,400	1.8%
TOTAL PRIVATE	51,800	51,900	50,700	-100	1,100	2.2%
GOODS PRODUCING	6,500	6,600	6,600	-100	-100	-1.5%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	4,800	4,800	4,800	0	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	1,800	1,700	1,800	100	0	0.0%
SERVICES PROVIDING	73,100	72,500	71,700	600	1,400	2.0%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	13,200	12,800	12,700	400	500	3.9%
Wholesale Trade	1,300	1,200	1,300	100	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	10,900	10,700	10,400	200	500	4.8%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	900	1,000	1,000	-100	-100	-10.0%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	5,100	5,300	5,200	-200	-100	-1.9%
GOVERNMENT	27,900	27,200	27,600	700	300	1.1%
Federal Government	14,900	15,000	15,000	-100	-100	-0.7%
State and Local Government	13,000	12,200	12,600	800	400	3.2%
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 first 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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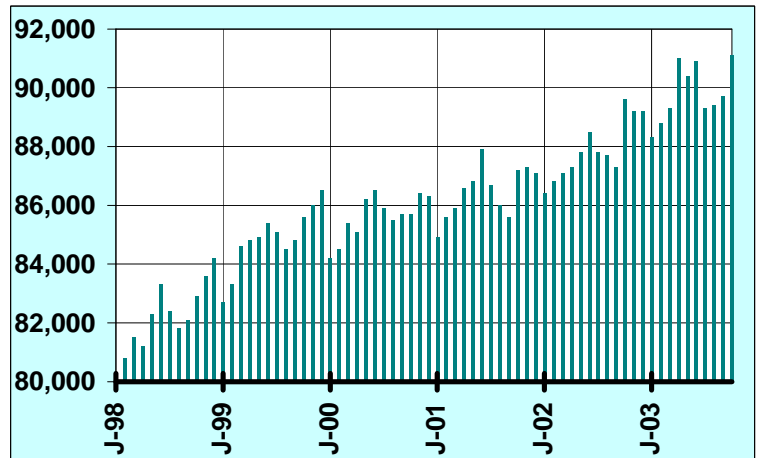
Highlights:

The rolling wheels of a growing recovery look to be shifting the Olympia PMSA labor market into a sustained rebound. The basis for this is the progression of the local job market revival. The month of October saw the area gain an additional 1,400 jobs while the local unemployment rate declined by one-half of one percent to 5.3 percent. Much of the job gains occurred in the public sector in the form of Educational Services, which added 900 jobs as it reached full force in October. The additional 500 jobs were split between Retail Trade (300) as local merchants began gearing up for the holiday season, and Other Services (200) as the number of temporary or "help supply" jobs continued their rise. The Olympia labor market has added 1,500 jobs over the course of the year (October to October), and prospects for moderate growth for the near future look good.

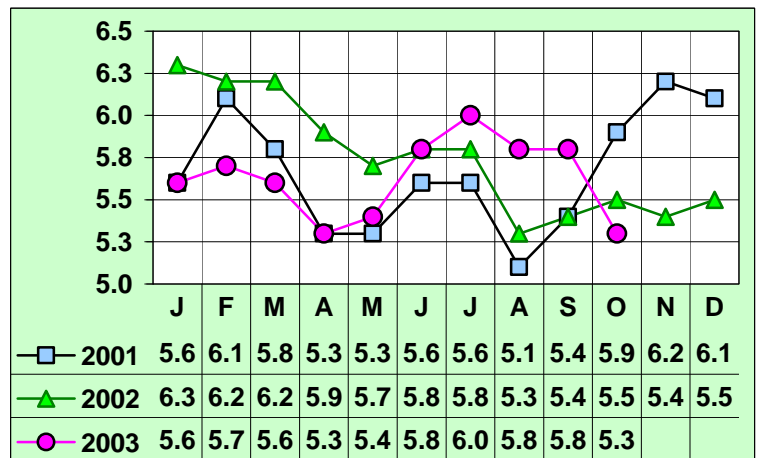
October marks the fifth straight month that the number of temp workers employed rose for the area. The recent pickup in temporary hiring by industry establishments typically foreshadows overall employment growth and acts as a harbinger of better economic and employment times ahead. Temporary workers cover a range of tasks from human resources to accounting. They also fill jobs in light industry and manufacturing. Two larger companies with a presence in the Olympia PMSA are Manpower and Kelly Services. There are other smaller establishments as well.

Continued job growth will need to occur for the recovery to be sustained. The improved economic performance of recent months has been supported through highly accommodating monetary and fiscal policies that are more or less temporary. The round of tax cuts that provided a substantial third quarter boost is set to fade soon. The extraordinarily low mortgage rates that have driven home sales and homebuilding to dizzying heights appear to have bottomed out. The mortgage borrowing binge that has occurred through home equity loans and cash-out refinancing should also start tapering off. The resulting decline in household cash flow from these sources will need to be replaced by gains in wages and salaries generated through job gains. With a growing job market, households will keep on spending and businesses will be rewarded for expanding their operations.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: December 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	91,100	89,700	89,600	1,400	1,500	1.7%
TOTAL PRIVATE	55,900	55,400	53,900	500	2,000	3.7%
GOODS PRODUCING	8,300	8,300	8,300	0	0	0.0%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	4,700	4,600	4,300	100	400	9.3%
MANUFACTURING	3,200	3,300	3,600	-100	-400	-11.1%
SERVICES PROVIDING	82,800	81,400	81,300	1,400	1,500	1.8%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	14,900	14,600	13,800	300	1,100	8.0%
Wholesale Trade	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100	6.3%
Retail Trade	11,300	11,000	10,900	300	400	3.7%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,900	1,900	1,300	0	600	46.2%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	4,800	4,800	4,600	0	200	4.3%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	27,900	27,700	27,200	200	700	2.6%
GOVERNMENT	35,200	34,300	35,700	900	-500	-1.4%
Federal Government	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0.0%
State Government	23,100	22,600	23,500	500	-400	-1.7%
State Government Educational Services	2,300	1,800	2,300	500	0	0.0%
Local Government	11,100	10,700	11,200	400	-100	-0.9%
Local Government Educational Services	6,400	6,000	6,800	400	-400	-5.9%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

For more labor market information, please visit our website at: www.workforceexplorer.com

Meanwhile, new and older established local merchants are hoping consumers keep the spending going. Early indications have retailers expecting better holiday sales this year as economic conditions slowly improve. Trade groups have been optimistic with sales forecasts. The National Retail Federation predicts that seasonal sales will rise a heady 5.7 percent nationally compared to last year's 2.2 percent gain. Consulting firm Deloitte Research forecasts an increase of 6.5 to 7.0 percent. Recent sales data has industry analysts viewing the holiday season more cautiously, suggesting sales should ring in at a 4.0 percent growth rate. Last year's retail sales for Thurston during the holiday season grew by 3.4 percent according to Department of Revenue figures.

Washington State

Labor Area Summary

Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA

King, Island and Snohomish Counties

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

Highlights:

October's labor market showed improvement for the three-county Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA. The latter part of the year may show additional slight gains.

This labor market comprises King, Snohomish, and Island Counties, a U.S. Department of Labor-designated single labor market, based on high home-to-work commuting across county lines. PMSA stands for Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Unemployment:

The unemployment rate for the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett area fell between September and October, from 7.1 percent in September to October's 6.5 percent of the labor force. That improvement is stronger than would be typical for the season, and may represent a real improvement in the underlying labor market. But unemployment remained approximately the same as year-ago levels, down only by 0.1 percentage points, when in October 2002, unemployment was 6.6 percent. King County, at 6.1 percent unemployment in October, came in a bit lower than the larger Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA, because of the higher jobless rate in Snohomish County, which registered 7.7 percent. That divergence is typical of workforce trends for the two counties within the larger three-county labor market, where King comprises about three-fourths of the total PMSA labor force. Island County, with approximately one percent of the PMSA labor force, registered a jobless rate of 6.3 percent in October.

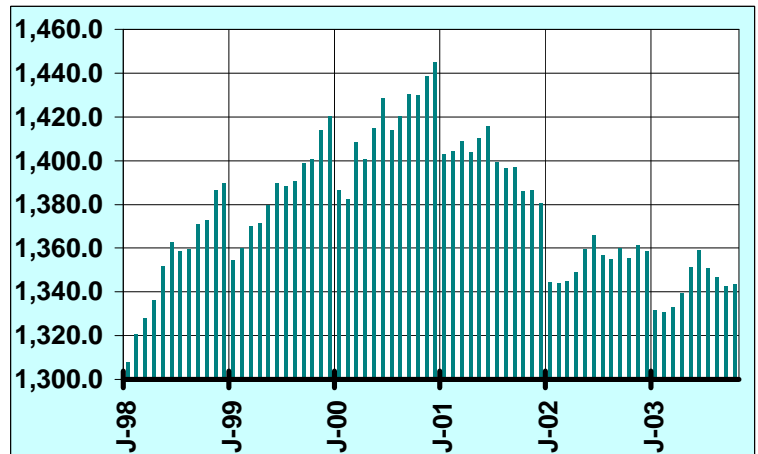
Industry Employment:

Seasonal hiring in October by area employers resulted in the number of jobs being sufficient to maintain the unemployment rate at a level approximately unchanged from year-ago levels.

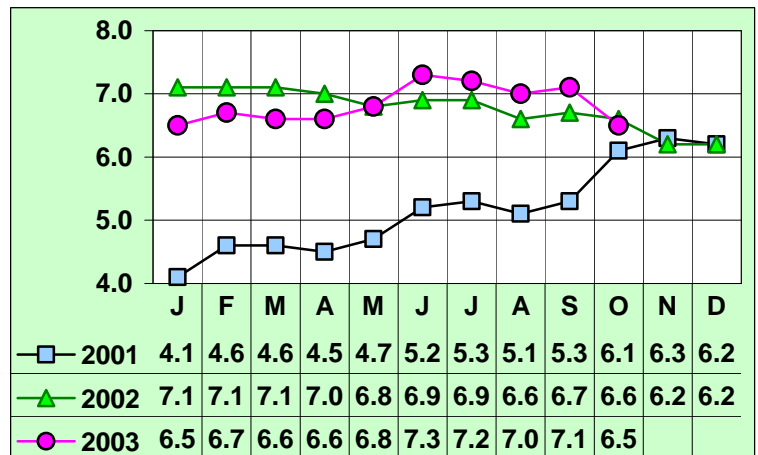
Construction, trade, recreation and travel services, warehousing, transportation and a variety of other services industries offered some seasonal hiring and seasonal layoffs, both, to the workforce. The weakness in manufacturing continued to operate as a drag on the economy.

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

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Not Seasonally Adjusted/Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Revised Sept-02	Change			
					Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Sept-02 Oct-02	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	1,343.7	1,342.6	1,355.5	1,360.1	1.1	-11.8	-4.6	-0.9%
TOTAL PRIVATE	1,142.9	1,148.8	1,154.0	1,158.8	-5.9	-11.1	-4.8	-1.0%
GOODS PRODUCING	227.7	230.0	242.3	244.8	-2.3	-14.6	-2.5	-6.0%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.7	0.0	0.5	-0.1	31.3%
CONSTRUCTION	78.8	79.5	79.9	81.6	-0.7	-1.1	-1.7	-1.4%
Construction of Buildings	20.6	20.5	20.1	20.5	0.1	0.5	-0.4	2.5%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	8.9	8.7	9.0	9.2	0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-1.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	49.3	50.3	50.8	51.9	-1.0	-1.5	-1.1	-3.0%
MANUFACTURING	146.8	148.4	160.8	161.5	-1.6	-14.0	-0.7	-8.7%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	115.0	116.2	127.5	128.5	-1.2	-12.5	-1.0	-9.8%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	8.5	8.6	8.9	9.0	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	-4.5%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	14.5	14.8	16.4	16.6	-0.3	-1.9	-0.2	-11.6%
Navigtn., Measuring, Electromed. & Control	8.4	8.5	9.3	9.4	-0.1	-0.9	-0.1	-9.7%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	65.7	66.2	75.1	75.5	-0.5	-9.4	-0.4	-12.5%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg	60.3	60.6	69.8	70.3	-0.3	-9.5	-0.5	-13.6%
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	31.8	32.2	33.3	33.0	-0.4	-1.5	0.3	-4.5%
Food Manufacturing	11.7	11.9 2/	12.1	11.7	-0.2	-0.4	0.4	-3.3%
SERVICES PROVIDING	1,116.0	1,112.6	1,113.2	1,115.3	3.4	2.8	-2.1	0.3%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	260.4	260.5	264.1	264.3	-0.1	-3.7	-0.2	-1.4%
Wholesale Trade	67.6	68.1	68.3	69.1	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	-1.0%
Retail Trade	143.0	142.6	144.4	143.8	0.4	-1.4	0.6	-1.0%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	17.2	17.0	17.4	17.3	0.2	-0.2	0.1	-1.1%
Food and Beverage Stores	26.9	26.9	28.2	28.0	0.0	-1.3	0.2	-4.6%
Health and Personal Care Stores	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.0	0.0	-0.2	0.1	-2.8%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	13.8	14.0	14.7	14.7	-0.2	-0.9	0.0	-6.1%
General Merchandise Stores	20.6	20.3	19.2	18.9	0.3	1.4	0.3	7.3%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	49.8	49.8	51.4	51.4	0.0	-1.6	0.0	-3.1%
Transportation and Warehousing	46.7	46.8	48.8	48.8	-0.1	-2.1	0.0	-4.3%
Air Transportation	12.3	12.1	12.9	13.0	0.2	-0.6	-0.1	-4.7%
Water Transportation	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.9	-0.1	0.1	-0.2	3.7%
Truck Transportation	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
Support Activities for Transportation	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.4	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-1.0%
Support Activities for Water Transportation	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.6	0.0	-0.2	0.1	-7.4%
Warehousing and Storage	2.9	2.9	3.3	3.3	0.0	-0.4	0.0	-12.1%
INFORMATION	73.0	73.1	72.9	72.8	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1%
Newspaper, Book and Directory Publishers	5.8	5.9	6.3	6.3	-0.1	-0.5	0.0	-7.9%
Software Publishers	36.5	36.5	35.4	35.2	0.0	1.1	0.2	3.1%
Broadcasting, except Internet	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	3.8%
Telecommunications	20.3	20.1	20.4	20.6	0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5%
Wired Telecommunications Carriers	5.7	5.7	6.3	6.4	0.0	-0.6	-0.1	-9.5%
Wireless Telecommunications Carriers	11.0	10.8	10.5	10.5	0.2	0.5	0.0	4.8%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	90.4	91.3	88.1	88.2	-0.9	2.3	-0.1	2.6%
Finance and Insurance	61.9	62.5	60.2	60.1	-0.6	1.7	0.1	2.8%
Credit Intermediation & Related	29.6	29.8	26.5	26.4	-0.2	3.1	0.1	11.7%
Insurance Carriers & Related	25.1	25.3	25.5	25.4	-0.2	-0.4	0.1	-1.6%
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	28.5	28.8	27.9	28.1	-0.3	0.6	-0.2	2.2%

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

Not Seasonally Adjusted/Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Revised Sept-02	Change			
					Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Sept-02 Oct-02	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	183.8	182.8	182.2	182.9	1.0	1.6	-0.7	0.9%
Professional, Scientific and Tech Services	87.7	87.3	87.7	87.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Legal Services	13.4	13.5	13.0	13.0	-0.1	0.4	0.0	3.1%
Accounting, Tax Prep, Bookkpng & Payroll	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	2.2%
Architectural, Engineering and Related	17.9	17.9	18.4	18.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.1	-2.7%
Computer Systems Design and Related	15.3	15.4	17.5	17.5	-0.1	-2.2	0.0	-12.6%
Mgmt of Companies and Enterprises	23.9	23.9	22.6	22.7	0.0	1.3	-0.1	5.8%
Admin, Support, Waste Mgmt & Remediation	72.2	71.6	71.9	72.5	0.6	0.3	-0.6	0.4%
Administrative and Support Services	69.4	68.8	69.2	69.7	0.6	0.2	-0.5	0.3%
Employment Services	30.1	29.5	29.4	30.0	0.6	0.7	-0.6	2.4%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	138.4	136.9	136.5	134.2	1.5	1.9	2.3	1.4%
Educational Services	22.2	20.7	21.6	19.3	1.5	0.6	2.3	2.8%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	48.4	48.4	47.4	47.4	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.1%
Hospitals	26.7	26.6	26.7	26.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	21.0	21.1	20.4	20.5	-0.1	0.6	-0.1	2.9%
Social Assistance	20.1	20.1	20.4	20.4	0.0	-0.3	0.0	-1.5%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	120.1	124.5	118.9	122.1	-4.4	1.2	-3.2	1.0%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	20.9	23.2	21.5	22.3	-2.3	-0.6	-0.8	-2.8%
Accommodation	13.5	13.6	13.2	13.4	-0.1	0.3	-0.2	2.3%
Food Services and Drinking Places	85.7	87.7	84.2	86.4	-2.0	1.5	-2.2	1.8%
OTHER SERVICES	49.1	49.7	49.0	49.5	-0.6	0.1	-0.5	0.2%
Repair and Maintenance	13.1	13.2	13.9	14.1	-0.1	-0.8	-0.2	-5.8%
Personal and Laundry Services	13.5	13.7	13.4	13.5	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.7%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Prof. and Similar	22.5	22.8	21.7	21.9	-0.3	0.8	-0.2	3.7%
GOVERNMENT	200.8	193.8	201.5	201.3	7.0	-0.7	0.2	-0.3%
Federal Government	26.0	26.0	26.3	25.2	0.0	-0.3	1.1	-1.1%
Total State Government	61.5	56.7	59.9	55.3	4.8	1.6	4.6	2.7%
State Government Educational Services	45.0	40.0	43.0	38.3	5.0	2.0	4.7	4.7%
Total Local Government	113.3	111.1	115.3	120.8	2.2	-2.0	-5.5	-1.7%
Local Government Educational Services	50.7	46.2	51.1	47.0	4.5	-0.4	4.1	-0.8%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes 2/	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2	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.

2/ Workers excluded because of involvement in labor/management dispute.

For more labor market information, please visit our website at: www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State Labor Area Summary Snohomish County

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

Highlights:

Could we be seeing the beginning of the turnaround that has been anticipated for so long? It is certainly too early to say. However, the jobless rate and the non-farm job total are both in positive territory for the first time in many months.

The local jobless rate dropped a whopping 8/10ths of a percentage point, falling from 8.5 percent down to 7.7 percent in October. Seasonal increases in Education, and very modest losses in Aerospace, have helped boost non-farm jobs by 1,700 over the month, and by 2,600 jobs over the year.

The jobless rate is based on sample data and sometimes displays a high degree of volatility. Even though the magnitude of this drop may be somewhat surprising, the direction seems to be right, given the increase in jobs.

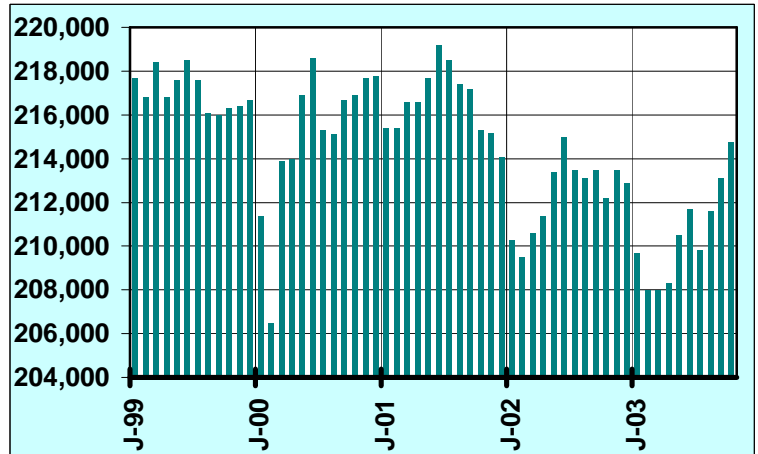
State Education rose by 700 and Local Education was up by 1,000. Professional & Business Services posted a gain of 400 with most of that coming from temporary help agencies, which gained 300 workers. General Merchandise Stores gained 300 jobs, which helped boost the Retail Sector by a net total of 200 jobs. Aerospace Products & Parts declined by a 100 jobs. Construction posted seasonal declines of 300 jobs, bringing the total down to 17,900 jobs.

The Financial Activities sector fell by less than 100 jobs to 12,100 jobs, but remains up by 600 jobs over the year. The strength of this sector has been bolstered by 45-year lows in interest rates and the job total tends to be very sensitive to fluctuations in interest rates.

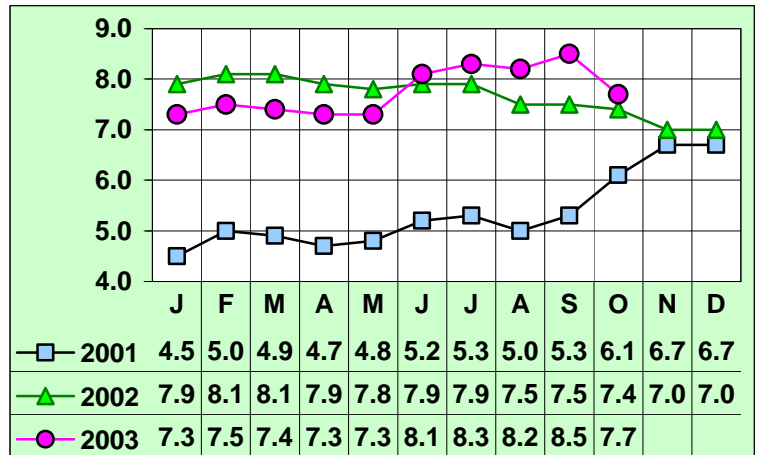
The Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers sector remained flat over month, at 4,600 jobs, but increased by 200 jobs over the year. With over 100,000 Snohomish County residents commuting to King County every day, we expect this sector to hold up very well.

Only time will give us the answer to whether this is the start of a recovery or whether we will find a lump of coal in our Christmas stocking.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1999-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Snohomish County

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	214.8	213.1	212.2	1.7	2.6	1.2%
TOTAL PRIVATE	177.7	178.0	177.8	-0.4	-0.1	-0.1%
GOODS PRODUCING	60.7	61.3	63.1	-0.6	-2.4	-3.8%
SERVICES PROVIDING	154.1	151.8	149.1	2.3	5.0	3.3%
CONSTRUCTION	17.9	18.3	18.5	-0.3	-0.6	-3.0%
Construction of Buildings	3.4	3.3	3.4	0.1	0.1	1.9%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2.1	2.1	2.2	0.0	-0.1	-4.9%
Specialty Trade Contractors	12.4	12.8	12.9	-0.5	-0.5	-4.0%
MANUFACTURING	42.2	42.5	44.1	-0.3	-1.9	-4.4%
Durable Goods	37.7	37.9	39.3	-0.2	-1.6	-4.1%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	0.1	5.7%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0	1.9%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	5.4	5.4	5.3	0.0	0.1	1.3%
Electronic Instrument Manufacturing	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	0.2	4.3%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	23.8	23.9	25.8	-0.1	-2.0	-7.8%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg	22.6	22.7	24.6	-0.1	-2.0	-8.3%
Non-Durable Goods	4.4	4.6	4.8	-0.1	-0.3	-7.1%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	36.4	36.2	36.1	0.2	0.3	0.7%
Wholesale Trade	6.0	6.1	6.1	-0.1	-0.1	-2.0%
Retail Trade	27.2	26.9	26.6	0.2	0.6	2.1%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	4.6	4.6	4.3	0.0	0.2	5.2%
Building Material and Garden Supply Stores	2.7	2.9	2.7	-0.2	0.0	1.3%
Food and Beverage Stores	5.2	5.3	5.7	-0.1	-0.5	-8.6%
Health and Personal Care Stores	1.2	1.2	1.7	0.0	-0.5	-29.3%
General Merchandise Stores	5.0	4.7	4.6	0.3	0.4	9.8%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-0.2	-5.2%
INFORMATION	3.5	3.6	3.6	-0.1	-0.1	-3.2%
Telecommunications	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	-0.1	-4.0%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	12.1	12.2	11.5	0.0	0.6	5.3%
Finance and Insurance	9.0	9.1	8.4	-0.1	0.6	7.1%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	3.7	3.7	3.3	0.1	0.4	11.7%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	5.0	5.2	4.7	-0.2	0.3	5.3%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	3.2	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.1	1.8%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	17.7	17.3	16.8	0.4	0.9	5.4%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	7.5	7.4	7.1	0.1	0.4	5.9%
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	1.5	1.5	2.0	0.0	-0.5	-24.3%
Admin, Support, Waste Mgmt., and Remediation	8.2	7.9	8.4	0.3	-0.3	-3.4%
Employment Services	2.9	2.6	3.1	0.3	-0.2	-7.3%

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Snohomish County

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
EDUCATIONAL and HEALTH SERVICES	20.8	20.9	20.6	-0.1	0.2	1.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	8.9	8.9	8.6	0.0	0.3	3.8%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	4.2	4.3	4.2	-0.1	-0.1	-1.2%
Social Assistance	2.9	2.9	3.1	0.0	-0.2	-7.8%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	18.6	18.8	17.7	-0.2	0.9	5.4%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2.8	2.8	2.7	-0.1	0.1	4.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	16.0	16.1	15.0	-0.1	1.0	6.8%
Food Services and Drinking Places	15.4	15.5	14.2	-0.1	1.1	8.1%
OTHER SERVICES	7.8	7.8	8.3	0.0	-0.5	-6.1%
Repair and Maintenance	2.3	2.2	2.4	0.1	-0.1	-5.2%
Personal and Laundry Services	2.0	2.1	2.1	0.0	-0.1	-4.6%
Membership Associations and Organizations	3.5	3.5	3.8	0.0	-0.3	-8.7%
GOVERNMENT	37.1	35.1	34.4	2.0	2.7	7.8%
Federal Government	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	-0.5%
State Government	5.5	5.0	5.2	0.6	0.4	7.5%
State Educational Services	2.6	1.9	2.2	0.7	0.4	19.0%
Local Government	29.5	28.0	27.1	1.4	2.3	8.5%
Local Educational Services	13.9	12.9	14.0	1.0	-0.2	-1.1%
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 first quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

For more labor market information, please visit our website at: www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State
Labor Area Summary
Spokane MSA
Spokane County

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, William Dillingham, *Regional Labor Economist*
 130 South Arthur, Spokane, WA 99202-2259 Phone: (509) 532-3188

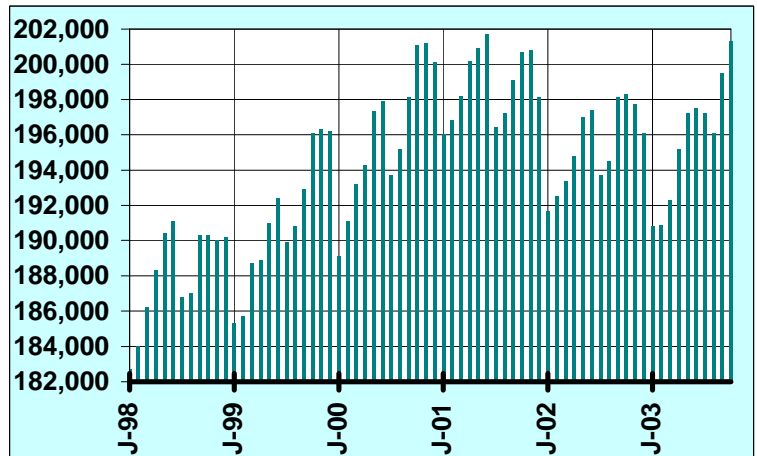
Highlights:

Spokane's labor market followed the national trend with more jobs and fewer unemployed workers. Unemployment (not seasonally adjusted) fell by four-tenths of one percent to a preliminary 6.0 percent in October. This translates into a drop of 600 in the number of people actively looking for work, down to 12,700. The unadjusted unemployment rate is essentially unchanged from October 2002, while the number of jobseekers is 400 lower.

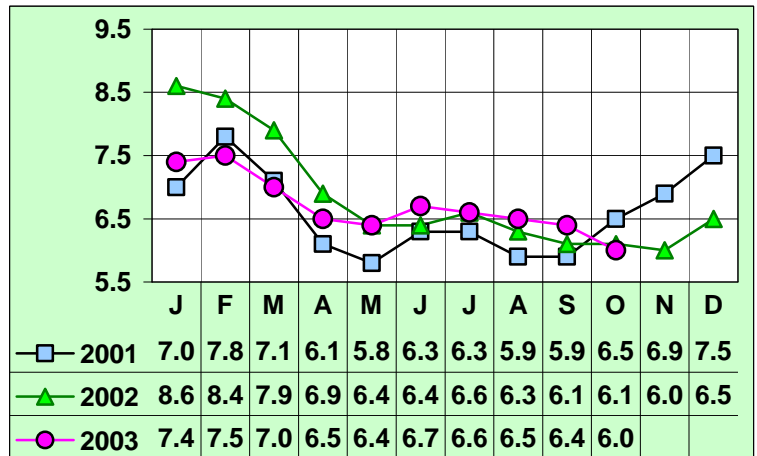
Nonagricultural employment for the month of October totaled 201,300, up 1,800 from September's count. Nearly all of the growth was due to seasonal, or predictable, hiring in local and state education. In fact, Total Private non-farm employment was unchanged over the month, standing at 166,200. Cut-backs in Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing (down 100 jobs) and Financial Activities Services (also down 100 jobs) were off-set by growth in Retail Trade and Business Services (each gaining 100 jobs). Local and State Educational Services each added 1,300 jobs as schools fully ramped up for the academic year.

Over-the-year employment added momentum to rising optimism with a gain of 3,000 jobs. More importantly, 20.0 percent of the over-the-year gain was in private industry. Goods Producing turned in mixed results from October 2002, with Natural Resources and Construction up, and Manufacturing down, yielding a loss of 400. Ever-buoyant Services Providing expanded by 3,400 positions, with Financial Activities, and Education & Health Services the big gainers (at 1,100 and 900 additional jobs, respectively).

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Not Seasonally Adjusted/Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Revised Sept-02	Change			
					Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Sept-02 Oct-02	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	201.3	199.5	198.3	198.1	1.8	3.0	0.2	1.5%
TOTAL PRIVATE	166.2	166.2	163.8	165.7	0.0	2.4	-1.9	1.5%
GOODS PRODUCING	28.7	28.7	29.1	29.5	0.0	-0.4	-0.4	-1.4%
NATURAL RESOURCES and CONSTRUCTION	12.0	12.0	11.6	11.8	0.0	0.4	-0.2	3.4%
MANUFACTURING	16.7	16.7	17.5	17.7	0.0	-0.8	-0.2	-4.6%
Durable Goods	12.7	12.7	13.3	13.5	0.0	-0.6	-0.2	-4.5%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	2.5	2.6	3.0	3.0	-0.1	-0.5	0.0	-16.7%
SERVICES PROVIDING	172.6	170.8	169.2	168.6	1.8	3.4	0.6	2.0%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	41.2	41.1	40.9	41.0	0.1	0.3	-0.1	0.7%
Wholesale Trade	9.9	9.9	9.5	9.6	0.0	0.4	-0.1	4.2%
Retail Trade	25.3	25.2	25.2	25.3	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.4%
Food and Beverage Stores	4.8	4.7	5.0	5.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-4.0%
General Merchandise Stores	4.4	4.3	4.0	4.0	0.1	0.4	0.0	10.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.1	0.0	-0.2	0.1	-3.2%
INFORMATION	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	13.9	14.0	12.8	13.0	-0.1	1.1	-0.2	8.6%
Finance and Insurance	10.7	10.8	9.8	9.8	-0.1	0.9	0.0	9.2%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	20.1	20.0	19.3	19.7	0.1	0.8	-0.4	4.1%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9	0.1	0.1	-0.1	3.6%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	32.5	32.2	31.6	32.0	0.3	0.9	-0.4	2.8%
Health and Social Assistance	28.1	27.9	27.6	27.8	0.2	0.5	-0.2	1.8%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10.7	10.5	10.3	10.4	0.2	0.4	-0.1	3.9%
Hospitals	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	17.8	18.2	18.4	18.9	-0.4	-0.6	-0.5	-3.3%
Food Services and Drinking Places	12.9	13.2	13.4	13.5	-0.3	-0.5	-0.1	-3.7%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	9.2	9.2	8.9	8.8	0.0	0.3	0.1	3.4%
GOVERNMENT	35.1	33.3	34.5	32.4	1.8	0.6	2.1	1.7%
Federal Government	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	-2.1%
Total State Government	10.9	9.6	10.8	9.5	1.3	0.1	1.3	0.9%
State Government Educational Services	6.0	4.7	5.8	4.5	1.3	0.2	1.3	3.4%
Total Local Government	19.6	19.0	19.0	18.3	0.6	0.6	0.7	3.2%
Local Government Educational Services	12.2	10.9	11.4	10.6	1.3	0.8	0.8	7.0%
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 to present.

For more labor market information, please visit our website at: www.workforceexplorer.com

Washington State Labor Area Summary Tacoma PMSA Pierce County

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

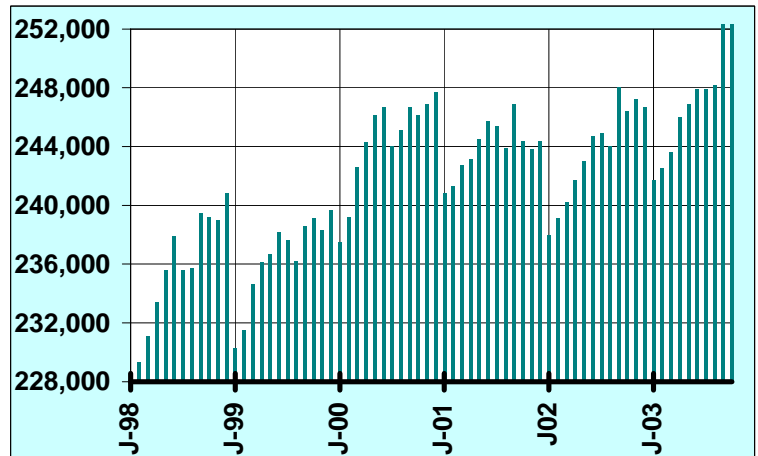
Highlights:

The Tacoma metropolitan area (Pierce County) unemployment rate remains at a level 0.6 point above the statewide rate of 6.6 percent. (Seasonally adjusted labor force data for the county is not currently available. This is a result of the forcing process used in developing sub-state unemployment rates from the statewide employment and unemployment estimates.) Tacoma's rate of 7.2 percent is also 1.6 points above the comparable rate for the United States. The end of the annual Western Washington Fair in Puyallup and of the construction season normally causes a seasonal dip in the local labor economy.

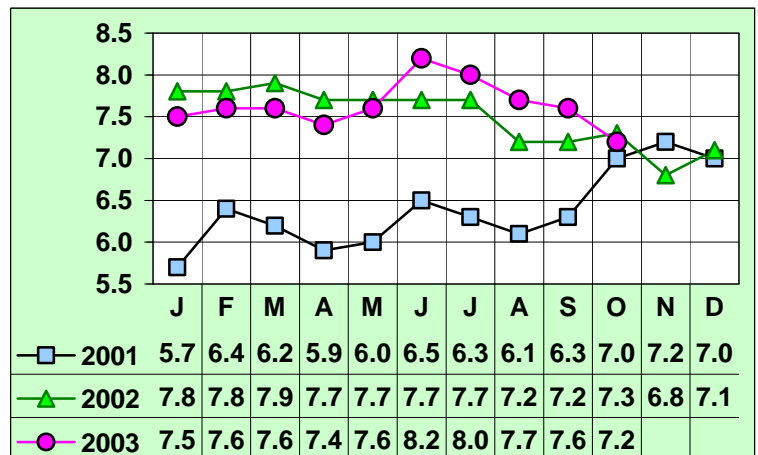
Hiring for Christmas retail activity should boost employment at the end of the year, but delayed effects of the deployment of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Armored Division (the "Stryker" Brigade) to Iraq are likely to cool the local economy. Activation of the National Guard's 81st Armored Brigade will not completely offset the local economic loss associated with deployment of almost 3,000 troops from Fort Lewis. When the 81st is also deployed, expected sometime early next year, the full loss to the Tacoma economy should be expected. Offsetting the economic loss will be the presence in the area of some of the dependents of the deployed soldiers, and improvements in the national and international economies.

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

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Not Seasonally Adjusted/Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: June 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE (in thousands)	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Revised Sept-02	Change			
					Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Sept-02 Oct-02	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	252.8	253.3	246.4	248.0	-0.5	6.4	-1.6	2.6%
TOTAL PRIVATE	199.3	201.3	193.8	196.9	-2.0	5.5	-3.1	2.8%
GOODS PRODUCING	38.1	38.2	37.4	37.9	-0.1	0.7	-0.5	1.9%
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	18.5	18.5	17.1	17.4	0.0	1.4	-0.3	8.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.8	10.8	10.2	10.3	0.0	0.6	-0.1	5.9%
MANUFACTURING	19.0	19.1	19.7	19.9	-0.1	-0.7	-0.2	-3.6%
Durable Goods	12.3	12.3	12.5	12.7	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-1.6%
Non-Durable Goods	6.7	6.8	7.2	7.2	-0.1	-0.5	0.0	-6.9%
SERVICES PROVIDING	214.7	215.1	209.0	210.1	-0.4	5.7	-1.1	2.7%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	48.0	47.6	47.4	47.3	0.4	0.6	0.1	1.3%
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0%
Retail Trade	29.6	29.4	29.5	29.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3%
Food and Beverage Stores	5.1	5.2	5.8	5.8	-0.1	-0.7	0.0	-12.1%
General Merchandise Stores	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.7%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	9.3	9.1	8.8	8.6	0.2	0.5	0.2	5.7%
INFORMATION	2.5	2.5	2.9	3.0	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-13.8%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	13.6	13.6	12.8	12.9	0.0	0.8	-0.1	6.3%
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	21.1	21.1	20.3	20.5	0.0	0.8	-0.2	3.9%
ADMIN, SUPPORT, WASTE MGMT & REMED.	12.5	12.4	11.7	11.8	0.1	0.8	-0.1	6.8%
Administrative and Support Services	11.7	11.5	10.8	10.9	0.2	0.9	-0.1	8.3%
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	39.0	38.6	38.1	37.1	0.4	0.9	1.0	2.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	12.5	12.6	12.2	12.2	-0.1	0.3	0.0	2.5%
Hospitals	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.5%
Social Assistance	7.0	7.1	6.7	6.7	-0.1	0.3	0.0	4.5%
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	25.1	27.6	23.6	26.6	-2.5	1.5	-3.0	6.4%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3.8	6.0	3.6	5.9	-2.2	0.2	-2.3	5.6%
Food Services and Drinking Places	19.1	19.3	18.8	19.2	-0.2	0.3	-0.4	1.6%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	11.9	12.1	11.3	11.6	-0.2	0.6	-0.3	5.3%
GOVERNMENT	53.5	52.0	52.6	51.1	1.5	0.9	1.5	1.7%
Federal Government	9.8	9.9	9.8	10.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.0%
Total State Government	11.1	10.9	11.3	11.2	0.2	-0.2	0.1	-1.8%
State Government Educational Services	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	2.7%
Total Local Government	32.6	31.2	31.5	29.9	1.4	1.1	1.6	3.5%
Local Government Educational Services	18.4	17.2	17.9	16.1	1.2	0.5	1.8	2.8%
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.

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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:

Musical Rendition Anyone?

(Hummed to the theme song of the old television show Rawhide) Growing, growing, growing, keep those housing starts going, Tri-Cities.

Seriously, the Tri-Cities economy seems to be in a transitional mode, with moderately more jobs, but more workers looking for work due to layoffs in important areas of the economy. Last year, the adverb to describe growth might have been 'heady.' Hopefully, we transition into slow-but-steady growth, but it's tough to predict. As we Tri-Citians know so very well, we go from Fiscal Year to Fiscal Year.

Hanford: To economists, happiness is sample size, and for the month of October, it was a good news/bad news situation. The good news was that the employment sample from Hanford was excellent, and in food processing (an important and variable industry) it was nearly 73 percent. For Hanford, the usually very reliable government form-fillers did not get the state up to the nearly 100 percent sample that we like to have for those especially-important parts of the state's economy. The data that was received indicated that employment among the Department of Energy (DOE) contractors further eroded by roughly 150 jobs from September to October. Moderating this were some slight gains at the Vitrification (Vit) Plant.

Construction: This continues to be the number one bright spot in the local economy, with a 7.8 percent job growth over the year. One would ponder how many more homes are needed in a time of combined job growth *and* job destruction. Next fiscal year, as the Vit Plant pulls in more construction workers, it may, at the same time, push out a number of professional workers who have done their part to design the plant. These workers are very likely to have to leave the area, but that is a condition that characterizes their profession. Another consideration is that the project will not pull in huge number of workers from outside of the area, because many craft workers already live in the Tri-Cities.

Manufacturing: It was down over the month as well as over the year. The reduction from September to Oc-

tober was seasonal and confined to food processing. Outside of that, other areas of local manufacturing malingering, but that describes much of Manufacturing, statewide and nationwide.

Trade: Employment was flat over the thirty-day period, but up nicely by 380 workers since October of last year. Most of the gain was on the Retail side.

Services: First the good news, employment is up in Health Services, Food Services (restaurants) and Accommodations (hotels and motels). It was down in Waste Treatment Services. The employment reductions in this latter category certainly explain all of the unemployed architectural and engineering workers festooning the Tri-Cities labor market. Locally, the count of such workers on unemployment benefits rose from 74 at the end of last October to 246 for October this year. Harder to explain has been the strong rise in unemployment among sales and related occupations. In the Tri-Cities, the number of persons receiving unemployment benefits jumped from 162 to 263. What gives?

Government: Returning students and their teachers pushed up Government employment, as Educational Services employment went from 6,800 in September to 7,600 for October. Employment with Local Government actually fell a bit, as recreational programs were winterized.

Down on the Farm: Employment on farms fell seasonally from 13,080 in September to 12,630 in October. Much of the decline was due to the completion of the potato harvest. The October 2003 count was fairly favorably compared with October of last year when the count was 12,060.

Labor Force Numbers: Last year at this time, the Tri-Cities rate of unemployment was moderately below that of the states. This October, the local rate was a tad higher, and this reflected that, while the economy is creating jobs, other jobs are being destroyed.

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

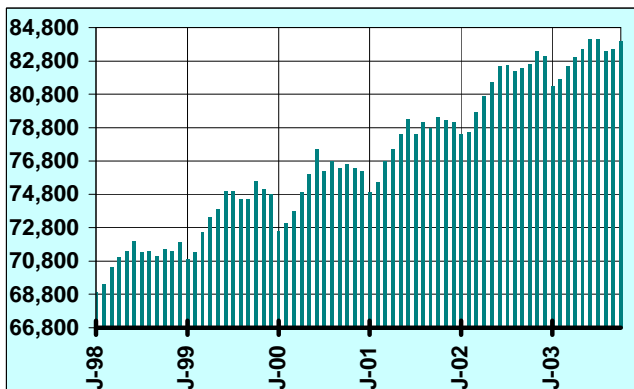
Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: December 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	84,000	83,500	82,580	500	1,420	1.7%
TOTAL PRIVATE	68,200	68,600	67,260	-400	940	1.4%
GOODS PRODUCING	11,300	11,600	11,180	-300	120	1.1%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	5,500	5,600	5,100	-100	400	7.8%
MANUFACTURING	5,900	6,000	6,080	-100	-180	-3.0%
Food Manufacturing	3,600	3,700	3,760	-100	-160	-4.3%
Chemicals and Allied Products	800	800	830	0	-30	-3.6%
Primary and Fabricated Metal Products	300	300	370	0	-70	-18.9%
Other Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,130	0	-30	-2.7%
SERVICES PROVIDING	72,500	71,900	71,400	600	1,100	1.5%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	13,800	13,800	13,420	0	380	2.8%
Wholesale Trade	2,200	2,100	2,080	100	120	5.8%
Retail Trade	10,000	10,100	9,660	-100	340	3.5%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,700	1,600	1,670	100	30	1.8%
INFORMATION	1,000	1,000	960	0	40	4.2%
FINANCE, INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE	3,100	3,000	2,970	100	130	4.4%
SERVICES	39,000	39,100	38,720	-100	280	0.7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	10,300	10,200	10,100	100	200	2.0%
Health Services	6,600	6,600	6,250	0	350	5.6%
Waste Treatment	9,500	9,400	10,010	100	-510	-5.1%
GOVERNMENT	15,700	15,000	15,330	700	370	2.4%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,360	0	40	2.9%
State and Local Government	14,300	13,600	13,970	700	330	2.4%
Educational Services	7,600	6,800	7,330	800	270	3.7%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

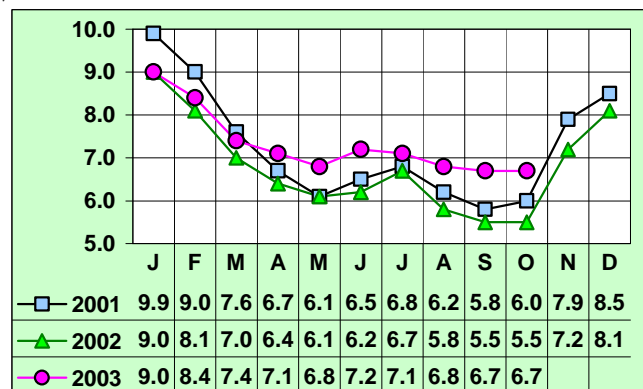
1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. Prepared by the Labor 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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Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



Washington State Labor Area Summary Clark County

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

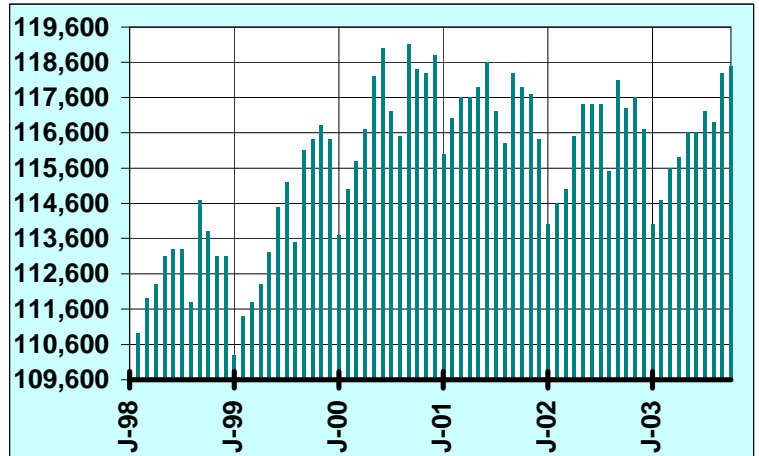
Highlights:

Clark County's nonfarm employment totaled 118,500 in October, 200 more than in September. Seasonal hiring in K-12 Education boosted job counts by 1,200, but were largely offset by seasonal layoffs in Construction, Food Manufacturing, Recreation, and Accommodation & Food Services.

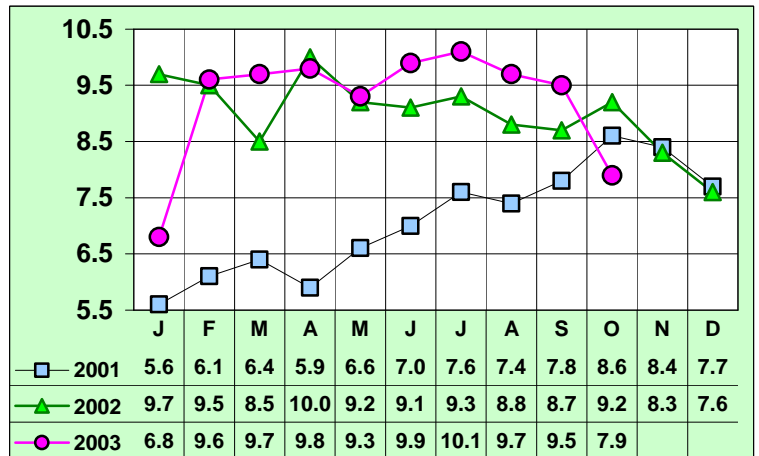
Over the year, employment growth remained moderate at 1,200 jobs or 1.0 percent. Retail Trade has added 600 jobs, mostly in General Merchandise Stores. Finance & Insurance is up 500, with employment still up due to refinancing. Health Care has also grown 400 new jobs, mostly in outpatient care. Losses have occurred in Manufacturing, Administrative & Support Services, and Other Services.

Clark County's unemployment rate fell declined by 1.6 points to 7.9 percent in October. As with the state unemployment rate, this data should be interpreted cautiously. The nonfarm employment data reported above, along with unemployment claims data, indicate that the labor market may not have improved this much. The number of continuing unemployment claims filed by county residents fell from 5,478 in September to 5,167 in October.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Clark County

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	118,500	118,300	117,300	200	1,200	1.0%
CONSTRUCTION, MINING, UTIL. and LOGGING	10,700	10,900	10,700	-200	0	0.0%
Construction, Mining and Utilities	10,600	10,800	10,600	-200	0	0.0%
Logging	100	100	100	0	0	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	13,400	13,700	13,900	-300	-500	-3.6%
Food Manufacturing	1,400	1,600	1,600	-200	-200	-12.5%
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	1,200	1,200	-100	-100	-8.3%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,300	1,200	1,100	100	200	18.2%
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	3,000	3,000	3,300	0	-300	-9.1%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	500	600	600	-100	-100	-16.7%
Other Manufacturing	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0	0.0%
WHOLESALE TRADE	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0	0.0%
RETAIL TRADE	13,700	13,700	13,100	0	600	4.6%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	100	5.6%
Food and Beverage Stores	2,300	2,400	2,500	-100	-200	-8.0%
Health and Personal Care Stores	800	800	900	0	-100	-11.1%
General Merchandise Stores	3,800	3,700	3,200	100	600	18.8%
Other Retail	4,900	4,900	4,700	0	200	4.3%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	3,300	3,400	3,300	-100	0	0.0%
INFORMATION	3,200	3,200	2,900	0	300	10.3%
FINANCE and INSURANCE	3,500	3,500	3,000	0	500	16.7%
REAL ESTATE, RENTAL and LEASING	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0	0.0%
PROF., SCIENTIFIC and TECHNICAL SERVICES	5,800	5,800	5,800	0	0	0.0%
ADMIN., SUPPORT and WASTE MGMT.	5,000	5,100	5,400	-100	-400	-7.4%
EDUCATION SERVICES	1,100	1,000	1,000	100	100	10.0%
HEALTH CARE and SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	13,700	13,500	13,200	200	500	3.8%
Social Assistance	2,100	2,000	2,000	100	100	5.0%
Health Services	11,600	11,500	11,200	100	400	3.6%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT and RECREATION	2,400	3,000	3,100	-600	-700	-22.6%
ACCOMMODATION and FOOD SERVICES	9,400	9,600	9,500	-200	-100	-1.1%
OTHER SERVICES	4,800	4,800	5,300	0	-500	-9.4%
GOVERNMENT	21,800	20,400	20,400	1,400	1,400	6.9%
Federal Government	2,600	2,600	2,800	0	-200	-7.1%
State Government	3,500	3,300	3,200	200	300	9.4%
Local Government	15,700	14,500	14,400	1,200	1,300	9.0%
K-12 Education	10,600	9,400	9,200	1,200	1,400	15.2%
Other Local Government	5,100	5,100	5,200	0	-100	-1.9%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonfarm Employment without logging	118,200	118,200	117,200	0	1,000	0.9%

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:

Total nonagricultural employment rose a marginal 0.1 percent in Yakima County over the month of October 2003. The down side was that Wholesale Trade employers cut 400 jobs between September and October. The lion's share of these jobs were at fresh fruit packinghouses. This year's apple harvest was much smaller than the 2002 crop, which yielded 88.8 million 42-pound fresh-packed boxes. According to the November 7th edition of *The Wenatchee World*, the 2003 harvest is estimated to have produced only 75.5 million fresh packed boxes. Non-Durable Goods (i.e., food processing) also declined by 300 jobs over the month, because fewer apples were available for processing into juice. Government countered with a 600-job gain. Virtually this entire upturn was attributed to seasonal hiring in public education, as primary, secondary, and community colleges took on non-teaching staff for the new school year.

In October 2003, nonagricultural employers across Yakima County provided approximately 100 fewer jobs than in the same month one-year prior, but almost 700 more jobs than in October 2001. The apple harvest was smaller this year, plus it started and ended roughly one-week earlier. This smaller crop translated into fewer jobs for the local labor market. Wholesale trade employment this October plummeted 17.8 percent below that of October 2002, a drop of 800 jobs. Virtually all of Wholesale Trade's over-the-year job-loss occurred in the fresh fruit packinghouse industry. Non-Durable Goods (i.e., food processing) also waned by 300. Thus, the Yakima County labor economy shrank 0.1-percent between October 2002 and October 2003.

To every cloud there is a silver lining, however. Although quantity is down, apple quality and prices are up this autumn, and growers across Washington should make a profit for the third straight year. Kirk Mayer, Manager of Washington's Grower's Clearinghouse said in a November 7th *Wenatchee World* article, "A third year of profits means growers will be able to continue paying off debt incurred from 1998 to 2002. It doesn't diminish long-term challenges facing the industry such as increasing costs and regulations, increasing foreign competition, and downward pressure on prices from globalization of the food industry."

Yakima County's real estate market is on the upswing. Low interest rates are motivating many people to purchase homes, and sales are brisk. According to an article in the

November 16th edition of the *Yakima Herald Republic*, "starting in July, home sales have been above 300 units each month. The last time more than 300 homes sold in one month was August 1990, when 311 transactions were recorded. Sales in the past four months are up about a third over the same period last year." This article also mentions that newer and older homes are selling more quickly than those in middle age are. New home sales impact construction employment. This October, the Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction category posted 100 more jobs than in October 2002. Most of these jobs were with local construction companies.

Taxable retail sales growth rates in Yakima County surpassed statewide growth-rates in each of the last four quarters for which comparable sets of data were available. Taxable retail sales have expanded steadily across Yakima County for the last five quarters. Employment at retail stores also drove upward, providing about 600 more jobs in October 2003 than in the corresponding month last year. Much of this upturn, in employment and sales, can be attributed to new or expanding retail enterprises in Union Gap.

Food store sales declined quarterly, but not because Yakima County residents cut down on their caloric intake. Local consumers appear to be buying more of their groceries at big-box stores, which are classified under the General Merchandise category. In fact, the quarterly food store retail sales losses were roughly comparable with the quarterly General Merchandise gains. In the last four quarters, Auto Dealerships and Service Stations expanded their sales more than the other Yakima County retail industries. Much of this sales growth was attributed to favorable interest rates for auto, SUV, and truck purchases and, to a lesser degree, the rising cost of gasoline.

Between October 2002 and October 2003, Yakima County's unemployment rate rose nine-tenths of a point. An estimated 8,800 Yakima County residents were out of work this October versus 7,700 in the corresponding month last year, a 1,100-person rise in the number of unemployed. The number of employed residents dipped by only 500 since October 2002, despite fewer agricultural jobs because of a smaller apple harvest. Yakima County simply did not lose the large numbers of agricultural and nonagricultural jobs to justify a nine-tenths of a point rise in the unemployment rate. The rate climb appears to be primarily caused by a slow statewide economy that forced more residents, who commute to work outside Yakima County, onto local unemployment rolls.

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

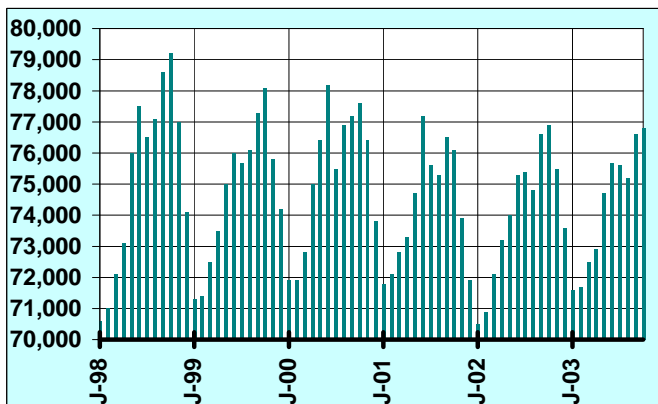
Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	76,800	76,600	76,900	200	-100	-0.1%
TOTAL PRIVATE	60,600	61,000	60,600	-400	0	0.0%
GOODS PRODUCING	14,100	14,400	14,300	-300	-200	-1.4%
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING and CONSTRUCTION	3,400	3,500	3,300	-100	100	3.0%
MANUFACTURING	10,700	10,900	11,000	-200	-300	-2.7%
Durable Goods	4,300	4,200	4,300	100	0	0.0%
Non-Durable Goods	6,400	6,700	6,700	-300	-300	-4.5%
SERVICES PROVIDING	62,700	62,200	62,600	500	100	0.2%
WHOLESALE TRADE	3,700	4,100	4,500	-400	-800	-17.8%
RETAIL TRADE	10,000	9,900	9,400	100	600	6.4%
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING & UTILITIES	3,100	2,800	3,300	300	-200	-6.1%
INFORMATION	1,400	1,300	1,300	100	100	7.7%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,600	2,700	2,600	-100	0	0.0%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	22,900	23,200	23,000	-300	-100	-0.4%
Professional and Business Services	4,700	4,800	4,700	-100	0	0.0%
Health Services and Social Assistance	10,900	10,900	10,700	0	200	1.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	5,400	5,600	5,400	-200	0	0.0%
GOVERNMENT	16,200	15,600	16,300	600	-100	-0.6%
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	-100	-7.1%
State Government	2,900	2,700	2,800	200	100	3.6%
Local Government	12,000	11,600	12,100	400	-100	-0.8%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0

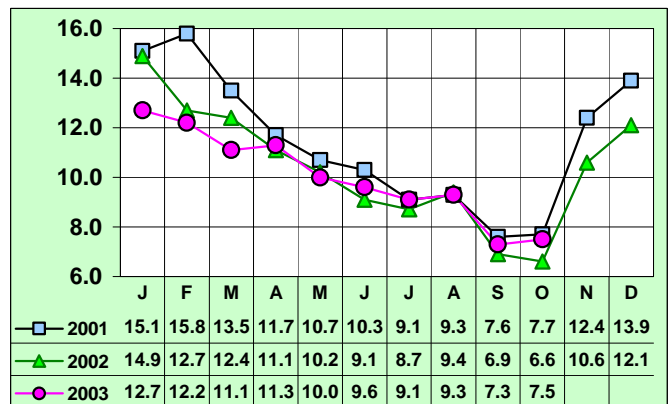
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Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

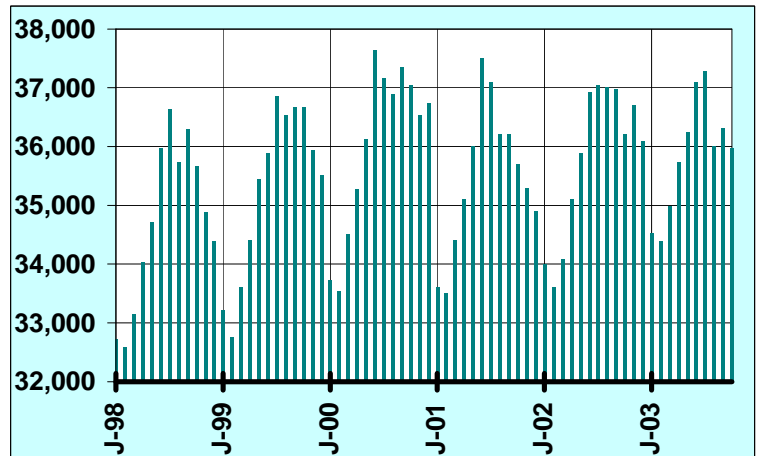
Highlights:

Total nonagricultural employment in Chelan and Douglas counties (also called the Wenatchee Labor Market Area or LMA) contracted by 340 jobs for a 0.9-percent shortening of payrolls over the month of October 2003. Nonagricultural employment here this October provided 35,970 jobs. Accommodation and Food Services cut approximately 250 jobs as hotels and restaurants experienced normal slowdowns in operations at the end of the summer vacation season.

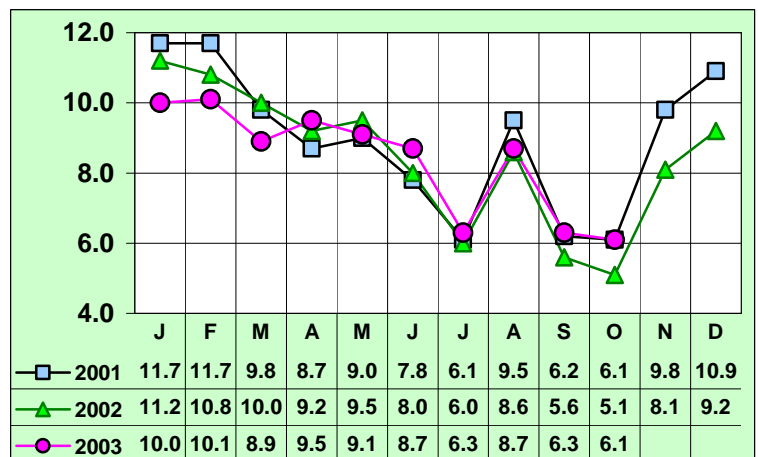
Over-the-year job growth rates in the Wenatchee LMA dipped into the negative column for each of the last three months. Job growth rates in this two-county area fell 1.4 percent in August, declined 1.6 percent in September, and slipped 0.7-percent this October, below corresponding levels in the prior year. It appears that the local economy is running out of steam. However, much of the softness in the local labor market is simply due to this year's smaller apple harvest. Washington's apple harvest in 2003 was smaller than the 2002 crop, which yielded 88.8 million 42-pound fresh-packed boxes. According to an article in the November 7th edition of *The Wenatchee World*, the 2003 harvest is estimated to have produced only 75.5 million fresh packed boxes. Employment slackened by 350 in Wholesale Trade, primarily due to cutbacks at fresh fruit packinghouses. There was less need this season for packers, sorters, and graders than in October 2002.

The unemployment rate in Chelan and Douglas Counties rose from 5.1 percent in October 2002 to the October 2003 reading of 6.1 percent. This has been the fifth consecutive month in which the local unemployment rate has risen above corresponding month in 2002. Two factors seem to have combined to push the October rate one point above last October. First, a sluggish statewide economy has been dourly affecting residents who commute to jobs outside the LMA. Second, a smaller (but likely more profitable) apple harvest has been putting more workers from local fresh fruit packinghouses and trucking firms onto the unemployment rolls.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



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

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	35,970	36,310	36,210	-340	-240	-0.7%
TOTAL PRIVATE	27,680	28,380	28,020	-700	-340	-1.2%
GOODS PRODUCING	5,210	5,420	5,230	-210	-20	-0.4%
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING and CONSTRUCTION	3,280	3,380	3,030	-100	250	8.3%
MANUFACTURING	1,940	2,050	2,190	-110	-250	-11.4%
Durable Goods	1,140	1,270	1,400	-130	-260	-18.6%
Non-Durable Goods	800	780	800	20	0	0.0%
SERVICES PROVIDING	30,760	30,890	30,990	-130	-230	-0.7%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,270	1,280	1,820	-10	-550	-30.2%
RETAIL TRADE	5,270	5,330	5,400	-60	-130	-2.4%
TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSING & UTILITIES	1,420	1,350	1,300	70	120	9.2%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,110	2,130	2,070	-20	40	1.9%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	13,120	13,780	12,920	-660	200	1.5%
Health Services and Social Assistance	4,950	4,900	4,790	50	160	3.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	3,910	4,160	3,950	-250	-40	-1.0%
GOVERNMENT	8,290	7,930	8,200	360	90	1.1%
Federal Government	1,030	1,030	990	0	40	4.0%
State Government	1,230	1,150	1,200	80	30	2.5%
Local Government	6,030	5,750	6,010	280	20	0.3%
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 first quarter 2003) and estimates employment from that point to present.

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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 county continues to do well and it has one of the lowest unemployment rates for the state.

Manufacturing: Jobs are down over the month, but up moderately from last year, due to some positive development in food processing.

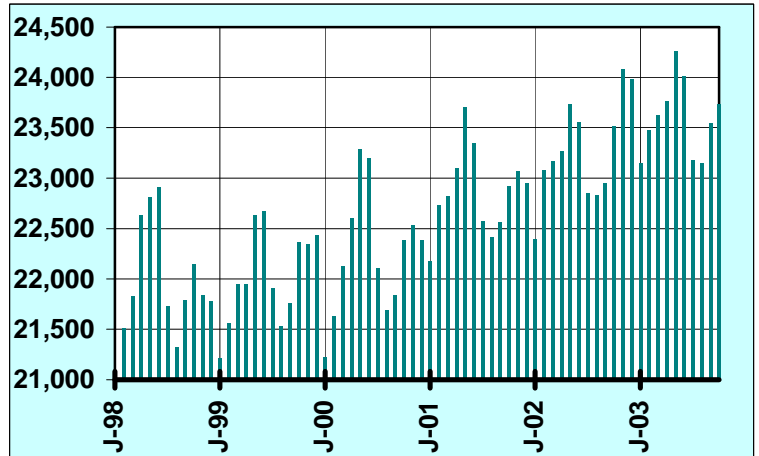
Trade Employment: Employment was up slightly over the year, but down from September, as local wholesalers wind down from the harvest season.

Services: Most of the gain over the month was in Educational Services as the two colleges continue to gear up for the in-coming academic year.

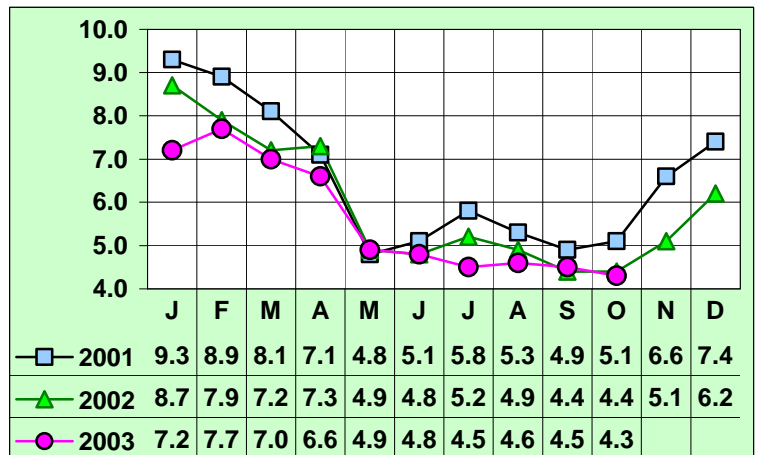
Government: The over-the-year negative in education was in State Education, and it simply reflects a slower ramp-up of employment at the community college.

Down on the Farm: Farm employment rose seasonally from 3,620 in September to 4,370 in October. This compared favorably with October of last year when the count was 4,170.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Walla Walla County

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: December 2002

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	23,730	23,550	23,510	180	220	0.9%
TOTAL PRIVATE	18,550	18,450	18,140	100	410	2.3%
GOODS PRODUCING	4,960	5,020	4,760	-60	200	4.2%
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RESOURCES and MINING	960	970	1,010	-10	-50	-5.0%
MANUFACTURING	4,000	4,050	3,760	-50	240	6.4%
Durable Goods	1,610	1,610	1,660	0	-50	-3.0%
Wineries	240	260	220	-20	20	9.1%
Food Manufacturing	2,140	2,180	1,870	-40	270	14.4%
SERVICES PROVIDING	18,770	18,520	18,740	250	30	0.2%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES	3,740	3,810	3,680	-70	60	1.6%
Wholesale Trade	680	750	610	-70	70	11.5%
Retail Trade	2,530	2,540	2,530	-10	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	480	470	490	10	-10	-2.0%
INFORMATION and FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	1,310	1,340	1,290	-30	20	1.6%
ALL OTHER SERVICES	8,540	8,280	8,400	260	140	1.7%
Educational Services	1,890	1,620	1,870	270	20	1.1%
GOVERNMENT	5,180	5,100	5,370	80	-190	-3.5%
Federal Government	920	950	930	-30	-10	-1.1%
State and Local Government	4,260	4,150	4,440	110	-180	-4.1%
Educational Services	2,130	1,820	2,180	310	-50	-2.3%
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 first 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

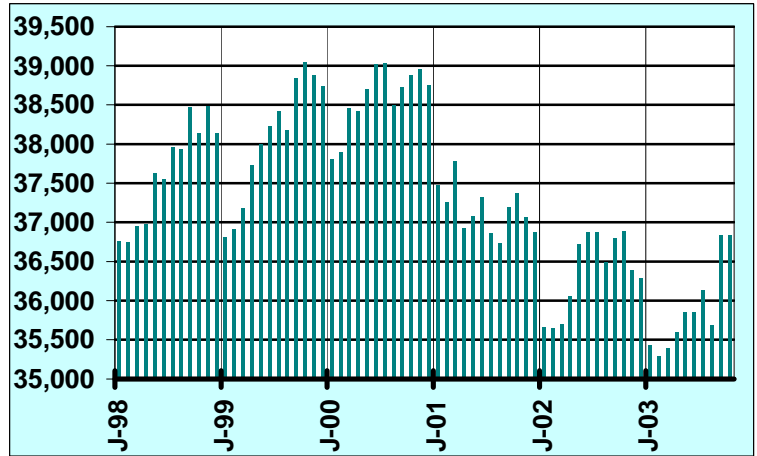
Highlights

Nonfarm employment in Cowlitz County held steady in October at 36,830 jobs. Seasonal hiring in K-12 Education (+370) boosted Government payrolls by 360 jobs, but this was offset by declines in Transportation, Health Care, and Accommodation & Food Services.

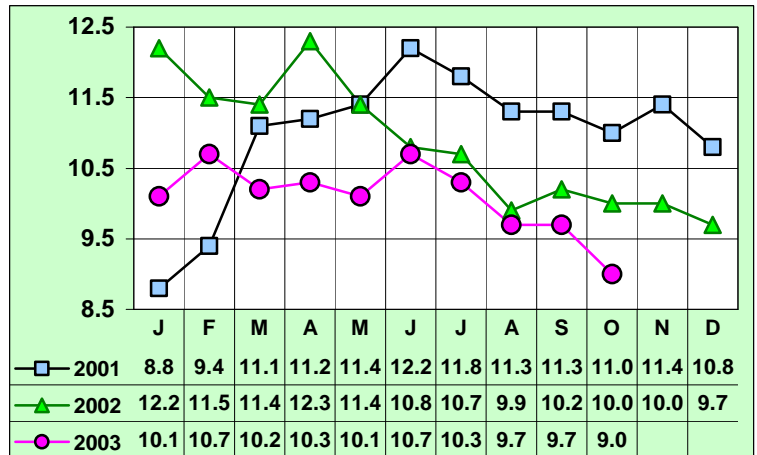
Revised data now shows the county losing 50 jobs, or one tenth of a percent, over the past twelve months. Employment has risen in Construction, Retail Trade—especially General Merchandise Stores— and in Health Care. Losses have been concentrated in Manufacturing, mostly in the Paper Manufacturing industry, along with Transportation, and Accommodations & Food Services. The paper industry will lose additional jobs at the end of November when Weyerhaeuser closes its fine-paper operation. At that time, 120 workers will lose their jobs, with another 30 to follow when mothballing operations are completed.

The county's jobless rate fell seven tenths of a point to 9.0 percent in October. As with the state, this figure should be viewed with some caution. The rate was a point better than a year ago, but again, the lower rate has come about due to discouraged workers leaving the labor force.

Nonag Industry Employment, 1998-2003



Unemployment Rates by Month, 2001-2003



Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers Employed in Cowlitz County

Preliminary Quarterly Benchmark: March 2003

NAICS INDUSTRY TITLE	Prelim Oct-03	Revised Sept-03	Revised Oct-02	Change		
				Sept-03 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03	Oct-02 Oct-03 %
TOTAL NONFARM 1/	36,830	36,830	36,880	0	-50	-0.1%
CONSTRUCTION, MINING, UTIL. and LOGGING	3,690	3,650	3,570	40	120	3.4%
Construction, Mining and Utilities	2,930	2,880	2,780	50	150	5.4%
Logging	760	770	790	-10	-30	-3.8%
MANUFACTURING	7,030	7,050	7,160	-20	-130	-1.8%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,240	1,240	1,190	0	50	4.2%
Paper Manufacturing	2,910	3,000	3,030	-90	-120	-4.0%
Other Manufacturing	2,880	2,810	2,940	70	-60	-2.0%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,060	1,100	1,080	-40	-20	-1.9%
RETAIL TRADE	4,530	4,530	4,480	0	50	1.1%
Food and Beverage Stores	970	970	1,020	0	-50	-4.9%
General Merchandise Stores	1,200	1,180	1,050	20	150	14.3%
Other Retail	2,360	2,380	2,410	-20	-50	-2.1%
TRANSPORTATION and WAREHOUSING	1,230	1,370	1,320	-140	-90	-6.8%
FINANCE and INSURANCE	960	970	910	-10	50	5.5%
ADMIN., SUPPORT and WASTE MGMT.	830	850	870	-20	-40	-4.6%
HEALTH CARE and SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	4,770	4,850	4,710	-80	60	1.3%
ACCOMMODATION and FOOD SERVICES	2,860	2,950	2,970	-90	-110	-3.7%
OTHER SERVICES	3,880	3,880	3,870	0	10	0.3%
GOVERNMENT	5,990	5,630	5,940	360	50	0.8%
Federal Government	270	270	260	0	10	3.8%
State Government	1,290	1,250	1,270	40	20	1.6%
Local Government	4,430	4,110	4,410	320	20	0.5%
K-12 Education	2,850	2,480	2,800	370	50	1.8%
Other Local Government	1,580	1,630	1,610	-50	-30	-1.9%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	10	0	0	0
Nonfarm Employment without logging	36,070	36,060	36,090	10	-20	-0.1%

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

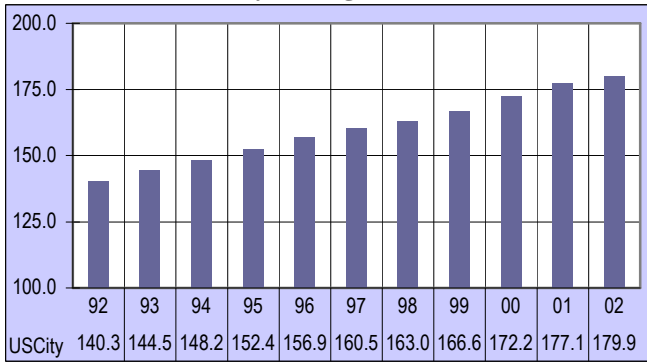
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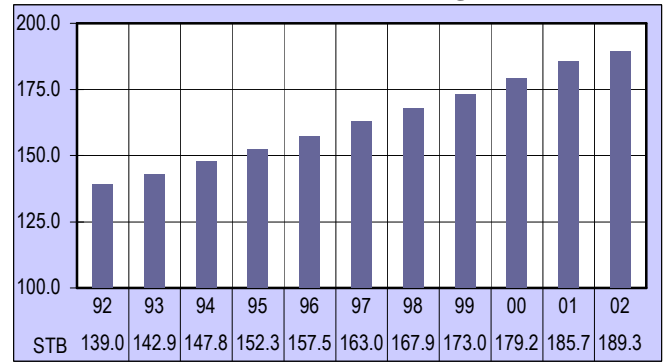
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Consumer Price Indexes

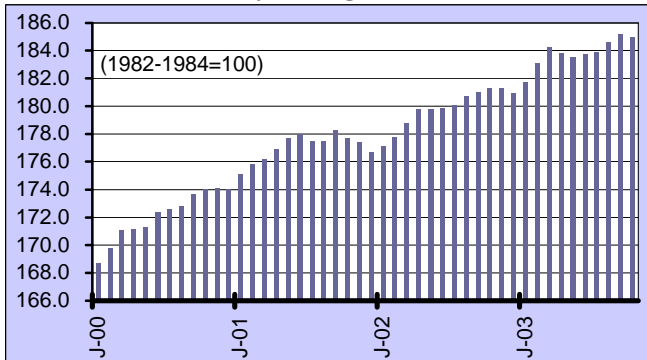
U.S. City Average 1990-2003



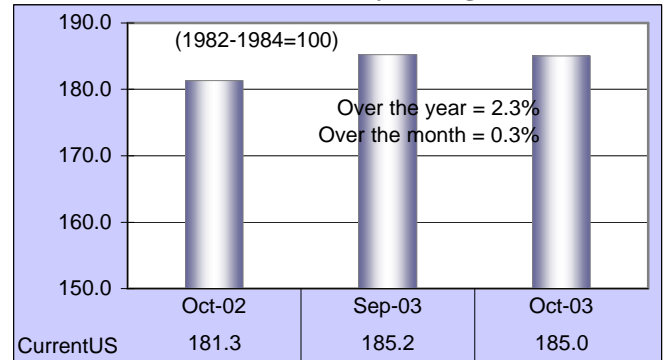
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Average 1990-2003



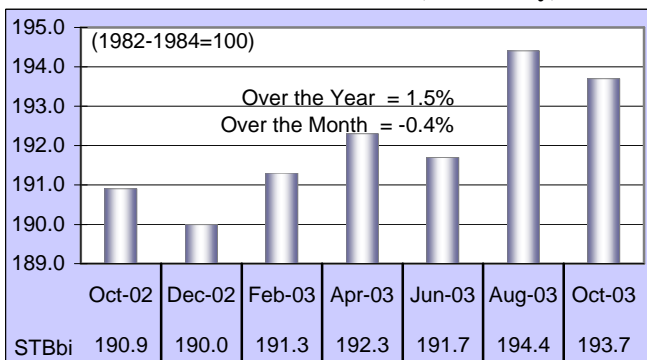
U.S. City Average 2000-2003



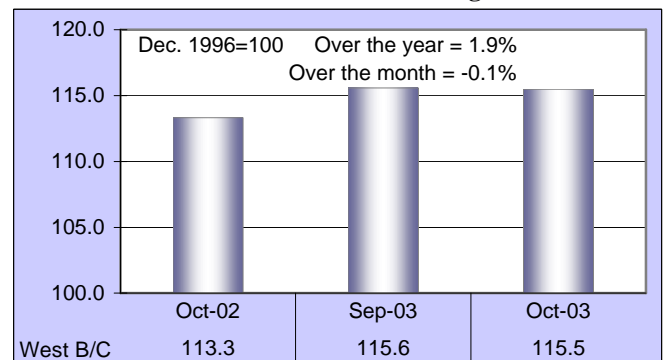
Current U.S. City Average



Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton (bi-monthly)



Current West B/C Average



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

Technical Notes

This release is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous months are subject to revisions. Industries are classified in accord with the North America Industrial Classification System (NAICS), and implemented with the release of January 2003 data. Data is prepared using a quarterly benchmark process, which uses the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance tax reports (currently March 2003 unless otherwise stated) and estimates employment from that point until present. Material in this publication may be reproduced without special permission (but credit is welcome).

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

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

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

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