



Washington State
Employment Security

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Washington Labor Market

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INDICATORS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Washington

(Seasonally Adjusted)

May (prel)	2003	7.3%
April (rev)	2003	7.3%
March	2003	7.1%
Annual Average ¹	2002	7.3%

United States

(Seasonally Adjusted)

May	2003	6.1%
April (rev)	2003	6.0%
March	2003	5.8%
Annual Average ¹	2002	5.8%

¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

MANUFACTURING WORKER AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

Washington

May	2003	\$17.85
April	2003	\$18.06
March	2003	\$17.99
May	2002	\$18.24

MANUFACTURING WORKER AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

Washington

May	2003	39.2
April	2003	38.7
March	2003	39.7
May	2002	40.0

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ALL URBAN CONSUMERS (CPI) 1982-84 = 100

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton

April	2003	192.3
Yearly Change	April 2002-April 2003	1.9%

U.S. City Average

May	2003	183.5
Yearly Change	May 2002-May 2003	2.1%

HIGHLIGHTS

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Has Washington's Unemployment Rate Peaked? Current Economic Conditions

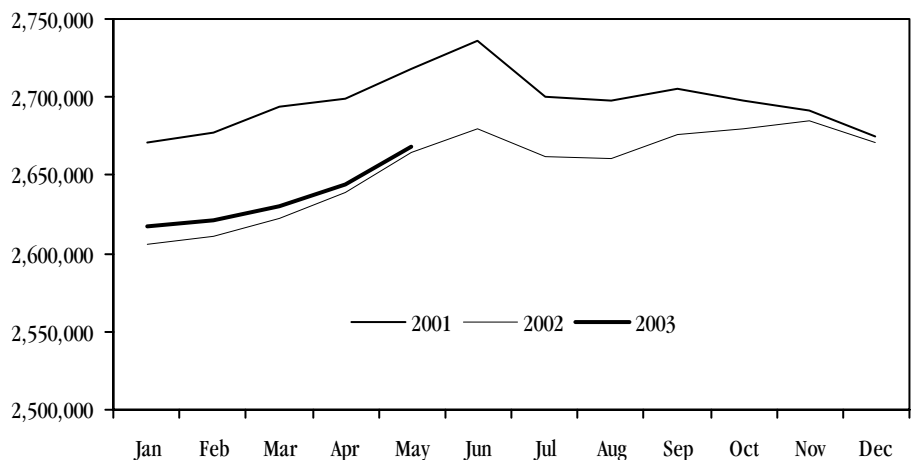
Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May remained at 7.3 percent for a second month. That was down only one-tenth of a percentage point from May 2002. Although the unemployment rate was almost identical to that of last year, there were some positive signs. The labor force increased over the year and employment was up while unemployment was down. The improvements were very small but they at least indicated that workers weren't becoming discouraged and leaving the labor force in large numbers. The upward creep in the unemployment rate has leveled off and hopefully indicates that it has peaked. While the unemployment rate rose quickly in 2001, it has not shown itself

able to improve with the same momentum. Given that the state and national economies are likely to muddle through with no large positive or negative shocks over the next year, the unemployment rate would be expected to improve very slowly. Nonagricultural employment estimates show a similar slowing of employment gains. While employment remains slightly above year ago levels (3,200) the spread between this year and last year is narrowing. Furthermore, employment in 2003 remains significantly below that in 2001 (May 2003 was 50,300 less than that of May 2001). Employment has ceased to decline, but job losses since early 2001 have not been made up.

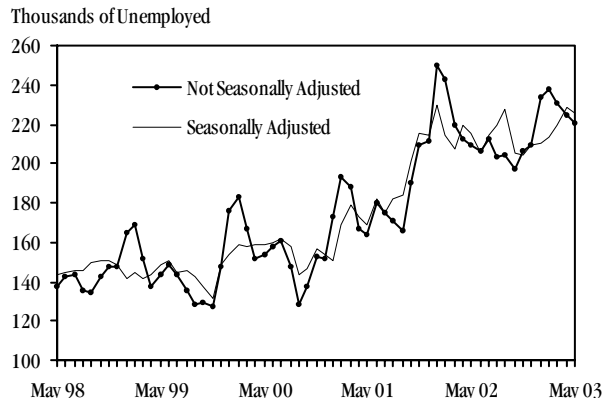
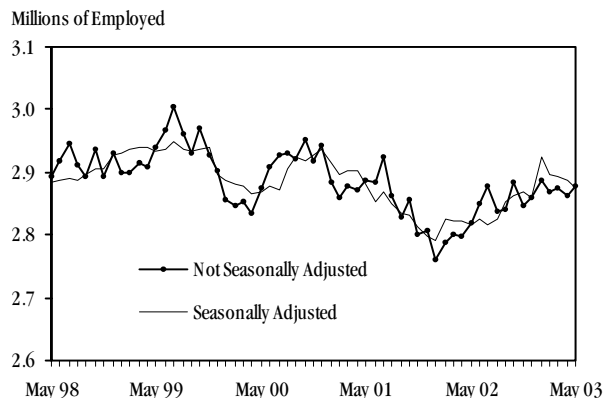


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Employment Remains Slightly Above a Year Ago



Washington State Total Resident Employment and Unemployment
May 1998-May 2003



Leisure and hospitality showed a strong seasonal increase of 7,200 over the month.

Construction showed a normal seasonal increase in May, up 4,000 over the month and up 2,300 over the year. Specialty trade contracting is the largest sector within construction, accounting for almost two-thirds of the sector's employment. This sector has seen the strongest recovery while the construction of buildings remains depressed with 800 fewer jobs over the year.

Manufacturing declined by 700 jobs over the month of May and is down 21,600 jobs from May 2002. Over fifty percent of this year-over-year decline is attributed to the 12,000 jobs lost in aerospace. The over-the-year declines in manufacturing and aerospace have been fairly steady since December 2000, which marked the peak in nonagricultural employment. Other sectors of manufacturing have also shown persistent weakness over the year, particularly in the durable goods sector.

Retail trade showed a normal seasonal increase of 3,600 jobs over the month of May. Over the year, retail trade was up 1,900 jobs. This year-over-year increase is important as it follows a slight increase of just 1,100 jobs from April 2002 to April 2003. Retail trade employment has been below year-ago numbers since February 2001, before the secondary employment impact of the recession was

really felt. This sign of improvement in the state's third largest employment sector (after government and health and education services) is an important indicator of labor market stability.

Information was up 300 jobs (+0.3 percent) over May, but was still down 900 jobs since May 2002. Software remained the stronger of the two sub-sectors within information, up 1,000 jobs over the year. Telecommunications was the weaker of the two, down 2,400 jobs since May 2002.

Professional and business services were up 2,100 jobs over the month of May and up 3,000 jobs over the year. The over-the-month increases were mostly due to the administrative support sector, which includes the volatile employment services industry. Conversely, the over-the-year increases were due more to the professional, scientific and technical services industry.

Leisure and hospitality showed a strong seasonal increase of 7,200 over the month. The increase is spread quite evenly over food services and accommodation. This sector was also up 2,500 over the year.

Government was up 3,900 over the month, almost all of which was in local government and largely attributable to special county elections.

National Outlook

The nation appears poised at the edge of a slow recovery. From the first quarter of 2002 to the first quarter of 2003, employment was down, hours were constant, and output was up 2.4 percent. Strong productivity gains since the third quarter of 2001 have allowed output to increase without an increase in employment. Current expansionary monetary and fiscal policy may bolster both business and consumer spending and lead to increased hiring. The labor market is now the pivotal factor. The risk for the economy is that the slack labor market will cause a pullback in consumer spending before businesses begin to invest. The ensuing decline in sales could cause businesses to put off hiring, which would exacerbate the problem.

Financial markets look strong. Stock prices have risen 23.5 percent since this year's low on March 11th (but only up 8 percent since January 1st 2003). The dollar has depreciated against the Euro by 26 percent over the past 12 months and 30-year mortgage fell 19 percent over a 12-month period to 5.48 percent in May 2003. The depreciation of the dollar combined with historically low interest rates and low inflation should create a very conducive environment for business investment and consumer spending. The augmentation of this financial stimulus by the federal income tax cuts (e.g., less withholdings, child tax credits) should serve to give the economy a powerful boost this summer.

Current indications are that consumer spending won't surge in the near future. Retail sales as a broad indicator of

consumers' willingness to spend were up a slight 0.1 percent in May after declining in April. Consumer confidence levels were lower, but this was after rising over the past few weeks. Personal income remained almost constant over April and May, but personal consumption expenditures declined slightly. Consumer debt levels may constrain future spending as consumer credit rose at an annual rate of 7.25 percent in April and consumer debt has risen steadily through the recession. Home refinancing has allowed consumers to benefit from lower interest rates to restructure their debt. Still, in both the home buying market and the car market, there is little pent up demand that could spur the economy further.

Business investment in information processing equipment, computers, and software has been rising slowly over the past year. Investment in non-residential structures and industrial equipment though has been flat or falling. Businesses seem to have created most of their productivity gains through cutting payrolls and restructuring rather than through the purchase of new plants and equipment.

The labor market remains weak with initial claims for unemployment insurance above the 400,000 mark for the past 18 weeks. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also rose one-tenth of a percentage point in May to its highest level since July 1994. Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment was also down 17,000 over the month and 344,000 over the year in May.



Retail sales as a broad indicator of consumers' willingness to spend were up a slight 0.1 percent in May after declining in April.

More National Economic Indicators

Real GDP	+1.4% Q1 2003 (f) +1.4% Q4 2002 (f)	Real Average	+0.5% May 2003 (p)
		Weekly Earnings	+0.2% April 2003 (p)
Personal Income (current dollars)	+0.3% May 2003 +0.2% April 2003	Producer Price Index	-0.3% May 2003 -1.9% April 2003

(p) - preliminary (f) - final

According to records filed with the Employment Security Department under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act, 921 workers were warned of pending or potential layoffs in June.



Business Notes

Nursing and Home Health Care On Layoff List

According to records filed with the Employment Security Department under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act, 921 workers were warned of pending or potential layoffs in June. Of those, 627 are with The Boeing Company, which has warned 5,369 of its Puget Sound area workers to date in 2003.

Interestingly, two of the firms warning workers of potential layoffs in June are in the health care services industry: Lifecare Solutions of Spokane (31 workers) and Rose Vista Nursing Center in Vancouver (150 workers). Although the demand for health care personnel is strong, rising costs and low reimbursements continue to nip at profitability and put pressure on the system. Other recent WARN notices issued by health and nursing care facilities include Evergreen Walla Walla Health and Rehab Center (up to 44 workers in Walla Walla) and Evergreen Healthcare (up to 81 workers in Renton).

Renewable Fuel Plant Coming to Central Washington

Construction of an ethanol plant in Moses Lake (Grant County) promises a new market for Washington's wheat and barley growers and up to 350 jobs in Central Washington. Once operating, the 40 million-gallon-plant will be the first of its kind in North America to produce ethanol mainly from wheat and barley. Corn is most commonly used to make ethanol. In June U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell amended the Senate Energy Bill to include incentives to encourage the production of ethanol from agricultural byproducts common in Washington. Prior to Cantwell's amendment, the original provision only applied to corn.

At the suggestion of Governor Gary Locke, former Governor Mike Lowry has agreed to review bids that are submitted for the

various projects involved in constructing the plant. According to a news release issued by Senator Cantwell, the agreement assures that qualified contractors, union or otherwise, can bid on the project and local firms will be considered first. Construction of the plant is anticipated to begin in the late summer or fall and is expected to last two years. A newsletter published by the Washington Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development in September 2001 reported that employment at the plant should include some 50 on-site operational employees and 300 contracted workers to provide security, maintenance, and hauling.

Hanford Project Revises Projections*

The project schedule for the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant was recently updated, and changes are sure to impact the pace of economic growth in the Tri-Cities area. The Hanford Waste Treatment Plant, known locally as the "vit" plant because of the vitrification process that will be used to treat chemical and radioactive waste, was originally projected to become operational in fiscal year 2009 with roughly 1,600 workers to be added to the project this fiscal year. Instead, the plant construction phase has been extended two additional years with an employment peak twenty percent lower than with the original plans. Because of the scale of the project and its proximity to the Tri-Cities, estimates are that for every job created at the vit plant an additional job would be created in the community. With changes to the project schedule, there may be little net employment gain this fiscal year and the bulk of the ramp up will be seen next fiscal year.

**Contributed by Dean Schau, Regional Labor Economist.*

Occupational Focus: Veterinarian Technologists and Technicians

By David Wallace, Economic Analyst

More than one-third of U.S. households are dog owners and just under a third own cats, according to the Statistical Abstract of the United States. Given that the average American dog makes about three visits to the veterinarian each year and cats go about twice a year, demand for veterinary services appears to be ample. And according to the Employment Security Department's long-term occupational employment projections, the job market for veterinary technologists and technicians in Washington looks promising.

Between 2000 and 2005 the number of veterinary tech jobs across Washington is expected to grow by 3.4 percent each year, followed by an annual average of 2.8 percent from 2005 to 2010. To put this in perspective, all occupations are projected to increase by 0.5 percent and 1.6 percent for each time period, respectively. Furthermore, veterinary

tech jobs are projected to grow at a faster rate than other animal care jobs, such as veterinarians or veterinary assistants.

So what do veterinary technologists and technicians do? Typically, they work for veterinarians, biological research firms, or animal control and humane organizations. They perform medical tests, make diagnoses, and treat animals. While often working under supervision of a veterinarian, they may themselves supervise veterinary assistants.

Although the position was historically gained through on-the-job-experience, becoming a veterinary tech now requires an Associate's Degree. On average, Washington's veterinary techs earned \$26,327 in 2001, while the average wage for all occupations in Washington was \$38,522.

Projections for Veterinary Technologists and Technicians in Washington

Estimated Employment			Average Annual Growth Rate		Average Annual Total Openings		2001
2000	2005	2010	2000-2005	2005-2010	2000-2005	2005-2010	Average Wage
1,183	1,396	1,603	3.4%	2.8%	73	81	\$26,327

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department, February 2003.



Although the position was historically gained through on-the-job-experience, becoming a veterinary tech now requires an Associate Degree.

Across the State

In May, Western Washington had a slightly lower unemployment rate than its eastern counterpart at 7.0 percent compared to 7.6 percent. Counties in Eastern Washington tend to have stronger seasonal fluctuations in their unemployment rates due to the agricultural nature of their economies. The unemployment rate in Eastern Washington declined by five-tenths of a percentage point over the

month. Yakima County experienced a drop of more than a full percentage point with asparagus, cherries, and apple pruning employment picking up. Unemployment rates also dropped in Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Pend Oreille, Okanogan, and Stevens counties.

Western Washington had an almost unchanged unemployment rate over the

month, which was down one-tenth of a percentage point from April 2003, and over the year, which was down two-tenths of a percentage point from May 2002. King County's unemployment rate of 6.6 percent in May 2003 was unchanged from May 2002. Over the year, nonagricultural employment was down 5,100 in King County. The goods producing sector in the county more than accounted for this drop by losing 15,300 jobs over the year. Specifically, 3,100 of those job losses occurred in construction and 7,400 in aerospace. In contrast, the service-producing sector was up by 10,300 jobs over the year. The job increases came in educational and health services, leisure and hospitality, federal government, and local government.

Unemployment Rates by Geographic Areas, State of Washington

Area	May-03	Apr-03	May-02	Apr-02
Washington State Total	7.1%	7.3%	7.2%	7.6%
Metropolitan Areas	6.8%	6.9%	6.9%	7.1%
Timber Dependent Areas	8.6%	9.3%	8.8%	9.7%
All Western Wa Areas	7.0%	7.1%	7.2%	7.4%
All Eastern Washington Areas	7.6%	8.1%	7.5%	8.3%

Industry Overview: Washington State's Key Growth Industries

By Rick Lockhart, Economic Analyst

With all of the negative press associated with business closures and layoffs as of late, it is refreshing to take a look at some of the industries that are flourishing here in Washington. In this article we're going to look at some leading growth industries, which are defined by ten-year growth rates and average wages. The industry definitions used in this article are based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) at the 3-digit level.

Between 1991 and 2001, 22 of Washington's 100 3-digit NAICS industries had employment growth rates above the state average. Not surprisingly, the top three key growth industries are closely connected to innovations in personal computing. For instance, Internet publishing and broadcasting posted the largest growth at 784 percent over the ten-year period.

The top ten growth industries for Washington State are listed below.

It is important to put into context the term "key growth industries". In this case, we are using employment and wage data to construct our list. Revenue data is not taken into consideration. Therefore, those industries that have seen high revenue growth, but have not experienced high levels of employment growth, will not show up in the findings.

To qualify as a key growth industry, an industry must meet two conditions. First, and most obvious, it must have experienced above average growth over a given time period. Second, the average wage for the industry should be within 85 percent, or better, of the state average. While it is great to see any industry experience employment growth, if we are looking at it from an economic development standpoint, it is important for a key growth industry to be paying a relatively good wage. In any case, the good news is Washington has eight of its top ten key growth industries paying wages above the state average of \$37,455 in 2001.

Please note the last column in the table above, called "Location Quotient". It is useful for analyzing industry presence in an area. To be more specific, the location quotient is a comparison of the concentration of a given industry in a state compared to the concentration of the same industry at the national level. If an industry has a location quotient of 1.0, then it has the same relative employment concentration as the rest of the country. A very high location quotient, say above 1.5, indicates there are some characteristics inherent to the area that cause it to be more competitive than most of the nation. Since the electrical equipment and appliance manufacturing industry has a location quotient of 0.34, Washington State has a lower percentage of total employment in that industry than does the nation as a whole. An alternative way to view a small location quotient is that the given industry has room to grow. Not to say industries with a location quotient greater than 1.0 are topped out, in fact they may be in the midst of a major employment surge that is creating a viable industry cluster for the state.

Overall, Washington's key growth industries should be taken at face value. They are paying good wages and have experienced exceptional growth. While past performance is no guarantee of what is to come, we would expect the factors that have caused Washington to be very competitive would continue to do so. In addition, the prevalence of high location quotients among the key growth industries is indicative of many interconnected industries that are benefiting from their performance.

The Top Ten Growth Industries for Washington State

Industry	2001 Employment	1991-2001 Change	2001 Annual Wage	Location Quotient
Internet publishing and broadcasting	1,686	784%	\$70,541	1.86
Nonstore retailers	12,128	180%	\$44,116	1.23
Publishing industries, except Internet	48,542	154%	\$164,231	2.30
Couriers and messengers	11,935	106%	\$31,985	0.96
Securities, commodity contracts, investments	11,506	105%	\$91,403	0.66
Transit and ground passenger transportation	14,451	73%	\$32,578	1.19
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	3,900	70%	\$41,434	0.34
Telecommunications	31,695	69%	\$66,209	1.18
ISPs, search portals, and data processing	6,397	53%	\$60,195	0.63
Electronics and appliance stores	10,699	52%	\$39,015	0.92

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch. Cover Employment and Wages.

Industry Focus: Manufacturing

By Rick Lockhart, Economic Analyst

Manufacturing has long been the driving force of Washington's economy, but the dynamics of economic restructuring have impacted employment in this sector relative to others. As we move forward into the new century, the question must be asked: "Is the manufacturing sector in the midst of a long-term decline and, if so, where are the jobs going?"

Washington's manufacturing sector is led by the transportation equipment industry, which constituted about 28 percent of statewide manufacturing employment in May 2003. Most of those jobs are concentrated in aerospace products and parts (about 25 percent of all manufacturing and 86 percent of transportation equipment). Other major employers in the sector include food manufacturing, computer and electronics, wood products, and fabricated metals.

In raw numbers, manufacturing employment increased from nearly 192,000 workers in 1951 to about 342,000 in 2001, a total change of 78 percent. But in relative terms, manufacturing's share of statewide employment has seen a downward trend. In 1951, 35 percent of jobs in Washington were in the manufacturing sector; by 2001 that figure had dropped

to 13 percent. The pattern was similar nationwide, as manufacturing dropped from 31 percent of total employment in 1951 to 12 percent in 2001.

While these numbers are dramatic, it should not be surprising to see them. Job losses associated with the surge of new technologies introduced late in the Twentieth Century are a predictable consequence as productivity gains are realized. Lower-cost transportation, communication, and liberalized trade agreements have also contributed to the reduction of domestic manufacturing employment by increasing the role of global trade, and thus, competition. Getting back to our original question, the answer to the first part is: While Washington has experienced growth in total manufacturing jobs, the sector is actually in long term decline in terms of its share of total employment.

The business cycle imposes a secondary influence on the structural change of Washington's manufacturing sector. As the economy tightens around the bottom of the business cycle, private expenditures on facilities and equipment wane. The state's wood products and aerospace industries have been especially impacted

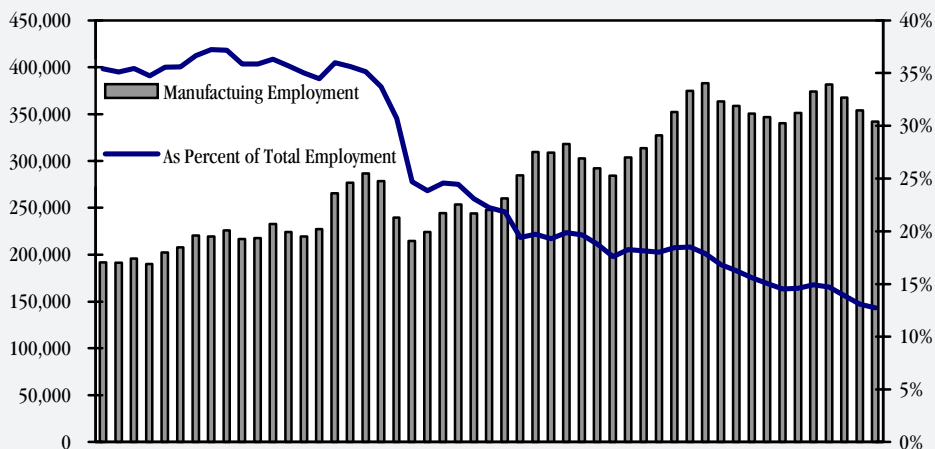
by the booms and busts of the national (and international) business cycle. According to Covered Employment and Wage (CEW) data, between 1990 and 2001 the wood products industry saw a workforce reduction of 7,700 and the aerospace industry had a reduction of 27,500. When combined, those two industries make up 86 percent of the contraction of manufacturing in Washington State for the same time period.

The next question to answer is: "To what sector are the manufacturing jobs shifting?" For the period 1990-2001, services sector employment grew by 557,400 and the number of firms increased by 77.6 percent. Likewise, the sector's share of statewide employment gained five percentage points over the decade. With the service sector showing such positive numbers, it is likely replacing many manufacturing jobs.

A potential shortcoming to an employment shift from manufacturing to services is found in wage differences. For 2001, the average wage for manufacturing was \$47,800 compared to \$36,300 for the service sector. While the service sector is quite diverse with both high and low paying jobs, in general, education is the determining factor for those who land the higher paying jobs. In manufacturing, wage is more likely determined by experience.

Overall, the manufacturing industry has provided Washington State with a solid foundation on which to build its economy. As times have changed and the global marketplace has advanced, Washington has had to make adjustments as to the level at which it depends on the manufacturing industry for foundational support. Fortunately, the state is showing relative strength as the service sector employment is growing and diversifying.

Washington's Manufacturing Employment 1951-2001



Source: Labor Market and Economic Analysis, Washington State Employment Security Department. Based on the Standard Industrial Classification.

Special Feature: Is the Unemployment Rate Recovering Unusually Slowly from the 2001 Recession?

The Washington and national unemployment rates have been increasing since the recession began in March 2001. From October 2001 to May 2003¹, the national rate increased seven-tenths of a percentage point while the Washington rate rose almost four-tenths of a percentage point. Is this failure of the unemployment rate to fall normal or does it indicate something peculiar about this recession and recovery?

First, recovery needs to be defined. To what level would the unemployment rate be expected to return? Ideally, the unemployment rate would return to the full-employment level of unemployment (some unemployment is always present in the economy due to normal job changes and movements into and out of the labor market). This “full-employment” level of unemployment is difficult to estimate and has probably changed over time. To address this issue, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the month after the end of the recession was compared to the average unemployment rate for the three years before the recession started.

The chart below follows the deviation of the current unemployment rate from this three-year pre-recession average through the four years after the recession’s end. The official end of the 2001 recession has not been announced, so it has been set at a fairly early date of October 2001, based on that quarter having posted a positive annual rate of GDP change.

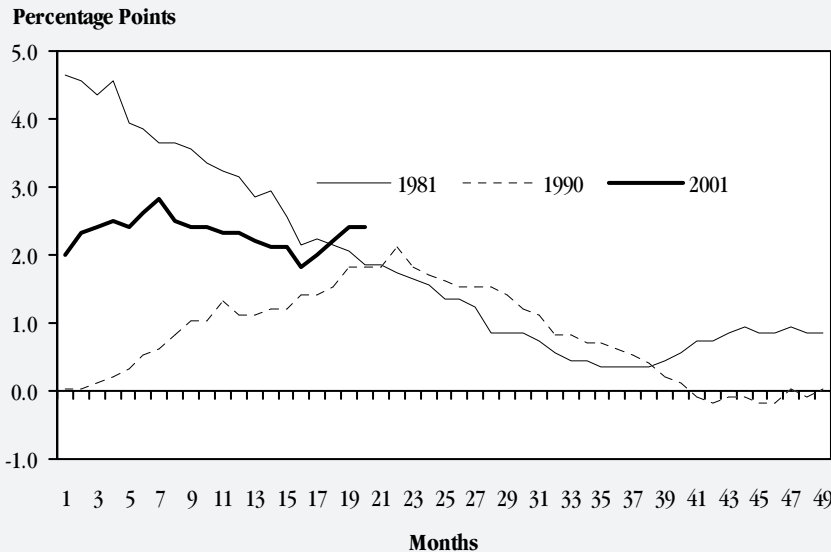
Each of the post-recessionary periods has quite different unemployment dynamics. The 1981 recession had what might be described as a classic recovery. The unemployment rate started out considerably above – 4.65 percentage points – the average level for the three years prior to the recession. The unemployment rate then declined steadily, reaching near pre-recession levels 37 months, or about three years, after the end of the recession.

The 1991 recession was much milder in Washington and the unemployment rate began its recovery period at about its pre-recession level. The unemployment rate then rose for the two years following the recession and declined back to pre-recession levels by the end of the four-year period.

The current recession appears to be an intermediate case. The unemployment rate started out about two percentage points higher than the pre-recession level and remains there presently. An interesting feature is that all the jobless rates cross at approximately two percentage points above pre-recession levels about 18 months after the end of the recession. In both the 1980 and 1991 recessions, from the second year out to the fourth year, the unemployment rate decreased steadily. Is it then likely that the current recovery will follow this pattern with a steady decline in the unemployment rate over the next two years? It is certainly possible.

There is another way to look at the data, though. The very different pre-recession unemployment rates might not indicate a changing “full-employment” level of unemployment. Before the 1981 recession, the average unemployment rate was 7.5 percent; before the 1990 recession it was 6.2 percent; before the 2001 recession it was 4.9 percent. It could be that the unemployment rate in the late nineties was unnaturally low by a fluke and that the unemployment rate is unlikely to move back to those levels. The average unemployment rate since 1978 is 7.15 percent with a mean average deviation of 1.4 percentage points. A very rough calculation would be that an unemployment rate between 5.75 and 8.55 is “normal” for the period. In such a case, the current Washington seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 7.3 percent would be very near the center of this normal range.

Unemployment Rate Recovery Differs After Past Three Recessions



¹ An official ending date has not been declared for the 2001 recession, but GDP stopped declining after the third quarter of 2001.

Stats-At-A-Glance

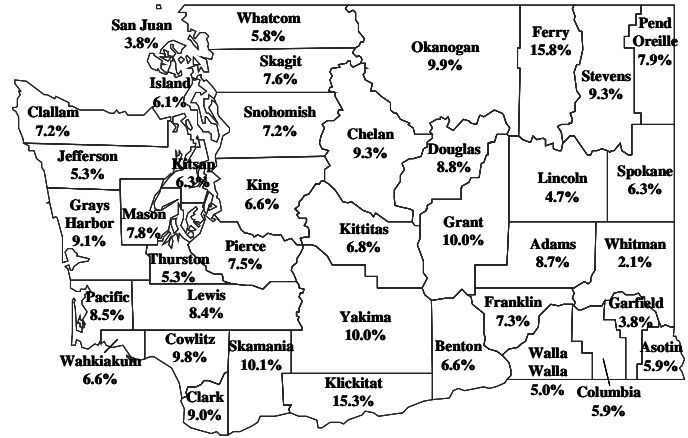
Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State

Unemployment Rates by County, May 2003 Washington State = 7.1% United States = 5.8% Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Percentage)	May 2003	Apr 2003	May 2002	Apr 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment:	(Prel.)	(Rev.)	(Rev.)	(Rev.)
Washington State	7.3%	7.3%	7.4%	7.7%
United States	6.1%	6.0%	5.9%	6.0%

Not Seasonally Adjusted: (In Thousands)

	May 2003	Apr 2003	May 2002	Apr 2002
Resident Civilian Labor Force	3,097.0	3,087.0	3,086.7	3,060.2
Employment	2,876.5	2,862.0	2,863.0	2,827.7
Unemployment	220.5	225.0	223.7	232.5
Percent of Labor Force	7.1%	7.3%	7.2%	7.6%



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

Date: 6/17/03
Benchmark: 2002

Not Seasonally Adjusted	May 2003 Preliminary				April 2003 Revised				May 2002 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total	3,097,000	2,876,500	220,500	7.1	3,087,000	2,862,000	225,000	7.3	3,086,700	2,863,000	223,700	7.2
Bellingham MSA	89,000	83,900	5,100	5.8	88,800	83,500	5,300	5.9	84,300	79,100	5,200	6.2
Bremerton PMSA	100,800	94,500	6,300	6.3	100,400	94,200	6,300	6.2	99,900	93,800	6,000	6.0
Olympia PMSA	108,800	103,000	5,700	5.3	108,700	103,000	5,800	5.3	104,400	98,400	6,000	5.7
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA	1,384,600	1,291,700	92,800	6.7	1,380,700	1,289,100	91,600	6.6	1,393,100	1,297,800	95,300	6.8
King County 2/	1,015,600	949,000	66,600	6.6	1,012,300	947,100	65,200	6.4	1,020,300	953,400	66,900	6.6
Snohomish County 2/	341,100	316,500	24,600	7.2	340,600	315,900	24,700	7.3	344,700	318,000	26,700	7.8
Island County 2/	27,900	26,200	1,700	6.1	27,800	26,200	1,600	5.9	28,060	26,360	1,700	6.1
Spokane MSA	213,000	199,500	13,500	6.3	212,500	198,700	13,800	6.5	214,200	200,600	13,600	6.4
Tacoma PMSA	347,500	321,600	25,900	7.5	347,300	321,500	25,800	7.4	343,300	317,000	26,300	7.7
Tri-Cities MSA	103,300	96,300	7,000	6.8	101,900	94,700	7,300	7.1	100,700	94,500	6,100	6.1
Benton County 2/	78,600	73,400	5,200	6.6	77,200	72,100	5,100	6.6	76,500	72,000	4,500	5.9
Franklin County 2/	24,800	22,900	1,800	7.3	24,700	22,500	2,200	8.9	24,200	22,500	1,600	6.8
Yakima MSA	107,600	96,900	10,700	10.0	105,700	93,800	11,900	11.3	106,900	96,000	10,900	10.2
Adams	7,890	7,210	680	8.7	7,860	7,170	690	8.8	7,850	7,200	650	8.2
Asotin 2/	12,160	11,450	710	5.9	12,630	11,680	960	7.6	11,890	11,260	640	5.3
Chelan-Douglas LMA	51,080	46,420	4,660	9.1	51,310	46,440	4,860	9.5	51,420	46,530	4,890	9.5
Chelan County 2/	34,180	31,020	3,160	9.3	34,470	31,030	3,430	10.0	34,490	31,090	3,390	9.8
Douglas County 2/	16,900	15,400	1,500	8.8	16,840	15,410	1,430	8.5	16,940	15,440	1,500	8.9
Clallam	25,080	23,270	1,800	7.2	24,840	22,980	1,870	7.5	25,140	23,420	1,720	6.8
Clark 2/	185,300	168,600	16,600	9.0	185,400	167,100	18,300	9.8	186,100	169,000	17,100	9.2
Columbia	1,820	1,710	110	5.9	1,620	1,480	140	8.7	1,840	1,710	140	7.4
Cowlitz	39,500	35,630	3,860	9.8	39,550	35,470	4,080	10.3	41,200	36,480	4,710	11.4
Ferry	2,790	2,350	440	15.8	2,720	2,250	470	17.4	2,440	2,170	280	11.3
Garfield	1,250	1,200	50	3.8	1,230	1,170	60	4.7	1,230	1,180	50	3.7
Grant	37,520	33,760	3,770	10.0	36,310	33,000	3,310	9.1	37,530	33,460	4,060	10.8
Grays Harbor	26,420	24,030	2,400	9.1	26,460	23,900	2,560	9.7	25,860	23,580	2,280	8.8
Jefferson	12,100	11,460	640	5.3	11,980	11,280	700	5.8	11,680	10,920	760	6.5
Kittitas	16,310	15,200	1,120	6.8	16,690	15,440	1,250	7.5	15,630	14,680	960	6.1
Klickitat	8,410	7,130	1,290	15.3	8,260	7,040	1,210	14.7	8,350	7,190	1,160	13.9
Lewis	29,940	27,430	2,510	8.4	29,820	27,170	2,660	8.9	29,500	26,980	2,510	8.5
Lincoln	4,870	4,640	230	4.7	4,730	4,490	250	5.2	4,820	4,570	250	5.1
Mason	20,280	18,700	1,570	7.8	20,220	18,540	1,670	8.3	19,310	17,920	1,390	7.2
Okanogan	17,870	16,110	1,760	9.9	17,660	15,650	2,010	11.4	17,660	16,010	1,650	9.4
Pacific	8,280	7,570	700	8.5	8,210	7,460	750	9.2	7,870	7,240	630	8.0
Pend Oreille	4,400	4,050	350	7.9	4,420	3,920	490	11.2	4,450	4,080	380	8.4
San Juan	6,890	6,620	260	3.8	6,460	6,150	310	4.9	6,710	6,420	290	4.3
Skagit	52,390	48,410	3,980	7.6	52,210	48,200	4,010	7.7	52,290	48,350	3,950	7.5
Skamania	3,790	3,410	390	10.1	3,790	3,370	420	11.2	3,970	3,510	460	11.6
Stevens	16,620	15,080	1,550	9.3	17,040	15,140	1,910	11.2	16,690	15,110	1,580	9.5
Wahkiakum	1,670	1,560	110	6.6	1,720	1,570	150	8.9	1,720	1,590	130	7.3
Walla Walla	27,910	26,510	1,390	5.0	27,730	25,890	1,840	6.6	27,310	25,980	1,330	4.9
Whitman	19,920	19,490	430	2.1	20,130	19,660	470	2.3	19,670	19,250	420	2.1

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

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work ¹

In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted	Numeric Change					
	May 2003 (Prel)	April 2003 (Rev)	May 2002 (Rev)	April 2002 (Rev)	Apr. 2003 to May 2003	May 2002 to May 2003
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers	2,668.0	2,643.9	2,664.5	2,639.2	24.1	3.5
Natural Resources and Mining	9.2	8.9	9.3	8.9	0.3	-0.1
Logging	6.1	5.8	6.2	5.9	0.3	-0.1
Construction	156.5	152.5	154.1	148.9	4.0	2.4
Construction of Buildings	40.1	39.8	40.9	40.2	0.3	-0.8
Heavy and Civil Engineering	20.3	19.1	18.8	17.5	1.2	1.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	96.1	93.6	94.4	91.2	2.5	1.7
Manufacturing	266.2	266.9	287.8	286.5	-0.7	-21.6
Durable Goods	182.0	183.8	202.5	202.3	-1.8	-20.5
Wood Product Manufacturing	17.4	17.4	18.1	17.8	0.0	-0.7
Fabricated Metal Products	16.2	16.2	17.1	16.9	0.0	-0.9
Computer and Electronic Products	23.7	24.1	26.4	26.6	-0.4	-2.7
Transportation Equipment	75.6	76.9	89.1	89.2	-1.3	-13.5
Aerospace Products and Parts	65.3	66.4	77.3	77.9	-1.1	-12.0
Nondurable Goods	84.2	83.1	85.3	84.2	1.1	-1.1
Food Manufacturing	34.9	33.8	34.7	33.7	1.1	0.2
Wholesale Trade	115.5	115.3	115.8	115.3	0.2	-0.3
Retail Trade	304.5	300.9	302.6	299.8	3.6	1.9
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	41.3	41.1	41.2	41.0	0.2	0.1
Food and Beverage Stores	61.0	60.3	62.2	61.5	0.7	-1.2
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	24.6	24.4	23.1	23.0	0.2	1.5
General Merchandise Stores	49.6	49.0	47.5	47.6	0.6	2.1
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	85.9	85.4	87.8	87.0	0.5	-1.9
Utilities	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.2
Transportation and Warehousing	81.3	80.8	83.4	82.6	0.5	-2.1
Air Transportation	13.2	13.1	13.6	13.4	0.1	-0.4
Water Transportation	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	0.0	-0.1
Truck Transportation	21.7	21.3	22.5	22.3	0.4	-0.8
Support Activities for Transportation	14.9	15.0	15.3	14.9	-0.1	-0.4
Support Activities for Water Transportation	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.1	0.1	0.0
Warehousing and Storage	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.4	0.0	-0.2
Information	92.4	92.1	93.3	93.1	0.3	-0.9
Software Publishers	36.6	36.5	35.6	35.4	0.1	1.0
Telecommunications	26.8	26.8	29.2	29.5	0.0	-2.4
Financial Activities	147.5	146.6	145.3	144.5	0.9	2.2
Finance and Insurance	100.5	100.3	98.6	98.4	0.2	1.9
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	49.3	49.1	47.2	47.2	0.2	2.1
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	39.7	39.7	39.2	39.1	0.0	0.5
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	47.0	46.3	46.7	46.1	0.7	0.3
Professional and Business Services	291.6	289.5	288.6	287.3	2.1	3.0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	139.3	140.0	137.6	139.2	-0.7	1.7
Legal Services	20.8	20.8	20.5	20.4	0.0	0.3
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	31.1	30.9	31.0	30.7	0.2	0.1
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	22.8	22.9	23.9	24.0	-0.1	-1.1
Management of Companies and Enterprises	30.7	30.6	30.0	29.9	0.1	0.7
Admin., Suppt. Svcs., Waste Mgmt., and Remediation	121.6	118.9	121.0	118.2	2.7	0.6
Employment Services	38.4	37.5	39.5	38.5	0.9	-1.1
Education and Health Services	316.7	315.8	309.5	308.0	0.9	7.2
Educational Services	45.1	45.2	42.8	42.6	-0.1	2.3
Hospitals	62.9	62.9	61.6	61.5	0.0	1.3
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	53.5	53.2	52.4	52.3	0.3	1.1
Social Assistance	46.1	45.7	46.2	45.7	0.4	-0.1
Leisure and Hospitality	250.5	243.3	248.0	241.3	7.2	2.5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	43.3	41.8	42.1	40.6	1.5	1.2
Accommodation	27.2	26.2	27.8	26.6	1.0	-0.6
Food Services and Drinking Places	180.0	175.3	178.1	174.1	4.7	1.9
Government	532.7	528.8	524.4	521.6	3.9	8.3
Federal	69.8	69.6	68.2	67.5	0.2	1.6
State	151.3	151.0	151.0	150.7	0.3	0.3
State Educational Services	84.1	84.3	84.4	84.4	-0.2	-0.3
Local	311.6	308.2	305.2	303.4	3.4	6.4
Local Educational Services	156.7	156.7	154.0	153.9	0.0	2.7
Workers in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

¹Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, & private household employees. Includes all full- & part-time wage & salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. ²Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management dispute.

What's New?

Data Downloads

from Workforce Explorer

Downloading labor market and economic data just got easier. The new **Download Data** page at www.workforceexplorer.com provides easy access to a variety of data sets. Popular downloads include industry employment, wage data, and employment

projections. The page also features interactive tools that allow you to create your own custom data extract. To get there from any page on Workforce Explorer, simply click on the "Download Data" tab on the menu bar.



Improvements

to Monthly Employment Series

Beginning in May 2003, the nonagricultural industry employment estimates are based on a quarterly benchmarking process instead of the traditional annual benchmarking. The change was made in an effort to provide the best information possible to our customers.

Nonagricultural employment estimates are based on a monthly survey of randomly selected business establishments. The active sample includes about one-third of all nonagricultural payroll workers. When a sample is used rather than the entire population, the sample-based estimates of the actual population may differ from the "true" population values they represent.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics adjusts the sample-based estimates once a year to universe counts of payroll employment

obtained from administrative records of the Unemployment Insurance program. This "benchmarking" is usually done after the first quarter of the year in March using universe payroll counts for the preceding year. Since the universe counts of payroll employment are available quarterly, Washington State has instituted a process to benchmark its sample-based estimates quarterly to produce a more accurate current estimate of employment. The Commissioner's news release uses the quarterly benchmarked numbers, as do all other publications of the Washington State Employment Security Department.

More information about this change is at www.workforceexplorer.com, "Monthly Press Release, Additional Press Release Items".



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