



Washington State  
Employment Security

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Employment and Training  
Administration  
U.S. Department of Labor

# Washington Labor Market

Volume 27, Number 7

September 2003

## INDICATORS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

### Washington

#### (Seasonally Adjusted)

Aug (prel)	2003	7.5%
July (rev)	2003	7.5%
June	2003	7.8%
Annual Average	2002	7.3%

### United States

#### (Seasonally Adjusted)

Aug (prel)	2003	6.1%
July (rev)	2003	6.2%
June	2003	6.4%
Annual Average	2002	5.8%

<sup>1</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

## MANUFACTURING WORKER AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

### Washington

August	2003	\$17.82
July	2003	\$17.83
June	2003	\$17.67
August	2002	\$17.89

## MANUFACTURING WORKER AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

### Washington

August	2003	40.9
July	2003	38.6
June	2003	40.5
August	2002	40.1

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

### Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton

August	2003	194.4
Yearly Change	Aug 2002-Aug 2003	2.2%

### U.S. City Average

August	2003	184.6
Yearly Change	Aug 2002-Aug 2003	2.2%

## HIGHLIGHTS

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## Weakened Labor Market Climate Continues Current State Economic Conditions

Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 7.5 percent in August with continued weakness in the labor market. Although the unemployment rate did not change, both the number of employed and unemployed declined over the month. Employment Security Commissioner

Sylvia Mundy warned that the falling number of unemployed may be an indication of discouraged workers leaving the workforce rather than an improvement in the labor market. (See the discussion of discouraged workers in our feature article).

The employment estimates drawn from a household survey are consistent with Washington's establishment survey, nonagricultural employment, which declined 1,300 jobs over the month of August. Most of the job loss was in local government education, which was down 14,900 jobs. These declines reflect

typical seasonal layoffs during summer months in education. In fact, local education showed some general strength

in its over-the-year numbers, which were up 2,700 jobs since August 2002. Construction employment was up by 5,100 jobs over the month and some of this increase also seems to go beyond purely seasonal

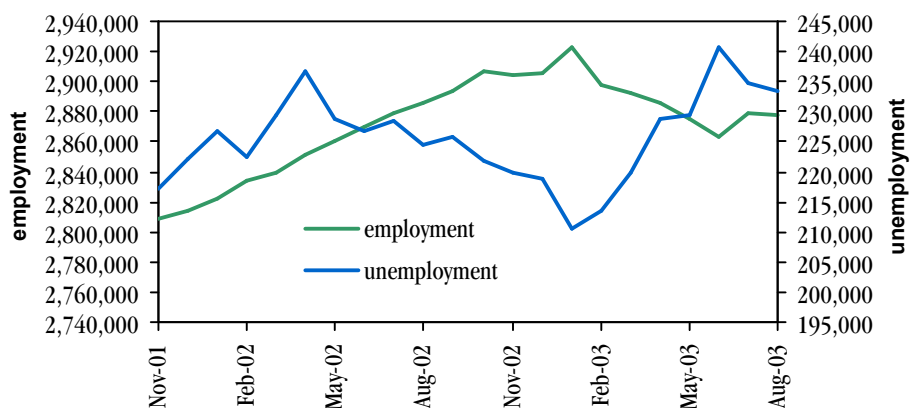
hiring as over-the-year construction jobs are up 2,200 or 1.3 percent.

Manufacturing continues to be the weakest sector. Although down only 200 over the month, over the year it was down 21,000 jobs. Aerospace was responsible for half of the job losses over the year and for 900 over the month. Computer and electronic product manufacturing also continues to be weak—down 100 over the month and down 3,000 or 11.5 percent over the year.

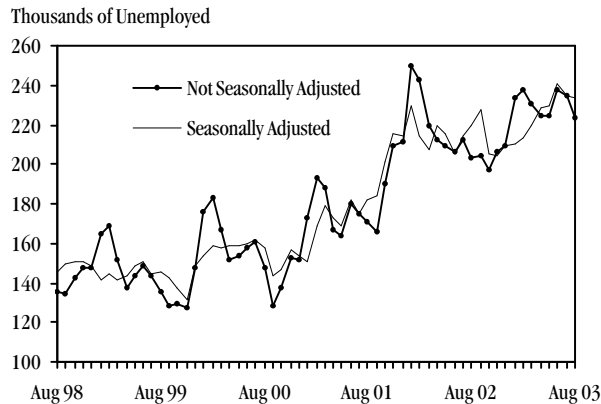
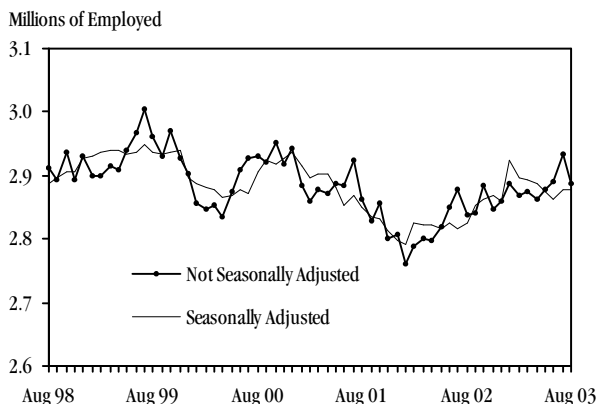
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2003 has been a troubling year for the labor market—has the situation stabilized?



## Washington State Total Resident Employment and Unemployment August 1998 - August 2003



### *wholesale and retail trade up 1,100 jobs*



Services in the private sector were up 9,400 over the month. Individual sectors gaining jobs included:

- wholesale and retail trade up 1,100 jobs
- transportation, warehousing, and utilities up 500 jobs
- information up 1,100 jobs
- financial services up 400 jobs
- professional and business services up 2,700 jobs
- health services up 1,100 jobs
- leisure and hospitality up 2,800 jobs

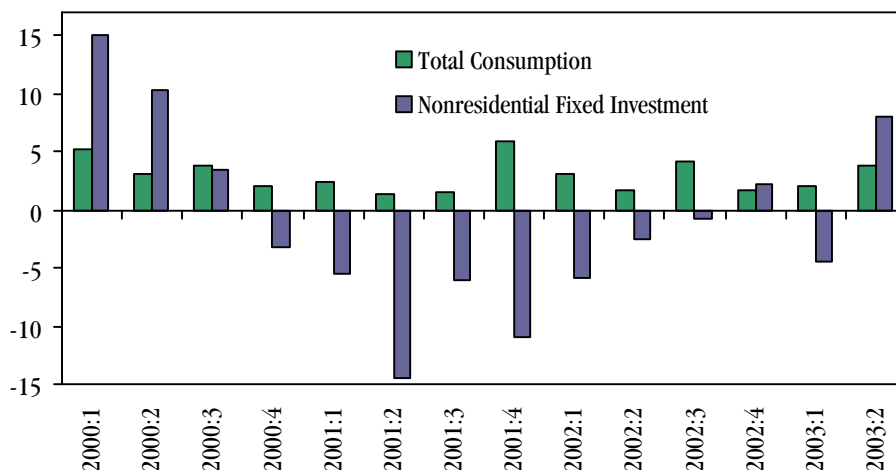
All of these sectors were also up over the year except for transportation, warehousing, and utilities, which was down 900 jobs, and information, also down 900.

This weakness in the information sector, though, was concentrated in telecommunications, which was down 2,400 jobs or 8.3 percent over the year. Software publishing was actually up by 1,700 jobs or 4.7 percent over the year.

### **National Outlook**

Newly revised figures show that real annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 3.3 percent in the second quarter; this was up from initial estimates of 3.1 percent. Furthermore the last two quarters of the year are expected to have even higher growth of around 4.0 percent. This rate should be high enough to encourage firms to hire additional workers to meet demand even with continued high productivity growth.

### **Business investment may join consumption in aiding economic recovery.**



Consumption remained strong during the recession and, thanks to low interest rates and tax rebates, consumer spending increased by a strong 0.8 percent in August on top of an even stronger 0.9 percent in July. Americans' disposable income also grew by 0.9 percent in August and 1.5 percent in July. Continued growth could be brought into question, though, given the weakness in the labor market. One indication of consumer uncertainty is the fall in the level of consumer confidence in September to 76.8 percent from 81.7 percent in August. This is the lowest consumer confidence has been since March of this year.

Investment, however, which declined by a sizable amount since the recession, now shows some signs of growth. A breakdown of business investment spending shows quite mixed recovery for different types of spending. Spending on structures has done the worst since the recession ended. Spending on structures did not start to fall until the first quarter of 2002. By that time many of the big projects that had been started during the late nineties were completed. Current low capacity utilization dampens the need for new buildings.

Investment in information processing equipment, on the other hand, has been much quicker to react to current business conditions. This type of spending fell

during the recession, but has shown consistent growth since early 2002. Investment in industrial equipment is somewhere in the middle. There has been sporadic growth in this type of investment since the end of the recession, but momentum has not returned. Average quarterly growth was 4.8 percent from 1996 through 2000 and has averaged -4.7 percent from the first quarter of 2001 through the second quarter of 2003.

The labor market continues to be the weakest factor in the national economy. The unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in August at 6.1 percent. Non-agricultural employment declined by 93,000 jobs over the month, 44,000 of which were in the manufacturing sector. Over the year, the changes are even more striking. There are 560,000 fewer jobs on net, but there are 650,000 fewer manufacturing jobs implying that, on net, all the other sectors together grew by 90,000 jobs over the year.

### Business Notes

#### Minimum Wage Adjusts to \$7.16

The state minimum wage will increase 15 cents to \$7.16 an hour starting January 1, 2004, according to the Washington Department of Labor and Industries. The current hourly rate is \$7.01. Washington's minimum wage is recalculated each year

in September as a result of an initiative approved by voters in 1998. The initiative requires an annual cost-of-living adjustment in the minimum wage based on changes in the federal U.S. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (U.S. CPI-W). The new wage applies to workers in both agricultural and nonagricultural jobs. Fourteen and fifteen year old workers may be paid 85 percent of the adult minimum wage. The federal minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour, but in states that set rates that differ from federal level, the higher rate applies.

Washington will have the highest minimum wage in the country next year. Alaska's minimum wage will reportedly remain at \$7.15 an hour, and Connecticut is expected to raise its minimum wage from \$6.90 to \$7.10 an hour. Oregon recently announced that its minimum wage would increase in January from \$6.90 to \$7.05 an hour.

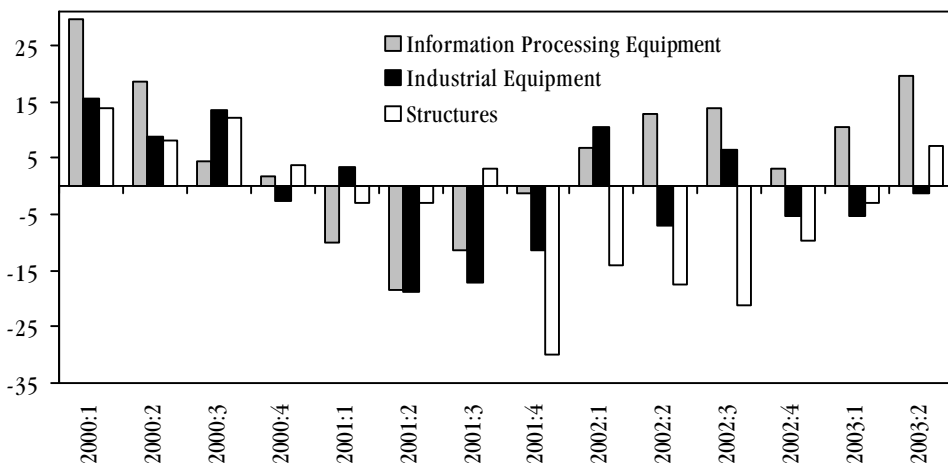
#### The Apple of Washington's Eye

Washington is the nation's number one grower of apples, accounting for half of total projected national production in 2003 (and 70 percent of the fresh crop). State and industry sources estimate Washington's 2003 harvest will be smaller than last year's, but close to average for the decade overall. Part of the reduction in harvest from 2002 to 2003 stems from the fact that Washington apples grow in alternate bearing cycles, with production typically lower in odd-numbered years, higher in even-numbered years.

The 2003 apple season is running a bit earlier than last year, with peak harvest occurring from the third week in September through mid-October.

It is estimated that some 85.2 million 42-pound boxes of apples will be packed this year from the Washington crop. A landmark change impacting the state's apple industry this year is the repeal of a mandatory 25 cent per box assessment by the Washington State Apple Commission to promote Washington apples. The assess-

**Business investment sectors struggle back at different speeds.**



ment was overturned in federal court and replaced with a 3.5-cent a box assessment, agreed upon through a settlement.

Apple harvesting is noteworthy because of the sheer labor intensity and relatively short window during which harvest takes place. It commands tens of thousands of

harvest workers over the course of three to four months. With a monthly average of 13,073 seasonal workers in 2002, Washington's apple crop commanded top rank in seasonal agricultural employment by a wide margin—48 percent of the statewide average. Cherries ranked second in seasonal employment, far behind

apples at 9 percent of the statewide average. In 2002, Employment Security Department data from a seasonal farm worker survey showed that the ramp-up to an autumn apple harvest begins in late summer, with a jump from 4,500 seasonal workers in June to over 37,500 workers by October.

## Industry Focus: Wholesale and Retail Trade

By Rick Lockhart, Economic Analyst

Fall of 2003 is definitely shaping up to be a season of contradictions for Washingtonians. October is just around the corner and the rain hasn't shown its face yet, the Seahawks are poised to start the season 4-0, and Lou Pinella is satisfied with leading his team to 99 losses (avoiding the century mark is a matter of pride, you know). Fortunately, for those of us who are troubled by all this change, we can take comfort in the stability of the wholesale and retail trade industries. This month's industry focus is going to examine wholesale and retail trade (North American Industrial Classification System - NAICS 42, 44, and 45).

### Quick Facts:

- Between 1990 and 2002, wholesale and retail trade employment grew by 66,000 (19 percent) in Washington.
- 2002 average wage for wholesale and retail trade was \$31,457.
- Wholesale and retail trade are projected to grow annually at rates of 1.5 percent and 1.3 percent from 2005 to 2010, respectively.
- In May 2003, the trade industry posted a total of 5,264 (9.6 percent of total) job openings statewide.

For the past decade or so the wholesale and retail trade industries have maintained a stable share of statewide employment. Making up about 16 percent of state total average annual employment, they are projected to grow at a slightly lower 1.3 percent rate compared to the state annual projected growth of 1.7 percent between 2005 and 2010. The results of the May 2003

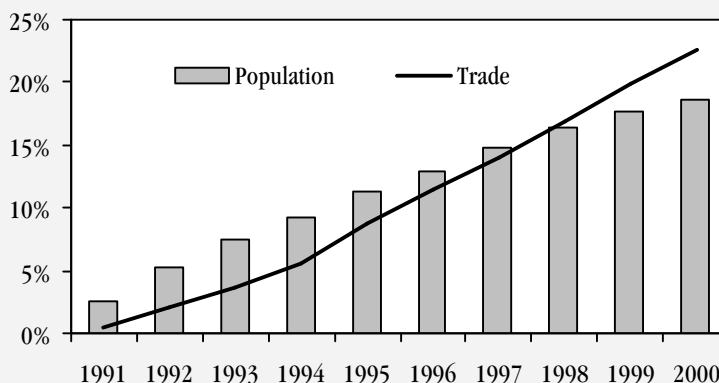
Washington State Job Vacancy survey show a substantial current need for workers in the retail trade industry. There was a statewide need for 4,241 workers in retail, half of those positions being full time. Now before we get too excited about those openings, it needs to be pointed out that only one percent of them were newly created jobs. In other words, while there are many expected openings, most are due to worker turnover.

Generally speaking, as base industries like manufacturing grow in an area, population growth follows, then growth in retail trade. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, state population growth rates steadily declined through the later half of the 1990s. When a correlation between population growth and trade growth is calculated, we find there is a strong statistical connection. With Washington's population growth slowing, we would expect trade industry growth to slow also. The figure below illustrates the relationship between employment growth in wholesale and retail trade and population growth. It also shows the lag effect that

trade seems to experience. Notice how in the early 1990s population growth was at a higher pace. Then as population growth slowed trade growth surpassed it. The next logical step would be for the trade industry growth to slow down to match the slower population growth experienced from 1995-2000.

As mentioned earlier, the trade industry is expected to have slower than average growth. This can be explained by a couple of factors. The first being increased efficiency and productivity in business operations, requiring fewer employees to do the same amount of work. The second factor is market saturation. Washington has experienced strength and growth in its economic base for many decades, and with that, the service sector industries and trade industries have worked hard to keep pace. As a result, we have very strong wholesale and retail sectors, and will expect them to continue with slow but stable growth in the coming years.

Percent Change in Population vs Trade  
1991 - 2000



## Occupational Focus: Interviewers

By David Wallace, Economic Analyst

When asked what most people thought of interviewers, I suspect many would think first of the person on the other side of the table at job interviews. It is an occupation that is projected to have very good growth throughout this decade, but the nature of the work is not readily understood. According to the way occupations are classified (Standard Occupation Codes), there are three types of interviewers: *Loan Interviewers and Clerks; Eligibility Interviewers, government programs, and all others (interviewers, except eligibility and loan)*

Employment among loan interviewers is expected to grow moderately, while government eligibility interviewer jobs are expected to grow very slowly. However, the prospects for other types are considered to be quite good.

(Employment Security Department data is shown below). If our projections prove to be correct, this occupation would experience the 10th fastest employment growth between 2000 and 2010. It is also expected to have annual openings in excess of 240 each year from 2000 to 2010. The actual work involved depends to a large degree on the employer. For example, Market Research Interviewers generally ask a series of questions, then record the responses. These interviews are held in person, over the phone and in some cases via the Internet. In fact continued movement towards Internet interviewing could negatively impact employment in this field. Another example is Out-patient Admitting Clerks who work in medial facilities. Work may involve gaining preliminary



patient information, checking eligibility, assigning rooms, escorting, scheduling, handling billing, answering phones, and providing general information. Rising employment in these types of jobs—*interviewers, except eligibility and loan interviewers*, reflect the expansion in health services (including the growing shift of surgical procedures from an in-patient to an out-patient environment) and retail.

There are typically no specific qualifications for Market Researchers, but good communications skills, some statistical ability, as well as good organizational skills and the ability to meet deadlines are important. Communication skills are also important for employment as an Out-patient Admitting Clerk. In addition a high school diploma, some experience in a medical setting, and proficiency with computers are skills often required.

### Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan Interviewers Washington State, 2002

Statewide UI Claims							
Total	Female	White	Total Minority	Black	Hispanic	Native	Asian
828	654	590	204	80	60	32	32

Est. Employment			Avg. Annual Growth		Avg. Annual Growth			Salary	Hourly Wage			
2000	2005	2010	2000-2005	2005-2010	2000-2005	2000-2005	2005-2010	2000-2005	mean annual	mean	entry	experienced
4,211	4,947	5,615	3.3%	2.6%	148	134	243	245	\$24,003	\$11.54	\$8.42	\$13.10

## Across the State

Normal seasonal hiring caused the state's nonadjusted unemployment rate to fall over the month along with the majority of counties. Thirty counties saw their unemployment rates fall over the month. The largest drops in the number of unemployed occurred in King County, down 3,700, Pierce, down 1,400, and Clark down 1,800. Eight counties saw their unemployment rates rise and one, Snohomish, saw no change. The largest gains in the number of unemployed occurred in the agricultural county of

Chelan with an increase of 680 unemployed people.

Over the year the unadjusted unemployment rate is up 0.4 percent in Washington. This increase is reflected across the board with thirty-one counties seeing an increase in their unemployment rates, seven seeing a decrease, and one, Skamania, having no change. Snohomish County saw the largest over-the-year increase in the number of unemployed, up 2,600 followed by King, up 2,200, Pierce, up 1,700, and Benton County up 1,000.

*Over the year the unadjusted unemployment rate is up 0.4 percent in Washington.*

## Vacancy Survey Shows Demand for Administrative and Health Care Workers

By Carolyn Cummins, Economic Analyst

According to the May 2003 *Washington Job Vacancy Survey*, there were an estimated 54,939 vacancies statewide, 74 percent of which were full time and 70 percent of which were permanent. Of all job openings, 33 percent (18,095) required education beyond high school or its general equivalent. Twenty-four percent of vacant positions required a professional license and 50 percent required related work experience. Of the 54,939 vacancies, just under 1,800 (3 percent) were newly created positions.

Statewide, vacant positions offered a median hourly starting wage of \$9.16. Sixty-three percent of vacancies offered hourly wages under \$10.00, while 7 percent offered wages above \$25.00 per hour.



Top among Washington employers' job openings in May were administrative support positions, an occupation group with fairly broad representation across all industries. At the time of the survey, employers had demand for some 6,769 administrative workers—12 percent of all vacancies. Top openings for this occupation group were for customer service representatives, office clerks, reception-

ists, and stock clerks. The median entry wage offered for vacant administrative jobs was \$10.00 per hour.

The number two most-in-demand occupations in May 2003 were in farming, forestry, and fishing, with just shy of 6,100 openings. However, of those openings, just 2 percent (135) were permanent positions. The prominence of this occupation group in job vacancy statistics reflects the seasonal nature of job vacancy information, as it was gathered in late spring just as the first wave of tree fruit crops became ready for harvest.

When combined, the healthcare practitioner and healthcare support occupation groups had 6,906 vacancies. These occupation groups encom-

**Job Vacancies by Occupation Groups, Washington, May 2003**

Occupation Group	Estimated Job Vacancies	Share of Total Openings	Median Wage Offered	Full-time Openings	Permanent Openings	Average Weeks Vacant	Newly Created Positions	Requiring Education Beyond HS/GED	Requiring License or Certificate	Requiring Related Experience
Office and Administrative Support	6,769	12%	\$10.00	78%	88%	3	3%	20%	5%	59%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	6,091	11%	\$7.74	85%	2%	3	2%	0%	4%	6%
Sales and Related	5,235	10%	\$8.14	59%	81%	5	2%	16%	6%	34%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	5,136	9%	\$20.00	70%	90%	10	3%	84%	84%	65%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	4,318	8%	\$7.10	43%	66%	4	2%	4%	17%	41%
Transportation and Material Moving	3,630	7%	\$8.00	63%	49%	3	2%	5%	32%	34%
Business and Financial Operations	2,699	5%	\$19.23	97%	98%	6	2%	72%	10%	87%
Computer and Mathematical	2,425	4%	\$24.04	99%	97%	5	2%	88%	5%	93%
Production	2,227	4%	\$9.00	94%	84%	5	5%	14%	8%	46%
Education, Training, and Library	2,122	4%	\$13.52	75%	79%	4	3%	78%	65%	47%
Personal Care and Service	1,912	3%	\$7.56	51%	65%	4	4%	25%	37%	52%
Construction and Extraction	1,849	3%	\$12.02	84%	48%	6	16%	10%	27%	61%
Healthcare Support	1,770	3%	\$10.00	67%	91%	6	4%	41%	57%	53%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	1,461	3%	\$8.40	68%	47%	5	3%	4%	5%	29%
Management	1,177	2%	\$31.25	96%	97%	7	3%	74%	16%	91%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	1,088	2%	\$10.00	93%	71%	7	2%	25%	27%	55%
Protective Service	1,066	2%	\$10.00	61%	70%	4	7%	8%	43%	48%
Community and Social Services	1,035	2%	\$13.23	73%	89%	4	4%	63%	35%	56%
Life, Physical, and Social Science	964	2%	\$15.86	91%	74%	8	5%	63%	16%	60%
Architecture and Engineering	904	2%	\$22.51	99%	95%	8	7%	80%	20%	87%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	843	2%	\$12.00	47%	58%	5	2%	55%	17%	57%
Legal	220	0%	\$17.34	97%	92%	6	3%	59%	20%	73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,939</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$9.16</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>50%</b>

Source: Employment Security Department, *Washington State Job Vacancy Survey, May 2003*



### Education Requirements for Vacant Positions

Required Education Level	Estimated Job Vacancies	Median Wage Offered	Full Time	Permanent	Average Weeks Open	Newly Created Jobs	Require Certificate or License	Require Related Experience
No Requirement	19,635	\$7.74	65%	44%	4	3%	10%	26%
High School/GED	12,389	\$9.25	74%	83%	3	3%	19%	57%
Some College	1,638	\$12.00	83%	81%	4	3%	24%	72%
Assoc./Voc. Degree	3,973	\$17.49	77%	94%	8	4%	64%	67%
Bachelor's Degree	8,660	\$20.00	92%	94%	7	3%	32%	83%
Graduate Degree	1,689	\$25.00	85%	93%	10	3%	60%	79%
Other	2,134	\$12.00	74%	77%	7	3%	58%	67%
Not Specified	4,820	\$13.31	66%	64%	6	2%	18%	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,939</b>	<b>\$9.16</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>50%</b>

Source: Employment Security Department, Washington State Job Vacancy Survey, May 2003

pass the continuum of jobs, from entry-level positions like nursing assistants to the most highly trained physicians. Eighty-four percent of healthcare practitioner openings required education beyond the high school level, while just 41 percent of support occupations required the same. In May 2003 vacancies for registered nurses commanded a whopping 2,511 vacancies, ranking second among all occupations in number of vacancies (seasonal agriculture jobs ranked first). Among other healthcare occupations there were 980 vacancies for nursing aids, 711 for licensed practical nurses, and 256 for medical assistants.

#### About the May 2003 Washington State Job Vacancy Survey

The May 2003 *Washington Job Vacancy Survey* produced point in time estimates of job vacancies in Washington based on a survey of 21,349 employers with more than four employees. The overall response rate to the survey was 72



percent, due to the outstanding participation of businesses across all industries. The sample of establishments surveyed was randomly selected among firms representative of size, workforce development areas, and industries across the state. Survey responses were weighted to estimate vacancies across all covered employers in the state. The Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch of the Employment Security Department administers the survey twice annually.

By measuring the number of vacant positions for which employers are hiring, the *Washington Job Vacancy*

*Survey* reveals the reality of employers' immediate workforce needs. Results are cross-tabulated by occupation group, industry, and region. For each vacant position, the survey gathers information about the following characteristics:

- Wage offered
- Full-time/part-time status
- Permanent/temporary status
- Number of weeks vacant
- Newly created positions
- Education requirements
- Licensing/certification requirements
- Experience requirement

Detailed survey results are available in an online report with downloadable spreadsheets from the Internet. To get this information go to:

**[www.workforceexplorer.com](http://www.workforceexplorer.com)**.

Choose from the "Economy" page or the "Data Download" page—either one will lead you to the *May 2003 Job Vacancy Survey*.



*Among other healthcare occupations there were 980 vacancies for nursing aids, 711 for licensed practical nurses, and 256 for medical assistants.*

## Discouraged Workers

By Kirsta Glenn, Chief Economist

Discouraged workers are those unemployed workers who have given up looking for work because they believe that they will not find a job. This concept has been around since, at least, the 1970s, but no official estimates are available before 1994 and these are only available nationally. The term discouraged worker is often confused with the term dislocated worker. The most important distinction is that the dislocated or displaced worker is most often considered part of the labor force. The notion of dislocation is strongly aligned with the economic concept of structural unemployment. The discouraged worker is not in the labor force and is, therefore, not a part of the unemployment rate calculation.

The number of discouraged workers at the national level tracks the unemployment rate quite well. In 2003, there have been on average 468,000 discouraged workers. An adjusted unemployment rate can be calculated by adding in these discouraged workers. This rate averages about 0.25 of a percentage point higher than the unadjusted unemployment rate and the difference tends to increase as the unadjusted unemployment rate rises.

### What Then for Discouraged Workers in Washington?

In general, the unemployment rate in the state has been higher than in the nation over the last few years. Because the percentage of discouraged workers tends to grow with the unemployment rate, the percentage of discouraged workers would be expected to be higher in the state than in the nation.

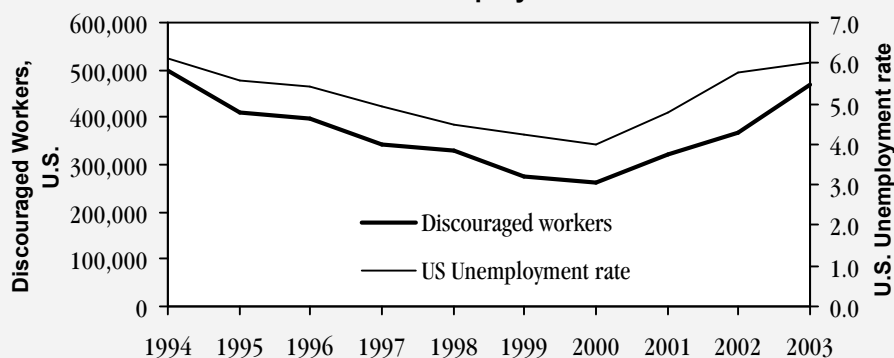
The number of discouraged workers was estimated for the years from 1994 to 2003 using a simple regression

model developed from the national data. Correlations between the number of discouraged workers and various other measures of unemployment, specifically, the labor force participation rate, the median number of weeks unemployed, the number of people unemployed more than 27 weeks, and the unemployment rate were examined. The strongest correlation was with the unemployment rate where a 94 percent correlation was found. The number of discouraged workers was then regressed against the unemployment rate to quantify the relationship. This relationship was used to estimate the number of discouraged workers in the state. The numbers were adjusted for the lower number of unemployed in the state versus the nation.

The number of discouraged workers started increasing significantly at the beginning of the recession in early 2001. The numbers for 2003 include data through August and have the potential to show yet a third year of increase by the end of the year.

The unemployment rate was then recalculated to include the discouraged workers. On average, the adjusted unemployment rate for the state is 0.35 of a percentage point higher than the unadjusted rate. The difference between the adjusted state unemployment rate and the normal unemployment rate is greater than the difference at the national level. The greater divergence at the state level may be due to the larger increase in the unemployment rate in Washington over this time period.

At the national level the number of discouraged workers tracks the unemployment rate.



Year	Estimated number of dislocated workers in Washington	Unemployment rate	Adjusted Unemployment rate
1994	12,200	6.4%	6.8%
1995	12,200	6.4%	6.8%
1996	12,500	6.5%	6.9%
1997	8,400	4.8%	5.0%
1998	8,400	4.8%	5.0%
1999	8,100	4.7%	5.0%
2000	9,300	5.2%	5.5%
2001	12,200	6.4%	6.8%
2002	14,400	7.3%	7.7%
2003	14,400	7.3%	7.7%

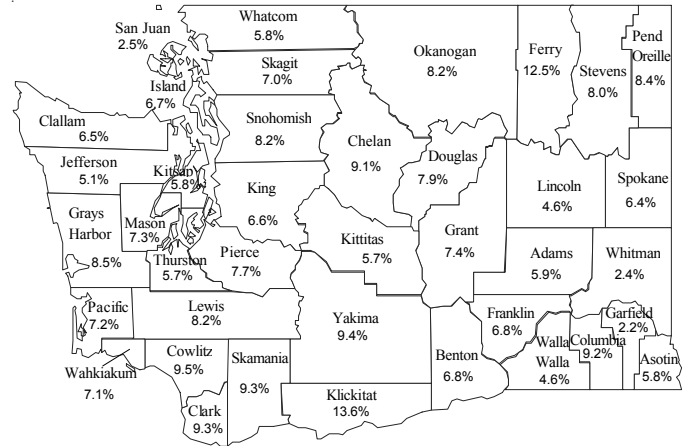


# Stats-At-A-Glance

## Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State

## Unemployment Rates by County, August 2003 Washington State = 7.2% United States = 6.0% Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Percentage)	August 2003 (Prel.)	July 2003 (Rev.)	August 2002 (Rev.)	July 2002 (Rev.)
<b>Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment:</b>				
Washington State	7.5%	7.5%	7.2%	7.3%
United States	6.1%	6.2%	5.8%	5.8%
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted: (In Thousands)</b>				
Resident Civilian Labor Force	3,109.5	3,166.7	3,108.5	3,160.6
Employment	2,886.4	2,932.0	2,895.9	2,934.0
Unemployment	223.1	234.7	212.6	226.6
Percent of Labor Force	7.2%	7.4%	6.8%	7.2%



Washington State  
Employment Security Department  
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

## Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas <sup>1/</sup>

Date: 9/16/03  
Benchmark: 2002

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

<sup>1/</sup> Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data.  
<sup>2/</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>

In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted					Numeric Change	
	August 2003 (Prel)	July 2003 (Rev)	August 2002 (Rev)	July 2002 (Rev)	July 2003 to August 2003	August 2002 to August 2003
<b>Total Nonagricultural Wage &amp; Salary Workers</b>	2,659.8	2,661.1	2,661.3	2,662.2	-1.3	-1.5
Natural Resources and Mining	9.4	9.4	9.7	9.7	0.0	-0.3
Logging	6.3	6.3	6.6	6.5	0.0	-0.3
<b>Construction</b>	169.1	164.0	166.9	162.0	5.1	2.2
Construction of Buildings	44.1	42.7	43.9	42.4	1.4	0.2
Heavy and Civil Engineering	21.8	20.7	22.0	21.3	1.1	-0.2
Specialty Trade Contractors	103.2	100.6	101.0	98.3	2.6	2.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>	267.0	267.2	288.0	288.8	-0.2	-21.0
Durable Goods	181.3	182.0	198.7	199.8	-0.7	-17.4
Wood Product Manufacturing	17.8	17.9	18.5	18.4	-0.1	-0.7
Fabricated Metal Products	16.4	16.4	17.4	17.4	0.0	-1.0
Computer and Electronic Products	23.2	23.3	26.2	26.4	-0.1	-3.0
Transportation Equipment	74.6	75.1	85.1	85.9	-0.5	-10.5
Aerospace Products and Parts	63.3	64.2	73.8	74.5	-0.9	-10.5
Nondurable Goods	85.7	85.2	89.3	89.0	0.5	-3.6
Food Manufacturing	36.7	36.4	38.3	37.4	0.3	-1.6
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	116.5	116.3	116.7	116.6	0.2	-0.2
<b>Retail Trade</b>	308.3	307.4	307.1	306.7	0.9	1.2
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	41.7	41.5	41.7	41.6	0.2	0.0
Food and Beverage Stores	59.9	60.0	63.0	63.1	-0.1	-3.1
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	24.6	24.3	24.9	24.8	0.3	-0.3
General Merchandise Stores	53.3	52.9	48.3	47.8	0.4	5.0
<b>Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities</b>	88.4	87.9	89.3	89.7	0.5	-0.9
Utilities	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.6	0.0	0.2
Transportation and Warehousing	83.7	83.2	84.8	85.1	0.5	-1.1
Air Transportation	13.0	13.0	13.9	13.8	0.0	-0.9
Water Transportation	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	0.0	-0.1
Truck Transportation	22.1	22.0	23.3	23.3	0.1	-1.2
Support Activities for Transportation	16.5	16.3	15.7	15.9	0.2	0.8
Support Activities for Water Transportation	5.5	5.3	4.4	4.7	0.2	1.1
Warehousing and Storage	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.8	0.2	0.4
<b>Information</b>	93.0	91.9	93.9	93.9	1.1	-0.9
Software Publishers	38.2	37.6	36.5	36.4	0.6	1.7
Telecommunications	26.4	26.5	28.8	29.0	-0.1	-2.4
<b>Financial Activities</b>	153.8	153.4	147.3	146.5	0.4	6.5
Finance and Insurance	104.4	104.3	99.1	98.7	0.1	5.3
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	52.2	52.1	47.6	47.4	0.1	4.6
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	40.8	40.7	39.5	39.4	0.1	1.3
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	49.4	49.1	48.2	47.8	0.3	1.2
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	299.2	296.5	296.6	292.8	2.7	2.6
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	138.3	137.6	137.8	137.2	0.7	0.5
Legal Services	20.9	20.9	20.8	20.7	0.0	0.1
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	31.7	31.5	31.8	31.6	0.2	-0.1
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	21.5	21.7	23.4	23.6	-0.2	-1.9
Management of Companies and Enterprises	33.8	33.6	30.5	30.2	0.2	3.3
Admin., Suppt. Svcs., Waste Mgmt., and Remediation	127.1	125.3	128.3	125.4	1.8	-1.2
Employment Services	42.1	40.9	44.1	42.6	1.2	-2.0
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	307.0	306.3	301.6	300.8	0.7	5.4
Educational Services	35.8	36.2	34.1	34.7	-0.4	1.7
Hospitals	62.8	62.6	62.5	62.3	0.2	0.3
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	53.5	53.2	52.5	52.3	0.3	1.0
Social Assistance	44.4	44.4	44.4	44.3	0.0	0.0
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	263.6	260.8	259.1	256.4	2.8	4.5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	46.2	45.8	44.7	44.3	0.4	1.5
Accommodation	30.7	30.4	30.5	30.1	0.3	0.2
Food Services and Drinking Places	186.7	184.6	183.9	182.0	2.1	2.8
<b>Government</b>	483.2	498.8	485.1	498.3	-15.6	-1.9
Federal	69.5	69.5	70.4	70.4	0.0	-0.9
State	132.3	130.6	131.1	129.7	1.7	1.2
State Educational Services	64.4	62.7	63.7	62.3	1.7	0.7
Local	281.4	298.7	283.6	298.2	-17.3	-2.2
Local Educational Services	128.2	143.1	125.5	140.3	-14.9	2.7
<b>Workers in Labor-Management Disputes</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

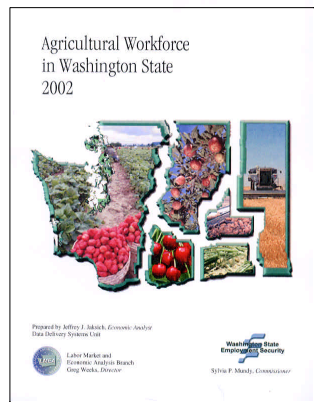
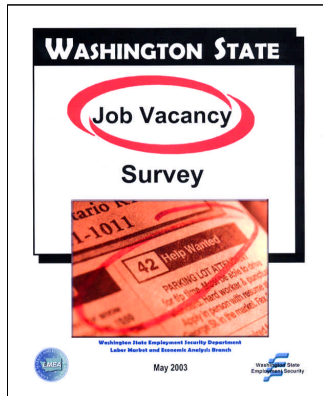
<sup>1</sup>Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, & private household employees. Includes all full- & part-time wage & salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. <sup>2</sup>Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management dispute.

## What's New?

### May 2003 Washington Job Vacancy Survey

Health care, administrative support, and agriculture jobs had the most job vacancies in Washington in May 2003. By measuring the number of vacant positions for which employers are hiring, the *Washington Job Vacancy Survey* reveals the reality of employers' immediate workforce needs. The May 2003 survey was distributed to a sample of 21,349 employers representative of size, workforce area, and industry. **The response rate was 72 percent.** Highlights are reported in this edition of the *Washington Labor Market*.

Detailed results from the survey are on the Internet. Find them at: [www.workforceexplorer.com](http://www.workforceexplorer.com). Click on "Economy" or "Download Data"—either page will get you to **May 2003 Job Vacancy Survey** and **Job Vacancies by WDA**.



### 2002 Agricultural Workforce Report

It comes as no surprise that Washington is among the top producers of a variety of agricultural products, including apples and lentils, but just how does this prominence bear upon employment? This report focuses on changes in agricultural employment, wages, and hours worked during 2002. It also covers production, demographics, and current issues facing the agricultural industry.

Access the **2002 Agricultural Workforce Report** online at

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## Washington Labor Market



Published monthly by the  
Labor Market  
and Economic Analysis Branch  
*Economic and Policy Analysis Unit*

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