



Washington Labor Market Quarterly Review

Volume 29, Number 1

January - March 2005

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Washington (Seasonally Adjusted)

March (prel)	2005	5.2%
February (rev)	2005	5.5%
January	2005	5.4%

United States (Seasonally Adjusted)

March (prel)	2005	5.2%
February (rev)	2005	5.4%
January	2005	5.2%

Nonagricultural Employment

Washington

(in thousands)

March	2005	2,740.1
February	2005	2,731.9
January	2005	2,726.6

Nonagricultural Employment % Change

Washington

(over-the-year)

March	2004-2005	2.0%
February	2004-2005	2.1%
January	2004-2005	2.3%

IN THIS ISSUE

CURRENT STATE

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS 1

NATIONAL OUTLOOK 4

BUSINESS BRIEFS 6

INDUSTRY FOCUS:

TRUCK TRANSPORTATION 7

OCCUPATIONAL FOCUS: LANGUAGE

SKILLS SET JOB SEEKERS APART 8

ACROSS THE STATE 8

SPECIAL FEATURE: LARGE EMPLOYERS

OFFER MORE FRINGE BENEFITS

TO THEIR WORKERS 10

STATS-AT-A-GLANCE 11

WHAT'S NEW? 15

Washington's Job Growth Picking up Steam

Current State Economic Conditions

By Rick Kaglic, Chief Economist

Washington's labor market conditions improved steadily through the first quarter of 2005, largely reflecting broad-based gains in overall economic activity. By March, payroll employment in the state had finally recovered fully from the recession-induced decline and the unemployment rate had sunk to its lowest level in four years.

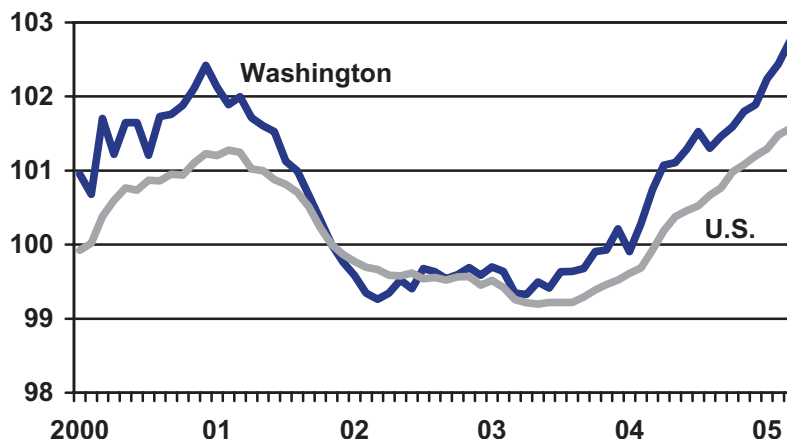
Seasonally adjusted, Washington's total nonfarm payroll employment stood at 2.740 million in March 2005. Since last December the state's economy created

22,800 net new jobs, a 0.8 percent increase. By contrast, nonfarm employment in the nation advanced at less than half that pace (0.36 percent) during the same three-month period.

The vast majority of Washington's job gains during the first quarter took place in the private sector. Private firms created 22,300 net new jobs since the turn of the calendar, representing nearly 98 percent of all nonfarm employment growth. Government sector employment rose by 300.



Washington and U.S. Seasonally-Adjusted Employment, Indexed to November 2001



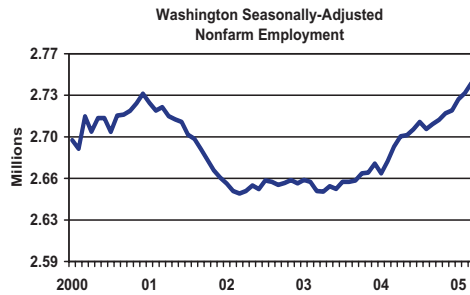
Source: Washington State Employment Security Department



In cooperation with the
Employment and Training
Administration
U.S. Department of Labor



Construction employment continued to benefit primarily from strong housing activity in the state.



Importantly, job gains were evident in both goods-producing and service-providing industries. The service sector created more jobs than goods-producing industries since last December (16,900 versus 5,900), but growth was faster on the goods side (+1.3 percent versus +0.7 percent).

Moreover, 10 of the 12 major industry classifications showed job gains during the three-month period; employment in manufacturing and financial activities declined slightly. Construction led all industries with a net gain of 5,900 jobs since December. The bulk of job creation took place among specialty trade contractors and construction of buildings. Employment in heavy and civil engineering was up slightly (+200).

Construction employment continued to benefit primarily from strong housing activity in the state. Financial markets have held long-term interest rates in check even as the Federal Reserve has been pushing at the shorter end of the spectrum. The average fixed rate on a 30 year mortgage has increased, but from 5.72 percent at the end of December last year to just 5.83 percent at the end of March.

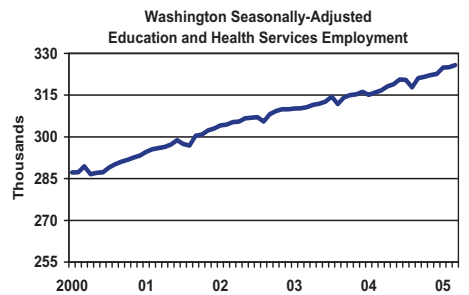


Retail trade employment rose a solid 5,100 during the first three months of 2005. The increases were evident in all retail breakouts, but were particularly strong in general merchandise and build-

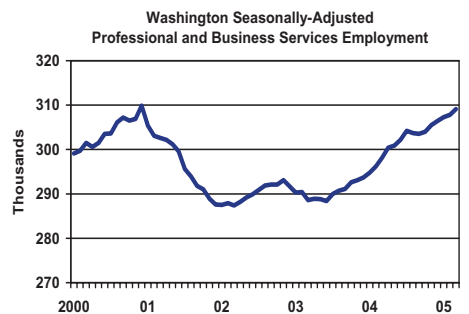
ing materials and garden supply stores. Clothing and clothing accessory stores and motor vehicles and parts dealers saw more modest increases.



Educational and Health Services employment rose by 3,200, or 1.0 percent, since December 2004. Much of the growth here took place in health services, particularly ambulatory health care services and nursing and residential care facilities. Private educational services employment rose by 600.



Solid job gains were also evident in **business and professional services** (+2,700). The vast majority of this increase was due to a surge in employment services, much of which is temporary help. This trend bodes well for Washington's labor market in coming months as gains in temporary employment are often seen as a precursor to increases in permanent full-time jobs. Outside of employment services, professional, technical, and scientific services employment was up modestly while management of companies and enterprises was down.



The transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector experienced above trend job growth during the first three months of the year, rising by 2,600, or 2.9 percent. The growth was largely driven by an advance in transportation and warehousing, although utilities employment was up slightly. However, air transportation struggled, losing about 400 jobs.

Despite a notable decline in February, **employment in leisure and hospitality** managed to rise from December to March. Firms created 1,200 net new jobs in the period, with most of this growth coming from accommodation and food services. Arts, entertainment, and recreation registered a loss (-700). The dearth of snow in the Cascades, and its negative impact on ski areas accounted for part of this loss of jobs.

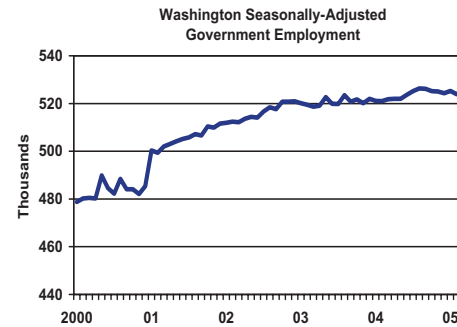


Washington's **information services** firms added 1,000 new jobs since the beginning of the year, despite continued losses in telecommunications. The decline in telecommunications was more than offset by gains in software publishing; newspaper, book, and directory publishing; and broadcasting, outside of internet.

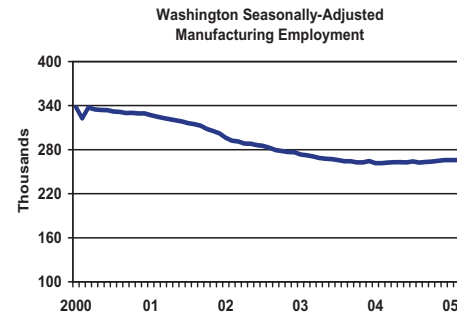


Much more modest gains were seen in **government, natural resources and mining, and wholesale trade**. The increase in government jobs was driven by a sharp increase in state and local government education, which offset a drop in

other government employment. Logging employment was up by 100, accounting for half the total increase in natural resources and mining employment.



Manufacturing employment declined by 200 since the turn of the year, despite impressive gains in aerospace product and parts manufacturing (+1,400). Most other manufacturing segments saw job losses. Financial activities firms shed 500 jobs in the first three months of the year, continuing a downward trend.



Over the year, Washington's total nonfarm employment increased 53,400, a 2.0 percent gain. This compares with the 1.6 percent growth for the nation as a whole. Here again, nearly all (95 percent) of Washington's job growth in the last year took place in the private sector, and gains were evident in both goods-producing and service-providing industries.

Somewhat surprising, the fastest year-over-year growth occurred in natural resources and mining (+5.6 percent). However, this growth is on top of a small total employment base (roughly 9,000). Transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+5.0 percent), construction (4.1 percent), professional and business services (+3.7 percent), retail trade (+3.1 percent), and education and health services (+2.9 percent) also experienced higher-than-average growth.

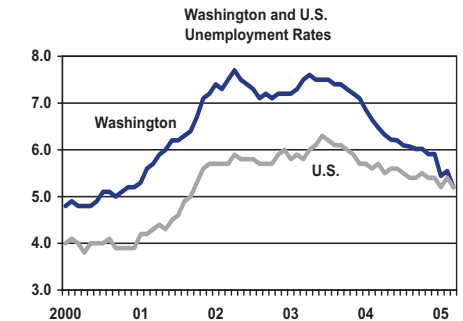
Manufacturing employment did rise from last March, but the growth (+1.3 percent) was well below the state's economy-wide average. Still, this growth is impressive when compared to the national average of +0.2 percent.

NAICS INDUSTRY	March 2005 Employment	Change	
		Over Year	Growth Rate
Warehousing and Storage	9,600	1,200	14.3%
Employment Services	50,700	4,800	10.5%
Support Activities for Transportation	17,100	1,400	8.9%
Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	10,900	700	6.9%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	26,300	1,600	6.5%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	4,800	-200	-4.0%
Accounting and Bookkeeping Services	14,000	-600	-4.1%
Other Food Manufacturing	22,900	-1,100	-4.6%
Paper Manufacturing	12,100	-700	-5.5%
Telecommunications	25,500	-1,700	-6.3%

Government, leisure and hospitality, and information managed barely discernible employment growth, while job levels in financial activities posted a very slight decline compared to 12 months earlier.

The Labor Force

Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate came in at 5.2 percent in March, down from 5.9 percent in December and 6.5 percent a year earlier. The nation's unemployment rate was also 5.2 percent in March. This marks the first time in seven years that Washington's unemployment rate did not exceed the national average. Moreover, it was the lowest rate the state has seen in more than four years.



In March, the number of unemployed workers in the state totaled 169,700, down from 193,400 in December and 208,300 a year earlier. Moreover, there were nearly 38,000 more workers in the labor force than there were last March.

All told, the improvement in Washington's labor market was gaining steam as the first quarter drew to a close with employment up, unemployment down, and more workers participating in the labor force.



Despite the lower-than-expected total number, job gains were relatively broad-based in both goods-producing and service-providing industries in March.



National Outlook

Pacing Itself? U.S. Growth Slowed in the First Quarter

By Rick Kaglic, Chief Economist

Employment

Just when economists were getting their hopes up, this comes along. March's Employment Situation report for the United States disappointed most labor market watchers barely a month after the same report sent some into a hyperbolic tizzy. Wasn't it February's report that rekindled talk of the "Goldilocks economy... not too hot, not too cold?" Well, I guess we can't expect porridge to remain at the right temperature for more than a month, can we?

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. economy created 110,000 net new payroll jobs during March, less than half of the 243,000 gain the previous month. In the first three months of 2005 job growth has averaged +159,000, a little slower than the long-term trend rate of growth, but certainly not anything to get excited about.

Despite the lower-than-expected total number, job gains were relatively broad-based in both goods-producing and service-providing industries in March.

Goods-producing industries added 24,000 jobs during the month. Construction employment jumped in March and mining employment increased for the fifth month in a row, boosted by hiring in oil and gas operations. Manufacturing employment declined by 8,000 from February to March, with job losses in both durable and nondurable goods production.

Service-providing firms augmented their payrolls with 86,000 workers in March, and 419,000 since the turn of the calendar. The biggest gains in March took place in business and professional services (27,000), education and health services (23,000), and wholesale trade (14,600). Leisure and hospitality employment was up 10,000 in March, and

51,000 since the beginning of the year. State and local educational entities accounted for 6,600 of the 9,000 advance in government jobs during March, while federal government employment was down slightly.

Information services employment rose by 7,000 during the month, due almost entirely to a significant rise in motion picture and sound recording industries jobs. Following two straight months of solid increases, growth in financial activities employment slowed in March. Retail trade employment retreated by 9,700 in March, following an unusually large advance (more than 39,000) the previous month.

Unemployment

The nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 5.4 percent in February to 5.2 percent in March, matching the lowest monthly rate since September 2001, when unemployment rates were headed in the opposite direction. For the first three months of 2005, unemployment has averaged 5.3 percent, compared to 5.4 percent a quarter earlier and 5.7 percent in the first quarter of 2004.

The Outlook

In addition to the relatively tepid job growth during the first three months of 2005, overall production of goods and services in the U.S. economy tended toward the disappointing side as well. Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) advanced at a 3.1 percent annual rate in the first quarter of 2005, after increasing at a 3.8 percent pace the previous quarter. The deceleration resulted primarily from slower growth in personal consumption expenditures and business investment in equipment and software, and an acceleration in imports.

Unlike Washington's, the national economy seemed to be losing a little momentum toward the end of the quarter. But to be perfectly clear, losing momentum does not mean not growing.

The Chicago Fed National Activity Index (three-month moving average) was +0.11 in March, down from +0.22 the previous month. However, any reading above zero by this measure suggests that the economy is growing above its long-term trend rate of growth.

Moreover, surveys of purchasing managers conducted by the Institute for Supply Management showed that output generated by the U.S. economy continued to rise in March, but varied by industry. According to these indexes, the pace of nonmanufacturing production quickened in March, but the rate of manufacturing expansion decelerated. The manufacturing slowdown was confirmed in March's industrial output numbers, which showed a 0.1 percent decline in manufacturing production during the month.

Consumer spending appeared to soften somewhat toward the end of the first quarter. Total retail and food service sales increased 0.3 percent in March, following a 0.5 percent gain the previous month. Sales outside of motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations were actually down for the month. Still, for the first three months of the year, total retail sales were running a healthy 7.2 percent above year-earlier levels.

The data on housing market activity varied wildly in March. New home sales surged by 12.2 percent during the month, to a new record high. At the same time, housing starts plummeted 17.6 percent, the biggest monthly descent since January 1991. Residential building permits also fell in March, by a more palatable 4.0 percent. Despite the declines, housing starts and building permits remain at historically high levels. In addition, while the Fed continues to push at the short end of interest rates, 30-year mortgage interest rates remain very favorable and have been declining in recent weeks.

Businesses appeared a little more reluctant to invest as the first quarter drew to a close. Not only were they shy about adding permanent full-time employees to their payrolls, as mentioned earlier,

many pulled back on capital orders. New orders for nondefense capital goods excluding aircraft fell 4.7 percent in March, following a 2.5 percent decrease in February. This helped push overall durable goods orders down as well. Capital goods orders had been trending higher since early in 2003, and strongly so. Two months worth of declines in capital goods orders is not yet a troublesome trend, but manufacturing output edged down in March and the ISM manufacturing index signaled slower growth as well. Combined, these factors may be signaling a softening in the nation's manufacturing sector.

Government spending increased at a 0.5 percent annualized rate in the first quarter, with federal and state and local spending advancing at a nearly identical pace. National defense spending edged up at a 0.2 percent measure.

Exports increased 7.0 percent in the first quarter, but imports rose at more than twice that rate, 14.7 percent. Thus, net exports made a negative net contribution to GDP growth, shaving one and one-half percentage points off the first quarter growth rate.

Conclusion

After running at a fairly brisk pace for two years, the U.S. economy appeared to shorten its gait in the first quarter. However, it is more appropriate to view the economy as a marathon rather than a sprint. Every now and again during a marathon, a runner may slow down as (s)he attacks a hill or encounters a headwind. But, (s)he keeps running and, in the end, it is only what (s)he accomplishes in the long run that matters.

So it is with the economy. The headwind may very well be the effects of higher energy prices. At this writing, oil is above \$50 a barrel and gasoline prices are near record highs. Add to the mix elevated natural gas and electricity prices and one may make the argument that higher energy prices held back household spending in the first quarter. Yet, energy wasn't exactly cheap last year. Why would it affect household spending now?



At this writing, oil is above \$50 a barrel and gasoline prices are near record highs.





The U.S. International Trade Commission has estimated that apparel prices should drop about 2 percent. However, others see some prices falling by as much as 30 percent.

Well, consumer expectations may have changed. While oil prices rose rapidly over the last couple of years, many consumers believed that prices were unlikely to stay high. But after several months of paying anywhere from \$60 to \$80 to fill up the SUV's gas tank at the pump, expectations may be changing.

The reality is that little relief is on the horizon in the near term. Worldwide demand for energy remains strong, while capacity is constrained. Moreover, adding capacity to produce energy, whether it is oil, natural gas, or electricity, takes a lot of time and a lot of money. Chances are that energy prices will remain high in the foreseeable future.

Despite the headwind, other important factors that have been buoying economic activity continue to do so. Interest rates remain very favorable, making big-ticket items more affordable to more people. Fierce competition continued to hold general prices in check, maintaining an environment conducive to consumer spending. Businesses are still profitable and continue to hire and invest, albeit at a modestly slower pace. And economies around the globe continue to expand, boosting demand for the goods and services produced in the U.S.

With the release of February's employment situation report, many analysts said it may be time for the Fed to rethink its strategy of removing policy accommodation at a "measured pace," or at the very least drop the language. What a difference a month makes. Most of the economic data released over the last 30 days support the Fed's position. The Fed, more than most, understands that maintaining sustainable economic growth is more akin to a marathon, rather than a sprint.

Business Briefs

By Dave Wallace, Economic Analyst

Clothing Likely to get Cheaper

While consumers are still recovering from gas pump sticker shock, there is a consumer good that will probably be getting less expensive this year—clothing.

The reason, a quota system that limited quantity of clothing imports from low-cost manufacturing countries expired at the beginning of 2005.

Since then clothing from these countries has been flooding in. We currently import a large percent of our retail items but they are likely to increase. In fact apparel imports from China were up by 47 percent in January over the month prior. However, due to distribution networks, we probably won't see lower prices until fall at the earliest.

The U.S. International Trade Commission has estimated that apparel prices should drop about 2 percent. However, others see some prices falling by as much as 30 percent. The retail industry typically runs on very small profit margins and in some cases firms are likely to substitute lower prices for higher quality.

Demand Surging for Port Workers

In a related issue, there has been an increased demand for dock workers in Washington. Due in large part to rising imports from low-cost manufacturing countries, there has been a reciprocating demand for workers to unload goods coming off ships. Last month the Port of Tacoma put out a call for 550 additional dock workers.

The response to this call was overwhelming. According to Port Officials there were over 17,000 respondents, of which eventually 650 will be hired.

State Exports Off Slightly for 2004

The value of Washington State exports declined by one percent in 2004 from the previous year, according to the State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development. This drop was primarily driven by a 14 percent decline in aerospace exports, which made up about half of total export value. Outside of aerospace, exports rose by 17 percent over 2003.

Japan was the top destination for our products, which bought an estimated \$6.3 billion worth of our products. Canada was second, buying \$4 billion in Washington imports.

Industry Focus: Truck Transportation

By Rick Lockhart, Economic Analyst

According to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), the truck transportation industry is comprised of companies whose major business activity is over-the-road transportation of cargo. This includes companies that specialize in long-distance as well as local trucking.

Industry Highlights

- There were an estimated 22,900 jobs in Washington during February of 2005.
- The average wage was \$3,000 per month during the 2nd Quarter of 2004.
- Truck transportation employment is projected to grow at an average rate of 1.6 percent per year through 2012.

Real wages in the truck transportation industry increased steadily in the 1990s, from \$30,700 in 1990 to \$36,000 in 2000. Since 2000, however, real wages have remained flat. The recent real wage trend is consistent with trends in the rest of the economy as the all-industries average wage has remained steady around \$39,400 since 2000.

In order to understand the employment trends of the truck transportation industry, it is critical to analyze the employment trends of the industries with the highest demand for cargo transport. Data from the national input/output model for inter-industry linkages show that manufacturing, construction,

mining, and agriculture have the highest increase in demand for truck transportation per dollar of increased demand for their products.

Recent growth in construction employment, combined with current stability and projected growth in the manufacturing sector, provides a foundation for the expected increases in truck transportation employment. The agriculture industry, which now includes forestry and

logging, has seen moderate employment growth, increasing by 1,000 jobs between 2001 and 2003. As such, it would be expected that the agriculture industries' demand for truck transportation should remain steady. While mining employment is expected to decline in coming years, it is a very small industry in Washington and should have minimal impact on truck transportation employment.



Current and Projected Employment

NAICS Industry Title**	Preliminary*	Projected		Growth Rates	
	March 2005	2007	2012	2002-2007	2007-2012
Truck Transportation	22,900	24,100	26,200	1.50%	1.70%
Natural Resources and Mining	9,000	9,100	9,300	-1.70%	0.40%
Construction	162,000	174,200	184,500	2.40%	1.20%
Manufacturing	262,000	282,600	284,800	-0.20%	0.20%

Source: Employment Security Department

*Employment may fluctuate during the year due to seasonal factors

**Projections for agriculture employment are not available due to the data coming from the nonag Current Employment Statistics survey.

The agriculture industry, which now includes forestry and logging, has seen moderate employment growth, increasing by 1,000 jobs between 2001 and 2003.



Occupational Focus: Language Skills Set Job Seekers Apart

By Dave Wallace, Economic Analyst

As any labor market economist knows, finding a job is simply a matter of supply and demand. From a job seeker's perspective, one benefits from being a relatively rare supplier of a particular service or ability—having a skill that sets one apart. One such skill is the ability to convert spoken or written words from one language into another.

This is born out in Employment Security Department statistics that project translators and interpreters to be one of the fastest growing occupations between 2002 and 2012 (2.2 percent annually on average). In addition, Washington State is estimated to have between 67 and 70 openings each year. The outlook varies depending on language, but job seekers with proficiency in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish are expected to do best.

An interpreter converts spoken words and meanings from one language into another, while a translator does the same with written language. Importantly, they convert not only words, but also feelings and nuances. This is particularly true in the case of interpreters, who must be aware of vocal inflections and even facial expressions. Because of this it is critical to have a familiarity with the culture associated with the language.

Work as an interpreter may require the ability to stand and concentrate for long periods of time and have strong mental dexterity. For translation work good editing skills and even some creative writing ability are important. As for personality type, interpreters tend to be extroverts whereas translators tend to be perfectionists.



Most translators/interpreters have at least a bachelor's degree and many are self-employed. Work is found in airlines, courts (and other government agencies), educational institutions, hospitals, publishing companies, telephone companies, and translation agencies. Some positions, such as court interpreters, require state certification.

Estimated Employment 2002	Estimated Employment 2012	Avg. Annual Growth 2002-2012	Avg. Annual Total Openings 2002-2007	Avg. Annual Total Openings 2007-2012	Mean Wage 2004	Mean Entry Wage 2004
1,816	2,259	2.20%	67	70	\$20.60	\$14.56

Across the State

From East to West, Broad-based Improvement Characterizes Washington's Labor Markets

By Rick Kaglic, Chief Economist

In March, Washington's payroll employment was 2.0 percent higher than a year earlier. While not spectacular growth, it is still higher than the national average of 1.6 percent. In addition, employment growth in the state was widespread across industry segments as well as geographically.

Nearly all of Washington's 39 counties saw year-over-year increases in payroll jobs. Increases in 30 counties exceeded the national average and a big majority (25) surpassed the statewide average. This is so because the state's largest county saw below average employment gains. Jobs in King County, which account for roughly 41 percent of Washington's 2.7 million payroll employees, increased by just 1.7 percent since last March.

Several smaller counties were among the fastest gainers. Garfield, Skamania, and Skagit counties saw the fastest increases over the year, all in excess of 5.5 percent. Ten more counties grew at least 4.0 percent. Of this group, only Snohomish and Whatcom counties have employment in excess

Top Ten and Bottom Ten Counties by Employment Growth Rate

County	March 2005	March 2004	Change	Growth Rate
Garfield	850	800	50	6.25%
Skamania	2,020	1,910	110	5.76%
Skagit	45,100	42,700	2,400	5.62%
Pend Oreille	2,850	2,720	130	4.78%
Whatcom	79,500	76,000	3,500	4.61%
Benton-Franklin	87,400	83,700	3,700	4.42%
Grays Harbor	24,300	23,290	1,010	4.34%
Snohomish	221,809	213,126	8,683	4.07%
Chelan-Douglas	36,400	35,000	1,400	4.00%
Ferry	1,570	1,510	60	3.97%
Okanogan	11,910	11,710	200	1.71%
Spokane	200,900	197,900	3,000	1.52%
Island	15,630	15,440	190	1.23%
Adams	5,030	4,980	50	1.00%
Kittitas	13,800	13,670	130	0.95%
Walla Walla	23,430	23,330	100	0.43%
Lincoln	2,800	2,790	10	0.36%
Cowlitz	36,400	36,600	-200	-0.55%
Wahkiakum	790	810	-20	-2.47%
Columbia	1,200	1,250	-50	-4.00%

of 50,000. Twelve more counties saw increases in the 2.4 percent to 3.9 percent range. Only three counties, Columbia, Wahkiakum, and Cowlitz, had net job losses over the year (which sum to -270).

Of the largest counties (those with 100,000 plus employment), employment increased 4.1 percent in Snohomish County, 4.0 percent in Clark County, and 2.5 percent in Pierce County. Job gains in King (+1.7 percent) and Spokane (+1.5 percent) counties fell below the statewide average.

While the rate of job growth in King County was slow in relation to most of Washington's counties, it still accounted for the lion's share of total job growth since last March. Of the state's 52,100 net new jobs, King County accounted

Across the State (continued)

for 19,300 or roughly 37 percent. When you throw in Snohomish (+8,683 jobs) and Pierce (6,300) counties, you've now accounted for roughly 55 percent of total job growth since last March. Outside of the Puget Sound area, the biggest contributions to job growth came from Clark (+4,100) and Spokane (+3,000) counties. The largest March to March employment decline was in Cowlitz County, where payrolls were down 200.

Top Ten and Bottom Ten Counties by Employment Change

County	March 2005	March 2004	Change	Growth Rate
King	1,125,200	1,105,900	19,300	1.75%
Snohomish	221,809	213,126	8,683	4.07%
Pierce	256,700	250,400	6,300	2.52%
Clark	124,600	120,500	4,100	3.40%
Benton-Franklin	87,400	83,700	3,700	4.42%
Whatcom	79,500	76,000	3,500	4.61%
Spokane	200,900	197,900	3,000	1.52%
Thurston	94,900	92,100	2,800	3.04%
Skagit	45,100	42,700	2,400	5.62%
Kitsap	83,600	81,500	2,100	2.58%
Skamania	2,020	1,910	110	5.76%
Asotin	5,440	5,340	100	1.87%
Walla Walla	23,430	23,330	100	0.43%
Ferry	1,570	1,510	60	3.97%
Garfield	850	800	50	6.25%
Adams	5,030	4,980	50	1.00%
Lincoln	2,800	2,790	10	0.36%
Wahkiakum	790	810	-20	-2.47%
Columbia	1,200	1,250	-50	-4.00%
Cowlitz	36,400	36,600	-200	-0.55%

The industry with the biggest contribution to the state's employment growth was professional and business services, which added 10,700 jobs over the year. This sector represents just 11 percent of the state's total nonfarm employment, yet it accounted for nearly 21 percent of the total job increase since last March. Nearly 90 percent of these new jobs in professional and business services were created in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett Metropolitan Division (MD), although Clark, Pierce, and Thurston counties also showed solid growth.

Next, education and health care services added 9,100 jobs statewide since last March, followed by retail trade, +9,000. Employment gains in these two industries were evident in most areas in the state.

Change in Education and Health Services Employment, Selected Labor Markets, March 2004 to March 2005

County	Mar-05	Mar-04	Change	%Growth
Seattle	143,700	138,600	5,100	3.7%
Tri-Cities	9,000	8,700	300	3.4%
Clark	15,500	15,000	500	3.3%
Spokane	34,000	33,000	1,000	3.0%
Tacoma	38,400	37,800	600	1.6%
Cowlitz	4,900	4,900	0	0.0%

Construction activity remained robust in much of Washington, and this strength showed up in the employment data as well. Construction employment in March

was 6,500 higher than a year earlier, which translates to a gain of 4.2 percent.

Change in Construction Employment, Selected Labor Markets, March 2004 to March 2005

County	Mar-05	Mar-04	Change	%Growth
Jefferson	880	790	90	11.4%
Bellingham	7,300	6,700	600	9.0%
Wenatchee	2,500	2,300	200	8.7%
Kittitas	930	860	70	8.1%
Tacoma	19,400	18,000	1,400	7.8%
Lewis	2,450	2,280	170	7.5%
Island	1,220	1,160	60	5.2%
Olympia	5,100	4,900	200	4.1%
Adams	120	120	0	0.0%
Ferry	180	180	0	0.0%
Whitman	360	390	-30	-7.7%

Washington's factories have been adding workers over the last year, approximately 3,500. Most areas of the state saw little change in manufacturing employment levels, up or down. However, several smaller counties did see rapid growth, but from relatively small bases. Factory jobs were up by at least 100 in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Pacific, Snohomish, and Whitman counties. Snohomish saw the biggest increase by far, +3,500. Grays Harbor also experienced a notable increase of 460 since last year. Only three counties, Asotin, Pend Oreille, and Walla Walla displayed notable declines over the year.

Change in Manufacturing Employment, Selected Labor Markets, March 2004 to March 2005

County	Mar-05	Mar-04	Change	%Growth
Island	750	650	100	15.4%
Pacific	850	750	100	13.3%
Clallam	1,350	1,200	150	12.5%
Whitman	1,130	1,010	120	11.9%
Okanogan	200	180	20	11.1%
Klickitat	410	370	40	10.8%
Wenatchee	2,200	2,100	100	4.8%
Skagit	5,100	4,900	200	4.1%
Bellingham	8,400	8,100	300	3.7%
Tacoma	18,900	18,600	300	1.6%
Cowlitz	7,100	7,000	100	1.4%
Jefferson	770	760	10	1.3%
Clark	13,400	13,400	0	0.0%
Asotin	480	500	-20	-4.0%
Walla Walla	3,450	3,650	-200	-5.5%
Pend Oreille	310	350	-40	-11.4%

The gains in manufacturing employment were concentrated in durable goods production. Producers of durable goods added 6,200 positions in the state over the last 12 months. A significant portion of these jobs were in aerospace (+3,500), but increases were also significant in wood products, fabricated metals, and machinery. The rise in durable goods hiring was partially offset by declines in nondurable goods employment. Food processing showed the largest decrease over the year, but most other nondurable goods producers were shedding workers as well.

From a year earlier, leisure and hospitality employment was up just slightly (+0.5 percent) in the first three months of 2005. At least part of this softness can be attributed to the lack of snow in the Cascades for much of the skiing season. The Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MD lost 1,000 jobs in leisure and hospitality since last March.

Like leisure and hospitality, government employment was 0.5 percent higher than a year earlier. Much of the statewide increase derived from increases in hiring for local education and Native American government. Employment in information and financial activities was basically flat over the last year.

Washington had 184,800 unemployed workers in March, which is 49,000 (or 21 percent) fewer than 12 months earlier. The number of unemployed workers fell in 38 of the state's 39 counties. Only Asotin County showed an increase over the last year.

Note: Numbers in this section are not seasonally adjusted.



Washington had 184,800 unemployed workers in March, which is 49,000 (or 21 percent) fewer than 12 months earlier.

Special Feature: Large Employers Offer More Fringe Benefits to Their Workers

By Rick Lockhart, Economic Analyst

The Washington State Employee Benefits Survey estimates the number of private sector firms offering fringe benefits to their workers, providing valuable insights into compensation conditions in our state. The survey was distributed to a sample of 17,783 Washington employers in September 2004 and received a 58 percent response rate. Each employer was asked if they provide the following benefits to full-time and part-time employees:

- Health insurance (for employees, dependents, and retirees)
- Retirement benefits
- Paid sick leave, vacation, and holidays

Summary of Findings

The overlying theme throughout the results of this year's employee benefits survey is that size of firm is the key factor when analyzing benefit offerings. In each of the categories, large employers were much more likely to offer benefits to their workers than were small employers. For example, health insurance was offered by 96 percent of employers with 100 or more employees, compared to 55 percent of employers in the 2-9 employee size class. Expense was cited by 84 percent of employers as the reason they do not offer health insurance to some employees. This, combined with the disparity in health insurance offered between large and small firms, points to the conclusion that large firms have a distinct cost advantage in offering fringe benefits. That advantage may be due to increased purchasing power to buy down the rate on a group plan. It

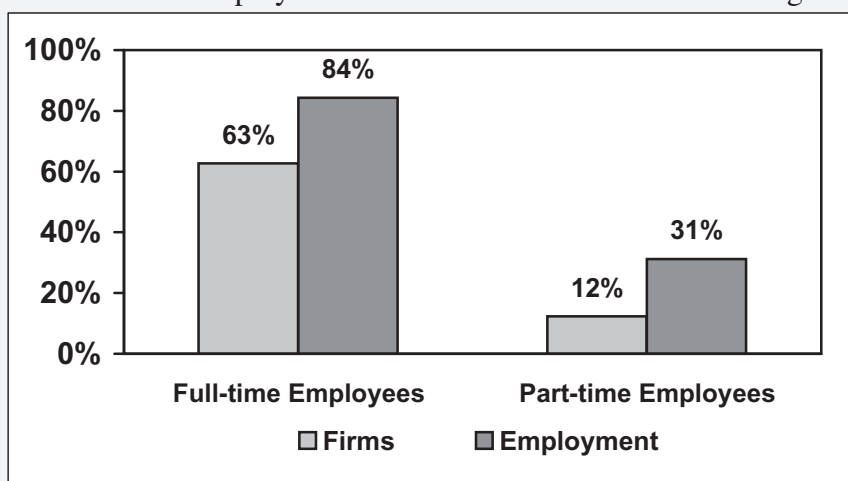
may also relate to wider profit margins of large firms, allowing more flexibility in offering broader benefits packages. However, associations exist that enable small employers to join with other small employers to purchase health insurance plans at a similar discount to what large employers are able to get.

Full-time workers were much more likely to be offered benefits by their employer. Paid vacation leave was the most common

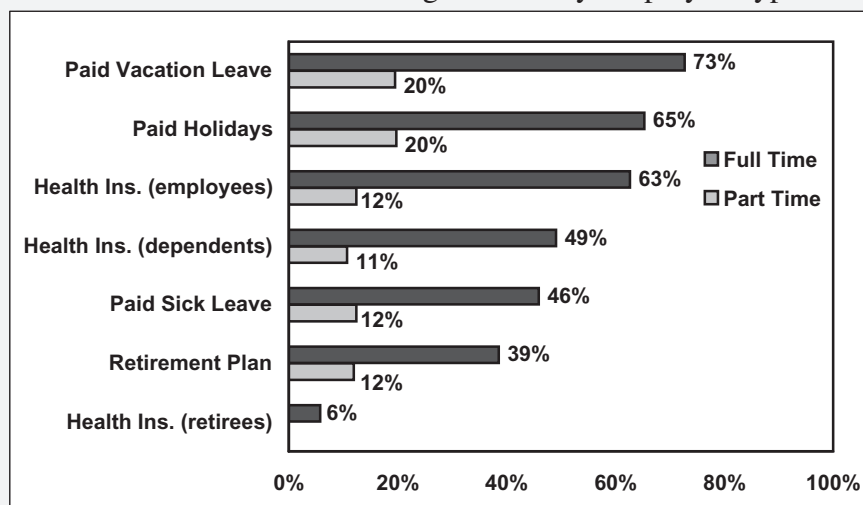
benefit offered to full-time employees. It was also the benefit most offered to part-time employees. However, the gap between the two (53 percent more employers offer vacation leave to full-time employees) was larger than for any other benefit.

For the full 2004 Employee Benefits report, please visit www.workforceexplorer.com.

Percent of Firms Offering Health Insurance to Employees and Percent of Employment Offered Health Insurance Coverage



Percent of Firms Offering Benefits by Employee Type

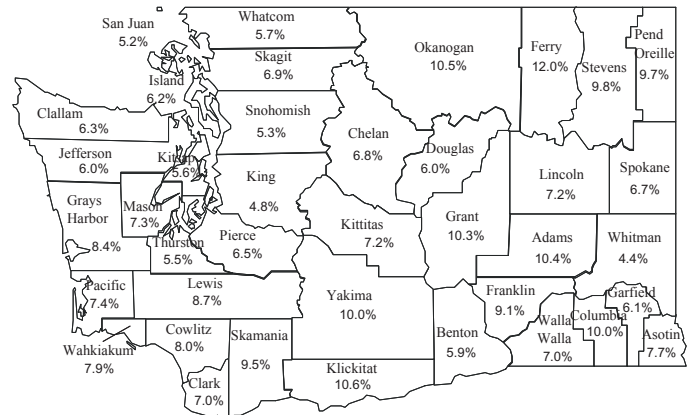


First Quarter Stats-At-A-Glance

Average Unemployment Rates by County
January, February, and March 2005
Washington State = 6.1%
United States = 5.6%
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Monthly Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State

	January 2005 (Rev)	February 2005 (Rev)	March 2005 (Prel)
<i>(In Thousands)</i>			
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment:			
Washington State	5.4%	5.5%	5.2%
United States	5.2%	5.4%	5.2%
Not Seasonally Adjusted:			
Resident Civilian Labor Force	3,243.9	3,254.1	3,252.3
Employment	3,041.6	3,045.7	3,067.5
Unemployment	202.3	208.4	184.8
Percent of Labor Force	6.2%	6.4%	5.7%



Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Washington State Counties and MSAs^{1/}

Washington State
 Employment Security Department
 Labor Market and Economic Analysis

Benchmark: March 2004

	January 2005 Revised				February 2005 Revised				March 2005 Preliminary			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Not Seasonally Adjusted												
Washington State Total	3,243,900	3,041,600	202,300	6.2	3,254,100	3,045,700	208,400	6.4	3,252,300	3,067,500	184,800	5.7
Bellingham MSA	102,300	96,200	6,100	6.0	103,100	97,100	6,000	5.8	103,600	98,200	5,400	5.2
Bremerton MSA	122,500	115,500	7,000	5.7	123,500	116,300	7,300	5.9	122,900	116,500	6,500	5.3
Kennewick-Richland-Pasco MSA	111,600	103,300	8,300	7.4	113,300	105,400	7,900	7.0	113,600	107,100	6,500	5.7
Benton County 2/	84,300	78,800	5,600	6.6	85,600	80,400	5,200	6.1	86,100	81,700	4,400	5.1
Franklin County 2/	27,200	24,500	2,700	10.1	27,700	25,000	2,700	9.7	27,500	25,400	2,100	7.6
Longview MSA (Cowlitz)	43,800	40,110	3,690	8.4	44,260	40,550	3,710	8.4	44,130	40,960	3,180	7.2
Mt. Vernon-Anacortes MSA (Skagit)	55,280	51,080	4,190	7.6	55,560	51,640	3,920	7.1	55,580	52,410	3,450	6.2
Olympia MSA	123,200	116,200	6,900	5.6	124,600	117,400	7,200	5.8	124,100	117,700	6,400	5.1
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MD*	1,338,100	1,274,600	63,500	4.7	1,328,300	1,259,000	69,300	5.2	1,329,200	1,266,000	63,300	4.8
King County 2/	998,200	952,400	45,800	4.6	991,100	940,800	50,300	5.1	992,000	946,000	46,000	4.6
Snohomish County 2/	339,800	322,100	17,700	5.2	337,200	318,200	19,000	5.6	337,300	320,000	17,300	5.1
Spokane MSA	226,000	209,800	16,200	7.2	228,000	211,900	16,100	7.0	226,900	213,400	13,600	6.0
Tacoma Metropolitan Division	380,100	354,900	25,100	6.6	384,200	358,300	25,900	6.7	382,800	359,500	23,300	6.1
Wenatchee MSA	66,270	61,580	4,690	7.1	66,430	61,870	4,560	6.9	66,270	62,570	3,710	5.6
Chelan County 2/	44,180	40,950	3,230	7.3	44,320	41,140	3,170	7.2	44,170	41,600	2,570	5.8
Douglas County 2/	22,090	20,630	1,460	6.6	22,120	20,730	1,390	6.3	22,100	20,960	1,140	5.1
Yakima MSA	109,500	97,500	12,000	11.0	110,700	99,400	11,400	10.3	111,400	101,600	9,800	8.8
Aberdeen LMA (Grays Harbor)	31,570	28,810	2,760	8.7	31,900	29,200	2,700	8.5	31,780	29,250	2,530	8.0
Centralia LMA (Lewis)	30,910	28,150	2,760	8.9	30,770	27,970	2,800	9.1	30,690	28,170	2,520	8.2
Ellensburg LMA (Kittitas)	18,920	17,530	1,400	7.4	19,000	17,520	1,480	7.8	19,160	17,920	1,230	6.4
Moses Lake LMA (Grant)	34,560	30,620	3,930	11.4	35,010	31,220	3,790	10.8	35,360	32,250	3,110	8.8
Oak Harbor LMA (Island County)	31,900	29,900	2,000	6.3	32,300	30,200	2,100	6.5	32,200	30,300	1,900	5.8
Port Angeles LMA (Clallam)	33,670	31,400	2,270	6.7	33,710	31,520	2,190	6.5	33,640	31,720	1,920	5.7
Pullman LMA (Whitman)	20,640	19,710	930	4.5	21,450	20,440	1,020	4.7	21,520	20,640	870	4.1
Shelton LMA (Mason)	23,930	22,170	1,760	7.4	23,800	21,970	1,830	7.7	23,700	22,060	1,630	6.9
Walla Walla LMA (Walla Walla)	28,420	26,300	2,130	7.5	29,050	26,920	2,140	7.4	29,100	27,290	1,810	6.2
Adams	7,140	6,260	880	12.3	7,430	6,610	820	11.0	7,500	6,910	600	8.0
Asotin 2/	11,100	10,240	860	7.8	10,940	10,080	870	7.9	11,030	10,210	820	7.4
Clark 2/	194,300	180,500	13,800	7.1	197,300	182,900	14,400	7.3	196,800	183,700	13,100	6.7
Columbia	1,530	1,370	160	10.5	1,540	1,390	160	10.0	1,550	1,410	140	8.8
Ferry	2,920	2,580	350	11.9	2,970	2,600	370	12.6	2,860	2,530	330	11.5
Garfield	1,090	1,010	70	6.6	1,100	1,030	70	6.5	1,110	1,050	60	5.6
Jefferson	13,830	12,960	870	6.3	13,970	13,080	890	6.4	13,970	13,210	760	5.4
Klickitat	8,680	7,690	990	11.4	8,890	7,890	990	11.2	8,930	8,090	840	9.4
Lincoln	4,500	4,140	360	8.0	4,580	4,230	340	7.5	4,600	4,310	280	6.2
Okanogan	18,790	16,650	2,140	11.4	19,170	17,060	2,100	11.0	18,840	17,090	1,750	9.3
Pacific	9,280	8,580	700	7.5	8,990	8,320	680	7.5	9,050	8,400	650	7.2
Pend Oreille	5,200	4,690	520	9.9	5,270	4,740	530	10.0	5,210	4,740	470	9.0
San Juan	7,670	7,230	440	5.8	7,730	7,310	420	5.4	7,950	7,590	360	4.6
Skamania 2/	5,050	4,540	510	10.0	5,100	4,600	500	9.8	5,050	4,620	430	8.5
Stevens	18,190	16,410	1,780	9.8	18,440	16,530	1,910	10.3	18,310	16,610	1,700	9.3
Wahkiakum	1,620	1,470	140	8.9	1,720	1,580	140	8.0	1,700	1,580	120	7.1

^{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.

*Metropolitan Division

January

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

In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted					Numeric Change	
	January 2005 (Prel)	December 2004 (Rev)	January 2004 (Rev)	December 2003 (Rev)	Dec. 2004 to Jan. 2005	Jan. 2004 to Jan. 2005
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers	2,677.3	2,733.2	2,614.0	2,685.7	-55.9	63.3
Natural Resources and Mining	8.8	9.0	8.2	8.6	-0.2	0.6
Logging	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.5	-0.1	0.2
Construction	153.7	161.8	147.3	156.4	-8.1	6.4
Construction of Buildings	40.9	43.0	39.8	42.0	-2.1	1.1
Heavy and Civil Engineering	17.5	19.8	16.5	18.8	-2.3	1.0
Specialty Trade Contractors	95.3	99.0	91.0	95.6	-3.7	4.3
Manufacturing	263.8	264.5	257.5	262.7	-0.7	6.3
Durable Goods	185.2	185.1	178.1	180.6 ^{2/}	0.1	7.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	18.8	18.9	17.3	17.7	-0.1	1.5
Fabricated Metal Products	17.6	17.6	16.7	16.9	0.0	0.9
Computer and Electronic Products	21.9	22.0	21.9	22.5	-0.1	0.0
Transportation Equipment	75.9	75.4	73.3	73.8	0.5	2.6
Aerospace Products and Parts	63.4	63.1	61.6	62.2	0.3	1.8
Nondurable Goods	78.6	79.4	79.4	82.1	-0.8	-0.8
Food Manufacturing	32.5	32.7 ^{2/}	32.3 ^{2/}	34.3 ^{2/}	-0.2	0.2
Wholesale Trade	118.4	119.7	114.9	116.5	-1.3	3.5
Retail Trade	310.9	330.0	300.9	321.1	-19.1	10.0
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	42.0	42.1	40.5	41.1	-0.1	1.5
Food and Beverage Stores	59.3	60.9	57.8	59.5	-1.6	1.5
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	25.6	28.7	24.7	28.0	-3.1	0.9
General Merchandise Stores	56.4	63.3	53.8	61.1	-6.9	2.6
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	90.2	91.8	86.1	89.4	-1.6	4.1
Utilities	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	0.0	0.1
Transportation and Warehousing	85.8	87.4	81.8	85.0	-1.6	4.0
Air Transportation	12.6	12.5	12.3	12.2	0.1	0.3
Water Transportation	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	0.0	0.1
Truck Transportation	22.6	23.2	21.5	22.3	-0.6	1.1
Support Activities for Transportation	16.6	16.8	15.5	15.9	-0.2	1.1
Support Activities for Water Transportation	5.5	5.7	5.2	5.4	-0.2	0.3
Warehousing and Storage	9.4	9.6	8.0	8.2	-0.2	1.4
Information	92.2	92.4	91.7	93.6	-0.2	0.5
Software Publishers	40.1	40.0	38.4	38.6	0.1	1.7
Telecommunications	25.7	25.9	27.1	27.6	-0.2	-1.4
Financial Activities	150.0	152.2	149.9	152.1	-2.2	0.1
Finance and Insurance	101.5	102.9	102.3	103.7	-1.4	-0.8
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	52.4	53.2	53.0	53.9	-0.8	-0.6
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	37.7	38.2	38.0	38.5	-0.5	-0.3
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	48.5	49.3	47.6	48.4	-0.8	0.9
Professional and Business Services	299.3	306.2	286.2	293.4	-6.9	13.1
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	137.3	138.1	133.3	133.7	-0.8	4.0
Legal Services	20.7	21.0	20.5	20.9	-0.3	0.2
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	31.9	32.2	30.4	31.0	-0.3	1.5
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	21.4	21.4	20.8	20.9	0.0	0.6
Management of Companies and Enterprises	33.2	33.5	32.6	32.9	-0.3	0.6
Admin., Suppt. Svcs., Waste Mgmt., and Remediation	128.8	134.6	120.3	126.8	-5.8	8.5
Employment Services	45.9	49.8	41.0	44.8	-3.9	4.9
Education and Health Services	321.9	324.3	312.9	318.3	-2.4	9.0
Educational Services	43.0	44.7	42.6	44.5	-1.7	0.4
Hospitals	63.4	63.2	62.2	62.7	0.2	1.2
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	53.2	53.2	52.1	52.7	0.0	1.1
Social Assistance	47.4	47.6	45.4	46.2	-0.2	2.0
Leisure and Hospitality	243.3	250.7	239.6	247.6	-7.4	3.7
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	41.7	42.2	41.2	41.9	-0.5	0.5
Accommodation	26.5	27.5	25.6	26.9	-1.0	0.9
Food Services and Drinking Places	175.1	181.0	172.8	178.8	-5.9	2.3
Government	525.5	530.2	521.7	527.6	-4.7	3.8
Federal	68.9	69.5	68.9	70.5	-0.6	0.0
State	151.4	151.4	149.6	148.3	0.0	1.8
State Educational Services	83.8	84.3	83.1	82.3	-0.5	0.7
Local	305.2	309.3	303.2	308.8	-4.1	2.0
Local Educational Services	153.0	155.0	152.7	154.6	-2.0	0.3
Workers in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.1	-0.2

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.

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics

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

In Thousands, <u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>	February		January		Numeric Change	
	2005 (Prel)	2005 (Rev)	2004 (Rev)	2004 (Rev)	Jan. 2005 to Feb. 2005	Feb. 2004 to Feb. 2005
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers	2,693.6	2,677.1	2,633.7	2,614.0	16.5	59.9
Natural Resources and Mining	8.7	8.7	8.4	8.2	0.0	0.3
Logging	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.2	0.0	-0.1
Construction	157.6	154.1	151.0	147.3	3.5	6.6
Construction of Buildings	41.9	41.3	40.3	39.8	0.6	1.6
Heavy and Civil Engineering	18.1	17.5	17.6	16.5	0.6	0.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	97.6	95.3	93.1	91.0	2.3	4.5
Manufacturing	262.7	262.0	257.4	257.5	0.7	5.3
Durable Goods	185.6	184.5	178.2	178.1	1.1	7.4
Wood Product Manufacturing	18.8	18.7	17.5	17.3	0.1	1.3
Fabricated Metal Products	17.4	17.4	16.8	16.7	0.0	0.6
Computer and Electronic Products	21.7	21.8	22.0	21.9	-0.1	-0.3
Transportation Equipment	76.7	75.8	72.9	73.3	0.9	3.8
Aerospace Products and Parts	64.1	63.4	61.2	61.6	0.7	2.9
Nondurable Goods	77.1	77.5	79.2	79.4	-0.4	-2.1
Food Manufacturing	31.5	31.9	32.0 2/	32.3 2/	-0.4	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	118.5	118.2	115.7	114.9	0.3	2.8
Retail Trade	310.4	312.0	299.2	300.9	-1.6	11.2
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	42.3	42.0	40.7	40.5	0.3	1.6
Food and Beverage Stores	59.8	59.5	58.0	57.8	0.3	1.8
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	24.6	25.7	23.5	24.7	-1.1	1.1
General Merchandise Stores	55.5	56.9	52.5	53.8	-1.4	3.0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	90.4	90.4	86.0	86.1	0.0	4.4
Utilities	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.1
Transportation and Warehousing	86.0	86.0	81.7	81.8	0.0	4.3
Air Transportation	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	0.0	0.0
Water Transportation	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.1
Truck Transportation	22.7	22.6	21.7	21.5	0.1	1.0
Support Activities for Transportation	16.9	16.7	15.5	15.5	0.2	1.4
Support Activities for Water Transportation	5.7	5.5	5.2	5.2	0.2	0.5
Warehousing and Storage	9.2	9.4	8.0	8.0	-0.2	1.2
Information	92.1	92.1	91.7	91.7	0.0	0.4
Software Publishers	40.1	40.1	38.5	38.4	0.0	1.6
Telecommunications	25.4	25.6	27.0	27.1	-0.2	-1.6
Financial Activities	150.2	149.8	150.2	149.9	0.4	0.0
Finance and Insurance	101.6	101.3	102.5	102.3	0.3	-0.9
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	52.3	52.3	53.0	53.0	0.0	-0.7
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	37.9	37.7	38.1	38.0	0.2	-0.2
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	48.6	48.5	47.7	47.6	0.1	0.9
Professional and Business Services	301.1	298.7	290.0	286.2	2.4	11.1
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	138.6	137.4	135.2	133.3	1.2	3.4
Legal Services	20.7	20.7	20.5	20.5	0.0	0.2
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	31.8	31.8	30.7	30.4	0.0	1.1
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	21.4	21.4	20.9	20.8	0.0	0.5
Management of Companies and Enterprises	33.0	33.1	32.7	32.6	-0.1	0.3
Admin., Suppt. Svcs., Waste Mgmt., and Remediation	129.5	128.2	122.1	120.3	1.3	7.4
Employment Services	46.2	45.8	41.7	41.0	0.4	4.5
Education and Health Services	325.9	322.1	316.9	312.9	3.8	9.0
Educational Services	45.7	43.2	45.2	42.6	2.5	0.5
Hospitals	63.4	63.4	62.2	62.2	0.0	1.2
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	53.6	53.2	52.5	52.1	0.4	1.1
Social Assistance	47.7	47.3	45.9	45.4	0.4	1.8
Leisure and Hospitality	244.6	243.5	241.6	239.6	1.1	3.0
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	41.4	41.7	41.7	41.2	-0.3	-0.3
Accommodation	27.0	26.5	26.1	25.6	0.5	0.9
Food Services and Drinking Places	176.2	175.3	173.8	172.8	0.9	2.4
Government	531.5	526.1	527.6	521.7	5.4	3.9
Federal	68.7	68.9	68.7	68.9	-0.2	0.0
State	153.6	151.8	151.6	149.6	1.8	2.0
State Educational Services	86.0	84.2	85.2	83.1	1.8	0.8
Local	309.2	305.4	307.3	303.2	3.8	1.9
Local Educational Services	156.6	153.2	154.9	152.7	3.4	1.7
Workers in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.2

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.

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics

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

In Thousands, <u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>	March		February		Numeric Change	
	2005 (Prel)	2005 (Rev)	2004 (Rev)	2004 (Rev)	Feb. 2005 to Mar. 2005	Mar. 2004 to Mar. 2005
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers	2,715.0	2,692.7	2,659.7	2,633.7	22.3	55.3
Natural Resources and Mining	8.7	8.8	8.3	8.4	-0.1	0.4
Logging	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.4	-0.1	0.1
Construction	162.2	157.7	155.5	151.0	4.5	6.7
Construction of Buildings	42.5	41.8	41.3	40.3	0.7	1.2
Heavy and Civil Engineering	18.6	17.9	18.2	17.6	0.7	0.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	101.1	98.0	96.0	93.1	3.1	5.1
Manufacturing	262.4	261.7	258.9	257.4	0.7	3.5
Durable Goods	185.3	184.8	179.1	178.2	0.5	6.2
Wood Product Manufacturing	18.8	18.8	17.7	17.5	0.0	1.1
Fabricated Metal Products	17.5	17.5	16.9	16.8	0.0	0.6
Computer and Electronic Products	21.6	21.7	22.0	22.0	-0.1	-0.4
Transportation Equipment	76.8	76.3	72.9	72.9	0.5	3.9
Aerospace Products and Parts	64.4	64.1	61.0	61.2	0.3	3.4
Nondurable Goods	77.1	76.9	79.8	79.2	0.2	-2.7
Food Manufacturing	31.6	31.4	32.3 ^{2/}	32.0 ^{2/}	0.2	-0.7
Wholesale Trade	119.4	118.7	116.9	115.7	0.7	2.5
Retail Trade	311.4	310.2	300.5	299.2	1.2	10.9
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	42.8	42.3	41.3	40.7	0.5	1.5
Food and Beverage Stores	59.6	59.8	58.0	58.0	-0.2	1.6
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	24.6	24.6	23.5	23.5	0.0	1.1
General Merchandise Stores	55.3	55.3	52.5	52.5	0.0	2.8
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	91.0	90.5	86.7	86.0	0.5	4.3
Utilities	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.1	0.1
Transportation and Warehousing	86.5	86.1	82.3	81.7	0.4	4.2
Air Transportation	12.1	12.2	12.4	12.3	-0.1	-0.3
Water Transportation	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.1	0.1	0.2
Truck Transportation	22.9	22.7	22.0	21.7	0.2	0.9
Support Activities for Transportation	17.1	17.0	15.7	15.5	0.1	1.4
Support Activities for Water Transportation	5.8	5.7	5.2	5.2	0.1	0.6
Warehousing and Storage	9.2	9.3	8.1	8.0	-0.1	1.1
Information	92.4	92.3	92.1	91.7	0.1	0.3
Software Publishers	40.3	40.1	38.6	38.5	0.2	1.7
Telecommunications	25.5	25.4	27.2	27.0	0.1	-1.7
Financial Activities	151.1	150.2	151.4	150.2	0.9	-0.3
Finance and Insurance	102.1	101.6	103.3	102.5	0.5	-1.2
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	52.5	52.3	53.1	53.0	0.2	-0.6
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	38.0	37.8	38.8	38.1	0.2	-0.8
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	49.0	48.6	48.1	47.7	0.4	0.9
Professional and Business Services	306.2	302.2	294.3	290.0	4.0	11.9
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	139.6	138.7	136.3	135.2	0.9	3.3
Legal Services	20.8	20.7	20.6	20.5	0.1	0.2
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	32.1	31.9	31.2	30.7	0.2	0.9
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	21.5	21.4	21.0	20.9	0.1	0.5
Management of Companies and Enterprises	33.2	33.1	32.8	32.7	0.1	0.4
Admin., Suppt. Svcs., Waste Mgmt., and Remediation	133.4	130.4	125.2	122.1	3.0	8.2
Employment Services	47.2	46.4	42.6	41.7	0.8	4.6
Education and Health Services	327.4	325.6	318.7	316.9	1.8	8.7
Educational Services	46.0	45.4	46.1	45.2	0.6	-0.1
Hospitals	63.5	63.3	62.1	62.2	0.2	1.4
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	53.8	53.6	52.4	52.5	0.2	1.4
Social Assistance	48.1	47.8	46.5	45.9	0.3	1.6
Leisure and Hospitality	248.6	244.0	247.0	241.6	4.6	1.6
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	41.8	41.4	43.0	41.7	0.4	-1.2
Accommodation	27.8	27.0	26.9	26.1	0.8	0.9
Food Services and Drinking Places	179.0	175.6	177.1	173.8	3.4	1.9
Government	533.4	530.7	530.3	527.6	2.7	3.1
Federal	68.6	68.8	68.5	68.7	-0.2	0.1
State	153.7	152.7	152.8	151.6	1.0	0.9
State Educational Services	86.1	85.3	86.0	85.2	0.8	0.1
Local	311.1	309.2	309.0	307.3	1.9	2.1
Local Educational Services	158.1	156.5	156.9	154.9	1.6	1.2
Workers in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.2

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.

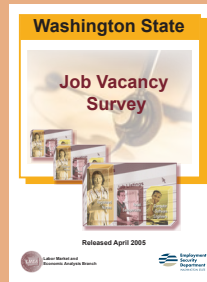
Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics

What's New?

October 2004 Washington Job Vacancy Survey

With an estimated 9,157 job openings, the health care industry had the most job vacancies in Washington in October 2004. By measuring the number of vacant positions for which employers are hiring, the Washington Job Vacancy Survey provides valuable insights into labor market conditions in our state. Survey results show not only the number of vacant positions, but also a number of job characteristics to reveal employers' immediate workforce needs.

For more information about the October 2004 Washington Job Vacancy Survey, contact Dave Wallace at (360) 438-4818 or dbwallace@esd.wa.gov. Results from the survey are also available at: www.workforceexplorer.com. Summary tables by Workforce Development Area are available as downloadable spreadsheet files and include data on vacancies by industry, occupation group, education level, and wage range.



Workforce Explorer Has a New Look

Our Workforce Explorer website has gotten a makeover. We talked to a lot of users, listened to their needs, and have re-organized the site based on what we learned.

We categorized the information on each page with information that people want most placed up front. We also improved the grouping of information items to make it easier to find what you want.

Go to www.workforceexplorer.com and see for yourself.

	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04
Washington	5.2%	5.5%	6.5%
United States	5.2%	5.4%	5.7%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Washington State Labor Market & Economic Analysis [Full Press Release](#)

How do I find?

- [Current Press Release](#) (Monthly economic indicators)
- [Wage and benefit information](#)
 - [2004 Employee Benefits Survey](#)
- [Job Listings](#)
- [Help planning a career](#)
- [Training Resources](#)
- [Local Area Profile](#) (economic information by county)
- [Washington Labor Market Information](#)
- [Publications and Reports](#)
- [2004 Washington Labor Market and Economic Report \(Annual Report\)](#)
- [Demand/Decline Occupations](#)



Washington Labor Market



Published quarterly by the
Labor Market
and Economic Analysis Branch
Economic and Policy Analysis Unit

Rick Kaglic, Chief Economist
David Wallace, Economic Analyst
Rick Lockhart, Economic Analyst
Cristina Gonzalez, Research Analyst
Bonnie Dalebout, Graphic Designer
Karen Thorson, Graphic Designer

For additional
labor market information
contact our

**Labor Market Information Center
(LMIC)**
1-800-215-1617

Or visit us on the Web
www.workforceexplorer.com