



Washington Labor Market Quarterly Review

Volume 33, Number 1

January - March 2009

INDICATORS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Washington

(Seasonally Adjusted)

January 2009	7.8%
February 2009	8.3%
March 2009 (prel)	9.2%

United States

(Seasonally Adjusted)

January 2009	7.6%
February 2009	8.1%
March 2009 (prel)	8.5%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

Washington (Seasonally Adjusted)

(in thousands)

January 2009	2,911.8
February 2009	2,891.1
March 2009 (prel)	2,871.1

Percent Change (over the year)

January 2008-2009	-1.6%
February 2008-2009	-2.3%
March 2008-2009 (prel)	-3.1%

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Measuring Joblessness from the Unemployment Insurance Program

By Michele Petritz, Economist

Executive Summary

Sixteen months into the current national recession, joblessness is still headed up with no leveling off in sight. As business and consumer spending have collapsed, more and more people continue to find themselves without work. Between December 2007 and March 2009, Washington state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate doubled, going from 4.6 to 9.2 percent. Furthermore, the absolute count of unemployed individuals behind this statistic *more than doubled* in the same period, climbing from 157,500 (seasonally adjusted) in December 2007 to 327,400 in March 2009. And the economic hardship of joblessness won't stop at these 327,400 people because most households contain more than one person; and the effects of job loss will in a sense multiply throughout the entire household.

With 13 million people currently unemployed in the U.S. and unemployment rates potentially moving toward double-digit territory both nationally and statewide, this report looks at some of the ways the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program measures and reports joblessness. In addition, using UI claims data, this report will show which industries and occupations in Washington have been hardest hit by the recession. The Annual Exhaustion Rate for the period between March 2008 and February 2009 and the New Beneficiaries to Employment Ratio for February 2009 illustrated this hardship for different geographic areas, industries, and occupations.

The Insured Unemployment Rate

Besides the 9.2 regular unemployment rate discussed above, there is another unemployment rate which is calculated solely from UI program data. This lesser known statistic is the Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) and is of special importance during times of rising joblessness when it has the potential to trigger an extension of UI benefits. Although both the regular

and the insured unemployment rates measure joblessness, they do so in quite different ways and represent quite different segments of the population.

The regular unemployment rate is based on a monthly survey of households (Current Population Survey or CPS), a joint effort of the Bureaus of the Census and Labor Statistics. The CPS unemployment rate can be thought of as the Total Unemployment Rate (TUR) and represents the population as a whole.

The IUR does not attempt to represent the entire economy but instead refers to people working in industries that are *covered* by UI insurance. The term *covered* means that individuals losing jobs in these industries are entitled to receive UI benefits, in contrast to people working in *noncovered* industries who are not entitled to receive UI benefits. In Washington

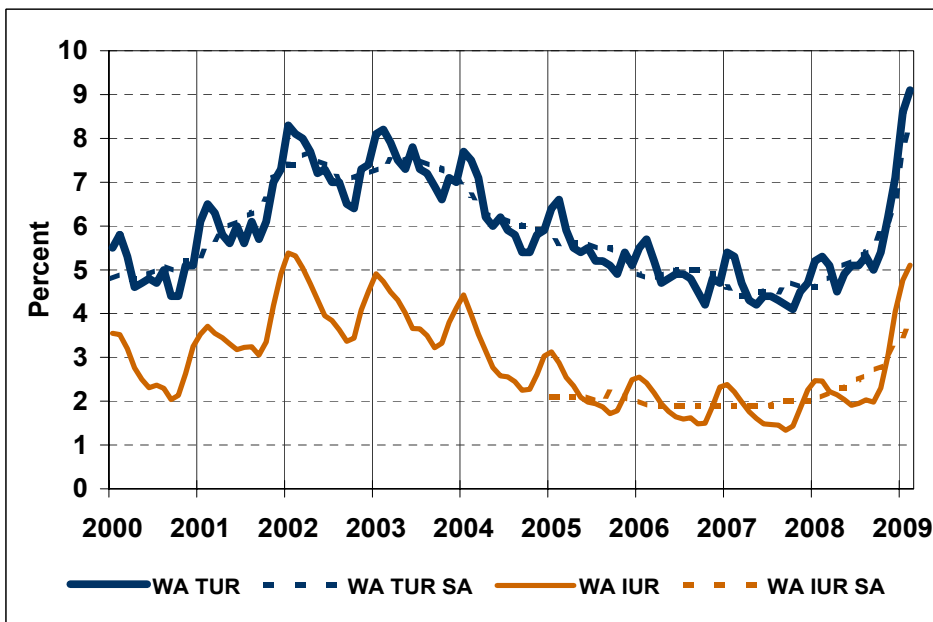
state, 90 percent of all workers are covered by unemployment insurance; noncovered employees include the self-employed, elected officials, railroad employees, workers at religious and private education organizations, and exempt corporate officers.

The IUR is a much less visible statistic than the TUR but serves to provide very specific information on joblessness among *covered* workers. The IUR also serves as a mechanism for triggering the payment of additional weeks of unemployment benefits in times of high joblessness¹. During the third quarter of 2008, states began closely monitoring their insured unemployment rates, correctly expecting that continued economic weakness would lead to the triggering of extended unemployment benefits. Of the 19 states currently providing extended UI benefits, 13 programs were triggered on

by the state's IUR. The IUR is not comparable across states because each state sets its own UI program rules for covered and noncovered workers and for UI eligibility requirements. Despite having very different data sources and calculation methods, Washington's TUR and IUR follow a similar pattern over time, with IUR being about half the size and somewhat less volatile than the TUR. *Figure 1* shows monthly data for Washington's TUR and IUR, both with and without seasonal adjustment (SA). In February 2009, the seasonally adjusted IUR was 3.8 percent compared to 8.3 percent for the SA TUR. Data for the SA IUR prior to 2005 are not presented in *Figure 1* because of inconsistencies in the seasonal adjustment factors.

A mixture of factors causes the IUR to be about half the size of TUR, including: 1) the incidence of job losses in covered versus noncovered sectors, 2) whether covered workers apply for UI benefits and then meet the requirements to receive benefits, 3) the incidence of part-time work among industries and workers, since fewer work hours may reduce eligibility for unemployment benefits, and 4) the fact that the IUR uses a substantial amount of aggregated past information in its calculation compared to the TUR whose reference period is a single week last month.

Figure 1. Monthly Unemployment Rates, Washington State
January 2000 through February 2009
Source: Haver Analytics



¹For details about extension of unemployment insurance benefits see <http://www.esd.wa.gov/uibenefits/fileweekly/extension/extension-of-benefits.php>.

Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries

The number of individuals who receive unemployment benefits (beneficiaries) represents just a portion of all unemployed people. To receive unemployment benefits, an individual must meet certain requirements which generally include having: 1) involuntarily lost a job, 2) worked in a *covered* industry, meaning that the employer pays unemployment taxes, and 3) worked a minimum number of hours per calendar quarter. Individuals who file a claim for unemployment insurance benefits are required to document their last employer, occupation, and a few other economic characteristics about themselves.

One way of analyzing trends in unemployment is to look at *new* UI beneficiaries by industry. A *new* beneficiary means the individual received the first payment on a new UI claim. The concept of new beneficiaries is used in *Figure 2* to illustrate the relative shares of employment and unemployment by industry. The data show that in the 12-month period March 2008 through February 2009, the construction industry had 23.3 percent of all new UI beneficiaries. In contrast, construction's share of total covered employment was only 6.4 percent. The ratio of these two percentage shares (beneficiaries to employment) yields a factor of 3.6, meaning that construction had a higher share of beneficiaries than employment. A ratio of 1.0 means the industry

Figure 2. Unemployment Insurance New Beneficiaries Relative to Covered Employment, Washington State, March 2008 through February 2009
Source: Unemployment Insurance Data Warehouse, Continued Claim Database UI Claimants Residing in Washington State
QCEW 2008:3 Average – Preliminary

Industry	New Beneficiaries to Employment Ratio	Share of Total Covered Employment	Share of Total New Beneficiaries
Mining	5.0	0.1%	0.5%
Construction	3.6	6.4%	23.3%
Manufacturing	1.7	9.8%	16.3%
Admin. Support and Waste Mgmt.	1.6	5.0%	7.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	1.3	2.9%	3.7%
Agric., Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1.2	3.7%	4.5%
Educational Services	1.2	1.0%	1.2%
Wholesale Trade	1.1	4.2%	4.6%
Finance and Insurance	1.0	3.3%	3.2%
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	1.0	1.7%	1.7%
Utilities	1.0	0.2%	0.2%
Professional and Technical Services	0.9	5.4%	4.9%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	0.9	1.7%	1.5%
Retail Trade	0.8	10.7%	8.3%
Other Services	0.7	4.0%	2.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	0.6	8.0%	4.5%
Information	0.6	3.5%	2.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	0.4	10.3%	4.6%
Government (excl. Educ. Services)	0.1	17.0%	1.8%
Mgmt. of Companies and Enterprises	0.1	1.2%	0.1%
Information Unreported	--	--	2.7%
Total		100.0%	100.0%

Note: Covered employment available with a 6-month lag.

has an equal share of beneficiaries and employment.

There were 59,300 new UI beneficiaries in construction during the March 2008 to February 2009 period. The monthly payroll employment survey shows that seasonally adjusted construction employment has fallen every month beginning with February 2008. Manufacturing also recorded many new UI beneficiaries during the March 2008 to February 2009 period (41,500), reflecting the overall downward drift of employment in this sector despite some monthly upticks. Construction and agriculture typically have the highest beneficiary ratios due to cyclical and seasonal changes in their em-

ployment throughout the year. Starting with 2008, however, industry benefit ratios largely reflect that sector's adjustment to the current recession.

Duration of Unemployment Benefits

Under current state law for *regular* UI benefits, individuals can receive unemployment for up to 26 weeks in any 52-week benefit year. The 52-week benefit year begins upon application for UI benefits, and a person may have one or more episodes of unemployment during a single benefit year. When the year is up, the UI claim expires. In times of high unemployment like

the nation is now experiencing, additional weeks of benefits are available through the *extended* and *emergency* benefit programs. Additional weeks of benefits may also be available to laid-off workers who need job-related training to find new employment.

Duration of benefits refers to the number of weeks that regular UI benefits are paid during the benefit year. *Figure 3* shows information on the duration of benefits in Washington state since 2000. Although federal duration statistics are available quarterly and annually, monthly UI program data can be used to provide more timely information on duration of benefits. In February 2009, unemployed individuals in Washington state were paid benefits for an average of 13.2 weeks. Although this figure seems low and inconsis-

tent with the severity of the current recession, keep in mind that the duration statistic includes 11 months of past information. This lagged feature typically results in a duration statistic that is low at the beginning of a recession and high well after a recession has ended. The durations data exclude additional benefits beyond the 26-week regular period.

On a quarterly basis, official federal statistics for all states show that during the fourth quarter of 2008, duration ranged from a low of 10.2 weeks in South Dakota to a high of 23.3 weeks in Washington, D.C. Duration for this same quarter averaged 13.1 weeks in Washington state and 14.9 weeks for the U.S. as a whole because the U.S. recession started in late 2007 and Washington's recession started later.

Long-Term Unemployment

We saw in *Figure 3* that individuals received UI benefits for an average 13.2 weeks, as measured in February 2009. People *exhaust* their benefits when they have received all 26 weeks of their regular UI payments. As people move toward the end of their 26-week benefit period and still remain unemployed – despite job search requirements and job assistance services associated with UI benefits – there is the potential that these individuals will face long-term unemployment. When the economy is healthy and growing, the number of people exhausting their UI benefits tends to be lower since unemployed workers are able to find new jobs before running out of benefits. In difficult economic times when jobs are scarce, however, UI benefit exhaustees may well become part of the long-term unemployed, or underemployed if exhaustees find employment requiring fewer skills than they used with their former employers.

Figure 3. Duration of Unemployment Benefits, Washington State
January 2000 through February 2009
Source: ETA Monthly Program and Financial Data

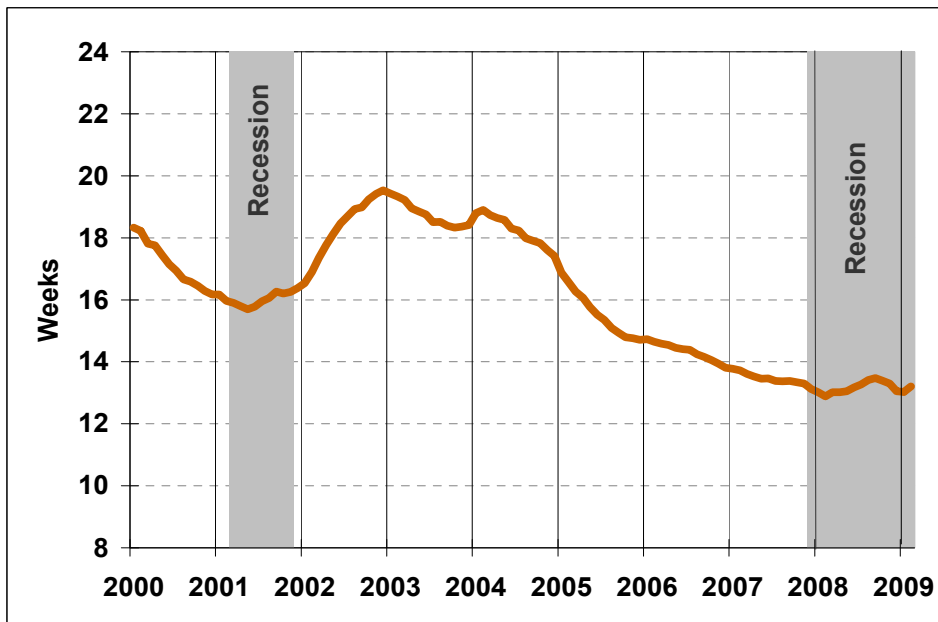
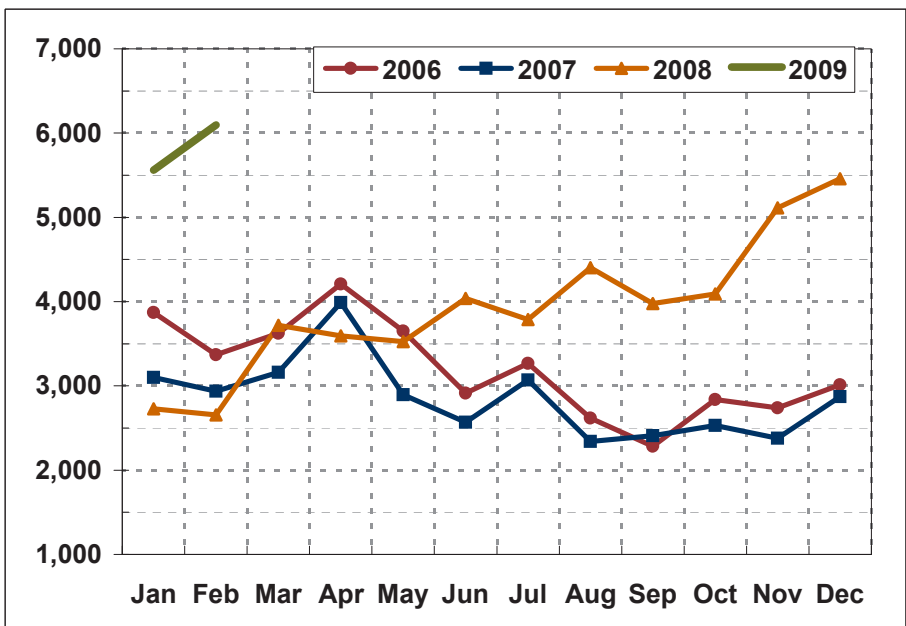


Figure 4 shows the number of UI benefit exhaustees by month since 2006. The data are for *regular* benefits and do not include additional weeks of UI received through the emergency or extended benefits programs. In 2008, both the level and seasonal pattern of exhaustees began to change, reflecting the severity of joblessness in the current recession. In February 2009, 6,095 people exhausted their regular UI benefits. The number of exhaustees, while reflecting general economic conditions,

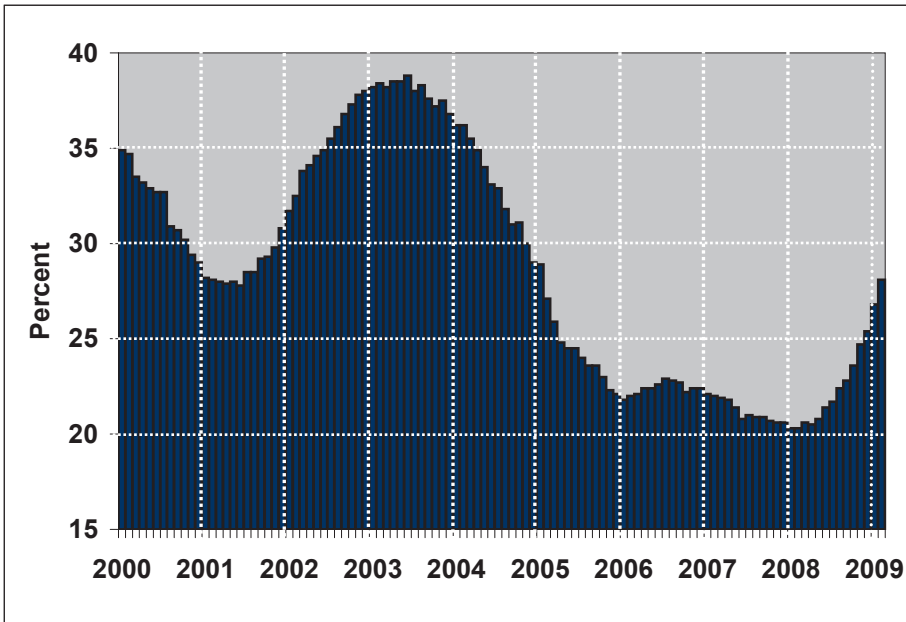
Figure 4. Number Who Exhaust Their Regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits Washington State, January 2006 through February 2009
Source: Unemployment Insurance Data Warehouse, Continued Claim Database



also captures changes in the state’s UI program laws as they may affect the payment of regular benefits.

An *exhaustion rate* statistic is also available. While federal officials release this information quarterly, a comparable monthly figure can be obtained from state UI program data. *Figure 5* shows the exhaustion rate for Washington state calculated on a monthly basis. This calculation uses moving average data and allows for the fact that it takes 26 weeks to exhaust benefits. In February 2009, Washington’s monthly exhaustion rate was 28.1 percent.

Figure 5. Unemployment Insurance Exhaustion Rate, Washington State January 2000 through February 2009
Source: Haver Analytics



UI Exhaustions by Region, Industry, and Occupation

Exhaustion data presented in *Figure 4* can be further analyzed by area, industry, and occupation to provide more information on those who are potentially facing long-term unemployment. The total exhaustion rate in this further analysis will not exactly match *Figure 5* because of different data sources and data filtering techniques.

Using Workforce Development Areas (WDAs) as the geographic basis, *Figure 6* shows that the exhaustion rate varied from a low of 16.6 percent in the North Central WDA to a high of 31.2 percent in Seattle-King County during the March 2008 through February 2009 period. Despite being an area of intense economic activity, the high exhaustion rate for Seattle-King County may reflect the fact that UI exhaust-



Figure 6. Unemployment Insurance Exhaustions by Area, Washington State
March 2008 through February 2009

Source: Unemployment Insurance Data Warehouse, Continued Claim Database,
UI Claimants Residing in Washington State

Workforce Development Area	Annual Exhaustions	Annual Exhaustion Rate
1 Olympic	2,336	28.8%
2 Pacific Mountain	3,982	25.8%
3 Northwest WA	2,550	24.1%
4 Snohomish County	5,557	28.6%
5 Seattle-King County	13,141	31.2%
6 Pierce County	6,433	29.5%
7 Southwest WA	4,280	30.5%
8 North Central WA	1,780	16.6%
9 South Central WA	3,112	21.9%
10 Eastern WA	984	22.3%
11 Benton-Franklin	1,560	20.3%
12 Spokane County	3,327	25.3%
Total	49,042	27.0%

Figure 7. Unemployment Insurance Exhaustions by Industry, Washington State
March 2008 through February 2009

Source: Unemployment Insurance Data Warehouse, Continued Claim Database,
UI Claimants Residing in Washington State

Industry (2-Digit NAICS)*	Annual Exhaustions	Annual Exhaustion Rate
Agric., Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,619	14.9%
Mining	228	30.3%
Utilities	80	26.3%
Construction	9,431	22.6%
Manufacturing	6,288	24.2%
Wholesale Trade	2,418	31.9%
Retail Trade	4,617	31.3%
Transportation and Warehousing	1,594	24.3%
Information	1,395	37.8%
Finance and Insurance	2,518	40.4%
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	1,161	37.5%
Professional and Technical Services	2,482	32.4%
Mgmt. of Companies and Enterprises	72	34.6%
Admin. Support and Waste Mgmt.	4,213	29.4%
Educational Services	814	31.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,002	30.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	812	28.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	1,898	23.2%
Other Services	1,647	33.3%
Government (excl. Educ. Services)	1,207	33.4%
Information Unreported	1,546	25.4%
Total	49,042	27.0%

*The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy.

ees must compete with the large resident labor force in WDA 5.

Exhaustions by industry (*Figure 7*) show the exhaustion rate more than doubled in going from the sector with the lowest rate (agriculture, 14.9 percent) to the highest (finance/insurance, 40.4 percent). The low exhaustion rate in agriculture, relative to that of other industries in *Figure 7*, may reflect the more plentiful replacement work available in agriculture due to the state's labor-intensive seasonal crops.

Despite the sharp contraction in construction employment during 2008, the exhaustion rate for this industry remains relatively low at 22.6 percent. This reflects a variety of factors, including the fact that the exhaustion rate calculation in part uses lagged values that may reflect different economic conditions; the ability of unemployed construction workers to qualify for UI; the fact that the 12-month UI benefit year may not have yet expired for an individual; and the ability of construction workers to find replacement work.

Figure 8, which analyzes UI exhaustions by occupation, shows that occupations facing potentially more long-term unemployment include office/administrative support, business/financial operations, management, and protective service. In contrast, during the March 2008 to February 2009 period UI beneficiaries with occupations in agriculture, transportation/material moving, and education had the lowest exhaustion rates.

Figure 8. Unemployment Insurance Exhaustions by Occupational Group
Washington State, March 2008 through February 2009

Source: Unemployment Insurance Data Warehouse, Continued Claim Database,
UI Claimants Residing in Washington State

Occupational Group (2-Digit SOC)*	Annual Exhaustions	Annual Exhaustion Rate
11 Management	5,479	35.9%
13 Business and Financial Operations	2,014	39.3%
15 Computer and Mathematical	1,021	26.2%
17 Architecture and Engineering	863	30.8%
19 Life, Physical, and Social Science	383	28.7%
21 Community and Social Services	326	31.3%
23 Legal	274	33.2%
25 Education, Training, and Library	442	21.4%
27 Arts, Design, Entertain., Sports, and Media	797	32.8%
29 Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	603	31.3%
31 Healthcare Support	595	28.6%
33 Protective Service	631	34.6%
35 Food Preparation and Serving Related	1,476	22.1%
37 Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maint.	951	22.6%
39 Personal Care and Service	1,076	32.7%
41 Sales and Related	3,945	31.3%
43 Office and Administrative Support	7,277	39.6%
45 Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,850	18.0%
47 Construction and Extraction	8,741	21.9%
49 Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	2,150	24.8%
51 Production	4,701	24.1%
53 Transportation and Material Moving	3,390	19.6%
55 Military Specific	50	35.5%
Information Unreported	7	12.3%
Total	49,042	27.0%

*The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by Federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, or disseminating data.



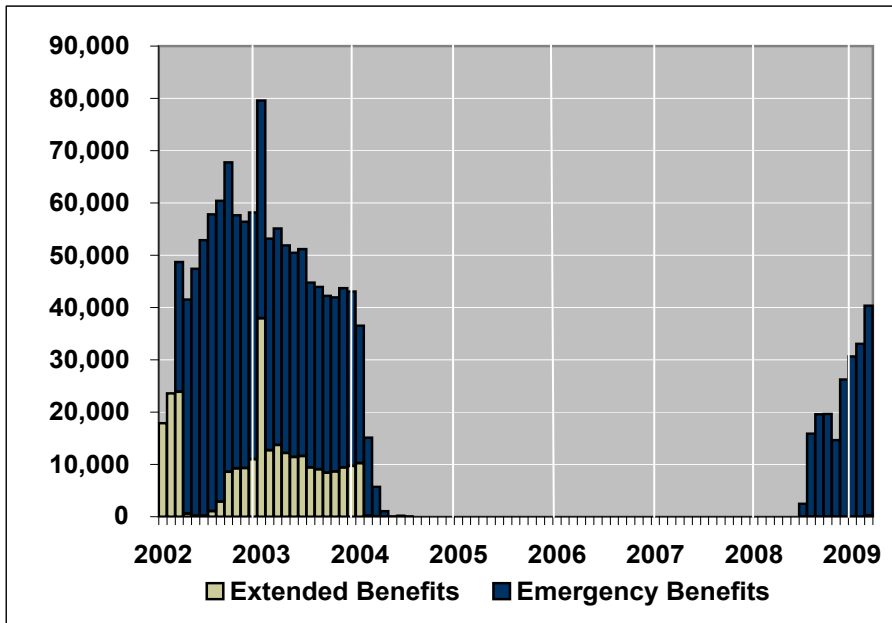
Additional UI Help for the Long-Term Unemployed

During times of severe economic contraction, federal and state programs may be put in place to provide additional payments to those who have *exhausted* or used up their regular UI benefits. These additional payments are known as *emergency* and *extended* unemployment benefits, and either one or both programs may be operating. The number of weeks of addi-

tional payments provided under these programs is determined by Congress and reflects the severity of the period's joblessness. There are currently two types of additional benefit programs in place in Washington state – a 33-week federal emergency unemployment compensation (EUC) program and a state 13-week extended benefits (EB) program.

Figure 9 shows, by month, the number of individuals receiving extended or emergency benefits in Washington state since January 2002. In March 2009, just over 40,000 individuals received EUC benefits. Payments under the state's extended benefit program began showing up in March data with 256 people, and preliminary data show that this number doubled in April.

Figure 9. Number of Individuals Receiving Extended or Emergency UI Benefits Unduplicated Count by Month
 Washington State, January 2002 through March 2009
 Source: Unemployment Insurance Data Warehouse, Continued Claim Database



In difficult economic times when jobs are scarce, UI benefit exhaustees may well become part of the long-term unemployed.

Summary and Conclusions

This report provided definitions and uses of different measures that were derived from unemployment insurance data for persons covered by UI. Many of these measures fulfill federal requirements, while others are computations that can be used to monitor the condition of a major share of the state's labor force, specifically claimants of unemployment insurance benefits. This report presented two such calculated measures, the UI Beneficiaries to Employment Ratio and the UI Exhaustion Ratio. These ratios were presented by industry, by occupation, and by geographic area. Since these data cover all UI claimants (i.e., not based on small samples of persons or companies), these ratios are a

rich source of monthly information that can be used to identify potential employers focusing on industries, occupations, or areas that have the lowest ranked Exhaustion Ratios or the lowest Beneficiaries to Employment Ratios. The lowest ratios across industries reported in this paper should be consistent with LMEA's research on recession-resistant industries (see *Washington Labor Market Quarterly Review, October - December 2008*). However, two exceptions were found for construction and manufacturing. These industries shed large numbers of jobs throughout 2008. Therefore, the low Exhaustion Ratio and low Beneficiaries to Employment Ratio for these industries implies that many of these unemployed workers either

did not receive UI benefits or they were able to find employment in different industries.

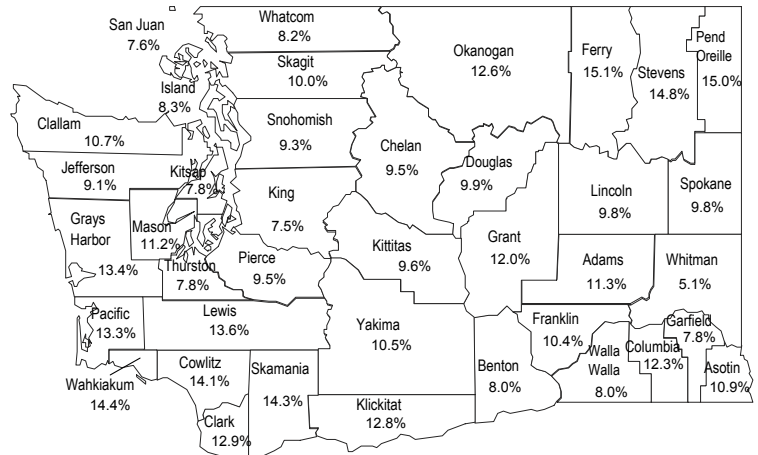
This report dealt primarily with the unemployed who are receiving unemployment insurance benefits, but the Exhaustion Ratio drew attention to the number and shares of UI recipients who remain unemployed after using up 26 weeks of regular benefits over the course of their UI benefit year. Long-term unemployed persons and permanently underemployed workers in the labor force represent a permanent loss of human capital. Therefore, particularly during recessions, these UI tracking measures can help us focus on ways to identify and minimize losses in human capital that are attributable to business cycles.

First Quarter Stats-At-A-Glance

Monthly Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and U.S.

(In Thousands)	Jan. 2009 (Revised)	Feb. 2009 (Revised)	Mar. 2009 (Prel)
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate:			
Washington State	7.8%	8.3%	9.2%
United States	7.6%	8.1%	8.5%
Washington State			
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted:</i>			
Resident Civilian Labor Force	3,516.8	3,551.6	3,544.5
Employment	3,215.2	3,226.8	3,200.4
Unemployment	301.5	324.8	344.1
Percent of Labor Force	8.6%	9.1%	9.7%

Average Unemployment Rates by County January, February, and March 2009 Washington = 9.1% / United States = 8.8% Not Seasonally Adjusted



Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

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

Date: 4/28/09
Benchmark: March 2008

Not Seasonally Adjusted	January 2009 Revised				February 2009 Revised				March 2009 Preliminary			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total	3,516,750	3,215,240	301,510	8.6	3,551,620	3,226,800	324,820	9.1	3,544,450	3,200,380	344,070	9.7
Bellingham MSA	110,460	101,870	8,580	7.8	110,660	102,010	8,650	7.8	110,380	100,630	9,750	8.8
Bremerton MSA	124,900	115,780	9,120	7.3	124,800	115,380	9,420	7.5	123,430	112,900	10,530	8.5
Kennewick-Pasco-Richland MSA	124,930	114,000	10,930	8.8	124,480	114,160	10,330	8.3	123,720	112,850	10,880	8.8
Benton County 2/	90,380	83,130	7,250	8.0	90,150	83,250	6,900	7.7	89,650	82,290	7,360	8.2
Franklin County 2/	34,550	30,860	3,690	10.7	34,330	30,910	3,430	10.0	34,070	30,550	3,520	10.3
Longview MSA (Cowlitz)	45,720	39,640	6,080	13.3	45,950	39,560	6,390	13.9	45,540	38,810	6,730	14.8
Mt. Vernon-Anacortes MSA (Skagit)	58,750	53,130	5,630	9.6	58,650	53,090	5,560	9.5	59,060	52,760	6,300	10.7
Olympia MSA	135,680	125,590	10,090	7.4	136,380	126,200	10,170	7.5	135,580	124,330	11,260	8.3
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MD*	1,465,330	1,361,350	103,980	7.1	1,493,600	1,369,240	124,360	8.3	1,492,320	1,366,440	125,880	8.4
King County 2/	1,088,860	1,016,530	72,330	6.6	1,109,770	1,022,430	87,350	7.9	1,108,930	1,020,330	88,600	8.0
Snohomish County 2/	376,470	344,820	31,650	8.4	383,820	346,820	37,010	9.6	383,380	346,100	37,280	9.7
Spokane MSA	245,610	222,490	23,120	9.4	246,580	223,250	23,340	9.5	245,350	219,780	25,560	10.4
Tacoma Metropolitan Division	405,270	369,760	35,510	8.8	406,470	369,190	37,280	9.2	404,030	362,000	42,030	10.4
Wenatchee MSA	59,680	54,220	5,460	9.2	60,160	54,520	5,640	9.4	60,420	54,320	6,090	10.1
Chelan County 2/	39,240	35,740	3,500	8.9	39,570	35,940	3,630	9.2	39,810	35,810	4,000	10.1
Douglas County 2/	20,440	18,480	1,960	9.6	20,590	18,580	2,010	9.7	20,610	18,520	2,090	10.1
Yakima MSA	120,410	107,520	12,890	10.7	120,160	107,970	12,190	10.1	120,990	108,370	12,620	10.4
Aberdeen MSA (Grays Harbor)	33,590	29,240	4,350	12.9	33,880	29,470	4,410	13.0	33,810	29,130	4,690	13.9
Centralia MSA (Lewis)	32,820	28,630	4,200	12.8	33,230	28,730	4,500	13.5	33,190	28,490	4,700	14.2
Ellensburg MSA (Kittitas)	21,860	19,780	2,080	9.5	21,980	19,950	2,030	9.3	22,200	20,030	2,170	9.8
Moses Lake MSA (Grant)	40,100	35,300	4,800	12.0	40,740	35,880	4,870	11.9	41,040	36,220	4,810	11.7
Oak Harbor MSA (Island County)	33,740	31,060	2,680	7.9	33,970	31,270	2,700	8.0	34,100	31,040	3,060	9.0
Port Angeles MSA (Clallam)	30,820	27,570	3,250	10.5	30,920	27,750	3,170	10.3	30,850	27,430	3,420	11.1
PulMSAn MSA (Whitman)	21,480	20,460	1,030	4.8	21,810	20,750	1,060	4.9	21,780	20,550	1,230	5.6
Shelton MSA (Mason)	26,620	23,650	2,970	11.1	26,570	23,730	2,840	10.7	26,450	23,400	3,050	11.5
Walla Walla MSA (Walla Walla)	30,280	27,870	2,410	7.9	30,760	28,400	2,360	7.7	30,860	28,370	2,490	8.1
Adams	7,850	6,910	950	12.0	7,950	7,030	920	11.5	8,050	7,230	820	10.2
Asotin 2/	11,150	9,970	1,180	10.6	11,190	10,020	1,170	10.5	11,420	10,140	1,280	11.2
Clark 2/	224,130	196,440	27,700	12.4	224,160	195,650	28,510	12.7	222,340	191,650	30,690	13.8
Columbia	1,730	1,530	200	11.6	1,740	1,520	220	12.5	1,720	1,500	220	12.8
Ferry	3,130	2,710	430	13.6	3,140	2,690	450	14.4	3,190	2,650	540	17.0
Garfield	1,000	920	80	8.2	970	900	80	7.8	1,010	930	80	8.3
Jefferson	14,070	12,800	1,270	9.1	14,120	12,870	1,250	8.8	14,010	12,700	1,310	9.3
Klickitat	10,170	8,880	1,290	12.7	10,210	8,960	1,250	12.3	10,400	9,000	1,400	13.5
Lincoln	4,820	4,390	440	9.0	4,870	4,410	470	9.6	4,950	4,430	520	10.5
Okanogan	19,780	17,420	2,360	11.9	20,340	17,820	2,520	12.4	21,050	18,300	2,760	13.1
Pacific	9,580	8,420	1,170	12.2	9,830	8,420	1,410	14.3	9,630	8,310	1,310	13.7
Pend Oreille	5,850	4,970	880	15.0	5,760	4,920	830	14.4	5,820	4,870	950	16.4
San Juan	8,480	7,820	660	7.8	8,550	7,920	630	7.4	8,630	7,980	650	7.5
Skamania 2/	5,470	4,670	800	14.5	5,420	4,660	770	14.2	5,350	4,560	790	14.8
Stevens	19,740	17,010	2,730	13.8	19,870	17,030	2,840	14.3	20,030	16,810	3,220	16.1
Wahkiakum	1,750	1,510	240	13.7	1,760	1,500	260	15.0	1,760	1,500	260	15.0

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment in Washington State, Place of Work 1/ Seasonally Adjusted

Quarterly Benchmark: September 2008

In Thousands

Industry	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.
	2009 (Prel)	2009 (Rev)	2009 (Rev)	2008 (Rev)	2008 (Rev)	2008 (Rev)
Total Nonfarm	2,871,100	2,891,100	2,911,800	2,919,500	2,942,500	2,932,900
Mining and Logging	6,700	7,000	7,100	7,200	7,300	7,400
Logging	4,300	4,300	4,500	4,600	4,700	4,700
Construction	180,100	185,200	188,000	191,200	194,000	195,900
Construction of Buildings	44,900	46,000	46,400	47,400	48,300	49,200
Heavy and Civil Engineering	18,800	19,700	20,400	20,600	21,100	21,400
Speciality Trade Contractors	116,400	119,500	121,200	123,200	124,600	125,300
Manufacturing	274,100	277,600	280,100	284,900	287,700	266,900
Durable Goods	201,100	203,500	205,700	207,500	209,700	188,200
Wood Products	15,200	15,600	15,700	15,700	16,000	16,300
Fabricated Metal Products	19,500	19,900	20,100	20,300	20,500	20,800
Computer and Electronic Products	20,300	20,700	21,000	21,500	22,000	22,300
Transportation Equipment	95,200	95,900	96,500	97,100	97,000	73,500
Aerospace Products and Parts	84,300	84,800	85,200	85,500	85,100	61,300
Nondurable Goods	73,000	74,100	74,400	77,400	78,000	78,700
Food Manufacturing	32,800	33,100	33,100	33,600	33,600	33,800
Wholesale Trade	124,900	125,400	127,000	127,400	128,500	129,500
Retail Trade	313,600	314,300	315,300	315,000	317,700	324,300
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	37,300	37,500	38,200	39,400	39,300	39,900
Food and Beverage Stores	59,200	60,100	60,500	60,400	60,600	61,300
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	28,300	27,600	27,500	27,900	28,500	30,400
General Merchandise Stores	62,200	61,600	60,300	59,200	59,700	61,700
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	92,300	93,500	94,700	95,000	95,300	94,900
Utilities	4,900	4,800	4,800	4,800	5,000	4,900
Transportation and Warehousing	87,400	88,700	89,900	90,200	90,300	90,000
Air Transportation	10,400	10,500	10,700	10,800	11,000	11,000
Water Transportation	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,400
Truck Transportation	23,300	23,400	23,300	23,900	24,700	24,600
Support Activities for Transportation	17,400	17,800	17,700	17,800	17,900	18,900
Support Activities for Water Transportation	4,800	5,100	4,900	5,200	5,400	5,900
Warehousing and Storage	9,600	9,700	9,900	10,000	10,300	10,500
Information	103,300	103,700	103,700	106,200	106,100	106,100
Software Publishers	52,200	52,200	52,100	52,600	52,200	52,300
Telecommunications	24,600	24,700	24,700	25,000	25,300	25,500
Financial Activities	145,300	147,100	147,800	148,700	150,100	150,500
Finance and Insurance	94,600	96,400	97,000	98,700	99,400	99,300
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	46,900	48,300	48,600	49,100	49,500	49,500
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	37,400	37,400	37,500	37,800	38,100	38,100
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	50,700	50,700	50,800	50,000	50,700	51,200
Professional and Business Services	333,800	334,900	343,000	343,600	345,600	347,400
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	165,000	165,000	165,200	165,500	166,900	167,200
Legal Services	20,700	20,700	20,700	20,600	21,000	21,200
Architectural and Engineering Services	38,000	38,500	38,700	38,600	38,500	38,500
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	32,300	32,600	32,400	33,400	33,400	33,600
Management of Companies and Enterprises	32,200	32,200	32,900	33,600	34,000	34,400
Admin and Support and Waste Management and Remediation	136,600	137,700	144,900	144,500	144,700	145,800
Employment Services	40,700	40,800	45,500	45,700	45,700	46,900
Education and Health Services	362,200	364,300	365,500	364,500	365,900	365,800
Education Services	46,800	47,500	47,700	48,300	48,500	48,200
Hospitals	72,600	72,500	72,300	70,500	70,500	70,200
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	57,000	57,200	57,300	57,500	57,800	58,100
Social Assistance	61,400	61,900	61,800	61,800	62,000	61,800
Leisure and Hospitality	281,800	284,400	284,000	284,100	285,300	285,400
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	49,900	50,300	50,400	49,300	49,500	49,800
Accommodation	31,600	31,800	31,700	31,900	32,200	32,100
Food Services and Drinking Places	200,300	202,300	201,900	202,900	203,600	205,500
Government	545,900	546,300	548,400	543,900	551,200	550,900
Federal Government	70,800	71,000	70,800	70,300	70,600	70,800
Total State Government	152,300	153,100	154,300	149,700	155,000	155,000
State Government Educational Services	80,900	81,100	81,600	77,300	82,600	82,300
Total Local Government	322,800	322,200	323,300	323,900	325,600	325,100
Local Government Educational Services	154,200	154,200	153,700	154,400	154,100	153,900
Workers in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

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

Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis branch using a Quarterly Benchmark process.

This process uses the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently fourth quarter 2008) and estimates employment from that point to present.

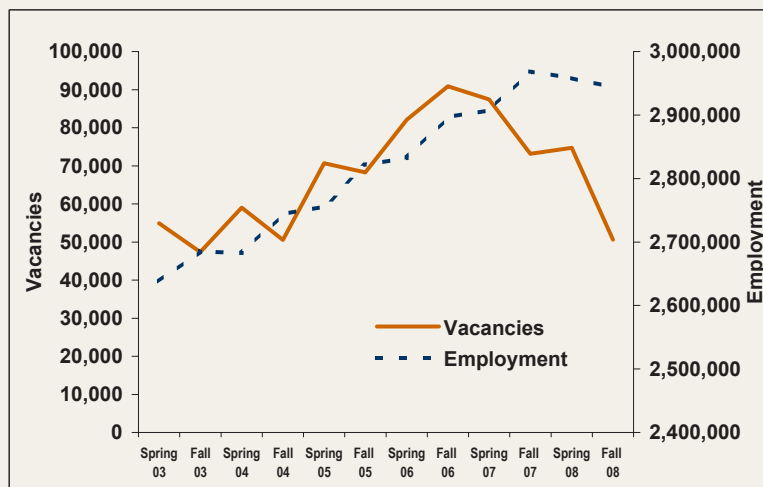
Coming Soon

Spring 2009 Job Vacancy Survey

Twice a year the Employment Security Department surveys firms across the state to measure how many unfilled jobs, or vacancies, there are at that point in time. The next survey, which should give insights into the health of current labor markets, is scheduled to be published in June 2009. This survey will be the 14th edition, and will measure conditions during April 2009.

These vacancies serve as a good barometer of economic health. Typically in times of economic growth employers will increase hiring and compete with each other for workers to fill those jobs – hence vacancies will be higher. The reverse would be expected in downturns such as now, when lower reported vacancies are a strong likelihood.

Historical Employment and Job Vacancies
Washington State, 2003 to 2008



Washington Labor Market Quarterly Review

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