

# Northwest Washington Labor Area Summary

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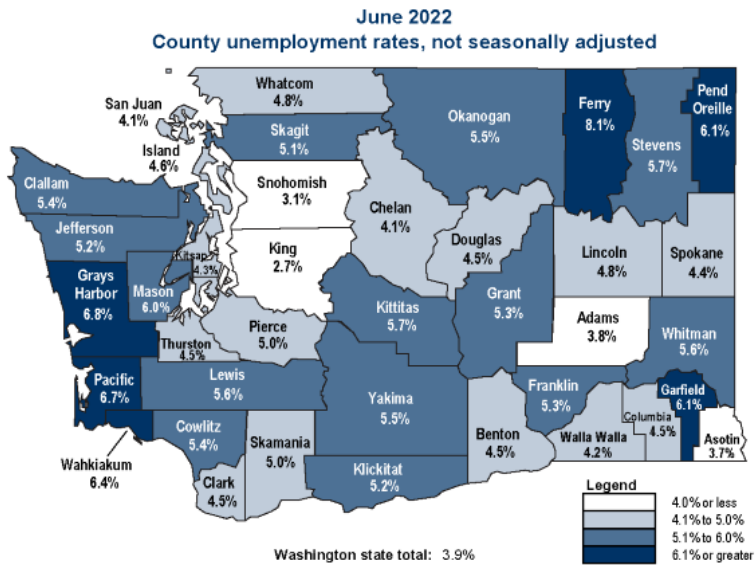
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This report marks the fifteenth report whereby the year-over-year narrative shifts from pandemic-related losses to recovery since the start of the economic crisis. Pandemic-related employment effects began to show up in March 2020, and swiftly led to unprecedented levels of unemployment in April 2020. Many jobs have recovered in the meantime, with significant variation by location and industry. This report describes a moment in that recovery.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, preliminary estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate nonfarm employment in Washington rose by 2,500 in June 2022. BLS estimates the private sector gained 3,700 jobs during the month and the public sector lost 1,200 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for June 2021 through June 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 175,400 for the state. The private sector gained 173,600 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 1,800 jobs over the year.



Washington’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2022 is 3.9 percent. The revised estimated May 2022 unemployment rate is at 3.9 percent. The June 2021 unemployment rate was 5.4 percent.

Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	(Prelim.) June-22	May-22	Jun-21	Year-to-Year Change
USA	3.8%	3.4%	6.1%	-2.3%
Washington state	3.9%	3.6%	5.6%	-1.7%
<b>Northwest Workforce Development Area</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>
Whatcom County	4.8%	4.5%	6.3%	-1.5%
Skagit County	5.1%	4.9%	6.6%	-1.5%
Island County	4.6%	4.5%	5.9%	-1.3%
San Juan County	4.1%	3.9%	4.5%	-0.4%

of 1,200 jobs

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The May 2022 preliminary estimated loss of 2,300 jobs was revised to a loss

# Whatcom County

## Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 4.8 percent in June 2022 (preliminary), higher than 4.5 percent reported in May (revised). For comparison, the unemployment rate 12 months ago was 6.3 percent.

- Compared to June 2021, the labor force expanded by 3,190 workers (2.8 percent). Within that estimate, the number of employed workers expanded by 4,681 and the number of unemployed workers contracted by 1,491. Whatcom County's estimated labor force was 116,104 in June 2022.

## Whatcom County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted  
**Bellingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (Whatcom County)**  
Data benchmarked through December 2021

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-22	Revised May-22	Revised Jun-21	Change		
				May-22 Jun-22	Jun-21 Jun-22	Jun-21 Jun-22
Total Nonfarm	95,800	96,000	91,100	-200	4,700	5.2%
Total Private	78,100	77,900	73,700	200	4,400	6.0%
Goods Producing	18,500	18,400	17,000	100	1,500	8.8%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,600	8,700	7,900	-100	700	8.9%
Manufacturing	9,900	9,700	9,100	200	800	8.8%
Service Providing	77,300	77,600	74,100	-300	3,200	4.3%
Private Services Providing	59,600	59,500	56,700	100	2,900	5.1%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	16,700	16,800	16,000	-100	700	4.4%
Retail Trade	10,700	10,800	10,800	-100	-100	-0.9%
Financial Activities	3,900	4,000	4,000	-100	-100	-2.5%
Professional and Business Services	9,100	9,000	8,300	100	800	9.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	10,800	10,700	9,300	100	1,500	16.1%
Government	17,700	18,100	17,400	-400	300	1.7%
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,500	0	-100	-6.7%
Total State Government	5,800	6,200	5,800	-400	0	0.0%
Total Local Government	10,500	10,500	10,100	0	400	4.0%

Total nonfarm payroll in Whatcom County (not seasonally adjusted) decreased by 200 from May to June 2022. Over the year, nonfarm employment increased by 4,700 (5.2 percent).

- In June, employment expansions were observed in manufacturing, professional and business services and leisure and hospitality. All other major industry sectors captured in this report shed jobs. The deepest losses were observed in government (-400).
- Employment in most major sectors included in this report expanded employment over the year, with the largest increases attributable to leisure and hospitality. Retail trade, within trade, transportation warehousing and utilities and financial activities each dipped by 100 jobs over the year.

## Skagit County

### Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County was 5.1 percent (preliminary) in June 2022—up over the month from 4.9 percent (revised). The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 6.6 percent.

- Compared to June 2021, the labor force expanded by 960 (1.6 percent). Within that, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,883 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ contracted by 923, bringing the unemployment rate down. Skagit County’s resident labor force was estimated at 62,786.

### Skagit County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

#### Mount Vernon-Anacortes Metropolitan Statistical Area (Skagit County)

Data benchmarked through December 2021

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-22	Revised May-22	Revised Jun-21	Change		
				May-22 Jun-22	Jun-21 Jun-22	Jun-21 Jun-22
Total Nonfarm	51,100	50,600	49,700	500	1,400	2.8%
Total Private	39,200	38,800	38,200	400	1,000	2.6%
Goods Producing	10,700	10,500	10,200	200	500	4.9%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,300	4,300	4,200	0	100	2.4%
Manufacturing	6,400	6,200	6,000	200	400	6.7%
Service Providing	40,400	40,100	39,500	300	900	2.3%
Private Services Providing	28,500	28,300	28,000	200	500	1.8%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,400	9,300	9,600	100	-200	-2.1%
Retail Trade	6,500	6,500	6,900	0	-400	-5.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,100	5,000	4,900	100	200	4.1%
Government	11,900	11,800	11,500	100	400	3.5%
Federal Government	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
State Government	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0	0.0%
Local Government	10,200	10,100	9,800	100	400	4.1%

Total nonfarm employment in Skagit County increased by 500 jobs over the month. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 1,400 or 2.8 percent.

- One-month employment gains were observed in manufacturing, trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities, leisure and hospitality and government. All other sectors captured in this report remained unchanged over the month.
- Each major industry sector detailed in this report, with the exception of trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities (including retail trade) expanded employment over the year. The largest 12-month increases were attributable to manufacturing and government (+400 each).

# Island County

## Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County was 4.6 percent (preliminary) in June 2022, up from 4.5 percent (revised) over the month. The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 5.9 percent.

- Compared to June 2021, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 559 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work contracted by 453. Island County’s civilian labor force was estimated as 36,579, up 106 or 0.3 percent over the year.

## Island County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

**Oak Harbor Micropolitan Statistical Area (Island County)**

Data benchmarked through December 2021

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-22	Revised May-22	Revised Jun-21	Change		
				May-22 Jun-22	Jun-21 Jun-22	Jun-21 Jun-22
Total Nonfarm	17,430	17,190	17,340	240	90	0.5%
Total Private	12,970	12,730	12,910	240	60	0.5%
Goods Producing	2,000	1,990	1,900	10	100	5.3%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	1,400	1,400	1,260	0	140	11.1%
Manufacturing	600	590	640	10	-40	-6.3%
Service Providing	15,430	15,200	15,440	230	-10	-0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,640	2,650	2,790	-10	-150	-5.4%
Retail Trade	2,150	2,160	2,230	-10	-80	-3.6%
Information and Financial Activities	880	870	910	10	-30	-3.3%
Professional and Business Services	1,580	1,590	1,620	-10	-40	-2.5%
Education and Health Services	2,470	2,450	2,430	20	40	1.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,580	2,350	2,400	230	180	7.5%
Government	4,460	4,460	4,430	0	30	0.7%
Federal Government	1,240	1,250	1,250	-10	-10	-0.8%
State and Local Government	3,220	3,210	3,180	10	40	1.3%
State and Local Government Education	1,420	1,420	1,390	0	30	2.2%

Total nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County expanded by 240 from May to June 2022. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 90 or 0.5 percent.

- From May to June, four sectors expanded employment, two sectors shed jobs (trade, transportation, and utilities and information and financial services) and two remained unchanged. The largest one-month gains were observed in leisure and hospitality (+230).
- Year-over-year, the largest employment gains were attributable to leisure and hospitality and construction(+180 and 140 respectively). The deepest losses were observed in trade, transportation and utilities (-150).

*Employment statistics for Island County do not include military employment.*

## San Juan County

### Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County was 4.1 percent in June 2022 (preliminary), up from 3.9 percent (revised) in May. The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 4.5 percent.

- Compared to June 2021, the number of residents counted as ‘employed’ decreased by 926 and the number counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work decreased by 74. Altogether, the San Juan County labor force consisted of an estimated 7,913 resident workers and contracted by 11.2 percent over the year.

### San Juan County local area payroll jobs

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

#### San Juan County

Data benchmarked through December 2021

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim Jun-22	Revised May-22	Revised Jun-21	Change		
				May-22 Jun-22	Jun-21 Jun-22	Jun-21 Jun-22
Total Nonfarm	5,180	5,300	6,070	-120	-890	-14.7%
Total Private	4,380	4,520	5,190	-140	-810	-15.6%
Goods Producing	1,040	1,070	1,030	-30	10	1.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	800	810	790	-10	10	1.3%
Manufacturing	240	260	240	-20	0	0.0%
Service Providing	4,140	4,230	5,040	-90	-900	-17.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	940	970	1,090	-30	-150	-13.8%
Information and Financial Activities	360	360	420	0	-60	-14.3%
Professional and Business Services	530	530	490	0	40	8.2%
Education and Health Services	480	480	540	0	-60	-11.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	820	920	1,430	-100	-610	-42.7%
Government	800	780	880	20	-80	-9.1%

Net nonfarm payroll in San Juan County contracted by 120 in June. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was down 890 or 14.7 percent. Employment in San Juan County is highly seasonal.

- From May to June 2022, employment levels in all sectors detailed in this report either shed jobs or remained unchanged. The deepest one-month losses were observed in leisure and hospitality (-100).
- Over the year, the payroll tally in San Juan County contracted by 890. Annual gains were reported in construction and professional and business services. All other industries included in this report shed jobs. The deepest one-year losses were observed in the tourism-dependent leisure and hospitality sector (-610).

### **Forecast information for Washington state:**

The Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) issues quarterly forecasts that address Washington's projected economic health. The June forecast by estimates that the statewide unemployment rate averaged 6.7 percent in 2021. The unemployment rate is expected to average about 4.7 percent in 2022, (up from the February forecast) and drop to 4.1 percent in 2023. Employment is expected to recover to pre-recession levels in 2022. See [www.erfc.wa.gov](http://www.erfc.wa.gov) for more information.

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