

Northwest Washington Labor Area Summary

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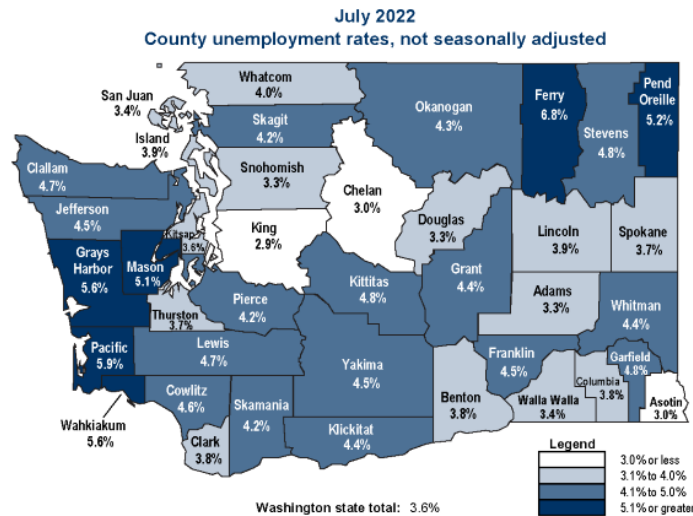
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This report marks the sixteenth report whereby the year-over-year narrative shifts from pandemic-related losses to recovery since the start of the economic crisis. Pandemic-related employment effects began to show up in March 2020, and swiftly led 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 6,600 in July 2022. BLS estimates the private sector gained 3,400 jobs during the month and the public sector gained 3,200 jobs.

On a not seasonally adjusted basis, estimates for July 2021 through July 2022 indicate an increase in employment of 161,700 for the state. The private sector gained 157,100 jobs while the public sector gained an estimated 4,600 jobs over the year.

Washington’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2022 is 3.7 percent. The revised estimated June 2022 unemployment rate is at 3.8 percent. The July 2021 unemployment rate was 5.2 percent.



Unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	(Prelim.) July-22	Jun-22	Jul-21	Year-to-Year Change
USA	3.8%	3.8%	5.7%	-1.9%
Washington state	3.6%	3.9%	5.3%	-1.7%
Northwest Workforce Development Area	4.0%	4.7%	6.0%	-2.0%
Whatcom County	4.0%	4.7%	6.1%	-2.1%
Skagit County	4.2%	5.0%	6.3%	-2.1%
Island County	3.9%	4.6%	5.8%	-1.9%
San Juan County	3.4%	4.0%	4.7%	-1.3%

BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. Preliminary estimates are subject to revision. The June 2022 preliminary estimated gain of 2,500 jobs was revised to a gain of 5,000 jobs.

Whatcom County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County was 4.0 percent in July 2022 (preliminary), below 4.7 percent reported in June (revised). For comparison, the unemployment rate 12 months ago was 6.1 percent. The unemployment rate in Whatcom County reached 17.4 percent in April 2020.

- Compared to July 2021, the labor force expanded by 1,096 workers (1.0 percent). Within that estimate, the number of employed workers expanded by 3,487 and the number of unemployed workers contracted by 2,391. Whatcom County's estimated labor force was 115,941 in July 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 Jul-22	Revised Jun-22	Revised Jul-21	Change		
				Jun-22 Jul-22	Jul-21 Jul-22	Jul-21 Jul-22
Total Nonfarm	93,900	96,000	90,100	-2,100	3,800	4.2%
Total Private	78,100	78,300	74,400	-200	3,700	5.0%
Goods Producing	18,500	18,500	17,100	0	1,400	8.2%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,600	8,600	7,900	0	700	8.9%
Manufacturing	9,900	9,900	9,200	0	700	7.6%
Service Providing	75,400	77,500	73,000	-2,100	2,400	3.3%
Private Services Providing	59,600	59,800	57,300	-200	2,300	4.0%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	16,700	16,700	16,200	0	500	3.1%
Retail Trade	10,700	10,700	10,900	0	-200	-1.8%
Financial Activities	3,900	4,000	4,000	-100	-100	-2.5%
Professional and Business Services	9,200	9,100	8,400	100	800	9.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	10,900	10,800	10,000	100	900	9.0%
Government	15,800	17,700	15,700	-1,900	100	0.6%
Federal Government	1,500	1,400	1,500	100	0	0.0%
Total State Government	4,000	5,800	4,200	-1,800	-200	-4.8%
Total Local Government	10,300	10,500	10,000	-200	300	3.0%

Total nonfarm payroll in Whatcom County (not seasonally adjusted) decreased by 2,100 from June to July 2022. Over the year, nonfarm employment increased by 3,800 (4.2 percent).

- In July, employment expansions were observed in professional and business services and leisure and hospitality. All other major industry sectors captured in this report shed jobs or remained unchanged. The deepest losses were observed in government (-1,900).
- Employment in most major sectors included in this report expanded employment over the year, with the largest increases attributable to leisure and hospitality and professional and business services (900 and 800 respectively). Retail trade, within trade, transportation warehousing and utilities and financial activities each shed jobs over the year.

Skagit County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Skagit County was 4.2 percent (preliminary) in July 2022—down over the month from 5.0 percent (revised). The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 6.3 percent. The unemployment rate in April 2020 reached a record 18.8 percent.

- Compared to July 2021, the labor force contracted by 200 (0.3 percent). Within that, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 1,105 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ contracted by 1,305, bringing the unemployment rate down. Skagit County’s resident labor force was estimated at 62,561 in July.

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 Jul-22	Revised Jun-22	Revised Jul-21	Change		
				Jun-22 Jul-22	Jul-21 Jul-22	Jul-21 Jul-22
Total Nonfarm	50,800	51,200	50,100	-400	700	1.4%
Total Private	39,300	39,300	38,700	0	600	1.6%
Goods Producing	10,700	10,700	10,400	0	300	2.9%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	4,300	4,300	4,300	0	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	6,400	6,400	6,100	0	300	4.9%
Service Providing	40,100	40,500	39,700	-400	400	1.0%
Private Services Providing	28,600	28,600	28,300	0	300	1.1%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,300	9,400	9,700	-100	-400	-4.1%
Retail Trade	6,500	6,500	6,900	0	-400	-5.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,200	5,000	5,100	200	100	2.0%
Government	11,500	11,900	11,400	-400	100	0.9%
Federal Government	400	400	400	0	0	0.0%
State Government	1,100	1,300	1,100	-200	0	0.0%
Local Government	10,000	10,200	9,900	-200	100	1.0%

Total nonfarm employment in Skagit County decreased by 400 jobs over the month. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs expanded by 700 or 1.4 percent.

- One-month employment gains were observed in leisure and hospitality. All other sectors captured in this report remained unchanged over the month or shed jobs. The deepest losses were attributable to government (-400).
- 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 or remained unchanged. The largest 12-month increases were attributable to manufacturing (+300).

Island County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in Island County was 3.9 percent (preliminary) in July 2022, down from 4.6 percent (revised) over the month. The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 5.8 percent. In April 2020, the unemployment rate for Island County was a record 16.5 percent.

- Compared to July 2021, the number of people counted as ‘employed’ increased by 705 and the number of people counted as ‘unemployed’ or actively seeking work contracted by 671. Island County’s civilian labor force was estimated as 36,321, up 34 or 0.1 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 Jul-22	Revised Jun-22	Revised Jul-21	Change		
				Jun-22 Jul-22	Jul-21 Jul-22	Jul-21 Jul-22
Total Nonfarm	17,400	17,430	17,440	-30	-40	-0.2%
Total Private	12,940	12,970	13,070	-30	-130	-1.0%
Goods Producing	1,990	2,000	1,950	-10	40	2.1%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	1,400	1,400	1,310	0	90	6.9%
Manufacturing	590	600	640	-10	-50	-7.8%
Service Providing	15,410	15,430	15,490	-20	-80	-0.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,670	2,640	2,790	30	-120	-4.3%
Retail Trade	2,170	2,150	2,230	20	-60	-2.7%
Information and Financial Activities	870	880	910	-10	-40	-4.4%
Professional and Business Services	1,560	1,580	1,610	-20	-50	-3.1%
Education and Health Services	2,460	2,470	2,440	-10	20	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	2,580	2,580	2,510	0	70	2.8%
Government	4,460	4,460	4,370	0	90	2.1%
Federal Government	1,260	1,240	1,250	20	10	0.8%
State and Local Government	3,200	3,220	3,120	-20	80	2.6%
State and Local Government Education	1,380	1,420	1,300	-40	80	6.2%

Total nonfarm payroll jobs in Island County contracted by 30 from June to July 2022. Year-over-year, the tally of nonfarm jobs contracted by 40 or 0.2 percent.

- From June to July, trade, transportation, and utilities (including retail) expanded employment. All other sectors shed jobs or remained unchanged. The deepest sector losses were observed in professional and business services (-20).
- Year-over-year, the largest employment gains were attributable to construction and government (+90 each). The deepest losses were observed in trade, transportation and utilities (-120).

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

San Juan County

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate in San Juan County was 3.4 percent in July 2022 (preliminary), down from 4.0 percent (revised) in June. The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 4.7 percent. San Juan's unemployment rate in April 2020 (the height of the pandemic recession) was 19.2 percent.

- Compared to July 2021, the number of residents counted as 'employed' decreased by 540 and the number counted as 'unemployed' or actively seeking work decreased by 129. Altogether, the San Juan County labor force consisted of an estimated 7,664 resident workers and contracted by 8.0 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 Jul-22	Revised Jun-22	Revised Jul-21	Change		
				Jun-22 Jul-22	Jul-21 Jul-22	Jul-21 Jul-22
Total Nonfarm	5,100	5,120	6,610	-20	-1,510	-22.8%
Total Private	4,280	4,320	5,770	-40	-1,490	-25.8%
Goods Producing	1,030	1,040	1,090	-10	-60	-5.5%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	790	800	810	-10	-20	-2.5%
Manufacturing	240	240	280	0	-40	-14.3%
Service Providing	4,070	4,080	5,520	-10	-1,450	-26.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	940	940	1,170	0	-230	-19.7%
Information and Financial Activities	350	360	440	-10	-90	-20.5%
Professional and Business Services	530	530	500	0	30	6.0%
Education and Health Services	440	450	540	-10	-100	-18.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	800	800	1,820	0	-1,020	-56.0%
Government	820	800	840	20	-20	-2.4%

Net nonfarm payroll in San Juan County contracted by 20 in July. Year-over-year, total nonfarm employment was down 1,510 or 22.8 percent. Employment in San Juan County is highly seasonal.

- From June to July 2022, employment levels in all private industry sectors detailed in this report either shed (about 10) jobs or remained unchanged. Government was the only sector that expanded employment (+20).
- Over the year, the payroll tally in San Juan County contracted by 1,510. Annual gains were reported in professional and business services (+30). All other industries included in this report shed jobs. The deepest one-year losses were observed in the tourism-dependent leisure and hospitality sector (-1,020).

Forecast information for Washington state:

The Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council issues quarterly forecasts that address Washington's projected economic health. ERFC estimates indicate that Washington state employment will have expanded by 5.5 percent from 2021 to 2022, and will expand by 2.6 percent in 2023. The June forecast and July revised forecast are published online at www.erfc.wa.gov.

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