



Snohomish County Labor Area Summary November 2022



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*Data used in this report available at the web address listed above.

This report compares the week containing the 12th of November with the corresponding week in the previous month and year. For all intents and purposes, this is the 32nd report that addresses the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overview

- In November 2022, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Snohomish County remained unchanged at 3.1 percent. Twelve months ago, the unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, following the highest local unemployment rate on record (19.5 percent) in April 2020 and unemployment rates in the 2 percent range earlier this year.
- The labor force in Snohomish County expanded by 4,570 (1.0 percent) over the year.
- There were an estimated 289,200 nonfarm jobs in Snohomish County in November 2022.
- Nonfarm employment in Snohomish County expanded by 1,600 over the month and expanded by 5,900 (2.1 percent) over the year.
- From October to November 2022, six sectors expanded employment, with the largest one-month gains attributable to government. Four industries shed jobs over the month and two remained unchanged. The deepest losses were observed in the highly seasonal construction sector.
- Ten sectors expanded employment over the year. The largest one-year recoveries were observed in educational and health services, manufacturing, and retail trade. Two sectors (professional and business services and information) shed jobs.

Unemployment rates and labor force information

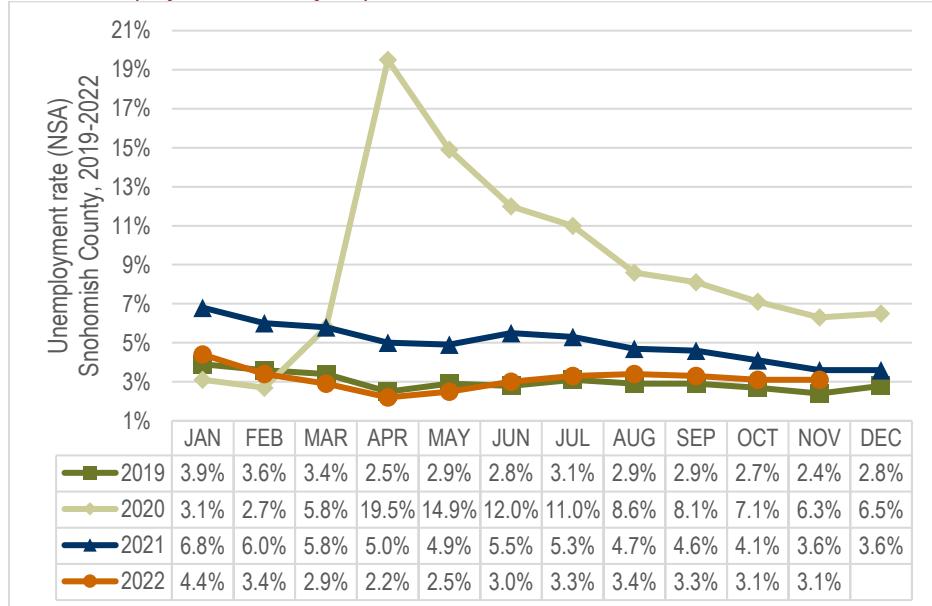
The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Snohomish County was 3.1 percent (preliminary) in November 2022, unchanged from the October observation (revised). For reference, the unemployment rate 12 months ago for Snohomish County was 3.6 percent and the unemployment rate 24 months ago was 6.3 percent. The unemployment rate in April 2020 reached a record-setting 19.5 percent.

Circumstances surrounding Covid-19, specifically social distancing measures, took hold in the Seattle area before expanding statewide and nationwide. The labor force statistics in this report detail the 32nd month, to date. November 2022 estimates follow:

- Snohomish County labor force: 443,819
- Total employed: 430,104
- Total unemployed: 13,715
- Unemployment rate: 3.1%

Figure 1. Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted
Snohomish County, January 2019 through November 2022

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA



The unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in November 2022.

Month-to-month, Snohomish County's total resident labor force contracted by 6,474 workers. The number of residents reporting as "employed" decreased by 6,032 and the number of active job seekers decreased by 442. Over-the-year, the labor force expanded by an estimated 4,570 resident workers or 1.0 percent; within that, the number of employed residents increased by 6,583 (1.6 percent) and the estimated number of unemployed decreased by 2,013 or 12.8 percent.

Washington state

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Washington State increased from 3.6 percent in October (revised) to 4.2 percent in November (preliminary). The statewide labor force decreased by 34,126 over the month. Within that, the estimated number of employed people decreased by 55,827 and the number of unemployed job seekers increased by 21,701. Altogether, these shifts pushed the unemployment rate up over the month. Over the year, the statewide labor force expanded by 22,632 or 0.6 percent. Beneath the surface, the employed labor force expanded by 9,614 or 0.3 percent and the count of unemployed workers increased by 13,018 or 8.4 percent. The unemployment rate 12 months ago was 3.9 percent.

The November forecast by Washington's Economic and Revenue Forecast Council estimates that the statewide unemployment rate will have averaged 4.4 percent in 2022 (unchanged relative to the June forecast) and drop to 4.1 percent in 2023. See www.erfc.wa.gov for more information.

Seattle-Bellevue-Everett Metropolitan Division (MD)

The Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MD combines labor force information for Snohomish and King Counties. King County's unemployment rate consistently runs below that of Snohomish County. The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the combined MD remained unchanged at 2.9 percent (revised) in October and (preliminary) November 2022. Twelve months ago, the unemployment rate was 3.1 percent.

City level estimates

The Bureau of Labor Statistics and Employment Security Department publish labor force information for cities with a population of 25,000 or more. Unemployment rates for selected cities can be found at www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/labor-force

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims

UI claims activity during the Great Recession peaked in May 2009 (22,458 continued claims were counted that month) and was on a downward trend with seasonal peaks and valleys until the arrival of the Coronavirus economy. In May 2020, 69,017 new claims were filed by Snohomish County residents. This is nearly 700 percent higher than the previous peak (9,939 initial claims were initiated in December 2008). Since April 2020, the number of new claims has dropped and more-or-less leveled out. In November 2022, Snohomish County residents collectively filed 1,975 new claims, and 4,060 individuals received payments through the state UI system. Unemployment Insurance claims have been hovering at the lowest levels observed in the current series, which extends back to 2005.

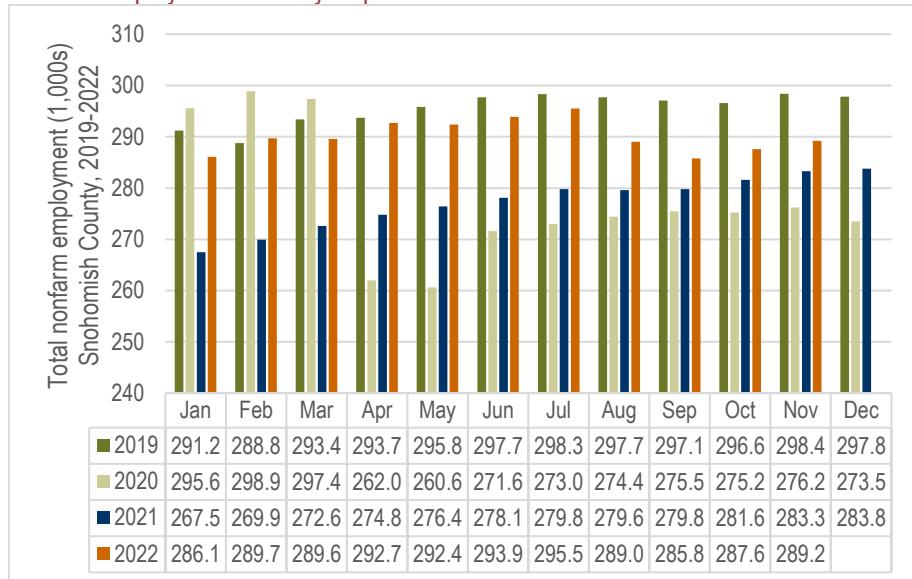
Total nonfarm employment

Total nonfarm employment in Snohomish County (not seasonally adjusted) expanded by 1,600 from October (revised) to November 2022 (preliminary). Over the year, employers in Snohomish County collectively recovered 5,900 jobs – up 2.1 percent relative to November 2021 and up 13,000 jobs (4.5 percent) compared to November 2020. The tally of nonfarm jobs in Snohomish County was estimated at 289,200 in mid-November, 2022.

Figure 4. Total nonfarm employment

Snohomish County, January 2019 through November 2022

Source: Employment Security Department/DATA



Snohomish County employment has expanded over the past couple years, but has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels..

The Puget Sound area was impacted before other areas in the state and nationally. This report reveals the initial impacts of Covid-19-related measures. Specifically, data in this report coincides with November 6-12, 2022.

Figure 5. Nonfarm industry employment, not seasonally adjusted
 Snohomish County, November 2021 and October and November 2022.
 Source: Employment Security Department/DATA

Nonfarm Employment Estimates, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Snohomish County

Data benchmarked through December 2021

NAICS Industry Title	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Change		
	Nov-22	Oct-22	Nov-21	Oct-22	Nov-21	Nov-22
Total Nonfarm	289,200	287,600	283,300	1,600	5,900	2.1%
Total Private	249,500	249,000	244,700	500	4,800	2.0%
Goods Producing	76,400	76,500	75,000	-100	1,400	1.9%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	26,100	26,300	25,300	-200	800	3.2%
Construction of Buildings	4,100	4,100	4,400	0	-300	-6.8%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2,000	2,300	1,900	-300	100	5.3%
Specialty Trade Contractors	19,700	19,700	18,700	0	1,000	5.3%
Manufacturing	50,300	50,200	49,700	100	600	1.2%
Durable Goods	45,700	45,600	45,100	100	600	1.3%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,000	900	900	100	100	11.1%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,500	3,500	3,400	0	100	2.9%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg.	4,600	4,600	4,600	0	0	0.0%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg.	31,300	31,300	31,100	0	200	0.6%
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,600	4,600	0	0	0.0%
Service Providing	212,800	211,100	208,300	1,700	4,500	2.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	52,500	52,100	50,800	400	1,700	3.3%
Wholesale Trade	9,800	9,800	9,300	0	500	5.4%
Retail Trade	36,100	35,600	35,100	500	1,000	2.8%
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	4,700	4,700	4,600	0	100	2.2%
Food and beverage stores	7,200	7,000	7,000	200	200	2.9%
General merchandise stores	8,300	8,200	8,300	100	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	6,600	6,700	6,400	-100	200	3.1%
Information	3,300	3,400	3,500	-100	-200	-5.7%
Telecommunications	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	-100	-5.6%
Financial Activities	13,500	13,500	13,300	0	200	1.5%
Finance and Insurance	9,600	9,600	9,500	0	100	1.1%
Credit intermediation and related activities	3,300	3,400	3,400	-100	-100	-2.9%
Insurance carriers and related activities	5,600	5,600	5,600	0	0	0.0%
Real estate and rental and leasing	3,900	3,900	3,800	0	100	2.6%
Professional and Business Services	29,000	29,100	29,300	-100	-300	-1.0%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	13,600	13,600	13,500	0	100	0.7%
Architectural and engineering services	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0	0.0%
Administrative, Support, Waste Mgmt., & Remed.	14,300	14,300	14,600	0	-300	-2.1%
Employment services	4,500	4,700	5,400	-200	-900	-16.7%
Educational and Health Services	38,900	38,700	37,500	200	1,400	3.7%

Ambulatory health care services	13,600	13,500	12,600	100	1,000	7.9%
Nursing and residential care facilities	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0	0.0%
Social assistance	11,600	11,500	11,400	100	200	1.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	25,500	25,400	25,300	100	200	0.8%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3,200	3,300	3,100	-100	100	3.2%
Food Services and Drinking Places	21,000	20,800	21,000	200	0	0.0%
Other Services	10,400	10,300	10,000	100	400	4.0%
Government	39,700	38,600	38,600	1,100	1,100	2.8%
Federal Government	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0	0.0%
State Government	5,000	4,300	4,300	700	700	16.3%
State Educational Services	2,300	1,600	1,600	700	700	43.8%
Local Government	32,500	32,100	32,100	400	400	1.2%
Local Educational Services	16,700	16,500	16,200	200	500	3.1%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	

Snohomish County employment expanded by 2.1 percent over the year.

Nonfarm industry employment

Goods-producing Industries

From October to November 2022, aggregate employment in goods-producing industries decreased by 100. Year-over-year, goods producers in Snohomish County added an estimated 1,400 jobs, with contributions from both manufacturing and construction.

Total employment in **construction** decreased by 200 over the month. Year-to-year, employment in construction was up 800 or 3.2 percent. Snohomish County-based construction employment has expanded by 1,900 since November 2020.

- Over the year gains were observed for specialty trade contractors (1,000) and heavy and civil engineering construction (100). Construction of buildings was down 300.

Net employment in **Manufacturing** expanded by 100 over the month and by 600 (1.2 percent) over the year. Manufacturing is the largest set of industries in Snohomish County and accounts for an estimated 50,300 jobs in Snohomish County. Manufacturing employment dropped throughout most of 2021 but has expanded over the past several months. The drop and subsequent growth in manufacturing employment lagged behind most other industries during the pandemic recession. Compared to November 2020, employment in manufacturing dropped by 2,000.

- Aerospace product and parts manufacturing (Snohomish County's largest manufacturing industry), accounted for 31,300 manufacturing jobs. In November, employment in aerospace manufacturing remained unchanged relative to October. Over the year, employment expanded by 200 (0.6 percent).
 - The count of aerospace products and parts manufacturing *only* catches those employers that are directly and primarily responsible for manufacturing aerospace products. Other products and services in the supply chain are counted under their best fit industries.

Service-providing industries

Service providers represent an extremely diverse collection of sectors. Taken as a whole, service-providing employment increased by 1,700 over the month and by 4,500 (2.2 percent) over the year. The largest year-over-year gains among service-providing industries were observed in educational and health services, government, and retail trade.

Employment in **Wholesale trade** did not change over the month but expanded by 500 over the year. Wholesale trade employed an estimated 9,800 in November. Since November 2020, employment in wholesale trade has expanded by 1,000.

Net employment in **retail trade** expanded by 500 in November and by 1,000 (2.8 percent) over the year. Retailers collectively supplied an estimated 36,100 Snohomish County jobs in November 2022. Since November 2020, Snohomish County retailers have added 1,400 jobs.

- Over the year, employment in motor vehicle and parts dealers expanded by 100. Food and beverage stores (many of which were classified “essential” and remained open during the pandemic) added 200 jobs, and general merchandise stores remained unchanged.

Employment in **transportation, warehousing and utilities** dipped by 100 over the month. Over the year, the collection of industries responsible for moving people and goods expanded employment by 200 or 3.1 percent. Transportation and warehousing employment was up 1,000 compared to November 2020.

Employment in the **information** sector – a small sector that is dominated by the telecommunications industry in Snohomish County – contracted by 100 jobs over the month and by 200 over the year. Snohomish County’s information sector businesses employed 3,300 in November 2022, and is still down 400 jobs compared to November 2020.

The **financial activities** sector includes the finance, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing industries. The employment level for this collection of industries remained unchanged over the month but expanded by 100 over the year. Employment in financial activities has been relatively stable throughout the pandemic and recovery. Pandemic-related losses were relatively small, but the sector is now 100 jobs below the level observed in November 2020.

- Beneath the surface, finance and insurance employment and real estate and rental and leasing each expanded by 100 over the year.

Professional and business services includes a variety of professional and technical services such as accounting and engineering services. It also includes administrative support and management services and supports day to day business operations with services such as housekeeping and temporary employment services. In short, these are the businesses that provide operational support to others in the business community. In November, employment in this diverse set of industries contracted by 100; over the year employment contracted by 300. There were an estimated 29,000 jobs in professional and business services in November 2022. This collection of industries is down 100 jobs over the past 24 months, largely a reflection that many jobs in this sector recovered early on in the pandemic (i.e. before August 2020)

- Professional, scientific and technical services employment expanded by 100 over the year.
- Employment in administrative support, waste management and remediation contracted by 300 over the year. Losses were concentrated in the employment services industry.

Employment in the **educational and health services** industries expanded by 200 from October to November and expanded by 1,400 over the year. Employment was up 3,500 relative to November 2020.

- Within this estimate, employment in ambulatory health care services was up 1,000 jobs, nursing and residential care facilities was unchanged, and social assistance expanded by 200 jobs over the year.

Leisure and hospitality employment expanded by 100 over the month. Over the year, leisure and hospitality employment increased by 200. Leisure and hospitality accounted for 25,500 Snohomish County jobs in November 2022. Over the past 24 months, this sector has recovered 3,300 jobs.

- Jobs in leisure and hospitality were uniquely vulnerable in an environment of required social distancing, due to the frequent face-to-face interactions between workers and customers.
- Employment in arts, entertainment and recreation expanded by 100 but food services and drinking places remained unchanged over the year.

Other services represents a diverse collection of industries that do not fit elsewhere and include employers ranging from auto mechanics to hair salons to membership clubs. Employment in this diverse sector expanded by 100 over the month and by 400 over the year. Employment in other services is 100 jobs above the level observed 24 months ago.

Government payrolls expanded by 1,100 over the month and by 1,100 (2.8 percent) over the year. Since November 2020, public sector employment has expanded by an estimated 3,400 jobs.

- Gains were observed at the state and local levels of government, and were concentrated in public education at both levels.

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 4.5 percent from 2021 to 2022, and will continue to expand, albeit at a slower pace (2.4 percent) in 2023. Employment growth estimates were revised down relative to the September forecast. November 2022 forecast and December revised forecast are published online at www.erfc.wa.gov.

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