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Washington State Employment and Wages

About the QCEW

2006 Preliminary

The **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)**, formerly known as **ES-202**, is released four times a year by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): January, April, July, and October. Data are released seven months after the end of each quarter. The BLS published preliminary figures on all fifty states and the District of Columbia for the third quarter on April 11. Annual data (and fourth quarter) are scheduled for release on July 25. States can publish their own data individually in advance of the national publication date. Washington state QCEW figures are usually available about two weeks prior to the national publication date.

The **QCEW reflects covered employment, that is, employment in firms that are mandated to cover workers for unemployment insurance.** Laws that govern UI coverage come from both federal and state statutes. State unemployment insurance programs require most employers to pay quarterly taxes based on employment and wages covered by UI. This generally provides a universe count of establishments and employees. In general, major exclusions from UI coverage include self-employed workers, most agricultural workers on small farms, all members of the Armed Forces, elected officials in most states, most employees of railroads, some domestic workers, most student workers at schools, and employees of certain small nonprofit organizations. Washington state differs slightly in that most agricultural workers are covered by UI. State and federal UI laws change periodically, potentially impacting employers and employees covered under the UI program. As a result, one must be careful in comparing quarterly or yearly changes. For instance, stock options were counted in the total wage figures in Washington until 2003; as of January 1, 2004, they were no longer counted in the wage data. This affected total and average wages in the state, particularly in the software industry. States can determine individually if they want stock options to be included in the wage totals.

This covered employment series is used to benchmark the monthly employment estimates that initially come from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) Survey. The Bureau of Labor Statistics benchmarks the nonfarm payroll estimates annually, but at Labor Market and Economic Analysis, we benchmark the monthly CES figures quarterly. While the quarterly benchmarking process allows more reliable monthly employment estimates, it is also more likely to cause greater volatility from one quarter to the next when the new quarterly data are used in the benchmarking process.

For more information, contact Evelina Tainer at (360) 438-4812.

Non-covered employment is broad and about 127,000 nonfarm jobs were not covered in Washington in 2006. Non-covered jobs include some state jobs (20,000), elected officials (3,300), railroad employment (4,000), religious organizations (23,000), private education (20,000), and about 62,400 exempt corporate officers.

Although the QCEW data are released with a longer lag time than the monthly estimates, the employment figures coming from this universe are more detailed – offering employment levels through six digit NAICS. County employment levels are publicly available through 3-digit NAICS. In addition to employment, the QCEW also provides figures for total wages earned during the quarter. While this universe

of establishments does not enable us to know how many employees worked full time or part time, one is nonetheless able to calculate average annual wages for these industry jobs. It is important to keep in mind that changes in laws prevent robust comparisons of average annual wages over time, but one can view year-over-year changes cautiously.

Average Annual Wages by Industry

Tables 1A and 1B rank industries by wage levels at the two-digit industry level. In Washington, annual wages averaged \$42,881 in 2006, up 5.3 percent from 2005's average of \$40,705. Information services, management of companies and enterprises, and utilities were the top three paying industries in Washington state in 2006, the same as in 2005. The same ten industries (information services; management of companies and enterprises; utilities; finance and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; manufacturing; wholesale trade; mining; government; and transportation and warehousing) ranked in the top ten in both 2006 and 2005, although industries may have moved up or down within these rankings. Rankings remained relatively consistent in the bottom ten industries as well. (These were accommodation and food services; agriculture, forestry, fishing and

hunting; other services; arts, entertainment, and recreation; retail trade; educational services; administrative support, waste management, and remediation services; real estate, rental and leasing; health care and social assistance; and construction.) Table 1A shows industry rankings, along with number of firms, average employment and average annual wages for 2006; Table 1B shows the same for 2005.

Tables 1C and 1D rank industries by wage levels at the 3-digit industry level. Both tables also show average annual wages for 3-digit NAICS industries for 2006 and 2005. Comparing wages at the 3-digit NAICS level, rather than the 2-digit level showed a slightly different picture. For instance, the finance and insurance sector ranked fourth in terms of average annual wages (\$66,661). At

the 3-digit industry level, securities, commodity contracts, and investments ranked number 1 as the highest industry average annual wage of \$114,033. Publishing industries, except internet, came in as a close second with an average annual wage of \$112,078. This is part of information services, which was the strongest industry sector at the 2-digit NAICS. The third highest industry average annual wage was in petroleum and coal products manufacturing at \$94,060. The 2-digit manufacturing industry ranked sixth overall. Pipeline transportation (3-digit) within wholesale trade ranked fourth with average annual wages of \$86,067 and management of companies and enterprises (3-digit) within professional and business services, ranked fifth with average annual wages of \$85,033.

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Table 1A. State of Washington, Covered Employment Classified by Industry
2006

NAICS	Rank	Industry Description	Firms	Average Employment	Average Annual Wages	Percent Change
		Total	191,724	2,850,986	\$42,881	5.3%
51	1	Information Services	2,439	97,717	\$91,098	10.2%
55	2	Management of Companies and Enterprises	627	33,582	\$85,033	2.9%
22	3	Utilities	228	4,509	\$70,404	7.3%
52	4	Finance and Insurance	5,854	103,314	\$66,661	6.9%
54	5	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	16,110	141,717	\$63,679	4.1%
31	6	Manufacturing	7,185	281,491	\$58,206	5.9%
42	7	Wholesale Trade	12,455	123,296	\$56,566	5.8%
21	8	Mining	163	3,357	\$54,951	4.5%
92	9	Government	2,039	504,620	\$44,750	4.3%
48	10	Transportation and Warehousing	3,948	83,483	\$44,011	2.8%
23	11	Construction	24,024	182,075	\$43,753	5.5%
62	12	Health Care and Social Assistance	13,322	288,010	\$37,657	4.1%
53	13	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6,697	49,639	\$34,935	6.7%
56	14	Administrative, Support and Waste Mgmt and Remediation Svcs	8,669	145,225	\$34,520	2.6%
61	15	Educational Services	1,958	29,836	\$30,895	3.5%
44	16	Retail Trade	14,374	315,172	\$28,170	3.1%
71	17	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2,346	44,407	\$27,138	5.5%
81	18	Other Services (except Public Administration)	49,306	112,547	\$22,991	4.5%
11	19	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	7,935	84,181	\$22,218	5.2%
72	20	Accommodation and Food Services	12,053	222,815	\$15,468	3.0%

Firms refer to the different employers within an industry or area.
Firms may represent several individual units.

Table 1B. State of Washington, Covered Employment Classified by Industry
2005

NAICS	Rank	Industry Description	Firms	Average Employment	Average Annual Wages
		Total	188,528	2,766,721	\$40,705
51	1	Information Services	2,327	94,427	\$82,647
55	2	Management of Companies and Enterprises	619	33,313	\$75,236
22	3	Utilities	230	4,386	\$65,615
52	4	Finance and Insurance	5,610	102,587	\$62,382
54	5	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	15,407	135,425	\$61,181
31	6	Manufacturing	7,142	267,703	\$54,953
42	7	Wholesale Trade	12,310	118,698	\$53,458
21	8	Mining	158	3,301	\$52,592
92	9	Government	2,035	501,953	\$42,915
48	10	Transportation and Warehousing	3,872	80,950	\$42,798
23	11	Construction	22,717	165,070	\$41,482
62	12	Health Care and Social Assistance	13,089	279,804	\$36,162
56	13	Administrative, Support, Waste Mgmt and Remediation Services	8,367	138,082	\$33,649
53	14	Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	6,522	47,847	\$32,744
61	15	Educational Services	1,903	29,023	\$29,860
44	16	Retail Trade	14,398	310,299	\$27,330
71	17	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,307	44,056	\$25,724
81	18	Other Services (Except Public Administration)	49,638	111,572	\$22,010
11	19	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	8,143	83,155	\$21,122
72	20	Accommodation and Food Services	11,744	215,078	\$15,014

Firms refer to the different employers within an industry or area.
Firms may represent several individual units.

**Table 1C. State of Washington, Covered Employment Classified by Industry, 3-Digit
2006**

NAICS	Rank	Industry Description	Firms	Average Employment	Average Annual Wages
		Total	191,724	2,850,986	\$42,881
523	1	Securities, Commodity Contracts, Investments	1,085	10,386	\$114,033
511	2	Publishing Industries, except Internet	1,057	55,491	\$112,078
324	3	Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	31	2,450	\$94,060
486	4	Pipeline Transportation	8	167	\$86,067
551	5	Management of Companies and Enterprises	627	33,582	\$85,033
336	6	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	457	86,685	\$82,808
516	7	Internet Publishing and Broadcasting	121	1,910	\$80,497
114	8	Fishing, Hunting and Trapping	423	2,010	\$79,993
425	9	Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	4,703	12,142	\$77,376
517	11	Telecommunications	266	24,333	\$72,112
221	12	Utilities	228	4,509	\$70,404
533	13	Lessors of Nonfinancial Intangible Assets	59	634	\$69,967
334	14	Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	352	22,275	\$69,901
213	15	Support Activities for Mining	18	135	\$67,965
518	16	ISPs, Search Portals, and Data Processing	430	5,489	\$67,867
562	17	Waste Management and Remediation Services	384	13,283	\$64,931
541	18	Professional and Technical Services	16,110	141,717	\$63,679
454	19	Nonstore Retailers	639	10,387	\$63,214
325	20	Chemical Manufacturing	202	5,670	\$62,930
711	21	Performing Arts and Spectator Sports	708	8,537	\$62,922
322	22	Paper Manufacturing	94	11,932	\$61,583
524	23	Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	2,945	37,492	\$61,500
237	24	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	1,398	22,510	\$60,133
483	25	Water Transportation	67	3,358	\$59,574
423	26	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	5,224	65,897	\$59,497
100	27	Federal Government	110	69,262	\$59,275
481	28	Air Transportation	115	11,077	\$56,979
515	29	Broadcasting, except Internet	151	4,398	\$55,313
335	30	Electrical Equipment and Appliance Manufacturing	103	4,310	\$54,674
519	31	Other Information Services	36	944	\$54,432
212	32	Mining, except Oil and Gas	145	3,223	\$54,389
622	33	Hospitals	49	64,937	\$53,706
331	34	Primary Metal Manufacturing	69	5,318	\$52,942
488	35	Support Activities for Transportation	1,029	17,786	\$52,271
522	36	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	1,752	54,859	\$50,654
333	37	Machinery Manufacturing	383	14,407	\$50,295
424	38	Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,528	45,258	\$46,713
200	39	State Government	188	126,352	\$45,441
236	40	Construction of Buildings	8,075	47,147	\$44,365
113	41	Forestry and Logging	620	5,312	\$44,149
327	42	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	297	10,159	\$43,804
621	43	Ambulatory Health Care Services	8,757	114,733	\$43,034
441	44	Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	1,865	40,860	\$42,012
339	45	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	830	10,949	\$41,923
313	46	Textile Mills	23	484	\$41,718
332	47	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,143	18,124	\$41,581
300	48	Local Government	1,742	309,007	\$41,212
323	49	Printing and Related Support Activities	626	7,759	\$40,993
484	50	Truck Transportation	1,970	24,132	\$40,306
238	51	Specialty Trade Contractors	14,552	112,419	\$40,217
312	52	Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing	216	3,801	\$40,040
326	53	Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	216	10,480	\$39,879
321	54	Wood Product Manufacturing	510	19,934	\$39,761
493	55	Warehousing and Storage	210	10,226	\$39,134
311	56	Food Manufacturing	769	33,372	\$37,948
492	57	Couriers and Messengers	243	10,126	\$36,489
443	58	Electronics and Appliance Stores	637	11,074	\$36,100
531	59	Real Estate	5,934	35,924	\$35,839
337	60	Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing	527	8,706	\$35,473
314	61	Textile Product Mills	179	1,937	\$34,705
811	62	Repair and Maintenance	4,468	26,110	\$33,673
487	63	Scenic and Sightseeing Transportation	60	592	\$32,596
561	64	Administrative and Support Services	8,286	131,942	\$31,459
611	65	Educational Services	1,958	29,836	\$30,895
446	66	Health and Personal Care Stores	735	15,256	\$30,811
315	67	Apparel Manufacturing	138	2,447	\$30,779
532	68	Rental and Leasing Services	705	13,082	\$30,753
442	69	Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	964	11,641	\$30,661
444	70	Building Material and Garden Supply Stores	1,164	28,259	\$30,294
813	71	Membership Associations and Organizations	2,899	24,431	\$29,406
712	72	Museums, Historical Sites, Zoos, and Parks	154	2,247	\$29,344
316	73	Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing	29	303	\$29,273
112	74	Animal Production	905	5,933	\$24,964
623	75	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	1,608	54,644	\$24,428
445	76	Food and Beverage Stores	1,872	58,846	\$24,152
452	77	General Merchandise Stores	213	59,199	\$23,948
485	78	Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	205	5,928	\$22,806
115	79	Agriculture and Forestry Support Activities	665	15,798	\$22,731
448	80	Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	1,140	27,590	\$22,197
812	81	Personal and Laundry Services	3,139	35,134	\$22,042
453	82	Miscellaneous Store Retailers	2,478	20,524	\$21,990
721	84	Accommodation	1,378	29,761	\$21,409
512	85	Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries	379	5,157	\$20,728
624	86	Social Assistance	2,909	53,696	\$20,223
713	87	Amusements, Gambling, and Recreation	1,486	33,624	\$17,904
111	88	Crop Production	5,324	55,131	\$17,555
451	89	Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book and Music Stores	1,224	17,258	\$16,605
447	90	Gasoline Stations	1,448	14,284	\$16,322
722	91	Food Services and Drinking Places	10,676	193,055	\$14,553
814	92	Private Households	38,801	36,874	\$11,821

Table 1D. State of Washington, Covered Employment Classified by Industry, 3-Digit
2005

NAICS	Rank	Industry Description	Firms	Average Employment	Average Annual Wages
		Total	188,528	2,766,721	\$40,705
523	1	Securities, Commodity Contracts, Investments	1,035	10,440	\$104,208
511	2	Publishing Industries, except Internet	1,032	52,159	\$99,453
486	3	Pipeline Transportation	8	177	\$91,310
324	4	Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	28	2,314	\$86,544
336	6	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	445	78,428	\$77,172
551	7	Management of Companies and Enterprises	619	33,313	\$75,236
517	8	Telecommunications	273	25,717	\$71,500
425	9	Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	4,373	12,112	\$71,291
114	10	Fishing, Hunting and Trapping	442	2,063	\$70,636
334	11	Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	365	22,003	\$67,595
325	12	Chemical Manufacturing	202	5,202	\$67,410
516	13	Internet Publishing and Broadcasting	114	1,743	\$67,146
221	14	Utilities	230	4,386	\$65,615
562	15	Waste Management and Remediation Service	384	13,574	\$64,004
518	16	ISPs, Search Portals, and Data Processing	384	4,529	\$61,938
541	17	Professional and Technical Services	15,407	135,425	\$61,181
322	18	Paper Manufacturing	93	12,117	\$60,427
483	19	Water Transportation	65	3,226	\$60,252
524	20	Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	2,870	37,485	\$58,679
454	21	Nonstore Retailers	621	9,614	\$58,233
100	22	Federal Government	110	69,545	\$57,084
481	23	Air Transportation	112	11,634	\$56,827
522	24	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	1,637	54,152	\$56,721
711	25	Performing Arts and Spectator Sports	690	8,793	\$55,796
423	26	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	5,383	63,390	\$55,790
237	27	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	1,363	20,561	\$55,109
515	28	Broadcasting, except Internet	147	4,355	\$54,350
533	29	Lessors of Nonfinancial Intangible Assets	55	284	\$53,603
212	30	Mining, except Oil and Gas	136	3,146	\$52,616
213	31	Support Activities for Mining	22	156	\$51,778
331	32	Primary Metal Manufacturing	69	5,038	\$51,637
622	33	Hospitals	51	63,340	\$51,563
335	34	Electrical Equipment and Appliance Manufacturing	96	4,206	\$50,318
488	35	Support Activities for Transportation	1,017	17,223	\$49,532
333	36	Machinery Manufacturing	384	13,225	\$47,259
424	37	Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,554	43,197	\$45,034
519	38	Other Information Services	37	1,052	\$43,411
200	39	State Government	186	126,474	\$43,288
113	40	Forestry and Logging	653	5,615	\$42,904
327	41	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	305	9,486	\$42,846
236	42	Construction of Buildings	7,606	42,667	\$41,600
339	43	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	831	10,556	\$41,374
621	44	Ambulatory Health Care Services	8,593	111,566	\$41,136
441	45	Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	1,864	40,803	\$40,829
312	46	Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing	192	3,590	\$40,685
332	47	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,126	17,371	\$39,808
313	48	Textile Mills	23	507	\$39,696
300	49	Local Government	1,739	305,934	\$39,540
321	50	Wood Product Manufacturing	504	19,708	\$39,354
323	51	Printing and Related Support Activities	639	8,186	\$39,041
238	52	Specialty Trade Contractors	13,749	101,843	\$38,681
484	53	Truck Transportation	1,923	23,363	\$38,635
326	54	Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	217	9,893	\$38,121
493	55	Warehousing and Storage	212	8,811	\$37,113
311	56	Food Manufacturing	764	33,394	\$36,276
492	57	Couriers and Messengers	235	10,223	\$35,917
443	58	Electronics and Appliance Stores	669	10,773	\$34,978
337	59	Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing	522	8,219	\$33,805
531	60	Real Estate	5,761	34,231	\$33,071
314	61	Textile Product Mills	178	1,894	\$32,371
811	62	Repair and Maintenance	4,513	26,008	\$32,196
532	63	Rental and Leasing Services	707	13,333	\$31,455
487	64	Scenic and Sightseeing Transportation	63	616	\$30,397
561	65	Administrative and Support Services	7,983	124,508	\$30,339
611	66	Educational Services	1,903	29,023	\$29,860
444	67	Building Material and Garden Supply Stores	1,153	26,924	\$29,848
446	68	Health and Personal Care Stores	748	15,007	\$29,531
442	69	Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	962	11,286	\$28,911
315	70	Apparel Manufacturing	139	2,057	\$28,680
813	71	Membership Associations and Organizations	2,834	24,084	\$27,757
712	72	Museums, Historical Sites, Zoos, and Parks	151	2,208	\$27,561
316	73	Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing	28	317	\$27,497
445	74	Food and Beverage Stores	1,816	60,133	\$24,636
112	75	Animal Production	909	6,010	\$24,178
623	76	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	1,555	53,592	\$23,435
452	77	General Merchandise Stores	211	57,125	\$22,964
448	78	Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	1,130	26,216	\$22,011
485	79	Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	197	5,598	\$21,921
812	80	Personal and Laundry Services	3,044	24,426	\$21,548
115	81	Agriculture and Forestry Support Activities	682	15,115	\$21,018
453	82	Miscellaneous Store Retailers	2,532	20,677	\$20,617
721	83	Accommodation	1,336	28,532	\$20,342
512	84	Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries	341	4,875	\$20,100
624	85	Social Assistance	2,891	51,306	\$19,628
713	87	Amusements, Gambling, and Recreation	1,467	33,056	\$17,601
111	88	Crop Production	5,458	54,353	\$16,682
451	89	Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book and Music Stores	1,239	17,200	\$16,039
447	90	Gasoline Stations	1,457	14,547	\$15,963
722	91	Food Services and Drinking Places	10,408	186,547	\$14,199
814	92	Private Households	39,248	37,056	\$11,428

Table 2A. State of Washington, Covered Employment Classified by County
2006

County	Firms	Average Employment	Average Annual Wages
Total	199,340	2,850,987	\$42,881
King	69,224	1,149,932	\$53,482
Snohomish	15,480	233,383	\$42,906
Benton	4,384	69,284	\$42,140
Clark	10,660	129,862	\$38,001
Thurston	6,190	96,678	\$37,767
Kitsap	5,982	84,454	\$37,691
Pierce	18,356	265,719	\$37,687
Cowlitz	2,788	37,084	\$35,148
Pend Oreille	443	3,046	\$34,458
Spokane	13,497	204,266	\$34,004
Whitman	1,210	16,005	\$33,065
Skagit	3,695	47,877	\$32,825
Lewis	2,419	25,892	\$32,812
Whatcom	6,401	80,181	\$32,612
Walla Walla	2,069	25,078	\$31,698
Grays Harbor	2,566	24,903	\$31,670
Garfield	130	820	\$31,102
Clallam	2,448	23,054	\$30,123
Mason	1,327	14,510	\$29,696
Klickitat	760	6,066	\$29,563
Columbia	225	1,219	\$29,337
Island	1,834	15,797	\$29,324
Franklin	2,099	24,785	\$29,246
Kittitas	1,317	13,104	\$29,156
Chelan	3,145	38,848	\$29,008
Stevens	1,147	10,264	\$28,950
Jefferson	1,068	9,118	\$28,750
Yakima	7,378	98,309	\$28,383
Ferry	236	1,684	\$28,357
Grant	2,853	33,573	\$28,064
Asotin	630	5,520	\$27,679
Lincoln	551	2,894	\$27,630
Adams	776	6,898	\$27,618
Skamania	238	2,127	\$27,568
San Juan	938	5,394	\$27,563
Wahkiakum	128	846	\$26,963
Pacific	928	6,458	\$25,870
Douglas	1,077	10,030	\$25,645
Okanogan	1,855	17,440	\$23,205

Table 2B. State of Washington, Covered Employment Classified by County
2005

County	Firms	Average Employment	Average Annual Wages
Total	195,657	2,766,721	\$40,705
King	68,981	1,116,590	\$50,143
Benton	4,300	69,949	\$42,009
Snohomish	14,877	221,023	\$41,011
Clark	10,026	125,521	\$36,673
Kitsap	5,805	82,235	\$36,458
Pierce	17,937	257,644	\$36,247
Thurston	5,968	93,806	\$36,105
Cowlitz	2,709	36,502	\$34,013
Spokane	13,243	197,467	\$32,574
Pend Oreille	450	2,973	\$32,487
Whitman	1,212	15,786	\$31,571
Skagit	3,635	46,703	\$31,382
Whatcom	6,161	78,491	\$31,118
Lewis	2,374	24,985	\$30,944
Grays Harbor	2,516	24,711	\$30,623
Garfield	131	844	\$29,899
Walla Walla	2,040	24,884	\$29,872
Mason	1,279	13,812	\$29,273
Clallam	2,362	22,581	\$28,795
Island	1,748	15,134	\$28,100
Stevens	1,112	10,019	\$28,051
Franklin	2,069	23,747	\$27,983
Jefferson	1,061	8,993	\$27,895
Chelan	3,156	37,469	\$27,856
Klickitat	737	5,834	\$27,850
Ferry	240	1,729	\$27,813
Columbia	210	1,403	\$27,629
Kittitas	1,275	12,621	\$27,532
Skamania	217	2,059	\$27,420
Yakima	7,276	95,251	\$27,312
Grant	2,831	31,915	\$26,674
Lincoln	559	2,909	\$26,413
Adams	787	6,897	\$26,338
Wahkiakum	122	824	\$26,329
Asotin	634	5,375	\$26,195
San Juan	924	5,314	\$26,126
Pacific	895	6,303	\$25,059
Douglas	1,083	10,183	\$24,527
Okanogan	1,858	17,205	\$22,479

Nature and Limitations of Data

“Quarterly Employment and Wages in Washington State” presents employment and wage data for those firms, organizations, and individuals whose employees are covered by the Washington Employment Security Act. Also included are data for Federal Government agencies or departments covered by Title 5, U.S.C. 85.

All firms regardless of size are included. The employment shown for a given month is the number of workers who earned wages during the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Included are supervisory personnel, clerical workers, persons on paid vacations, piece workers, part-time workers, and some corporate officials. Partners and proprietors are excluded as well as are persons who earned no wages during the applicable pay period because of work stoppages.

Employment is tabulated by employer activity (industry) not by employee activity (occupation). For example, all employment listed as “educational services” is not necessarily educators. It includes employment in other occupations compensated by the school such as office workers, custodians, etc.

Wages Paid are wages and other remuneration paid during the quarter specified. Although unemployment compensation taxes are assessed on the yearly calculated taxable wage base (\$31,400 for 2007) which is paid by a private employer to an individual during the calendar year, the wage figures on the [linked tables](#) include all wages paid.

Firms denotes the number of employers having operations in a given industry in a given county. If an employer reports operations in more than one industry and/or physical location, each establishment is counted as a firm. If a business changes ownership within the quarter and both the predecessor and successor accounts are liable for taxes during that quarter, each is counted as an employer unit.

Covered Employment exceeds 85 percent of total employment in the state of Washington. Covered employment is personal service performed for wages or other compensation with the following exceptions: casual labor not in the course of employer’s trade or business; railroad employment; employment on a foreign-owned ship; newsboys; those insurance agents, real estate agents, and salesmen paid on a commission basis only; enrolled students and family working for a school; religious organizations; employment at physical and mental rehabilitation work shops; patients employed at hospitals; inmates employed at custodial and penal institutions; and all employees of foreign governments. In addition, certain family employment; construction contractors and subcontractors; and barber, hairdressing, and cosmetology services are not covered.

State employees were brought under coverage in January 1971. Principal exceptions include service of students performed for a state college or university and service of elected officials. Nonprofit organizations, with the primary exceptions of religious organizations and private primary and secondary educational institutions, came under coverage in January 1972. Major exceptions to coverage of federal workers are members of the armed forces and temporary emergency employees. In January 1978, certain workers in agricultural production, domestic service, and local government were brought under coverage. Small farms were included under coverage beginning January 1990. All agricultural employees are now covered, excluding students and family members.

In 1981, the Washington State Legislature enacted the law, RCW 50.04.165 Employment-Corporate Officers. This act enabled corporate employers to exempt their corporate officers from coverage under the Unemployment Insurance Laws of Washington. RCW 50.04.165 was amended by the Legislature in 1983 so that all corporate officers are considered exempt unless their employer elects coverage. “A corporation may elect to cover not less than all of its corporate officers under RCW 50.24.160.”

Nondisclosure of data for individual firms has been a major consideration in presentation of data in accordance with Chapter 50.13 of the Washington Employment Security Act. Information obtained from employing unit records is confidential and is not published in any manner revealing a firm’s identity. Data are not disclosed when an industry group has less than three reporting units. If there are three or more reporting units, data are also withheld if one unit accounts for 80 percent or more of the employment. Within industry divisions nondisclosable data are combined with other data and are listed as Other Industries.

Average Annual Wages by County

Covered employment and wage information is also available by county. Tables 2A and 2B rank counties by average annual wage. King County posted the highest average annual wage in both 2006 (\$53,482) and 2005 (\$50,143). In 2006, Snohomish County posted the second highest average annual wage (\$42,906) with Benton County a close third at \$42,140. Benton County average annual wages ran ahead of Snohomish County wages in 2005. Clark and Thurston counties ranked four and five, respectively in 2006. Clark

County also ranked fourth in 2005 while Kitsap County ranked fifth. In 2006, the next five counties in order of average annual wage were: Kitsap, Pierce, Cowlitz, Pend Oreille, and Spokane.

The ten counties with the lowest average annual wages in 2006 were Okanogan, Douglas, Pacific, Wahkiakum, San Juan, Skamania, Adams, Lincoln, Asotin, and Grant.

Tables 2A and 2B show firms, average employment, and average annual wages by county.

A more complete version of the industry and county data is available on [Workforce Explorer](#). Industry data are available by six-digit NAICS for each month. County industry figures are available for each month through 3-digit NAICS.

The next publication of County Employment and Wages for Washington state, covering 2007:Q1 preliminary, will be available in early October 2007.

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