

Employment Security Overview

Including services delivered directly, pass-through funds to other organizations, and client referrals

WorkSource: Workforce Development Councils oversee and certify WorkSource Centers at the local level. Employment Security is a major investor and partner in WorkSource, investing Wagner-Peyser, Veterans, our WorkFirst contracts from DSHS, and other funding and staff. Employment Security also passes through the Opportunity Act funds to the WDCs, which are used to provide Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Workers services at WorkSource and outside of WorkSource. WIOA funds are also used for WDC local strategic planning and for workforce development activities beyond the WorkSource system, for example, purchasing cohort training from a local community college to serve an industry sector, or setting up an industry skill panel to assess and meet local industry demand. WorkSource Centers include many other partners such as DSHS, DVR, local CBO's, colleges, and other partners.

- WorkSource helped 122,067 people find a job in the year ending March 31, 2014.
- In 2014, staff at 68 WorkSource centers, affiliates and connection sites statewide recruited and screened candidates for 5,275 employers.
- WorkSource routinely exceeds federal targets for placement, retention, and earnings.
- Job seekers who use WorkSource were more likely to find jobs than other workers, earning \$1,980 more than the comparison group over a seven-quarter study period.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance not only helps laid-off workers survive the lag time between jobs, but also provides a major dampening effect to reduce the depth and length of recessions. We provided more than \$4 billion in unemployment benefits at the height of the recession. Since these benefits result in direct consumer spending, they have a significant multiplier effect. Research has shown that every dollar spent on unemployment benefits pumps \$2 into the economy. This helps grocery stores, landlords, and businesses across the state survive recessions, by providing paying customers for their goods and services. One of Employment Security's strategic goals is to further coordinate Unemployment Insurance and WorkSource, to reduce the time it takes for a person to find that next job and get back on their feet. Achieving this also will help employers, by reducing the amount of UI taxes they pay.

- 249,160 people claimed \$1.1 billion in Unemployment Insurance benefits in calendar year 2014.
- The average weekly benefit was \$398. Lowest weekly benefit is \$151, highest is \$637.
- The average beneficiary received 15.6 weeks of Unemployment Insurance.

Labor Market and Performance Analysis: Employment Security produces the monthly unemployment rates and a constellation of economic data, as well as providing detailed analysis of program performance. LMPA is a resource to businesses, labor organizations, WDCs, state agencies, and other partners, as a reliable source of unbiased professional data.

- For January 2015, statewide unemployment was 6.4%.
- King County was lowest, at 4.8%; Ferry County was highest, at 12.3%.
- Growth industries were leisure and hospitality (up 5,000 jobs since 12/2014), construction (up 4,800), retail (up 3,600), professional/scientific/technical (up 2,200), and financial (up 1,600).
- 224,850 people were unemployed and seeking work across the state.

Other Programs: Employment Security refers WorkSource and UI clients to essentially every other job placement, supportive service, job training, and education agency in the state. WorkSource is designed to make that happen. Employment Security administers the Training Benefits program, which provides additional financial support, in the form of up to 26 weeks of extra benefit payments, to those retraining for new occupations after having been laid off from declining industries. Additional direct-administered programs include Shared Work (layoff prevention), Veterans, Displace Homemakers, Washington Service Corps, and Wagner-Peyser (labor exchange and job placement). Recent joint ventures with other state agencies and local partners include YouthWorks, AmeriCorps Youth Program, WorkStart, Rapid Response for the Long Term Unemployed, and Return to Work.