Mission:
Help workers and employers succeed in the global economy by delivering superior employment services, timely benefits, and a fair and stable unemployment-insurance system.

WorkSource
The Employment Security Department is an active partner in the WorkSource system, which also includes partners from city and county governments, nonprofits and others. WorkSource services are available both online and at more than five dozen offices across the state.

In 2009, the WorkSource system helped more than 7,100 businesses with their hiring and training needs and helped more than 382,000 residents look for work. Businesses and job seekers also visited the department’s Go2WorkSource.com employment Web site more than 14 million times in 2009. There typically are more than 20,000 jobs posted on the site at any one time.

Unemployment insurance
Employment Security also administers Washington’s unemployment-insurance system. Unemployment benefits keep our state’s economic engine moving by replacing a small portion of lost wages to laid-off workers.

In 2009, the department paid $4 billion in unemployment benefits to 470,000 people. The average weekly benefit amount at the end of 2009 was $419, but had dropped to $381 by June 2010, after the state’s temporary stimulus increase had expired.

Also in 2009, the department collected $974.8 million in unemployment taxes from Washington businesses, down from $1.1 billion in 2008. Each employer’s tax rate is recalculated annually based on a formula established in state law.

As of June 2010, the unemployment-insurance fund held approximately $2.3 billion, enough to pay benefits for about 13.2 months in a severe recession.

Labor-market data
The Employment Security Department collects, analyzes and disseminates job-related data relating to Washington and its regions and communities. The department publishes numerous reports, including monthly unemployment and job-growth/loss announcements, twice-a-year job-vacancy surveys, average-wage information, job-benefits reports, etc. An exhaustive array of information is available online through the agency’s main Web site, www.esd.wa.gov, or through www.WorkforceExplorer.com.

On the Web
The Employment Security Department’s Web site (www.esd.wa.gov) contains a great deal of information to assist workers and businesses.

Contacts
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