



Helping workers and businesses succeed

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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 2008, the WorkSource system helped more than 8,000 businesses with their hiring and training needs and helped more than 272,000 residents look for work. Businesses and job seekers also visited the department's Go2WorkSource.com employment Web site more than 9 million times in 2008. There typically are about 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 partially replacing lost wages to laid-off workers.

In 2008, the department paid \$1.2 billion in unemployment benefits to 289,637 people. The average weekly benefit amount was \$355. During the year, the department collected \$1.1 billion in unemployment taxes from Washington businesses. As of March 2009, unemployment-insurance fund totaled approximately \$3.6 billion; at this amount, Washington's fund could pay benefits for about 18.7 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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