



Employment Security: Helping workers and businesses succeed

January 2014

Doc. #FS-0005-C

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 2013, WorkSource staff directly helped more than 5,500 employers with their hiring and training needs and helped 240,000 residents look for work. About 7,500 employers also used the self-help features of the department's go2worksource.com employment website to post 380,000 job openings, and 126,000 job seekers posted résumés and looked for work on the site. The number of jobs posted on the site has rebounded since the recession, to more than 35,000 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 2013, the department paid about \$1.8 billion in unemployment benefits to about 312,000 jobless workers. The average weekly benefit amount in 2013 was \$387.

Also in 2013, the department collected some \$1.3 billion in unemployment taxes from Washington businesses, about the same as 2012. Each employer's tax rate is recalculated annually based on a formula established in state law.

At the end of 2013, the unemployment-insurance fund held approximately \$3 billion, enough to pay benefits for about 14.3 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 at esd.wa.gov/employmentdata.

On the Web

The Employment Security Department's websites (esd.wa.gov and go2worksource.com) contain a great deal of information to assist workers and businesses.

Contacts

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