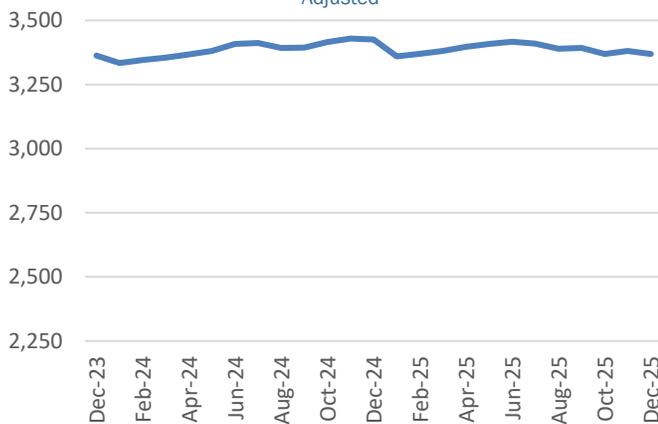# THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC MONITORING SYSTEM (REMS) REPORT – JANUARY 2026

In December, over-the-year employment decreased by 55,900 jobs or 1.6 percent in the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), while the national over-the-year employment increased by about 525,000 jobs or 0.3 percent. Locally, the Leisure & Hospitality Sector gained 6,700 jobs, and the Educational & Health Services Sector gained 4,600 jobs and the Professional & Business Sector lost 22,900 jobs during the last year. The number of Federal Government Sector jobs is at 326,200 jobs in December. The region's inflation decreased to 2.4 percent in November 2025 from a rate of 2.5 percent in September 2025. October inflation data for the US and Washington MSA geographies were unavailable due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations. During December, the region's unemployment rate decreased to 3.8 percent while the national rate decreased to 4.1 percent. The 1,037 new housing units authorized during December 2025 represent a 31.1 percent decrease from December 2024, when 1,506 new units were started. For a list of jurisdictions in the MSA, visit **mwcog.org/REMS**.
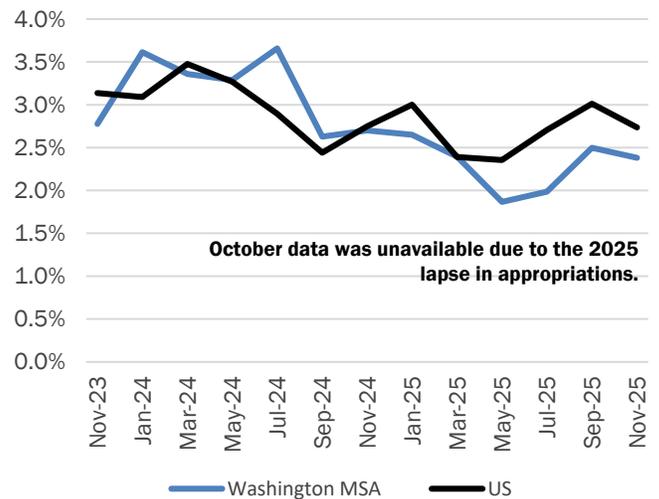
Washington MSA Total Employment
(1,000s of Jobs)
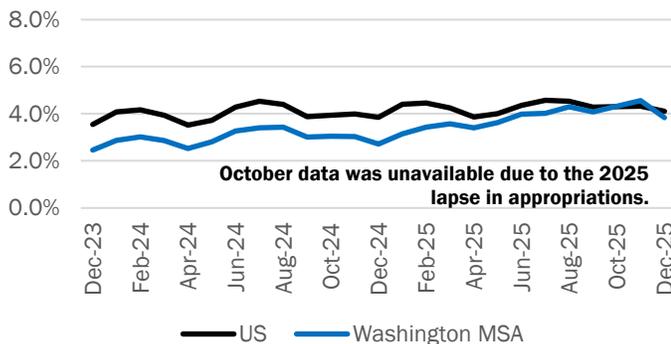Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Over-the-Year Inflation Rate Washington MSA and US
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

October data was unavailable due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations.

Washington MSA — US

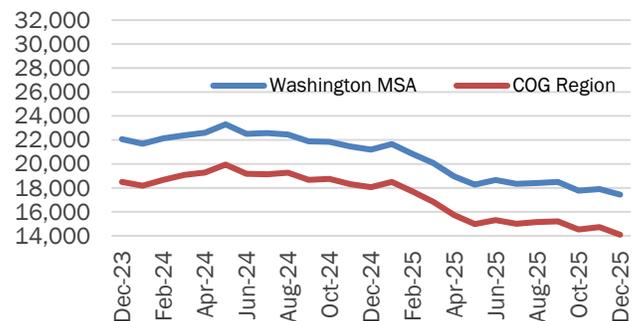### Unemployment Rate Washington MSA and US
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPS and LAUS, Not Seasonally Adjusted

October data was unavailable due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations.

US — Washington MSA

New Housing Units Authorized 12-Month Total, Washington MSA and COG Region
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Washington MSA — COG Region

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Washington MSA At-Place Employment, by Industry Group* - December 2025

(1,000s of Jobs)
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Industry Group	At-Place Employment		Change from Last Year	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Manufacturing	56.7	1.7	-0.8	-1.4
Mining, Logging & Construction	177.4	5.3	10.9	6.5
T,T, & U	410.7	12.2	-7.5	-1.8
[Retail]	261.2	7.8	-6.2	-2.3
Information	80.8	2.4	-2.4	-2.9
Financial Activities	155.6	4.6	0.4	0.3
Prof. and Bus. Services	793.8	23.6	-22.9	-2.8
Educ. & Health Services	500.8	14.9	8.2	1.7
Leisure & Hospitality	317.6	9.4	4.6	1.5
[Accom. and Food Services]	273.8	8.1	5.4	2.0
Other Services	188.1	5.6	2.3	1.2
Government	687.6	20.4	-48.7	-6.6
[Federal]	326.2	9.7	-53.8	-14.2
Total	3,369.1	100.0	-55.9	-1.6

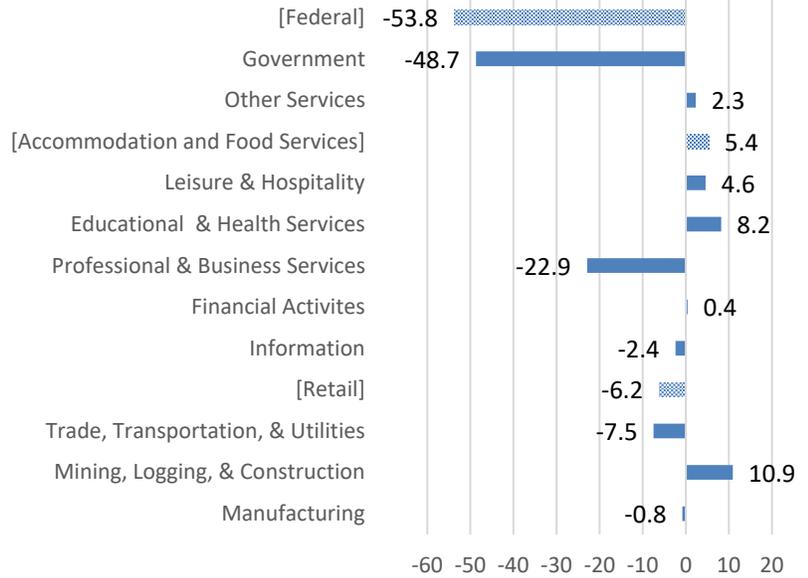Sources: Preliminary data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
*Industry classification is based on the North American Industry Classification (NAICS). Data reflects inputs, re-estimation, and new statewide controls. Data have been revised to reflect 2025 benchmarks. Data from April 2012 are subject to revision.
T,T, & U stands for Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Prof. and Bus. Services stands for Professional and Business Services; Educ. & Health Services stands for Educational & Health Services; Accom. and Food Services stands for Accommodation and Food Services.

Washington MSA Over-the-Year Employment Change by Industry Group* December 2025
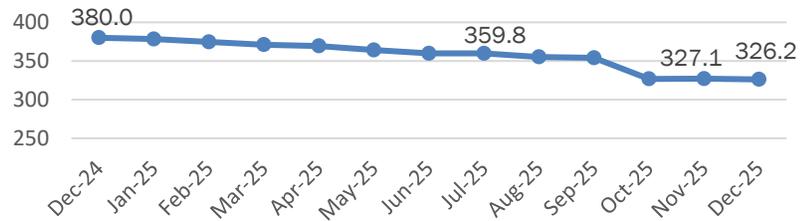
(1,000s of Jobs)
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Change
[Federal]	-53.8
Government	-48.7
Other Services	2.3
[Accommodation and Food Services]	5.4
Leisure & Hospitality	4.6
Educational & Health Services	8.2
Professional & Business Services	-22.9
Financial Activites	0.4
Information	-2.4
[Retail]	-6.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	-7.5
Mining, Logging, & Construction	10.9
Manufacturing	-0.8

Washington MSA Total Federal Government Employment

(1,000 of Jobs)
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Dec-24: 380.0 ... Jul-25: 359.8 ... Nov-25: 327.1 ... Dec-25: 326.2

Selected Monthly Indicators Washington MSA

			Change from Last Year	
	Number	Month	Number	Percent
New Homes Auth.	1,037	Dec-25	-469	-31.1

	Rate (%)	Month	Rate Last Year
Unemployment Rate[1]	3.8	Dec-25	2.7
Inflation Rate[2]	2.4	Nov-25	2.7

Sources: Preliminary data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
New Homes Authorized – U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey
[1]Indicates MSA-level Data
[2]The regional inflation rate is reported bi-monthly.

Over-the-Year – Compares the present month with same month last year. For example, Over-the-year Percent Job Growth in in December 2023 is the percentage change between December 2022 and December 2023 in the number of jobs.

At-Place Employment – The number of jobs within a given area. Although some employment data include the number of areas residents who have jobs, at-place employment counts the actual number of jobs in an area.

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