

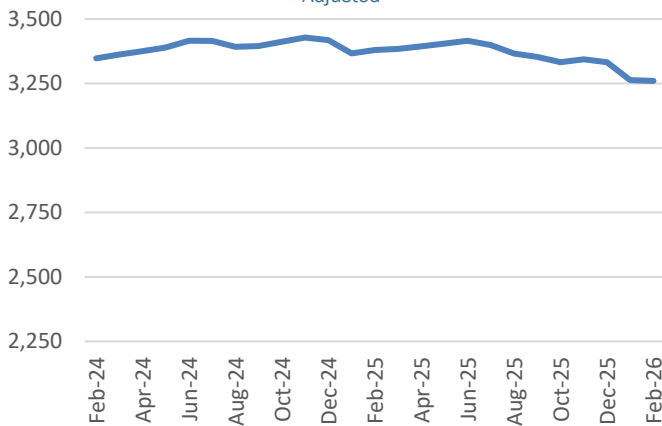
# THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC MONITORING SYSTEM (REMS) REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026 DATA

In February, over-the-year employment decreased by 119,000 jobs or 3.5 percent in the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), while the national over-the-year employment increased by about 47,000 jobs or 0.03 percent. Locally, the Leisure & Hospitality Sector lost 8,200 jobs, and the Educational & Health Services Sector lost 500 jobs, and the Professional & Business Sector lost 39,700 jobs during the last year. The Federal Government Sector lost 61,200 jobs between February 2025 and February 2026. The number of Federal Government Sector jobs is 314,300 jobs in February. The region's inflation increased to 2.7 percent in January 2026 from a rate of 2.4 percent in November 2025. During February, the region's unemployment rate increased to 4.4 percent while the national rate remained at 4.7 percent. The 2,520 new housing units authorized during February 2026 represent a 97.0 percent increase from February 2025, when 1,279 new units were started. For a list of jurisdictions in the MSA, visit [mwcog.org/REMS](http://mwcog.org/REMS).

## Washington MSA Total Employment

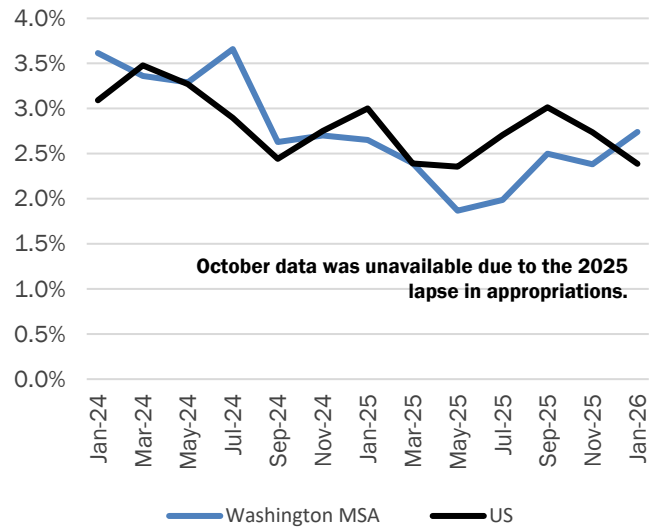
(1,000s of Jobs)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES, Not Seasonally Adjusted



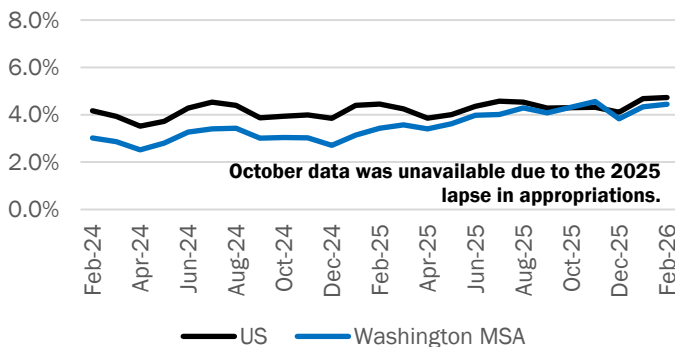
## Over-the-Year Inflation Rate Washington MSA and US

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



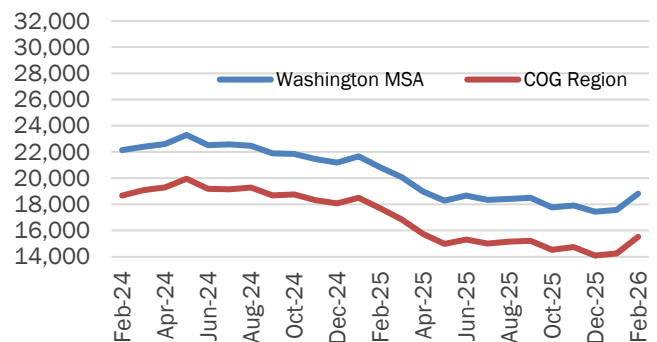
## Unemployment Rate Washington MSA and US

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPS and LAUS, Not Seasonally Adjusted



## New Housing Units Authorized 12-Month Total, Washington MSA and COG Region

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



## Washington MSA At-Place Employment, by Industry Group\* - February 2026

(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	55.9	1.7	-0.4	-0.7
Mining, Logging & Construction	166.4	5.1	0.5	0.3
T, T, & U	395.0	12.1	-6.4	-1.6
[Retail]	248.9	7.6	-3.4	-1.3
Information	77.4	2.4	-5.0	-6.1
Financial	152.4	4.7	-1.0	-0.7
Activities	152.4	4.7	-1.0	-0.7
Prof. and Bus. Services	763.2	23.4	-39.7	-4.9
Educ. & Health Services	495.8	15.2	-0.5	-0.1
Leisure & Hospitality	302.6	9.3	-8.2	-2.6
[Accom. and Food Services]	259.3	8.0	-7.9	-3.0
Other Services	176.8	5.4	-4.3	-2.4
Government	674.7	20.7	-54.0	-7.4
[Federal]	314.3	9.6	-61.2	-16.3
[State]	85.5	2.6	-0.2	-0.2
[Local]	274.9	8.4	7.4	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,260.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-119.0</b>	<b>-3.5</b>

Sources: Preliminary data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

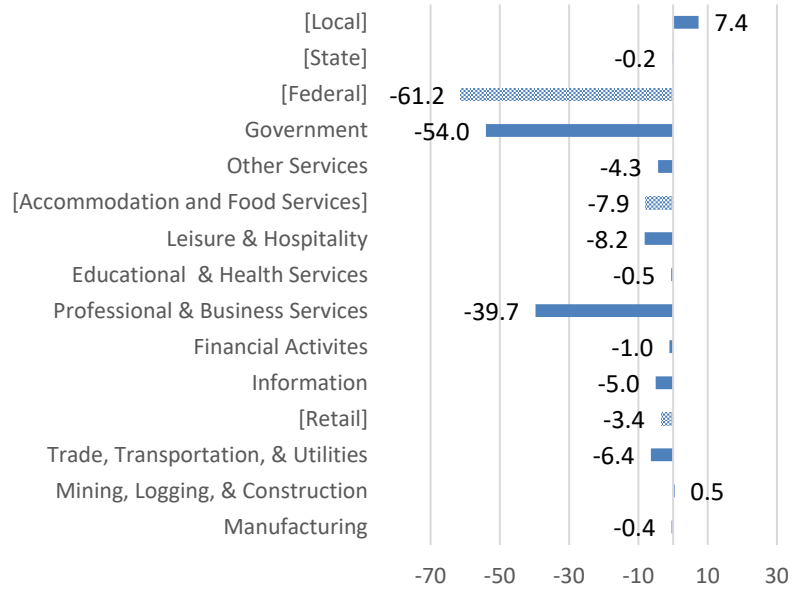
\*Industry classification is based on the North American Industry Classification (NAICS). Data reflects inputs, re-estimation, and new statewide controls. Data have been revised to reflect 2026 benchmarks. Data from April 2012 are subject to revision.

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\* February 2026

(1,000s of Jobs)

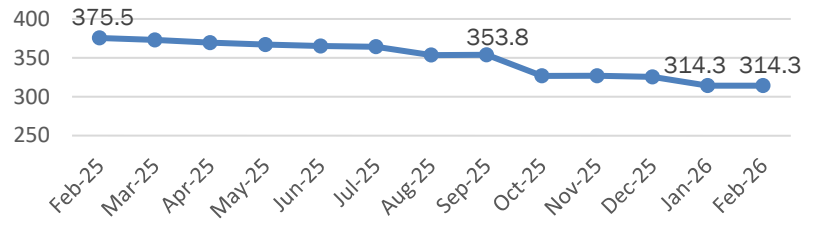
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES, Not Seasonally Adjusted



## Washington MSA Total Federal Government Employment

(1,000 of Jobs)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES, Not Seasonally Adjusted



## Selected Monthly Indicators Washington MSA

	Change from Last Year		
	Number	Month	Number
<b>New Homes Auth.</b>	2,520	Feb-26	1,241
			97.0
	Rate (%)	Month	Rate Last Year
<b>Unemployment Rate<sup>1</sup></b>	4.4	Feb-26	3.4
<b>Inflation Rate<sup>2</sup></b>	2.7	Jan-22	2.7

Sources: Preliminary data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

New Homes Authorized - U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey

<sup>1</sup>Indicates MSA-level Data

<sup>2</sup>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 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.