

# Klickitat County, WA Labor Market Analysis (December 2022 - December 2023 and Annual Average 2023)

## Civilian Labor Force:

The civilian labor force in Klickitat County exhibited fluctuations throughout 2023, with a 12-month decrease of 0.9% on average annual basis. Despite this, there were notable increases in February and March before declining towards the end of the year.

Employment levels experienced fluctuations as well, with a 12-month decrease of 0.1%. While there were slight increases in employment in the first half of the year, it decreased towards the end, reaching its lowest point in December 2023.

Unemployment in Klickitat County showed significant fluctuations, with a 12-month decrease of 14.3%. Despite this overall improvement, there were peaks in unemployment in February and November, indicating challenges in the job market.

The unemployment rate was similar to total unemployment, reaching its lowest point in July but increasing towards the end of the year. Overall, there was a 12-month decrease of 0.6% in the unemployment rate. The latest numbers from December 2023, show unemployment rate at 6.1%, bringing in the average annual 2023 rate to 5.0%.

<b>Klickitat County, WA Economy at a Glance:</b>					
	<b>Annual 2023</b>	<b>Dec-22</b>	<b>Jan-23</b>	<b>Nov-23</b>	<b>Dec-23</b>
<b>Labor Force Data</b>					
Civilian Labor Force(1)	9,793	9,670	9,953	9,277	9,283
12-month % change	-0.9%	3.9%	4.5%	-4.5%	-4.0%
Employment(1)	9,302	9,023	9,185	8,832	8,716
12-month % change	-0.1%	2.5%	3.8%	-3.1%	-3.4%
Unemployment(1)	491	647	768	445	567
12-month % change	-14.3%	26.9%	15.0%	-26.1%	-12.4%
Unemployment Rate(2)	5.0%	6.7%	7.7%	4.8%	6.1%

## **Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment:**

Total nonfarm employment displayed fluctuations throughout 2023, with a 12-month average 2023 decrease of 1.6%. While there were slight increases in the first half of the year, it declined towards the end, reflecting challenges in job growth.

Private sector employment also experienced fluctuations, with a 12-month decrease of 4.5%. This suggests potential difficulties in the private job market, particularly towards the end of the year.

Goods-producing employment showed significant decreases over the 12-month period, with a decline of 10.3%. This indicates challenges in industries such as mining, logging, and construction, which experienced notable decreases throughout the year.

**Mining, Logging, and Construction:** This sector experienced significant challenges throughout 2023, with notable decreases in employment. Construction and mining, in particular, saw substantial declines, reflecting potential issues in infrastructure development and natural resource extraction. The decrease in construction and mining employment may be attributed to factors such as reduced demand for new construction projects or fluctuations in commodity prices.

**Manufacturing:** Despite overall decreases in manufacturing employment, there were slight fluctuations throughout the year. However, the sector remained relatively stable compared to goods-producing industries, indicating resilience in manufacturing activities. The decline in manufacturing employment could be influenced by factors such as automation, global supply chain disruptions, or shifts in consumer demand.

Service-providing employment exhibited fluctuations as well, with a 12-month increase of 2.0%. While there were overall increases, there were declines towards the end of the year, particularly in sectors such as leisure and hospitality.

**Trade, Transportation, and Utilities:** This sector exhibited fluctuations in employment, with slight increases in certain subsectors such as transportation, warehousing, and utilities. However, wholesale and retail trade experienced declines, suggesting challenges in retail sales and distribution activities. Factors

such as e-commerce growth, changing consumer preferences, and supply chain disruptions may have influenced these fluctuations.

**Professional and Business Services:** Despite overall decreases in employment, certain subsectors within professional and business services, such as professional, scientific, and technical services, experienced growth. This suggests opportunities for specialized services and expertise within the county. However, declines in other subsectors highlight potential challenges in business support services or administrative roles.

**Education and Health Services:** While there were fluctuations in employment within education and health services, overall stability was observed. This sector plays a crucial role in providing essential services to the community, and the slight decreases in employment may reflect seasonal or temporary fluctuations rather than long-term trends.

**Leisure and Hospitality:** This sector experienced significant fluctuations, with notable decreases in employment towards the end of the year. The decline in leisure and hospitality employment may be attributed to factors such as seasonal variations, changes in travel patterns, or workforce shortages.

Government employment showed some resilience, with a 12-month increase of 7.0%. This stability in government employment provides a foundation for public services and infrastructure development, despite fluctuations in other sectors.

**Federal, State, and Local Government:** Government employment showed stability and even growth in certain subsectors, particularly at the local government level.

Klickitat County's economy in 2023 exhibited mixed trends, with fluctuations in various labor market indicators. While there were improvements in unemployment rates and stability in government employment, challenges remain in sustaining job growth, particularly in the private sector and goods-producing industries. While goods-producing industries faced significant declines in employment, certain service-providing sectors showed resilience or even growth.

<b>Klickitat County, WA Economy at a Glance:</b>					
	<b>Annual 2023</b>	<b>Dec-22</b>	<b>Jan-23</b>	<b>Nov-23</b>	<b>Dec-23</b>
<b>Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment</b>					
<b>Total Nonfarm 1/</b>	<b>6,260</b>	<b>6,390</b>	<b>5,970</b>	<b>6,160</b>	<b>6,120</b>
12-month % change	-1.6%	3.1%	-1.3%	-3.9%	-4.2%
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>4,430</b>	<b>4,590</b>	<b>4,190</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>4,320</b>
12-month % change	-4.5%	2.9%	-4.3%	-6.3%	-5.9%
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>1,550</b>
12-month % change	-10.3%	-4.5%	-12.2%	-9.9%	-8.3%
<b>Mining, Logging, and Construction</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>330</b>
12-month % change	-24.4%	4.5%	-29.3%	-28.3%	-28.3%
<b>Construction and Mining</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>
12-month % change	-32.5%	5.3%	-33.3%	-35.0%	-35.0%
<b>Logging</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
12-month % change	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,220</b>
12-month % change	-5.4%	-7.5%	-6.9%	-3.2%	-0.8%
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>4,460</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>4,570</b>
12-month % change	2.0%	6.1%	3.0%	-1.7%	-2.8%
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>820</b>
12-month % change	2.4%	7.6%	2.6%	0.0%	-3.5%
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>130</b>
12-month % change	-6.7%	0.0%	-7.1%	-6.7%	-13.3%
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>430</b>
12-month % change	-6.4%	6.5%	-2.3%	-10.2%	-12.2%
<b>Transportation, Wareh., and Utilit.</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>260</b>
12-month % change	30.0%	16.7%	20.0%	35.0%	23.8%
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>550</b>
12-month % change	1.6%	9.3%	5.5%	-8.2%	-6.8%
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>430</b>
12-month % change	-2.3%	-2.1%	-4.5%	-2.3%	-6.5%
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>400</b>
12-month % change	-9.1%	38.7%	9.7%	-13.6%	-7.0%
<b>All Other Services</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>550</b>
12-month % change	-1.7%	-1.7%	-6.9%	0.0%	-3.5%
<b>Government</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>1,800</b>
12-month % change	7.0%	3.4%	6.0%	2.2%	0.0%
<b>Federal Government</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>
12-month % change	0.0%	28.6%	14.3%	-11.1%	-11.1%
<b>State Government</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>120</b>
12-month % change	15.4%	27.3%	30.0%	-7.1%	-14.3%
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>1,600</b>
12-month % change	6.0%	0.6%	4.7%	3.2%	1.9%
<b>K-12 Education</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>670</b>
12-month % change	10.0%	6.5%	10.3%	6.1%	1.5%
<b>Other Local Government</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>930</b>
12-month % change	4.4%	-3.2%	1.1%	1.1%	2.2%