

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

Civilian Labor Force:

The civilian labor force in Skamania County experienced fluctuations throughout 2023, reaching its lowest point of 5,545 in June. Over the 12-month period, there was an overall decrease of 1.3% in the civilian labor force, indicating a marginal contraction.

Employment levels for county residents remained relatively stable, with a slight decrease in January but no net change by December 2023. Despite fluctuations, the overall trend suggests consistency in job opportunities throughout the year.

Unemployment witnessed significant fluctuations, peaking in February and reaching its lowest point in July. Over the 12-month period, there was a notable decrease of 12.9% in unemployment, indicating improved job market conditions.

The unemployment rate mirrored the fluctuations in total resident labor force unemployment, with the highest rate in February and the lowest in July. Despite fluctuations, there was a decrease of 0.6% in the unemployment rate over the 12-month period. The latest unemployment rate in December of 2023 was at 5.2%, bringing in the average annual 2023 rate to 4.7%.

Skamania County, WA Economy at a Glance:					
	Annual 2023	Dec-22	Jan-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Labor Force Data					
Civilian Labor Force(1)	5,651	5,722	5,752	5,635	5,648
12-month % change	1.2%	4.7%	2.6%	-1.3%	-1.3%
Employment(1)	5,382	5,382	5,350	5,382	5,352
12-month % change	1.7%	3.7%	1.4%	0.3%	-0.6%
Unemployment(1)	269	340	402	253	296
12-month % change	-8.5%	25.5%	21.8%	-26.5%	-12.9%
Unemployment Rate(2)	4.8%	5.9%	7.0%	4.5%	5.2%

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment:

Total nonfarm employment displayed fluctuations, reaching its lowest point in January before a slight increase by April. However, over the 12-month period, there was a decrease of 3.2% in total nonfarm employment, suggesting challenges in job growth.

The private sector experienced fluctuations throughout the year, with a downward trend leading to a decrease of 3.9% by December 2023. This indicates potential difficulties in the private job market.

Goods-producing employment showed some resilience, with a slight increase of 2.4% over the 12-month period despite fluctuations. However, there was a notable decrease in December 2023, warranting further analysis.

Service-providing employment witnessed a notable decrease, indicating potential challenges in this sector. Over the 12-month period, there was a decrease of 4.5% in service-providing employment, highlighting weaknesses in this segment.

Manufacturing exhibited overall growth, suggesting a positive outlook for industrial activities. Challenges in construction and mining sectors warrant attention due to significant fluctuations. Fluctuations in trade, transportation, and utilities indicate potential challenges in these sectors. Despite challenges, leisure and hospitality sectors remain vital contributors to the local economy.

Government employment remained relatively stable, with slight fluctuations in local government employment. However, there was a slight decrease of 1.5% in government employment over the year. Stability in government employment provides a foundation for public services and infrastructure development.

Skamania County's labor market in 2023 exhibited mixed trends, with fluctuations in various indicators. While there were improvements in unemployment rates, challenges remain in sustaining job growth, particularly in the private sector and service-providing industries.

Skamania County, WA Economy at a Glance:

	Annual 2023	Dec-22	Jan-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment					
Total Nonfarm 1/	2,200	2,180	2,050	2,170	2,110
12-month % change	-0.9%	3.3%	1.0%	-4.0%	-3.2%
Private Sector	1,530	1,520	1,420	1,510	1,460
12-month % change	-2.5%	3.4%	0.7%	-5.0%	-3.9%
Goods Producing	430	420	380	440	430
12-month % change	-4.4%	-6.7%	-11.6%	-4.3%	2.4%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	100	120	90	100	100
12-month % change	-23.1%	-7.7%	-25.0%	-28.6%	-16.7%
Construction and Mining	80	110	80	90	80
12-month % change	-33.3%	-8.3%	-27.3%	-25.0%	-27.3%
Logging	10	10	10	10	10
12-month % change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-50.0%	0.0%
Manufacturing	340	300	290	350	340
12-month % change	6.3%	-6.3%	-6.5%	9.4%	13.3%
Service Providing	1,770	1,760	1,670	1,730	1,680
12-month % change	0.0%	6.0%	4.4%	-3.9%	-4.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	260	260	250	250	240
12-month % change	0.0%	4.0%	4.2%	0.0%	-7.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	540	500	480	510	490
12-month % change	5.9%	13.6%	20.0%	-3.8%	-2.0%
Accommodations and Food Services	520	490	460	490	470
12-month % change	4.0%	16.7%	17.9%	-5.8%	-4.1%
All Other Services	300	340	310	300	300
12-month % change	-14.3%	3.0%	-8.8%	-14.3%	-11.8%
Government	670	660	640	660	650
12-month % change	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%	-1.5%	-1.5%
Federal Government	90	90	90	90	90
12-month % change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
State Government	30	20	20	20	20
12-month % change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-33.3%	0.0%
Local Government	550	550	530	550	540
12-month % change	3.8%	3.8%	3.9%	0.0%	-1.8%
K-12 Education	210	210	200	220	210
12-month % change	5.0%	5.0%	0.0%	4.8%	0.0%
Other Local Government	340	340	330	330	330
12-month % change	3.0%	3.0%	6.5%	-2.9%	-2.9%