Washington County’s unemployment rate reached 12 percent as it jumped from April 2019 by 8.7 percentage points. The number of unemployed reached 38,000 which is far greater than the Great Recession high of 29,950. While dire, Washington County’s unemployment rate is below both Oregon’s which stands at 14.2 percent and Portland’s at 14.0 percent.

Monthly employment declined by 9 percent for Washington County. While every sector is reeling from COVID-19, leisure and hospitality lost 47 percent of its employment. Over 27,000 jobs were lost in the last month which erased five years of job gains.

Consumer spending supports business and will play a vital role in restarting the economy. Unfortunately, spending has declined across the country. Compared with the Pre-COVID-19 economy, consumer spending is down 25 percent in Oregon and 29 percent for Washington County. While spending is still down, this is up from a low in mid-April of 38 percent.

### Unemployment Rate

**April 2000 to April 2020, Seasonally Adjusted**

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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**Every Industry Saw a Drop in Employment**

*March 2020 to April 2020, percentage change*

Current Employment Estimates

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**Unemployment Rates in Washington County Cities**

*April 2020, Not Seasonally Adjusted*  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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Have questions? Want to subscribe? Contact me!  
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