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For release Thursday, September 9th, 2010

BLS-10-148

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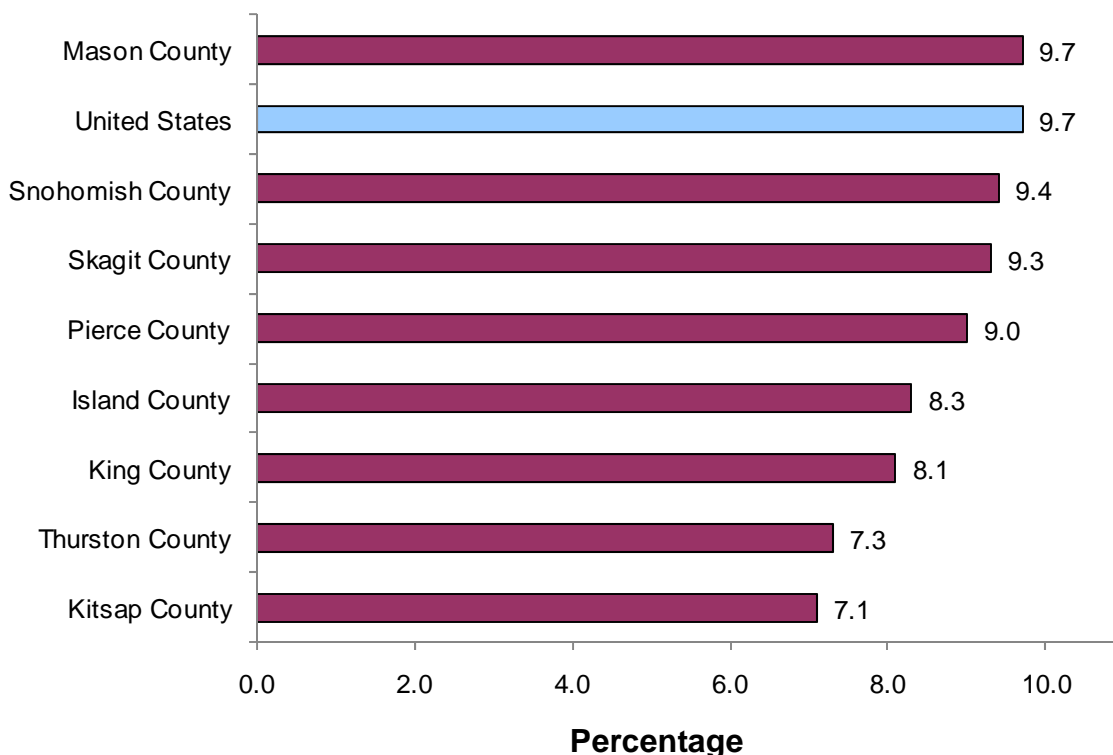
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UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE SEATTLE AREA BY COUNTY - JULY 2010

Seven Counties Posted Lower Unemployment Rates than in the Previous Year

In July, Kitsap County reported the lowest unemployment rate, 7.1 percent, in the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, Wash. Combined Statistical Area (CSA), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Richard J. Holden, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Mason County posted the highest unemployment rate at 9.7 percent, matching the U.S. rate for July. The remaining six counties had jobless rates ranging from 9.4 percent to 7.3 percent. (See chart 1. The Technical Note at the end of this release contains the metropolitan area definition. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the United States and counties in the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, Wash. Combined Statistical Area, July 2010, not seasonally adjusted



In July, only Mason County registered an over-the-year unemployment rate increase. Seven counties posted over-the-year unemployment rate decreases in July 2010, with the rate of declines ranging from -0.5 percent in Pierce County to -0.2 percent in both Skagit and Snohomish Counties. Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged from July a year ago. (See table A).

Table A. Unemployment rates for the United States, the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, Wash. Combined Statistical Area, and its components, not seasonally adjusted

Area	Unemployment rate			Net change from	
	July 2008	July 2009	July 2010	July 2008 to July 2010 ¹	July 2009 to July 2010 ¹
United States	6.0	9.7	9.7	3.7	0.0
Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, Wash. CSA	4.9	8.7	8.4	3.5	-0.3
Island County	5.3	8.6	8.3	3.0	-0.3
King County	4.5	8.4	8.1	3.6	-0.3
Kitsap County	5.0	7.5	7.1	2.1	-0.4
Mason County	6.2	9.5	9.7	3.5	0.2
Pierce County	5.6	9.5	9.0	3.4	-0.5
Skagit County	5.3	9.5	9.3	4.0	-0.2
Snohomish County	5.1	9.6	9.4	4.3	-0.2
Thurston County	4.9	7.6	7.3	2.4	-0.3

¹Data for the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, Wash. Combined Statistical Area and its components are preliminary for the most recent month.

In July 2008, jobless rates ranged from 4.5 percent in King County to 6.2 percent in Mason County. By July 2010, the lowest unemployment rate, 7.1 percent in Kitsap County, exceeded the highest rate recorded two years earlier.

Technical Note

This release presents unemployment rate data for states and counties from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

Method of estimation. Estimates for the substate areas in this release are prepared through indirect estimation procedures using a building-block approach. Employment estimates, which are based largely on "place of work" estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, are adjusted to refer to place of residence as used in the CPS. Unemployment estimates are aggregates of persons previously employed in industries covered by state unemployment insurance (UI) laws and entrants to the labor force data from the CPS. The substate estimates of employment and unemployment, which geographically exhaust the entire state, are adjusted proportionally to ensure that they add to the independently estimated state or balance-of-state totals. A detailed description of the estimation procedures is available from BLS upon request.

Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. In most years, historical data for the most recent five years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to or coincident with the release of January estimates.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics data, as well as other Bureau data, contact the West Information Office at 415-625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT. Information on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program and other surveys and programs is available on our Web site at www.bls.gov/ro9/.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated December 1, 2009. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm>.

The Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, Wash. Combined Statistical Area (CSA) includes Island, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties in Washington.