



Whitman County Economic Development Informational Meeting

September 24, 2025
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
The Center, Colfax

Economic Development Informational Meetings (EDIMs) are updates on the Port's implementation of the ADO's economic development plan. No business or official actions will be taken by the Port Commissioners.

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – 12:00 pm
2. **2025 Economic Development Plan**
 - a. **Small Business Development**
 - Washington Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Update – Juan Garcia, Certified Business Advisor
 - b. **Economic Profiling**
 - Border County Economics – Steve Peterson, University of Idaho Regional Economist
 - Select Economic Indicators **(Exhibit 1)**
 - c. **Existing Business Retention & Expansion**
 - Port of Central Ferry Project Completion
 - d. **Business Recruitment/Marketing & Advertising**
 - Commerce Leads **(Exhibit 2)** – handout only
 - e. **Site & Infrastructure**
 - Historic Preservation Incentives & Main Street Organizations – Michelle Thompson, Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation Coordinator
 - Technology Transfer Scaling Facility Update
 - f. **Economic Development Advocacy**
 - Legislative Coalition Update **(Exhibit 3)**
3. **Future Meeting Topics and Closing**

The next EDIM is scheduled for **December 3, 2025**. Port staff will keep EDIM participants informed if there are any changes to the meeting format.



Economic and Revenue Forecast Council

Economic & Revenue Update

September 15, 2025

Summary

- **U.S. employment increased by 22,000 jobs in August; the unemployment rate increased to 4.3%.**
- **The second estimate of U.S. real GDP indicated the economy expanded by 3.3% (SAAR) in the second quarter of 2025, up from -0.5% growth in the first quarter.**
- **In August, U.S. consumer prices increased compared with July and were up 2.9% over the year.**
- **The level of Washington employment is lower than expected in the June forecast.**
- **Seattle-area home prices are declining**
- **Seattle-area inflation has increased**
- **Major General Fund-State (GF-S) revenue collections for the August 11 - September 10, 2025 collection period came in \$14.5 million (0.7%) higher than forecasted.**
- **Cumulatively, tracked collections are now \$142.8 million (2.0%) higher than forecasted.**

United States

Employment increased slowly in August, and prior months were revised down. Initial claims, unemployment and layoff announcements all increased. The second estimate of second quarter real GDP increased and indicated the economy expanded. Inflation came in higher but residential construction activity and residential sales were mixed. Consumer confidence measures decreased reflecting concerns about the labor market, income and business conditions.

National employment in August increased by 22,000 net jobs and employment levels for June and July were revised down due to additional data and updated seasonal factors by a combined

21,000 jobs. Sectors with the largest job gains in August included healthcare (+30,600), social assistance (+16,200), and leisure and hospitality (+28,000). Sectors with declining employment in August included federal employment (-15,000), administrative and support services (-13,700), professional and business services (-17,000) and manufacturing (-12,000).

Initial claims for unemployment insurance increased by 27,000 to 263,000 (SA) in the week ending September 6th. The four-week moving average of initial claims was 240,500, up 9,750 from the prior week. Layoff announcements in August, as tracked by outplacement firm Challenger, Gray, and Christmas, totaled 85,979, a 39% increase compared to the 62,075 job cuts announced in July. Layoff announcements in August were 13% higher than those announced in August 2024.



To view the rest of the report,
scan the QR code.

Washington State Employment Security Department

Date: 08/19/2025

July 2025

Washington State Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment

State	County	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
WA	San Juan	8,616	8,347	269	3.10
WA	Asotin	9,585	9,260	325	3.40
WA	Benton	9,585	9,260	325	3.40
WA	Chelan	41,587	39,995	1,592	3.80
WA	Columbia	1,886	1,813	73	3.90
WA	Kitsap	120,406	115,415	4,991	4.10
WA	Walla Walla	29,935	28,719	1,216	4.10
WA	Spokane	254,779	243,971	10,808	4.20
WA	Douglas	21,606	20,683	923	4.30
WA	Island	34,757	33,251	1,506	4.30
WA	King	1,368,617	1,310,121	58,496	4.30
WA	Kittitas	21,305	20,395	910	4.30
WA	Skamania	5,840	5,589	251	4.30
WA	Garfield	818	782	36	4.40
WA	Okanogan	19,497	18,643	854	4.40
WA	Clallam	29,947	28,605	1,342	4.50
WA	Jefferson	11,745	11,219	526	4.50
WA	Snohomish	462,364	441,576	20,788	4.50
WA	Thurston	140,345	134,096	6,249	4.50
WA	Whatcom	110,956	105,988	4,968	4.50
WA	Klickitat	9,629	9,186	443	4.60
WA	Skagit	59,281	56,568	2,713	4.60
WA	Clark	251,521	239,717	11,804	4.70
WA	Pierce	487,570	463,507	24,063	4.90
WA	Franklin	46,496	44,194	2,302	5.00
WA	Cowlitz	46,315	43,927	2,388	5.20
WA	Mason	24,778	23,479	1,299	5.20
WA	Whitman	18,965	17,980	985	5.20
WA	Lincoln	3,877	3,673	204	5.30
WA	Stevens	18,298	17,335	963	5.30
WA	Pend Oreille	4,805	4,544	261	5.40
WA	Yakima	123,575	116,905	6,670	5.40
WA	Adams	10,243	9,677	566	5.50
WA	Lewis	32,605	30,794	1,811	5.60
WA	Pacific	7,878	7,439	439	5.60
WA	Grays Harbor	28,571	26,941	1,630	5.70
WA	Grant	46,286	43,598	2,688	5.80
WA	Ferry	2,334	2,178	156	6.70
WA	Wahkiakum	1,198	1,111	87	7.30

Business Leads

Project Completed or Permit Phase		New or Re-Activated Business Lead	Still Active Business Lead	Business Lead Cold or on Hold	Business Lead Closed
Date	Lead Source	Type of Business	Criteria	Benefits	Status
Sept-24	DOC	Project NLS Manufacturing	700 - 1,300 acres (ideal size is 1,000 acres); minimum 250MW; 3 million gal/day water; 1,500 dekatherm/hour	FTE: 1000+ Capital Investment: \$18+	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Sept-24	DOC	Project Condor Nuclear Manufacturing and Recycling	65-150+ acres, 57.5 MW by 2031, 164,560 gal/day, spur access to freight rail and/or year-round navigable barge waterway	FTE: 600 Capital Investment: \$1.53 billion	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Sept-24	DOC	Project Frontier Manufacturing	1-15 acres, 6-7 MW, 13 MCFH, 1500 gal/minute, adjacent to rail	FTE: 200	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Sept-24	DOC	Project Oribi	50+MW with capacity to scale to 100MW by 2025, 500,000+ square feet	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Sept-24	DOC	Project Radiance Solar	100,000 sq ft, 2.5 MW expand to 3 MW	FTE: 100 Capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Oct-24	DOC	Project Builtwell Modular Manufacturing	60 acre site near rail terminal, water supply	FTE: 16 Capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Oct-24	DOC	Project ASIC Mining	50,000 - 80,000 sq ft building	FTE: 60+ Capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Nov-24	DOC	Project Paddle Quest	40,000-45,000 sq ft building	FTE: 10 Capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Nov-24	DOC	Project Hydra International Beverage Manufacturing	1 million gal/day minimum, up to 4-5 million gal/day, 4.8MW minimum, 225,000 gal discharge/day minimum, 150,000 sq ft minimum	FTE / capital investment: unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Dec-24	DOC	Project Family Formula	25,000-50,000 sqft; 1-5 acres, high electricity and natural gas capacity, good ventilation	FTE: 20-50 Capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Dec-24	Private	Project Beverage Production	1 million gal/day minimum, 4.8 MW minimum, 11.5 acres minimum	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Jan-25	DOC	Project Twilight	200-300 MW; reginery site or adjacent to refinery		No sites meet preferred criteria.
Jan-25	DOC	Project Saline Clean Tech	30,000 square ft. manufacturing / warehouse space for lease; 1500 gallons / day, 300kW peak demand	FTE: 50. Capital investment: \$750,000	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Jan-25	DOC	Project Mjolnir Fusion Energy Facility	542M gallons/year; 50-75MW	FTE: 200 Capital Investment: \$637M	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Feb-25	DOC	Project Traction Manufacturing	200-250 acres, 30MW scalable to 100MW, existing rail access	FTE: 600-2200, with up to 1000 construction jobs. Capital Investment: \$500M	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Mar-25	DOC	Project Tectonix ICT / Advanced Manufacturing	150,000 sq ft including 100,000 sq ft clean room; 10,000KVA	FTE: 100	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Mar-25	DOC	Project Timberline	SAF Facility: 23 acres, 10MW; Methanol Facility: 6 acres, 4MW; proximity to biomass sources, ports, refineries	FTE: 25-55 Capital Investment: \$100-150M	No sites meet preferred criteria.
April-25	DOC	Project Horizon	80+ acres, 10-14MW with 55-60MW capacity at full buildout, 5M gallons / day, natural gas	FTE: 200	No sites meet preferred criteria.
May-25	DOC	Project Road Candy Asphalt Distribution Services	15-40 acres zoned heavy industrial with rail access, dual access for trucking, natural gas, potable water, electrical, and sewer	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
May-25	DOC	Project Tangerine Textile Recycling	5 acres minimum; prioritizing former pulp and paper mills from forest industry; 500,000 gallons/day; 400kWh/month	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
May-25	DOC	Project Elevate Sustainable Aviation Fuel Facility	220MW with minimum 70% renewable energy; minimum 288,000 gallons/day; 20-30 acres zoned industrial with proximity to rail and highways	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Aug-25	DOC	Project Powder Path Nutrition Food Expansion	50,000-100,000 square foot facility with temperature-sensitive capabilities, easy logistics access, and operational flexibility	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.

Whitman County Local Government Coalition

The Port of Whitman County, as Whitman County's Associate Development Organization (ADO), is hiring a state lobbyist and convening a Whitman County Local Government Coalition to support the legislative priorities of governments in Whitman County and the Port's county-wide Economic Development Plan.

Why is the Port convening a local government coalition?

- Many of Whitman County's towns and cities are resource-constrained and cannot pay for a lobbyist on their own, but desire to remain involved in the legislative process.
- Legislators cannot meet every funding request. Working together on collective priorities increases chances of success.
- Other ADOs, such as the Port of Walla Walla, have found collaborating on a regional legislative agenda extremely helpful in implementing their county-wide Economic Development Plan.

Why join the coalition?

- Access a state lobbyist at a lower cost than working with one independently.
- Collaborate with local governments on project funding strategies and support county-wide legislative priorities.
- Receive assistance with requesting appropriations from the state legislature.
- Remain updated on policy issues of interest for Whitman County.

What is the timeline for next steps?

- September: Port issues an RFP for state lobbying services contract.
- October: Finalize Whitman County Local Government Coalition.
- November: Coalition interviews and provides input on lobbyist selection for the 2026 legislative session. Coalition works with lobbyist to identify collective legislative priorities and agenda.
- January: State legislative session begins. Lobbyist will communicate with Coalition points of contact during the state legislative session.
- March: Washington State legislative session ends. Lobbyist will work with Coalition to identify future legislative strategies during the interim.



**Port of
Whitman
County**

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