



**Port of  
Whitman  
County**

# Whitman County Economic Development Informational Meeting (EDIM)

March 18, 2026  
11:45 am – 1:30 pm  
The Center  
110 S. Main St.  
Colfax, WA

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[www.portwhitman.com](http://www.portwhitman.com)

# Washington 9<sup>th</sup> District Legislative Session Recap



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Senator Mark Schoesler



Representative Mary Dye



Representative Joe Schmick

# Small Business Development Update



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**AMERICA'S SBDC WASHINGTON**

Washington SBDC & ADO Partnership  
County Activity & Impact Report

County: Whitman  
Quarter Total Date Range: 1.1.26...3.17.26  
Year to Date Range: 1.1.26...3.17.26

Data Elements	Quarter Total	Year to Date
<b>TOTAL CLIENTS</b>	14	14
Number of Clients Counseled	6	6
Number of New Clients		
<b>COMPANY STATUS</b>	2	2
Pre-venture/Nascent	5	5
Startups	7	7
In Business		
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	60	60
All Prep + Contact Client Hours	31	31
New Client Hours		
<b>TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS</b>	29,150	29,150
Capital Infusion	3	3
Number Businesses Created	8	8
Jobs Created	272,793	272,793
Change in Sales		
<b>ECONOMIC INDICATOR TOTALS</b>	40	40
Jobs Saved/Retained	357,705	357,705
Gross Revenue of Counseled Clients		
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS (# of Clients by Business Type)</b>	2	2
Accommodation and Food Services	1	1
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1	1
Arts and Entertainment	0	0
Construction	3	3
Educational Services	0	0
Finance and Insurance	0	0
Health care and Social Assistance	0	0
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2	2
Manufacturing	1	1
Professional/Technical Services	0	0
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	3	3
Retail	0	0
Service	1	1
Transportation and Warehousing	0	0
Wholesale		



**ASSESSING YOUR BUSINESS IDEA**  
*Your Roadmap to Business Success*  
**Thursday, March 19**  
**5:30-7:30 p.m.**



# Economic Profiling: Regional Job Growth



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Industry	One year change
<b>Total nonfarm</b>	<b>+ 80</b>
<b>All goods-producing sectors</b>	<b>+ 590</b>
Construction	+ 140
Manufacturing	+ 390
<b>All service-providing sectors</b>	<b>- 510</b>
Private education and health services	- 40
Leisure and hospitality	- 100
Government	- 520

[Data Source: WA Employment Security Department](#)

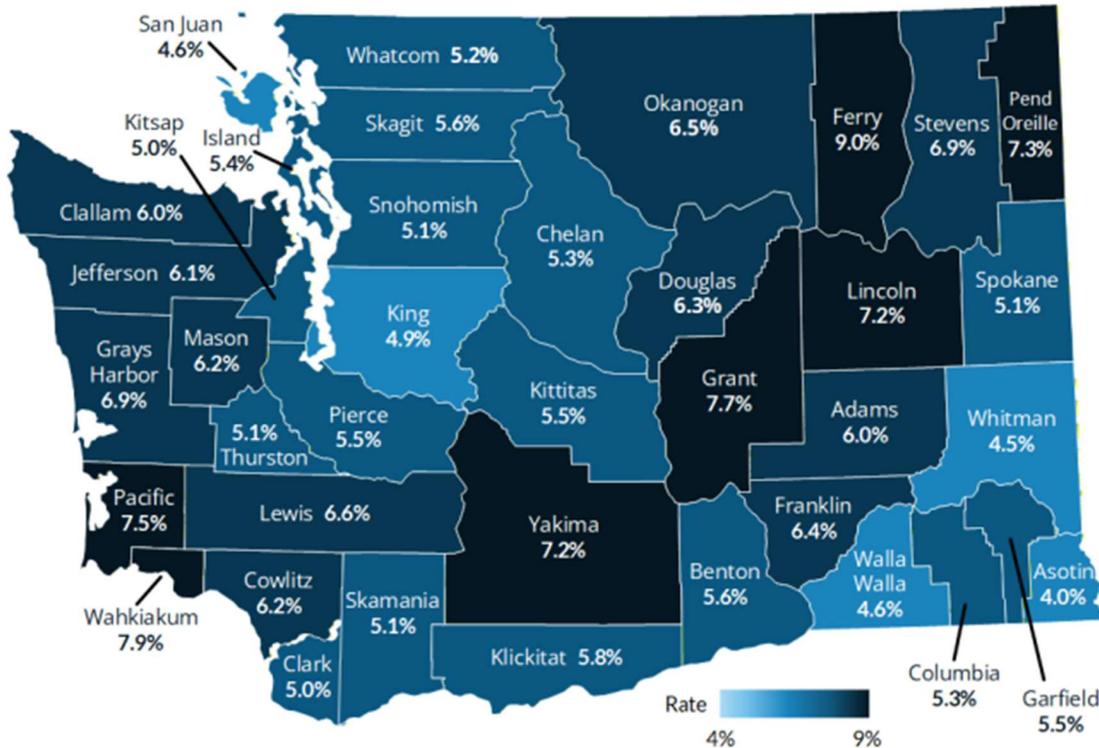
Data shown through December 2025

# Unemployment Rates



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December 2025 unemployment rate by county



**Statewide unemployment rate:**  
4.7% (December 2025)  
4.6% (November 2025)

**Countywide unemployment rate:**  
4.5% (December 2025)  
3.9% (November 2025)

Data Source: [WA Employment Security Department](#)

# Washington Department of Commerce Leads



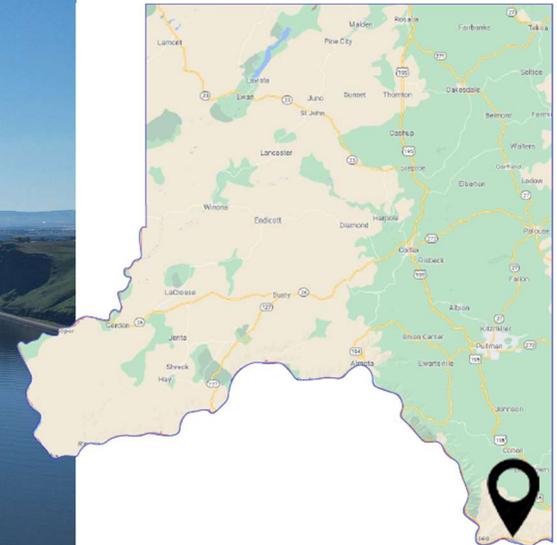
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DATE	TYPE OF BUSINESS	CRITERIA	BENEFITS	STATUS
September 2025	Manufacturing (Project NOVA)	250,000 square feet, 10-20 acres, 6M kWh power / year and 50,000 tons water / year	FTE: 100 Capital Investment: \$40-50 million	Site chosen by Department of Commerce to send to client. Client reviewing proposals.
December 2025	Construction technology (Project EquipmentShare)	5-8 acres industrial property with equipment rental / sales / service permitted use	FTE: 10-50 Capital Investment: \$3M+	Site submitted to client.

# Business Recruitment to Port of Wilma: AGPRO Marketing & Manufacturing, Inc.



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Port of Wilma



**AGPRO**





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# Washington Opportunity Zones

**April 1 - May 1, 2026:**

Designation application open

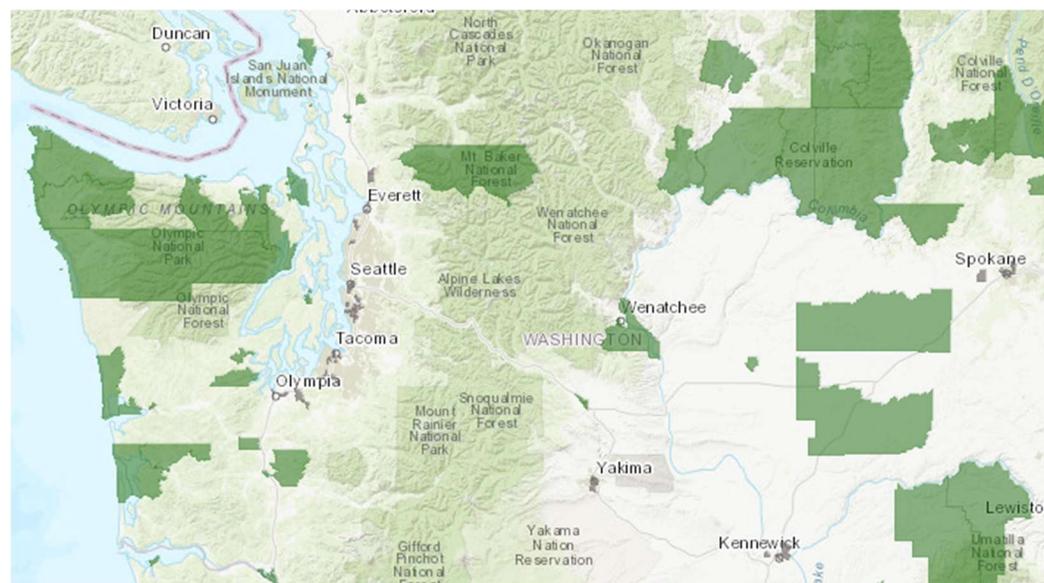
**May - June 2026:** Commerce

finalizes recommendations

**July 1, 2026:** Washington State

nominations to U.S. Treasury

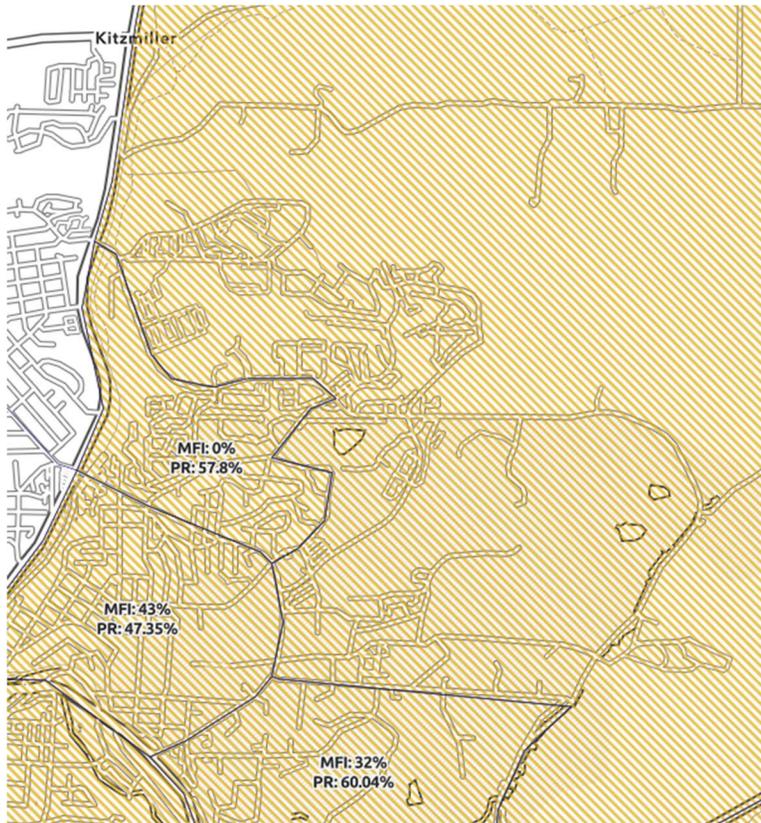
**January 1, 2027:** Opportunity  
Zones official; run through 2037



# Washington Opportunity Zones – Pullman



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# Washington Opportunity Zones – Tekoa



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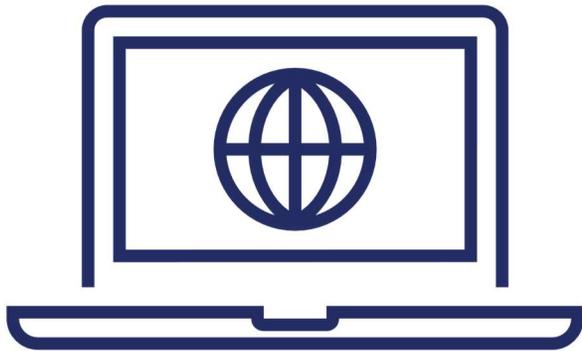




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## Local Government Website Accessibility

- Governments must meet website compliance guidelines by **April 26, 2027**.
- Learn more at the QR code below or visit the [MRSC link](#).



**Closing**

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**Email: [ado@portwhitman.com](mailto:ado@portwhitman.com)  
Next EDIM: May 13, 2026**



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