

# Unemployment rate down slightly, state numbers show

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The unemployment rate in Mason County shrank slightly in September, according to recently released numbers from the Washington State Employment Security Department.

The department reported an unemployment rate of 7.2 percent, which is slightly lower than the 7.4 percent reported for August. The county's unemployment statistics are not adjusted for seasonal factors such as climatic conditions, production cycles and holidays.

The unemployment rate is the lowest it has been since June – when the county reported a 7.3 percent rate.

The county still lags behind the rest of the state in available jobs.

Statewide, the unemployment rate sits at a non-seasonally adjusted 4.8 percent.

But Mason County remains comparatively competitive with other like-counties in the area.

Grays Harbor, 7.8 percent, Pacific, 7.2 percent, and Lewis, 7.1 percent, counties all reported similar unemployment trends to the state for September.

According to Jim Fleming, a regional labor economist for the Employment Security Department, the dip in the unemployment rate is a sign the economy is still recovering, but could rise within the coming months.

"I think the numbers are probably going to start getting flat and then we will see increases in the winter months," he said.

Still, the economy is doing whole percentage points better in Mason County for the month of September than in previous years.

The non-seasonally adjusted rate in Mason County for September 2014 was 8.1 percent; in September 2013 the rate was 9.3 percent.

"That is a pretty good turn-around,"



Auston Mayer fills out a job application outside the job fair hosted in the Mason Transit Authority building in downtown Shelton on June 10.

Journal photo by Brianna Loper



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to this year. The biggest loser in September year over year is the manufacturing sector, which lost 21.4 percent of its jobs in Mason County.



Manufacturing  
2010-2011  
Mason County