

WED jobs recovery remains strong

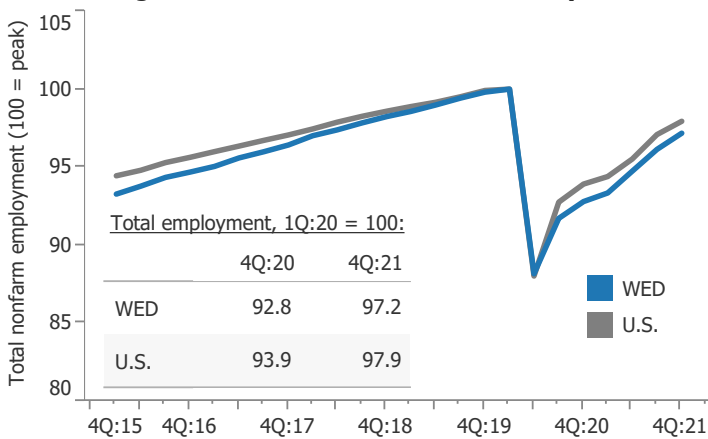
• **The Western District (WED) jobs recovery continued to expand in 4Q:21 but employment remained 2.8 percent below its pre-pandemic peak.** See Figure 1. Despite adding 443,000 jobs in 4Q:21, the district had 1.2 million fewer jobs than in its prior peak. Logistics jobs had solid growth, powered by the pandemic's increase in e-commerce that overwhelmed the district's ports with record import volumes. In contrast, reduced business and international leisure travel have kept hospitality employment below its prior peak in popular travel destinations.

• **All industries in the WED had over-the-year job growth in 2021 but most remained below their pre-pandemic peaks.** See Figure 2. The leisure & hospitality sector, hardest hit by the pandemic, regained the most jobs over the past year but remained the furthest below its prior peak. The trade & transportation sector fully recovered its pandemic job losses thanks to increased online shopping that buoyed demand for shipping services. Government sector employment is still well below its pre-pandemic peak and has recorded slow growth since the first quarter of 2020.

• **The mountain region includes some of the WED's best and worst performing states in jobs recovery.** See Figure 3. Nevada and Wyoming lagged the district largely due to weak gains in tourism and energy sector jobs. In contrast, Utah, Idaho, and Arizona have fully recovered jobs lost in 2020 mainly from a strong recovery in high-wage industries, such as tech and finance. High crop prices, boosted by strong foreign demand, helped farmers in Plains states overcome rising input prices in 2021.

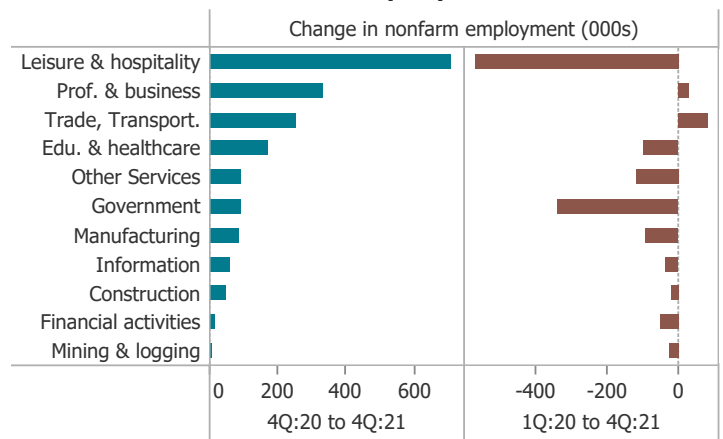
• **The worst performing WED metros are in coastal California and those dependent on tourism, energy, or higher education.** See Figure 4. California's largest metros, along with Las Vegas, lag the district due in part to a slow rebound in tourism. Golden State metros also have slow job growth from a cost-driven outmigration to less expensive inland cities. Job growth remains slow in metros reliant on college students (Manhattan) and energy (Farmington and Casper). Mountain metros with high-tech hubs (Boise and Salt Lake City) have attracted remote workers, lifting local employment.

Figure 1: WED employment continued to gain but trailed the national recovery



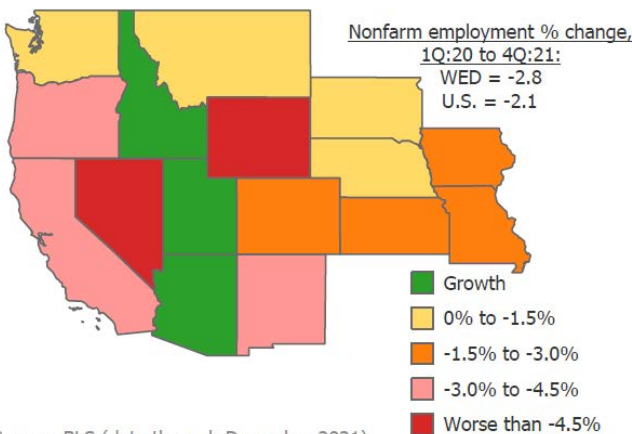
Source: BLS (data through December 2021)

Figure 2: All WED industries gained jobs over the past year but most remain below pre-pandemic levels



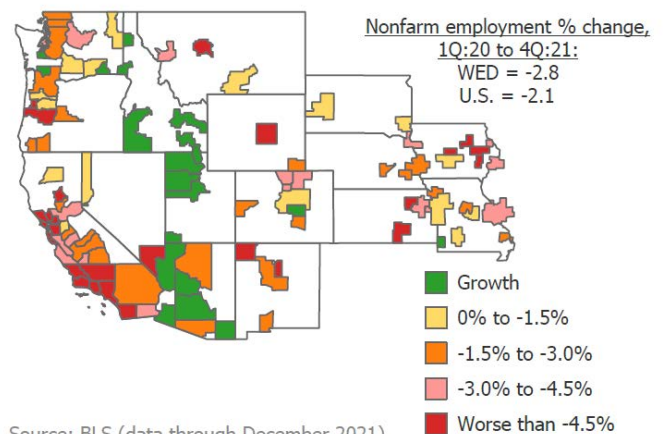
Source: BLS (data through December 2021)

Figure 3: Utah, Idaho, and Arizona have fully recovered the jobs lost in 2020



Source: BLS (data through December 2021)

Figure 4: Many of the the district's worst performing metros are in coastal states



Source: BLS (data through December 2021)