

# State of the state: Washington's labor market

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**Employment  
Security  
Department**  
WASHINGTON STATE

# Washington recovery continues

- Recovered all jobs lost during the recession, but . . . .
- Recession and recovery mixed across industries.
- Divergent recovery across the state.
- Demand for unemployment benefits and employment services remains.
- UI Trust Fund remains sound.

# Summary of key Washington labor-market indicators

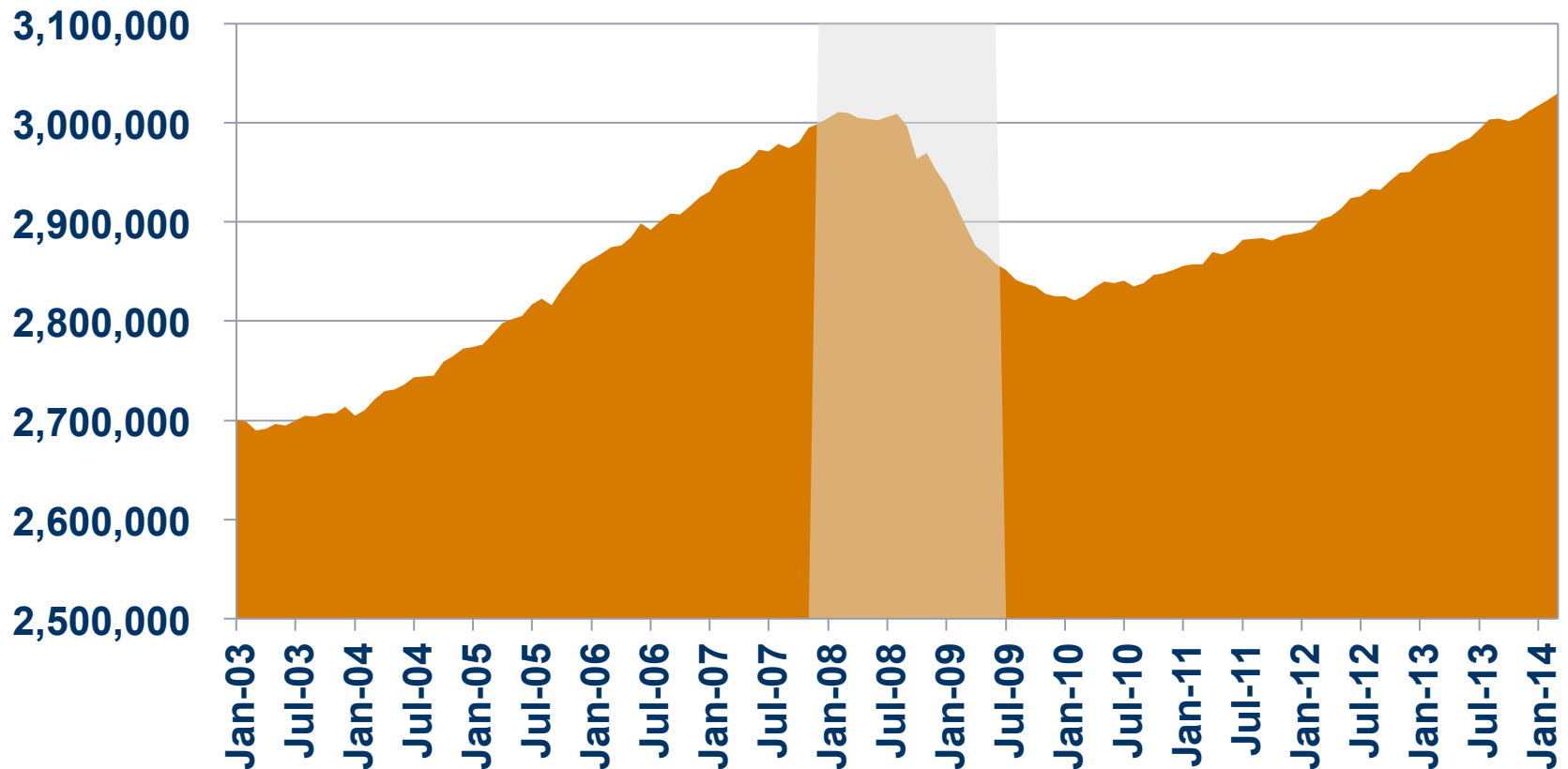
## Washington state

Total nonfarm employment, March 2014	3.02 million
Year-over-year new jobs added, March 2013 to March 2014	59,400
Unemployment rate, March 2014	6.3%
Employment rate, March 2014	59.3%
Total unemployment-insurance claimants, March 2014	93,661
Average weekly benefit, March 2014	\$386
Average weeks on regular and extended benefits, March 2014	21.6
Average monthly benefit exhaustions, March 2013 - March 2014	5,261
Trust fund balance, March 2014	\$2.9B, 13.7 mos.

Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA

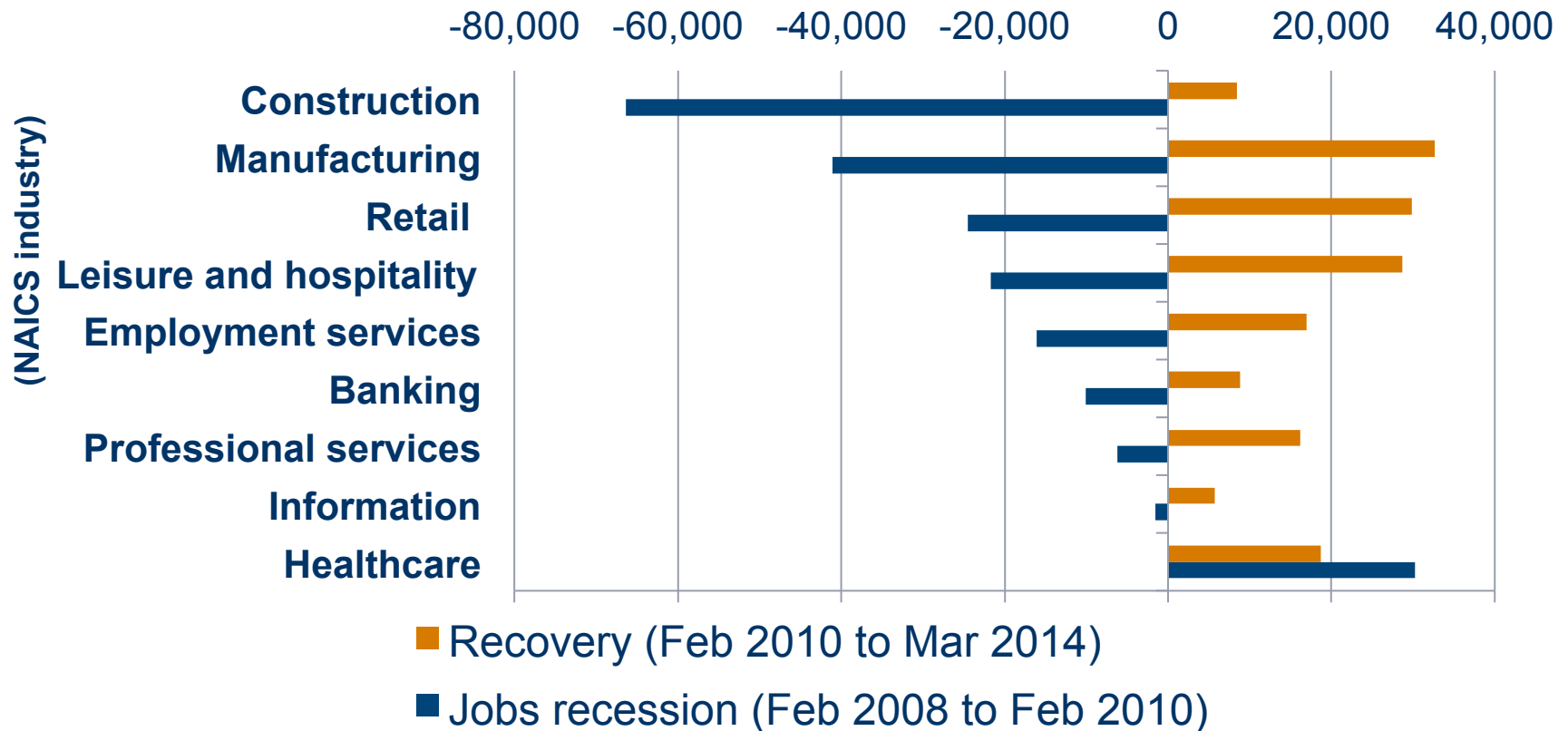
# Nonfarm employment in Washington

Currently up 19,000 from pre-recession peak



# Employment changes in Washington

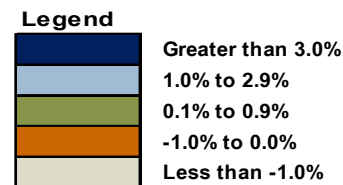
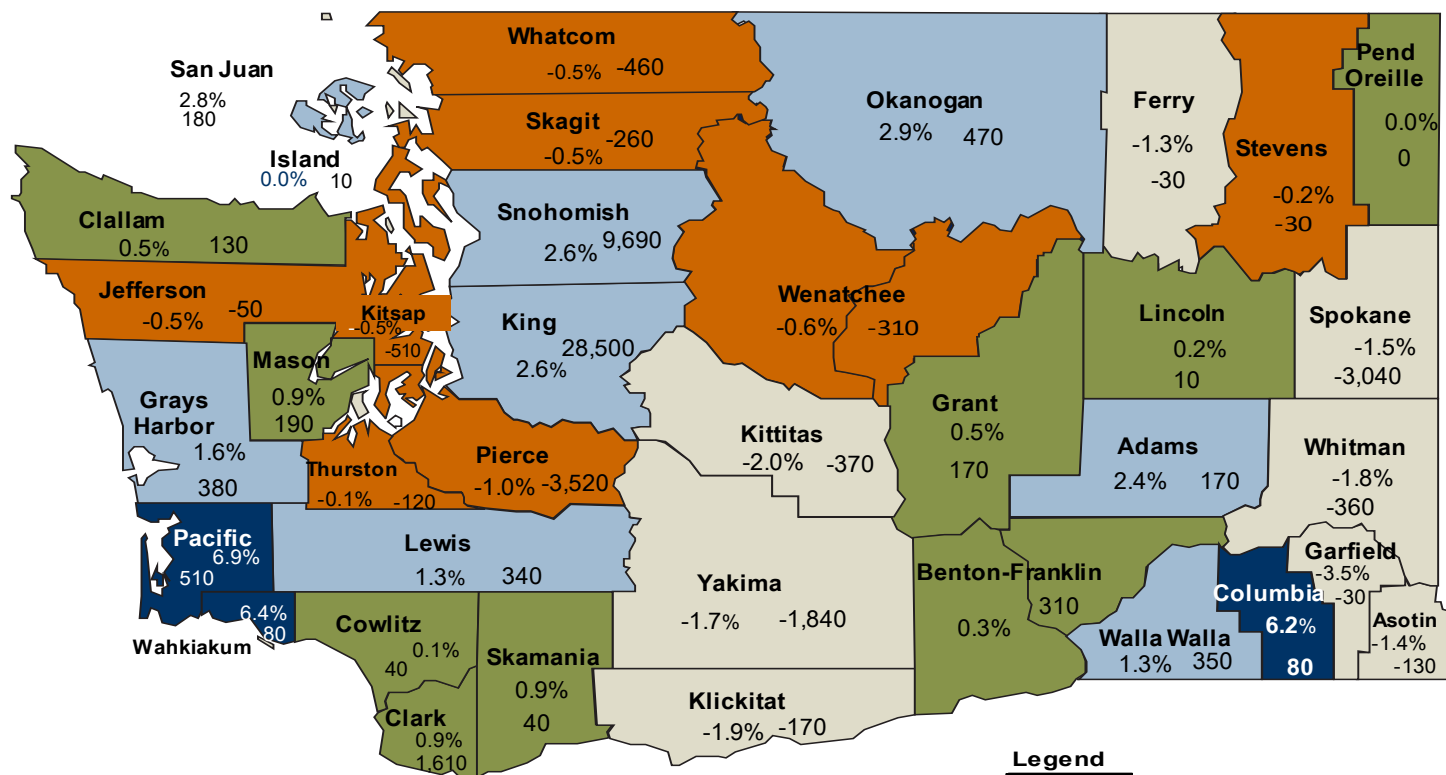
## Recovery mixed across industries



Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

# Job growth and decline across state

## March 2013 to March 2014

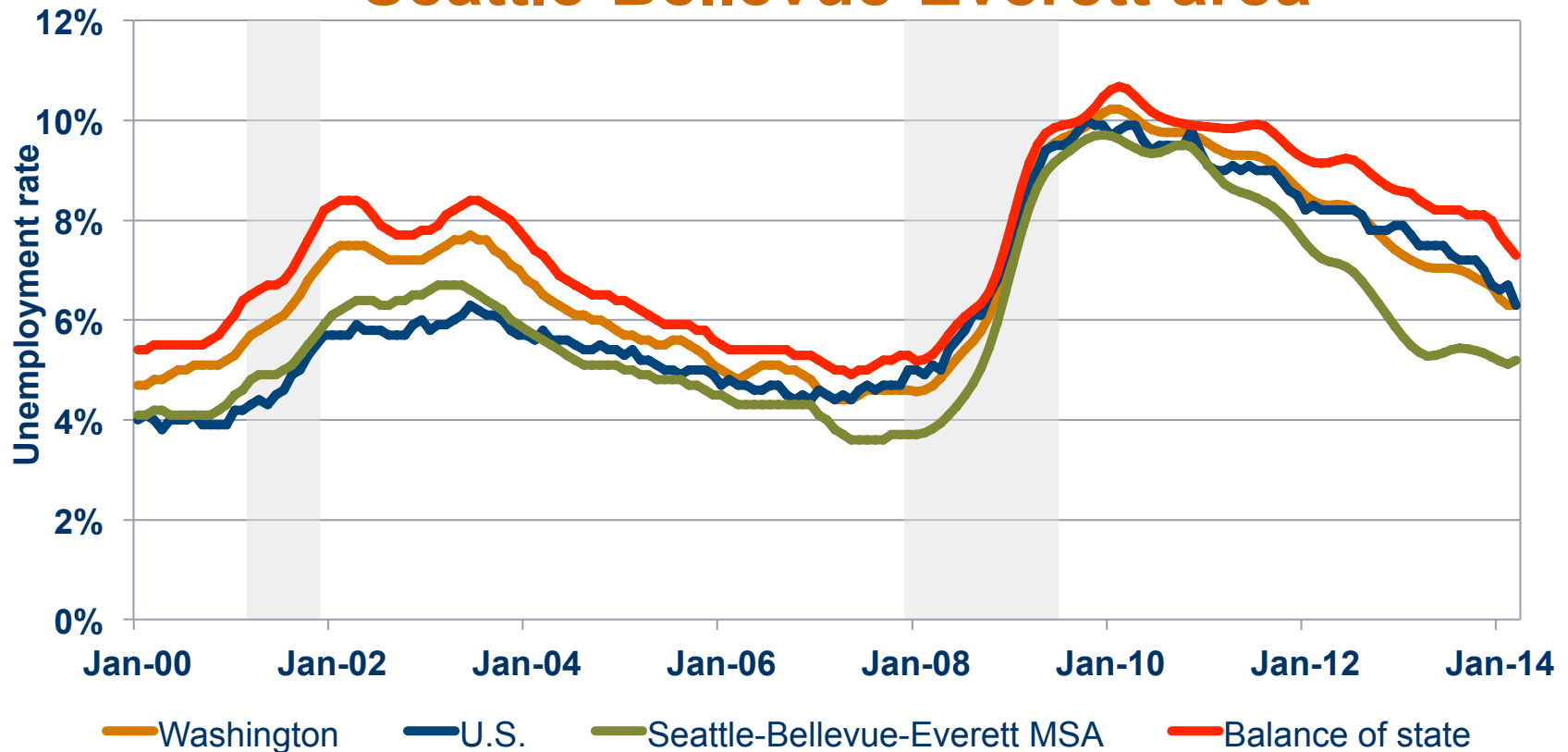


# Definitions

- **Labor force** ~ Ages 16 and up, working or actively seeking work.
- **Labor-force participation rate** ~ % of a specific population that is in the labor force.
- **Unemployment rate** ~ % of labor force that is unemployed and looking for work.
- **Employment rate** ~ % of people in a specific population that are working.

# Unemployment rates

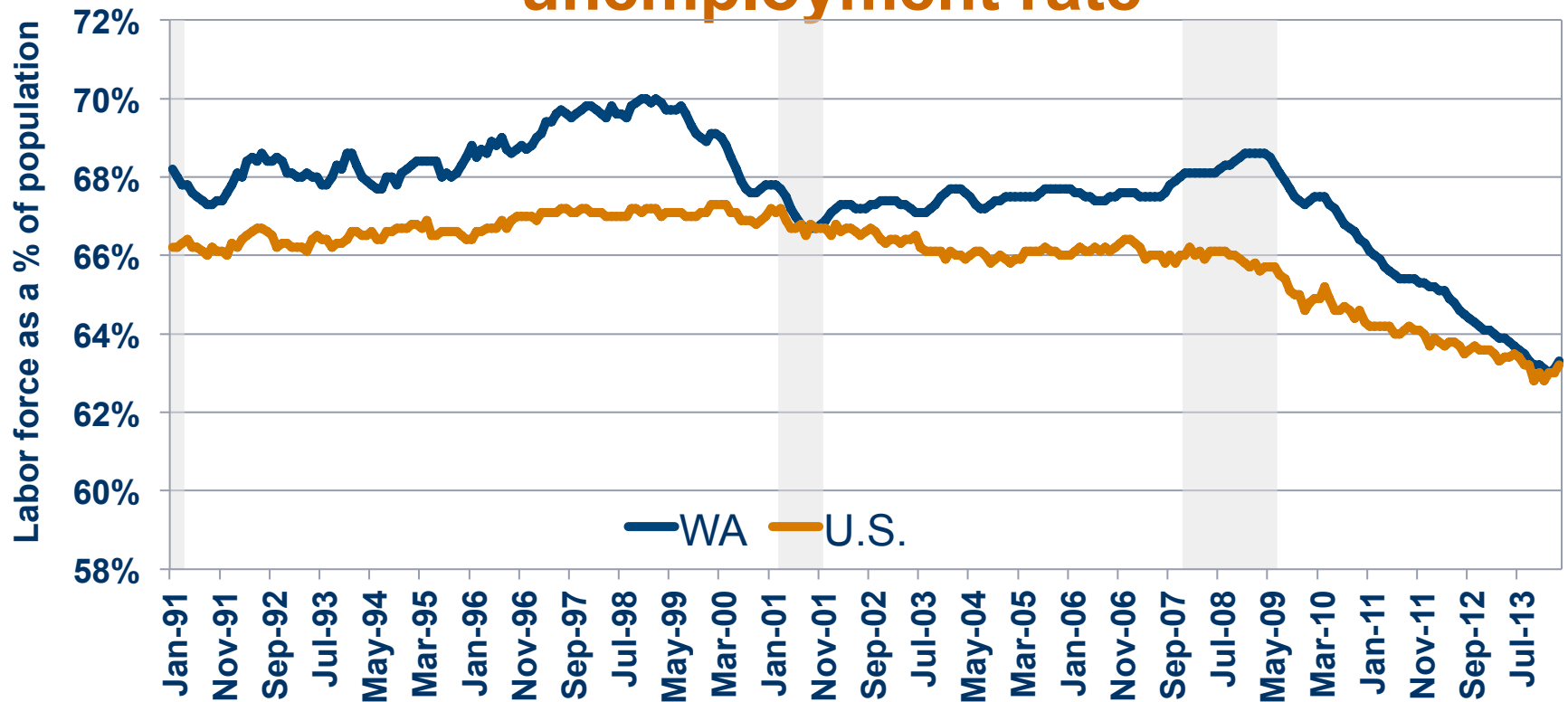
## Unemployment easing faster in Seattle-Bellevue-Everett area





# Labor-force participation rates

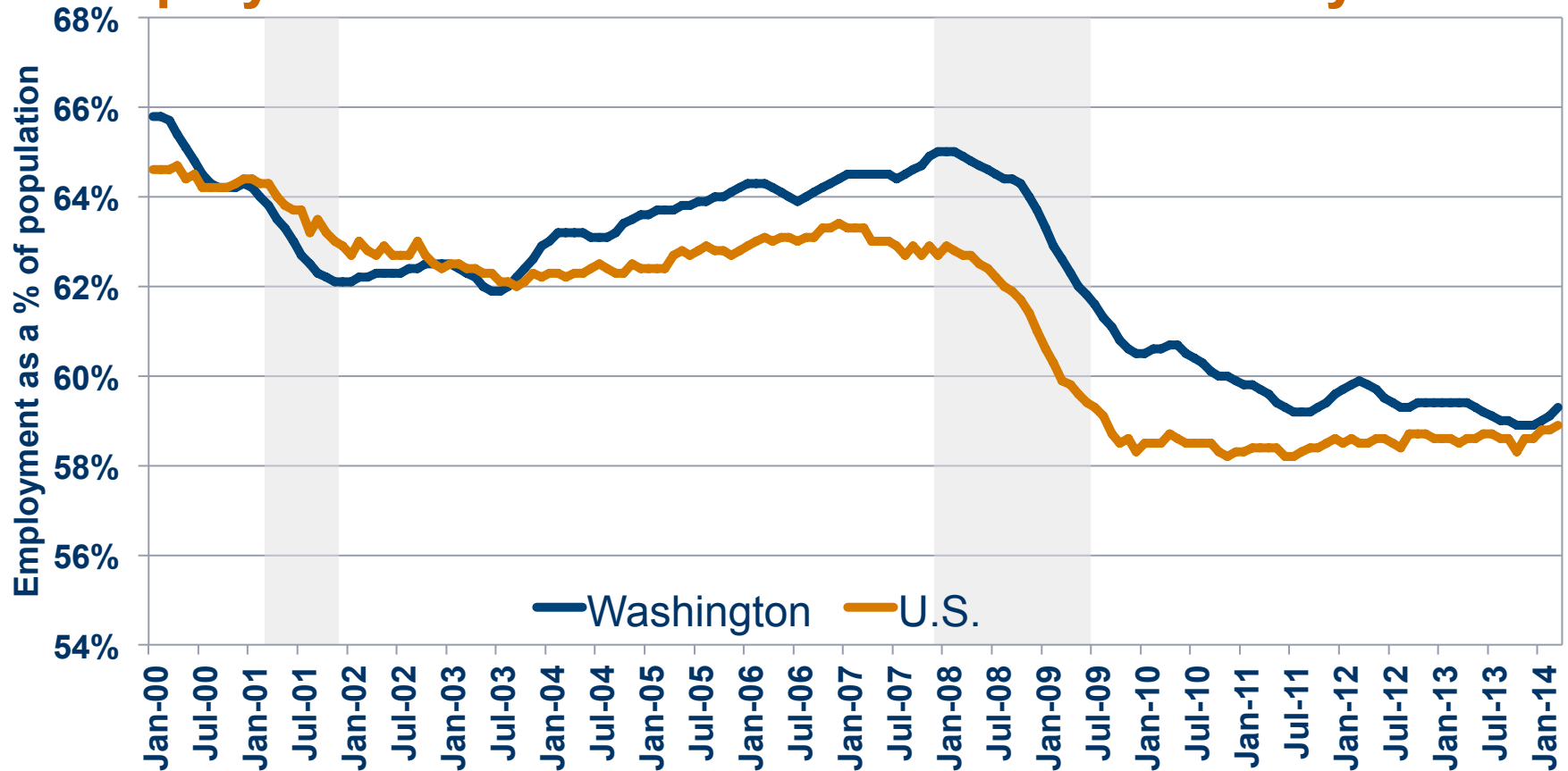
## One factor driving decline in unemployment rate



Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. U.S. recessions are shaded in gray.

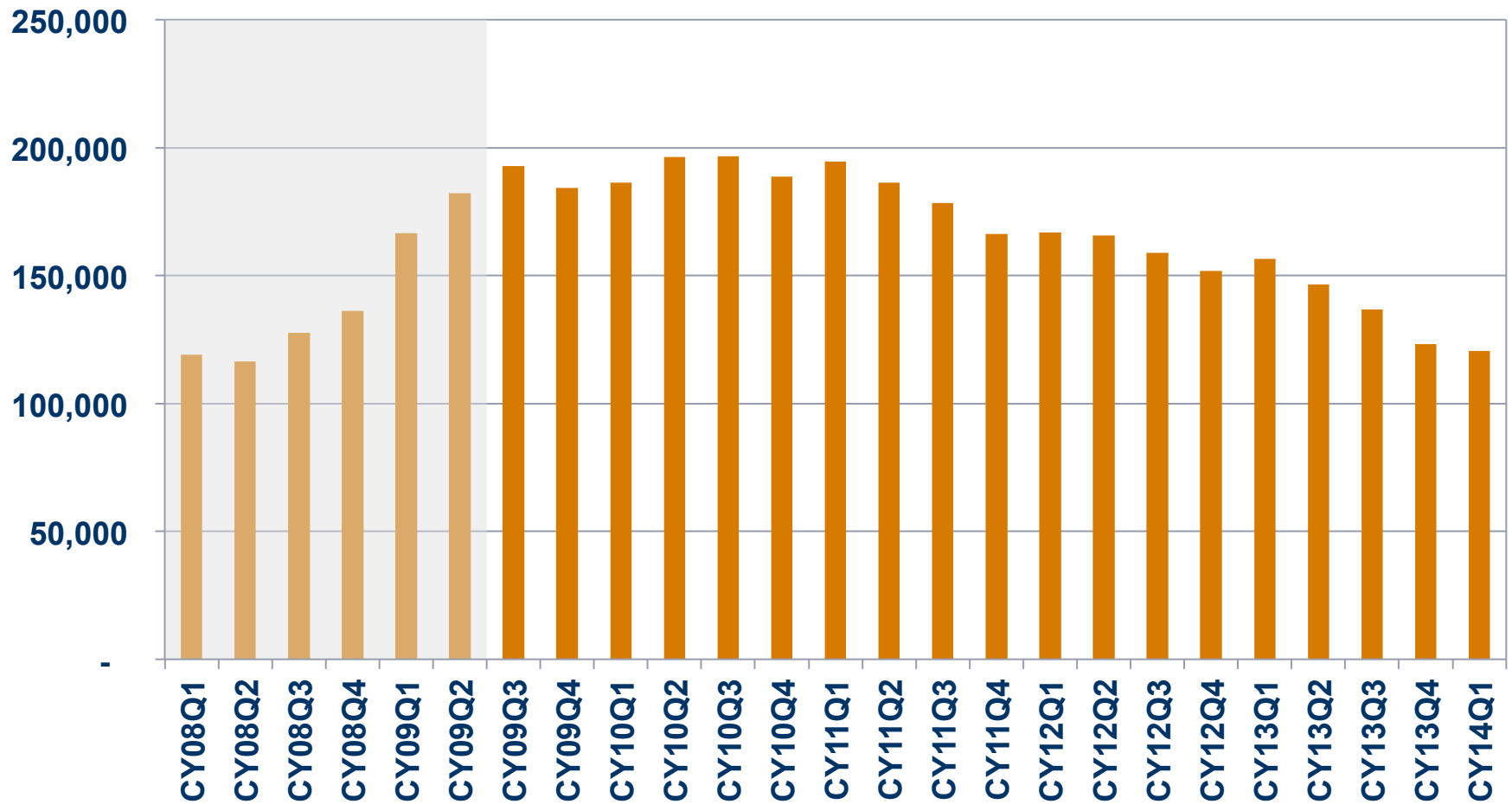
# Employment rates

## Employment rates have been flat since January 2009



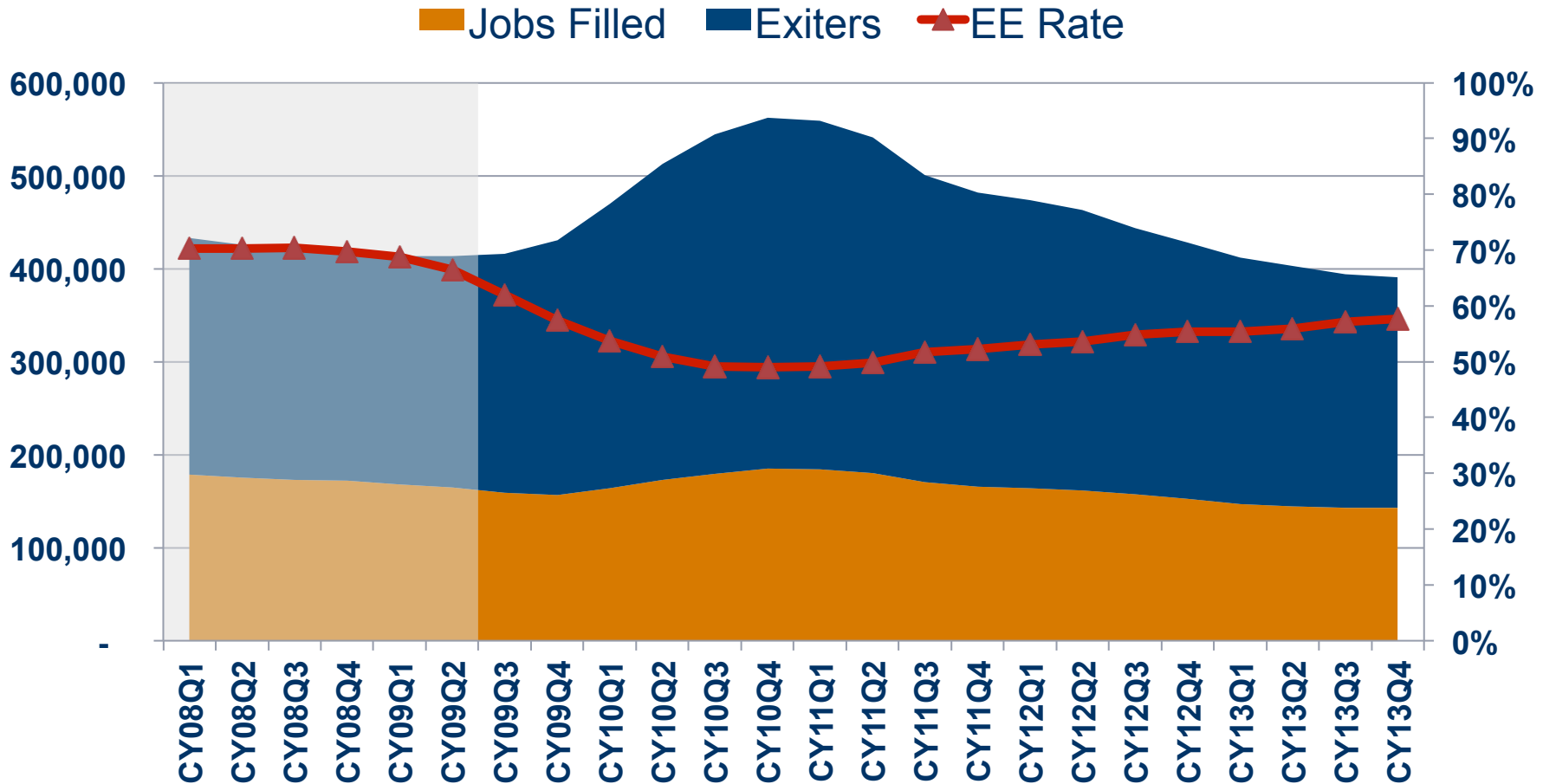
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. U.S. recessions are shaded in gray.

# WorkSource Customers



Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA, SKIES, Go2 and SSMS Data

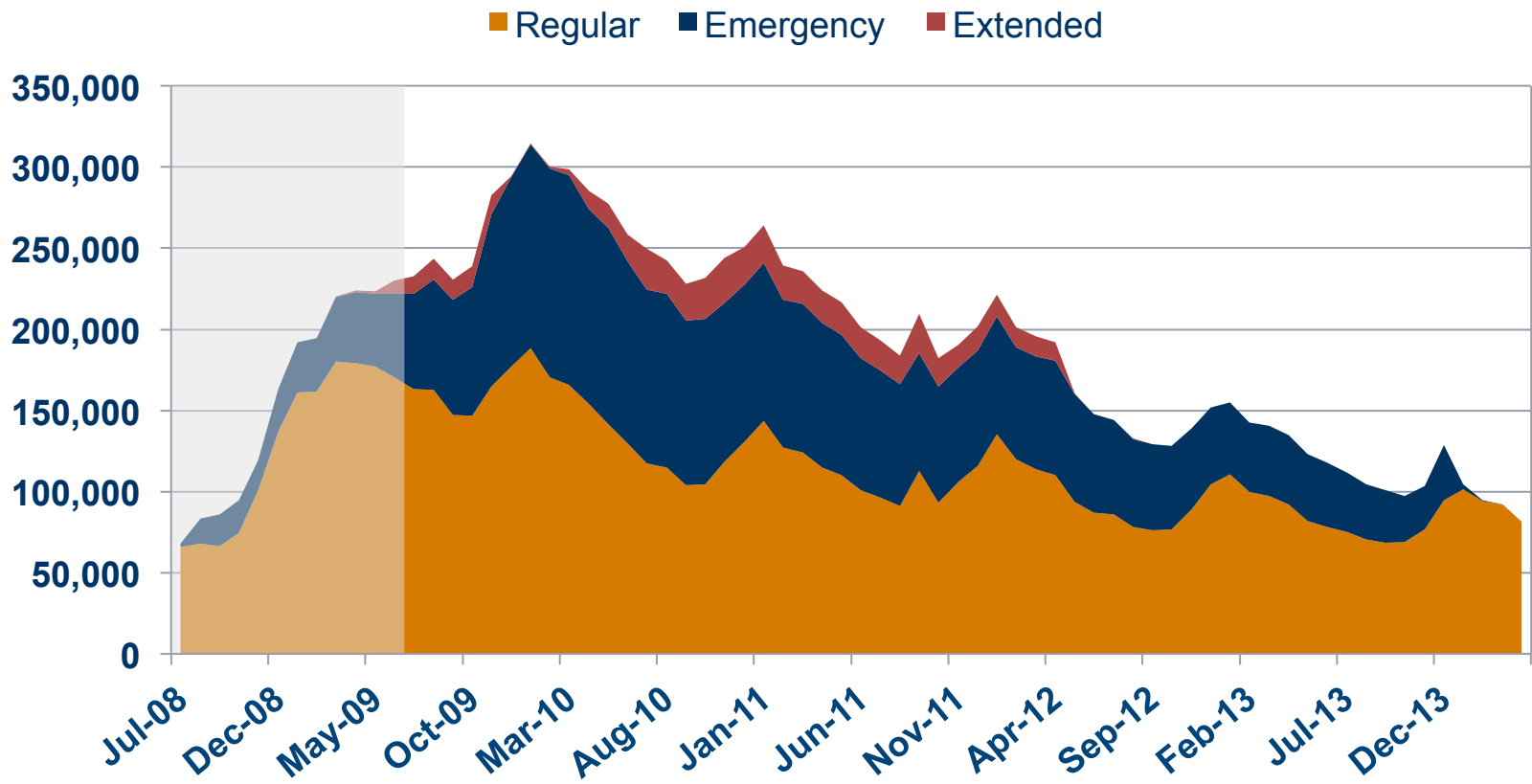
# Employment rates



Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA, DOL ETA 9002C

# Unemployment benefits

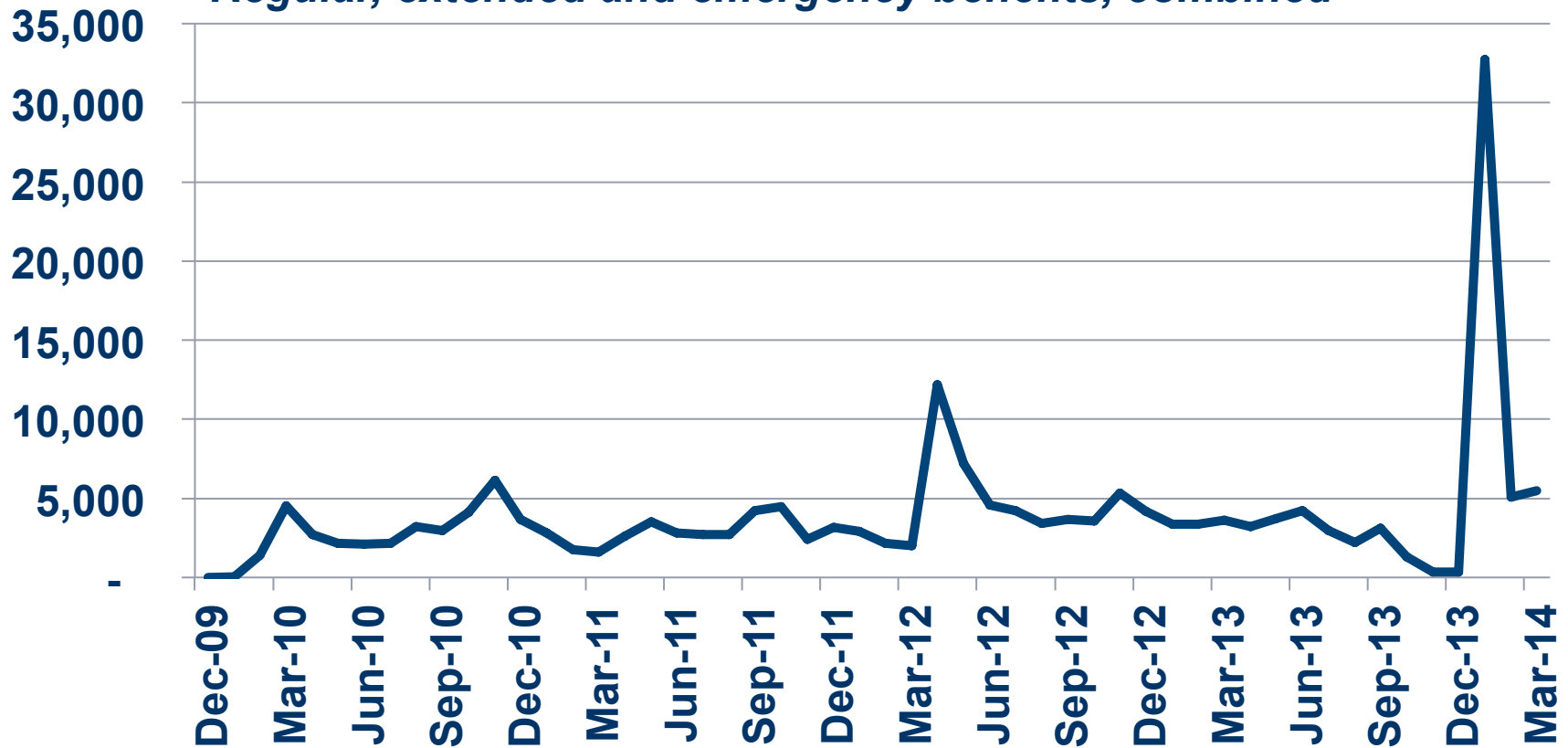
Recipients down 74% from peak



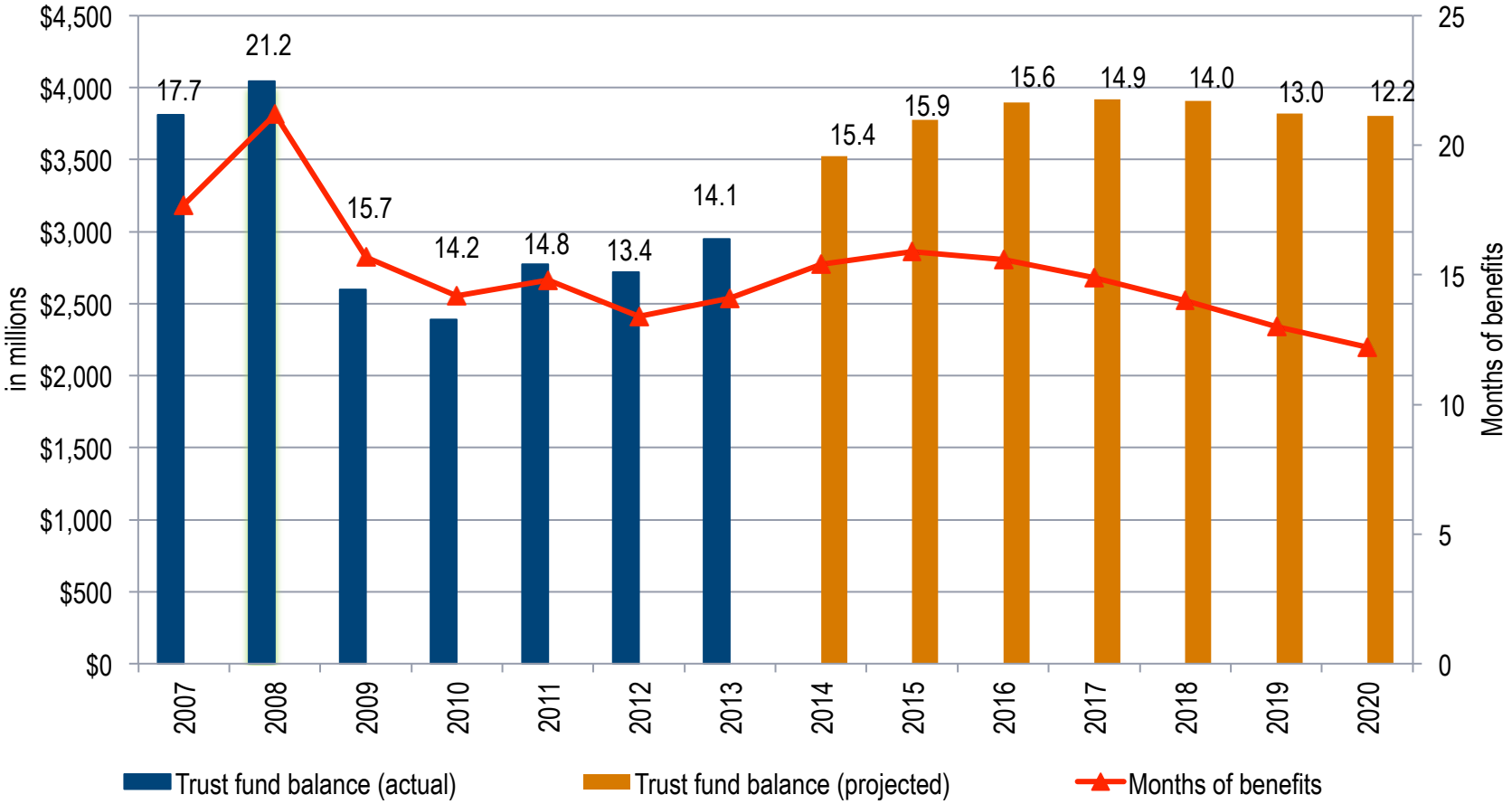
# Benefit exhaustions

## Federal extensions end – exhaustions spike

*Regular, extended and emergency benefits, combined*



# Washington state UI trust fund



# Recap—recovery continues

- Recovered 189,300 jobs lost during the recession.
- Recession and recovery mixed across industries.
- Divergent recovery across the state.
- Demand for unemployment benefits and employment services remains.
- UI Trust Fund remains sound.