

## Washington State Department of Labor and Industries Budget Fact Sheet

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What Department of Labor and Industries does:

- We are dedicated to the safety, health and security of Washington’s 3.2 million workers. Among many responsibilities, our agency:
  - Helps employers meet safety and health standards, and inspects workplaces when alerted to hazards.
  - Provides medical and limited wage-replacement coverage to workers who suffer job-related injuries and illness.
  - Ensures that workers are paid what they are owed, that children's and teens' work hours are limited, and that consumers are protected from unsound building practices through our rules and enforcement processes.
  - Serves customers in 20 offices throughout Washington with 2,700 skilled employees, including safety inspectors, claims specialists, nurses, researchers, accountants, labor experts and support staff.

2007-09 Operating Budget	\$616.2 million
2009-11 Maintenance Level	\$615.5 million
2009-11 Operating Budget	\$630.6 million

Reductions and actions we are taking:

- General Fund-State – Nine filled positions and one vacant position were eliminated. Four were contractor compliance officer positions in the Contractor Registration

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program and one was a nurse consultant in the Crime Victims Compensation program. The other five positions were eliminated from the headquarters office: two office assistants, a policy and budget resource manager, IT support and a human resource consultant.

- Electrical Fund-State – Due to the recession and decline in construction, revenues from electrical permits and licenses are declining. To keep spending in line with revenues, reductions include the elimination of 25 electrical inspectors, 11 temporary positions and six customer service specialists.

Programs and services we will continue to deliver:

- Department of Safety and Health – Helps employers and workers control or eliminate hazards that endanger health, livelihood or life.
- Industrial Insurance Program – Provides insurance coverage for more than 2.5 million employees working for 168,000+ employers. The premiums paid by employers and workers, in addition to investment earnings, finance the system. The department will also certify and monitor the performance of 400 self-insured companies that employ about 830,000 workers.
- Fraud prevention and compliance – Detection and tracking of businesses and workers that do not pay their fair share; conduct audits of employers and medical providers; collect monies due to L&I; and seek criminal prosecutions for the most egregious cases of fraud.
- Public safety protection – Register construction contractors and license electrical, elevator and telecommunications contractors; certify electricians and inspect electrical work; inspect elevators and factor-assembled structures; test and certify plumbers; and inspect boilers.
- Fair labor practices – Help employers comply with laws that protect wages and working conditions, and protect workers younger than 18; investigate complaints on wage issues; and administer the prevailing wage law.
- Apprenticeship – Serve as the administrative arm of the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council to promote apprenticeships, improve retention rates and establish new programs.
- Crime victim compensation – Help victims and their families recover from the emotional, physical and financial hardship of violent crime.

For more information, visit <http://www.lni.wa.gov/main/budget/default.asp#09-11> or contact:

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