

# BEYOND THE HEADLINES

At a Glance: Jobs, Workers & the Economy

Brought to you by Seattle Jobs Initiative



JUNE 2011

FOCUS: CITY OF SEATTLE

## Seattle Occupational Trends – During and Since the Great Recession

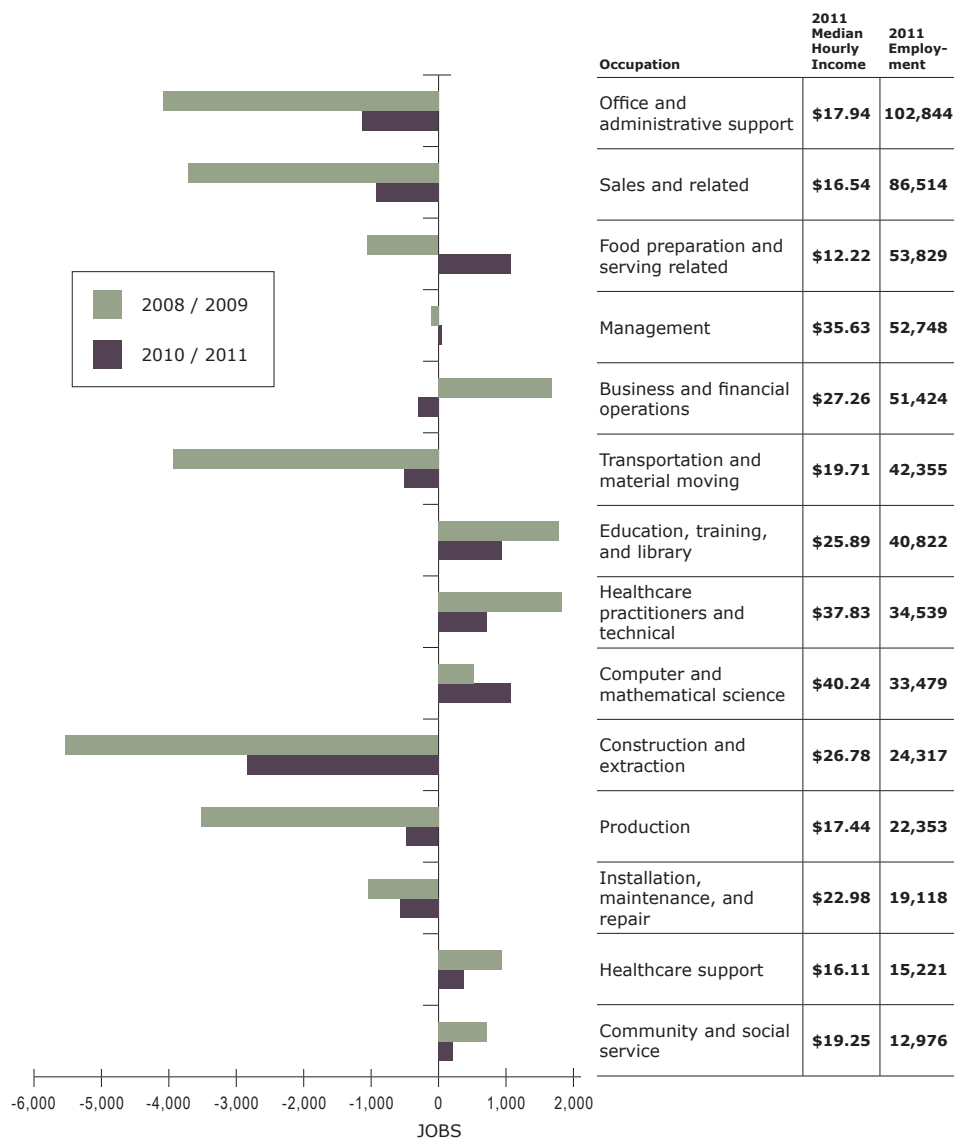
The City of Seattle has seen its overall employment picture improve steadily since peak unemployment in February 2010. Washington's Employment Security Department recently reported that the unemployment rate for the Seattle MSA (Seattle-Bellevue-Everett metro area) dropped in May 2011 to 8.6% from 8.7% the previous month (April 2011) and from 9.1% one year earlier (May 2010).

Seattle, like most areas, has a long way to go to recover the jobs it lost during the Great Recession (lasting from April 2008 to February 2010 in our area) with some occupations bouncing back faster than others. The graphic on the following page depicts how different occupational areas have fared in the City of Seattle both during the primary years of the recession (2008–2009) and in the time since (2010 and 2011–to-date).

Some interesting points portrayed in the graphic:

- **Education, Healthcare, IT (Computer) and Community services occupations grew both during and subsequent to the recession;**
- **The two largest occupational areas in Seattle – Office/Administrative and Sales – have hemorrhaged jobs during the entire time period. Other occupational areas to experience continuous job loss are Transportation, Construction, Production, and Installation/Maintenance;**
- **Higher-skill/higher-wage occupational areas in Seattle were generally the least affected by the recession, with middle-wage and lower-wage occupations experiencing greater job loss and less of a rebound, if any.**

## Seattle Occupational Trends & Wages, 2007 - 2011



Source for data: EMSI – not all occupational categories shown.

### **BEYOND THE HEADLINES:** Policy & Labor Market Updates for Those Working to Help Low-Income and Low-Skill Individuals Advance through Education, Training & Living-Wage Jobs

#### **About Seattle Jobs Initiative**

Seattle Jobs Initiative creates opportunities for students, workers and business to succeed by helping education and job training programs meet the demands of a new economy. We find and apply solutions for people to gain the skills they need for good jobs that create prosperity for all in today's marketplace.

**Supported by the City of Seattle Office of Economic Development**

#### **Contact Information**

For questions or suggestions, please email David Kaz, SJI Director of Policy and Development at: [dkaz@seattlejobsinit.com](mailto:dkaz@seattlejobsinit.com)

