



Grant County Labor Area Summary July 2014

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Overview

This report provides an update on the Grant County economy incorporating current, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year-over-year (between July 2013 and July 2014) and annual average (between 2012 and 2013) changes in the labor market.

Unemployment rates

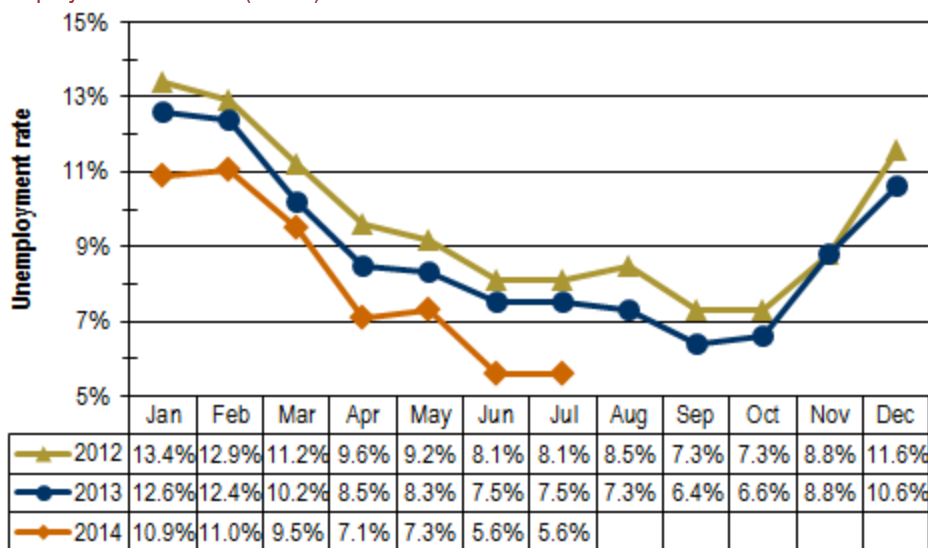
Washington state's average annual not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one and one-tenths percentage points between 2012 and 2013, from 8.1 percent to 7.0 percent. Between the Julys of 2013 and 2014 the rate decreased from 6.8 to 5.4 percent, a one and four-tenths percentage points decline.

In Grant County, the average annual unemployment rate decreased eight-tenths of a percentage point between 2012 and 2013, from 9.6 to 8.8 percent. It decreased one and nine-tenths percentage points this July to 5.6 percent from the 7.5 percent reading in July 2013 (as shown in *Figure 1*). The last time a July unemployment rate was this low in Grant County was six years ago (in July 2008) when the unemployment rate was 5.3 percent.

Figure 1. Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted

Grant County, January 2012 through July 2014

Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



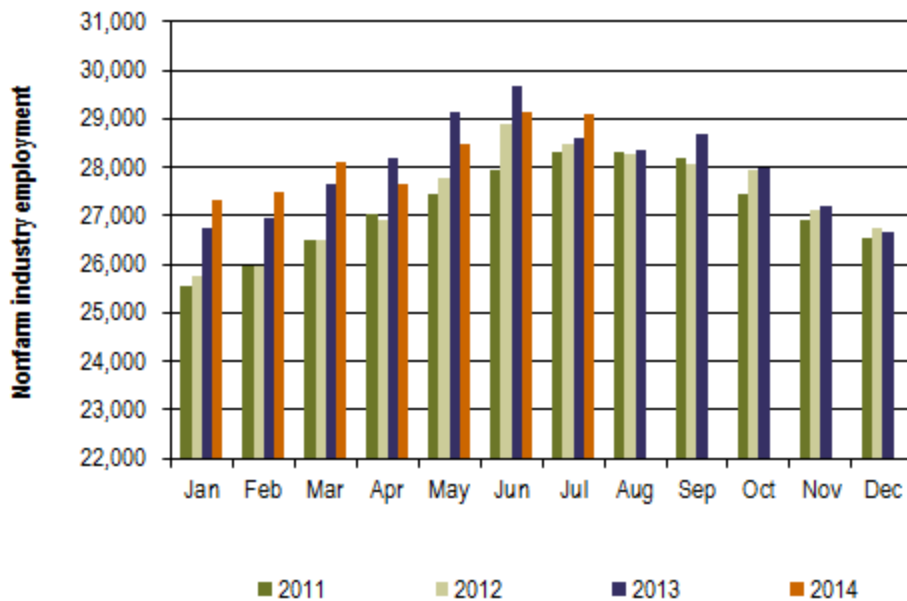
The Grant County unemployment rate decreased one and nine-tenths percentage points between July 2013 and July 2014.

Total nonfarm employment

Between 2012 and 2013, Washington's labor market provided 68,500 new nonfarm jobs, an average annual increase of 2.3 percent. This July, businesses and government organizations across Washington supplied 3,093,600 nonfarm jobs July (not seasonally adjusted), compared to 3,000,400 jobs in July 2013, a 3.1 percent year-over-year employment increase. The state's economy has posted nonfarm employment increases for the past 46 consecutive months (October 2010 through July 2014).

Between 2012 and 2013, Grant County's labor market provided 620 new nonfarm jobs, an average annual increase of 2.3 percent. Hence the local economy added nonfarm jobs at the same pace as Washington state last year. This July, nonfarm employment increased 1.8 percent since July 2013, a step in the right direction for Grant County following year over year losses in April, May and June 2014. Local nonfarm employers provided 29,110 jobs in July 2014, a 520 job increase from the 28,590 jobs tallied in July 2013.

Figure 2. Nonfarm industry employment
Grant County, January 2011 through July 2014
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA



Nonfarm employers in Grant County provided 29,110 nonfarm jobs in July 2014, a 1.8 percent upturn from July 2013.

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) shrank by 23,600 residents (a 0.7 percent downturn) between 2012 and 2013. However, from July 2013 to July 2014, the state's labor force increased 0.3 percent. This July, Washington's CLF tallied 3,496,080 residents versus 3,484,590 in July 2013, equating to 11,490 more Washingtonians in the labor force.

The Grant County CLF expanded by 0.5 percent in 2013, but posted year over year losses in the first six months of 2014. However, between the Julys of 2013 and 2014 the CLF increased from 45,130 to 45,840, respectively. In effect, 710 more residents were in the local labor force this July than in July 2013. One of the factors pulling workers back into the workforce in July 2014 was likely this year's large cherry crop – with the corresponding increased need for agricultural labor. Also, 2,550 residents were unemployed in July 2014, 850 fewer than in July 2013 when 3,400 residents were out of work. This combination of labor force growth and fewer unemployed between the Julys of 2013 and 2014 resulted in the decline of the County's unemployment rate 7.5 to 5.6 percent during this timeframe (as shown in *Figure 3*).

Figure 3. Labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted
 Grant County, July 2014
 Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA

Grant County	Preliminary Jul-14	Revised Jun-14	Revised Jul-13	Change		
				Jun-14	Jul-13	Jul-13
				Jul-14	Jul-14	Jul-14 %
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	45,840	43,870	45,130	1,970	710	1.6%
Resident employment	43,290	41,410	41,730	1,880	1,560	3.7%
Unemployment	2,550	2,460	3,400	90	-850	-25.0%
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.6	7.5	0.0	-1.9	
Industry employment						
Total nonfarm ¹	29,110	29,150	28,590	-40	520	1.8%
Total private	20,540	20,350	20,790	190	-250	-1.2%
Goods producing	6,610	6,470	6,230	140	380	6.1%
Mining, logging and construction	1,320	1,300	1,200	20	120	10.0%
Manufacturing	5,290	5,170	5,030	120	260	5.2%
Durable goods	2,220	2,220	1,940	0	280	14.4%
Nondurable goods	3,070	2,950	3,090	120	-20	-0.6%
Service providing	22,500	22,680	22,360	-180	140	0.6%
Trade, transportation and utilities	5,760	5,760	5,700	0	60	1.1%
Wholesale trade	1,650	1,670	1,450	-20	200	13.8%
Retail trade	3,160	3,140	3,300	20	-140	-4.2%
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	950	950	950	0	0	0.0%
Information and financial activities	1,170	1,170	1,310	0	-140	-10.7%
Professional and business services	1,670	1,640	1,490	30	180	12.1%
Education and health services	2,820	2,830	2,820	-10	0	0.0%
Leisure and hospitality	2,360	2,330	2,650	30	-290	-10.9%
Government	8,080	8,300	8,010	-220	70	0.9%
Federal government	730	710	740	20	-10	-1.4%
State and local government	7,350	7,590	7,270	-240	80	1.1%
State and local government education	3,140	3,440	3,030	-300	110	3.6%
Workers in labor/management disputes	0	0	0	0	0	
¹ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding.						

Nonfarm employment in Grant County increased 1.8 percent, a gain of 520 jobs, between July 2013 and July 2014.

Nonfarm industry employment

Preliminary estimates (see *Figure 3*) illustrate that Grant County’s nonfarm employers totaled 520 more jobs in July 2014 than in July 2013, a 1.8 percent upturn. Following is a summary of these recent over-the-year changes by industry:

- Most jobs in the combined “mining, logging and construction” category in Grant County are in construction and this industry averaged 60 fewer jobs in 2013 than in 2012, a 5.0 percent

contraction. However, Grant County's construction employment increased by 10.0 percent, up 120 jobs, between the Julys of 2013 and 2014. Statewide, construction has been adding workers for the past 29 months (from March 2012 through July 2014).

- Grant County's manufacturing industry has been growing for the past nine months (from September 2013 through July 2014). This industry increased 5.2 percent between the Julys of 2013 and 2014, from 5,030 to 5,290, a 260 job expansion. All of the year-over-year growth was in durable goods manufacturing (*see Figure 3*). Statewide, manufacturing employment slipped 0.1 percent between the Julys of 2013 and 2014. Prior to July 2014, manufacturing had expanded for 45 months (from October 2010 through June 2014) across the state. Let's hope Washington's manufacturing job growth regains some momentum next month.
- Wholesale trade accounted for 1,450 jobs in July 2013 versus 1,650 in July 2014, a 13.8 percent increase and a gain of 200 jobs.
- Retail trade stores provided 3,300 jobs in July 2013 versus 3,160 in July 2014, a 4.2 percent decrease and a loss of 140 part- or full-time jobs.
- Information and financial activities contracted from 1,310 positions in July 2013 to 1,170 in July 2014, a 140 job and 10.7 percent downtrend. Grant County's information and financial activities industry has contracted for the past seven months (from January through July 2014). Conversely, Washington's information and financial activities industry has been expanding for 42 months (from February 2011 through July 2014).
- Professional and business services rose by 180 jobs, a 12.1 percent increase, between the Julys of 2013 and 2014. On an annual average basis this category increased from 1,250 in 2012 to 1,310 in 2013, a 60 job and 4.8 percent increase. Professional and business services is a broad category that includes legal offices, accounting and tax preparation firms, private security companies, temporary job placement agencies, etc. It should be noted that temporary placement agency positions are tallied under this broad professional and business services category in Grant County, regardless of the industry in which work is performed.
- Leisure and hospitality (primarily hotels and restaurants) posted year-over-year losses for the last four months (April through July 2014). Specifically, between the Julys of 2013 and 2014, this industry shed 290 jobs countywide, a 10.9 percent contraction. One of the reasons for the softness in Grant County's leisure and hospitality industry this summer is likely that the damaged Wanapum Dam and the subsequent closure of the reservoir shoreline in March 2014 are reducing the number of vacationers. Conversely, Washington's leisure and hospitality industry has grown for 46 months (from October 2010 through July 2014).

Agricultural employment/production

According to the 2012 Agricultural Census produced by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Grant County registered the highest volume of agricultural sales (\$1.7 billion) in all of Washington's 39 counties. Crop and livestock sales in the County were \$1.1 billion in 2007, the last year in which NASS released county-level sales data. A July 9, 2014 Columbia Basin Herald article entitled Grant County Leads Washington State in Agricultural Sales reported: "The increase between the 2007 and 2012 census was enough to bump Grant County up one spot on the state's list of top agricultural sellers. In 2007, Grant County had the No. 2 spot on the list, coming in after Yakima County which recorded \$1.2 billion in agricultural sales that year." Yakima County came in a close-second to Grant County during 2012, tallying \$1.6 billion in sales.