



Grant County

Labor Area Summary

April 2013

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Overview

This report provides current updates on the Grant County economy. It incorporates the most recent, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year-over-year changes (between April 2012 and April 2013) in unemployment and on year-over-year employment trends in major industries in Grant County.

Unemployment rates

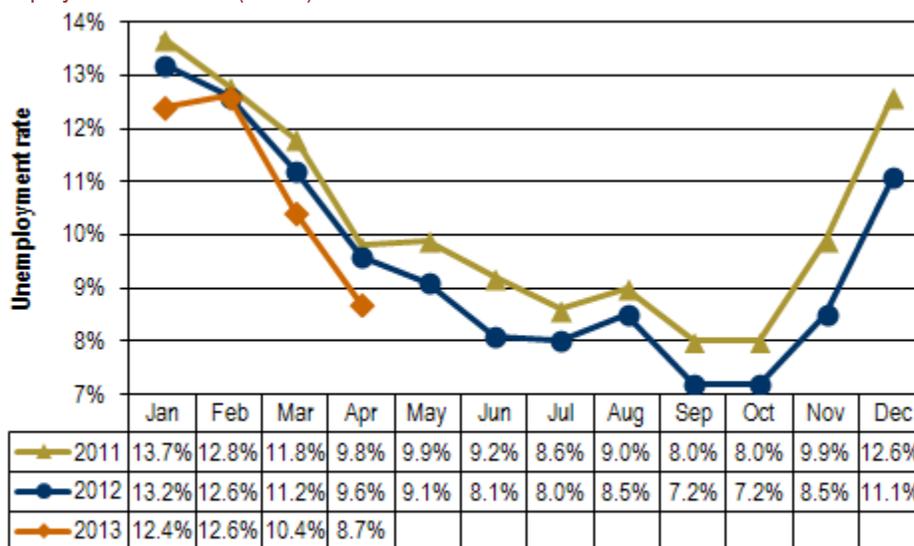
Washington state's annual average unemployment rate decreased one full percentage point between 2011 and 2012, from 9.2 percent to 8.2 percent. Between the Aprils of 2012 and 2013 the statewide rate fell from 8.0 to 6.5 percent, a one and five-tenths percentage point drop.

The April 2013 unemployment rate of 8.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in Grant County decreased nine-tenths of a percentage point from the 9.6-percent reading in April 2012. This April was the 31st consecutive month of year-over-year decreases, or of no change, in the monthly unemployment rate (i.e. from October 2010 to April 2013).

Figure 1. Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted

Grant County, January 2011 through April 2013

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



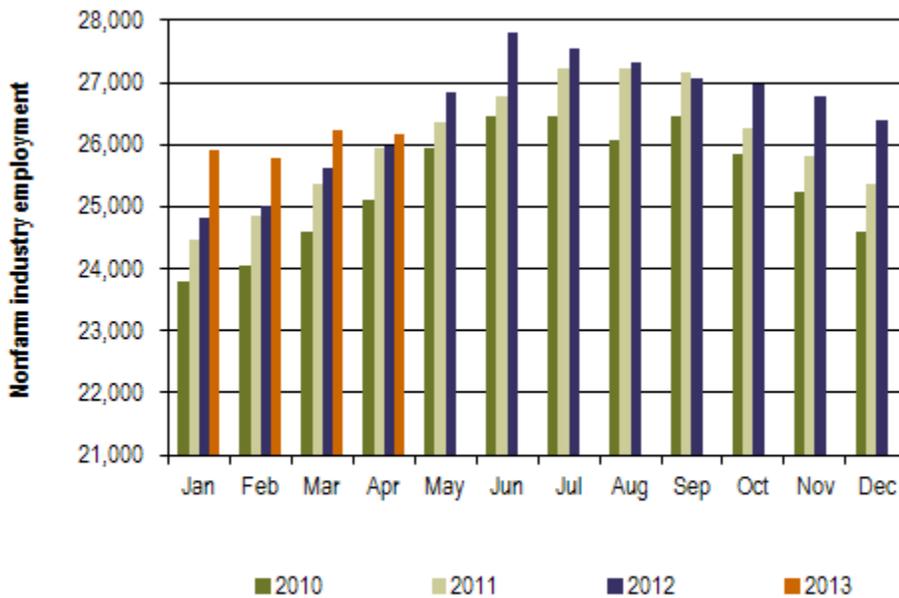
The Grant County unemployment rate declined nine-tenths of a percentage point between April 2012 and April 2013.

Total nonfarm employment

Businesses and government organizations across Washington supplied 2,918,000 nonfarm jobs this April (not seasonally adjusted), compared to 2,850,800 jobs in April 2012. This equated to a 2.4 percent over-the-year statewide employment increase. Washington's labor market has been growing for 31 months (from October 2010 through April 2013).

Grant County's economy has posted year-over-year job growth since September 2010 (except for a downturn between the Septembers of 2011 and 2012). In April 2013, local nonfarm employers provided 26,160 jobs, a 0.7-percent and 180-job increase from the 25,980 jobs tallied in April of last year.

Figure 2. Nonfarm industry employment
Grant County, January 2010 through April 2013
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA



Nonfarm employers in Grant County provided 26,160 nonfarm jobs in April 2013, a 0.7-percent upturn since April 2012.

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) stabilized in 2012, following a 1.0 percent and 33,770-resident decrease in the labor force in 2011. However, the labor force decreased year over year during the last five calendar months of 2012 – a weak finish to the year. The CLF also downsized in the first three months of 2013, before stabilizing this April. Washington's labor force was estimated to be 3,468,930 in April 2013, virtually identical to the 3,469,660 residents in the labor force in April of last year. The bottom line: the State's labor force has either stagnated or contracted year over year in each of the past nine months.

Grant County's CLF increased by 1,240 residents (up 3.0 percent) in 2012, but growth has virtually stalled in the past four months (i.e., from January through April 2013). Between the Aprils of 2012 and 2013 the Grant County labor force contracted from 41,390 to 40,560 residents, respectively. A shrinking labor force is not good economic news. However, fewer residents were unemployed this April versus the same month in 2012 (3,980 residents were unemployed in April 2012 versus 3,530 in April 2013). Hence, although the labor force shrank between the Aprils of 2012 and 2013, the number of unemployed decreased at a faster pace and the unemployment rate fell one percentage point in April 2013, as shown in *Figure 3*.

Figure 3. Labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted
 Grant County, April 2013
 Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA

Grant County	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change		
	Apr-13	Mar-13	Apr-12	Mar-13	Apr-12	Apr-12
				Apr-13	Apr-13	Apr-13 %
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	40,560	40,670	41,390	-110	-830	-2.0%
Resident employment	37,030	36,440	37,410	590	-380	-1.0%
Unemployment	3,530	4,230	3,980	-700	-450	-11.3%
Unemployment rate	8.7	10.4	9.6	-1.7	-0.9	
Industry employment						
Total nonfarm ¹	26,160	26,230	25,980	-70	180	0.7%
Total private	18,100	18,140	18,080	-40	20	0.1%
Goods producing	5,370	5,330	5,490	40	-120	-2.2%
Service providing	20,790	20,900	20,490	-110	300	1.5%
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5,650	5,820	5,570	-170	80	1.4%
Information and financial activities	1,150	1,140	1,000	10	150	15.0%
Government	8,060	8,090	7,900	-30	160	2.0%
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 0.7 percent, a gain of 180 jobs, between April 2012 and April 2013.

Nonfarm industry employment

On an annual average basis, nonfarm employment in the County grew by 450 jobs, a 1.7 percent increase between 2011 (26,060 jobs) and 2012 (26,510 jobs), and this trend is continuing into the first four months of 2013. Preliminary estimates (see *Figure 3*) illustrate that Grant County’s nonfarm employers netted 180 more jobs in April 2013 than in April 2012, a 0.7-percent upturn. The following is a summary of the most recent over-the-year changes, by major industry:

- The goods producing category is comprised primarily of construction and manufacturing firms. Goods producers averaged 150 new jobs in 2012, rising from 5,620 in 2011 to 5,770 last year (up by 2.7 percent). This category also expanded by 660 jobs in 2011, for an even more impressive 8.1-percent annual average employment increase. The upturns followed two years of dismal economic times. Specifically, Grant County’s goods producing firms lost 300 jobs in 2010 (down 1.2 percent) and another 1,180 jobs (down 4.4 percent) during 2009. Estimates indicate that year-over-year goods producing job growth has stalled in 2013; and in fact, this April there were 5,370 goods producing jobs versus 5,490 in April 2012 (see *Figure 3*). But, it is likely the downturn is just a temporary “slump.” One local goods producing business that has been faring well recently is Genie Industries. A May 19, 2013 *Columbia Basin Herald* article mentioned that, “In 2007, Genie employed about 1,000 Basin residents.” The article mentioned layoffs during 2009 and the manufacturer’s recovery in late 2009 and into 2010. “We’ve been on the steady incline since then.” according to Glenn Gere, director of operations for Genie’s Moses Lake facility. “We’ve had a rapid growth back to about 1,200 team members in a very short period of time.” More encouraging economic news for this

employment category: across Washington, goods producing firms have been hiring for 27 months (i.e. from February 2011 through April 2013).

- Service providing businesses and organizations increased from 20,490 jobs in April 2012 to 20,790 in April 2013. Government organizations, which include local public schools; information and financial activities; and transportation, warehousing, and private utilities all provided more jobs this April than in April 2012.