



Grant County

Labor Area Summary

June 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 and agricultural employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year-over-year changes (between June 2012 and June 2013) in unemployment and on year-over-year employment trends in major industries in Grant County.

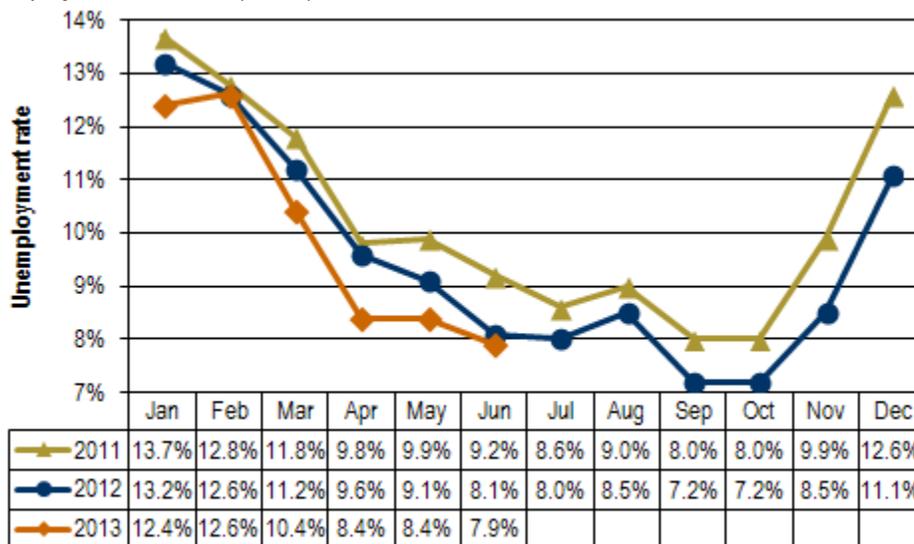
Unemployment rates

Washington state's annual average not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one full percentage point between 2011 and 2012, from 9.2 percent to 8.2 percent. Between the Junes of 2012 and 2013 the rate fell from 8.3 to 7.0 percent, a decrease of one and three-tenths percentage points. The June 2013 unemployment rate of 7.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in Grant County decreased two-tenths of a percentage point from the 8.1-percent reading in June 2012. This June was the 33rd consecutive month of year-over-year decreases, or of no change, in the monthly unemployment rate (i.e. from October 2010 to June 2013).

Figure 1. Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted

Grant County, January 2011 through June 2013

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



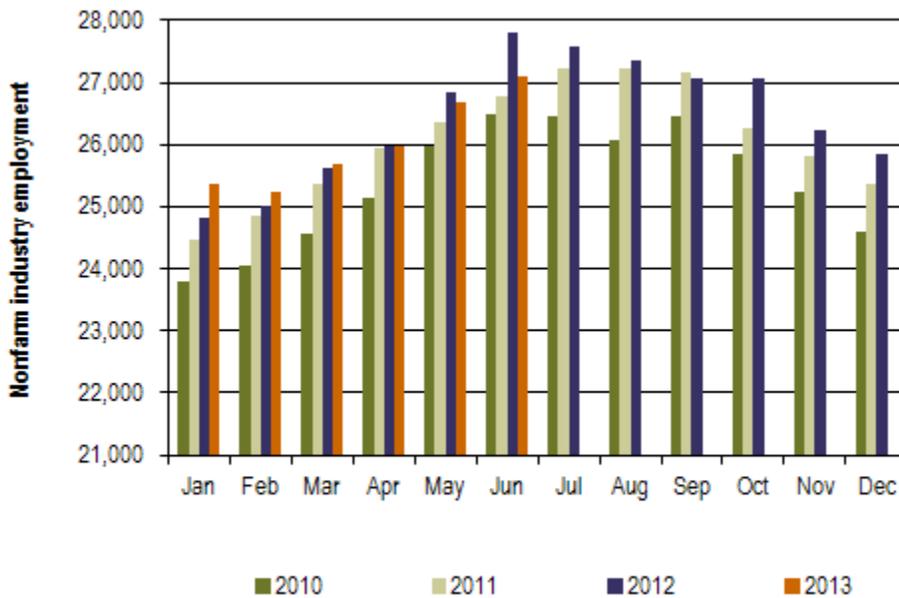
The Grant County unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point between June 2012 and June 2013.

Total nonfarm employment

Businesses and government organizations across Washington supplied 2,966,300 nonfarm jobs this June (not seasonally adjusted), compared to 2,898,800 jobs in June 2012. This equated to a 2.3 percent over-the-year statewide employment increase. Washington's labor market has been growing for 33 months (from October 2010 through June 2013).

Grant County's economy posted year-over-year nonfarm job growth from October 2012 through March 2012, followed by year over year losses in April, May, and June 2013. This June, local nonfarm employers provided 27,090 jobs, a 2.6-percent and 720-job decrease from the 27,810 jobs tallied in June 2012.

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



Nonfarm employers in Grant County provided 27,090 nonfarm jobs in June 2013, a 2.6-percent downturn from June 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 continued to shrink in the each of the first three months of 2013 before stabilizing in April and May 2013, and finally increasing slightly between the Junes of 2012 and 2013. Washington's labor force was estimated to be 3,520,080 in June 2013, a 0.2-percent upturn from the 3,514,040 residents in the labor force in June of last year.

Grant County's labor force grew by 1,240 residents (up 3.0 percent) in 2012. However, growth virtually stagnated in the first three months of 2013 before posting year-over-year declines in April, May, and June 2013 – not a good economic indicator. Between the Junes of 2012 and 2013 the Grant County labor force contracted from 46,860 to 45,040 residents, a 3.9-percent decrease. However, fewer residents were unemployed this June versus the same month in 2012 (3,770 residents were unemployed in June 2012 versus 3,580 in June 2013). Hence, although the labor force shrank between the Junes of 2012 and 2013, the number of unemployed decreased at a faster pace and the unemployment rate edged downwards two-tenths of a percentage point in June 2013, as shown in *Figure 3*.

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

Grant County	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change		
	Jun-13	May-13	Jun-12	May-13 Jun-13	Jun-12 Jun-13	Jun-12 Jun-13 %
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	45,040	41,530	46,860	3,510	-1,820	-3.9%
Resident employment	41,460	38,040	43,090	3,420	-1,630	-3.8%
Unemployment	3,580	3,490	3,770	90	-190	-5.0%
Unemployment rate	7.9	8.4	8.1	-0.5	-0.2	
Industry employment						
Total nonfarm ¹	27,090	26,690	27,810	400	-720	-2.6%
Total private	19,240	18,630	19,720	610	-480	-2.4%
Goods producing	5,980	5,550	5,970	430	10	0.2%
Service providing	21,110	21,140	21,840	-30	-730	-3.3%
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	5,950	5,870	5,670	80	280	4.9%
Information and financial activities	1,120	1,110	1,160	10	-40	-3.4%
Government	7,850	8,060	8,090	-210	-240	-3.0%
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 decreased 2.6 percent, a loss of 720 jobs, between June 2012 and June 2013.

Nonfarm industry employment

Specifically, on an annual average basis, nonfarm employment in Grant County:

- Decreased from 25,960 in 2009 to 25,390 in 2010, a 300-job and 1.2-percent decline.
- Jumped from 25,390 in 2010 to 26,060 in 2011, a 670-job and 2.6-percent increase.
- Increased from 26,060 in 2011 to 26,440 in 2012, a 380-job and 1.5-percent upturn.

Preliminary estimates (see *Figure 3*) illustrate that Grant County’s nonfarm employers tallied 720 fewer jobs in June 2013 than in June 2012, a 2.6-percent downturn. 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 130 new jobs in 2012, rising from 5,620 in 2011 to 5,750 last year (up by 2.3 percent). This category expanded by 420 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 230 jobs in 2010 (down 4.2 percent) and another 800 jobs (down 12.8 percent) during 2009. Estimates indicate that local goods producing employment decreased year over year from February to May, but increased 0.2-percent this June. Specifically, in June 2013 there were 5,980 goods producing jobs versus 5,970 in June 2012, as shown in *Figure 3*. One local goods producing business that has been faring well recently is Aviation Technical Services (ATS). This aircraft maintenance and repair firm is the local branch of Everett-

based ATS and has recently occupied a 102,000-square-foot hangar at the Moses Lake airport, according to a 29 April 2013 article from *The Royal Register* entitled “Aerospace industry growing.” The article stated: “The expansion of ATS to Moses Lake created about 50 new jobs. The company plans to add an additional 100 jobs over the next two years, depending on customer projects.” More encouraging economic news for this employment category: across Washington, goods producing firms have been hiring for 29 months (i.e. from February 2011 through June 2013) – and the Grant County economy is not immune to these statewide labor market trends.

- Service providing businesses and organizations decreased from 21,840 jobs in June 2012 to 21,110 in June 2013, accounting for virtually all of the year-over-year downturn in total nonfarm employment this June. Year-over-year growth in Grant County's service providing industries was positive from October 2012 through April 2013, but this sector posted year-over-year declines in May and June 2013. Statewide, service providing organizations have been expanding for 35 months (i.e. from August 2010 through June 2013). Within this service providing category, government organizations throughout Grant County tallied 240 fewer jobs in June 2013 than in June 2012 (see *Figure 3*).

Agricultural employment

LMEA's *Agricultural Employment Labor and Wages* report for June 2013 showed the total number of agricultural jobs rose 13.9 percent over the year in the Columbia Basin Area 4, an agricultural reporting area that includes Adams and Grant counties. Total agricultural employment was 15,420 in June 2012 versus 17,570 in June 2013, a 2,150-job increase. A little more than 80 percent of agricultural jobs provided in this two-county area are on farms and orchards in Grant County. It should also be noted that seasonal agricultural employment in the Columbia Basin's Area 3 decreased from 10,640 in June 2012, to 9,500 in June 2013 – a 10.7-percent downturn. Why? Weather conditions were cooler and wetter than normal during the reporting period which reduced the need for seasonal agricultural labor this June.

In other agricultural news, the USDA has determined that the strain of genetically modified wheat has not spread beyond the field in which it was found. Japan, Korea and Taiwan have suspended imports of western white wheat from the Pacific Northwest. South Korea has begun a testing program and reported not finding any GM content in soft white wheat. Japan and Taiwan have not yet set up protocols for testing the wheat. Primary agricultural activities were cherry harvest, apple hand thinning, general apple work, and potato warehouse work.