

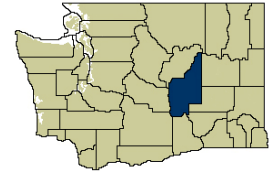


April 2009

Grant County

Labor Area Summary

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Summary

Between April 2008 and April 2009, unemployed residents, meaning the number of residents who did not have a job and were actively searching for employment in Grant County increased by 1,950 and employed residents grew by 30. The labor force, which is the sum of employed and unemployed residents, over the same time period also increased from 39,010 to 40,990. As a result, the jobless rate rose to 10.0 percent in April 2009, as countywide nonfarm employers created jobs at a faster pace than the state and many other counties across North Central Washington.

Overall, Grant County nonfarm employment expanded by 300 jobs or 1.1 percent from April 2008 to April 2009. Most of the gains were in the services-providing industries that showed considerable strength, increasing by 410 jobs or 2.0 percent annual rate. During the comparable period last year, services providers shed 620 jobs or 3.0 percent of their workforce. Across the state, total nonfarm employment declined by 3.9 percent, while services providers shed 2.2 percent of their workforce, and the goods-producing industries contracted by 12.0 percent.

Year-over-year gains

- Nonfarm employment growth continued to be led by the government sector as federal, state and local government employers added 200 jobs, increasing their workforce by 2.6 percent between April 2008 and April 2009. Across the state, government employment grew by 1.9 percent.
- Trade, transportation and utilities employment also grew at a faster year-over-year rate with 150 jobs, or a 2.9 percent increase from April 2008 to April 2009. During a comparable period last year, trade, transportation and utilities was up 60 jobs. The trade, transportation and utilities industry is a services providing sub sector that includes wholesale trade, retail trade, air transportation, truck transportation, warehousing and storage and utilities. Statewide, trade, transportation and utilities employment shrank by 4.7 percent.

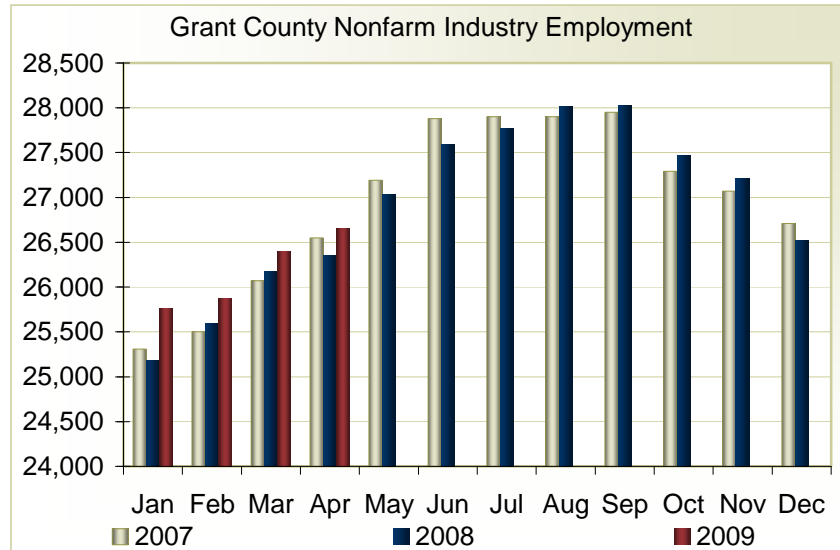
Year-over-year losses

- Employers in the information and financial activities sector lost 40 workers or 3.8 percent of their workforce across Grant County between April 2008 and April 2009. Different components of the sector include publishing industries, broadcasting, telecommunications, credit intermediation, real estate and rental leasing and insurance carriers. Across the state, information and financial activities was down 0.8 percent.
- Goods producers, a group of employers that includes firms in the mining, logging and construction as well as in the manufacturing industry, lost 100 jobs, or 0.5 percent of their workforce between April

2008 and April 2009. Large employment drops in the construction and manufacturing industries during a recession should come as no surprise. Most of companies in these two sub sectors are cyclical firms. Examples include heavy equipment makers such as aluminum, steel, and car producers. The earnings of these firms tend to follow the business cycle. A higher percentage of a combined fixed operating costs and debt financing compared to variable costs makes their earning more sensitive to changes in sales. As sales drop during a recession, durable goods manufacturers often have to reduce their variable costs, mainly labor, in order to keep cost under control.

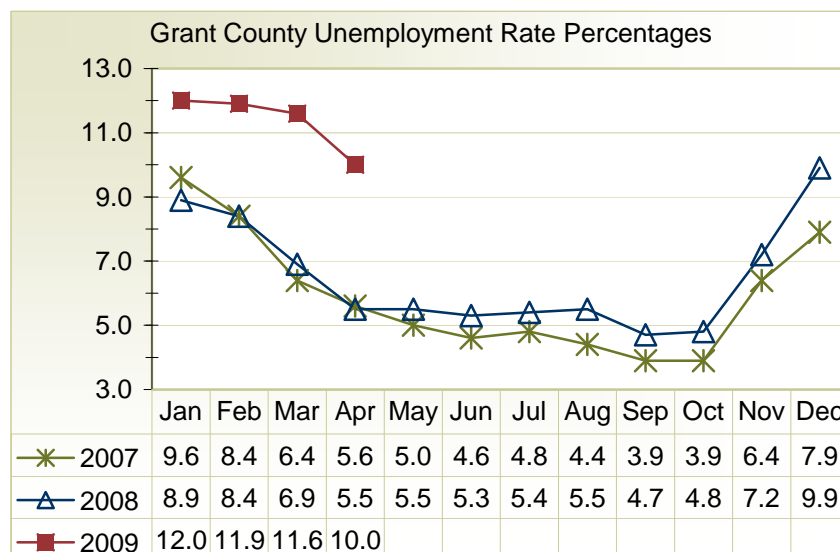
Month-to-month performance

In April 2009, the trade, transportation and utilities sector was down 20 jobs, information and financial activities declined by 10, while government employment increased by 10 and goods producers added 60 workers.



Unemployment

In April 2009, the unemployment rate declined from the revised March 2009 rate of 11.6 percent to 10.0 percent in April. Over the year, however, the unemployment rate jumped by 4.5 percentage points. Between April 2008 and April 2009, the number of employed residents in Grant County rose to 36,890 from 36,860. During the same time period, unemployed residents grew from 2,150 to 4,100.



The labor force increased by 1,980 and the jobless rate also rose from 5.5 percent to 10.0 percent over the 12-month period. Among those who lost their jobs, the number of construction laborers who filed for unemployment benefits increased from 37 in April 2008 to 75 in April 2009. The claims also increased by 49 for electricians, by 69 for truck drivers, heavy and tractor trailers, but declined by 12 for graders and sorters of agricultural products.

Top Unemployment Claims by Occupation for Grant County						
*SOC	Occupation	Apr-09	Mar-09	Apr-08	Change	
					Yearly	Monthly
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	211	246	54	157	-35
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Braziers	121	121	7	114	0
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	109	152	40	69	-43
472061	Construction Laborers	75	90	37	38	-15
472111	Electricians	68	67	19	49	1
472031	Carpenters	58	75	19	39	-17
537064	Packers and Packagers, Hand	44	44	29	15	0
472073	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	41	54	15	26	-13
519199	Production Workers, All Other	39	37	9	30	2
452041	Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	37	53	49	-12	-16
472152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	37	40	3	34	-3
512099	Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	35	40	4	31	-5
537051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	34	34	18	16	0
511011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers	32	30	3	29	2
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	31	44	9	22	-13
499042	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	30	37	10	20	-7
372011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	27	30	17	10	-3
518099	Plant and System Operators, All Other	26	25	1	25	1
537062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	25	32	8	17	-7

*SOC = Standard Occupational Classification code.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: December 2008						
				Change		
	Prelim Apr-09	Revised Mar-09	Revised Apr-08	Mar-09 Apr-09	Apr-08 Apr-09	Apr-08 Apr-09%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	40,990	40,820	39,010	170	1,980	5.1%
Resident Employment	36,890	36,100	36,860	790	30	0.1%
Unemployment	4,100	4,720	2,150	-620	1,950	90.7%
Unemployment Rate	10.0	11.6	5.5	-1.6	4.5	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	26,660	26,400	26,360	260	300	1.1%
Total Private	18,900	18,660	18,800	240	100	0.5%
Goods Producing	5,900	5,840	6,000	60	-100	-1.7%
Services Providing	20,760	20,570	20,350	190	410	2.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,410	5,430	5,260	-20	150	2.9%
Information and Financial Activities	1,000	1,010	1,040	-10	-40	-3.8%
Government	7,760	7,750	7,560	10	200	2.6%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p>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. *Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch using a Quarterly Benchmark process. This process uses the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently 4th quarter 2008) and estimates employment from that point to present.</p> <p>**North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						