

Grant County

Labor Area Summary

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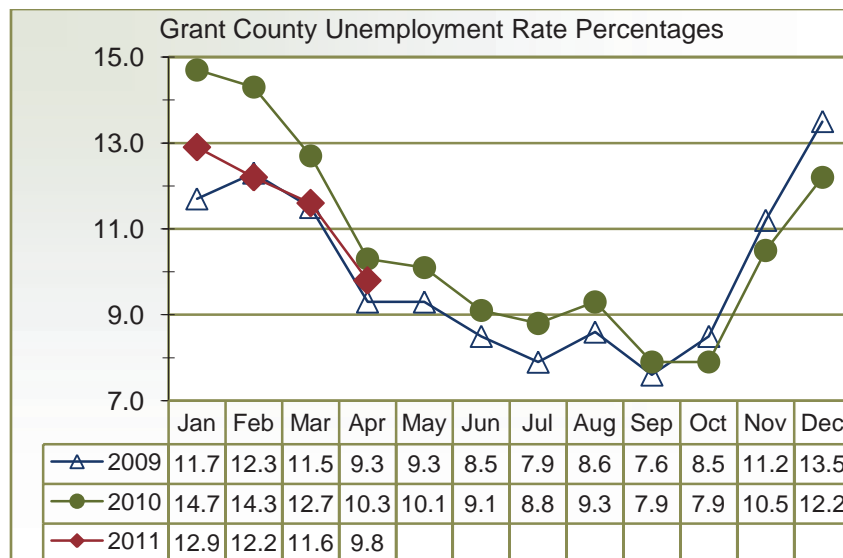
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Summary

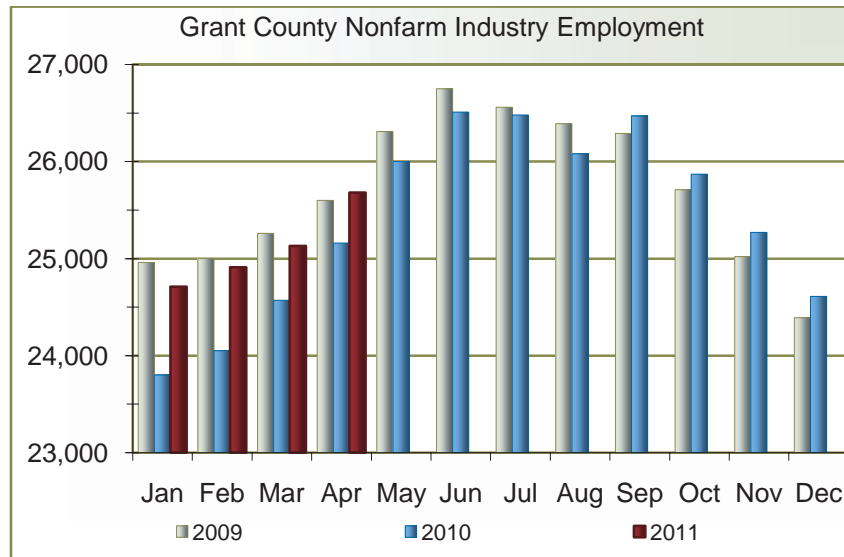
Grant County’s unemployment rate of 9.8 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 1.8 percentage points below March 2011 and 0.5 percentage points below April 2010. Year-over-year declines in the unemployment rate are now in their seventh straight month.

The labor force has declined slightly since April 2010, while the number employed has remained flat. Throughout the state, the labor force has dropped, signaling a possible increase in discouraged workers or job seekers moving out of the area. Over the month, the labor force has increased along with the number employed in Grant County. As the agricultural season approaches, the labor force normally reaches its peak in June of each year.



Washington state’s unemployment rate of 8.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.9 percentage points below the March 2011 figure and 0.6 percentage points below April 2010. Various counties throughout the state have been reporting smaller labor force figures, mirroring Washington state’s drop in the labor force. The number employed has also fallen which shows a struggling labor market. Economic gains have been occurring, but the improvements have been slow and slightly mixed.

Year-over-year gains in total nonfarm employment have slowed this month. Gains are still occurring but the growth has slowed. That being said, total private employment is still making improvements across the board. April is normally the month seasonal employment begins to pick up steam, and over-the-month figures are showing employment gains in the goods-producing and service-providing sectors.



Over-the-month total nonfarm employment has made significant improvement. Goods-producing and service-providing sectors are almost equally split on the gains. Since Grant County has such a high concentration of manufacturing, the goods-producing sector usually maintains a larger proportion of growth than other counties. This is especially true in the summer as employment picks up in nondurable goods manufacturing.

Year-over-year total nonfarm employment gains continue to show robust expansion. Most of the gains are occurring in the goods-producing sector. From April 2009 to April 2010, the goods-producing sector contracted by 410, whereas this year it gained approximately 360 jobs. This is a significant turnaround for Grant County, which is now showing more sustained growth.

Employment levels have been moving in a positive direction since the start of 2011. The improvements this year are pointing towards 2010 being the low point for employment levels in Grant County.

Washington state’s year-over-year growth has been, and continues to be, in professional and business services. The goods-producing sector made a small gain, but continues to be relatively flat.

Consumer confidence, a national leading indicator, is in its seventh straight month of making gains. The confidence levels are still fairly low, continuing to inch along. Consumer expectations, on the other hand, have been on an overall upward trend since February of 2009. It recently made a significant drop in March but has remained relatively level this month. Commodity prices have been on the rise, but the majority of inflation is coming from oil.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: December 2010						
				Change		
	Prelim Apr-11	Revised Mar-11	Revised Apr-10	Mar-11 Apr-11	Apr-10 Apr-11	Apr-10 Apr-11 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	41,250	39,850	41,490	1,400	-240	-0.6%
Resident Employment	37,200	35,220	37,220	1,980	-20	-0.1%
Unemployment	4,050	4,630	4,270	-580	-220	-5.2%
Unemployment Rate	9.8	11.6	10.3	-1.8	-0.5	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm ^{1/}	25,680	25,130	25,160	550	520	2.1%
Total Private	17,750	17,220	17,140	530	610	3.6%
Goods Producing	5,260	5,000	4,900	260	360	7.3%
Service Providing	20,420	20,130	20,260	290	160	0.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,540	5,500	5,380	40	160	3.0%
Information and Financial Activities	1,150	1,150	950	0	200	21.1%
Government	7,930	7,910	8,020	20	-90	-1.1%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>^{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.</i>						
<i>*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 and estimates employment from that point to present.</i>						
<i>**North American Industry Classification System</i>						
<i>***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</i>						