



Grant County

Labor Area Summary

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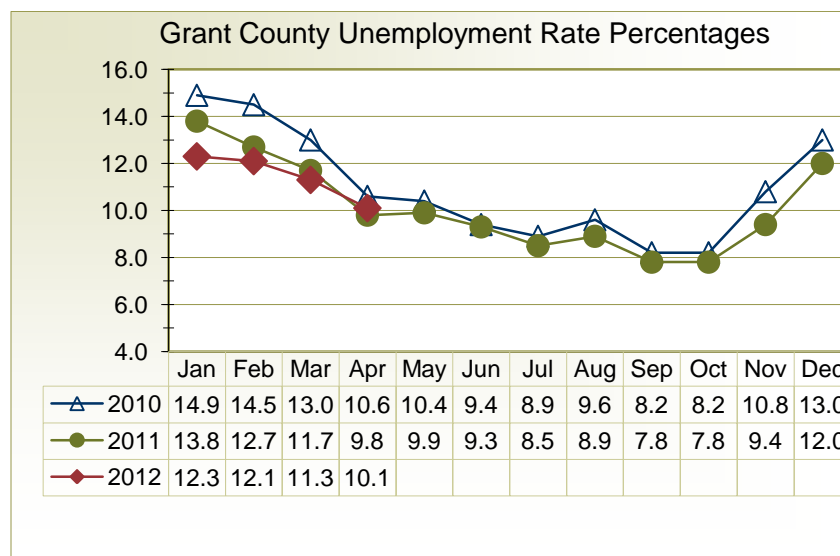
mberreth@esd.wa.gov, <http://www.esd.wa.gov/employmentdata/>

Unemployment

Grant county's unemployment rate of 10.1 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 1.2 percentage points below March 2012 and 0.3 percentage points above April 2011.

Total employment jumped up more than the civilian labor force over-the-month. The larger jump in employment helped the number unemployed drop. The growth in total employment and the civilian labor force is above average over the last six years. The labor force and total employment figures had been posting over-the-month growth in January and February, but faltered in March.

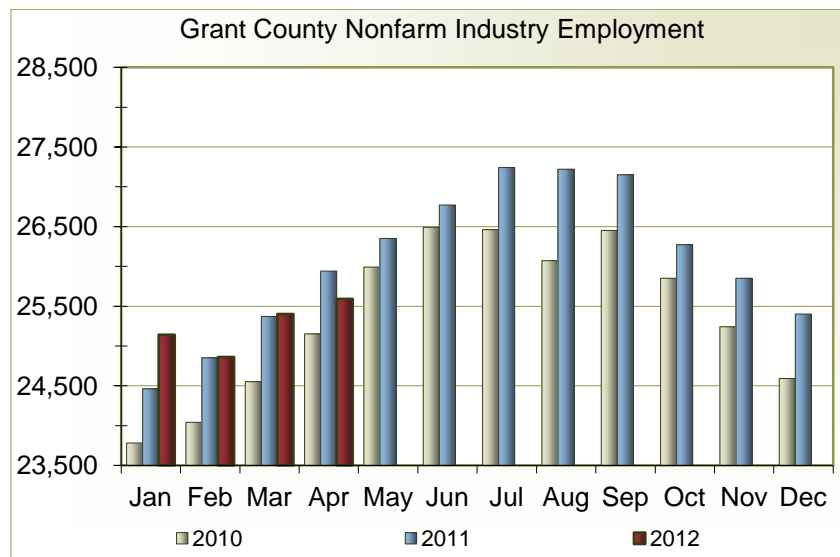
Year-over-year figures show marginal growth in the civilian labor force and a marginal drop in total employment. Unfortunately the drop in total employment means a slight rise in the number unemployed along with a higher unemployment rate. This month's faltering labor market is very surprising to see as the last year has been making significant improvements.



Washington state's unemployment rate of 7.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 1.0 percentage points below the March 2012 figure and 1.2 percentage points below April 2011. The civilian labor force and total employment figures posted steady growth this month while the number unemployed fell. It looks as though the discouraged workers are finding more incentive to enter the labor market once again as jobs increase.

Employment

Grant county started showing total nonfarm employment gains in September of 2010. Growth was initially slow, but gained momentum in 2011 as the entire year posted improvements. The start of 2012 has shown a little reluctance in growth and hiring. This is the first month since September 2010 there has been an employment loss in year-over-year figures.



Over-the-month total nonfarm and total private employment posted gains. The goods-producing sector edged up while the service-providing sector contained most of the gains. Government employment shed jobs along with trade, transportation, and utilities. Information and financial activities posted marginal growth.

Year-over-year total nonfarm employment and total private employment posted losses. The losses were almost split between public and private employment this month. Government employment continues to shed jobs as fiscal tightening measures continue. Information and financial activities posted the strongest gains. Overall, employment seems to show some struggle.

Normally there's over-the-month growth from March to April. This change from the norm does come with a couple thoughts: 1) this could be a structural change in the labor market due to changes in technology within various sectors, or 2) this could be a temporary change within manufacturing, specifically nondurable goods manufacturing, that represents a small seasonal change that was exacerbated by an additional loss within the public sector.

Washington state's non-seasonally adjusted figures posted both over-the-month and year-over-year growth. Year-over-year growth came from the private sector as government employment contracted. Manufacturing posted a strong gain within aerospace and fabricated metal manufacturing. The service providing sector saw growth within retail trade and professional and business services.

Consumer confidence edged down this month along with consumer expectations. Consumer confidence is at its highest point in April since 2007. Consumer expectations, on the other hand, is below April 2011 figures.

Industrial production of final products has been on an upward trend since mid-2009. The leading indicator edged up this month both due to consumer goods and business equipment.

These two indicators provide a slightly differing picture as one shows some reluctance within the economy and the other shows a positive outlook.

Summary Table

| Labor Market Information for Grant County | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: December 2011 | | | | | | |
| | | | | Change | | |
| | Prelim Apr-12 | Revised Mar-12 | Revised Apr-11 | Mar-12 Apr-12 | Apr-11 Apr-12 | Apr-11 Apr-12 % |
| Employment by Place of Residence | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 40,880 | 40,000 | 40,850 | 880 | 30 | 0.1% |
| Resident Employment | 36,760 | 35,490 | 36,850 | 1,270 | -90 | -0.2% |
| Unemployment | 4,120 | 4,510 | 4,000 | -390 | 120 | 3.0% |
| Unemployment Rate | 10.1 | 11.3 | 9.8 | -1.2 | 0.3 | |
| Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles) | | | | | | |
| Total Nonfarm 1/ | 25,590 | 25,400 | 25,940 | 190 | -350 | -1.4% |
| Total Private | 17,760 | 17,480 | 17,920 | 280 | -160 | -0.9% |
| Goods Producing | 5,280 | 5,210 | 5,480 | 70 | -200 | -3.7% |
| Service Providing | 20,310 | 20,190 | 20,460 | 120 | -150 | -0.7% |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 5,350 | 5,430 | 5,340 | -80 | 10 | 0.2% |
| Information and Financial Activities | 1,020 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 20 | 20 | 2.0% |
| Government | 7,830 | 7,920 | 8,020 | -90 | -190 | -2.4% |
| 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> | | | | | | |