

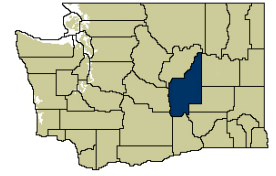


August 2009

Grant County

Labor Area Summary

Volume 2009, Number 8

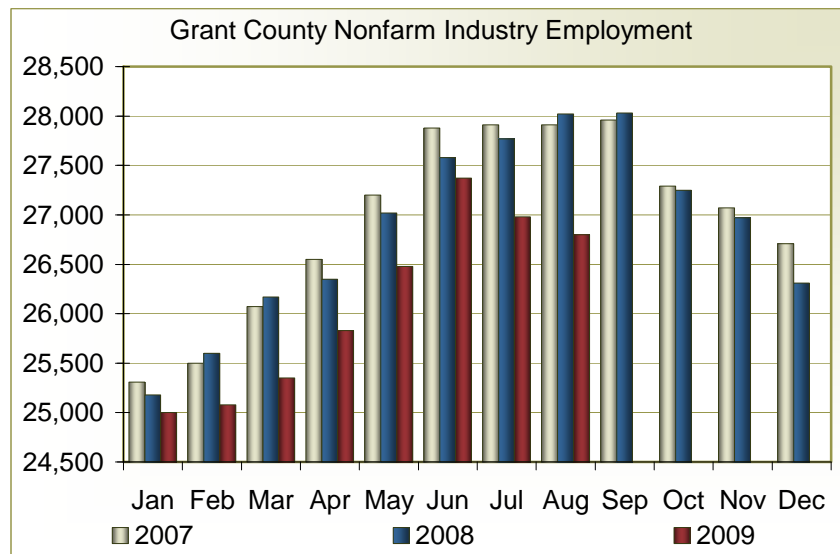


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Summary

The health of the job market in Grant County remained weak in August 2009. As the summer season was drawing to a close, farmers started reducing their labor needs. As a result, the number of jobs across the area began to shrink and the month-to-month jobless rate started its climb up.

Overall, total resident employment was down 960 jobs over the month and 590 over the year. The unemployment rate rose over the month and over the year. Nonfarm employers lost 1,220 employees, or 4.4 percent of their workforce between August 2008 and August 2009.



Year over year losses

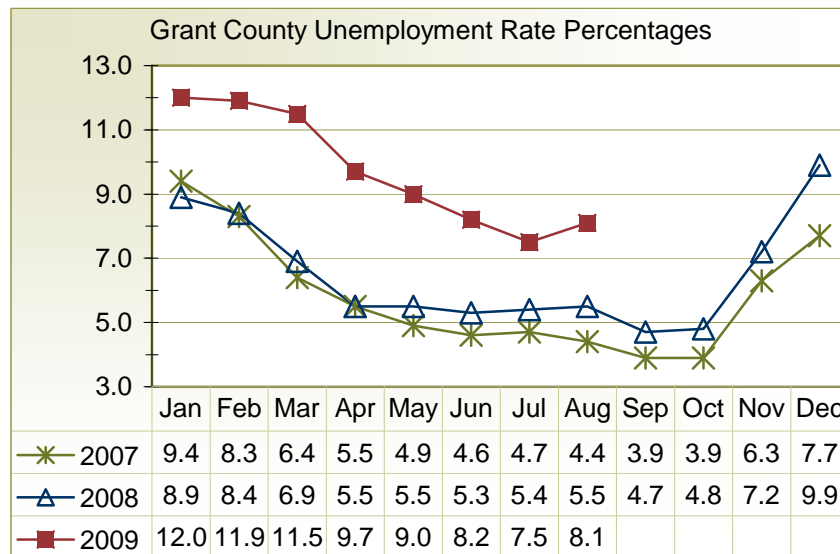
- The area's goods producers, a group of employers that includes durable goods manufacturers, nondurable goods producers, and companies in the mining, logging, and construction industries, had a total of 6,200 workers in August 2009, down 530 jobs (minus 7.9 percent) from the total number of workers twelve months earlier.

Employment in the goods-producing industries usually follows the business cycle. As the economy contracts and the jobless rate rises, for example, durable goods producers such as home builders and car manufacturers sell fewer and fewer houses and automobiles. As a result, they are compelled to reduce their costs – mainly labor – in order to keep making profits and stay in business. Across the state, goods producers shed 13.1 percent of their workforce between August 2008 and August 2009.

- The number of jobs by services providers, too, shrank over the year. Between August 2008 and August 2009, services providers lost 690 jobs, or 3.2 percent of their workers. Statewide, services-providing employment was down 2.5 percent.
- Employers in the trade, transportation, and utilities industries across Grant County lost 110 workers or 2.0 percent of the workforce from August 2008 to August 2009. Across the state, trade, transportation, and utilities was down 4.4 percent.
- Information and financial activities, one of the smallest services providers in the area, was down 60 jobs, to a total of 960 workers in August 2009.
- Jobs in the area’s government sector declined to 7,500 in August 2009 from 7,550 in August 2008, or a loss of 0.7 percent (50 jobs) of the combined federal, state, and local government workforce. Statewide, government employment was flat over the year.

Unemployment

There were 40,200 employed residents (nonfarm jobs, farm work, and self employed) in Grant County in August 2009, down 590 from 40,790 twelve months earlier. Over the same time period, unemployed residents increased by 1,170 to reach a total of 3,550 in August 2009. The unemployment rate, which is the ratio of the unemployed divided by the total labor force, jumped 2.6 percentage points, to reach 8.1 percent in August 2009 from 5.5 percent in August 2008. Over the month of August 2009, the unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage points from the 7.5 percent in July 2009. The state’s unemployment rate rose to 8.9 percent in August 2009, or up 3.6 percentage points from a revised 5.3 percent in August 2008. Over the month, the unemployment rate went up 0.3 percentage points.



The number of people filing for continued unemployment claims benefits more than doubled, rising from 751 in August 2008 to 1,867 this August. Among those filing for continued claims, over the year, the five occupations with the most claims were helpers-production workers rose (+139), followed by farm workers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse whose claims increased by 68, welders, cutters, solderers and brazers up by 85, truck drivers, heavy and tractor trailers up by 48, and construction laborers up by 30 (see unemployment claims table).

Top Unemployment Claims by Occupation for Grant County						
*SOC	Occupation	Aug-09	Jul-09	Aug-08	Change	
					Yearly	Monthly
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	182	211	43	139	-29
452092	Farm workers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	104	42	36	68	62
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	93	98	8	85	-5
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	77	85	29	48	-8
472061	Construction Laborers	59	61	29	30	-2
537064	Packers and Packagers, Hand	59	31	38	21	28
452041	Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	58	75	42	16	-17
472111	Electricians	54	55	10	44	-1
472031	Carpenters	48	54	23	25	-6
537051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	35	47	11	24	-12
372011	Janitors and Cleaners, ex. Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	33	21	9	24	12
519111	Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	32	20	5	27	12
537062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	30	25	10	20	5
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	28	25	8	20	3
472152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	27	23	9	18	4
399021	Personal and Home Care Aides	24	22	10	14	2
111021	General and Operations Managers	21	19	8	13	2
412011	Cashiers	21	21	10	11	0
412031	Retail Salespersons	21	22	5	16	-1
512099	Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	20	19	6	14	1
519199	Production Workers, All Other	20	26	5	15	-6
119199	Managers, All Other	18	17	10	8	1
435081	Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	18	21	10	8	-3
472141	Painters, Construction and Maintenance	18	11	2	16	7
511011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers	18	19	8	10	-1
499042	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	16	18	10	6	-2
439199	Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	14	15	6	8	-1
514011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	14	19	2	12	-5
439061	Office Clerks, General	13	16	11	2	-3
Grand Total All Grant Continued Claims		1,867	1,845	751	1,116	22
*SOC = Standard Occupational Classification code						

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: March 2009						
Employment by Place of Residence	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Change		
	Aug-09	Jul-09	Aug-08	Jul-09	Aug-08	Aug-08
				Aug-09	Aug-09	Aug-09 %
Civilian Labor Force	43,750	44,500	43,170	-750	580	1.3%
Resident Employment	40,200	41,160	40,790	-960	-590	-1.4%
Unemployment	3,550	3,340	2,380	210	1,170	49.2%
Unemployment Rate	8.1	7.5	5.5	0.6	2.6	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm ^{1/}	26,800	26,980	28,020	-180	-1,220	-4.4%
Total Private	19,300	19,210	20,470	90	-1,170	-5.7%
Goods Producing	6,200	6,360	6,730	-160	-530	-7.9%
Services Providing	20,600	20,620	21,290	-20	-690	-3.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,400	5,340	5,510	60	-110	-2.0%
Information and Financial Activities	960	970	1,020	-10	-60	-5.9%
Government	7,500	7,770	7,550	-270	-50	-0.7%
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 1st quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present.</p> <p>**North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						