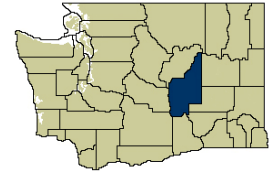




# Grant County

## Labor Area Summary

### Volume 2009, Number 12



T. Baba Moussa, Regional Labor Economist  
215 Bridge Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Voice: (509) 665-3737; FAX (509) 665-3743  
[bmoussa@esd.wa.gov](mailto:bmoussa@esd.wa.gov), [www.workforceexplorer.com](http://www.workforceexplorer.com)

## Employment

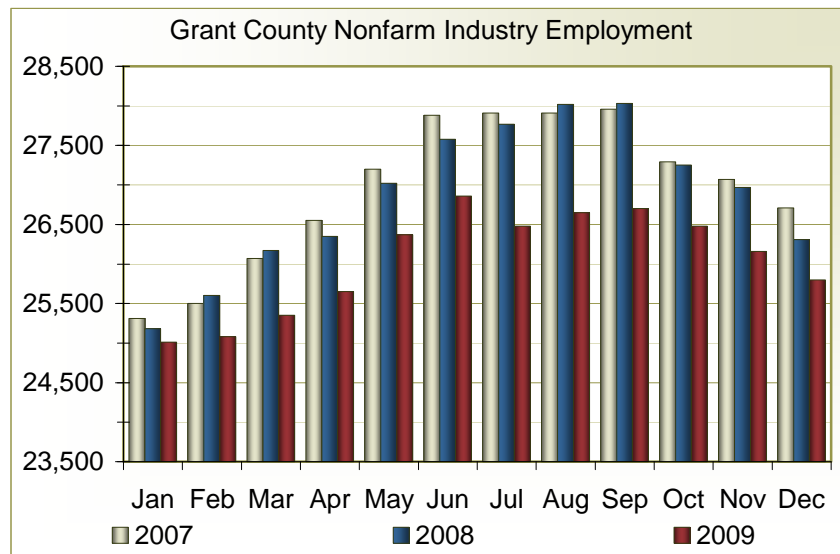
A snapshot of the latest labor market indicators in Grant County continues to show a weak economy that is shedding jobs at a slower year-over-year pace than the state. Overall, nonfarm wage and salary employment posted a net loss of 510 jobs, or 1.9 percent between December 2008 and December 2009. The number of unemployed rose to 4,950 in December 2009 from 3,940 a year earlier, pushing the jobless rate to 12.5 percent, the highest December unemployment rate since 2000.

### Two over-the-year winners

- Between December 2008 and December 2009, the area's employers in the trade, transportation, and utilities industries increased their workforce by 3.2 percent or 170 employees, bringing the total to 5,540. The latest job gains followed a 120-job increase over the 12-month period that ended November 2009. Across the state, trade, transportation, and utilities were down 4.3 percent over the year.
- The government sector, which includes federal, state, and local government institutions in Grant County, posted a year-over-year increase of 40 paychecks (up 0.5 percent) from 7,830 in December 2008. Statewide, employers in the government sector shed 0.3 percent of their workforce between December 2008 and December 2009.

### Some losses

- During the 12-month period ending in December 2009, the area's jobs in information and financial activities industries declined to a total of 960, down 40 jobs (4.0 percent) from 1,000 jobs a year earlier. Across the state, information contracted at 5.0 percent and financial activities was down 4.0 percent between December 2008 and December 2009.
- Goods-producing industries across Grant County continued to lose workers, though at a decelerating year-over-year rate. In December 2009, the number of workers contracted to 5,300 or down 420 workers compared to a year earlier. During the 12-month periods ending in October 2009 and November 2009, goods-producing cut 620 and 640 jobs, respectively. Decelerating job losses in these industries are indications that the health of the local economy is improving. Statewide, goods-producing industries shed 12.6 percent of their workforce between December 2008 and December 2009.



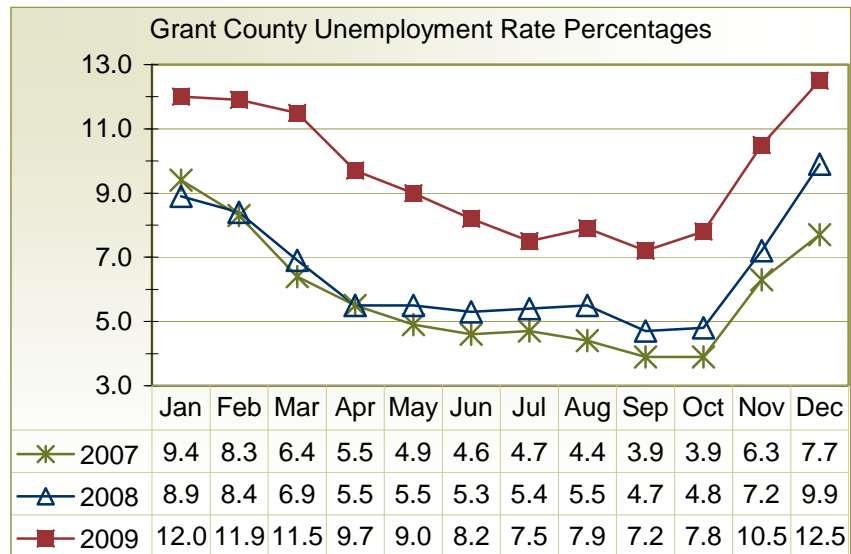
## Unemployment

Between December 2008 and December 2009, the top five occupations filing for continued claims for unemployment were: farmworkers, laborers, crop, nursery, greenhouse, and agricultural equipment operators, whose claims increased by 123 over the year, helpers - production workers, whose claims dropped by 37, truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailers, whose claims rose by 37, construction laborers, up 24 claims over the year, and welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers, whose claims for continued unemployment remained the same as last year at this time (93 claimants).

Top Continued Claims for Unemployment by Occupation for Grant County						
*SOC	Occupation	Dec-09	Nov-09	Dec-08	Change	
					Monthly	Yearly
452092	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, Greenhouse, and Agricultural Equip. Operators	453	410	330	43	123
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	217	218	254	-1	-37
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	183	137	146	46	37
472061	Construction Laborers	105	73	81	32	24
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	93	89	93	4	0
452093	Farmworkers, Farm and Ranch Animals	61	37	44	24	17
472073	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	61	33	58	28	3
537064	Packers and Packagers, Hand	59	47	23	12	36
472111	Electricians	58	52	67	6	-9
472031	Carpenters	57	42	68	15	-11
452041	Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	53	52	51	1	2
373011	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	51	35	44	16	7
537051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	50	37	36	13	14
472152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	44	40	50	4	-6
259041	Teacher Assistants	39	40	18	-1	21
412011	Cashiers	35	33	20	2	15
537062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	34	30	29	4	5
499042	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	32	28	38	4	-6
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	31	36	28	-5	3
372011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	30	61	48	-31	-18

439061	Office Clerks, General	30	27	19	3	11
511011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers	30	22	26	8	4
519199	Production Workers, All Other	27	27	31	0	-4
512099	Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	17	21	37	-4	-20
519111	Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	15	34	29	-19	-14
Grand Total all Continued Claims for Grant County		3,192	2,826	2,778	366	414
*SOC - Standard Occupational Classification code.						

The over-the-year increase in unemployment claims reflects, to some extent, the increase in the unemployment rate over that time. Over the last 12 months, the jobless rate rose 2.5 percentage points going from 9.9 percent in December 2008 to 12.5 percent in December 2009. Over the month, the unemployment rate rose 2.0 percentage points from a revised November 2009 rate of 10.5 percent. Meanwhile, the number of those out of work and actively seeking employment in the county increased from 3,940 in December 2008 to 4,950 in December 2009. The resident employment (those living and working in the county) declined to 34,690 from 35,890 one year earlier. The state's jobless rate reached 9.5 percent, up 2.4 percentage points compared to the December 2008 rate of 7.1 percent, and up 0.6 percentage points over the month of November 2009.



## Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: June 2009						
				Change		
	Prelim Dec-09	Revised Nov-09	Revised Dec-08	Nov-09 Dec-09	Dec-08 Dec-09	Dec-08 Dec-09 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	39,640	40,140	39,830	-500	-190	-0.5%
Resident Employment	34,690	35,910	35,890	-1,220	-1,200	-3.3%
Unemployment	4,950	4,230	3,940	720	1,010	25.6%
Unemployment Rate	12.5	10.5	9.9	2.0	2.6	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm <b>1/</b>	25,800	26,160	26,310	-360	-510	-1.9%
Total Private	17,930	18,310	18,480	-380	-550	-3.0%
Goods Producing	5,300	5,620	5,720	-320	-420	-7.3%
Service Providing	20,500	20,540	20,590	-40	-90	-0.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,540	5,550	5,370	-10	170	3.2%
Information and Financial Activities	960	950	1,000	10	-40	-4.0%
Government	7,870	7,850	7,830	20	40	0.5%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><b>1/</b> 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 2nd quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present. **North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						