



Grant County

Labor Area Summary

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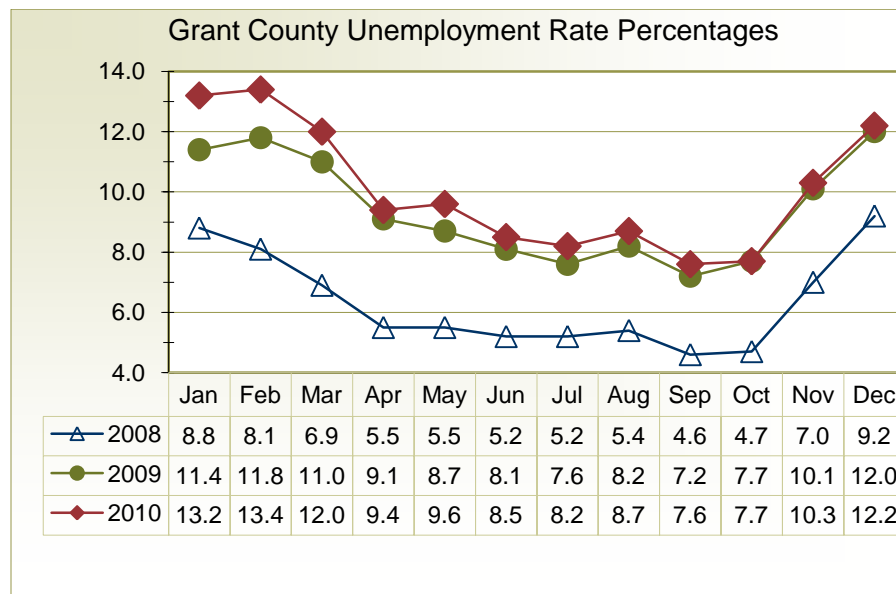
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Unemployment

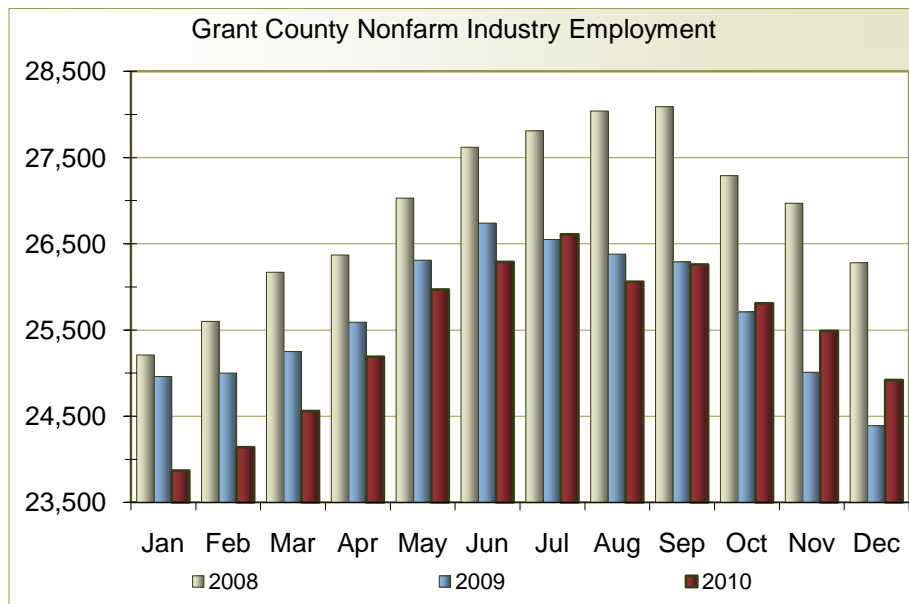
Grant County's unemployment rate of 12.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.2 percentage points higher than November 2009 and 1.9 percentage points higher than November 2010. Although it is a large increase from November to December, this is a normal seasonal pattern.

Overall Grant County has started to show signs of improvement both in employment and unemployment figures. The situation this month is comparable to last month. As the end of the year approaches the unemployment rate usually jumps up through the winter season. Over-the-month the labor force and the number employed has dropped while the number unemployed has risen. The rise in the unemployment rate, in year-over-year figures, is much slower than 2008 to 2009. The slower rate of increase is a great sign and shows the labor market is starting to level off.



Washington State's unemployment rate of 9.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is level with November and 0.2 percentage points lower than December 2009. Year-over-year gains were made both in the labor force and the number employed while the number unemployed dropped. The drop in the number unemployed and a gain in the number employed have shown that the labor market is starting to make some gains by being able to absorb more employment. Just as it is in most areas the recovery has been going slow and Washington State is no exception.

Employment



Grant County lost jobs almost across the board in over-the-month figures. Job loss is normally a bad sign but this is a normal seasonal pattern and is not distressing.

Year-over-year Grant County has made employment gains in every sector except trade, transportation, and utilities. The goods-producing sector has had a strong gain and continues to be a strong employment area in Grant County. The service-providing sector also saw strong growth. The government sector also had an employment gain which is abnormal in this economic climate. Most areas throughout the state have seen cuts in government employment but Moses Lake, in particular, has managed to keep in the black.

Moses Lake has had continuing construction work on the BMW/SGL plant and a few businesses have even opened recently. Most of the construction work is coming from Spokane, but this will hopefully boost retail sales in the area.

Washington State has dropped slightly in over-the-month figures both in total nonfarm and total private employment. Year-over-year figures show growth both in total nonfarm and total private employment. Government employment has dropped but both the goods-producing and the service-providing sectors have maintained growth. The dollar has dropped against foreign currencies and this has helped durable goods manufacturing throughout the state. Also, as consumer confidence picks up it should help boost retail trade employment.

The nation has started to show more signs of recovery. Throughout the winter months employment levels usually drop as a seasonal effect. Even though this is the case, employment figures are starting to show some growth. The small gains seem insignificant, but coming out of the recession employment figures seem to be very slow to return.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: March 2010						
				Change		
Employment by Place of Residence	Prelim Dec-10	Revised Nov-10	Revised Dec-09	Nov-10 Dec-10	Dec-09 Dec-10	Dec-09 Dec-10 %
Civilian Labor Force	39,130	40,730	40,080	-1,600	-950	-2.4%
Resident Employment	34,370	36,510	35,280	-2,140	-910	-2.6%
Unemployment	4,770	4,210	4,810	560	-40	-0.8%
Unemployment Rate	12.2	10.3	12.0	1.9	0.2	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	24,920	25,490	24,390	-570	530	2.2%
Total Private	16,950	17,390	16,630	-440	320	1.9%
Goods Producing	5,060	5,280	4,850	-220	210	4.3%
Service Providing	19,860	20,210	19,540	-350	320	1.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,300	5,410	5,310	-110	-10	-0.2%
Information and Financial Activities	970	970	930	0	40	4.3%
Government	7,970	8,100	7,760	-130	210	2.7%
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 first quarter 2010) and estimates employment from that point to present.</p> <p>**North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						