



# Grant County

## Labor Area Summary

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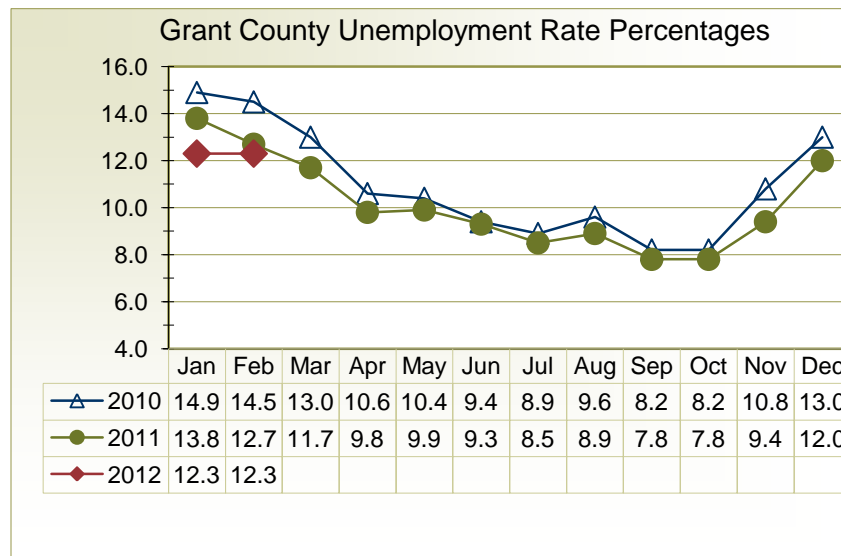
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## Unemployment

Grant county's unemployment rate of 12.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is equivalent to January 2012 and 0.4 percentage points below February 2011.

The civilian labor force and total employment posted strong gains in year-over-year figures. Although the number unemployed increased marginally, the overall growth in employment helped lower the unemployment rate. Over-the-month the civilian labor force and total employment both grew.

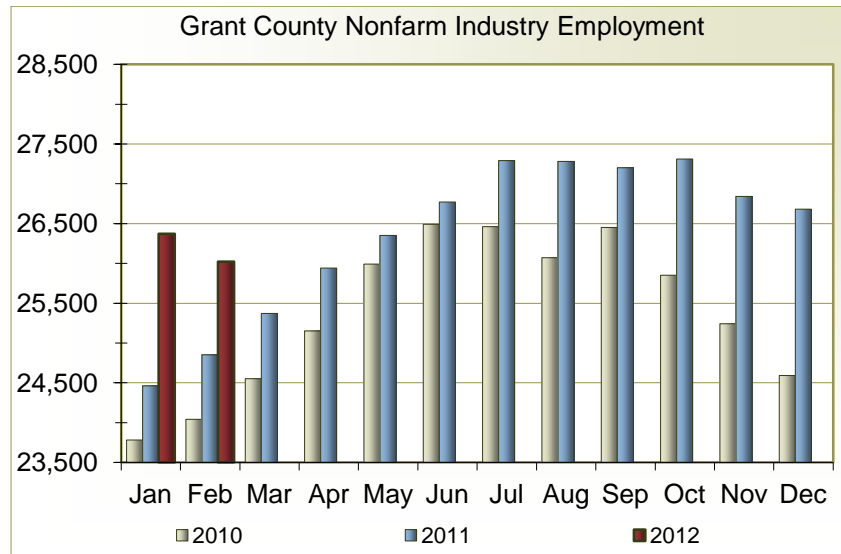
In 2011 there were only a few months where discouraged workers were leaving the labor force. This shows a slightly healthier labor market than the rest of the state. Unfortunately, Grant county has a relatively high yearly average unemployment rate. This is mainly due to agricultural and seasonal nondurable goods manufacturing jobs. Moving forward the area has been showing positive steps towards recovery and continues to improve.



Washington state's unemployment rate of 9.1 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.1 percentage points above the January 2012 figure and 1.2 percentage points below February 2011. The civilian labor force and total employment figures show strong growth in year-over-year figures. Improvements at the state level have gained momentum and continue to point the state in a positive direction.

## Employment

Grant county peaked in total nonfarm employment figures in 2007. The low-point for employment figures hit in 2010 and the area has been recovering very well in 2011 and now starting into 2012. While manufacturing tends to be a driver for the economy, the service-providing sector is now starting to follow suit and post strong gains.



In 2011, the labor market was starting to recover very well and show improvement across various sectors. The main sector showing the strongest improvement was within manufacturing. Transportation and warehousing was also doing well. The previous areas of growth are heavily impacted by agriculture and can depend upon strong production years to provide growth.

Over-the-month total nonfarm employment and total private employment contracted. Both the goods-producing and service-providing sectors contracted this month. This is outside of a normal seasonal trend as February employment is usually edging up. Also, even as government entities contract, the largest gain this month comes from the government sector.

Year-over-year total nonfarm employment and total private employment are showing very strong growth. Government employment contracted marginally along with the goods-producing sector. The service-providing sector is still maintaining a lot of the growth. Trade, transportation, and utilities show very strong growth. Information and financial activities also shows strong growth. Financial activities were some of the first jobs to show losses during the recession, so seeing these come back this strong says a lot about the recovery.

Washington state's non-seasonally adjusted figures show positive growth in year-over-year figures for total nonfarm employment. Manufacturing has done very well, while construction edged up. The service-providing sector grew very well within retail trade and leisure and hospitality. Professional and business services also showed positive improvements.

Consumer confidence has been on an upward trend for the last five months and has almost erased the losses sustained in early 2011. Consumer expectations also improved over the last five months.

Industrial production of final goods has been on a strong upward trend since mid-2009. Most importantly, though, is that the increase in production is coming from business confidence as they are willing to spend more money and expand. Consumer production has also been on an upward trend, but has leveled off this month.

## Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: June 2011						
				Change		
	Prelim Feb-12	Revised Jan-12	Revised Feb-11	Jan-12 Feb-12	Feb-11 Feb-12	Feb-11 Feb-12 %
<b>Employment by Place of Residence</b>						
Civilian Labor Force	41,090	40,700	39,600	390	1,490	3.8%
Resident Employment	36,020	35,680	34,570	340	1,450	4.2%
Unemployment	5,070	5,020	5,030	50	40	0.8%
Unemployment Rate	12.3	12.3	12.7	0.0	-0.4	
<b>Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)</b>						
Total Nonfarm 1/	26,020	26,370	24,850	-350	1,170	4.7%
Total Private	18,280	18,690	16,970	-410	1,310	7.7%
Goods Producing	5,030	5,200	5,130	-170	-100	-2.0%
Service Providing	20,990	21,170	19,720	-180	1,270	6.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,040	6,190	5,150	-150	890	17.3%
Information and Financial Activities	1,300	1,290	960	10	340	35.4%
Government	7,740	7,680	7,880	60	-140	-1.8%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	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.</p> <p>*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.</p> <p>**North American Industry Classification System</p> <p>***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						