



Grant County Labor Area Summary Volume 2013, Number 2

Mark A. Berreth, Regional Labor Economist

215 Bridge Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Voice: (509) 665-3737 FAX: (509) 665-3743

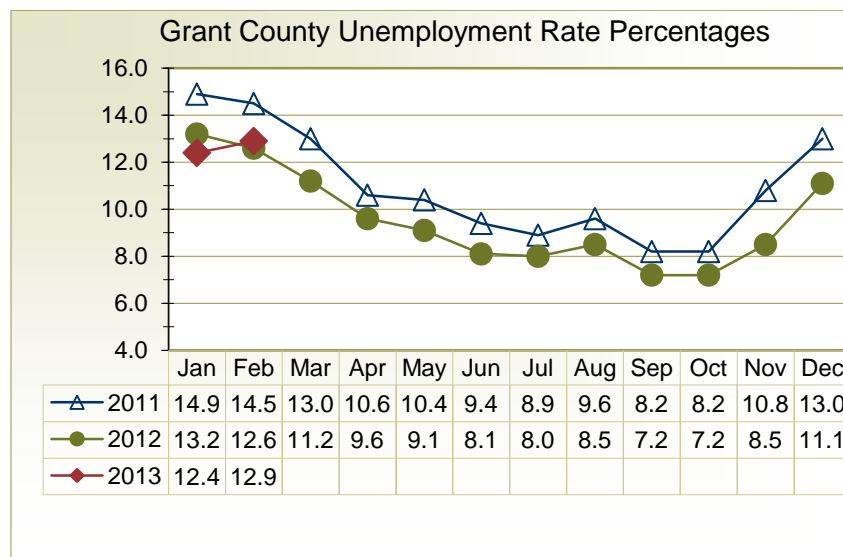
mberreth@esd.wa.gov, fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/

Unemployment

Grant county's preliminary unemployment rate of 12.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.5 percentage points above January and 0.3 percentage points below February 2012.

Over-the-month the civilian labor force jumped up along with total employment. Unfortunately, the civilian labor force increased by a larger amount than total employment, which led to an increase of the number unemployed. Although it is discouraging to see the number unemployed increase, it is positive to see the employment growth picking up. This does depict a mixed signal towards more robust growth in the future.

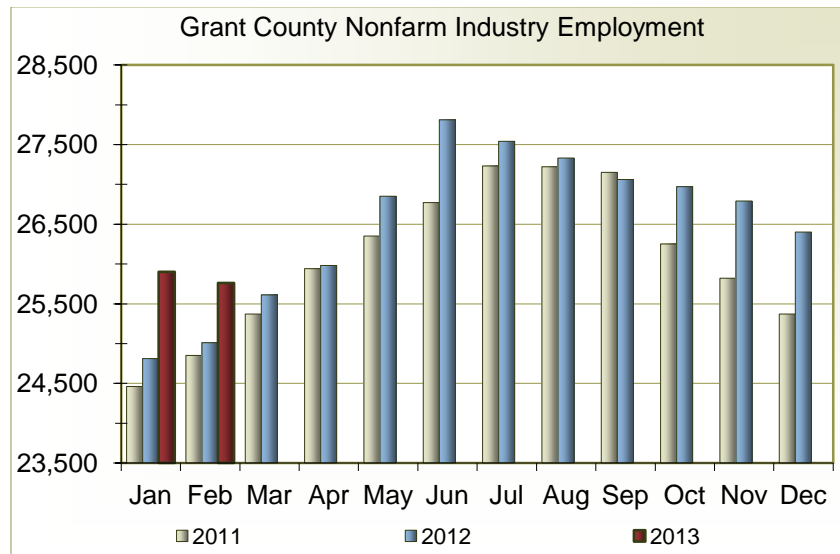
Year-over-year figures are showing much more of a struggle. The civilian labor force edged down along with total employment. Unfortunately, total unemployment jumped up as total employment dropped by a larger amount than the civilian labor force. The positive aspect to these figures are the marginal movements. Unfortunately, they show signs of discouraged workers leaving the labor force. Given these are marginal movements this month this is most likely a short-run issue.



Washington state's unemployment rate of 8.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.3 percentage points below the January figure and 1.1 percentage points below February 2012. The civilian labor force dropped while total employment grew. These two figures helped the unemployment rate drop significantly.

Employment

Employment growth started occurring in December of 2010 after the initial recession hit Grant county in January of 2008. Employment gains have been quite robust since December 2010 as only one month showed a loss in year-over-year figures since the local recovery began. Grant county continues to lead the state in the recovery of jobs as employment growth in the area has increased starting in October of 2012. While across the board gains have struggled, the overall improvements over the last two years show a strong labor market.



Over-the-month total nonfarm employment shed jobs entirely in the private sector. Government employment edged up. The goods-producing sector shed the majority of the jobs as ancillary service-providing shed the rest. Trade and transportation edged down as information and financial activities remained flat. Normally this month begins to show positive improvements in over-the-month figures through peak employment levels in July. Unfortunately, the area is showing a slight drop. While this is out of the norm for the area, the job losses show a short-term trend and not an overall downward movement.

Year-over-year total nonfarm employment jumped up due to both the public and private sectors. The goods-producing sector shed jobs as manufacturing and construction employment contracted. All of the gains this month came from the service-providing sector. Trade and transportation posted the largest gain with government employment following closely behind. Information and financial activities also posted a very strong gain this month.

Washington state's non-seasonally adjusted figures posted gains in total nonfarm employment and total private employment in year-over-year figures. Aerospace manufacturing helped drive the goods-producing sector along with specialty trade construction. The service-providing sector posted gains in retail trade and professional and business services.

Consumer confidence and consumer expectations both jumped up this month after three consecutive months of losses. Consumer confidence is reaching peak levels of 2012 and is passing levels from 2011.

Industrial production of final goods, a national leading indicator, has jumped up this month due to both consumer goods and business equipment.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: September 2012						
				Change		
	Prelim Feb-13	Revised Jan-13	Revised Feb-12	Jan-13 Feb-13	Feb -12 Feb -13	Feb -12 Feb -13 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	40,000	39,360	40,090	640	-90	-0.2%
Resident Employment	34,830	34,480	35,020	350	-190	-0.5%
Unemployment	5,170	4,880	5,070	290	100	2.0%
Unemployment Rate	12.9	12.4	12.6	0.5	0.3	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	25,760	25,900	25,010	-140	750	3.0%
Total Private	17,700	17,960	17,300	-260	400	2.3%
Goods Producing	5,180	5,340	5,310	-160	-130	-2.4%
Service Providing	20,580	20,560	19,700	20	880	4.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,810	5,820	5,410	-10	400	7.4%
Information and Financial Activities	1,120	1,120	980	0	140	14.3%
Government	8,060	7,940	7,710	120	350	4.5%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	
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 and estimates employment from that point to present.						
**North American Industry Classification System						
***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages						