

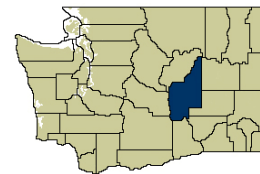


January 2009

Grant County

Labor Area Summary

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Summary

A summary of the latest labor market indicators for Grant County in January 2009 indicated a healthier-than-expected labor market. From January 2008 to January 2009, nonfarm employers have created jobs at 3.6 percent annual rate, reversing the year-over-year job losses posted over the last quarter. Overall, total nonfarm jobs across the county expanded to a total of 26,080 workers from 25,180 twelve months earlier. As a result, 900 jobs were added as year-over-year employment in government, as well as in trade, transportation and utilities industries increased at a faster pace than the previous 12-month period.

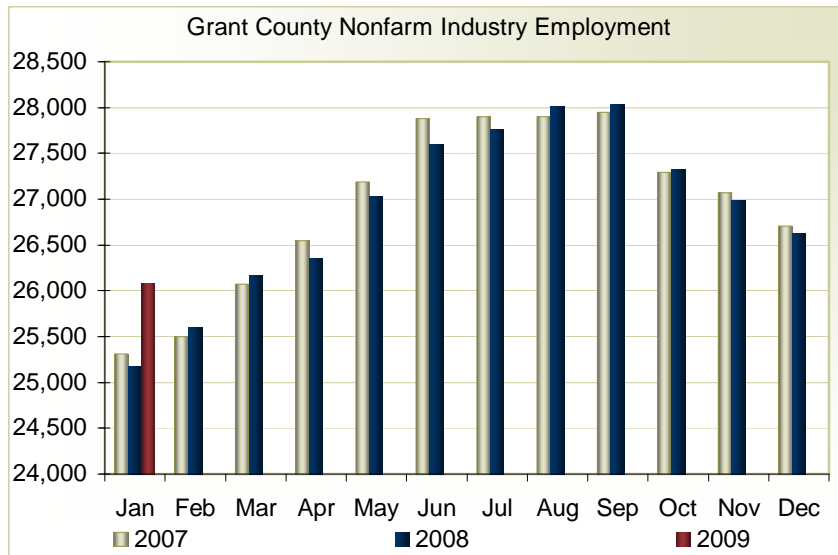
Year-over-year winners

- From January 2008 to January 2009, trade, transportation and utilities industry, a sector of the services-providing industries that includes the subsectors of wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation and utilities across Grant County, expanded at 5.0 percent with 260 jobs added. Grant County Public Utility, Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation, Wal-Mart and Grant County Public Works are among the biggest employers in that industry. The extent to which fluctuation in business activities affects different businesses in this industry depends on the companies. Some utility companies that provide energy for households are more resistant to an economic slowdown than companies whose business depends on air transportation. Across the state, trade, transportation and utilities was down 4.1 percent.
- Employment in information and financial activities also grew at a higher pace than expected, 4.9 percent annual rate with 50 jobs created. Between January 2007 and January 2008, businesses added 40 employees. Information and financial activities players include newspapers, book and directory publishers, radio and television broadcasting, insurance agencies and depository institutions such as commercial banks and credit unions. Across the state, information employment was up 0.2 percent, while financial activities shrank by 3.8 percent.
- Employers in the government industry, a services providing sector that includes federal, state and local government institutions in Grant County, increased by 250 jobs, or up 3.4 percent, after expanding by 170 between January 2007 and January 2008. Government employers across the state added jobs at 1.7 percent rate.

Month-to-month winners and losses

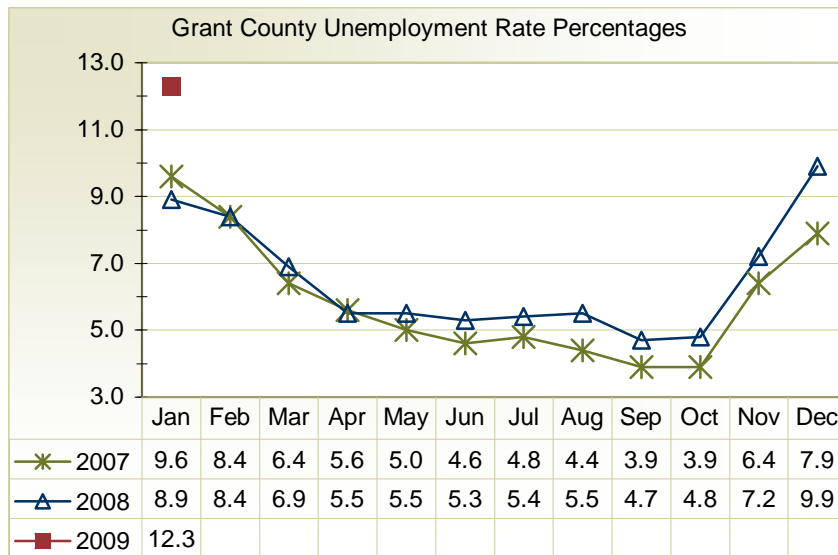
Over the month of January, only information and financial activities created jobs with 20 employees added. Trade, transportation and utilities lost 150 workers, while government contracted by 140 jobs.

In other labor market news, services providers created 790 jobs between January 2008 and January 2009, while goods producers added 120 jobs over the same 12 month period.



Unemployment

In Grant County, the number of residents who were out of work and actively seeking employment increased to 4,970 in January 2009, from 3,320 in January 2008, or up 1,650 out of a total labor force of 40,260. At the same time, the number of employed residents in the County increased from 33,960 to 35,280 over the same time period.



Claims for unemployment benefit increased from 115 in January 2008 to 286 twelve months later for production workers. The claims also increased for truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer by 54, by 96 for welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers (see claims table). At the same time, the jobless rate rose 3.4 percentage points to reach 12.3 percent in January 2009 from 8.9 percent a year earlier. Over the month of January, the unemployment rate increased by 2.4 percentage points from the revised December 2008 unemployment rate of 9.9 percent. The state jobless rate climbed to 8.6 percent from 5.2 percent over the 12-month period, while increasing by 1.5 percentage points from the revised December 2008 rate of 7.1 percent

Top Unemployment Claims by Occupation for Grant County

*SOC	Occupation	Jan-09	Dec-08	Jan-08	Change	
					Year	Month
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	286	248	115	171	38
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	164	138	110	54	26
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Brazers	107	91	11	96	16
472061	Construction Laborers	98	77	72	26	21
472031	Carpenters	86	65	44	42	21
472111	Electricians	82	61	20	62	21
472073	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	67	53	45	22	14
372011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	65	47	27	38	18
452041	Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	61	51	122	-61	10
373011	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	51	41	31	20	10
452093	Farmworkers, Farm and Ranch Animals	47	43	45	2	4
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	45	28	17	28	17
472152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	43	39	8	35	4
519199	Production Workers, All Other	39	31	13	26	8
499042	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	38	37	21	17	1
537051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	38	37	31	7	1
512099	Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	37	36	3	34	1
537064	Packers and Packagers, Hand	37	22	27	10	15
519111	Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	35	29	14	21	6
537062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	30	28	8	22	2
511011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers	28	23	10	18	5
452099	Agricultural Workers, All Other	25	24	26	-1	1
471011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	25	21	17	8	4

*SOC: Standard Occupational Classification

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: September 2008						
				Change		
	Prelim Jan-09	Revised Dec-08	Revised Jan-08	Dec-08 Jan-09	Jan-08 Jan-09	Jan-08 Jan-09%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	40,260	39,830	37,280	430	2,980	8.0%
Resident Employment	35,280	35,890	33,960	-610	1,320	3.9%
Unemployment	4,970	3,940	3,320	1,030	1,650	49.7%
Unemployment Rate	12.3	9.9	8.9	2.4	3.4	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	26,080	26,630	25,180	-550	900	3.6%
Total Private	18,430	18,830	17,780	-400	650	3.7%
Goods Producing	5,750	5,810	5,630	-60	120	2.1%
Services Providing	20,340	20,820	19,550	-480	790	4.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,430	5,580	5,170	-150	260	5.0%
Information and Financial Activities	1,080	1,060	1,030	20	50	4.9%
Government	7,660	7,800	7,410	-140	250	3.4%
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 3rd quarter 2008) and estimates employment from that point to present.</p> <p>**North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						