

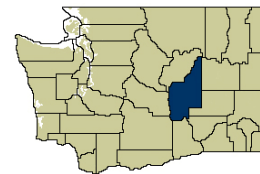


July 2009

# Grant County

## Labor Area Summary

### Volume 2009, Number 7



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

In July 2009, nonfarm employers across Grant County had their biggest year-over-year employment drop since the beginning of the recession in December 2007. Based on the latest statistics compiled by the state's Employment Security Department (ESD), nonfarm employers lost 1,570 workers or 5.7 percent of their workforce between July 2008 and July 2009. Total nonfarm employment declined from 27,770 jobs in July 2008 to 26,200 in July 2009, as government employers, as well as companies in trade, transportation, and utilities increased workers at a slower pace than a comparable period last year.

### Two over-the-year winners

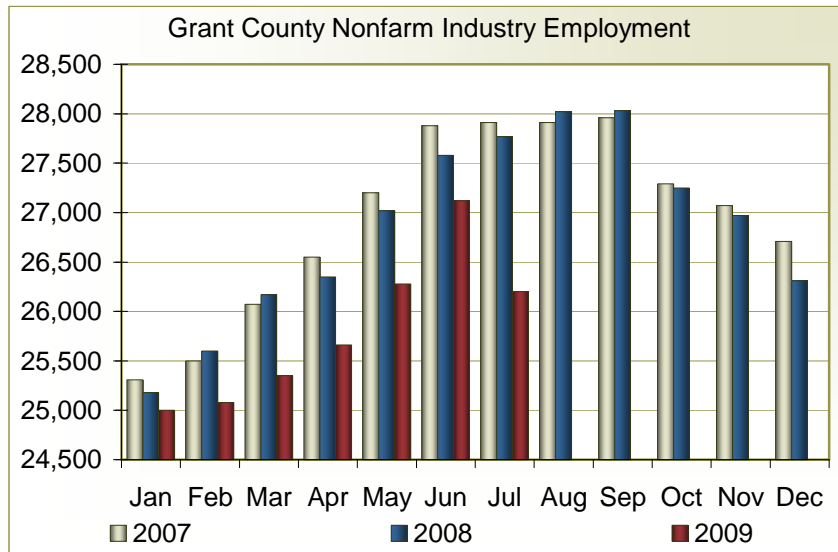
- Government employment in Grant County expanded at a slower year-over-year pace in July 2009. Between July 2008 and July 2009, the combined federal, state and local government employment increased by 100 jobs, or 1.3 percent. During a comparable period last year, the area's government employers gained 110 jobs. Across the state, government employment contracted at 0.2 percent annual rate.
- The number of people employed in the trade, transportation and utilities sector rose to 5,420 in July 2009, or 30 jobs (+0.6 percent) above the number of workers 12 months earlier. Statewide, trade, transportation and utilities was down 4.2 percent from July 2008 to July 2009.

### July 2008 to July 2009 losses

Jobs in the information and financial activities industry, a services-providing sector that accounts for 3.7 percent of total nonfarm employment across the county, was down 6.8 percent or 70 jobs between July 2008 and July 2009. Statewide, information employment contracted at 3.3 percent annual rate, while financial activities jobs shrank by 5.4 percent over the year.

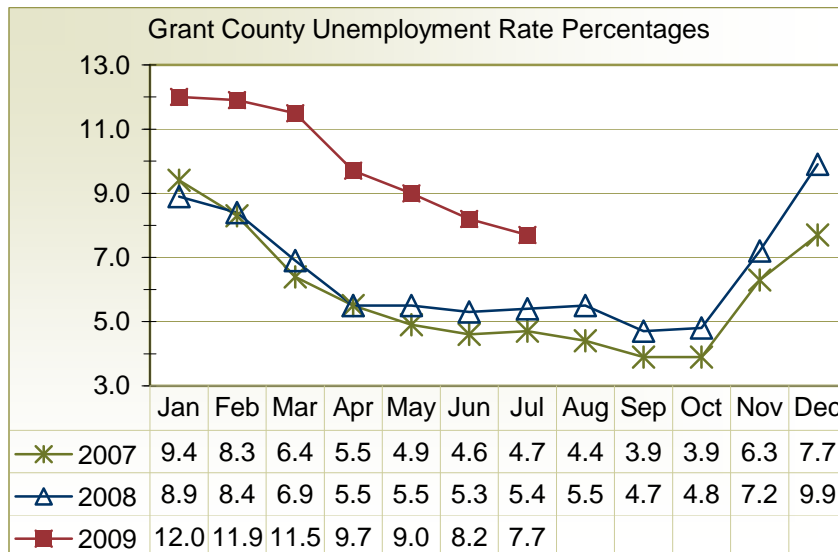
### Other labor market news

- There were a total of 5,670 goods-producing jobs in Grant County in July 2009, down 17.5 percent or 1,200 jobs from a previous employment level of 6,870 in July 2008. Most of the job losses occurred in the durable goods manufacturing subsectors.
- Employment in the services-providing industries, a group of companies that includes employers in trade, transportation, and utilities, information and financial activities, professional and business services, education, health services and social assistance, and other services, dropped to 20,520 in July 2009 from 20,900 workers in July 2008, or a 1.8 percent year-over-year decline. Services-providing jobs account for 78.0 percent of total nonfarm employment in Grant County. Across the state, services providing was down 2.3 percent, while goods producers shed 13.5 percent of their workforce.



## Unemployment

The unemployment rate increased to 7.7 percent in July 2009, up 2.3 percentage points from 5.4 percent in July 2008. Compared with the revised June 2009 rate of 8.2 percent, the unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage points. Many factors can provide explanation for changes in the unemployment rate. First, farm work and hiring by growers in this time period usually provide a temporary boost to the local job market. Second, a gloomy economic outlook, combined with a job market that keeps shedding jobs at a rate rarely seen before, may get many job seekers discouraged and therefore stopped looking for a job. As a result of a growing number of discouraged workers, the labor force declines along with the unemployment rate. An unemployed resident is someone who not only does not have a job, but also is actively looking for one.



The state's unadjusted jobless rate rose to 8.8 percent in July 2009, or up 3.7 percentage points from 5.1 percent in July 2008. Over the month, the state's unemployment rate went down 0.4 percentage points.

Over the 12-month period, the labor force, which is the sum of employed and unemployed, increased by 430. Over the same time period, the total number of unemployment claims increased from 783 to 1,845. Among those claiming the unemployment benefit, the number of truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailers increased by 46, electricians by 43, and industrial truck and tractor operators by 34.

| Top Unemployment Claims by Occupation for the Grant County |   |        |        |        | Change |         |
|--|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| *SOC   | Occupation  | Jul-09 | Jul-08 | Jun-09 | Yearly | Monthly |
| 519198   | Helpers–Production Workers                                | 211    | 74     | 160    | 137    | 51      |
| 514121   | Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers                    | 98     | 12     | 109    | 86     | -11     |
| 533032   | Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer                    | 85     | 39     | 81     | 46     | 4       |
| 452041   | Graders & Sorters, Agricultural Products                  | 75     | 66     | 43     | 9      | 32      |
| 472061   | Construction Laborers                                     | 61     | 24     | 64     | 37     | -3      |
| 472111   | Electricians  | 55     | 12     | 63     | 43     | -8      |
| 472031   | Carpenters  | 54     | 22     | 62     | 32     | -8      |
| 537051   | Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators                      | 47     | 13     | 45     | 34     | 2       |
| 452092   | Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse   | 42     | 24     | 68     | 18     | -26     |
| 537064   | Packers & Packers, Hand                                   | 31     | 31     | 30     | 0      | 1       |
| 519199   | Production Workers, All Other                             | 26     | 9      | 26     | 17     | 0       |
| 519061   | Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers        | 25     | 11     | 23     | 14     | 2       |
| 537062   | Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand        | 25     | 10     | 25     | 15     | 0       |
| 472152   | Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters                     | 23     | 9      | 24     | 14     | -1      |
| 399021   | Personal & Home Care Aides                                | 22     | 7      | 19     | 15     | 3       |
| 412031   | Retail Salespersons                                       | 22     | 5      | 20     | 17     | 2       |
| 435081   | Stock Clerks & Order Fillers                              | 21     | 11     | 20     | 10     | 1       |
| 372011   | Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners | 21     | 9      | 19     | 12     | 2       |
| 412011   | Cashiers  | 21     | 8      | 18     | 13     | 3       |
| 519111   | Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders           | 20     | 10     | 7      | 10     | 13      |
| 499042   | Maintenance & Repair Workers, General                     | 18     | 12     | 23     | 6      | -5      |
| Grand Total  |   | 1,845  | 783    | 1,831  | 1,062  | 14      |
| *SOC = Standard Occupational Classification code           |   |        |        |        |        |         |

## Summary Table

| Labor Market Information for<br>Grant County<br>Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: March 2009   |                  |                   |                   |                  |                  |                    |
|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|  |                  |                   |                   | Change           |                  |                    |
|  | Prelim<br>Jul-09 | Revised<br>Jun-09 | Revised<br>Jul-08 | Jun-09<br>Jul-09 | Jul-08<br>Jul-09 | Jul-08<br>Jul-09 % |
| <b>Employment by Place of Residence</b>  |                  |                   |                   |                  |                  |                    |
| Civilian Labor Force   | 43,810           | 44,920            | 43,380            | -1,110           | 430              | 1.0%               |
| Resident Employment  | 40,420           | 41,230            | 41,060            | -810             | -640             | -1.6%              |
| Unemployment   | 3,390            | 3,690             | 2,320             | -300             | 1,070            | 46.1%              |
| Unemployment Rate  | 7.7              | 8.2               | 5.4               | -0.5             | 2.3              |                    |
| <b>Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)</b>   |                  |                   |                   |                  |                  |                    |
| Total Nonfarm <sup>1/</sup>  | 26,200           | 27,120            | 27,770            | -920             | -1,570           | -5.7%              |
| Total Private  | 18,500           | 19,130            | 20,180            | -630             | -1,680           | -8.3%              |
| Goods Producing  | 5,670            | 6,300             | 6,870             | -630             | -1,200           | -17.5%             |
| Services Providing   | 20,520           | 20,810            | 20,900            | -290             | -380             | -1.8%              |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities   | 5,420            | 5,470             | 5,390             | -50              | 30               | 0.6%               |
| Information and Financial Activities   | 960              | 960               | 1,030             | 0                | -70              | -6.8%              |
| Government   | 7,690            | 7,990             | 7,590             | -300             | 100              | 1.3%               |
| Workers in Labor/Management Disputes   | 0                | 0                 | 0                 | 0                | 0                | 0                  |
| <p><sup>1/</sup> 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 1st quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present.</p> <p>**North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p> |                  |                   |                   |                  |                  |                    |