



Grant County

Labor Area Summary

July 2013

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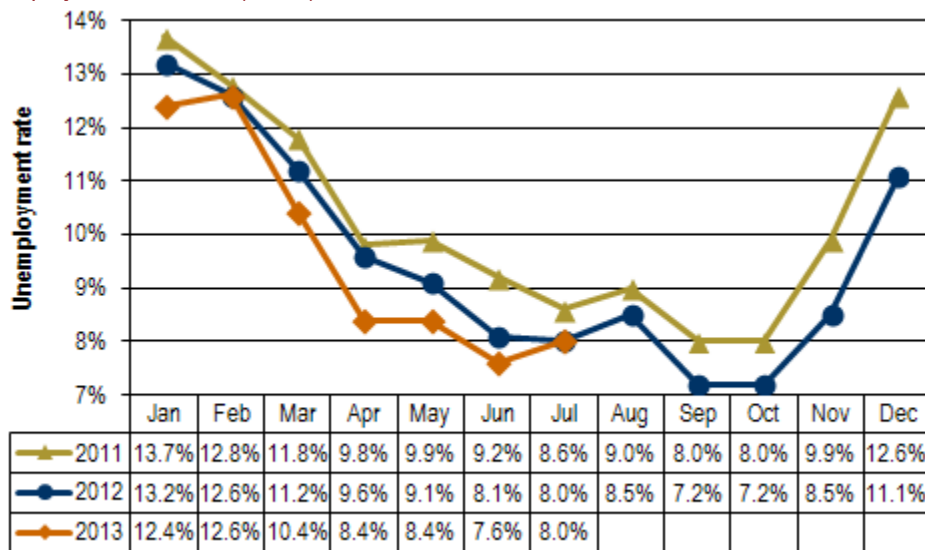
Overview

This report provides current updates on the Grant County economy. It incorporates the most recent, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm and agricultural employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year-over-year changes (between July 2012 and July 2013) in unemployment and on year-over-year employment trends in major industries in Grant County.

Unemployment rates

Washington state's annual average not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one full percentage point between 2011 and 2012, from 9.2 percent to 8.2 percent. Between the Julys of 2012 and 2013 the rate fell from 8.3 to 6.8 percent, a decrease of one and five-tenths percentage points. Grant County's July 2013 unemployment rate of 8.0 percent (not seasonally adjusted) was unchanged from the 8.0-percent reading in July 2012. This July was the 34th consecutive month of year-over-year decreases, or of no change, in the local unemployment rate (i.e. from October 2010 to July 2013).

Figure 1. Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted
 Grant County, January 2011 through July 2013
 Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



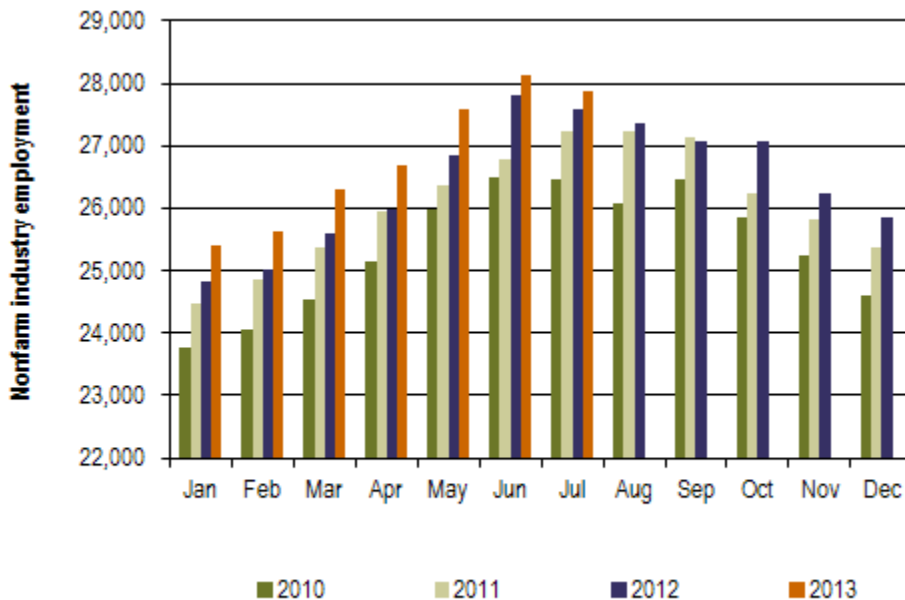
The Grant County unemployment rate stabilized at 8.0 percent in July 2012 and July 2013.

Total nonfarm employment

Businesses and government organizations across Washington supplied 2,958,500 nonfarm jobs this July (not seasonally adjusted), compared to 2,884,600 jobs in July 2012. This equated to a 2.6 percent over-the-year statewide employment increase. Washington's labor market has been growing for 34 months (from October 2010 through July 2013).

Grant County's labor market posted year-over-year nonfarm gains from October 2012 through July 2013 - ten consecutive months of job growth. This July, local nonfarm employers provided 27,860 jobs, a 1.1-percent and 290-job increase from the 27,570 jobs tallied in July 2012.

Figure 2. Nonfarm industry employment
Grant County, January 2010 through July 2013
Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA



Nonfarm employers in Grant County provided 27,860 nonfarm jobs in July 2013, a 1.1-percent upturn from July 2012.

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) stabilized in 2012, following a 1.0 percent and 33,770-resident decrease in the labor force in 2011. However, the labor force decreased year over year during the last five calendar months of 2012 – a weak finish to the year. The labor force continued to shrink in the each of the first three months of 2013, stabilized in April and May 2013, rose 0.2 percent in June, and then dipped 0.1 percent in July 2013. Washington's labor force was estimated to be 3,500,050 in July 2013 versus 3,502,430 in July of last year, equating to 2,380 fewer residents and a 0.1-percent decline in the CLF.

Grant County's labor force grew by 1,240 residents (up 3.0 percent) in 2012. However, Civilian Labor Force (CLF) growth virtually stagnated during the first three months of 2013 before posting year-over-year declines in April, May, June, and July 2013 – not a good economic indicator. Between the Julys of 2012 and 2013 the Grant County labor force contracted from 46,500 to 46,020 residents, a 1.0-percent decrease. However, fewer residents were unemployed this July versus the same month in 2012 (3,700 residents were unemployed in July 2012 versus 3,670 in July 2013). Hence, the unemployment rate stabilized at 8.0 percent in July 2012 and in July 2013, as shown in *Figure 3*.

Figure 3. Labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted
 Grant County, July 2013
 Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA

Grant County	Preliminary	Revised	Revised	Change		
	Jul-13	Jun-13	Jul-12	Jun-13	Jul-12	Jul-12
				Jul-13	Jul-13	Jul-13 %
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	46,020	45,930	46,500	90	-480	-1.0%
Resident employment	42,350	42,440	42,800	-90	-450	-1.1%
Unemployment	3,670	3,490	3,700	180	-30	-0.8%
Unemployment rate	8.0	7.6	8.0	0.4	0.0	
Industry employment						
Total nonfarm ¹	27,860	28,120	27,570	-260	290	1.1%
Total private	20,050	20,020	19,760	30	290	1.5%
Goods producing	6,270	6,280	6,350	-10	-80	-1.3%
Service providing	21,590	21,840	21,220	-250	370	1.7%
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	6,030	6,050	5,700	-20	330	5.8%
Information and financial activities	1,100	1,100	1,130	0	-30	-2.7%
Government	7,810	8,100	7,810	-290	0	0.0%
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.						

Nonfarm employment in Grant County increased 1.1 percent, a gain of 290 jobs, between July 2012 and July 2013.

Nonfarm industry employment

Specifically, on an annual average basis, nonfarm employment in Grant County:

- Decreased from 25,960 in 2009 to 25,390 in 2010, a 300-job and 1.2-percent decline.
- Jumped from 25,390 in 2010 to 26,060 in 2011, a 670-job and 2.6-percent increase.
- Increased from 26,060 in 2011 to 26,440 in 2012, a 380-job and 1.5-percent upturn.

Preliminary estimates (see *Figure 3*) illustrate that Grant County’s nonfarm employers tallied 290 more jobs in July 2013 than in July 2012, a 1.1-percent upturn. The following is a summary of the most recent over-the-year changes, by major industry:

- The goods producing category is comprised primarily of construction and manufacturing firms. Goods producers averaged 130 new jobs in 2012, rising from 5,620 in 2011 to 5,750 last year (up by 2.3 percent). This category expanded by 420 jobs in 2011, for an even more impressive 8.1-percent annual average employment increase. The upturns followed two years of dismal economic times. Specifically, Grant County’s goods producing firms lost 230 jobs in 2010 (down 4.2 percent) and another 800 jobs (down 12.8 percent) during 2009. Estimates indicate that local goods producing employment increased for nine consecutive months (October 2012 through June 2013) before decreasing 1.3-percent this July. Specifically, in July 2013 there were 6,270 goods producing jobs versus 6,350 in July 2012, as shown in *Figure 3*.
- Service providing businesses and organizations increased from 21,220 jobs in July 2012 to 21,590 in July 2013, accounting for all of the year-over-year gain in total nonfarm employment this July, as

shown in *Figure 3*. Year-over-year changes in Grant County's service providing industries have been positive or stable from March 2012 through July 2013 (i.e., for 17 consecutive months). Statewide, service providing organizations have been growing, or have stabilized, for 37 months (i.e. from July 2010 through July 2013). Hence, local service providing businesses and organizations recovered later than service providing businesses and organizations across Washington.

Agricultural employment

LMEA's Agricultural Labor Employment and Wages report for July 2013 showed the total number of agricultural jobs rose 21.3 percent over the year in the Columbia Basin Area 4, an agricultural reporting area that includes Adams and Grant counties. Total agricultural employment was 16,520 in July 2012 versus 20,040 in July 2013, a 3,520-job increase. A little more than 80 percent of agricultural jobs provided in this two-county area are on farms and orchards in Grant County. It should also be noted that seasonal agricultural employment in the Columbia Basin's Area 4 decreased from 11,760 in July 2012, to 11,620 in July 2013 – a 1.2-percent downturn. Why? According to the Agricultural Labor Employment and Wages report, "Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment decreased 1.2 percent due to decreased cherry work (-1,060)."

In other agricultural news, weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal during the reporting period in Adams and Grant counties. Also, potato growers in the Northwest and throughout the U.S. have significantly reduced their acreage this season following a 2012 crop marked by overproduction and low prices. Growers in Washington cut their crop from 165,000 acres in 2012 to 160,000 this season.