



Grant County

Labor Area Summary

June 2014

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Overview

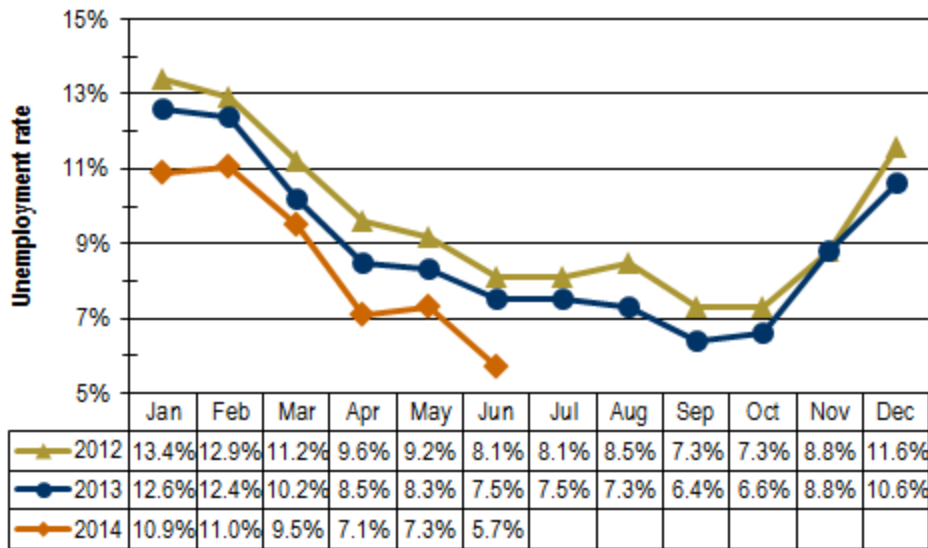
This report provides a current update on the Grant County economy incorporating current, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year-over-year (between June 2013 and June 2014) and annual average changes in the labor market.

Unemployment rates

Washington state's annual average not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one and one-tenths percentage points between 2012 and 2013, from 8.1 percent to 7.0 percent. Between the Junes of 2013 and 2014 the rate decreased from 7.1 to 5.4 percent, a one and seven-tenths percentage points decline.

In Grant County, the annual average unemployment rate decreased eight-tenths of a percentage point between 2012 and 2013, from 9.6 to 8.8 percent. It decreased one and eight-tenths percentage points this June to 5.7 percent from the 7.5 percent reading in June 2013 (as shown in *Figure 1*). Countywide, the number of unemployed residents fell from 3,390 in June 2013 to 2,510 in June 2014.

Figure 1. Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted
 Grant County, January 2012 through June 2014
 Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



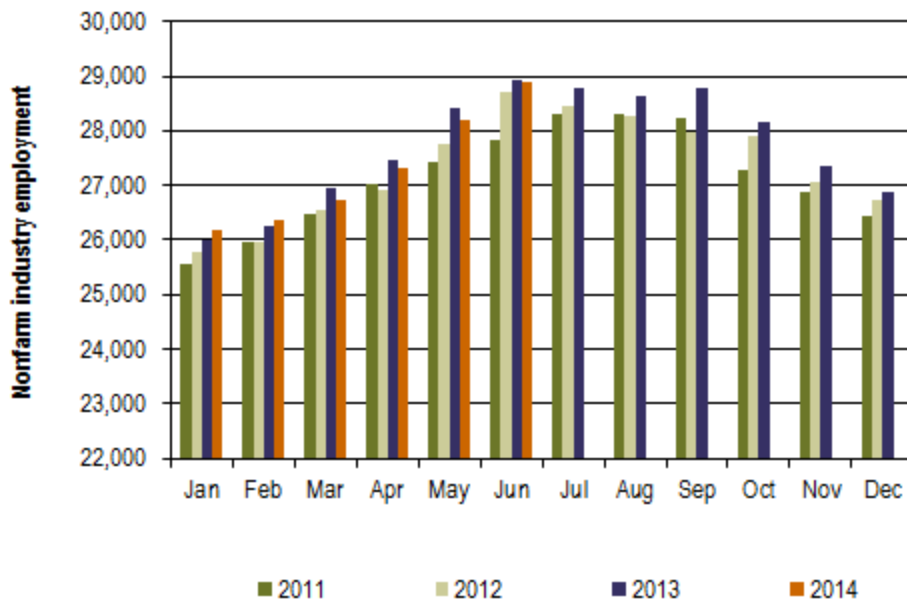
The Grant County unemployment rate decreased one and eight-tenths percentage points between June 2013 and June 2014.

Total nonfarm employment

Businesses and government organizations across Washington supplied 3,092,000 nonfarm jobs this June (not seasonally adjusted), compared to 3,007,300 jobs in June 2013. This equated to a 2.8 percent year-over-year employment increase. The state's economy has posted nonfarm employment increases for the past 45 months (October 2010 through June 2014). In 2013, Washington's labor market provided 68,700 new jobs, an annual average increase of 2.4 percent.

Year over year, Grant County's nonfarm employment has decreased for the past four months (March through June 2014). In June 2014 local nonfarm employers provided 28,890 jobs, a 0.2 percent and 60 job decrease from the 28,950 jobs tallied in June 2013.

Figure 2. Nonfarm industry employment
Grant County, January 2011 through June 2014
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA



Nonfarm employers in Grant County provided 28,890 nonfarm jobs in June 2014, a 0.2 percent downturn from June 2013.

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) shrank by 23,600 residents (a 0.7 percent downturn) in 2013. Between June 2013 and June 2014 the state's labor force declined 0.2 percent. This June, Washington's CLF tallied 3,483,270 residents versus 3,490,640 in June 2013, equating to 7,370 fewer Washingtonians in the labor force.

The Grant County CLF expanded by 0.5 percent in 2013, but posted year over year losses in the first six months of 2014. This June, only 44,000 residents were in the local labor force versus 44,960 in June 2013. The upside was that 880 fewer residents were unemployed in June 2014 compared with the corresponding month in 2013 (3,390 residents were unemployed in June 2013 versus 2,510 in June 2014). The labor force shrinkage between the Junes of 2013 and 2014 did not counter the more rapid decrease in the number of unemployed, hence the County's unemployment rate declined from 7.5 percent to 5.7 percent during this timeframe (as shown in *Figure 3*).

Figure 3. Labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted
 Grant County, June 2014
 Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA

Grant County	Preliminary Jun-14	Revised May-14	Revised Jun-13	Change		
				May-14	Jun-13	Jun-13
				Jun-14	Jun-14	Jun-14 %
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	44,000	41,010	44,960	2,990	-960	-2.1%
Resident employment	41,490	38,010	41,570	3,480	-80	-0.2%
Unemployment	2,510	3,000	3,390	-490	-880	-26.0%
Unemployment rate	5.7	7.3	7.5	-1.6	-1.8	
Industry employment						
Total nonfarm ¹	28,890	28,200	28,950	690	-60	-0.2%
Total private	20,460	19,700	20,640	760	-180	-0.9%
Goods producing	6,160	5,680	6,050	480	110	1.8%
Mining, logging and construction	1,310	1,270	1,270	40	40	3.1%
Manufacturing	4,850	4,410	4,780	440	70	1.5%
Durable goods	1,900	1,900	1,920	0	-20	-1.0%
Nondurable goods	2,950	2,510	2,860	440	90	3.1%
Service providing	22,730	22,520	22,900	210	-170	-0.7%
Trade, transportation and utilities	5,620	5,590	5,750	30	-130	-2.3%
Wholesale trade	1,490	1,480	1,500	10	-10	-0.7%
Retail trade	3,190	3,180	3,290	10	-100	-3.0%
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	940	930	960	10	-20	-2.1%
Information and financial activities	1,070	1,070	1,260	0	-190	-15.1%
Professional and business services	1,560	1,440	1,290	120	270	20.9%
Education and health services	2,880	2,840	2,860	40	20	0.7%
Leisure and hospitality	2,560	2,500	2,820	60	-260	-9.2%
Government	8,430	8,500	8,310	-70	120	1.4%
Federal government	710	690	750	20	-40	-5.3%
State and local government	7,720	7,810	7,560	-90	160	2.1%
State and local government education	3,440	3,630	3,370	-190	70	2.1%
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 decreased 0.2 percent, a loss of 60 jobs, between June 2013 and June 2014.

Nonfarm industry employment

Preliminary estimates (see *Figure 3*) illustrate that Grant County's nonfarm employers totaled 60 fewer jobs in June 2014 than in June 2013, a 0.2 percent downturn. Following is a summary of these recent over-the-year changes by industry:

- Most jobs in the combined "mining, logging and construction" category in Grant County are in construction and this industry averaged 60 fewer jobs in 2013 than in 2012, a 5.0 percent

contraction. However, during the past three months the number of construction jobs has either stabilized or increased year over year. Specifically, construction rose 1.7 percent in Grant County between the Aprils of 2013 and 2014, stabilized between the Mays of 2013 and 2014 and increased by 3.1 percent between June 2013 (1,270 jobs) and June 2014 (1,310 jobs). Statewide, construction employment has grown for the past 28 months (from March 2012 through June 2014).

- Manufacturing increased 1.5 percent between the Junes of 2013 and 2014, from 4,780 to 4,850, a 70 job expansion. All of this year-over-year growth was in nondurable goods manufacturing (primarily at food processing companies).
- Retail trade stores provided 3,290 jobs in June 2013 versus 3,190 in June 2014, a 3.0 percent decrease and a loss of 100 part- or full-time jobs.
- Information and financial activities contracted from 1,260 positions in June 2013 to 1,070 in June 2014, a 190 job and 15.1 percent downtrend.
- Professional and business services jumped by 270 jobs, a 20.9 percent increase, between the Junes of 2013 and 2014. On an annual average basis this category increased from 1,250 in 2012 to 1,310 in 2013, a 60 job and 4.8 percent increase. Professional and business services is a broad category that and includes legal offices, accounting and tax preparation firms, private security companies, temporary job placement agencies, etc. It should be noted that temporary placement agency positions are tallied under this broad professional and business services category in Grant County, regardless of the industry in which work is performed.
- Leisure and hospitality (primarily hotels and restaurants) averaged 2,310 full- and part-time jobs countywide in 2012 and 2,360 in 2013 (up 2.2 percent). However, this industry declined from 2,820 jobs in June 2013 to 2,560 in June 2014, a 260 job and 9.2 percent downturn. Employment also retrenched between the Mays of 2013 and 2014. Although this two-month downtrend in Grant County's leisure and hospitality industry bears watching, it is likely these job losses do not indicate a long-term contraction in the local leisure and hospitality industry. Grant County is not immune to statewide labor market trends, and Washington's leisure and hospitality industry has been growing for 45 consecutive months (from October 2010 through June 2014).

Agricultural employment/production

According to the 2012 Agricultural Census produced by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Grant County registered the highest volume of agricultural sales (\$1.7 billion) in all of Washington's 39 counties. Crop and livestock sales in the County were \$1.1 billion in 2007, the last year in which NASS released county-level sales data. A July 9, 2014 Columbia Basin Herald article entitled Grant County Leads Washington State in Agricultural Sales reported: "The increase between the 2007 and 2012 census was enough to bump Grant County up one spot on the state's list of top agricultural sellers. In 2007, Grant County had the No. 2 spot on the list, coming in after Yakima County which recorded \$1.2 billion in agricultural sales that year." Yakima County came in a close-second to Grant County during 2012, tallying \$1.6 billion in sales.