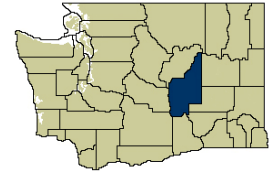




# Grant County

## Labor Area Summary

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## Summary

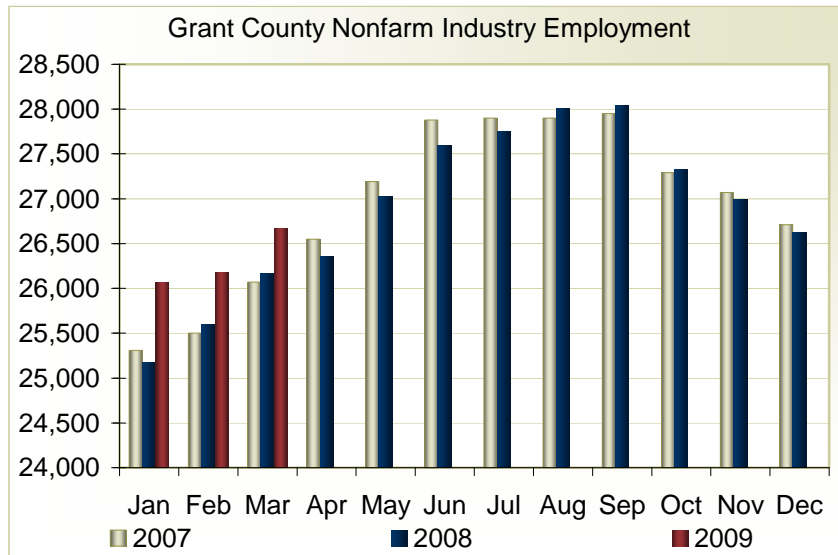
Grant County nonfarm employers ended the first quarter with more workers in March 2009 than twelve months prior. Across all nonfarm industries, 26,670 people were employed in March 2009, up 1.9 percent, or 500 workers from 26,170 in March 2008. The upturn was primarily due to a continued growth in information and financial activities as well as in the trade, transportation and utilities sectors. At the same time, the unemployment rate jumped by 5.0 percentage points over the same time period, while jobless benefit claims increased across many occupations.

## Year-over-year winners

- Jobs growth in trade, transportation and utilities, the best performer, accelerated at the fastest year-over-year pace since 2007. Employment in this services-providing industry increased by 240 jobs, or 4.5 percent between March 2008 and March 2009. Over the previous 12-month period, 100 employees had been added. Retail trade, wholesale trade, air transportation, rail transportation, freight trucking, postal services, and taxi and limousine services make up part the trade, transportation and utilities sector. Across the state, trade, transportation and utilities shrank by 5.1 percent.
- Information and financial activities employment was up 4.8 percent, for a gain of 50 jobs over the year. In March 2007 and March 2008, employment in this services-providing sector increased by 40 and 30 jobs, respectively. 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 down 0.7 percent, while financial activities shrank by 5.9 percent.
- The government sector also showed considerable strength in March 2009, increasing by a year-over-year growth rate of 2.2 percent, or up 170 employees after posting an increase of 190 jobs (+2.6 percent) over the previous 12-month period. Statewide, government employers gained jobs at 0.8 percent annual rate.

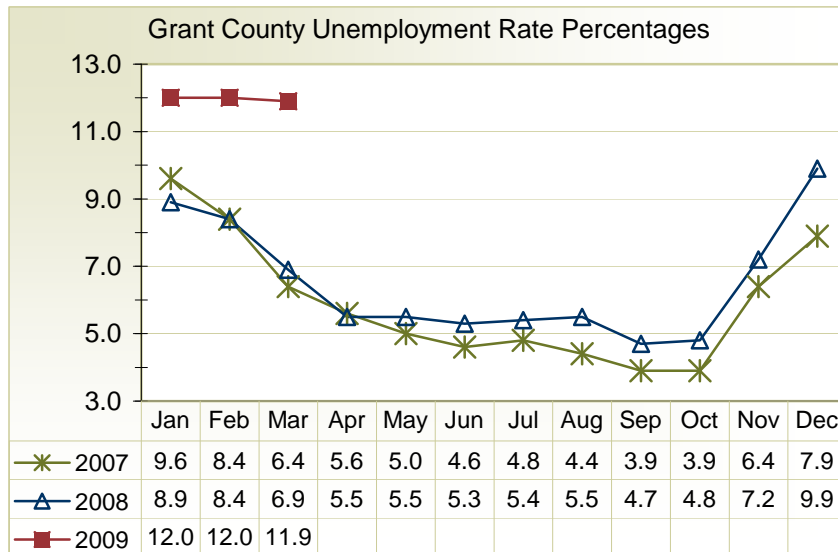
## Month-to-month performance

Over the month, government employment expanded by 40, information and financial activities gained 10 jobs, while trade, transportation and utilities increased by 150. The goods-producing industry was up 140, while services providers added 350 workers.



## Unemployment

From March 2008 to March 2009, the number of residents who did not have a job and were actively seeking employment increased from 2,670 to 4,910 or up 2,240. Over the same time period, employed residents increased by 260, rising from 35,950 in March 2008 to 36,210 in March 2009. The labor force, which is the sum of employed and unemployed residents, went up from 38,620 to 41,110. As a result, the jobless rate, which is the ratio of the unemployed divided by the total labor force, jumped by 5.0 percentage points, rising from 6.9 percent to 11.9 percent over the 12-month period. Over the month, the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage points from a revised February rate of 12.0 percent. The state's jobless rate rose to 9.7 percent in March 2009, or up 4.6 percentage points from 5.1 percent in March 2008. Over the month, the state's unemployment rate went up 0.6 percentage points.



Among those who lost their jobs, the number of production worker's helpers who filed for unemployment benefits increased from 74 in March 2008 to 246 in March 2009. The claims also increased by 48 for carpenters, by 76 for truck drivers, heavy and tractor trailers, but declined by 12 for graders and sorters of agricultural products (see unemployment claims table).

Top Unemployment Claims by Occupation for Grant County						
*SOC	Occupation	Mar-09	Feb-09	Mar-08	Change	
					Year	Month
519198	Helpers--production workers	246	292	74	172	-46
533032	Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	152	165	76	76	-13
514121	Welders, cutters, solderers and braziers	121	110	9	112	11
472061	Construction laborers	90	88	58	32	2
472031	Carpenters	75	73	27	48	2
472111	Electricians	67	68	19	48	-1
472073	Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	54	58	27	27	-4
452041	Graders and sorters, agricultural products	53	96	65	-12	-43
519061	Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	44	48	11	33	-4
537064	Packers and packagers, hand	44	39	39	5	5
472152	Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	40	35	6	34	5
512099	Assemblers and fabricators, all other	40	41	3	37	-1
499042	Maintenance and repair workers, general	37	36	21	16	1
519199	Production workers, all other	37	40	10	27	-3
373011	Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	36	47	25	11	-11
452093	Farmworkers, farm and ranch animals	36	38	36	0	-2
537051	Industrial truck and tractor operators	34	41	19	15	-7
537062	Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	32	31	9	23	1
372011	Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	30	33	25	5	-3
511011	First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	30	27	9	21	3
514011	Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	25	22	4	21	3

\*SOC = Standard Occupational Classification code

The unemployment rate is the ratio of the unemployed (individuals who are actively looking for work) divided by the total labor force (which consists of the employed plus the unemployed). It can be affected by changes in the labor force participation rate (which is a ratio of the total labor force divided by the population age 16 and older).

Over time, the makeup of the labor force also changes. New graduates are joining the labor force for the first time, while some currently employed are retiring. At other times, some job seekers may be in or out of the labor force depending on the state of the economy and their hopes of finding a job. All these factors suggest that the unemployment rate does not and should not be expected to respond one-for-one to changes in employment. When employment expands, not all the added jobs are filled by the previously unemployed. Some of the openings may be filled by residents who just joined the labor force, while others are taken by formerly discouraged workers who were not previously counted as part of the labor force.

## Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: September 2008						
				Change		
	Prelim Mar-09	Revised Feb-09	Revised Mar-08	Feb-09 Mar-09	Mar-08 Mar-09	Mar-08 Mar-09%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	41,110	40,770	38,620	340	2,490	6.4%
Resident Employment	36,210	35,870	35,950	340	260	0.7%
Unemployment	4,910	4,900	2,670	10	2,240	83.9%
Unemployment Rate	11.9	12.0	6.9	-0.1	5.0	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	26,670	26,180	26,170	490	500	1.9%
Total Private	18,920	18,470	18,590	450	330	1.8%
Goods Producing	5,950	5,810	5,930	140	20	0.3%
Services Providing	20,720	20,370	20,240	350	480	2.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,530	5,380	5,290	150	240	4.5%
Information and Financial Activities	1,090	1,080	1,040	10	50	4.8%
Government	7,750	7,710	7,580	40	170	2.2%
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>						