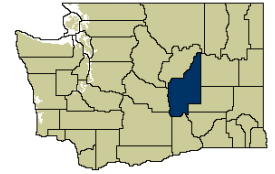




Grant County

Labor Area Summary

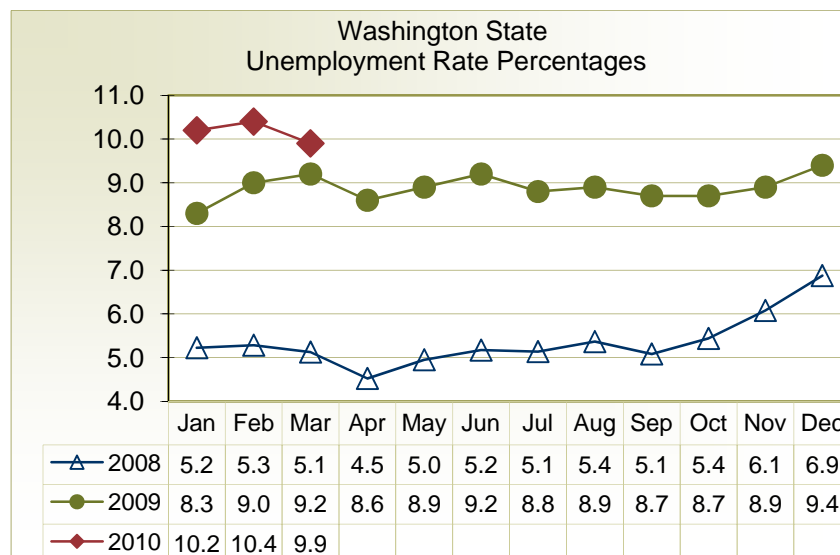
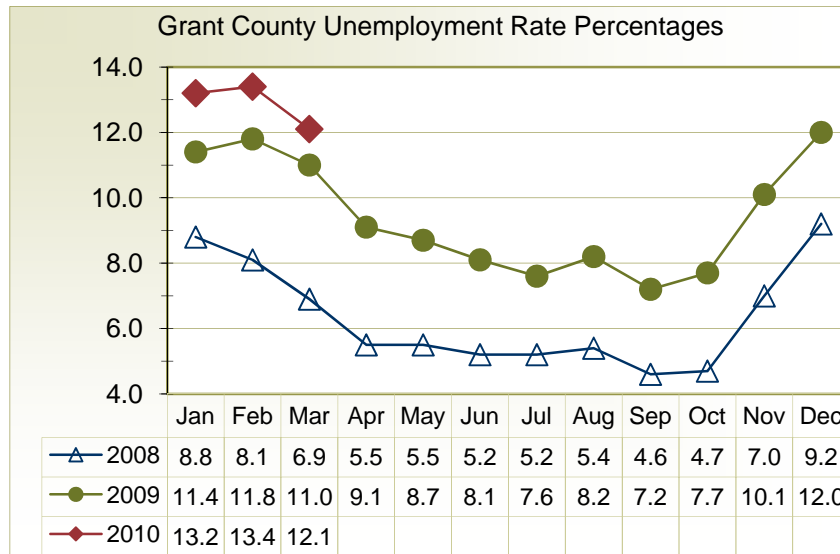
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Unemployment

The March 2010 unemployment rate of 12.1 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in Grant County was 1.1 percentage points above the 11.0 percent reading in March 2009. The total number of unemployed residents increased by 470 - from 4,380 in March 2009 to 4,850 in March 2010. Across Washington, the rate increased 0.7 percentage points in this period, from 9.2 to 9.9 percent.

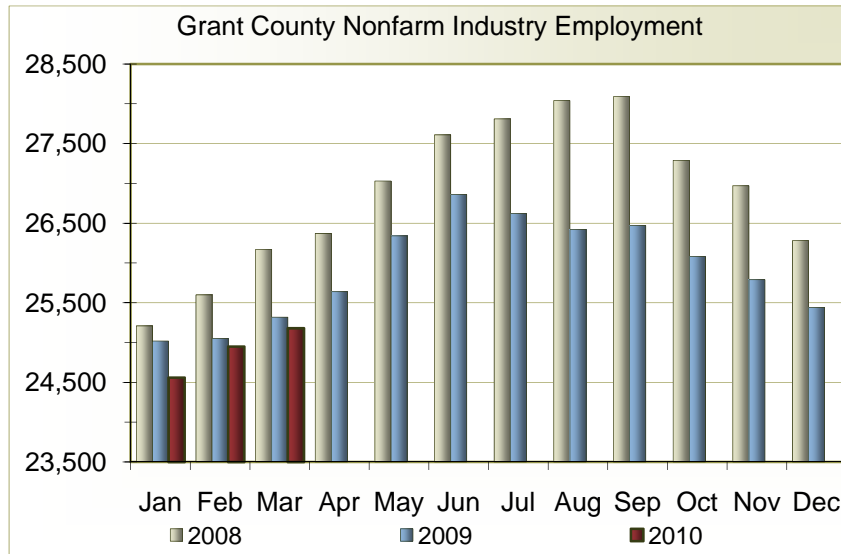
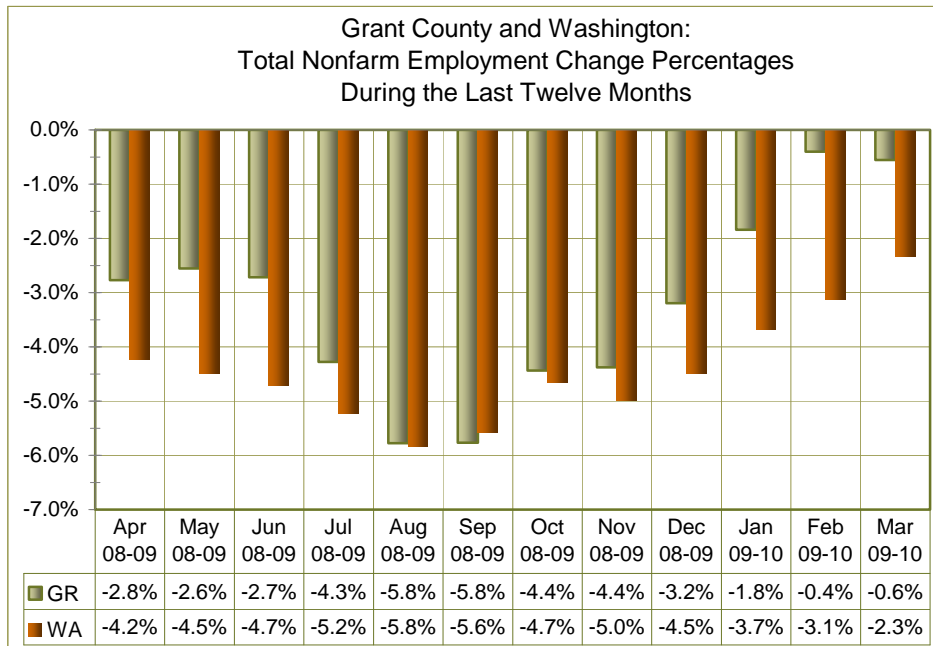


A review of continued claims for unemployment data illustrates there were 398 fewer Grant County residents in continued claim status in March 2010 than in March 2009. This could be good economic news. Conversely, the decrease in continued claims may be a bad economic indicator if fewer residents are eligible to file a claim. At this stage of the recession, it seems more likely the latter scenario is currently playing out in Grant County.

Top Continued Claims for Unemployment by Occupation for Grant County						
*SOC	Occupation	Mar-10	Feb-10	Mar-09	Change	
					Monthly	Yearly
452092	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, Greenhouse, and Agricultural Equip. Operators	319	359	314	-40	5
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	178	254	250	-76	-72
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	122	163	155	-41	-33
472061	Construction Laborers	89	97	94	-8	-5
472111	Electricians	60	55	84	5	-24
472031	Carpenters	59	54	75	5	-16
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	56	74	124	-18	-68
537051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	43	48	34	-5	9
472073	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	39	48	54	-9	-15
537064	Packers and Packagers, Hand	38	41	44	-3	-6
452041	Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	37	79	55	-42	-18
452093	Farmworkers, Farm and Ranch Animals	36	48	36	-12	0
399021	Personal and Home Care Aides	36	37	16	-1	20
412011	Cashiers	35	41	20	-6	15
373011	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	34	51	36	-17	-2
472152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	32	30	48	2	-16
372011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	29	32	30	-3	-1
519061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	28	33	45	-5	-17
434051	Customer Service Representatives and Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	28	33	28	-5	0
259041	Teacher Assistants	26	35	15	-9	11
511011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers	26	31	31	-5	-5
499042	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	26	28	37	-2	-11
537062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	21	30	33	-9	-12
519199	Production Workers, All Other	15	20	38	-5	-23
512099	Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	13	12	40	1	-27
Grand total all continued claims in Grant County		2,548	2,970	2,946	-422	-398
*SOC = Standard Occupational Classification code						

Employment

Nonfarm employment in Grant County contracted by 0.6 percent between March 2009 and March 2010, comparing favorably with a more dismal 2.3 percent over-the-year statewide decline. The lion's share of Grant County's 0.6 percent, a 140-job downturn, was attributable to the 370 job over-the-year contraction in the goods-producing sector. Although the service-providing sector grew by 210 jobs since March 2009, it was not sufficient to offset goods-producing losses. Total nonfarm job losses in Grant County have not been as severe as statewide declines since September 2009 (as shown in the next chart), and job loss rates in the county are decelerating. If this trend continues, one could see positive over-the-year job growth in Grant County in the next two or three months.



Both the Grant County and the state labor markets shed jobs during calendar year 2009. The average number of nonfarm jobs in Grant County was 25,920 in 2009; a 950 job or 3.5 percent decrease below the 26,870 jobs provided in 2008. The state’s economy fared somewhat worse last year by losing 132,200 jobs for a 4.5 percent decline.

Although nonfarm employment dwindled in Grant County during 2009 (down 3.5 percent) and the labor market was still shrinking this March (down 0.6 percent), over-the-year job loss rates are decelerating. Further, the future of the local economy looks bright because of business expansions and infrastructure improvements planned in Grant County. For example, a recent edition of the Moses Lake *Columbia Basin Herald* announced that, “Grant County received an economic shot in the arm with the official announcement of a BMW parts plant being built in Moses Lake. The project is expected to create about 80 jobs at first and ramp up to 200 jobs at full completion. SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers announced their \$100 million investment for the initial production phase of a carbon fiber manufacturing plant, according to the company. Between 150 and 200 construction jobs would result, said Theodore Breyer, deputy CEO of the SGL Group ... The plant will manufacture carbon fibers for the future Megacity vehicle. A groundbreaking is set for June in Moses Lake.”

More encouraging news was posted in the *Grant County EDC January 2010 Newsletter*, which mentioned that the Washington State Community and Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) announced that \$3.0 million in public investments had been allocated to Grant County to help create new jobs and stimulate business growth. This includes a \$1.5 million loan and \$500,000 grant to the Port of Moses Lake to build an electrical substation; plus a \$1.0 million loan to the Port of Warden to upgrade five existing grain storage silos, install a new oilseed crusher and construct a biodiesel production facility.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: September 2009						
				Change		
	Prelim Mar-10	Revised Feb-10	Revised Mar-09	Feb-10 Mar-10	Mar-09 Mar-10	Mar-09 Mar-10%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	40,210	39,800	39,850	410	360	0.9%
Resident Employment	35,360	34,460	35,470	900	-110	-0.3%
Unemployment	4,850	5,340	4,380	-490	470	10.7%
Unemployment Rate	12.1	13.4	11.0	-1.3	1.1	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm ^{1/}	25,180	24,950	25,320	230	-140	-0.6%
Total Private	17,270	17,070	17,510	200	-240	-1.4%
Goods Producing	4,870	4,890	5,240	-20	-370	-7.1%
Service Providing	20,300	20,060	20,090	240	210	1.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,680	5,540	5,350	140	330	6.2%
Information and Financial Activities	950	960	970	-10	-20	-2.1%
Government	7,900	7,880	7,820	20	80	1.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	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. *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 third quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present. **North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages						