

Grant County

Labor Area Summary

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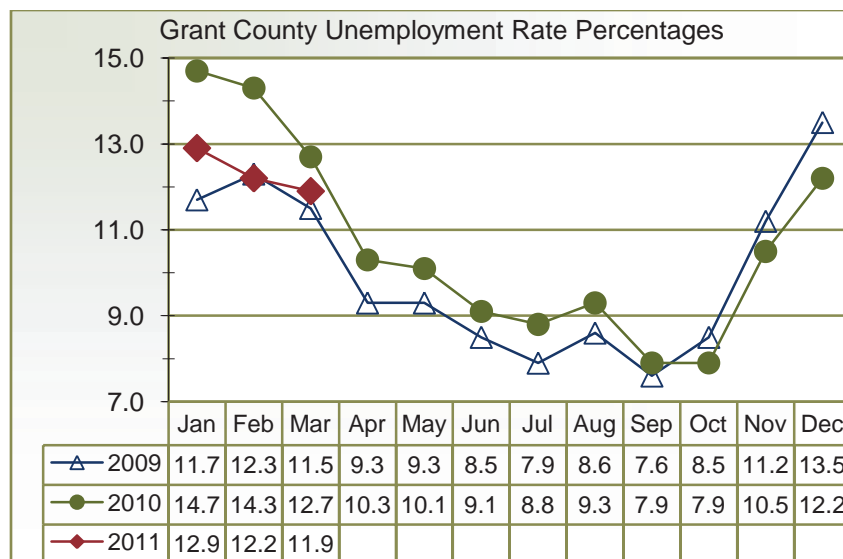
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Summary

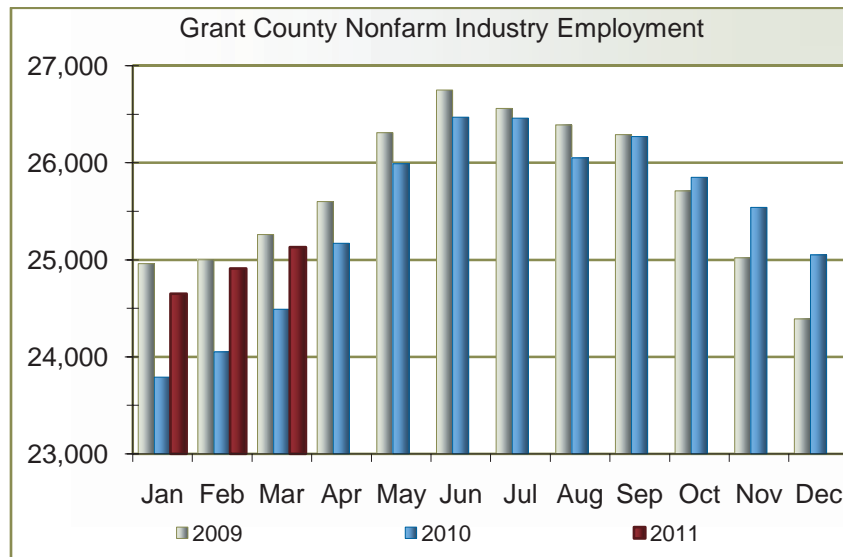
Grant County's unemployment rate of 11.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.3 percentage points below February 2011 and 0.8 percentage points below March 2010. Even though the unemployment rate remains relatively high, the year-over-year decreases are continuing and showing progress toward a recovering labor market.

The year 2011 has been showing optimistic signs for Grant County. The start of 2011 showed significant declines in year-over-year unemployment rates with slight increases in the number employed. The labor force has declined slightly, but the number of unemployed has decreased even more. Although the labor force has fallen, the number of employed has increased both over the month and year over year.



Washington state's unemployment rate of 9.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.2 percentage points below the February 2011 figure and 0.8 percentage points below March 2010. The labor force has dropped slightly across the state along with the number employed. Fortunately, the number unemployed has dropped in year-over-year figures. Recovery for the state has been slow moving and continues to inch along.

Grant County is currently sitting very close to 2006 employment levels. Even though there is still significant ground to be made up to reach previous peak employment levels, the employment gains in year-over-year figures are starting to pick up and gain some momentum. In the last six months, there have been total nonfarm employment gains in year-over-year figures.



Over the month, both total nonfarm and total private employment are up. All of the growth is currently coming from the private sector. The goods-producing sector is down slightly along with government employment. Even with a slight loss in the goods-producing sector, there is normally a relatively flat labor market during February and March each year. The service-providing sector is where the gains are concentrated this month.

Year-over-year total nonfarm employment gains are very strong this month. As the economy began to turn around, Grant County was leading the way with employment gains. The growth has continued and currently there are across-the-board employment gains. There has been increased interest in the area lately, spawning some retail expansion to better serve the manufacturing and community college area.

This time of year tends to be slow as the area moves toward peak seasonal employment in June or July. This normally slow period has seen some growth, with a positive indication of moving forward.

Washington state's year-over-year growth has been, and continues to be, in professional and business services. The goods-producing sector contracted slightly while the service-providing sector made employment gains. Leading indicators are starting to show more positive signs toward future growth, but they are gaining ground very slowly. Consumer confidence continues to rise as consumer expectations faltered this month. Commodity prices have been rising. As global demand for gasoline continues to increase, prices are expected to rise.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: September 2010						
	Prelim Mar-11	Revised Feb-11	Revised Mar-10	Change		
				Feb-11 Mar-11	Mar-10 Mar-11	Mar-10 Mar-11 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	40,020	39,510	40,190	510	-170	-0.4%
Resident Employment	35,250	34,680	35,090	570	160	0.5%
Unemployment	4,770	4,830	5,100	-60	-330	-6.5%
Unemployment Rate	11.9	12.2	12.7	-0.3	-0.8	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	25,130	24,910	24,490	220	640	2.6%
Total Private	17,270	17,010	16,710	260	560	3.4%
Goods Producing	5,000	5,040	4,780	-40	220	4.6%
Service Providing	20,130	19,870	19,710	260	420	2.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,550	5,410	5,320	140	230	4.3%
Information and Financial Activities	1,150	1,150	930	0	220	23.7%
Government	7,860	7,900	7,780	-40	80	1.0%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	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.</p> <p>*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 and estimates employment from that point to present.</p> <p>**North American Industry Classification System</p> <p>***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						