



Grant County Labor Area Summary

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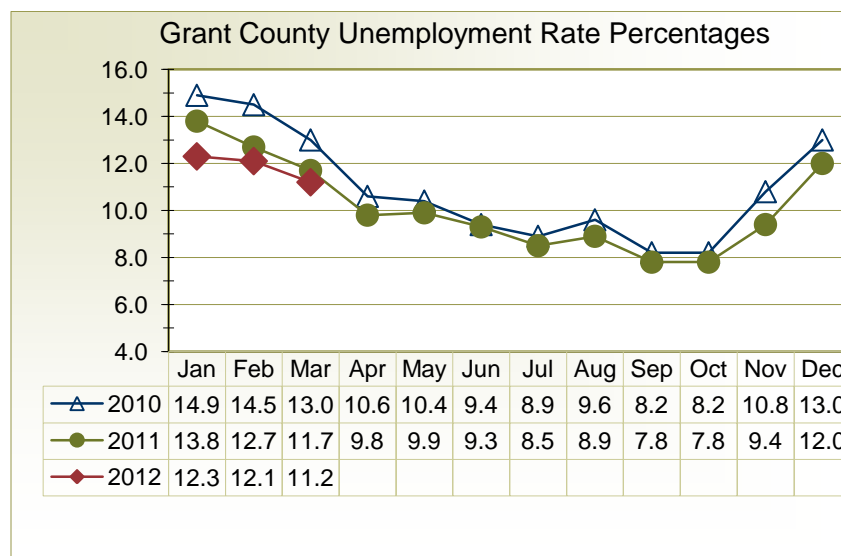
mberreth@esd.wa.gov, <http://www.esd.wa.gov/employmentdata/>

Unemployment

Grant county's unemployment rate of 11.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.9 percentage points below February 2012 and 0.5 percentage points below March 2011.

The civilian labor force and total employment posted strong gains in year-over-year figures this month. In 2011 most counties were struggling with discouraged workers leaving the labor force, but Grant county only experienced a few months of this loss. Employment and labor availability have been improving over the last year.

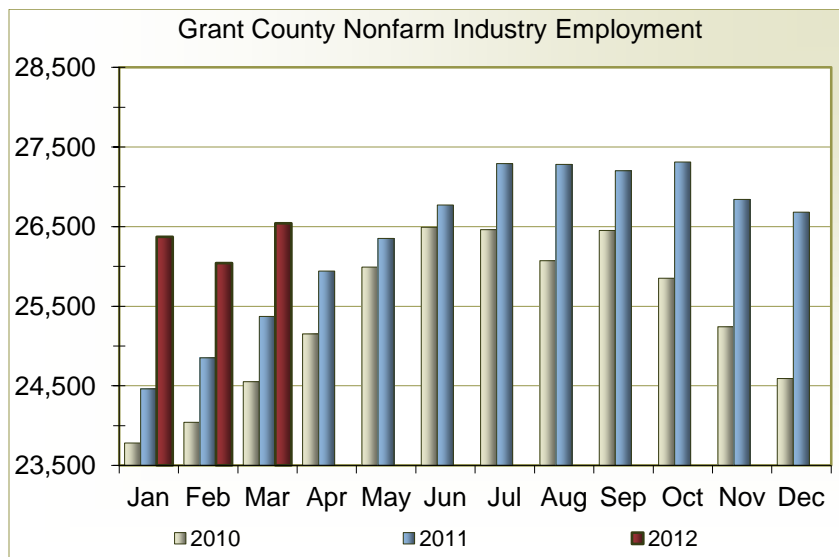
Over-the-month the labor force edged up while total employment grew slightly faster. It is a very good sign to see employment growth going faster than labor force growth. These improvements are showing a stronger economy as the additional employment must come out of the unemployed. Even though the unemployment rate remains high, the overall trend is showing strong improvements.



Washington state's unemployment rate of 8.8 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.4 percentage points below the February 2012 figure and 1.1 percentage points below March 2011. The civilian labor force grew at a much slower pace than total employment. The additional employment growth helped reduce the total number unemployed. Slow upward progress continues.

Employment

Grant county started coming out of the recession in 2011 as employment gains picked up momentum. By mid-2011 total nonfarm employment growth was posting very strong improvements that have continued into 2012. While manufacturing helped the area to minimize losses during the recession, growth in the goods-producing sector has slowed and the service-providing sector now leads in growth.



Over-the-month total nonfarm employment grew due to both the public and private sector. Most areas in Washington are struggling in the public sector as fiscal tightening occurs. A growth in this area is quite abnormal right now. The service-providing sector posted stronger gains than the goods-producing sector. Information and financial activities remained flat.

Year-over-year total nonfarm employment and total private employment posted very strong growth this month. The majority of the growth is coming from the private sector as government employment edged up this month. The goods-producing sector was the one area to shed jobs. Within the service-providing sector all areas posted gains. Information and financial activities posted a very strong employment gain.

Washington state's non-seasonally adjusted figures show positive growth in year-over-year figures for total nonfarm employment and total private employment. Manufacturing has still been a leading force in employment gains. Retail trade and leisure and hospitality, within the service-providing sector, also posted strong gains as consumers feel more confident spending money.

Consumer confidence edged down from February to March but is still above January's figure. The leading indicator is still on an overall upward trend. Consumer expectations also edged down this month.

Industrial production of final products has been on an upward trend since mid-2009. The indicator edged down this month, but still remains positive since January 2012. The slight drop is being attributed to consumer goods. Business equipment, on the other hand, posted another gain this month and is showing a slightly more positive picture.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/**Updated with ***QCEW Data: June 2011						
				Change		
	Prelim Mar-12	Revised Feb-12	Revised Mar-11	Feb-12 Mar-12	Mar-11 Mar-12	Mar-11 Mar-12 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	41,280	40,960	39,900	320	1,380	3.5%
Resident Employment	36,650	36,020	35,230	630	1,420	4.0%
Unemployment	4,630	4,630	4,670	-310	-40	-0.9%
Unemployment Rate	11.2	12.1	11.7	-0.9	-0.5	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	26,540	26,040	25,370	500	1,170	4.6%
Total Private	18,560	18,280	17,430	280	1,130	6.5%
Goods Producing	5,150	5,030	5,250	120	-100	-1.9%
Service Providing	21,390	21,010	20,120	380	1,270	6.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,100	6,060	5,270	40	830	15.7%
Information and Financial Activities	1,300	1,300	960	0	340	35.4%
Government	7,980	7,760	7,940	220	40	0.5%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>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.</i>						
<i>*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.</i>						
<i>**North American Industry Classification System</i>						
<i>***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</i>						