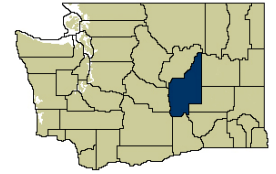




Grant County

Labor Area Summary

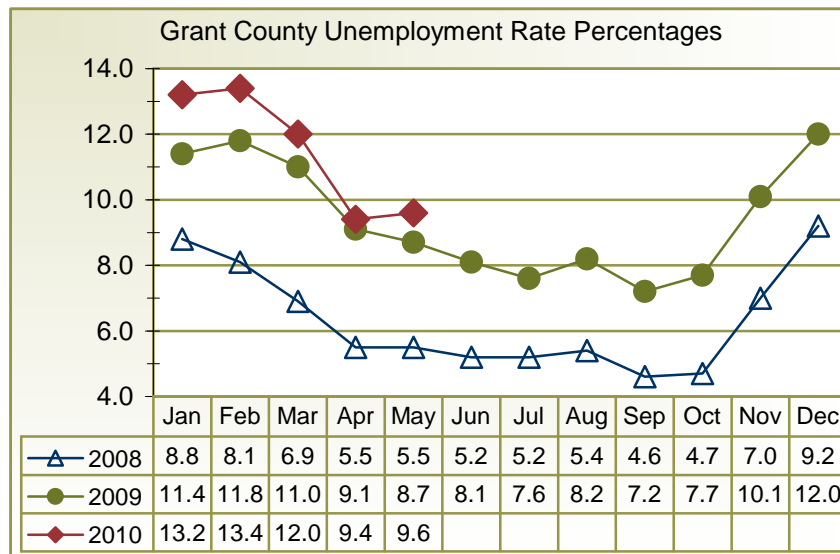
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Donald W. Meseck, Regional Labor Economist
400 East University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7486
Voice: (509) 963-2606; FAX: (509) 963-1992
dmeseck@esd.wa.gov, www.workforceexplorer.com

Unemployment

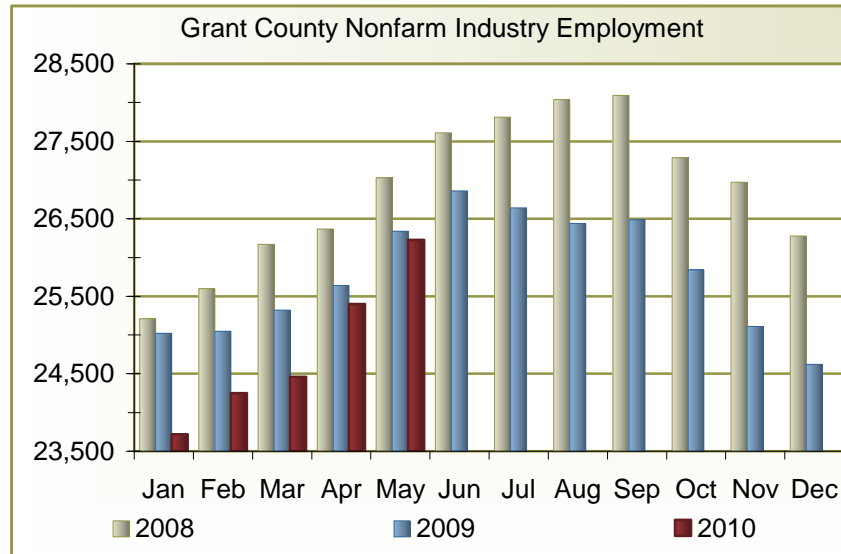
The May 2010 unemployment rate of 9.6 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in Grant County was 0.9 percentage point above the 8.7 percent reading in May 2009. There were approximately 720 more Grant County residents in the civilian labor force in May of this year (41,900) than in May 2009 (41,180). This was likely an indicator that some residents who were not counted in the labor force last May (i.e., discouraged workers) had re-entered the labor market by May 2010. Some found work. The number of “employed” residents sloped upward from 37,590 to 37,860. Unfortunately, the number of “unemployed” residents grew much more rapidly. In May 2009, about 3,590 people were unemployed. By May 2010, this figure rose to 4,030 a 440-person jump in the number of unemployed.



The main reason for the over-the-year rise in Grant County’s unemployment rate this May was a slowdown in agricultural hiring caused by colder- and wetter-than-normal weather conditions. Agricultural employment figures are not yet available specifically for Grant County. However, May 2010 agricultural employment estimates for Washington’s six major areas were recently released in LMEA’s Agricultural Labor Employment and Wages report. Data showed that over-the-year changes were negative for Columbia Basin’s Area 4 – an area that includes Adams and Grant counties. Columbia Basin’s total agricultural employment decreased by 500 jobs, a 5.6 percent downturn; from 8,980 in May 2009 to 8,480 in May 2010.

Employment

Both the Grant County and the Washington state labor markets shed jobs during 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. Washington's economy fared somewhat worse last year by losing 132,200 jobs, a 4.5 percent decline. However, a current snapshot of the local economy in May 2010 estimates that nonfarm employers in Grant County provided 26,230 nonfarm jobs, a slight 110-job or 0.4 percent downturn since May 2009. The lion's share of this over-the-year contraction was attributable to a 310-job over-the-year decrease in Grant County's goods-producing businesses. Service-providing industries netted 200 more jobs in May 2010 than in May one-year prior. Although the present 0.4 percent downturn in total nonfarm employment in Grant County was not good news; the reduction was nowhere near as severe as the 2.6 percent, 690-job contraction that occurred between the May 2008 and May 2009.

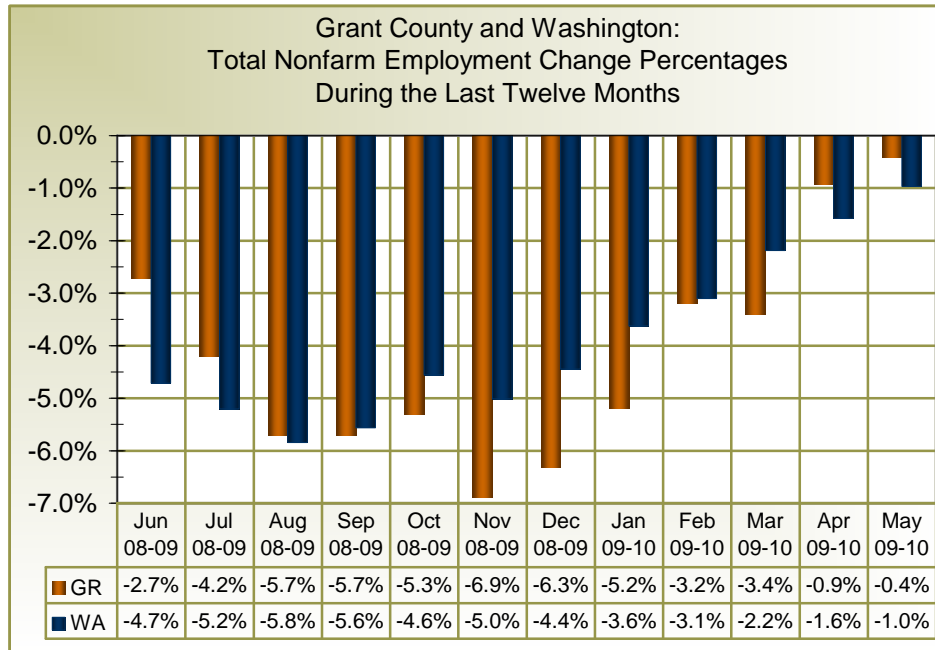


Despite this slight backflow in total nonfarm employment, it is clear that agricultural job losses caused the lion's share of the over-the-year stalling of the local labor economy in May 2010 (see the "unemployment" section of this report). Nevertheless, Grant County's economic future still looks bright because of planned business expansions and infrastructure improvements. For example, the Grant County EDC February-May 2010 Newsletter mentioned that eleven projects, in which the EDC is actively involved, are underway across the county. Two examples follow:

1. SGL Group (a carbon fiber manufacturer) and automaker BMW Group announced that construction will begin in July 2010 on their joint venture carbon manufacturing plant in Moses Lake. The estimated investment in the first phase of this project will be \$100 million. Approximately 200 construction workers will build this facility, which will initially employ about 80 people. The newsletter states, "The first employees will be hired at the Moses Lake facility during the fourth quarter of 2010. Subsequent phases at the facility have the potential to double the investment to \$200 million and bring the total employee count to 200."
2. Another major economic event was mentioned in the Grant County EDC February-May 2010 Newsletter under the title, "Microsoft Breaks Ground on New Data Center in Quincy." Microsoft currently operates a 470,000 square-foot data center in Quincy – making it the ninth largest data center in the world. However, the newsletter mentions, "In May, Microsoft announced it had broken ground for a new data center right next door to the existing one. The new data center, combined with the existing one, will move the Quincy campus from the ninth largest data center to somewhere in the top five." Employment at Microsoft's present server farm in Quincy is estimated to be a little

less than 100 workers, and it is likely the new facility will employ roughly 75 staff. According to the EDC’s newsletter, “The new facility will be noticeably different from the existing one and will utilize data center containers similar to Microsoft’s Chicago Data Center.”

In conclusion, over-the-year nonfarm job losses in Grant County were not as severe as job losses statewide in April and May 2010 (see figure below). Also, barring unforeseen events, and due to business expansions/developments underway or planned in the county; it is likely the local economy will rebound in the months ahead.



Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: December 2009						
Employment by Place of Residence	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Change		
	May-10	Apr-10	May-09	Apr-10 May-10	May-09 May-10	May-09 May-10 %
Civilian Labor Force	41,900	41,740	41,180	160	720	1.7%
Resident Employment	37,860	37,810	37,590	50	270	0.7%
Unemployment	4,030	3,930	3,590	100	440	12.3%
Unemployment Rate	9.6	9.4	8.7	0.2	0.9	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm ^{1/}	26,230	25,400	26,340	830	-110	-0.4%
Total Private	17,960	17,460	18,260	500	-300	-1.6%
Goods Producing	5,080	4,810	5,390	270	-310	-5.8%
Service Providing	21,150	20,590	20,950	560	200	1.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,720	5,740	5,440	-20	280	5.1%
Information and Financial Activities	940	940	970	0	-30	-3.1%
Government	8,270	7,940	8,080	330	190	2.4%
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 fourth quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present. **North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						