

Grant County

Labor Area Summary

Volume 2011, Number 5

Mark A. Berreth, Regional Labor Economist

215 Bridge Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801

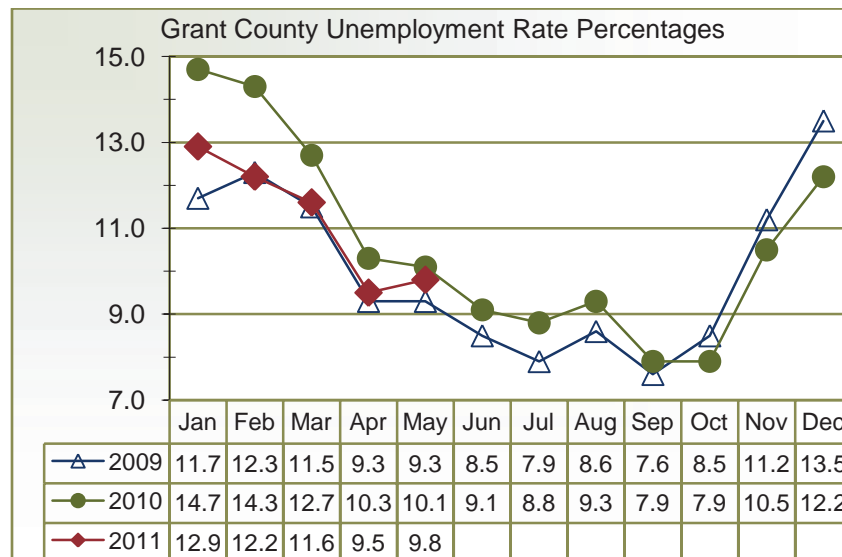
Voice: (509) 665-3737 FAX: (509) 665-3743

mberreth@esd.wa.gov, www.workforceexplorer.com

Summary

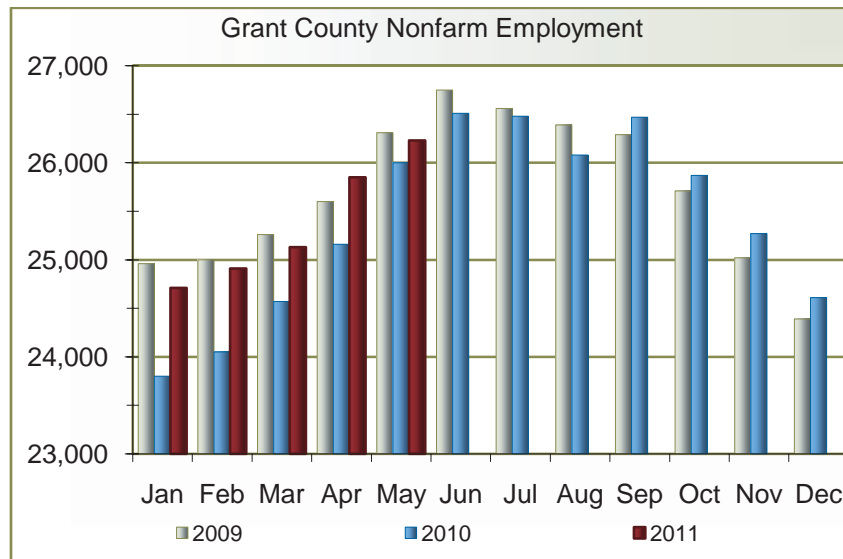
Grant County's unemployment rate of 9.8 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.3 percentage points above April 2011 and 0.3 percentage points below May 2010. The labor force has dropped slightly since May 2010 along with total employment. Over the month, the labor force has edged up along with a slightly larger increase for total employment growth. The labor force usually has much stronger growth this time of year as the agricultural season heats up. Slow growth might be attributed to a colder spring.

Over the month, even with a slight increase in the unemployment rate, the year-over-year drop still shows an improving labor market. This month has been noted as a bit of a soft patch for the recovery as the rise in the over-the-month unemployment rate indicates.



Washington state's 8.81 percent unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.6 percentage points below May 2010's reading. The civilian labor force is down year over year along with both its components: number of employed and number of unemployed. With the percentage decline greater among the unemployed than the percentage decline among the employed, the effect was to push down the total unemployment rate.

Year-over-year gains in total nonfarm employment have continued eight consecutive months. Grant County has been seeing strong employment growth this year, but the growth has slowed this month. Lackluster growth this month for the county is the same situation seen at the state and national levels.



Over-the-month total nonfarm growth is much slower than the last two years during April and May. This month has proved to be weak at the national level, and Grant County is no exception. Although there is slower growth this month, the progress has continued. Unfortunately, the goods-producing sector contracted slightly, which means the improvements are coming from the service-providing sector.

Year-over-year total nonfarm employment growth has continued this month, although at a slower rate than last month. In 2008 total nonfarm employment losses were being incurred. Those losses continued during the month of May until this month. 2011 has started off well for employment figures and continues to show promising signs of expansion. Both the goods-producing and service-providing sectors added jobs. Government employment, on the other hand, shed jobs.

Washington state's non-seasonally adjusted employment figures show growth both over the month and year over year. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the employment figures show a faltering labor market. The economy in Washington state and in the nation have stalled this month.

Consumer confidence dipped slightly this month. This comes after seven straight months of marginal growth. Consumer expectations also dropped in May.

The consumer price index shows a slight increase when excluding food and energy. Energy alone has made a relatively strong jump along with a slightly smaller increase in food prices. Rising prices will continue to influence consumers' buying habits, dampening the recovery.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County

Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: December 2010

				Change		
	Prelim May-11	Revised Apr-11	Revised May-10	Apr-11 May-11	May-10 May-11	May-10 May-11 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	42,080	41,300	42,250	780	-170	-0.4%
Resident Employment	37,960	37,370	38,000	590	-40	-0.1%
Unemployment	4,120	3,930	4,250	190	-130	-3.1%
Unemployment Rate	9.8	9.5	10.1	0.3	-0.3	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm ¹	26,230	25,850	26,000	380	230	0.9%
Total Private	18,150	17,890	17,730	260	420	2.4%
Goods Producing	5,260	5,270	4,980	-10	280	5.6%
Service Providing	20,970	20,580	21,020	390	-50	-0.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,660	5,630	5,460	30	200	3.7%
Information and Financial Activities	1,160	1,150	990	10	170	17.2%
Government	8,080	7,960	8,270	120	-190	-2.3%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	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 and estimates employment from that point to present.

**North American Industry Classification System

***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages