



Grant County Labor Area Summary

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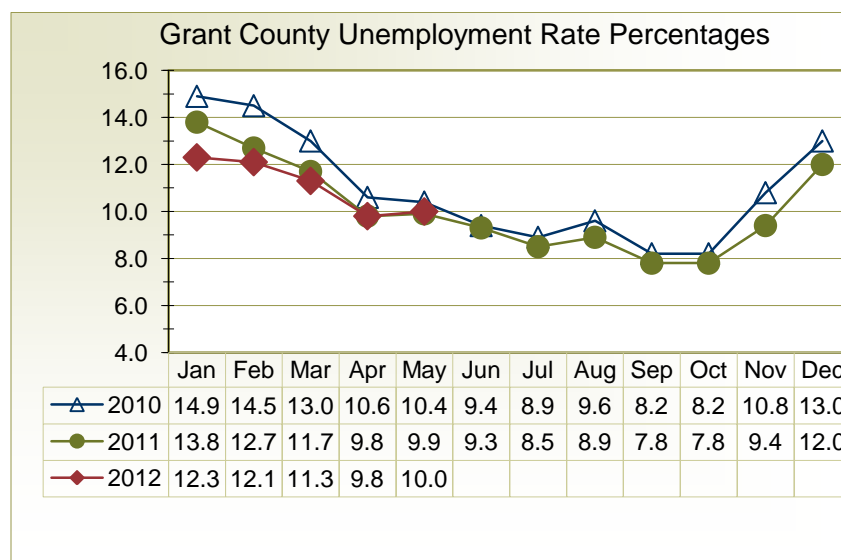
Unemployment

Grant county's unemployment rate of 10.0 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.2 percentage points above April 2012 and 0.1 percentage points above May 2011.

Over-the-month the civilian labor force edged up while total employment edged down. Total unemployment increased as a result of the drop in employment. Over-the-month changes in employment and the labor force have been close to historical norms as small movements normally occur at the start of the year.

Year-over-year figures show marginal growth in the civilian labor force and total employment. Unfortunately the labor force grew faster than employment, which resulted in a slight rise in the number unemployed.

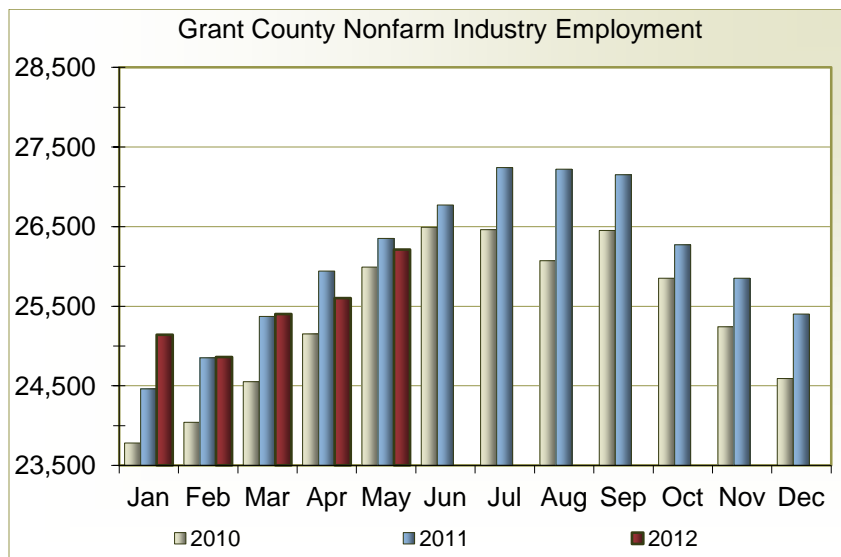
Discouraged workers were leaving the labor force in early and mid-2011, but 2012 has been showing a growing labor force. Overall the labor force figures are showing slow improvements. The unemployment rate has not made strong progress over the last two years, but overall the gains are slowly showing.



Washington state's unemployment rate of 8.4 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.5 percentage points above the April 2012 figure and 0.8 percentage points below May 2011. The civilian labor force and total employment have both grown in year-over-year figures while total unemployment fell.

Employment

Grant county has been showing strong improvements towards recovery starting at the end of 2010. The growth was starting to gain momentum at the end of 2011, but the county has faltered the last two months. While it is disconcerting to see losses with so much improvement since 2010, this could just be showing a slow start to the year. As can be seen in the graph below, the strongest improvements last year started in July.



Over-the-month total nonfarm and total private employment posted gains. The goods-producing sector edged up this month while in years past it has showed much stronger improvement. The service-providing sector posted the most gains with the largest jump in the government sector. Most government entities are decreasing due to budget constraints, so this might be more of a seasonal hiring factor leading into the summer months.

Year-over-year total nonfarm and total private employment posted losses. The losses are coming entirely from the private sector as the public sector edged up. Previous months have shown a drop in the public sector in year-over-year figures, so this slight increase is abnormal. The majority of the losses came from the goods-producing sector. while the service-providing sector posted losses, information and financial activities showed a slight gain.

Washington state's non-seasonally adjusted figures saw gains in total nonfarm employment in year-over-year figures. the gains come entirely from the private sector as government contracted. Construction and manufacturing both posted gains within the goods-producing sector. the service-providing sector saw the largest gains in professional and business services, retail trade, and administrative and support services.

Consumer confidence and consumer expectations both fell this month. Both indicators have gone lower the last three months. Fortunately the indicators are also above 2011 levels and show an overall upward trend since the end of 2011.

Industrial production of final products edged down this month due to consumer goods. Business equipment, the other factor of the indicator, posted a gain.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: December 2011						
				Change		
	Prelim May-12	Revised Apr-12	Revised May-11	Apr-12 May-12	May-11 May-12	May-11 May-12 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	40,910	40,890	40,850	20	60	0.1%
Resident Employment	36,830	36,880	36,790	-50	40	0.1%
Unemployment	4,080	4,010	4,060	70	20	0.5%
Unemployment Rate	10.0	9.8	9.9	0.2	0.1	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	26,210	25,600	26,350	610	-140	-0.5%
Total Private	17,980	17,750	18,130	230	-150	-0.8%
Goods Producing	5,330	5,280	5,440	50	-110	-2.0%
Service Providing	20,880	20,320	20,910	560	-30	-0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,320	5,350	5,370	-30	-50	-0.9%
Information and Financial Activities	1,020	1,020	1,010	0	10	1.0%
Government	8,230	7,850	8,220	380	10	0.1%
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>						