



Grant County Labor Area Summary May 2014

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Overview

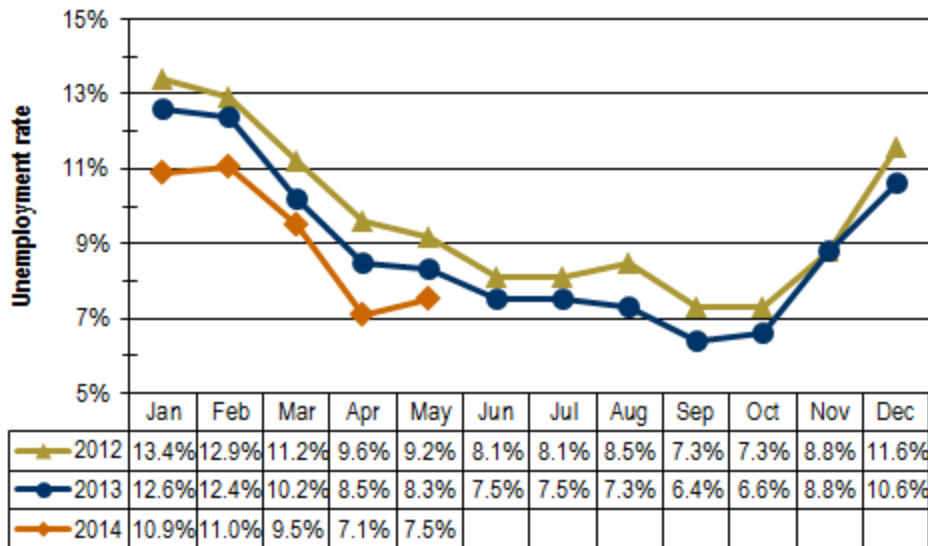
This report provides a current update on the Grant County economy incorporating current, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment and civilian labor force data. Analysis focuses on year-over-year (between May 2013 and May 2014) and annual average changes in the labor market.

Unemployment rates

Washington state's annual average not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one and one-tenths percentage points between 2012 and 2013, from 8.1 percent to 7.0 percent. Between the Mays of 2013 and 2014 the rate decreased from 6.9 to 6.1 percent, an eight-tenths percentage point decline.

In Grant County, the annual average unemployment rate decreased eight-tenths of a percentage point between 2012 and 2013, from 9.6 to 8.8 percent. It decreased eight-tenths of a percentage point this May to 7.5 percent from the 8.3 percent reading in May 2013 (as shown in *Figure 1*). Countywide, the number of unemployed residents fell from 3,460 in May 2013 to 3,050 in May 2014.

Figure 1. Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted
 Grant County, January 2012 through May 2014
 Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)



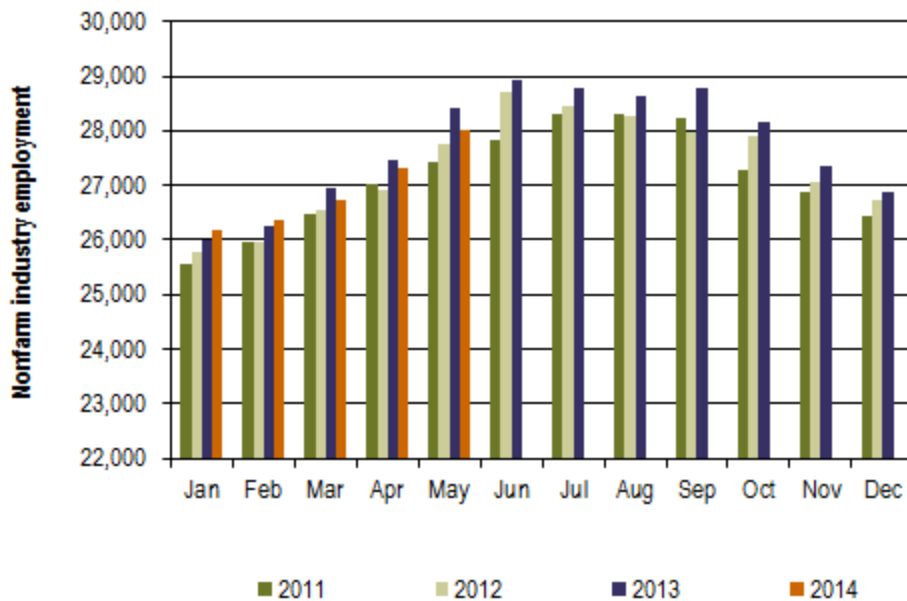
The Grant County unemployment rate decreased eight-tenths of a percentage point between May 2013 and May 2014.

Total nonfarm employment

Businesses and government organizations across Washington supplied 3,069,300 nonfarm jobs this May (not seasonally adjusted), compared to 2,995,400 jobs in May 2013. This equated to a 2.5 percent year-over-year employment increase. The state's economy has posted nonfarm employment increases for the past 44 months (October 2010 through May 2014). In 2013, Washington's labor market provided 68,700 new jobs, an annual average increase of 2.4 percent.

Year over year, Grant County's nonfarm employment has decreased for the past three months (March through May 2014). In May 2014 local nonfarm employers provided 28,000 jobs, a 1.5 percent and 430 job decrease from the 28,430 jobs tallied in May 2013.

Figure 2. Nonfarm industry employment
Grant County, January 2011 through May 2014
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA



Nonfarm employers in Grant County provided 28,000 nonfarm jobs in May 2014, a 1.5 percent downturn from May 2013.

Employment and unemployment

Washington's Civilian Labor Force (CLF) shrank by 23,600 residents (a 0.7 percent downturn) in 2013. Although Washington's CLF shrank 0.7 percent in 2013, it expanded 0.2 percent between the Februarys of 2013 and 2014 and 0.4 percent between the Marches of 2013 and 2014, stabilized between April 2013 and April 2014 and rose 0.1 percent between the Mays of 2013 and 2014. This May the state's labor force tallied 3,470,160 residents versus 3,466,730 in May 2013, equating to 3,430 more Washingtonians in the CLF.

The Grant County CLF expanded by 0.5 percent in 2013, but posted year over year losses in the first five months of 2014. This May, 40,900 residents were in the local labor force versus 41,620 in May 2013. The upside was that 410 fewer residents were unemployed in May 2014 compared with the corresponding month in 2013 (3,460 residents were unemployed in May 2013 versus 3,050 in May 2014). The labor force shrinkage between the Mays of 2013 and 2014 did not counter the more rapid decrease in the number of unemployed, hence the County's unemployment rate declined from 8.3 percent to 7.5 percent during this timeframe (as shown in *Figure 3*).

Figure 3. Labor force and industry employment, not seasonally adjusted
 Grant County, May 2014
 Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA

Grant County	Preliminary May-14	Revised Apr-14	Revised May-13	Change		
				Apr-14	May-13	May-13
				May-14	May-14	May-14 %
Labor force and unemployment						
Civilian labor force	40,900	39,770	41,620	1,130	-720	-1.7%
Resident employment	37,850	36,940	38,160	910	-310	-0.8%
Unemployment	3,050	2,830	3,460	220	-410	-11.8%
Unemployment rate	7.5	7.1	8.3	0.4	-0.8	
Industry employment						
Total nonfarm ¹	28,000	27,320	28,430	680	-430	-1.5%
Total private	19,650	19,030	20,020	620	-370	-1.8%
Goods producing	5,670	5,470	5,680	200	-10	-0.2%
Mining, logging and construction	1,250	1,190	1,270	60	-20	-1.6%
Manufacturing	4,420	4,280	4,410	140	10	0.2%
Durable goods	1,900	1,900	1,930	0	-30	-1.6%
Nondurable goods	2,520	2,380	2,480	140	40	1.6%
Service providing	22,330	21,850	22,750	480	-420	-1.8%
Trade, transportation and utilities	5,540	5,490	5,770	50	-230	-4.0%
Wholesale trade	1,480	1,470	1,470	10	10	0.7%
Retail trade	3,180	3,130	3,300	50	-120	-3.6%
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	880	890	1,000	-10	-120	-12.0%
Information and financial activities	1,070	1,070	1,240	0	-170	-13.7%
Professional and business services	1,450	1,410	1,220	40	230	18.9%
Education and health services	2,840	2,740	2,800	100	40	1.4%
Leisure and hospitality	2,490	2,300	2,710	190	-220	-8.1%
Government	8,350	8,290	8,410	60	-60	-0.7%
Federal government	690	690	750	0	-60	-8.0%
State and local government	7,660	7,600	7,660	60	0	0.0%
State and local government education	3,640	3,640	3,590	0	50	1.4%
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.						

Nonfarm employment in Grant County decreased 1.5 percent, a loss of 430 jobs, between May 2013 and May 2014.

Nonfarm industry employment

Preliminary estimates (see *Figure 3*) illustrate that Grant County's nonfarm employers totaled 430 fewer jobs in May 2014 than in May 2013, a 1.5 percent downturn. Following is a summary of these recent over-the-year changes by industry:

- Most jobs in the combined “mining, logging, and construction” category in Grant County are in construction and this industry averaged 60 fewer jobs in 2013 than in 2012, a 5.0 percent contraction. However, during the first five months of 2014 construction job loss-rates slowed. In fact, construction rose 1.7 percent in Grant County between the Aprils of 2013 and 2014, before backsliding 1.6 percent between the Mays of 2013 and 2014. Statewide, construction employment has grown for the past 27 months (from March 2012 through May 2014).
- Manufacturing increased slightly between the Mays of 2013 and 2014, from 4,410 to 4,420, a 10 job and 0.2 percent expansion. All of this year-over-year growth was in nondurable goods manufacturing (primarily at food processing companies).
- Retail trade stores provided 3,300 jobs in May 2013 but only 3,180 in May 2014, a 3.6 percent decrease and a loss of 120 part- or full-time jobs.
- Transportation, warehousing, and private utilities netted 120 fewer jobs in May 2014, a 12.0 percent year-over-year contraction. Trucking firms account for the lion’s share of employment in this combined “transportation, warehousing and utilities” category.
- Information and financial activities contracted from 1,240 positions in May 2013 to 1,070 in May 2014, a 170 job and 13.7 percent downtrend.
- Professional and business services gained 230 jobs, an 18.9 percent increase, between the Mays of 2013 and 2014. On an annual average basis this category increased from 1,250 in 2012 to 1,310 in 2013, a 60 job and 4.8 percent increase. Professional and business services is a broad category that and includes legal offices, accounting and tax preparation firms, private security companies, temporary job placement agencies, etc. It should be noted that temporary placement agency positions are tallied under this broad professional and business services category in Grant County, regardless of the industry in which work is performed.
- Leisure and hospitality (primarily hotels and restaurants) declined from 2,710 jobs in May 2013 to 2,490 one year later, a 220 job and 8.1 percent downturn. However, this industry averaged 2,310 full- and part-time jobs countywide in 2012 and 2,360 in 2013 (up 2.2 percent), hence the year-over-year downturn in May 2014 likely indicates a temporary lull, rather than a permanent cutback, in hiring at Grant County’s hotels and restaurants.

Agricultural employment/production

According to a June 25, 2014 Press Release from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS):

- Tart cherry production in the United States is forecast at 264.4 million pounds for 2014, down 10 percent from 2013 production. However, in Washington state, growers reported very good weather and are expecting a significant increase in production this year. Approximately 24.8 million pounds of tart cherries were grown in Washington in 2012 versus 17.9 million pounds in 2013. The forecast is for 26.0 million pounds of tart cherries statewide in 2014, a 45 percent increase from last year.
- Sweet cherry production in the United States is forecast at 326,240 million pounds for 2014, down 2 percent from 2013 production. However, in Washington state, growers reported excellent weather. Winter conditions were moderate and warm spring conditions resulted in an excellent bloom and good pollination levels. Approximately 264,000 tons of sweet cherries were grown in Washington in 2012 versus 169,000 tons in 2013. The forecast is for 200,000 tons of sweet cherries statewide in 2014, an 18 percent increase from last year.