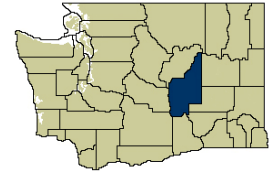




Grant County

Labor Area Summary

Volume 2009, Number 11



T. Baba Moussa, Regional Labor Economist
215 Bridge Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Voice: (509) 665-3737; FAX (509) 665-3743
bmoussa@esd.wa.gov, www.workforceexplorer.com

Employment

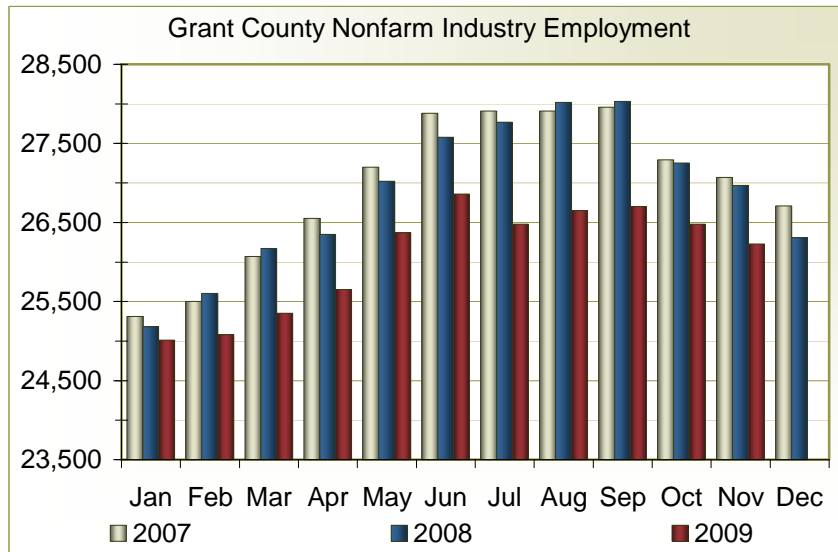
During the 12-month period ending in November 2009, nonfarm jobs in Grant County fell at a slower year-over-year pace than in the state. The area's nonfarm employment declined by 740 jobs, or 2.7 percent. Statewide, employers lost 4.3 percent of their workforce. The downturn in Grant County was primarily due to a continued contraction in the goods-producing sectors and to a downturn in the service-providing sector of information and financial activities.

Year-over-year losses

- Grant County goods producers, a group of employers that includes durable goods manufacturers, nondurable goods manufacturers, and companies that operate in natural resources, mining, and construction sectors, lost 640 workers (10.2 percent) over the year ending in November 2009. The number of people employed by companies such as Katana Summit and Genie Industries usually increases as business and consumer spending on big tickets items expands during an economic expansion and contracts during a slowdown. Across the state, goods producers shed 13.8 percent of their workforce between November 2008 and November 2009.
- The area's employment in information and financial activities fell to 950, after declining by 50 jobs (5.0 percent) between November 2008 and November 2009. Statewide, information contracted at an annual rate of 4.7 percent, while employers in the financial activities industry lost 4.4 percent of their workers over the same time period.

Year-over-year winners

- Employment in the government sector, a combined workforce that includes federal, state and local government jobs in Grant County, rose to 7,880 in November 2009, after expanding by 40 (0.5 percent) compared to a year earlier. Statewide, employers in the government sector lost 0.8 percent of their workforce over the year.
- The number of jobs in the trade, transportation and utilities industries, one of the largest service providers in the county, was up 130 jobs, the highest industry-wide gain between November 2008 and November 2009. Across the state, trade, transportation, and utilities was down 4.7 percent from November 2008 to November 2009.



Unemployment

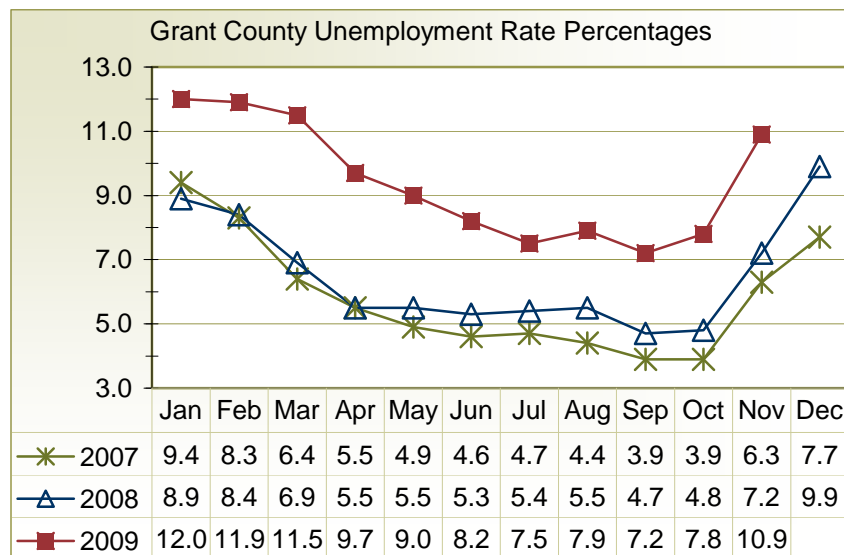
Between November 2008 and November 2009, the number of persons out of work and actively searching for a job rose to 4,400 from 2,970, or an increase of 1,430. Over the same 12-month period, the number of employed residents, those living and working within Grant County, declined by 2,160.

On the other hand, the number of people filing for continued unemployment claims benefits in the area rose to 2,826 in November 2009 from 1,846 12 months earlier. Among those filing for continued claims over the year, the three occupations with the most continued claims were farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, greenhouse, and agricultural equipment operators, up 167 over the year, followed by helpers – production workers, whose claims rose by 47, and heavy and tractor-trailers truck drivers, whose claims increased by 55.

Top Continued Claims for Unemployment by Occupation for Grant County						
*SOC	Occupation	Nov-09	Oct-09	Nov-08	Change	
					Monthly	Yearly
45-2092	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, Greenhouse, and Agricultural Equip. Operators	410	81	243	329	167
51-9198	Helpers--Production Workers	218	121	171	97	47
53-3032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	137	58	82	79	55
51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	89	112	92	-23	-3
47-2061	Construction Laborers	73	53	43	20	30
37-2011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	61	23	38	38	23
47-2111	Electricians	52	49	37	3	15
45-2041	Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	52	19	49	33	3
53-7064	Packers and Packagers, Hand	47	26	16	21	31
47-2031	Carpenters	42	37	42	5	0
47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	40	30	31	10	9
25-9041	Teacher Assistants	40	15	4	25	36
53-7051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	37	22	22	15	15
45-2093	Farmworkers, Farm and Ranch Animals	37	5	30	32	7
51-9061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	36	11	22	25	14
37-3011	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	35	9	32	26	3
51-9111	Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	34	5	12	29	22

41-2011	Cashiers	33	27	15	6	18
47-2073	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	33	22	20	11	13
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	30	25	17	5	13
39-9021	Personal and Home Care Aides	29	25	13	4	16
49-9042	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	28	19	26	9	2
39-9011	Child Care Workers	28	8	6	20	22
51-9199	Production Workers, All Other	27	18	23	9	4
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	27	18	12	9	15
25-2041	Special Education Teachers, Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary School	27	11	6	16	21
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	25	20	16	5	9
25-2011	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	24	9	5	15	19
51-1011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers	22	19	15	3	7
45-2099	Agricultural Workers, All Other	22	4	21	18	1
51-2099	Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	21	19	35	2	-14
Grand Total all Continued Claims in Grant County		2,826	1,708	1,846	1,118	980
*Standard Occupational Classification code						

As a result, the unemployment rate, a ratio of the unemployed divided by the total civilian labor force, rose to 10.9 percent in November 2009 from 7.2 percent in November 2008, or an increase of 3.7 percentage points over the year. Over the month of November 2009, the jobless rate increased 3.1 percentage points from a revised October 2009 rate of 7.8 percent. The state's unemployment rate rose to 9.1 percent in November 2009, or up 2.9 percentage points from a revised 6.2 percentage points in November 2008. Over the month, the state's unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points.



Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: June 2009						
				Change		
	Prelim Nov-09	Revised Oct-09	Revised Nov-08	Oct-09 Nov-09	Nov-08 Nov-09	Nov-08 Nov-09%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	40,380	44,420	41,120	-4,040	-740	-1.8%
Resident Employment	35,990	40,940	38,150	-4,950	-2,160	-5.7%
Unemployment	4,400	3,480	2,970	920	1,430	48.1%
Unemployment Rate	10.9	7.8	7.2	3.1	3.7	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	26,230	26,480	26,970	-250	-740	-2.7%
Total Private	18,360	18,720	19,130	-360	-770	-4.0%
Goods Producing	5,620	5,880	6,260	-260	-640	-10.2%
Service Providing	20,610	20,600	20,720	10	-110	-0.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,560	5,520	5,430	40	130	2.4%
Information and Financial Activities	950	960	1,000	-10	-50	-5.0%
Government	7,880	7,760	7,840	120	40	0.5%
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 2nd quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present. **North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						