



Grant County Labor Area Summary Volume 2010, Number 10



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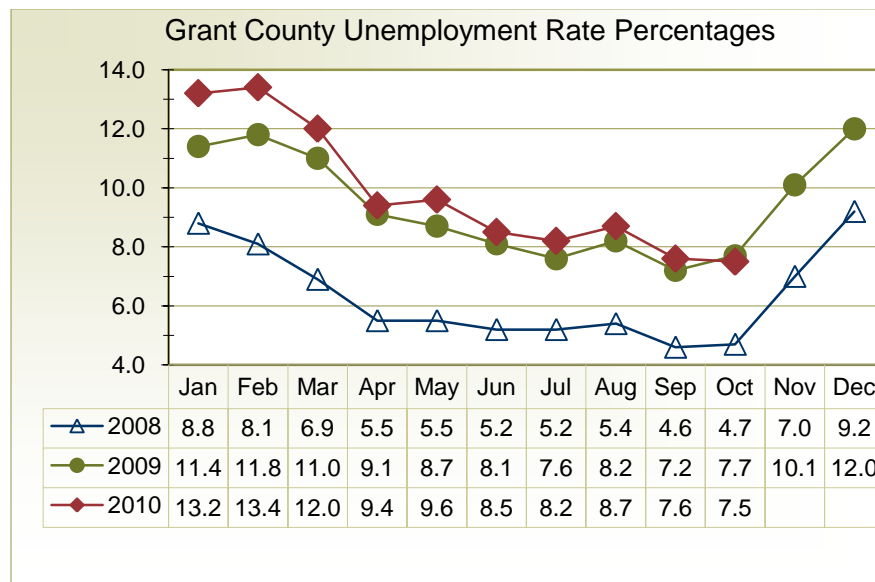
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Unemployment

The unemployment rate for October has managed to show an over-the-month and a year-over-year drop. This is a small but good sign that the economy is starting to make some improvements towards recovery. The labor force and the number employed has fallen in both over-the-month and year-over-year figures. This is not a red flag when individuals are leaving the labor force because this is a normal seasonal pattern at the end of the agricultural season. The bright spot in these numbers is the slight drop in the number unemployed.



Washington State has seen the unemployment rate drop slightly (not seasonally adjusted). Overall, though, the Washington labor market has remained relatively flat. Minimal job losses and gains have occurred, but the labor force has seen a slight rise and the Washington labor market has been able to absorb it in order to post gains in the number employed and to show a drop in the number unemployed. A strengthening economy can be seen, although it is moving at a very slow pace.

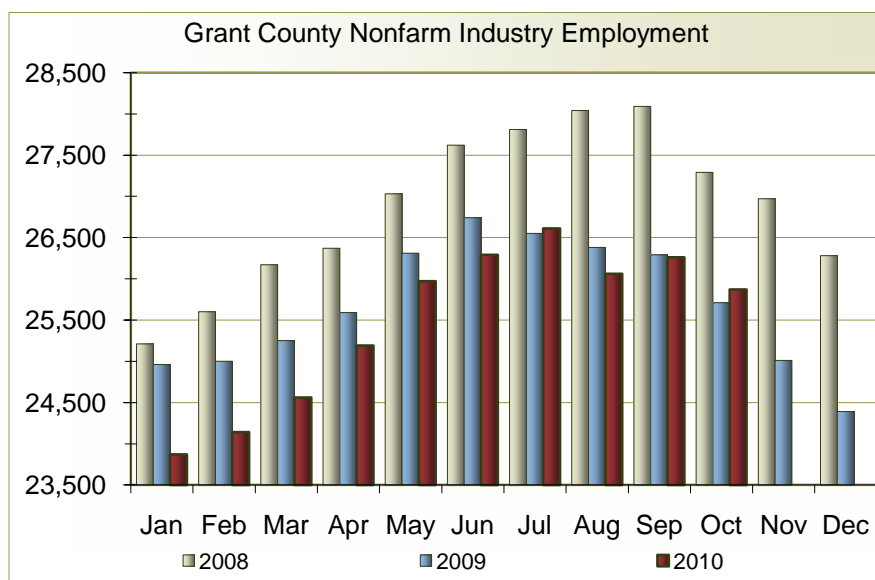
Employment

Grant County has been seeing the rate of job loss decreasing throughout the year and has now posted two months of total nonfarm employment gains. Over-the-month the service-providing sector has seen a small jump in employment while the rest of the private service-providing has seen a small loss. Government employment is the other sector in service providing that has seen a small jump which can be contributed to local government specifically in the education area. October tends to be a slow month overall for employment in Grant County as the peak in employment is usually reached by September at the latest. The goods-producing sector has seen a slight decline but that is mainly from nondurable goods manufacturing as the end of the agricultural season winds down.

Year-over-year numbers are starting to show some strength in the local economy. Total nonfarm employment has picked up mainly through the government sector in education. The population of the 0-16 age group is larger, as a percent, than the rest of Washington State. This means the education sector is seeing an expansion which should continue in the future.

The private sector remains steady. Goods-producing has managed to post a small gain which could largely be from a declining U.S. dollar value which makes these goods relatively cheaper overseas.

Washington State has also managed to stay relatively steady with a small spike in local government education. Late season hiring in education has influenced various areas throughout the state as private employment has remained relatively steady with a small gain. As was stated last month, the manufacturing sector has remained resilient and has posted gains in various areas in Washington.



Retail sales in Grant County have continued to see small drops into the start of 2010. The United States has remained fairly steady in terms of retail sales into October of 2010.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: June 2010						
Employment by Place of Residence	Prelim Oct-10	Revised Sep-10	Revised Oct-09	Change		
				Sep-10 Oct-10	Oct-09 Oct-10	Oct-09 Oct-10 %
Civilian Labor Force	44,980	47,260	45,740	-2,280	-760	-1.7%
Resident Employment	41,600	43,690	42,230	-2,090	-630	-1.5%
Unemployment	3,380	3,570	3,510	-190	-130	-3.7%
Unemployment Rate	7.5	7.6	7.7	-0.1	-0.2	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm ^{1/}	25,870	26,260	25,710	-390	160	0.6%
Total Private	17,880	18,640	17,890	-760	-10	-0.1%
Goods Producing	5,610	5,790	5,550	-180	60	1.1%
Service Providing	20,260	20,470	20,160	-210	100	0.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,420	5,400	5,430	20	-10	-0.2%
Information and Financial Activities	970	970	950	0	20	2.1%
Government	7,990	7,620	7,820	370	170	2.2%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	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 first quarter 2010) and estimates employment from that point to present.</p> <p>**North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						