



Grant County

Labor Area Summary

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Mark A. Berreth, Regional Labor Economist

215 Bridge Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801

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

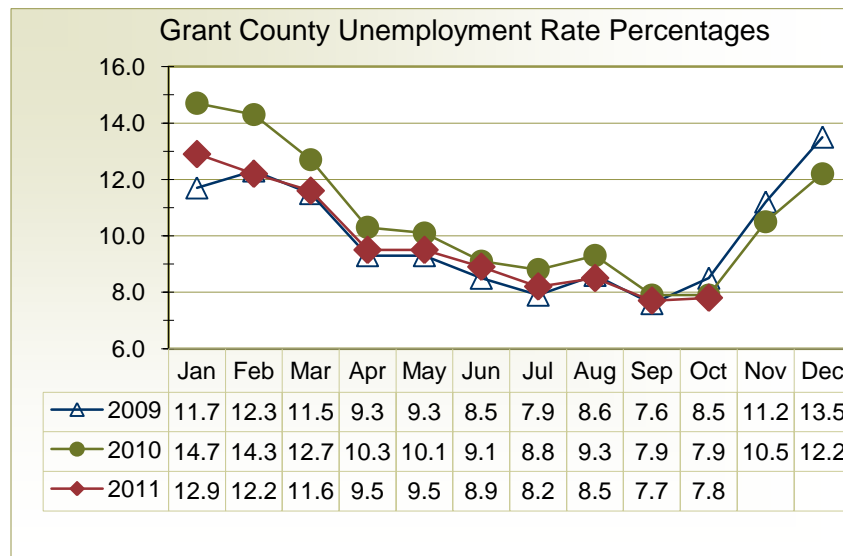
mberreth@esd.wa.gov, www.workforceexplorer.com

Unemployment

Grant County's unemployment rate of 7.8 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.1 percentage points above September 2011 and 0.1 percentage points below October 2010.

The civilian labor force edged up this month along with total employment. A late agricultural season has helped show positive gains in total employment at the end of the year. Unfortunately the number unemployed also increased which caused a slight bump up in the unemployment rate.

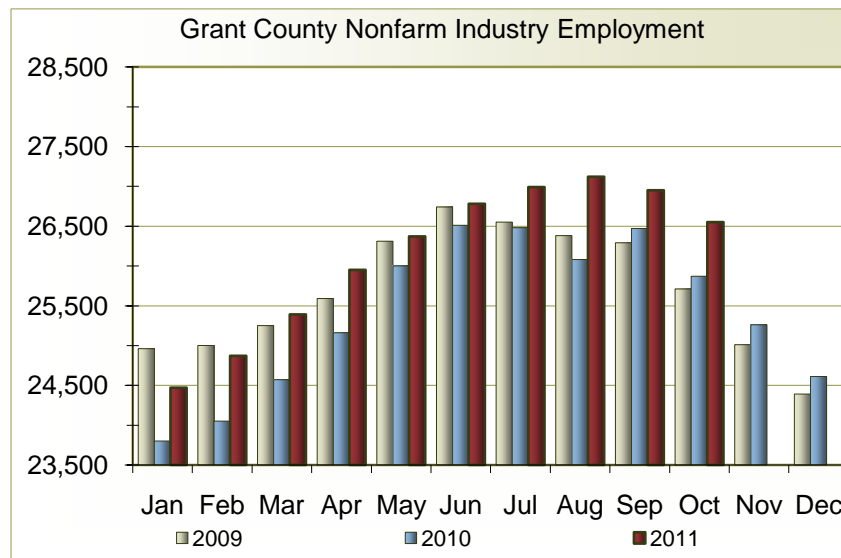
In year-over-year figures the civilian labor force and total employment are both down. Throughout North Central Washington there have been shrinking labor force figures as people move out of the area, but also as discouraged workers continue to leave the labor force. These drops have been minimal, though, and are not showing an overall trend for Grant county.



Washington state's unemployment rate of 8.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.2 percentage points below the September 2011 figure and 0.5 percentage points below October 2010. The civilian labor force is down in year-over-year figures along with total employment and the number unemployed. Over-the-month the number employed made a slight improvement even as seasonal employment drops off.

Employment

The last five months are still showing strong improvements for Grant county. The total nonfarm increases were adjusted downwards as the new figures were benchmarked to tax figures. That being said, the employment gains in Grant county are maintaining impressive year-over-year growth as the area continues to lead the way to recovery.



Last month employment figures were slightly skewed due to a late agricultural season. This month there is a normal seasonal decline in over-the-month figures.

Over-the-month total nonfarm employment and total private employment have shed jobs. As can be seen in the graph above, there is a very noticeable seasonal decline as winter approaches. Therefore, employment losses this time of year should not be viewed as a negative. Government employment did make a jump this month which can be contributed to the education sector.

Year-over-year total nonfarm employment posted a very strong growth figure. More importantly, the private sector contained all of the growth. While it is frustrating to see employment losses in any sector, it is very important to see it in the private sector as the economy starts to improve and government spending declines. The goods-producing sector made a much stronger improvement than the service-providing sector. This could be due to agricultural processing jobs in nondurable goods manufacturing.

Washington state's non-seasonally adjusted figures posted employment gains in year-over-year and over-the-month figures. Professional and business services continue to be a strong employment sector in year-over-year figures. Leisure and hospitality also made a strong improvement.

Consumer confidence and consumer expectations are still on an overall downward trend. At the end of the Great Recession in 2009, the two leading indicators started gaining some ground and making progress. In February 2011 both leading indicators peaked and have continued on an overall downward trend.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: December 2010						
	Change					
	Prelim Oct-11	Revised Sep-11	Revised Oct-10	Sep-11 Oct-11	Oct-10 Oct-11	Oct-10 Oct-11 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	44,800	44,460	44,980	340	-180	-0.4%
Resident Employment	41,290	41,040	41,450	250	-160	-0.4%
Unemployment	3,510	3,420	3,530	90	-20	-0.6%
Unemployment Rate	7.8	7.7	7.9	0.1	-0.1	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	26,550	26,950	25,870	-400	680	2.6%
Total Private	18,850	19,480	18,040	-630	810	4.5%
Goods Producing	6,050	6,200	5,600	-150	450	8.0%
Service Providing	20,500	20,750	20,270	-250	230	1.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,520	5,590	5,460	-70	60	1.1%
Information and Financial Activities	1,070	1,060	990	10	80	8.1%
Government	7,700	7,470	7,830	230	-130	-1.7%
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						