



# Grant County

## Labor Area Summary

### Volume 2012, Number 10

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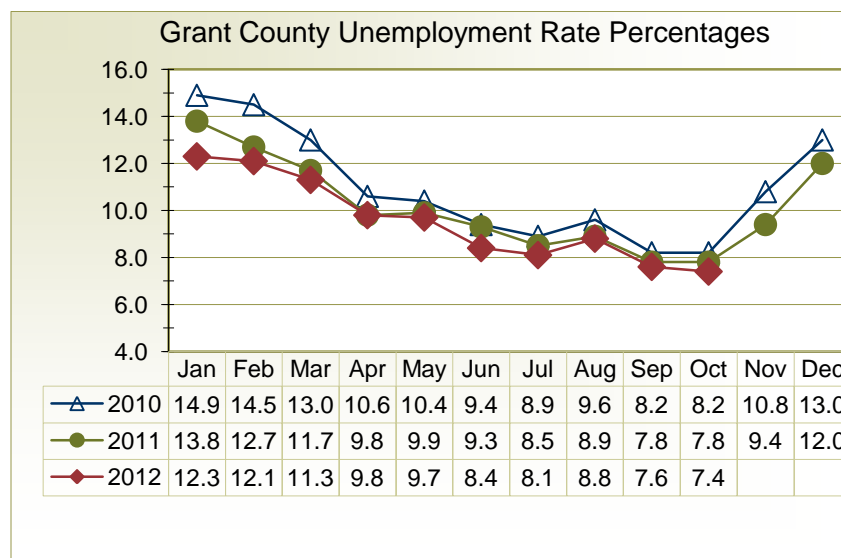
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## Unemployment

Grant county's preliminary unemployment rate of 7.4 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.2 percentage points below September 2012 and 0.4 percentage points below October 2011.

Over-the-month the civilian labor force, total employment, and total unemployment all contracted. This is a normal seasonal pattern from September to October of each year. Once the agricultural season winds down, the labor force will see losses through January.

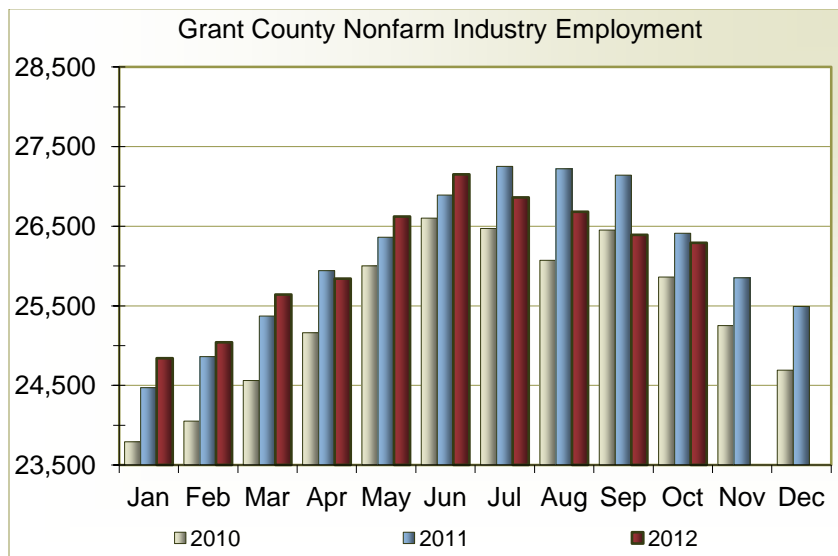
Year-over-year figures show a drop in the both the civilian labor force and total employment. The start of 2012 showed marginal growth in the civilian labor force. July figures started showing discouraged workers leaving the labor force, which have continued to the current month. The unemployment rate does continue to drop and show a healthier labor market. It's doing this through a larger drop in the labor force than total employment. While the unemployment rate does look better, it is just one gauge of the overall health of the economy.



Washington state's unemployment rate of 7.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 0.5 percentage points below the September 2012 figure and 1.2 percentage points below October 2011. Total employment increased while the civilian labor force dropped. These two opposing figures helped drastically reduce the unemployment rate from last year.

## Employment

Grant county's total nonfarm employment peaked in 2007. While the county did drop in 2008, as the Great Recession took hold, it was a marginal drop and employment levels remained high. The significant drops in employment came about in 2009 and 2010. 2011 gained momentum quickly and quickly showed an improving economy. Unfortunately, that momentum trailed off in July of 2012. Employment levels are currently sluggish, but the area is positioned well for future growth.



Over-the-month total nonfarm employment shed jobs due entirely to the private sector. Government employment jumped up. The goods-producing sector edged down due to non-durable goods manufacturing. The service-providing sector dropped mainly within trade and transportation. Although there are various losses in total nonfarm employment this month, it is still a normal seasonal pattern to see losses during this time of year.

Year-over-year total nonfarm employment edged up while total private employment shed jobs. The goods-producing sector edged down. The service-providing sector showed improvement in trade and transportation along with information and financial activities. The public sector also gained jobs through state and local government employment.

Washington state's non-seasonally adjusted figures posted gains in total nonfarm employment and total private employment. The goods-producing sector continues to be driven by aerospace manufacturing. The service-providing sector also showed strong growth within professional and business services along with leisure and hospitality.

Consumer confidence made a strong jump the last two months. The leading indicator was at an overall downward trend in 2012 through August. Current levels put it at peak figures this month. Consumer expectations, on the other hand, made a strong jump without hitting peak levels. Both leading indicators show a positive picture for the end of 2012.

Industrial production of final goods dropped this month due to both consumer goods and business equipment. The indicator has been on an overall upward trend since 2009, but is currently showing signs of struggle over the last three months.

## Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: March 2012						
				Change		
	Prelim Oct-12	Revised Sep-12	Revised Oct-11	Sep-12 Oct-12	Oct -11 Oct -12	Oct -11 Oct -12 %
<b>Employment by Place of Residence</b>						
Civilian Labor Force	43,630	43,990	44,730	-360	-1100	-2.5%
Resident Employment	40,380	40,670	41,260	-290	-880	-2.1%
Unemployment	3,250	3,320	3,470	-70	-220	-6.3%
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.6	7.8	-0.2	-0.4	
<b>Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)</b>						
Total Nonfarm <b>1/</b>	26,290	26,390	26,250	-100	40	0.2%
Total Private	18,450	18,900	18,560	-450	-110	-0.6%
Goods Producing	5,840	5,870	5,880	-30	-40	-0.7%
Service Providing	20,450	20,520	20,370	-70	80	0.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,540	5,590	5,480	-50	60	1.0%
Information and Financial Activities	1,090	1,090	1,010	0	80	7.9%
Government	7,840	7,490	7,690	350	150	2.0%
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>						