



September 2010

Grant County

Labor Area Summary

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Mark A. Berreth, Regional Labor Economist

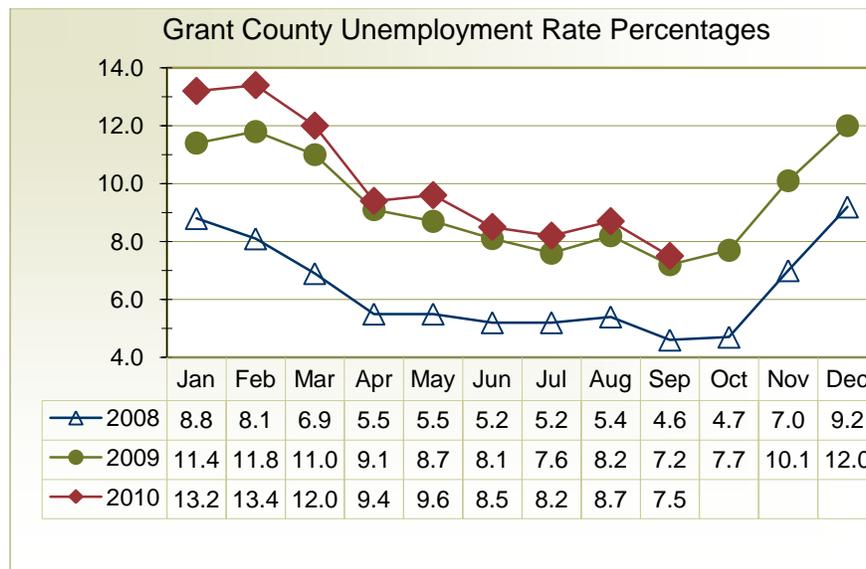
215 Bridge Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801

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

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

Unemployment

The September 2010 unemployment rate of 7.5 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in Grant County was 1.2 percentage points below the August 2010 figure of 8.7 percent. The labor force grew by approximately 1,610 individuals, or 4 percent, from August 2010 to September 2010. While the drop in the unemployment rate from month to month is always a good sign, the change from August to September shows a normal seasonal drop in the unemployment rate. What is more relevant in the long-term health is the year-over-year numbers which shows three-tenths of a percentage point increase in the unemployment rate. Along with the unemployment rate increase in year-over-year figures, the labor force and the number employed both increased year-over-year by 750, or 2 percent, and 530, or 1 percent, respectively. Even with the increased unemployment rate and labor force, the local economy is showing some signs of health with more individuals employed in September 2010 than September 2009.



Both Grant County and Washington State saw the unemployment rate drop from August 2010 to September 2010. Washington State, however, is showing signs of improvement with a one-tenth of a percentage point drop in the year-over-year unemployment rate. Washington State also dropped three-tenths of a percentage point in month-over-month numbers but part of that is due to a drop in the labor force.

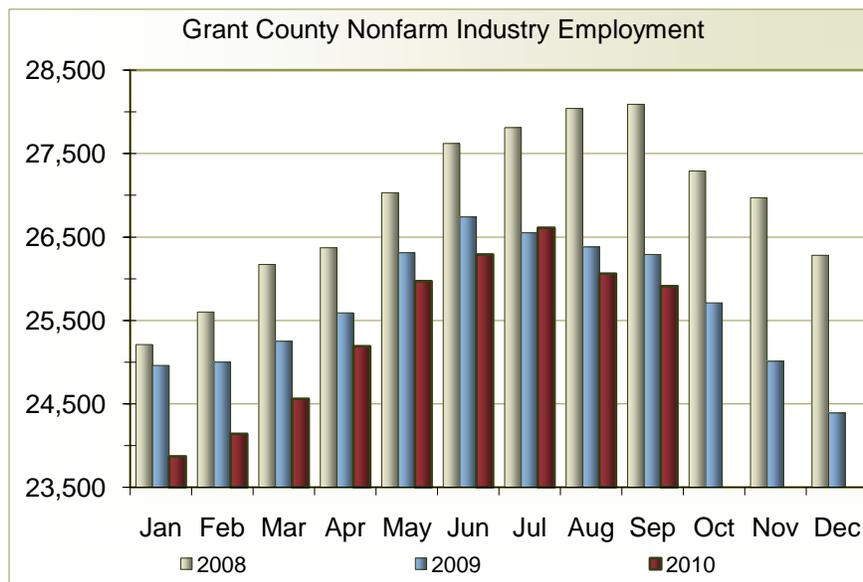
Employment

Washington State has seen a slight increase in the total private employment in the nonfarm sector which shows a sign of economic health increasing for the state. The increase in total private employment mainly comes from the manufacturing sector both in durable and nondurable goods. Many factors are at play here but with a slight drop in the U.S. Dollar's strength the goods being produced in the U.S. are becoming relatively cheaper. While this may not be a great sign of the overall economic health of the U.S. the increased jobs in this sector does show some resiliency in the Washington labor market.

While Washington State has added positions in the private sector, Grant County has shed positions at a 1 percent rate in month-over-month numbers. Just as Washington State has added positions in the goods producing sector, so has Grant County. In month-over-month numbers, Grant County has added goods producing positions at a 2 percent rate. Much of this increase is most likely a direct effect from agricultural employment increasing nondurable goods production. Even with this strong increase in manufacturing positions, trade, transportation, and utilities has shed 80 positions, or 1 percentage point.

Year-over-year numbers are also showing a slight loss in total nonfarm and total private positions. The service providing sector has been hit the hardest by shedding 380 positions, or 2 percent, from September 2009 to September 2010. The goods producing sector has remained relatively flat in year-over-year numbers by adding 10 positions, or one-tenth of a percentage point. The goods producing sector tends to be the one bright sector for the state and Grant County which is beginning to show signs of better economic health.

Total government employment has remained relatively flat with only 50 positions, or 1 percentage point, being shed in year-over-year numbers. Grant County, as a whole, is still struggling to improve employment numbers and is currently sitting near 2005 employment figures. Even with losses in the current market there are some bright spots in the currently lean economy. With the official end of the recession being announced by the National Bureau of Economic Research to have occurred in June 2009 the lagging employment figures should hopefully start to see some strength as businesses start to turn around.



Summary Table

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment in Grant County					
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: March 2010					
	Prelim Sep-10	Revised Aug-10	Revised Sep-09	Change	
				Aug-10 Sep-10	Sep-09 Sep-10
**NAICS Industry Title	Sep-10	Aug-10	Sep-09	Sep-10	Sep-10
Total Nonfarm ^{1/}	25,910	26,060	26,290	-150	-380
Total Private	18,460	18,620	18,790	-160	-330
Goods Producing	5,890	5,750	5,880	140	10
Service Providing	20,020	20,310	20,410	-290	-390
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,490	5,570	5,540	-80	-50
Information and Financial Activities	950	950	960	0	-10
Government	7,450	7,440	7,500	10	-50
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 (currently first quarter 2010) and estimates employment from that point to present.					
North American Industry Classification System. *QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages					