



Growing Grant County

January 2012

2011 Wage & Benefit Report



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2011 Wage & Benefit Report

1 The survey reports the average wages and benefits of 31 manufacturing and high technology companies from Adams and Grant Counties. It looked at wages and fringe benefits from all the participating companies as well as how each company rated the local workforce on worker productivity, team work skills, availability of labor, and more.

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PCC To Hire Key Personnel

Economic Development Projects

New Requests for Information in 2012: 1

Active Projects: 22

Projects under Construction: 6

Active Projects by Type

Agricultural Related: 5

Manufacturing: 12

Data Center: 5

Impacts of Active Projects

Estimated New Jobs: Over 1,000

Estimated Annual Wages: Over \$50 million

Total Project Values: Over \$1 billion

January 23, 2012 – Moses Lake, WA The Grant County EDC has released the 2011 Wage & Fringe Benefit Survey for the Grant County area. The survey was compiled by the Pathfinders, an economic development consulting firm based in Dallas Texas that is well known for creating high quality workforce reports.

Darrel Copeland, Director of Human Resources/Safety for Inland Tarp & Liner commented on why he thought the survey is important for Grant County.

"It is not unusual to participate in, or find, national, regional, state wide, or large city wage & benefit surveys," said Copeland. "However, to have the benefit of participating in, and using, such a survey fine tuned to a rural county is nothing short of priceless. Any company in Grant County can benefit from this survey by being able to compare their workforce to county statistics."

Jonathan Smith, Executive Director for the Grant County EDC said that this is the third time that this survey has been conducted for the Grant County area. "Workforce is quickly becoming the most important asset that a community can have in terms of promoting and encouraging continued economic growth," said Smith. "The employers ratings of the workforce which is detailed in the beginning of this report gives us a lot of insight into the strengths of our local workforce."



To download a complete copy of the report visit: <http://www.grantedc.com/news/reports.html>



December EDC Luncheon

December 15, 2011-Moses Lake, WA Jonathan Smith, Executive Director of the Grant County EDC gave a presentation on the eventful year the EDC had in 2011. During 2011, the EDC worked on 39 projects, either by giving out preliminary information for an interested party, or seeing the ground-breaking of a new facility that has taken over five years to become a reality. Smith was enthusiastic that the EDC has helped complete 11 projects in Grant County since its formation.

Economic development has been alive throughout Grant County for many years said Smith. The first of 10 Port Districts in the county was formed in 1958, 20 years after the formation of the Grant County PUD in 1938. The PUD built two dams in the county, Wanapum and Priest Rapids, and installed a vast fiber optics network that has helped to bring Data Centers to the county. One of the largest projects that the County has seen was the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project which first delivered water in 1952. Over 5,000 miles of canals, laterals, drains and waste ways were constructed and now irrigate 774,168 acres in Grant County alone.

Smith explained that along with helping new companies choose to



Terry Brewer
Executive Director



Jonathan Smith
Executive Director



Emily Braunwart
*Accounting and
Communications Manager*

establish in Grant County or to expand their current business, the EDC works on many projects that are a resource to the community. The EDC has worked with the Columbia Basin Foundation, the Columbia Basin Herald and Eastern Washington University, among many other businesses in the community, to create the Grant County Trends website (www.grantcountytrends.ewu.edu). There are over 140 statistical indicators and it is a tool for community and business planning.

The Cost of Living survey is a quarterly national survey that the EDC conducts for Grant County. There are over 300 communities covered in the survey with 100% being the national average cost of living. The highest cost of living was 223.9% and the lowest was 81.7% in the 3rd quarter release. Smith said that once the results of the survey were compiled, Grant County came in 7.6% lower than the national average.

Smith also highlighted the Wage & Benefit survey that the EDC has conducted every four years. It is focused on manufacturing and data centers jobs and reports the average wages by job occupation. The last study covered 31 companies and 4,694 employees.

Looking ahead to 2012, Smith sees many projects the EDC has been working on coming to completion. This includes the new Sabey, Dell, and Vantage Data Centers in Quincy, Pacific Coast Canola in Warden, as well as the potential for new retail and manufacturing throughout the county. Smith said the EDC looks forward to helping with all these projects and he is excited for what 2012 will bring to Grant County.



2010 Employment & Wages Released

Every year the Washington State Employment Security Department releases data for employment and wages in Grant County. Data sets for the majority of the cities in the county are released and provide a snap shot of the employment statistics. In 2010 Grant County had

an estimated labor force of 42,260 and an annual unemployment rate of 10.5%. 3,647 firms called Grant County home and paid about \$1.12 Billion in wages. Click the links below to see data for individual cities in Grant County.

[2010 Grant County Employment and Wages](#)
[2010 Grant County Labor Force Data](#)





2012 Annual Banquet

fundraising event

When: March 9 — Social Hour: 5:30 — Dinner 6:30

Where: Masto Conference Center Big Bend Community College

Cost: \$60 Per Person ***Don't come alone... bring another couple with you!***

Reservations: www.grantedc.com or call 509-764-6579

2011 was a great year for economic development in Grant County and the stage is set for another great year in 2012. Data center construction continued in Quincy, SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers celebrated its grand opening in Moses Lake, and construction started on the Pacific Coast Canola facility in Warden.

Get a recap of these events and learn what's in store for the economic future of Grant County at the EDC's 2012 Annual Banquet.



November 2011 Labor Area Summary

Grant County's monthly unemployment rate for November, 2011 was 9.6% - 0.9% lower than it was a year ago. Employment has been showing strong improvement in 2011 from 2010 and 2009, with Grant County being a leader in

Washington because of the strong manufacturing concentration. Consumer confidence had been lagging for 2011, but made a strong jump in November. We hope to see continued improvements moving

forward for the economy. To read more of the report go to: <http://www.grantedc.com/images/stories/downloads/reports/LaborAreaSummary/nov2011grantcountylas.pdf>





Pacific Coast Canola to Hire Key Personnel in 2012

Pacific Coast Canola broke ground on September 21, 2011 and construction is moving along quickly. The new facility in Warden, WA has had the foundation completed and the expected finish date is in early 2013. According to a company press release, Pacific Coast Canola is now hiring for key personal positions to start early this year to participate in the construction phase of the project and to establish the plant's operating procedures.

The positions are: Product Manager, Environmental Health and Safety Manager, Logistics Manager, Maintenance Manager, Plant Engineer and Quality Assurance Manager.

"We are thrilled to see the plant moving along quickly and that they are already bringing new jobs to the area," said Terry Brewer, Executive Director of the Grant County EDC. "The EDC is excited to have been able to help Pacific Coast



Canola to make Grant County its home. We have seen so much growth and we could not ask for a better experience."

For a more detailed description of the job openings go to <http://pacificcoastcanola.com/employment.php>.



Upcoming Events

February 15th

Board & Member Meeting
7:00-8:00am
BBCC ATEC

March 9th

Annual Banquet
5:30-8:30 pm

BBCC ATEC

March 21st

Board & Member Meeting
7:00-8:00am
BBCC ATEC