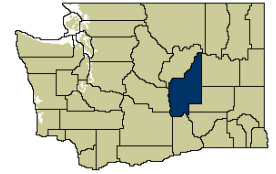




Grant County

Labor Area Summary

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Summary

The preliminary report of nonfarm employment in October 2008 for Grant County showed a continually soft labor market. Overall, nonfarm employment had a net job loss of 220 paychecks or a contraction of eight-tenths of a percent from October 2007 to October 2008. Across the state, the number of nonfarm jobs was down seven-tenths of a percent over the same time period.

Goods-producing

With the revised September 2008 figures, the goods-producing sectors (manufacturing and natural resources, mining and construction) posted their second month-to-month job losses since May 2008. In October 2008, 190 jobs were lost for a 2.9 percent decline. In the month of September, employment level remained flat following a job loss of 120 workers (-1.8 percent) the previous month. Over the year, the goods-producing employment expanded at 2.8 percent growth rate, adding 170 paychecks. The current year-over-year gains followed 6.3 percent upturn (+350 jobs) and 4.7 percent increase (+280 jobs) in October 2006 and October 2007, respectively. The state posted a yearly decline in goods-producing of 8.5 percent and a monthly downturn of 6.2 percent.

Services-providing

The services-providing industries (trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities, education and health services, leisure and hospitality and government) continued to lose jobs. Over the last 12 months, services-providing industries employment went down from 21,110 workers in October 2007 to 20,720 employees in October 2008, for a decrease of 390 jobs or a 1.8 percent decline. Over the month, employers in the services-providing industries across Grant County lost 1.2 percent of their workforce or 250 workers. Statewide, services-providing employment was up 1.0 percent compared to October 2007 and up four-tenths of a percentage point over the month.

Year-over-year performance by subsector

- From October 2007 to October 2008, some sectors have gained jobs, while others have lost them.
- Trade, transportation and utilities posted the highest growth rate, though a decelerating percentage change. Over the last 12 months, employment in this services-providing sector was up 1.1 percent for a gain of 60 paychecks. Between October 2006 and October 2007, 260 jobs were added. Across the state, trade, transportation and utilities was down seven-tenths of a percentage point over the year.
- The government sector, which includes federal, state and local government institutions, posted a year-over-year increase of 50 paychecks for an increase of seven-tenths of a percent. Across the state, government employment grew by 1.8 percent.

- Over the last twelve months, employment in information and financial activities posted a 2.0 percent increase, or 20 more jobs than October 2007. Statewide, the industries of information and financial activities are reported separately. In the state, information industries were up 4.6 percent, while financial activities were down 1.4 percent.

Month-over-month performance by sector

- Over the month of October 2008, only the government sector expanded in the county with a gain of 240 paychecks or a 3.3 percent upturn.
- Between September and October 2008, the trade, transportation and utilities sector was down 70 paychecks, and businesses in the information and financial activities sectors lost 10 workers.

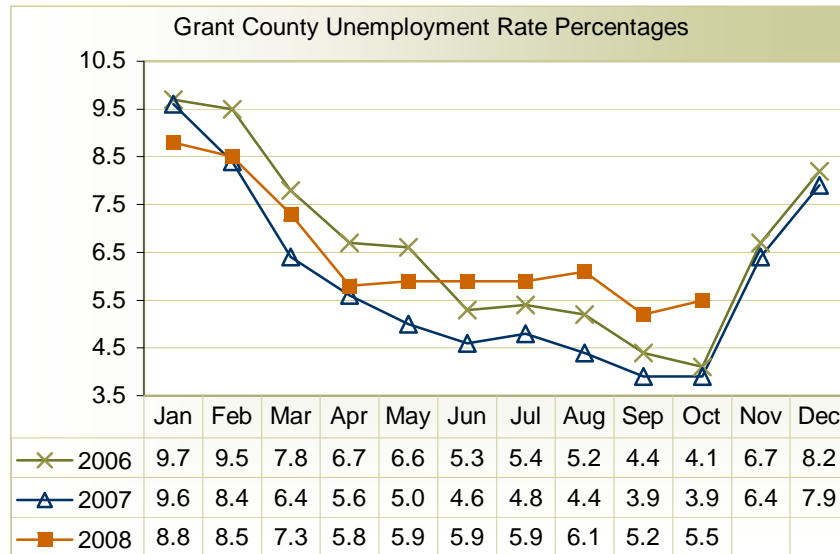
Unemployment

From October 2007 to October 2008, the number of helpers – production workers – filing for the unemployment insurance claims increased from 11 to 120 (see table), while the claims increased by 79 for welders, cutters, solderers and brazers and by 20 for truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailers.

Top Unemployment Claims by Occupation for Grant County						
*SOC	Occupation	Oct-08	Sep-08	Oct-07	Change	
					Oct-07 Oct-08	Sep-08 Oct-08
519198	Helpers--Production Workers	120	43	11	109	77
514121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Brazers	87	13	8	79	74
472061	Construction Laborers	34	27	22	12	7
472031	Carpenters	33	32	20	13	1
533032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	30	24	10	20	6
512099	Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	28	5	1	27	23
519199	Production Workers, All Other	28	4	4	24	24
472111	Electricians	21	7	3	18	14
435061	Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	18	4	1	17	14
499042	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	17	12	11	6	5
412011	Cashiers	15	12	8	7	3
537051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	14	13	8	6	1
452092	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	13	18	2	11	-5
472152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	13	9	3	10	4
412031	Retail Salespersons	12	7	5	7	5
537062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	12	9	3	9	3
373011	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	11	2	9	2	9
399021	Personal and Home Care Aides	11	12	12	-1	-1
439199	Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	11	7	5	6	4
511011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers	11	4	6	5	7
514011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	11	1	0	11	10
413099	Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	10	9	4	6	1
431011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Office and Administrative Support Workers	10	8	5	5	2

*Standard Occupational Classification

Over the year, the jobless rate was up one and six-tenths of a percentage point and rising from 3.9 percent in October 2007 to 5.5 percent in October 2008. Over the month, the unemployment rate was up three-tenths of a percent from a revised September 2008 rate of 5.2 percent. Meanwhile, the number of residents out of work and actively seeking employment increased from 1,710 in October 2007 to 2,380 in October 2008, up 670 out of a total labor force of 43,520. In October 2008, the number of residents who had a job declined to 41,150 from 42,360 one year earlier. The state jobless rate reached 5.8 percent, which was up one and eight-tenths percentage points compared to October 2007 rate of 4.0 percent and up six-tenths of a percentage point from September 2008.



The unemployment rate is the ratio of the unemployed (individuals who are actively looking for work) divided by the total labor force (resident employed plus the unemployed). It can be affected by changes in the labor force participation rate, which is a ratio of the total labor force divided by the population age 16 and older. Over time, the makeup of the labor force also changes. New graduates are joining the labor force for the first time, while some currently employed are retiring. At other times, some job seekers may be in or out of the labor force depending on the state of the economy and their hope of finding a job. All these factors suggest that the unemployment rate does not and should not be expected to respond one-for-one to changes in employment. When employment expands, not all the added jobs are filled by the previously unemployed. Some of the openings may be filled by residents who just joined the labor force, while others are taken by formerly discouraged workers who were not previously counted as part of the labor force.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Grant County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: June 2008						
	Change					
	Prelim Oct-08	Revised Sep-08	Revised Oct-07	Sep-08 Oct-08	Oct-07 Oct-08	Oct-07 Oct-08%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	43,520	43,490	44,070	30	-550	-1.2%
Resident Employment	41,150	41,240	42,360	-90	-1,210	-2.9%
Unemployment	2,380	2,250	1,710	130	670	39.2%
Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.2	3.9	0.3	1.6	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	27,070	27,510	27,290	-440	-220	-0.8%
Total Private	19,550	20,210	19,810	-660	-260	-1.3%
Goods Producing	6,350	6,540	6,180	-190	170	2.8%
Services Providing	20,720	20,970	21,110	-250	-390	-1.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,470	5,540	5,410	-70	60	1.1%
Information and Financial Activities	1,020	1,030	1,000	-10	20	2.0%
Government	7,530	7,290	7,480	240	50	0.7%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	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 2nd quarter 2008) and estimates employment from that point to present.</p> <p>**North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						