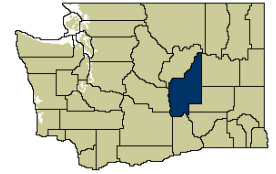




Grant County

Labor Area Summary

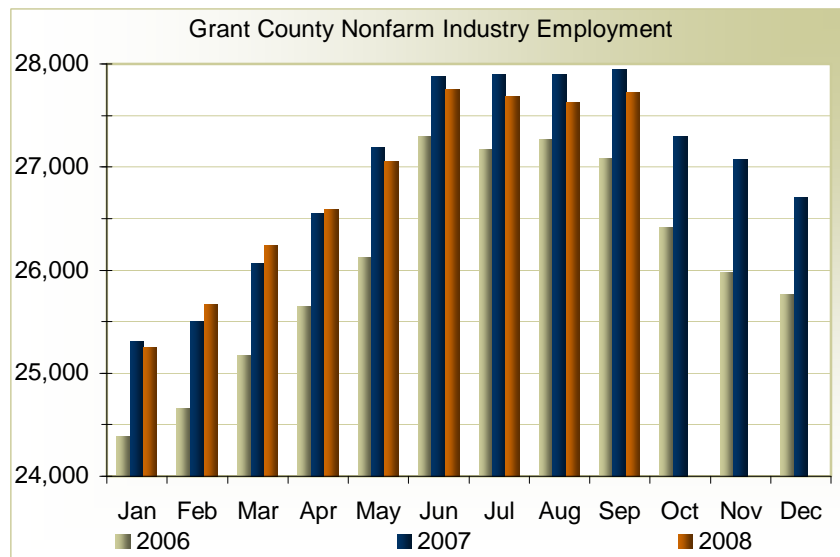
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Summary

New nonfarm employment report compiled by the Employment Security Department for Grant County for September 2008 showed a continually weakening job market. Overall, nonfarm employment was down 0.8 percent, for a net decline of 230 jobs between September 2007 and September 2008. The year-over-year pace of growth in the goods-producing sectors decelerated, while the services-providing industries underperformed the state for the first time since 2006.



Services Providing

Employment in different services providing industries (trade, transportation, warehousing, and utilities, education and health services, information and financial activities, professional and business services and government) decreased at a fast pace. The year-over-year employment contracted, while the month-to-month growth rate showed some resilience. Over the last 12 months, services providing employment was down 450 paychecks, for a 2.1 percent decline. The recent year-over-year losses followed a 2.4 percent gain in 2007 and a 3.2 upturn the year before. Over the month, employers added 100 jobs, for a 0.5 percent increase. In August, 40 jobs were created, for a 0.2 percentage point increase. Statewide, services-providing employment was up 1.6 percent compared to September 2007, up 0.3 percentage points over the month, after showing a decline of 0.8 and 0.2 percent in July and August, respectively.

Goods Producing

With the revised August 2008 figures, the goods producing sectors (manufacturing, natural resources, mining and construction) posted their second consecutive month-to-month decline. Over the month, employers shed 10 jobs, for a 0.2 percent loss. The losses in September followed a 1.3 percent decline (90 paychecks) in August, a 5 percent upturn (320 jobs) in July and a 7.8 percent gain (460 paychecks) in June. Over the year, Grant County goods producing employment expanded at a higher rate than the state's, increasing by 3.5 percent or 220 paychecks. In September 2006 and September 2007, goods producing industries expanded at 7.7 percent and at 5.8 percent, respectively. The state posted a yearly decline of 2.1 percent and a month-over-month percentage change of 0.9 percent in September, a 0.4 percent gain in August, a 0.9 percent upturn in July and a 1.1 percent increase in June.

A winner

- In the county, information and financial activities employment was up 40 jobs, for a 4.0 percent increase over year-ago totals. The recent year-over-year gain followed a 1.0 percent loss (-10 jobs) in September 2007 and a 13.5 percent gain (+120 paychecks) in September 2006. For the current month, total employment remained flat at 1,040 workers compared to August 2008. In the state, information – listed separately from financial activities – expanded at 3.4 percent compared to September 2007 and contracted by 0.1 of a percentage point over the month. State financial activities were down 1.0 percent over the year and 1.2 percent over the month.

A decelerating growth

- Between September 2007 and September 2008, trade, transportation and utilities employment gained 90 jobs, for a 1.7 percent increase. In the previous two years, trade, transportation and utilities was down 1.7 percent (minus 90 jobs) in 2006 and up 4.8 percent (250 jobs) in 2007. Over the month, employers in trade, transportation and utilities industries added 30 jobs for a 0.5 percent gain in September, after creating 130 jobs (2.4 percent) in August and cutting 30 jobs (minus 0.6 percent) in July. Statewide, trade, transportation and utilities employment expanded at 1.0 percent over the last 12 months and contracted at 0.4 percent over the month.
- Government employment was up 110 paychecks over the year (1.5 percent), while increasing by 2.6 percent (190 paychecks) over the month. Statewide, government institutions added jobs at a 1.2 percent rate over the year and at a 1.9 percent rate over the month.

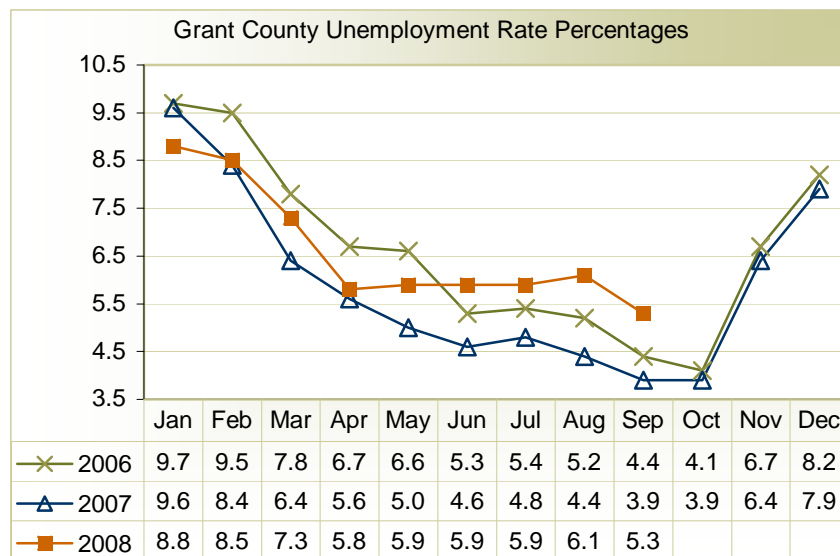
Unemployment

Between September 2007 and September 2008, the number of helpers – production workers – filing for the unemployment insurance claims went up from 19 to 43 (see table below), while the claims increased by 10 for truck drivers, heavy and tractor trailers.

Top Unemployment Claims by Occupation for Grant County						
*SOC	Occupation	Sep-08	Aug-08	Sep-07	Change	
					Sep-07 Sep-08	Aug-08 Sep-08
519198	Helpers--production workers	43	40	19	24	3
472031	Carpenters	32	22	17	15	10
472061	Construction laborers	27	26	23	4	1
452041	Graders and sorters, agricultural products	24	41	9	15	-17
533032	Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	24	28	14	10	-4
452092	Farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery and greenhouse	16	35	1	15	-19
537064	Packers and packagers, hand	14	33	3	11	-19
514121	Welders, cutters, solderers and brazers	13	7	5	8	6
537051	Industrial truck and tractor operators	13	11	2	11	2
399021	Personal and home care aides	12	10	10	2	2
412011	Cashiers	12	10	8	4	2
499042	Maintenance and repair workers, general	12	10	6	6	2
413099	Sales representatives, services, all other	9	6	4	5	3
435081	Stock clerks and other fillers	9	10	1	8	-1
472152	Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	9	6	2	7	3
493023	Automotive services technicians and mechanics	9	7	1	8	2

*Standard Occupational Classification Code and associated occupational title.

Over the year, the jobless rate was up 1.4 percentage points, rising from 3.9 percent in September 2007 to 5.3 percent in September 2008. Over the last month, the unemployment rate was down eight tenths of a percentage point from a revised August 2008 rate of 6.1 percent. Meanwhile, the number of residents out of work and actively seeking employment increased from 1,720 in September 2007 to 2,310 in September 2008, up 590 out of a total labor force of 43,760. The state jobless rate reached 5.3 percent, up 1.1 points compared to the September 2007 rate of 4.2 percent and declined four tenths of one percentage point from August 2008.



The unemployment rate is the ratio of the unemployed (individuals who are actively looking for work) divided by the total labor force, which consists of the 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: March 2008						
				Change		
	Prelim Sep-08	Revised Aug-08	Revised Sep-07	Aug-08 Sep-08	Sep-07 Sep-08	Sep-07 Sep-08%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	43,760	42,590	43,800	1,170	-40	-0.1%
Resident Employment	41,450	39,980	42,080	1,470	-630	-1.5%
Unemployment	2,310	2,610	1,720	-300	590	34.3%
Unemployment Rate	5.3	6.1	3.9	-0.8	1.4	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	27,720	27,630	27,950	90	-230	-0.8%
Total Private	20,280	20,380	20,630	-100	-350	-1.7%
Goods Producing	6,590	6,600	6,370	-10	220	3.5%
Services Providing	21,130	21,030	21,580	100	-450	-2.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,530	5,500	5,440	30	90	1.7%
Information and Financial Activities	1,040	1,040	1,000	0	40	4.0%
Government	7,440	7,250	7,330	190	110	1.5%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	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 1st quarter 2008) and estimates employment from that point to present. **North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages						