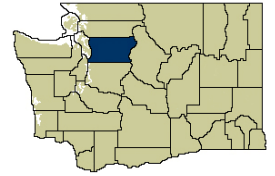




Snohomish County

Labor Area Summary

Volume 2009, Number 8

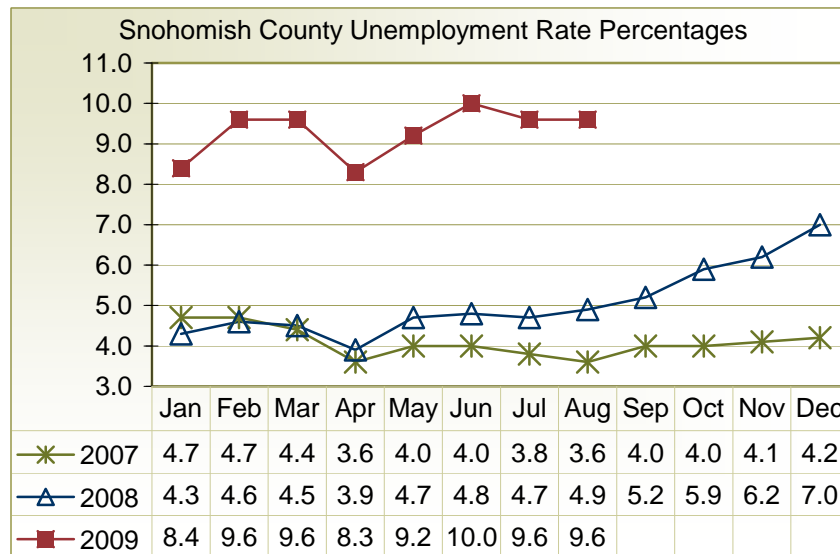


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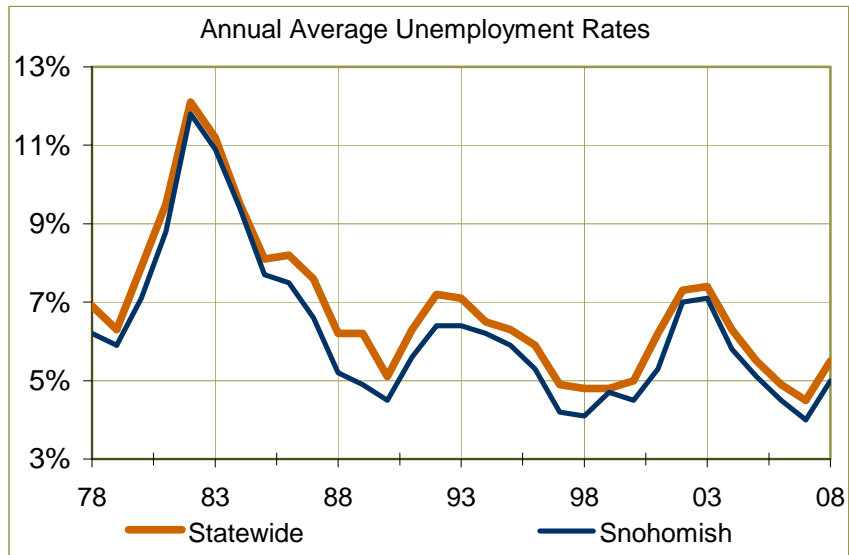
Unemployment Rate

The preliminary unemployment rate stayed level in August at 9.6 percent. The preliminary rate for July was 9.8 percent, but this was revised downward by two-tenths of a percentage point to 9.6 percent. While the preliminary rate in July was more than double the July 2008 rate of 4.7 percent, the August 2009 rate was a bit less than double the rate from August 2008 of 4.9 percent.

The labor force was estimated at 385,890 residents with 37,070 of those people unemployed but actively seeking work. The number of people filing continued claims for unemployment in August was 20,321. This represents an increase of nearly 13,000 or approximately 175.0 percent from a year ago.



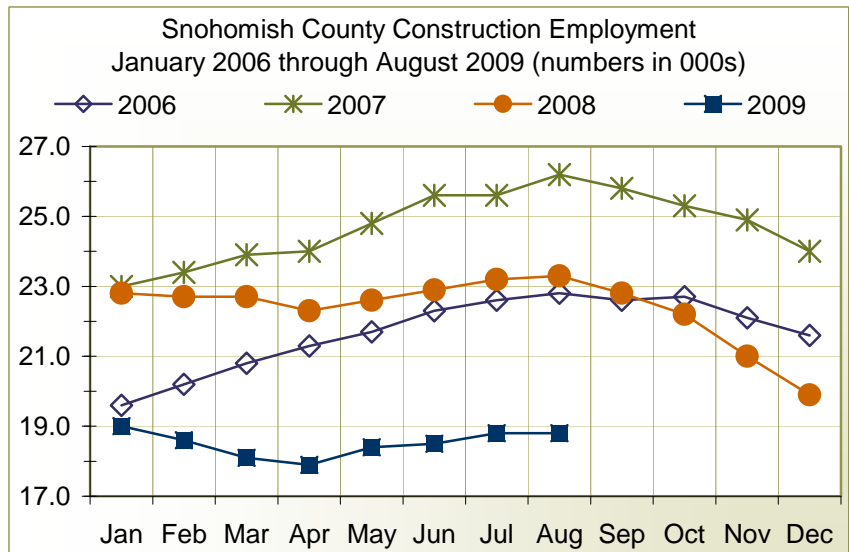
The comparable rate for the state rose to 8.9 percent from its revised July value of 8.6 percent. As you can see from the following graph, the annual average unemployment rate in Snohomish County has been lower than the state annual average for the last 30 years.



However, for the first eight months of this year, the average unemployment rate in the county was 9.3 percent compared to 9.0 percent for the state. If this trend continues through December, it will be the first time in thirty-one years that the annual average unemployment rate will be higher in the county than in the state.

Construction

Construction employment remained flat over the month at 18,800, although it was down by 4,500 over the year, for a decline of 19.4 percent. From its all-time high of 26,200 in August 2007, it has declined by 7,400 jobs.



Over the Month

Nonfarm jobs fell by 2,600 over the month, bringing the total down to 245,000 in August. The goods-producing sectors dropped by 600 jobs, while the services-providing sectors fell by 2,000.

The biggest losses were in the government sector, which dropped by 2,000 jobs. Seasonal declines in K-12 education (-1,700) combined with losses (-200) in local government, as municipal governments pared back employment.

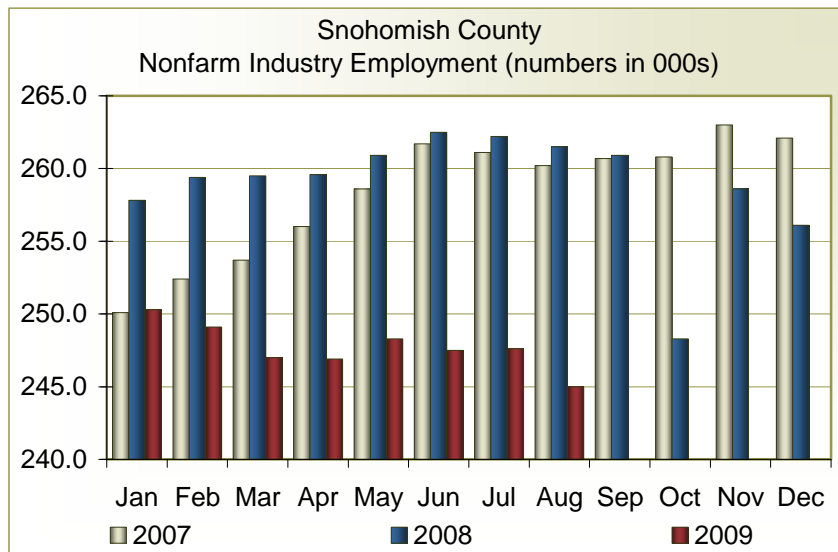
Aerospace was down by 400 jobs.

The only sectors to add jobs were professional and business services (+100), and leisure and hospitality (+200), with 100 of those jobs coming in food services and drinking places.

Over the Year

The county has lost 16,500 jobs from August 2008, for a 6.3 percent decline. Besides the 19.4 percent loss in construction (detailed above), manufacturing was down by 3,800 or 6.7 percent. Aerospace fell by 500 over the year for a 1.5 percent loss. Retail trade was down by 2,400 or 7.2 percent. Financial activities dropped by 1,100 jobs (8.9 percent); professional and business services was off by 2,500 (11.0 percent), while arts, entertainment and recreation was down by 700 (16.2 percent). Generally, in a recession, temporary workers are among the first to get laid off. As a result, employment services – which includes temporary help agencies – fell by 1,300 jobs, for a loss of 40.6 percent. In spite of the large monthly loss in local education (1,700 jobs), the sector remained up over the year by 200 jobs.

Educational and health services was up over the year by 400 jobs for a 1.7 percent increase. Health services are expected to increase as the ‘baby boomer’ generation ages and puts more pressure on the health care industry.



Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Snohomish County Not Seasonally Adjusted/**Updated with ***QCEW Data: March 2009						
Employment by Place of Residence	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Change		
	Aug-09	Jul-09	Aug-08	Jul-09 Aug-09	Aug-08 Aug-09	Aug-08 Aug-09 %
Civilian Labor Force	385,890	386,750	372,040	-860	13,850	3.7%
Resident Employment	348,820	349,530	353,860	-710	-5,040	-1.4%
Unemployment	37,070	37,220	18,180	-150	18,890	103.9%
Unemployment Rate	9.6	9.6	4.9	0.0	4.7	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles, numbers in thousands)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	245.0	247.6	261.5	-2.6	-16.5	-6.3%
Total Private	208.9	209.5	224.6	-0.6	-15.7	-7.0%
Goods Producing 2/	72.0	72.5	80.3	-0.6	-8.3	-10.4%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	18.8	18.8	23.3	0.0	-4.5	-19.4%
Construction of Buildings	2.6	2.6	3.3	0.0	-0.7	-21.8%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2.4	2.4	3.1	0.0	-0.7	-24.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	13.6	13.6	16.5	0.0	-2.9	-17.7%
Manufacturing	53.2	53.8	57.0	-0.6	-3.8	-6.7%
Durable Goods	49.7	50.3	52.7	-0.6	-3.0	-5.6%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.8	0.0	-0.6	-31.8%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3.2	3.2	3.8	0.0	-0.6	-16.3%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.1	5.5	0.0	-0.4	-7.9%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg.	34.9	35.3	35.4	-0.4	-0.5	-1.5%
Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.5	4.4	0.0	-0.9	-21.3%
Services Providing	173.0	175.1	181.2	-2.0	-8.2	-4.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	43.2	43.4	45.8	-0.2	-2.6	-5.6%
Wholesale Trade	8.6	8.5	8.6	0.1	0.0	0.0%
Retail Trade	30.5	30.8	32.9	-0.3	-2.4	-7.2%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	3.9	3.9	4.5	0.0	-0.6	-12.3%
Building Material and Garden Supply Stores	2.8	2.8	3.2	0.0	-0.4	-13.9%
Food and Beverage Stores	6.5	6.5	6.4	0.0	0.1	1.1%
General Merchandise Stores	6.4	6.4	5.9	0.0	0.5	7.8%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	4.1	4.0	4.3	0.1	-0.2	-4.5%
Information	5.0	5.0	5.5	0.0	-0.5	-9.0%
Telecommunications	3.2	3.2	3.3	0.0	-0.1	-2.3%
Financial Activities	11.3	11.3	12.4	0.0	-1.1	-8.9%
Finance and Insurance	8.1	8.1	8.9	0.0	-0.8	-8.7%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	3.7	3.7	4.0	0.0	-0.3	-8.5%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	4.2	4.2	4.7	0.0	-0.5	-11.0%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	3.2	3.2	3.5	0.0	-0.3	-8.8%
Professional and Business Services	20.4	20.3	22.9	0.1	-2.5	-11.0%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	9.3	9.1	9.3	0.1	0.0	-0.3%
Architectural, Engineering, & Related Serv.	2.3	2.3	2.6	0.0	-0.3	-10.8%
Admin., Support, Waste Mgmt., & Remediation	8.8	8.8	11.6	0.0	-2.8	-24.4%
Employment Services	2.0	1.9	3.3	0.1	-1.3	-40.6%
Educational and Health Services	25.0	25.1	24.6	-0.1	0.4	1.7%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	8.7	8.8	10.4	-0.1	-1.7	-16.7%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	4.7	4.7	4.6	0.0	0.1	1.2%
Social Assistance	5.4	5.4	5.3	0.0	0.1	2.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	23.2	23.0	24.2	0.2	-1.0	-4.2%

Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3.7	3.7	4.4	0.0	-0.7	-16.2%
Food Services and Drinking Places	18.0	17.8	18.5	0.1	-0.5	-2.9%
Other Services	8.8	8.8	8.9	0.0	-0.1	-1.1%
Government	36.1	38.1	36.9	-2.0	-0.8	-2.1%
Federal Government	2.3	2.3	2.3	-0.1	0.0	-1.9%
State Government	4.2	4.3	4.9	0.0	-0.7	-13.7%
State Educational Services	1.3	1.3	1.5	0.0	-0.2	-16.5%
Local Government	29.6	31.5	29.7	-1.9	-0.1	-0.2%
Local Educational Services	12.8	14.6	12.6	-1.7	0.2	1.9%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	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 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present.

**North American Industry Classification System.