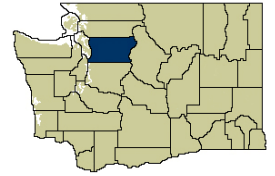




Snohomish County

Labor Area Summary

Volume 2009, Number 10



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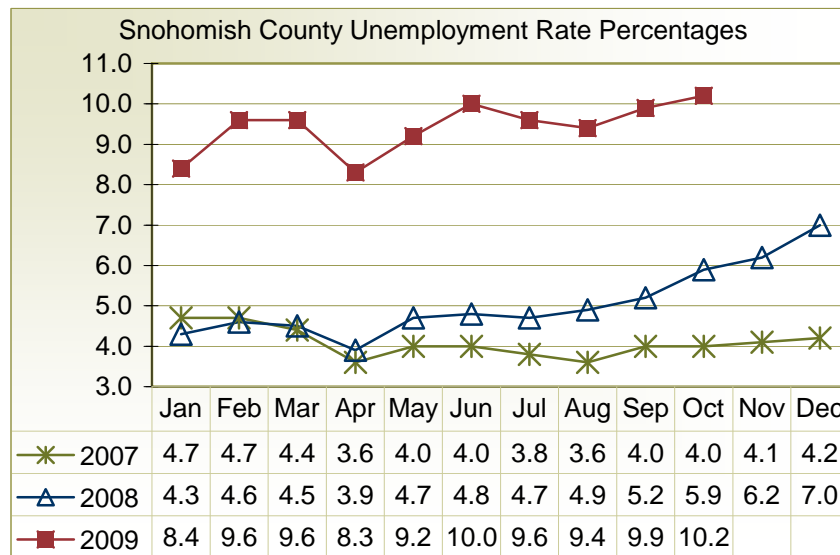
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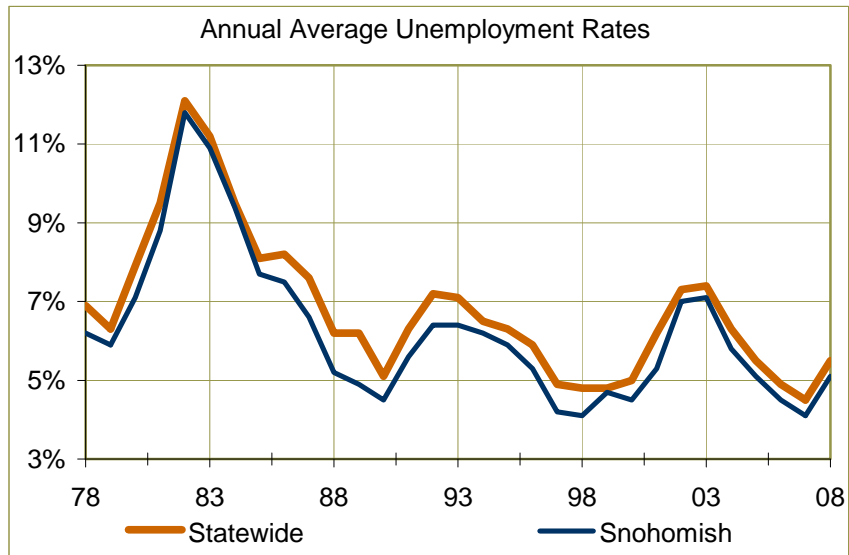
Unemployment Rate

The preliminary unemployment rate for October 2009 rose to 10.2 percent. The preliminary rate for September was 10.1 percent, but this was revised downward to 9.9 percent. The October 2008 rate was 5.9 percent.

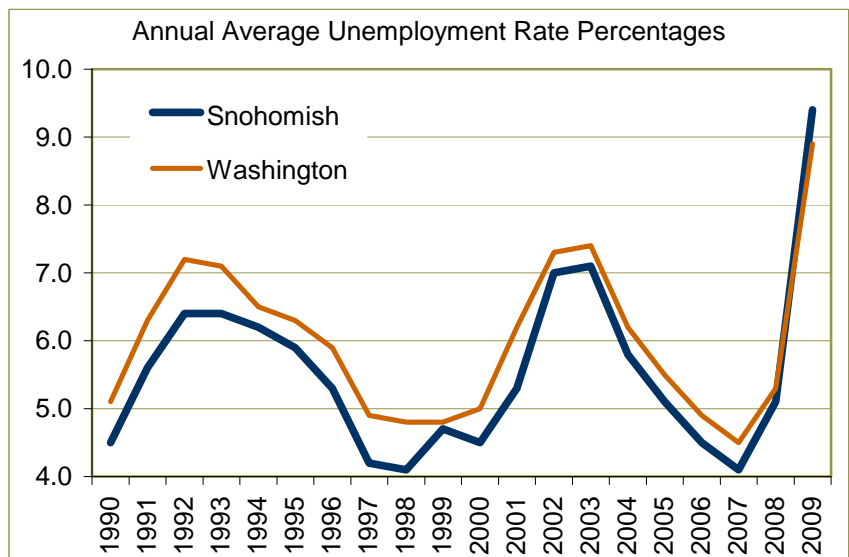


The labor force was estimated at 386,040 residents with 39,330 of those people unemployed, but actively seeking work. The number of people filing for unemployment insurance continued claims in September was 18,206. This represents a slight decline compared to last month, but an increase of 9,697 or 114.0 percent more than a year ago.

The comparable rate for the state held approximately flat at 8.8 percent, since the preliminary estimate for September was also 8.8 percent, but was revised downward to 8.6 percent. As you can see from the graph below, the annual average unemployment rate in Snohomish County has been lower than the state annual average for the prior 30 years.

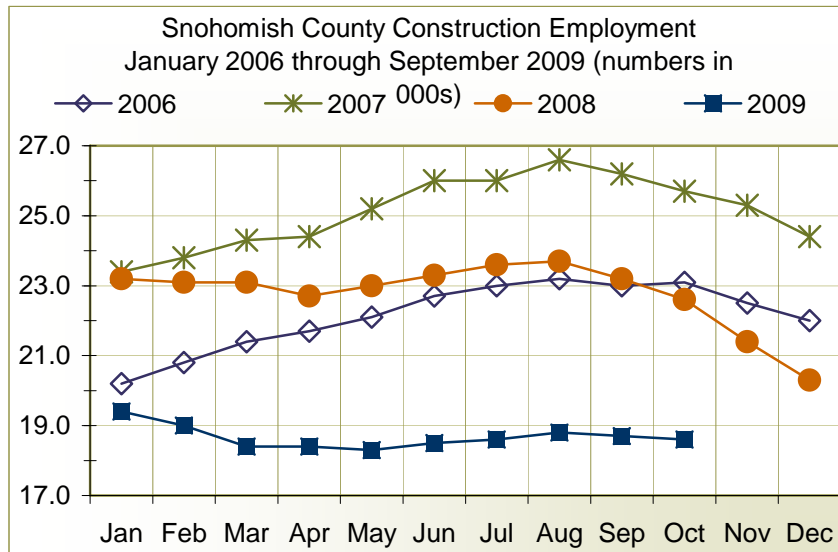


However, for the first 10 months of this year the average unemployment rate in the county was 9.4 percent compared to 8.9 percent for the state. If this trend continues through December, it will be the first time in 31 years that the annual average unemployment rate will be higher in the county than in the state.



Construction

Construction employment moved from 18,700 (revised) to 18,600 jobs over the month. It was down by 4,000 over the year for a decline of 17.7 percent. From its all-time high of 26,200 in August of 2007, it has declined by 7,600.



Over the Month

Nonfarm jobs rose by 800 over the month, bringing the total to 247,800 in October. The goods-producing sector shed 700 jobs, while the service-providing sector rose by 1,400.

The biggest losses were the 600 reduction in manufacturing employment and the 400 drop in leisure and hospitality. Several other categories saw declines of roughly 100.

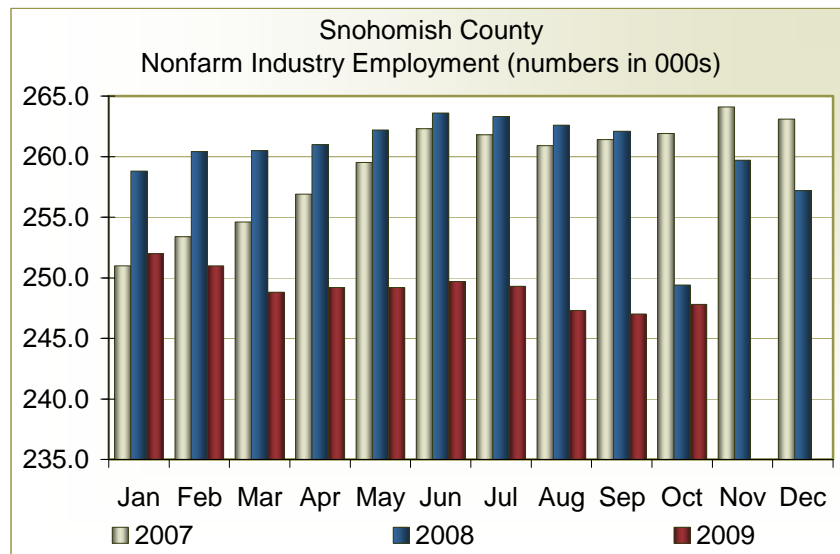
Building on last month’s results – and moving in step with the larger metropolitan division (MD) – government employment increased. State government education added 300, and local government education added 1,600 jobs over the month.

Over the Year

The county has lost 1,600 jobs from October of 2008, a 0.6 percent decline. Note, however, that the aerospace strike drastically affected employment numbers in October 2008. Manufacturing was up over the year for the same reason.

Retail trade was down by 2,400 or 7.4 percent. Financial activities fell 1,000 (8.1 percent); professional and business services was off by 2,000 (8.7 percent); and food services and drinking places employment was down by 1,100 (6.1 percent). Generally, in a recession, temporary workers are among the first laid off. As a result, employment services, which includes temporary help agencies, was down 1,200 over the year, a loss of 30.8 percent.

Educational and health services was up over the year by 700 jobs for a 2.7 percent increase. Health services are expected to increase as the ‘baby boomer’ generation ages and puts more pressure on the health care industry. Information, another promising industry regionally, was down 600, or 11.1 percent.



Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Snohomish County Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: June 2009						
	Prelim Oct-09	Revised Sep-09	Revised Oct-08	Change		
				Sep-09 Oct-09	Oct-08 Oct-09	Oct-08 Oct-09%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	386,040	386,760	373,460	-720	12,580	3.4%
Resident Employment	346,700	348,380	351,500	-1,680	-4,800	-1.4%
Unemployment	39,330	38,370	21,960	960	17,370	79.1%
Unemployment Rate	10.2	9.9	5.9	0.3	4.3	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles, numbers in thousands)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	247.8	247.0	249.4	0.8	-1.6	-0.6%
Total Private	208.1	209.2	210.4	-1.1	-2.3	-1.1%
Goods Producing	70.4	71.1	67.1	-0.7	3.3	4.9%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	18.6	18.7	22.6	-0.1	-4.0	-17.7%
Construction of Buildings	2.9	3.0	3.6	-0.1	-0.7	-19.4%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2.2	2.3	2.6	-0.1	-0.4	-15.4%
Specialty Trade Contractors	13.2	13.2	16.0	0.0	-2.8	-17.5%
Manufacturing	51.8	52.4	44.4	-0.6	7.4	16.7%
Durable Goods	48.1	48.6	40.2	-0.5	7.9	19.7%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1.1	1.2	1.7	-0.1	-0.6	-35.3%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3.0	3.1	3.6	-0.1	-0.6	-16.7%
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.2	5.5	-0.1	-0.4	-7.3%
Aerospace Product and Parts Mfg. 2/	34.7	35.0	23.4	-0.3	11.3	48.3%
Nondurable Goods	3.7	3.8	4.3	-0.1	-0.6	-14.0%
Service Providing	177.3	175.9	182.3	1.4	-5.0	-2.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	42.4	42.5	44.9	-0.1	-2.5	-5.6%
Wholesale Trade	8.5	8.5	8.4	0.0	0.1	1.2%
Retail Trade	29.9	30.0	32.3	-0.1	-2.4	-7.4%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	3.7	3.8	4.1	-0.1	-0.4	-9.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	6.3	6.4	6.4	-0.1	-0.1	-1.6%
General Merchandise Stores	5.9	5.9	6.0	0.0	-0.1	-1.7%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	4.0	4.0	4.2	0.0	-0.2	-4.8%

Information	4.8	4.9	5.4	-0.1	-0.6	-11.1%
Telecommunications	3.1	3.1	3.3	0.0	-0.2	-6.1%
Financial Activities	11.3	11.4	12.3	-0.1	-1.0	-8.1%
Finance and Insurance	8.1	8.2	8.9	-0.1	-0.8	-9.0%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	3.5	3.6	3.9	-0.1	-0.4	-10.3%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	4.3	4.4	4.7	-0.1	-0.4	-8.5%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	3.3	3.2	3.4	0.1	-0.1	-2.9%
Professional and Business Services	21.1	20.9	23.1	0.2	-2.0	-8.7%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	9.2	9.2	9.5	0.0	-0.3	-3.2%
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Serv.	2.2	2.2	2.5	0.0	-0.3	-12.0%
Admin., Support, Waste Mgmt., & Remediation	10.3	10.1	12.0	0.2	-1.7	-14.2%
Employment Services	2.7	2.6	3.9	0.1	-1.2	-30.8%
Educational and Health Services	26.2	26.2	25.5	0.0	0.7	2.7%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10.8	10.8	10.5	0.0	0.3	2.9%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	4.8	4.8	4.6	0.0	0.2	4.3%
Social Assistance	5.5	5.4	5.4	0.1	0.1	1.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	22.9	23.3	23.3	-0.4	-0.4	-1.7%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	4.1	4.3	4.0	-0.2	0.1	2.5%
Food Services and Drinking Places	17.9	18.0	18.2	-0.1	-0.3	-1.6%
Other Services	8.8	9.0	8.9	-0.2	-0.1	-1.1%
Government	39.7	37.7	38.9	2.0	0.8	2.1%
Federal Government	2.5	2.4	2.3	0.1	0.2	8.7%
State Government	5.4	5.1	5.3	0.3	0.1	1.9%
State Educational Services	2.2	1.9	2.1	0.3	0.1	4.8%
Local Government	31.8	30.3	31.3	1.5	0.5	1.6%
Local Educational Services	14.5	12.9	14.7	1.6	-0.2	-1.4%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	10.7	0.0	-10.7	0.0%

Industry lineup for this county has changed. Data may not be comparable with previous years.

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. 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 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present. **2/** Workers excluded due to involvement in labor/management dispute.

North American Industry Classification System. *QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages