



Mt. Vernon-Anacortes MSA (Skagit County) Labor Area Summary Volume 2009, Number 5

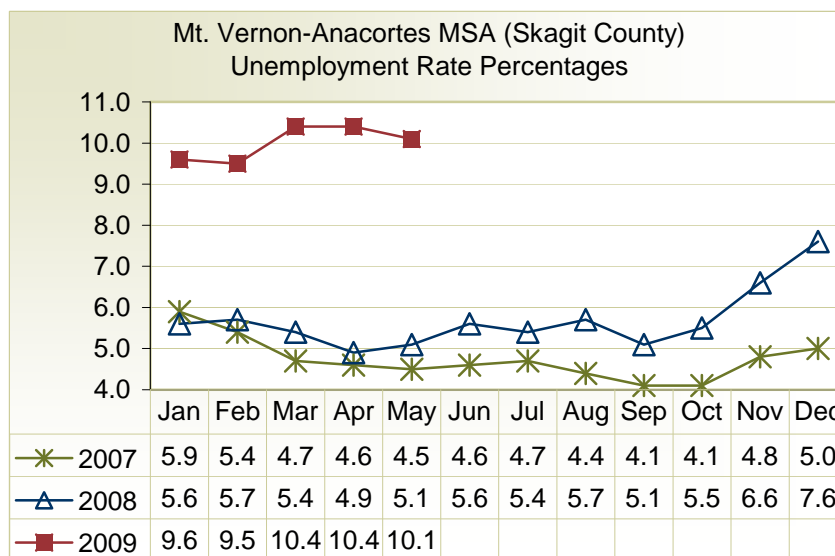


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Summary

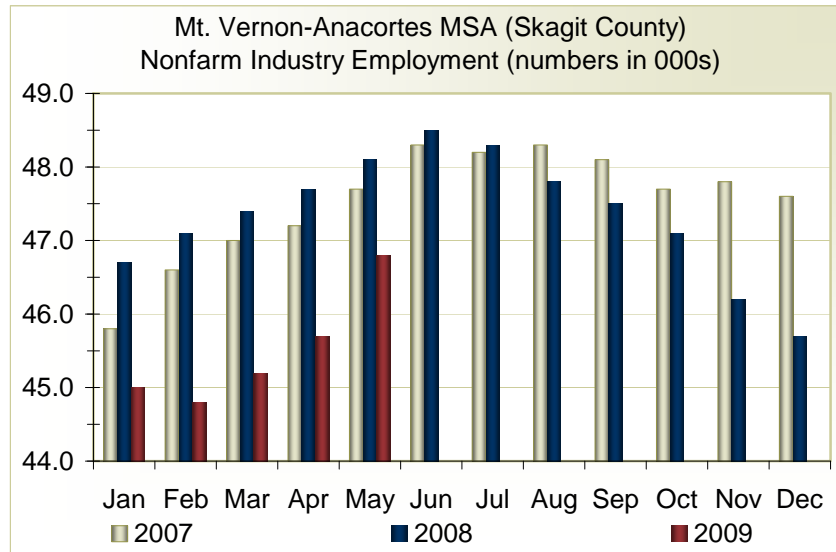
According to preliminary data released by the Washington Employment Security Department, the employment situation in Skagit County improved quite a bit in May. The May preliminary employment data for the Mt. Vernon-Anacortes Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) indicate that the unemployment rate for the month was 10.1 percent. The May jobless rate was three-tenths of a percentage point below the revised April rate of 10.4 percent. The state's unemployment rate came in at 9.2 percent, three-tenths of a percentage point above the revised April rate of 8.9 percent.

The May 2009 area unemployment rate was five full percentage points above the May 2008 jobless rate of 5.1 percent. In the past year, employers have dropped 1,040 Skagit County residents from their payrolls. The data show that 54,310 Skagit County residents were gainfully employed in May, while 6,120 were looking for work – an increase of 104.0 percent from a year ago at this time.



There was also some good news on the jobs front in Skagit County in May. Nonfarm employment totaled 46,800 in May, up 1,100 over the revised April total. Goods-producing employment was up 100 in May, while the services-providing sectors added 1,000 paychecks last month. The entire over-the-month increase on the goods side occurred in the construction grouping. On the services side, leisure and hospitality posted an over-the-month gain of 300 paychecks.

Over the year, nonfarm employment decreased by 1,300, a 2.7 percent decrease (statewide, over the year nonfarm employment decreased by 3.9 percent). This represents a record tenth month in a row in which year-over-year growth was negative (the previous record was six months, which was set during the previous recession in 2001). On the goods side, 1,100 jobs were lost to the economy over the past year, while the services side experienced a loss of 200 paychecks during the same period. On the goods side, the construction grouping lost 400 paychecks to the economy since May 2008, while employers in the manufacturing sector eliminated 700 jobs in the past year. On the services side, retail trade (-200), and leisure and hospitality (-100) both lost a significant amount of jobs to the economy in the past year.



Summary Table

Labor Market Information for the Mount Vernon-Anacortes Metropolitan Statistical Area (Skagit County) Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: December 2008						
				Change		
	Prelim May-09	Revised Apr-09	Revised May-08	Apr-09 May-09	May-08 May-09	May-08 May-09%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	60,440	58,840	58,350	1,600	2,090	3.6%
Resident Employment	54,310	52,750	55,350	1,560	-1,040	-1.9%
Unemployment	6,120	6,090	3,000	30	3,120	104.0%
Unemployment Rate	10.1	10.4	5.1	-0.3	5.0	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles, numbers in thousands)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	46.8	45.7	48.1	1.1	-1.3	-2.7%
Total Private	35.7	34.7	37.1	1.0	-1.4	-3.8%
Goods Producing	8.7	8.6	9.8	0.1	-1.1	-11.2%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	3.6	3.5	4.0	0.1	-0.4	-10.0%
Manufacturing	5.1	5.1	5.8	0.0	-0.7	-12.1%
Services Providing	38.1	37.1	38.3	1.0	-0.2	-0.5%
Private Services Providing	27.0	26.1	27.3	0.9	-0.3	-1.1%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9.9	9.9	10.0	0.0	-0.1	-1.0%
Retail Trade	7.2	7.2	7.4	0.0	-0.2	-2.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	4.9	4.6	5.0	0.3	-0.1	-2.0%
Government	11.1	11.0	11.0	0.1	0.1	0.9%
Federal Government	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0%
State Government	1.6	1.5	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.0%
Local Government	9.1	9.1	9.0	0.0	0.1	1.1%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<p>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 4th 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>						