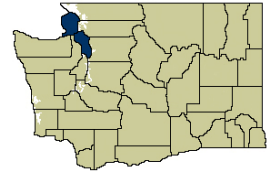




Island and San Juan Counties

Labor Area Summary Volume 2009, Number 9

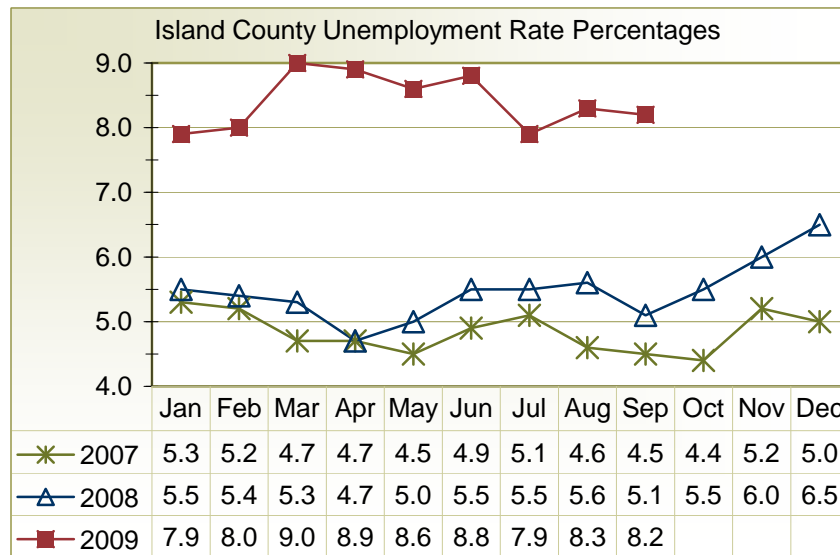


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Island County Summary

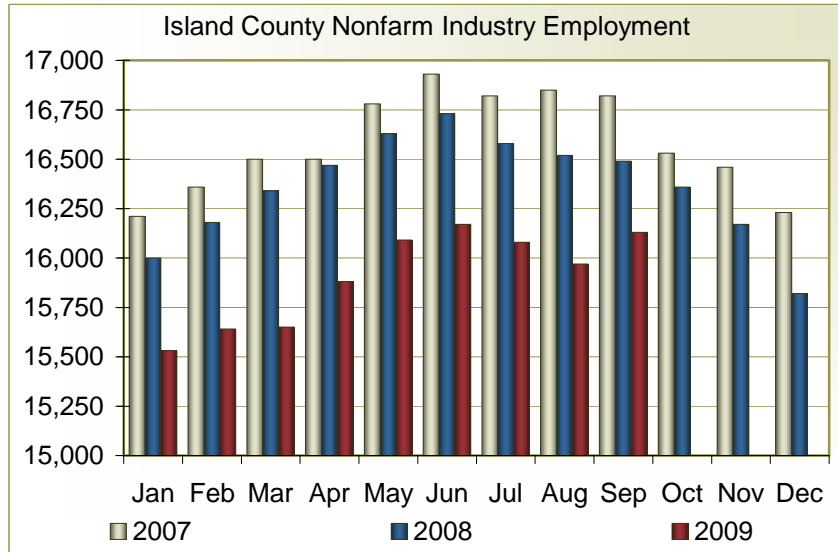
The September preliminary data from the Washington State Employment Security Department indicate that the Island County unemployment rate for the month was 8.2 percent, 0.1 percentage points below the revised August rate of 8.3 percent. The slight decrease was mainly due to the fact that a large proportion of those who left the labor market last month were unemployed. Of the 250 people who left the labor market last month, a little over one-fifth of them were unemployed. The Island County September unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage points below the state jobless rate of 8.8 percent.

The September 2009 unemployment rate was 3.1 percentage points above the September 2008 rate of 5.1 percent. In the past year, employers have dropped 520 Island County residents from their payrolls. The data show that 30,860 Island County residents were gainfully employed in September, while 2,750 were looking for work.



Nonfarm employment in the county totaled 16,130 in September, up 160 over the August total, but down 360 jobs from the total last year at this time. Goods-producing employment was down 20 jobs in September. However, there was an increase of 180 jobs on the service-providing side of the ledger. On the goods side, the construction grouping lost 20 paychecks to the Island County economy in September. On the service side, employment in the state and local government sector increased by 210 in September – an increase likely associated with the beginning of the school year.

Over the year, employment in the nonfarm industries decreased by 2.2 percent (statewide, over the year nonfarm employment decreased by 4.5 percent). Over-the-year job growth in Island County has been negative for 22 consecutive months (likely a record, although there are no comparable data prior to the year 2000). On the goods side, the construction grouping lost 210 jobs to the economy in the past year. On the service side, both retail trade (-120) and information and financial activities (-80) shed a significant number of jobs in the past year.



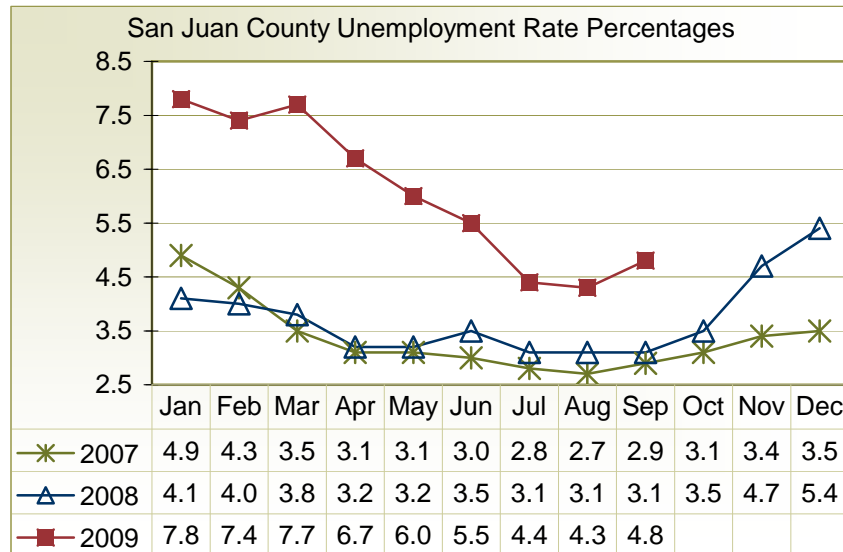
Island Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Island County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: March 2009						
				Change		
	Prelim Sep-09	Revised Aug-09	Revised Sep-08	Aug-09 Sep-09	Sep-08 Sep-09	Sep-08 Sep-09 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	33,610	33,860	33,060	-250	550	1.7%
Resident Employment	30,860	31,050	31,380	-190	-520	-1.7%
Unemployment	2,750	2,810	1,680	-60	1,070	63.7%
Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.3	5.1	-0.1	3.1	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm ^{1/}	16,130	15,970	16,490	160	-360	-2.2%
Total Private	11,510	11,570	11,850	-60	-340	-2.9%
Goods Producing	1,880	1,900	2,090	-20	-210	-10.0%
Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction	1,230	1,250	1,440	-20	-210	-14.6%
Manufacturing	650	640	660	10	-10	-1.5%
Service Providing	14,250	14,070	14,400	180	-150	-1.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,780	2,810	2,900	-30	-120	-4.1%
Wholesale Trade	180	180	190	0	-10	-5.3%
Retail Trade	2,340	2,370	2,460	-30	-120	-4.9%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	260	260	260	0	0	0.0%
Information and Financial Activities	820	820	900	0	-80	-8.9%
Government	4,620	4,400	4,640	220	-20	-0.4%
Federal Government	1,360	1,340	1,360	20	0	0.0%
State and Local Government	3,270	3,060	3,280	210	-10	-0.3%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	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. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages						

San Juan County Summary

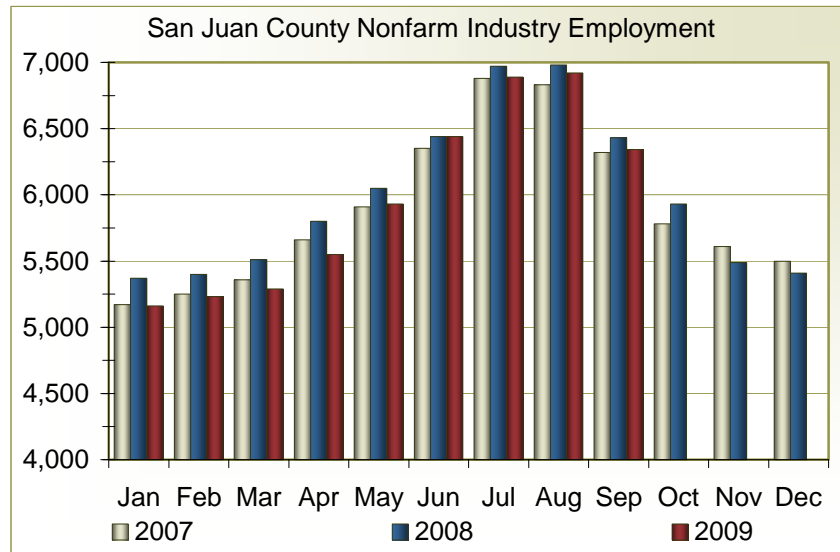
Just as the beginning of the outdoor season in the spring brings jobs and a lower unemployment rate to San Juan County, the end of summer signals a decrease in jobs and higher unemployment. According to preliminary data released by the Washington State Employment Security Department, the unemployment rate for San Juan County in September was 4.8 percent. The September rate was 0.5 percentage points above the revised August rate of 4.3 percent. Before the September increase, the county unemployment rate had decreased by 0.3 and 0.4 percentage points between March and August. The county's rate was 4.0 full percentage points below the state rate, which came in at 8.8 percent in September.

The 4.8 percent September 2009 unemployment rate was 1.7 percentage points above the September 2008 rate. The over-the-year increase demonstrates that not even the seasonal nature of the San Juan economy can protect it from the effects of the national recession. The over-the-year increase was due mainly to the fact that employers were not able to absorb the increase in the size of the labor force – an increase that mostly resulted from natural population growth. Looking at the data, the size of the labor force increased by 150 persons, while the number of unemployed increased by 160 in the past year. The data show that 9,080 San Juan County residents were gainfully employed in September, while 460 looked for work.



Consistent with the seasonal nature of the San Juan economy is what occurred with nonfarm employment in September. Nonfarm employment in the county totaled 6,340 in September, down 580 from the August total and 90 from the total from last year at this time. Over the month, employment on the service-providing side decreased by 550, while employment on the goods-producing side decreased by 30. On the goods side, the construction grouping lost 20 paychecks to the economy last month, while employers in the manufacturing sector eliminated ten jobs in September. On the service side, the trade, transportation, and utilities grouping experienced a decrease of 60 paychecks last month.

Over the year, employment in the nonfarm industries decreased by 1.4 percent (statewide, over the year nonfarm employment decreased by 4.5 percent). There was a decrease of 100 jobs on the goods-producing side, which was slightly offset by an increase of 20 jobs on the service-providing side. On the goods side, the construction grouping lost 80 paychecks to the economy, while the manufacturing industry experienced a decrease of 30 paychecks in the past year. On the service side, the government sector experienced an increase of ten jobs over September 2008.



San Juan Summary Table

Labor Market Information for San Juan County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: March 2009						
				Change		
	Prelim Sep-09	Revised Aug-09	Revised Sep-08	Aug-09 Sep-09	Sep-08 Sep-09	Sep-08 Sep-09 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	9,540	10,490	9,390	-950	150	1.6%
Resident Employment	9,080	10,030	9,090	-950	-10	-0.1%
Unemployment	460	460	300	0	160	53.3%
Unemployment Rate	4.8	4.3	3.1	0.5	1.7	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	6,340	6,920	6,430	-580	-90	-1.4%
Total Private	5,260	5,850	5,360	-590	-100	-1.9%
Goods Producing	1,140	1,170	1,240	-30	-100	-8.1%
Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction	920	940	1,000	-20	-80	-8.0%
Manufacturing	220	230	250	-10	-30	-12.0%
Service Providing	5,200	5,750	5,180	-550	20	0.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,030	1,090	1,040	-60	-10	-1.0%
Information and Financial Activities	300	310	300	-10	0	0.0%
Government	1,080	1,070	1,070	10	10	0.9%
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 1st quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present.</p> <p>**North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						