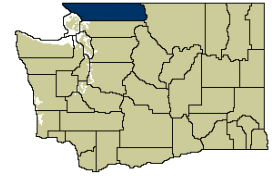




Bellingham MSA (Whatcom County)

Labor Area Summary

Volume 2009, Number 11

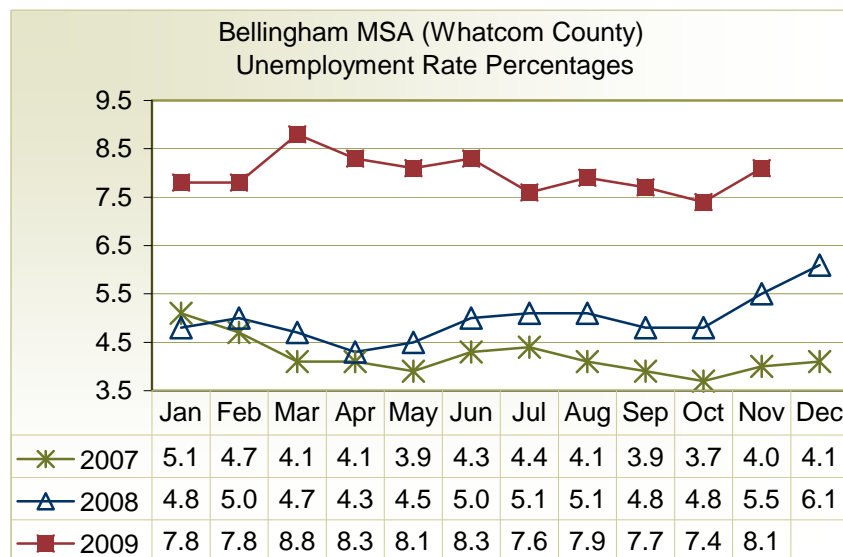


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Summary

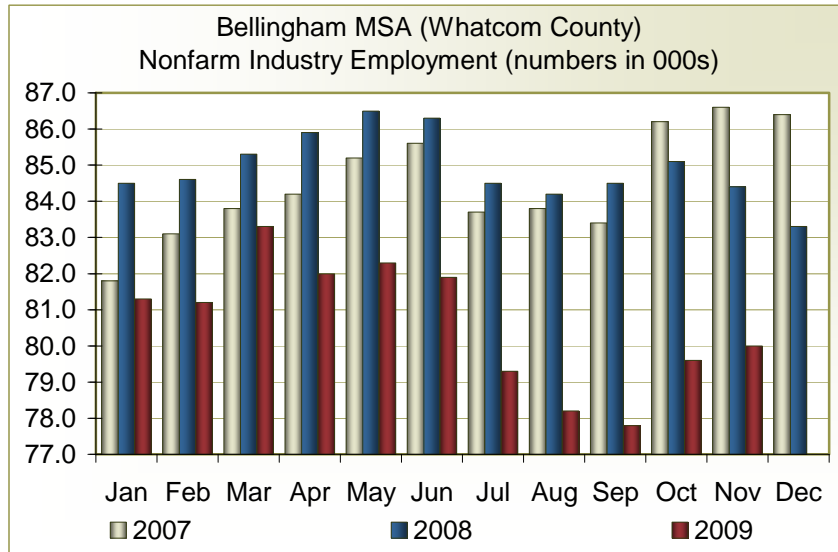
According to preliminary data released by the Washington Employment Security Department, the unemployment rate for the Bellingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 8.1 percent in November. The November jobless rate was 0.7 percentage points above the revised October rate of 7.4 percent. The over-the-month increase was due mainly to the fact that employers were not able to absorb a seasonal increase in the size of the labor force. Looking at the data, the size of the total civilian labor force increased by 1,380, while the number of unemployed increased by 830 in November. Statewide, the November unemployment rate was 9.1 percent, 0.4 percentage points above the revised October rate of 8.7 percent.

The November 2009 area unemployment rate was 2.6 percentage points above the November 2008 jobless rate of 5.5 percent. In the past year, employers have dropped 5,530 Whatcom County residents from their payrolls. The data show that 99,220 Whatcom County residents were gainfully employed in November, while 8,750 were looking for work.



Nonfarm employment in Whatcom County totaled 80,000 in November, up 400 over the October total, but down 4,400 (5.2 percent) from the total from last year at this time. Employment on the service-providing side increased by 900 over the month, while the goods-producing sectors experienced a decrease of 500 jobs. On the service side, both retail trade and local government added 300 jobs in November. The entire loss on the goods side occurred in the construction grouping.

Over the year, nonfarm employment was down by 5.2 percent (statewide, over the year nonfarm employment decreased by 4.3 percent). Year-over-year total nonfarm employment growth in the county has been negative for 14 consecutive months. This has not occurred since at least 1990 (the first year for which comparable data exist). Employment on the goods-producing side decreased by 2,500, while employment on the service-providing side decreased by 1,900. On the goods side, the construction grouping experienced a decrease of 1,500 jobs in the past year, while the manufacturing industry lost 1,000 paychecks to the economy since November 2008. On the service side, leisure and hospitality (-600), retail trade (-500), professional and business services (-500), and local government (-400) each lost a significant amount of jobs to the economy in the past year.



Summary Table

Labor Market Information for the Bellingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (Whatcom County) Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: June 2009						
	Change					
	Prelim Nov-09	Revised Oct-09	Revised Nov-08	Oct-09 Nov-09	Nov-08 Nov-09	Nov-08 Nov-09%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	107,960	106,580	110,820	1,380	-2,860	-2.6%
Resident Employment	99,220	98,670	104,750	550	-5,530	-5.3%
Unemployment	8,750	7,920	6,070	830	2,680	44.2%
Unemployment Rate	8.1	7.4	5.5	0.7	2.6	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles, numbers in thousands)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	80.0	79.6	84.4	0.4	-4.4	-5.2%
Total Private	63.4	63.5	67.9	-0.1	-4.5	-6.6%
Goods Producing	13.9	14.4	16.4	-0.5	-2.5	-15.2%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6.1	6.6	7.6	-0.5	-1.5	-19.7%
Manufacturing	7.8	7.8	8.8	0.0	-1.0	-11.4%
Service Providing	66.1	65.2	68.0	0.9	-1.9	-2.8%
Private Services Providing	49.5	49.1	51.5	0.4	-2.0	-3.9%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	15.3	15.0	15.9	0.3	-0.6	-3.8%
Retail Trade	10.2	9.9	10.7	0.3	-0.5	-4.7%
Financial Activities	2.9	2.9	3.1	0.0	-0.2	-6.5%
Professional and Business Services	7.0	7.0	7.5	0.0	-0.5	-6.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	9.1	9.1	9.7	0.0	-0.6	-6.2%
Government	16.6	16.1	16.5	0.5	0.1	0.6%
Federal Government	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.0	0.2	16.7%
State Government	5.6	5.4	5.3	0.2	0.3	5.7%
Local Government	9.6	9.3	10.0	0.3	-0.4	-4.0%
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 2nd 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>						