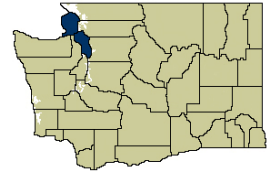




Island and San Juan Counties

Labor Area Summary Volume 2009, Number 11

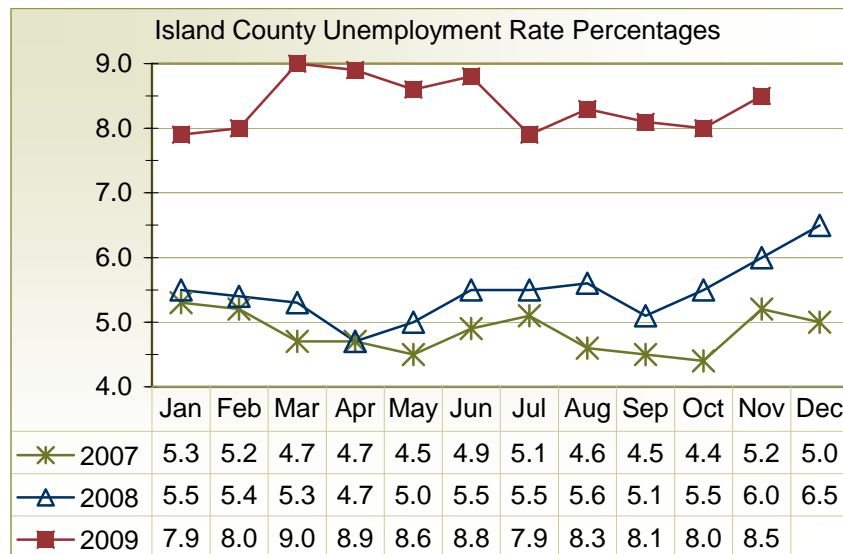


Joe Giannamore, Regional Labor Economist
P.O. Box 2009, Bellingham, WA 98227-2009
Voice: (360) 676-3253; FAX: (360) 671-4948
jgiannamore@esd.wa.gov, www.workforceexplorer.com

Island County Summary

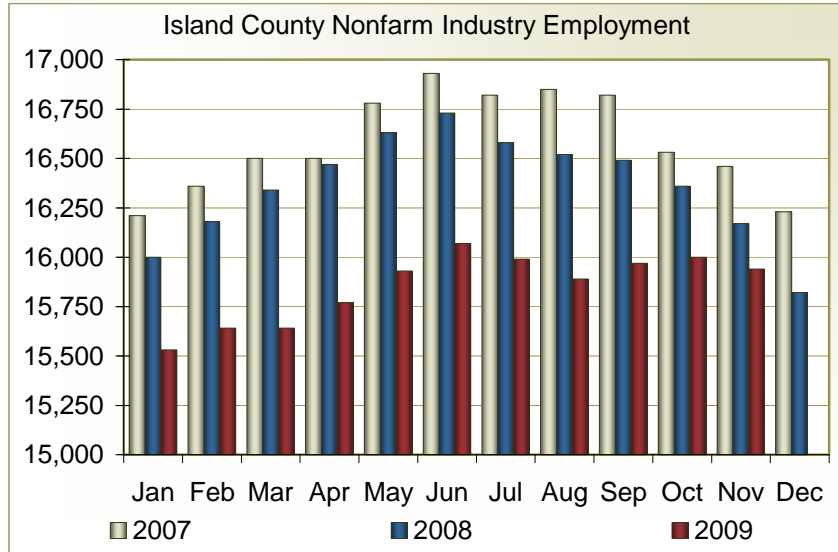
The November preliminary data from the Washington Employment Security Department indicate that the Island County unemployment rate for the month was 8.5 percent, 0.5 percentage points above the revised October rate of 8.0 percent. The over-the-month increase was due mainly to the fact that employers were not able to absorb a seasonal increase in the size of the labor force. Looking at the data, the size of the labor force increased by 220, while the number of unemployed increased by 190 in November. The Island County November unemployment rate was six-tenths of a percentage point below the state jobless rate of 9.1 percent.

The November 2009 unemployment rate was 2.5 percentage points above the November 2008 rate of 6.0 percent. In the past year, employers have dropped 1,270 Island County residents from their payrolls. The data show that 30,480 Island County residents were gainfully employed in November, while 2,840 were looking for work.



Nonfarm employment in the county totaled 15,940 in November, down 60 from the October total, and down 230 from the total from last year at this time. Goods-producing employment was down 40 in November, while the service-providing sectors lost 20 paychecks to the economy in November. On the goods side, the construction grouping (-30) experienced significant negative job growth in November. On the service side, employment in the state and local government sector increased by 70 in November.

Over the year, employment in the nonfarm industries decreased by 1.4 percent (statewide, over the year nonfarm employment decreased by 4.3 percent). Over-the-year job growth in Island County has been negative for 24 consecutive months (likely a record, although there are no comparable data prior to the year 2000). On the goods side, the construction grouping lost 170 jobs to the economy in the past year. On the service side, retail trade (-90), federal government (-50), and information and financial activities (-30) shed a significant number of jobs in the past year. These losses were somewhat offset by an increase of 120 paychecks in state and local government.



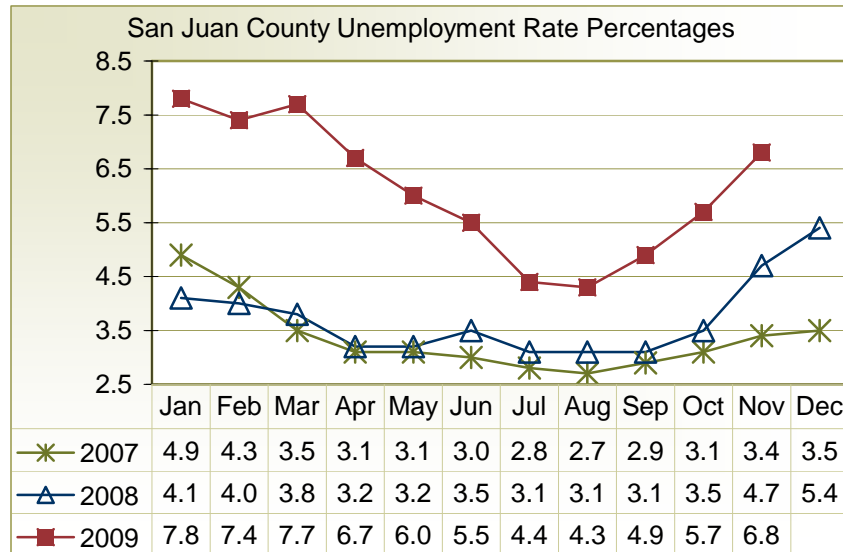
Island Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Island 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	33,310	33,090	33,770	220	-460	-1.4%
Resident Employment	30,480	30,440	31,750	40	-1,270	-4.0%
Unemployment	2,840	2,650	2,030	190	810	39.9%
Unemployment Rate	8.5	8.0	6.0	0.5	2.5	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	15,940	16,000	16,170	-60	-230	-1.4%
Total Private	11,140	11,240	11,450	-100	-310	-2.7%
Goods Producing	1,750	1,790	1,950	-40	-200	-10.3%
Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction	1,120	1,150	1,290	-30	-170	-13.2%
Manufacturing	630	640	660	-10	-30	-4.5%
Service Providing	14,190	14,210	14,210	-20	-20	-0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,730	2,710	2,810	20	-80	-2.8%
Wholesale Trade	160	160	170	0	-10	-5.9%
Retail Trade	2,290	2,270	2,380	20	-90	-3.8%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	270	280	260	-10	10	3.8%
Information and Financial Activities	840	840	870	0	-30	-3.4%
Government	4,800	4,760	4,720	40	80	1.7%
Federal Government	1,280	1,320	1,330	-40	-50	-3.8%
State and Local Government	3,510	3,440	3,390	70	120	3.5%
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 2nd quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present. **North American Industry Classification System. ***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages</p>						

San Juan County Summary

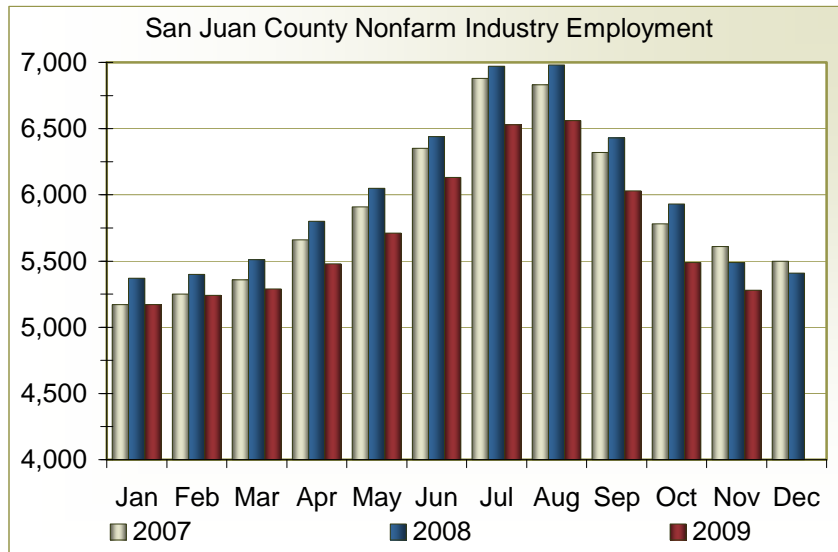
According to preliminary data released by the Washington Employment Security Department, the unemployment rate for San Juan County in November was 6.8 percent. The November rate was 1.1 percentage points above the revised October rate of 5.7 percent. The November jobless rate increase was expected and was due to the seasonal nature of the San Juan County economy. The county's rate was 2.3 percentage points below the state rate, which came in at 9.1 percent in November.

The 6.8 percent November 2009 unemployment rate was 2.1 percentage points above the November 2008 rate of 4.7 percent. In the past year, employers have dropped 500 San Juan County residents from their payrolls. The data show that 7,570 San Juan County residents were gainfully employed in November, while 550 were looking for work.



Consistent with the seasonal nature of the San Juan economy is what occurred with nonfarm employment in November. Nonfarm employment in the county totaled 5,280 in November, down 210 from both the October total and the total from last year at this time. Over the month, employment on the service-providing side decreased by 180, while employment on the goods-producing side decreased by 20 jobs. On the goods side, the construction grouping lost 20 paychecks to the economy last month. On the service side, the trade, transportation, and utilities grouping experienced a decrease of 30 paychecks in November.

Over the year, employment in the nonfarm industries decreased by 3.8 percent (statewide, over-the-year nonfarm employment decreased by 4.3 percent). There was a decrease of 90 jobs on the goods-producing side, while the service-providing sectors lost 110 jobs to the economy in the past year. On the goods side, both the construction grouping (-60) and the manufacturing sector (-30) shed a significant number of jobs since November 2008. On the service side, the government sector experienced a decrease of 40 jobs in the past year.



San Juan Summary Table

Labor Market Information for San Juan 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	8,120	8,300	8,470	-180	-350	-4.1%
Resident Employment	7,570	7,830	8,070	-260	-500	-6.2%
Unemployment	550	470	400	80	150	37.5%
Unemployment Rate	6.8	5.7	4.7	1.1	2.1	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	5,280	5,490	5,490	-210	-210	-3.8%
Total Private	4,250	4,460	4,420	-210	-170	-3.8%
Goods Producing	1,030	1,050	1,120	-20	-90	-8.0%
Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction	840	860	900	-20	-60	-6.7%
Manufacturing	190	200	220	-10	-30	-13.6%
Service Providing	4,260	4,440	4,370	-180	-110	-2.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	950	980	950	-30	0	0.0%
Information and Financial Activities	300	310	300	-10	0	0.0%
Government	1,040	1,030	1,080	10	-40	-3.7%
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 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>						