



Okanogan County

Labor Area Summary

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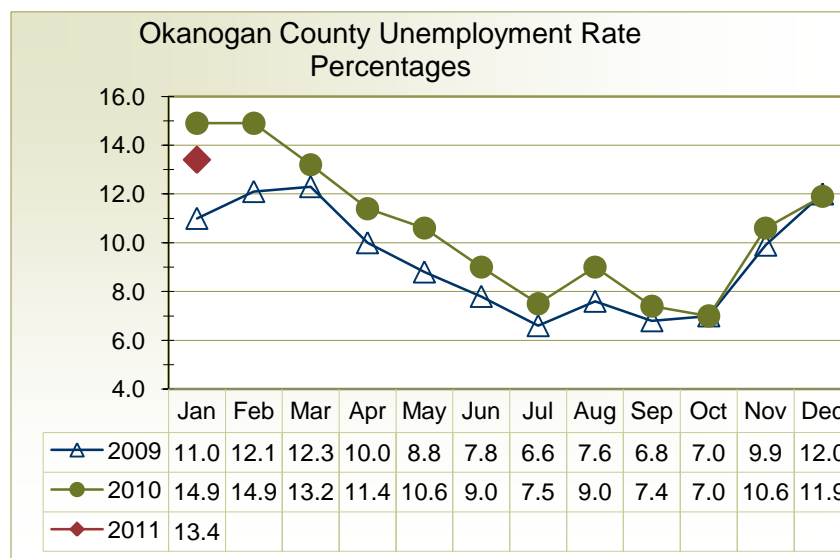
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Unemployment

Okanogan County's unemployment rate of 13.4 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 1.5 percentage points higher than December 2010 and 1.5 percentage points lower than January 2010.

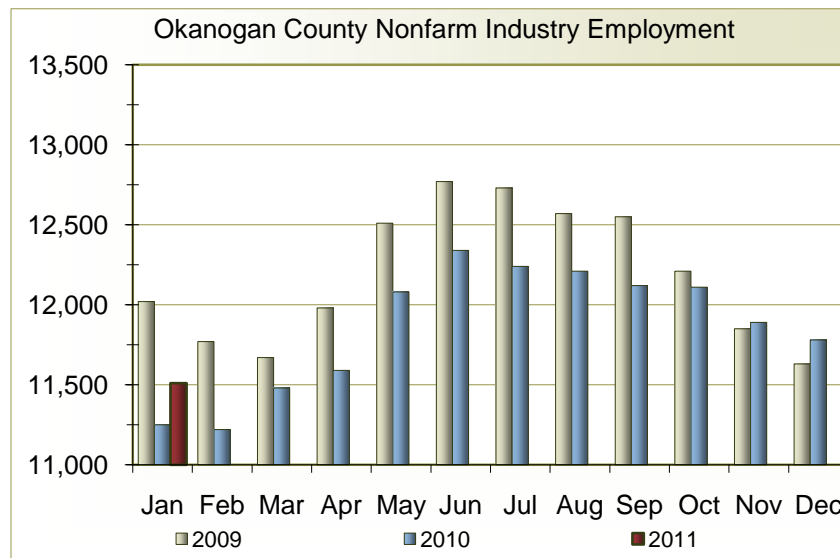
The agricultural areas in Washington tend to have a higher unemployment rate in the winter months. After October the agricultural employment normally drops and the unemployment rate jumps up until spring. The most important factor here is that year-over-year gains are being made and that the unemployment rate drops in year-over-year figures. Slowly but surely gains are being made and 2011 is off to a great start.

Over-the-month figures show an increase in the unemployment rate, but this is a normal increase as it normally peaks in January or February each year.



Washington State's unemployment rate of 9.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted) is 1.2 percentage points below January 2010's figure and 0.5 percentage points above December 2010. A slight dip in the labor force but an increase in the number employed have both helped lower the unemployment rate at the state level.

Employment



Okanogan County was starting to make total nonfarm employment gains at the end of 2010 which has continued into 2011. Year-over-year figures report gains both in the goods-producing sector and the service-providing sector. Specifically manufacturing has picked up along with retail trade. A lot of times growth after a recession is met with single-sector growth, but Okanogan County has grown through both sectors signaling a more robust labor market.

Washington State and Okanogan County have both had retail trade employment figures grow, which follows taxable retail sales growth. Washington State has grown the most in professional and business services. Although Okanogan County's goods-producing sector grew in year-over-year figures, Washington State's goods-producing sector has contracted slightly which concentrates growth in the service-providing sector. Previous months have had slow employment growth and that trend continues into 2011.

At the national level there has been employment growth, but it is met with signs of hesitance as oil prices surge. Economic recovery could slow as consumers are hit with higher prices. That being said, consumer confidence had been rising at the end of 2010 and into the start of 2011 which could lead taxable retail sales growth. The tough question will be whether increased spending lands at the pump or in other areas in retail.

Overall, the recovery for North Central Washington has been slow, but Okanogan County has been gaining ground in recent months and shows signs of a more robust labor market leading into the start of 2011.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for Okanogan County Not Seasonally Adjusted/**Updated with ***QCEW Data: June 2010						
				Change		
	Prelim Jan-11	Revised Dec-10	Revised Jan-10	Dec-10 Jan-11	Jan-10 Jan-11	Jan-10 Jan-11 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	19,110	19,480	19,160	-370	-50	-0.2%
Resident Employment	16,540	17,160	16,310	-620	230	1.4%
Unemployment	2,570	2,320	2,850	250	-280	-9.8%
Unemployment Rate	13.4	11.9	14.9	1.5	-1.5	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	11,510	11,780	11,250	-270	260	2.3%
Total Private	6,770	7,000	6,490	-230	280	4.3%
Goods Producing	1,110	1,150	970	-40	40	4.1%
Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction	690	770	650	-80	40	6.2%
Manufacturing	410	380	320	30	90	28.1%
Service Providing	10,410	10,630	10,280	-220	120	1.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	2,260	2,400	2,120	-140	140	6.6%
Wholesale Trade	230	230	210	0	20	9.5%
Retail Trade	1,880	2,000	1,780	-120	100	5.6%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	150	170	130	-20	20	15.4%
Information and Financial Activities	490	510	470	-20	20	4.3%
Government	4,740	4,780	4,760	-40	-20	-0.4%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	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 and estimates employment from that point to present.						
**North American Industry Classification System						
***QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages						