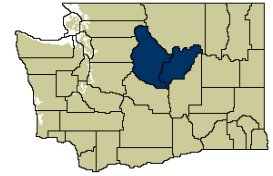




# Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas counties) Labor Area Summary Volume 2008, Number 4



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## Summary

The latest snapshot of economic activities in Chelan and Douglas counties (the Wenatchee MSA) for April 2008 indicated an expanding-but-slowing economy. With 0.8 percent growth rate between April 2007 and April 2008, the economy expanded at the slowest pace in three years as the services providing industries expanded and the goods producing sectors contracted.

The total not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 300 in April 2008, up from the revised employment level of 39,000 in April 2007. In April 2006 and 2007, the economy grew by 2.7 and 2.6 percent respectively. Although the growth rate in Wenatchee MSA over the last twelve months, 0.8 percent, was below the statewide increase of 1.6 percent, many industry sectors in Chelan and Douglas counties have outperformed the statewide numbers within the last month.

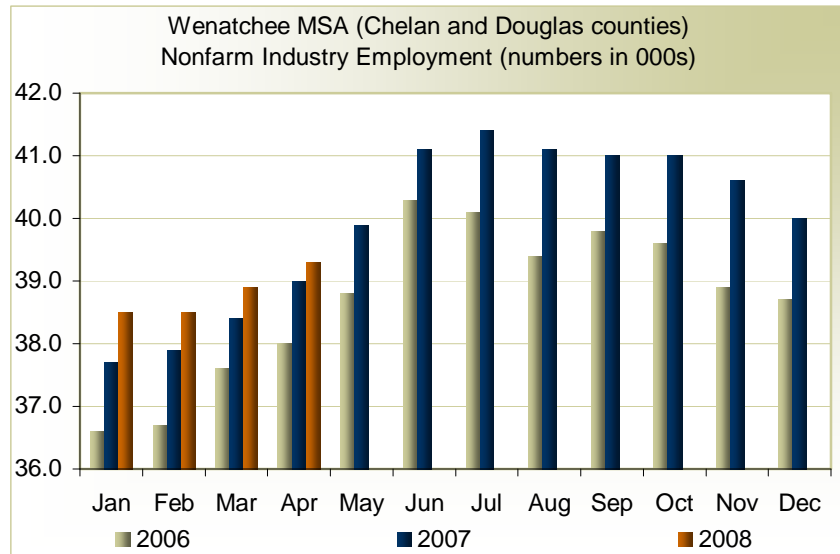
### A higher performance than the state

- With a payroll increase of 10.4 percent, or 500 more jobs between April 2007 and April 2008, leisure and hospitality continued to lead the overall growth. Within the last month, this service providing industry sector, which includes the subsectors of arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food services and drinking places, added 200 jobs, or 3.9 percent, while the state posted 2.6 percent within the last twelve months and 1.7 percent over the month.
- The government sector posted the second highest year-over-year gain with 200 new paychecks added, or 2.2 percent increase. Over the last month, employment remained unchanged at 9,200 after growing 3.4 percent in March and 1.1 percent in February. The state employment increased by 1.4 percent since April 2007 and 0.1 percent since March 2008.
- Retail trade posted a mixed performance with 100 jobs gained over the year and no change within the last month. Still, the 100 year-over-year job gain, or 1.7 percent growth rate was higher than the state's 0.3 percent increase. Between March and April 2008, the state employment grew by one tenth of a percentage point.

### Two over-the-year losers

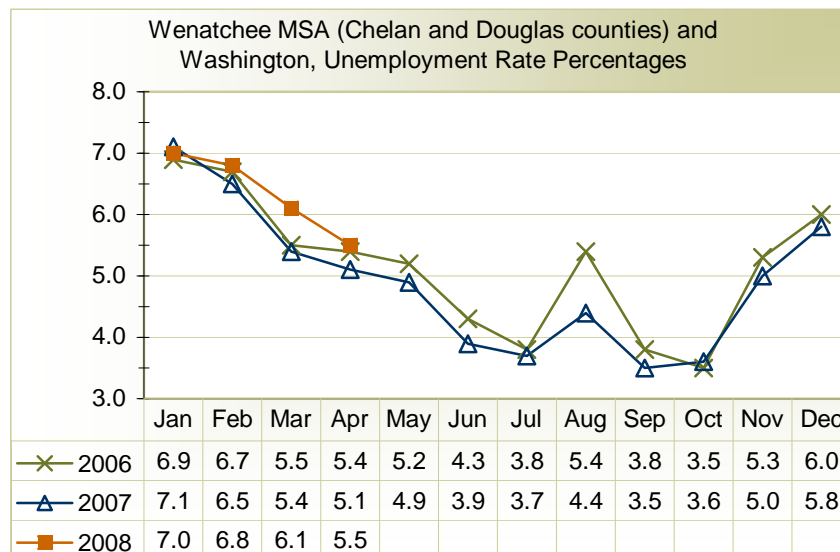
- Companies in natural resources, mining and construction posted the first employment lost since 2006 with a decline of 200 jobs, or down 6.3 percent, between April 2007 and April 2008. Over the month, however, they gained 200 paychecks from 2,800 employees in March, or up 7.1 percent in April following 3.8 and 3.7 percent increase respectively in February and March. Statewide, employment went up by one tenth of a percentage point over the year, but trailed the Wenatchee MSA performance for the third straight month.

- Between April 2007 and April 2008, manufacturing sector fell 100 paychecks, or down 4.3 percent. Over the month, however, employment increased 4.8 percent from 2,100 in March. Statewide, employment grew by 1.9 percent over the year and by two tenths of a percent within the last month.
- In other labor market news, employment in the education and health services sector grew by 100, or up 1.8 percent since April 2007, but declined by the almost the same amount, or down 1.7 percent over the last month. The state outperformed the Wenatchee MSA by 1.5 percent within the last year.



## Unemployment

In the Wenatchee MSA, there were 3,250 residents out of work in April 2008 out of a total labor force of 59,150, up 350 from the previous over-the-year unemployed residents of 2,900 in April 2007. The not seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose to 5.5 percent, up four tenths of a percentage point from 5.1 percent over a year ago. The current 5.5 percent unemployment rate is the third lowest jobless rate in the Wenatchee MSA since 1990. Over the last month, however, the unemployment rate has declined from the March revised rate of 6.1, or down six-tenths of a percentage point. Statewide, the unemployment rate increased three tenths of a percent from 4.3 percent in April 2007.



## Summary Table

### Labor Market Information for the Wenatchee Metropolitan Statistical Area (Chelan and Douglas Counties)

Not Seasonally Adjusted/\*Updated with \*\*\*QCEW Data: December 2007

(Employment statistics in whole numbers)	Prelim Apr-08	Revised Mar-08	Revised Apr-07	Change		
				Mar-08 Apr-08	Apr-07 Apr-08	Apr-07 Apr-08 %
<b>Employment by Place of Residence</b>						
Civilian Labor Force	59,150	59,690	57,090	-540	2,060	3.6%
Resident Employment	55,910	56,070	54,190	-160	1,720	3.2%
Unemployment	3,250	3,620	2,900	-370	350	12.1%
Unemployment Rate	5.5	6.1	5.1	-0.6	0.4	
<b>Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles, numbers in thousands)</b>						
Total Nonfarm 1/	39.3	38.9	39.0	0.4	0.3	0.8%
Total Private	30.1	29.7	30.0	0.4	0.1	0.3%
Goods Producing	5.2	4.9	5.5	0.3	-0.3	-5.5%
Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction	3.0	2.8	3.2	0.2	-0.2	-6.3%
Manufacturing	2.2	2.1	2.3	0.1	-0.1	-4.3%
Services Providing	34.1	34.0	33.5	0.1	0.6	1.8%
Private Services Providing	24.9	24.8	24.5	0.1	0.4	1.6%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, & Util.	8.8	8.8	8.7	0.0	0.1	1.1%
Retail Trade	6.1	6.1	6.0	0.0	0.1	1.7%
Education and Health Services	5.7	5.8	5.6	-0.1	0.1	1.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	5.3	5.1	4.8	0.2	0.5	10.4%
Government	9.2	9.2	9.0	0.0	0.2	2.2%
Federal Government	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0%
State Government	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Local Government	7.0	7.0	6.8	0.0	0.2	2.9%
Workers In Labor/Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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 2007) and estimates employment from that point to present.

\*\*North American Industry Classification System. \*\*\*QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages