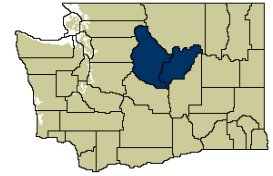




Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas counties) Labor Area Summary Volume 2008, Number 3



Tihamiyou Baba Moussa, Regional Labor Economist
215 Bridge Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Voice: (509) 665-3737; FAX: (509) 665-3743
[bmoussa@esd.wa.gov](mailto:bmousa@esd.wa.gov), www.workforceexplorer.com

Summary

The March not seasonally adjusted nonfarm job report in the Wenatchee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) showed the economy on a good track. Although the growth rate this time of the year remained unchanged compared to last year's, many industry sectors have posted a much better performance than the statewide numbers.

Overall, employers added 800 new jobs, up from a previous employment level of 38,400 in March 2007, a 2.1 percent job increase and a better performance than the statewide 1.5 percent growth rate. Over the month, payrolls grew at 1.0 percent with 400 new jobs. Both the over-the-year and over-the-month job increases were a further indication that the Wenatchee MSA continued to do much better than other Washington state regions. In fact, natural resources, mining and construction; trade transportation, warehousing and utilities; education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and government sectors in the Wenatchee MSA have outperformed the same sectors statewide.

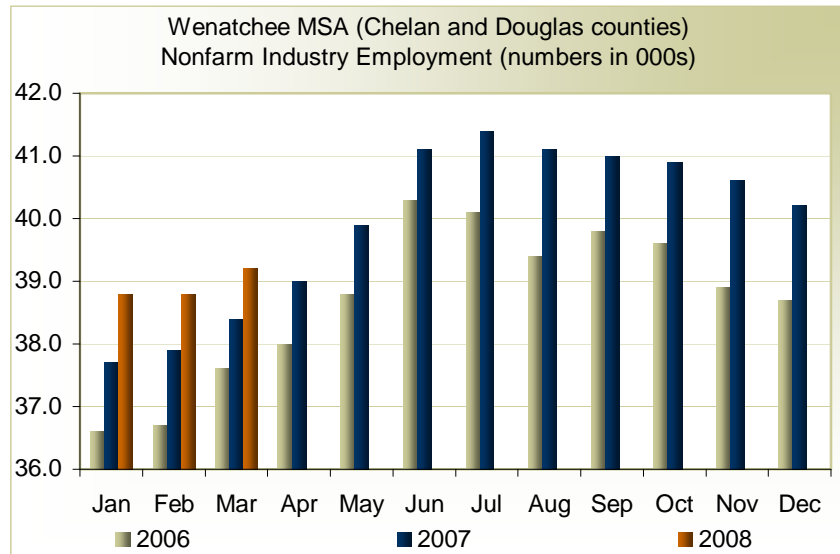
The Winners

- Employment changes in leisure and hospitality, which includes the subsectors of arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food services and drinking places, led the overall growth with 500 new jobs added over the last year, an increase of 10.9 percent. Over the month, there was no change. The 10.9 job growth followed a 2.2 percent increase in 2007 and no change in 2006. Statewide, leisure and hospitality employment grew by 2.9 percent over the year.
- Between March 2007 and March 2008, education and health services posted a 3.6 percent growth rate, or 200 new paychecks. The second best performer in Wenatchee MSA also had a better performance than the state growth rate of 2.7 percent. This private service providing sector had a 100 job loss in 2007 and 200 job increase in 2006. Over the last two months, there were 100 job gains each month.
- With 3.3 percent annual rate increase for natural resources, mining and construction, and the retail trade sector, each have posted a higher growth rate than the state. Over the last twelve months, employers in natural resources, mining and construction added 100 new jobs and businesses in retail sectors created 200 new paychecks. Over the month, no change was posted following 100 job loss in February and 300 job decrease in January.
- There were a total of 9,000 government jobs in March 2008, up 200 payrolls over a year ago, or a 2.3 percent growth rate, and a better performance than the state, which increased by 1.7 percent. In both January and February, 100 new jobs were added for each month, a 1.1 percent increase.

The Loser

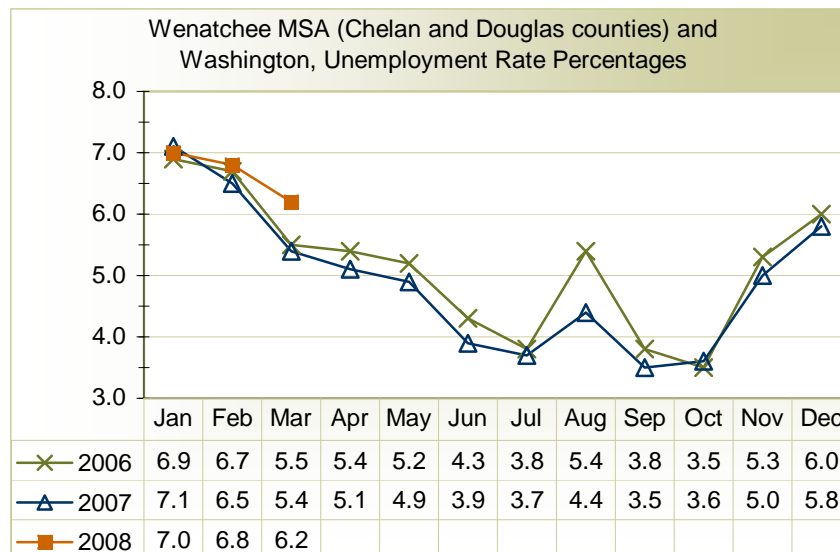
Employment in the manufacturing sector fell 100 jobs from a year ago, or down 4.3 percent. In February as well as March 2008, employment levels remained unchanged at 2,200 workers. Statewide, manufacturing employment grew by 3.3 percent.

In other labor market news, trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities posted a growth rate of 1.1 percent over the last twelve months, or up 100 new jobs from a previous employment of 8,800. The state posted a growth rate of 0.8 percent



Unemployment

In the Wenatchee MSA, the unemployment rate rose to 6.2 percent, up eight tenths of a percentage point from 5.4 percent in March 2007. The 6.2 jobless rate was the third lowest March unemployment since 1990. There were 3,680 residents out of work in March out of a total labor force of 59,480 people, up 590 from the previous over-the-year unemployed residents of 3,090 in 2007. Over the month, however, the jobless rate declined from 6.8 percent in February, or down six tenths of a percentage point. The unemployment rate in the state (not seasonally adjusted) went up from 4.7 percent in March 2007 to 5.3 percent in 2008, an increase of six tenths of a percentage point.



Summary Table

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

Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: September 2007

(Employment statistics in whole numbers)	Prelim Mar-08	Revised Feb-08	Revised Mar-07	Change		
				Feb-08 Mar-08	Mar-07 Mar-08	Mar-07 Mar-08%
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	59,480	58,650	57,620	830	1,860	3.2%
Resident Employment	55,800	54,640	54,520	1,160	1,280	2.3%
Unemployment	3,680	4,010	3,090	-330	590	19.1%
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.8	5.4	-0.6	0.8	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles, numbers in thousands)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	39.2	38.8	38.4	0.4	0.8	2.1%
Total Private	30.2	29.9	29.6	0.3	0.6	2.0%
Goods Producing	5.3	5.1	5.3	0.2	0.0	0.0%
Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction	3.1	2.9	3.0	0.2	0.1	3.3%
Manufacturing	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.0	-0.1	-4.3%
Services Providing	33.9	33.7	33.1	0.2	0.8	2.4%
Private Services Providing	24.9	24.8	24.3	0.1	0.6	2.5%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	8.9	9.0	8.8	-0.1	0.1	1.1%
Retail Trade	6.2	6.2	6.0	0.0	0.2	3.3%
Education and Health Services	5.8	5.7	5.6	0.1	0.2	3.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	5.1	5.1	4.6	0.0	0.5	10.9%
Government	9.0	8.9	8.8	0.1	0.2	2.3%
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-0.1	-12.5%
State Government	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	0.1	7.7%
Local Government	6.9	6.8	6.7	0.1	0.2	3.0%
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 3rd quarter 2007) and estimates employment from that point to present.

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