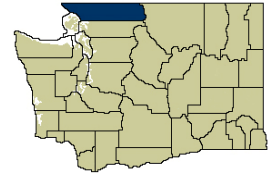




Bellingham MSA (Whatcom County) Labor Area Summary Volume 2010, Number 6

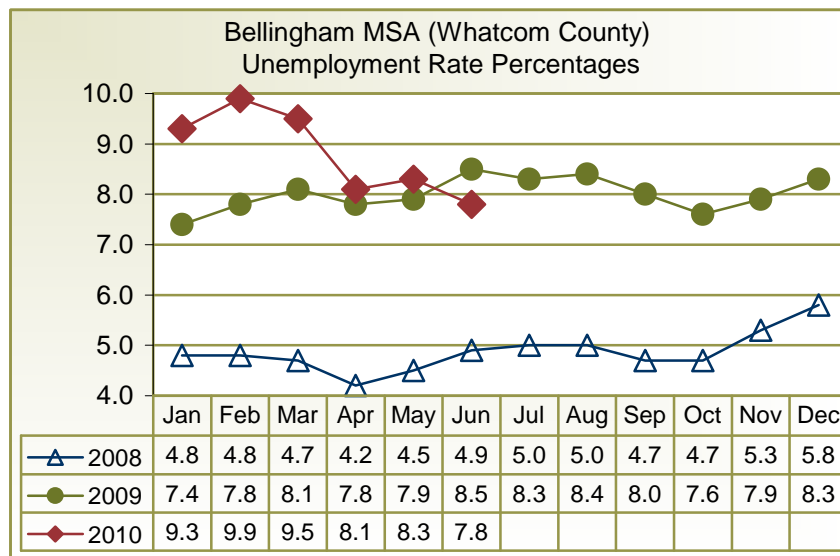


Jim Vleming, Regional Labor Economist
PO Box 9046, Olympia, WA 98507-9046
Voice: (360) 438-4821; FAX: (360) 438-4846
jvleming@esd.wa.gov, www.workforceexplorer.com

Summary

The labor market situation improved slightly in the Bellingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as the unemployment rate dropped in June and nonfarm payrolls expanded – if only slightly.

The unemployment rate in Whatcom County fell to 7.8 percent of the labor force in June, down from the revised 8.3 percent in May and below the 8.5 rate posted in June 2009. The numbers showed 99,390 Whatcom County residents working as 8,420 were actively seeking employment. In June 2009, there were 9,240 unemployed and actively looking for work. The statewide unemployment rate slipped to 8.7 percent from 9.0 percent in May and 9.2 in June 2009.

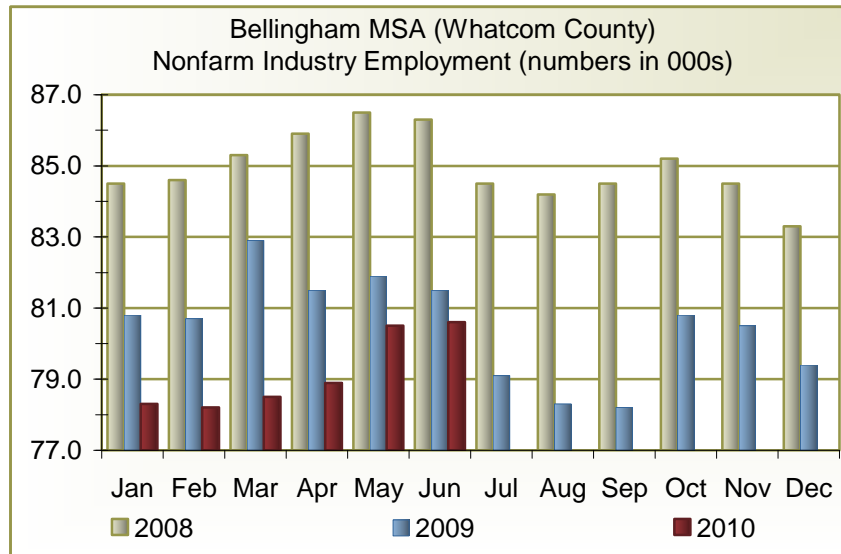


Nonfarm payrolls in the county totaled 80,600 in June, up just 100 jobs over the May totals. There wasn't much in the way of job movement as employment was fairly constant over the month throughout the sectors. Goods-producing employment was up 100 jobs, thanks to a gain of 100 in manufacturing, while the largest service-providing gain was found in leisure and hospitality, which added 200 jobs. The government sector fell by 200 over the month as the census work wound down and seasonal drops began to hit education.

Over-the-year comparisons continue to point to a struggling economy as nonfarm jobs were down 900 jobs or 1.1 percent. The statewide average from June 2009 to June 2010 was down 0.6 percent. The over-the-year decline in Whatcom County split between a 500-job shortfall in goods-producing and a 400 job drop in service-providing. The goods loss showed manufacturing down by 300 jobs, as mining, logging and construction (the majority of which is construction) slid by 200 jobs. On the service side, leisure and hospitality (-400),

professional and business services (-200) and financial activities (-200) all posted drops in employment over the year. The retail trade sector was a bright spot, adding 200 jobs and Census 2010 brought 300 jobs to federal government employment.

Hopefully, we can get a little more kick out of the numbers now that summer has arrived. Better weather will add construction jobs and the summer travel season should give leisure and hospitality some boost. The downside will be the loss of the remaining census jobs and seasonal drops that will continue in education.



Summary Table

Labor Market Information for the Bellingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (Whatcom County) Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: December 2009						
				Change		
	Prelim Jun-10	Revised May-10	Revised Jun-09	May-10 Jun-10	Jun-09 Jun-10	Jun-09 Jun-10 %
Employment by Place of Residence						
Civilian Labor Force	107,800	107,440	108,370	360	-570	-0.5%
Resident Employment	99,390	98,520	99,130	870	260	0.3%
Unemployment	8,420	8,930	9,240	-510	-820	-8.9%
Unemployment Rate	7.8	8.3	8.5	-0.5	-0.7	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles, numbers in thousands)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	80.6	80.5	81.5	0.1	-0.9	-1.1%
Total Private	63.8	63.5	64.6	0.3	-0.8	-1.2%
Goods Producing	13.6	13.5	14.1	0.1	-0.5	-3.5%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6.1	6.1	6.3	0.0	-0.2	-3.2%
Manufacturing	7.5	7.4	7.8	0.1	-0.3	-3.8%
Service Providing	67.0	67.0	67.4	0.0	-0.4	-0.6%
Private Services Providing	50.2	50.0	50.5	0.2	-0.3	-0.6%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	15.2	15.1	15.1	0.1	0.1	0.7%
Retail Trade	10.3	10.2	10.1	0.1	0.2	2.0%
Financial Activities	2.9	2.9	3.1	0.0	-0.2	-6.5%
Professional and Business Services	6.9	6.9	7.1	0.0	-0.2	-2.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	9.3	9.1	9.7	0.2	-0.4	-4.1%
Government	16.8	17.0	16.9	-0.2	-0.1	-0.6%
Federal Government	1.6	1.7	1.3	-0.1	0.3	23.1%
State Government	5.3	5.5	5.7	-0.2	-0.4	-7.0%
Local Government	9.9	9.8	9.9	0.1	0.0	0.0%
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 fourth 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>						