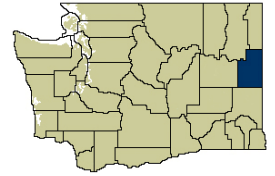




Spokane MSA (Spokane County)

Labor Area Summary

Volume 2008, Number 3

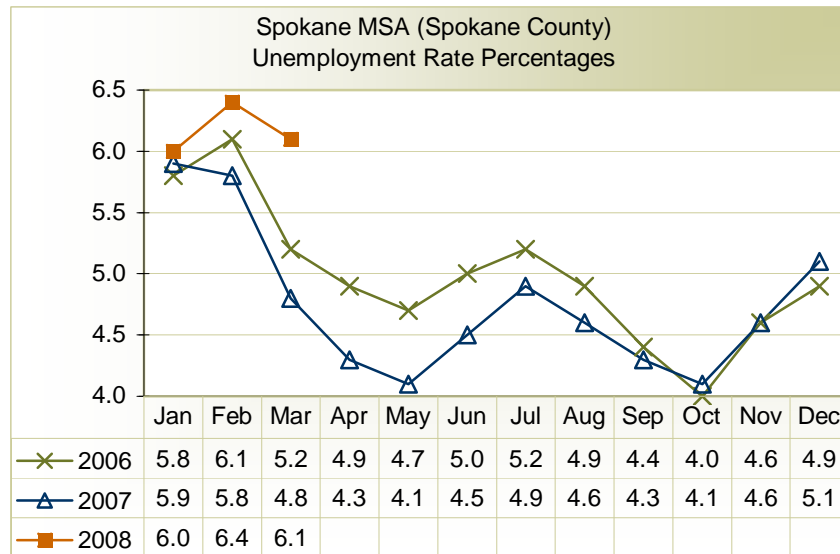


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Summary

The unemployment rate for Spokane MSA dropped in March to 6.1 percent from February's rate of 6.4 percent. Year-over-year, the rate for March 2007 was 4.8 percent. Washington's rate of 5.3 percent was unchanged from February, and up from last year's rate at 4.7 percent.

March added 1,810 to Spokane MSA total resident employment. Year-over-year, total resident employment has increased by 2,150.

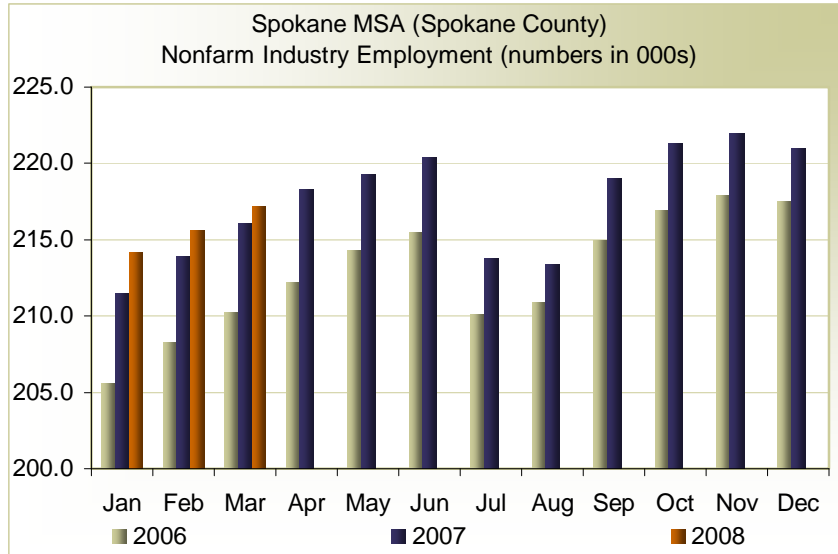


Job increases were also reported in Spokane's nonfarm and payroll, both from February 2008 (1,600) and March 2007 (1,100). Employment and job estimates for the first three months of 2008 have followed trends we expected. We estimated that growth would slow in 2008 to 1.5 percent from the rate of 2.6 percent in 2007. Last year the Spokane economy added 4,600 jobs on top of 2006 adding 7,100. The good news is that the economy is still creating jobs. In 2008, we estimate that between 1,500 and 2,000 jobs will be created.

Job increases in the first three months of 2008 were packed almost entirely in the health services, trade, and leisure and hospitality industries.

Manufacturing continued to hold steady, some layoffs occurred in the manufacture of window and door frames, but companies in subsectors of manufacturing like metal fabrication have picked up the slack and are creating new jobs.

National attention is focused on construction, financial, & trade industries. The mortgage and credit problems hit these industries hardest. Locally, slight losses in jobs have been recorded in construction and financial activities, but certainly not at the same rate as other parts of the country. Plus, both industries are showing signs of growth. In construction, jobs in residential construction have decreased, but commercial construction jobs have increased. Commercial projects are still going forward, such as road construction, expansions at universities and colleges, new clinics, expanding/new business offices and large apartment complexes. In the financial activities industries, credit unions and banks have increased employment by opening new branches to increase their visibility in cooler markets. The third industry that locally is beating national trends is trade. In trade, both wholesale and retail jobs have actually increased.



Summary Table

Labor Market Information for
the Spokane Metropolitan Statistical Area (Spokane County)
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: September 2007

(Employment statistics in whole numbers)	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Change		
				Feb-08	Mar-07	Mar-07
Employment by Place of Residence	Mar-08	Feb-08	Mar-07	Mar-08	Mar-08	Mar-08%
Civilian Labor Force	239,170	237,930	233,620	1,240	5,550	2.4%
Resident Employment	224,560	222,750	222,410	1,810	2,150	1.0%
Unemployment	14,620	15,180	11,210	-560	3,410	30.4%
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.4	4.8	-0.3	1.3	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles, numbers in thousands)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	217.2	215.6	216.1	1.6	1.1	0.5%
Total Private	181.5	180.0	180.5	1.5	1.0	0.6%
Goods Producing	31.8	31.1	32.0	0.7	-0.2	-0.6%
Natural Resources and Construction	13.1	12.5	13.3	0.6	-0.2	-1.5%
Manufacturing	18.7	18.6	18.7	0.1	0.0	0.0%
Services Providing	185.4	184.5	184.1	0.9	1.3	0.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	43.8	43.6	43.0	0.2	0.8	1.9%
Wholesale Trade	10.9	10.9	10.6	0.0	0.3	2.8%
Retail Trade	26.3	26.2	25.9	0.1	0.4	1.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	4.2	4.2	4.3	0.0	-0.1	-2.3%
General Merchandise Stores	5.0	5.0	4.9	0.0	0.1	2.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	6.6	6.5	6.5	0.1	0.1	1.5%
Information	3.3	3.3	3.1	0.0	0.2	6.5%
Financial Activities	13.1	13.0	13.4	0.1	-0.3	-2.2%
Finance and Insurance	10.0	10.0	10.3	0.0	-0.3	-2.9%
Professional and Business Services	22.8	22.5	23.2	0.3	-0.4	-1.7%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Education and Health Services	36.9	36.8	36.1	0.1	0.8	2.2%
Health and Social Assistance	31.2	31.0	30.4	0.2	0.8	2.6%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	12.9	13.0	11.9	-0.1	1.0	8.4%
Hospitals	8.2	8.2	7.7	0.0	0.5	6.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	20.7	20.6	20.5	0.1	0.2	1.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	15.3	15.0	14.9	0.3	0.4	2.7%
Other Services	9.1	9.1	9.2	0.0	-0.1	-1.1%
Government	35.7	35.6	35.6	0.1	0.1	0.3%
Federal Government	4.6	4.7	4.6	-0.1	0.0	0.0%
Total State Government	11.7	11.6	11.3	0.1	0.4	3.5%
State Government Educational Services	6.3	6.3	6.2	0.0	0.1	1.6%
Total Local Government	19.4	19.3	19.7	0.1	-0.3	-1.5%
Local Government Educational Services	11.3	11.2	11.7	0.1	-0.4	-3.4%
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