



THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE REPORT

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Agricultural Reporting Areas in Washington State



Counties Within Agricultural Reporting Areas

Area 1 = Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom

Area 2 = Klickitat, Yakima

Area 3 = Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Okanogan

Area 4 = Adams, Grant

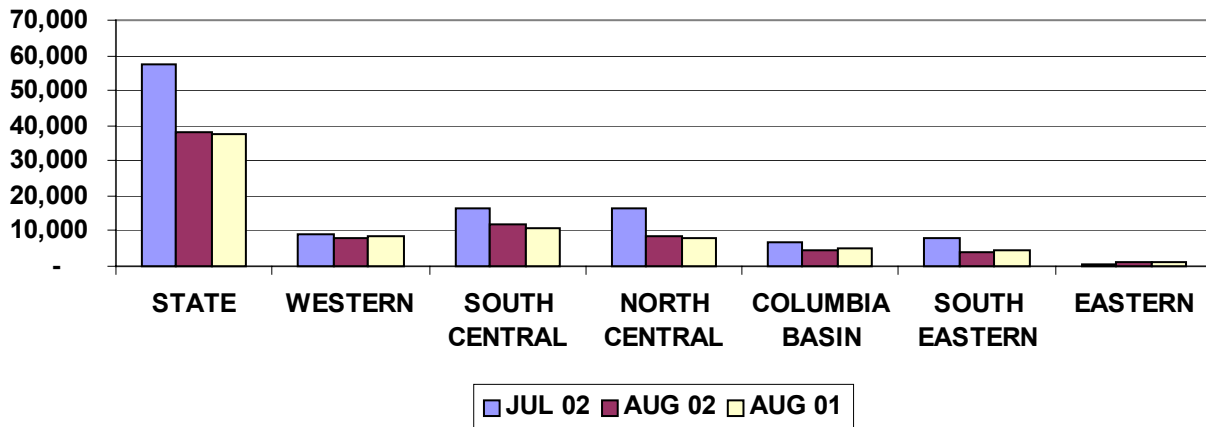
Area 5 = Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla

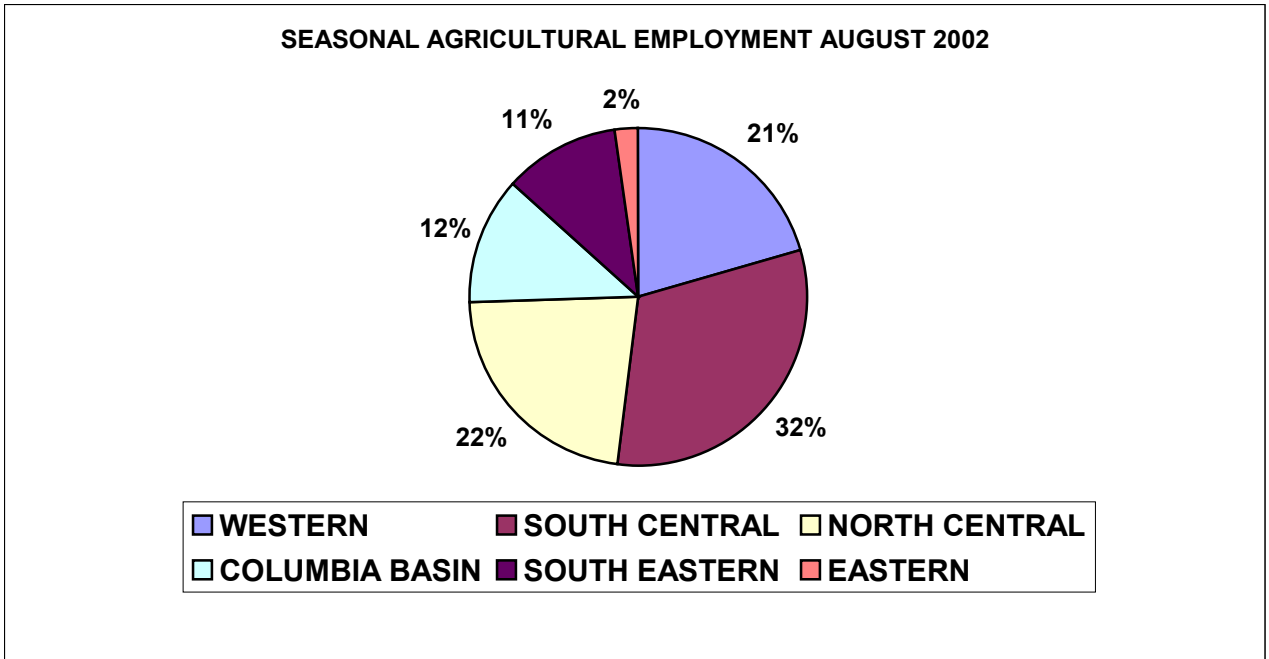
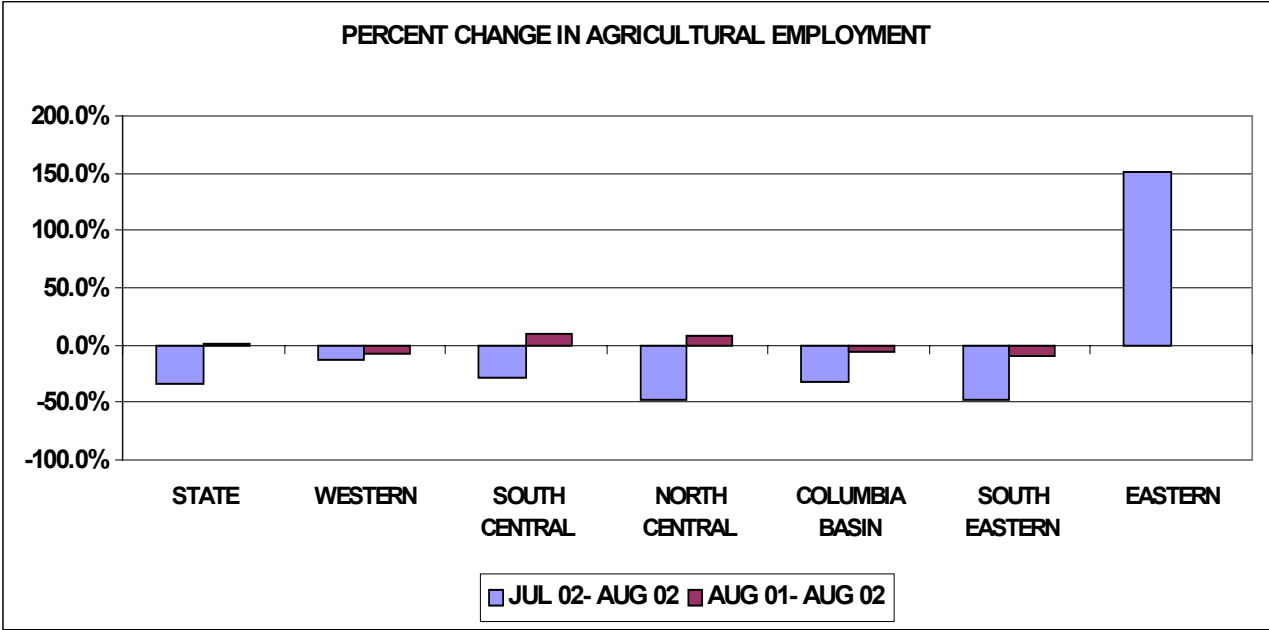
Area 6 = Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

	AUG 02	JUL 02	AUG 01	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				JUL 02- AUG 02	AUG 01- AUG 02	JUL 02- AUG 02	AUG 01- AUG 02
STATE	38,117	57,313	37,800	(19,196)	317	-33.5%	0.8%
WESTERN	7,826	8,886	8,512	(1,060)	(686)	-11.9%	-8.1%
SOUTH CENTRAL	11,968	16,614	10,860	(4,646)	1,108	-28.0%	10.2%
NORTH CENTRAL	8,565	16,638	7,929	(8,073)	636	-48.5%	8.0%
COLUMBIA BASIN	4,652	6,773	4,970	(2,121)	(318)	-31.3%	-6.4%
SOUTH EASTERN	4,221	8,049	4,640	(3,828)	(419)	-47.6%	-9.0%
EASTERN	884	353	889	531	(5)	150.4%	-0.6%

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT





Statewide seasonal employment increased 0.8% from August 2001 to August 2002. However, seasonal employment decreased 33.5%, statewide, from July 2002 to August 2002. The crop activity gaining the most employment from August 2001 to August 2002 was apple work 43.1%. The crop activity showing the largest decline in employment during that same time period was pear work -57.6%. The crop activity adding the highest number of employees from July 2002 to August 2002 was blueberry worker 1,485.1%. The crop activity experiencing the greatest loss in employment during the same time period was strawberry worker -95.9%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2002, statewide, was \$7.22 per hour.

CROP	STATEWIDE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Jul '02 - Aug '02</u>	<u>Aug '01 - Aug '02</u>
Apples	-27.9	43.1
Asparagus	-77.4	35.0
Blueberry	1485.1	-25.2
Bulb	26.1	-12.2
Cherries	-78.5	35.8
Cucumber	266.0	-51.5
Grapes	-42.9	-28.7
Hop	158.4	-38.7
Misc Vegetables	5.7	5.6
Nursery	0.4	16.1
Onion	-9.3	-10.0
Other Seasonal	10.2	-22.4
Other Tree Fruit	37.2	33.2
Pears	187.4	-57.6
Potato	18.8	-21.3
Raspberry	-32.5	39.2
Strawberry	-95.9	-50.2
Wheat/Grain	189.4	-4.6

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined 8.1% from August 2001 to August 2002. Seasonal employment also fell 11.9% from July 2002 to August 2002. The crop activity posting the greatest upturn in employment from August 2001 to August 2002 was rhubarb work 58.3%. The crop activity shrinking the most in employment during that same time period was potato work -76.2%. The crop activity experiencing the most growth from July 2002 to August 2002 was blueberry work 1,485.1%. The crop activity exhibiting the largest downturn during that same time period was strawberry work -99.2%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2002 in Area 1 was \$7.09 per hour.

CROP	AREA 1 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Jul '02 - Aug '02</u>	<u>Aug '01 - Aug '02</u>
Blueberry	1485.1	-25.2
Bulb	26.1	-12.2
Cucumber	266	-51.5
Misc Vegetables	138.9	57.5
Nursery	3.1	42.1
Other Seasonal	193.7	-41.5
Potato	-46.7	-76.2
Raspberry	-32.5	39.2
Rhubarb	-37.7	58.3
Strawberry	-99.2	-36.7

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment expanded by 10.2% from August 2001 to August 2002. Conversely, it contracted by 28.0% from July 2002 to August 2002. The crop activity increasing by the largest amount of employment from August 2001 to August 2002 was onion work 88.6%. The crop activity falling the most in employment during that same time period was miscellaneous vegetables work -91.2%. The crop activity experiencing the most growth from July 2002 to August 2002 was onion work 613.6%. The crop activity exhibiting the largest downturn during that same time period was miscellaneous vegetables -93.6%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2002 in Area 2 was \$7.27 per hour.

CROP	AREA 2 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Jul '02 - Aug '02</u>	<u>Aug '01 - Aug '02</u>
Apples	-18.5	49.7
Asparagus	-96.4	-67.7
Cherries	-76.7	80.3
Grapes	-57.3	-62.9
Hop	179.7	-38.6
Misc Vegetables	-93.6	-91.2
Onion	613.6	88.6
Other Seasonal	-23.1	0.4
Other Tree Fruit	153.9	35.6
Pears	148	-34.5
Potato	11.2	-13.1

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment exhibited an over-the-year net growth of 8.0% from August 2001 to August 2002. However August 2002 employment slowed by 48.5% in employment from July 2002. The crop activity gaining the largest employment from August 2001 to August 2002 was apple work 58.9%. The crop activity lagging by the largest amount for the same time period was pear work - 74.5%. The crop activity adding the most employees from July 2002 to August 2002 was pear work 372.9%. The

crop activity losing the most employees for that same time period was cherry work -68.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2002 in Area 3 was \$7.21 per hour.

CROP	AREA 3 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Jul '02 - Aug '02</u>	<u>Aug '01 - Aug '02</u>
Apples	-40.6	58.9
Cherries	-68.0	19.6
Other Seasonal	-49.6	47.1
Other Tree Fruit	-41.9	2.1
Pears	372.9	-74.5

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment fell off by 6.4% from August 2001 to August 2002. This also coincided with a decrease of 31.3% in employment from July 2002 to August 2002. The crop activity displaying the greatest upturn in employment from August 2001 to August 2002 was onion work 158.8%. The crop activity showing the largest decline in employment during that same time period was other seasonal work -56.0%. The crop activity adding the most employees from July 2002 to August 2002 was onion work 300.5%. The crop activity shedding the most employees during that same time period was cherry work -96.7%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2002 in Area 4 was \$7.32 per hour.

CROP	AREA 4 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Jul '02 - Aug '02</u>	<u>Aug '01 - Aug '02</u>
Apples	-7.8	20.2
Asparagus	115.5	144.8
Cherries	-96.7	97.5
Mint	70.6	19.0
Misc Vegetables	-31.2	-11.2
Nursery	0.0	-43.0
Onion	300.5	158.8
Other Seasonal	-18.3	-56.0
Potato	-15.7	-21.7
Wheat/Grain	222.1	35.5

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment contracted by 9.0% in August 2002 from August 2001. August 2002 employment also shrunk by 47.6% from July 2002. The crop activity displaying the largest expansion in employment from August 2001 to August 2002 was nursery work 280.0%. The crop activity having the largest decline in employment for that same time period was cherry work -91.9%. The crop activity increasing the most in employment from July 2002 to August 2002 was wheat/grain work 58.5%. The crop activity scaling back the largest number of employees was cherry work -99.7%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2002 in Area 5 was \$7.19 per hour.

CROP	AREA 5 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Jul '02 - Aug '02</u>	<u>Aug '01 - Aug '02</u>
Apples	-29.8	17.0
Cherries	-99.7	-91.9
Grapes	-31.7	29.7
Hop	-68.0	-46.7
Misc Vegetables	-1.9	-1.0
Nursery	-13.6	280.0
Onion	-61.3	-57.0
Other Seasonal	-37.8	21.0
Potato	29.9	-1.3
Strawberry	-55.7	-52.4
Wheat/Grain	58.5	-41.1

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment declined by 0.6% in August 2002 from August 2001. This was contrasted with an upswing of 150.4% in seasonal employment in August 2002 over July 2002. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from August 2001 to August 2002 was other seasonal work 14.9%. The crop activity contracting the most during that same time period was wheat/grain -6.1%. The crop activity having the largest increase in employment from July 2002 to August 2002 was wheat/grain 222.8%. The crop activity having the largest decline in employment for the same time period was other seasonal -129.8%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2002 in Area 6 was \$9.23 per hour.

CROP	AREA 6 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Jul '02 - Aug '02</u>	<u>Aug '01 - Aug '02</u>
Nursery	-42.3	7.1
Other Seasonal	-129.8	14.9
Wheat/Grain	222.8	-6.1

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT
Washington State Employment Security, Labor Market and Economic Analysis

FARM LABOR ABSTRACT
August 2002

A mid-month survey of farm labor employment and wages was conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department. At least five percent of all growers are surveyed for employment data about seasonal workers, type of crop, work activity, wages and their residence. Based on that data, the Washington Employment Security Department develops estimates on the size of the workforce, average wages for each crop activity, and whether workers commute, live within the state or come in from another state. These data are reported for each agricultural area identified as having similar farm labor characteristics and a significant supply/demand for seasonal hired workforce.

WESTERN (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum and Whatcom Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 7,826 (5,249 local, 607 intrastate, 1,970 interstate)

Blueberry Harvester	1,608	\$ 6.91/hr
Raspberry Harvester	915	\$ 6.92/hr
Cabbage Harvester	623	\$ 6.90/hr
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	557	\$ 7.28/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 11,968 (10,440 local, 260 intrastate, 1,268 interstate)

Apple Harvester	2,425	\$ 7.41/hr or \$12.00 - \$24.00/bin
Apple Hand Thinner	2,118	\$ 6.95/hr
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	1,293	\$ 6.90/hr
Pear Harvester	1,080	\$12.00 - \$14.00/bin

NORTH CENTRAL (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas and Okanogan Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,565 (8,143 local, 185 intrastate, 237 interstate)

Apple Trainer	2,502	\$ 6.90/hr
Cherry Harvester	1,317	Not Available
Apple Hand Thinner	1,013	\$ 6.98/hr
Apple Worker	752	\$ 6.96/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,652 (4,420 local, 13 intrastate, 219 interstate)

Apple Hand Thinner	1,397	\$ 7.07/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	537	\$ 6.95/hr
Apple Pruner	375	\$ 7.25/hr
Apple Harvester	310	\$ 7.61/hr

SOUTHEAST (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,221 (3,798 local, 0 intrastate, 423 interstate)

Apple Hand Thinner	1,258	\$ 6.93/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	338	\$ 7.12/hr
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	297	\$ 6.90/hr
Walla Walla Sweets Sorter/Grader/Packer	230	\$ 7.05/hr

EASTERN (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 884 (738 local, 21 intrastate, 125 interstate)

Wheat Vehicle Operator	218	\$10.56/hr
Wheat Worker	200	\$10.00/hr
Wheat Combine Driver	109	\$13.20/hr
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	54	\$10.19/hr