

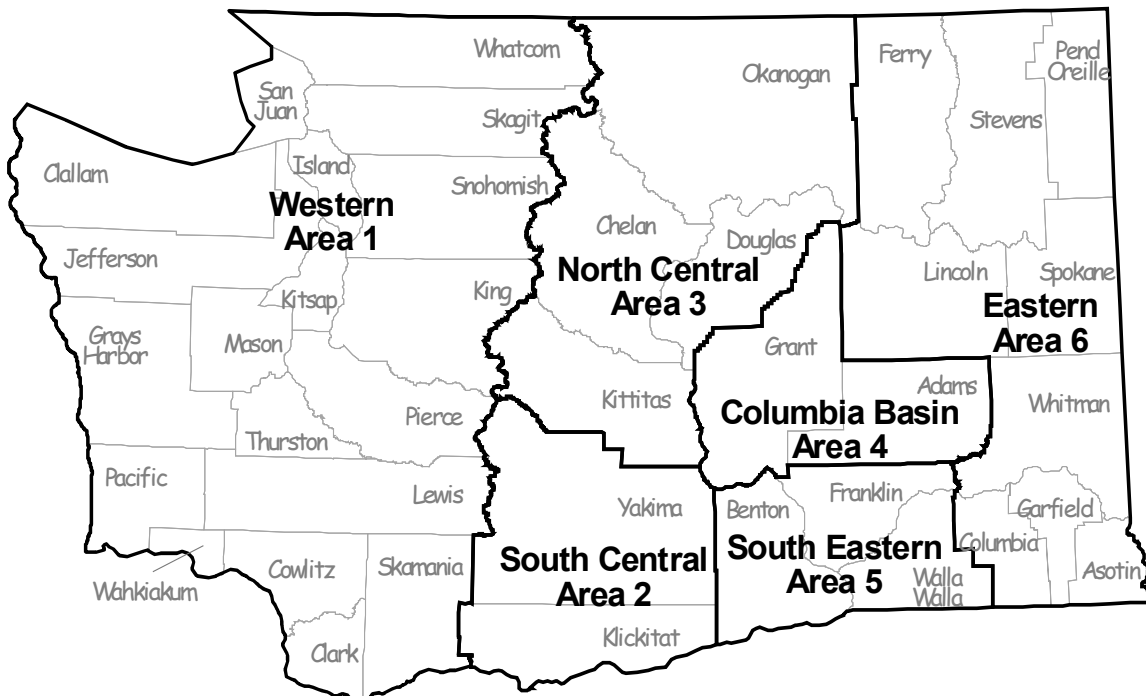


THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE REPORT

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DECEMBER 2002

Agricultural Reporting Areas in Washington State



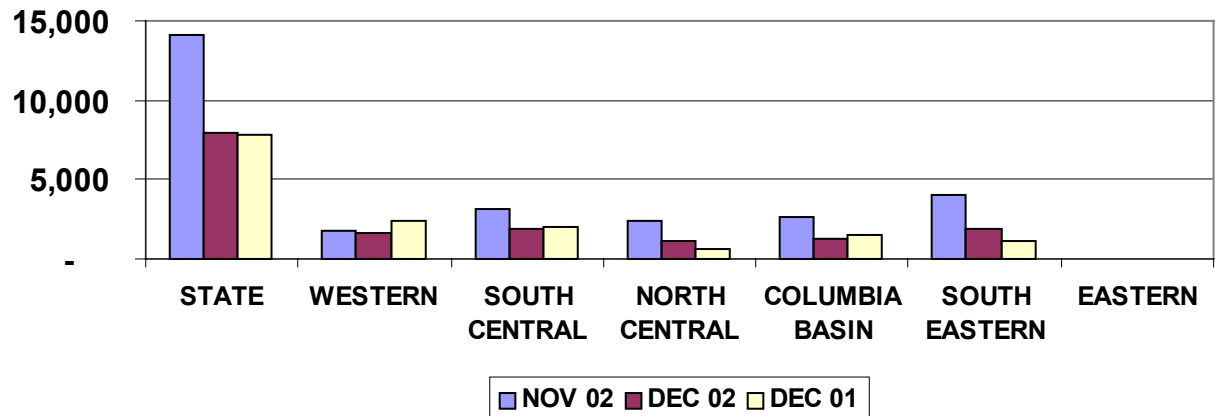
Counties Within Agricultural Reporting Areas

- 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

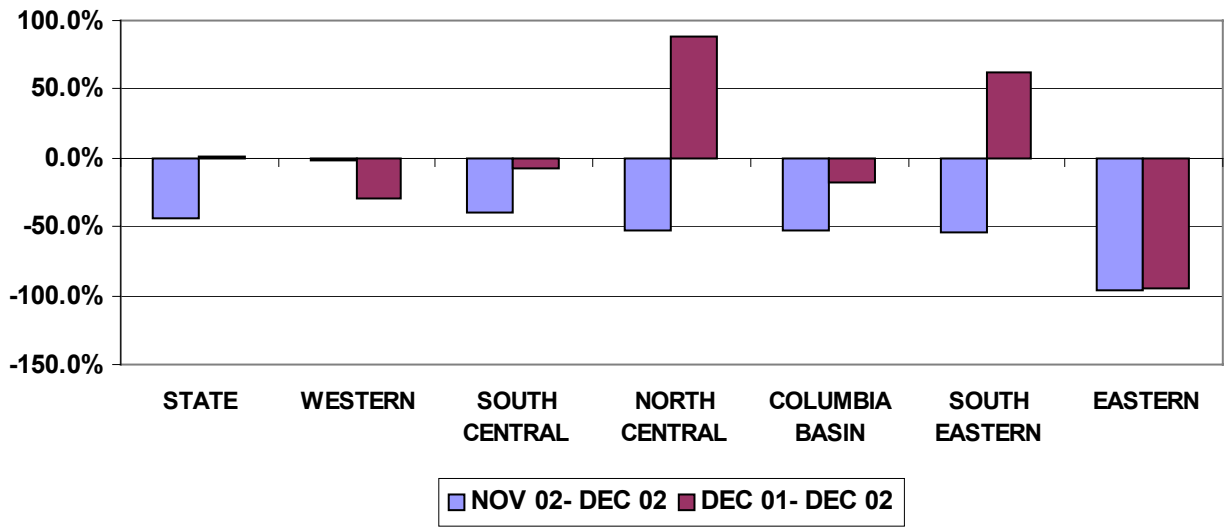
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

	DEC 02	NOV 02	DEC 01	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				NOV 02- DEC 02	DEC 01- DEC 02	NOV 02- DEC 02	DEC 01- DEC 02
STATE	7,883	14,057	7,780	(6,174)	103	-43.9%	1.3%
WESTERN	1,687	1,709	2,383	(22)	(696)	-1.3%	-29.2%
SOUTH CENTRAL	1,887	3,100	2,056	(1,213)	(169)	-39.1%	-8.2%
NORTH CENTRAL	1,164	2,434	616	(1,270)	548	-52.2%	89.0%
COLUMBIA BASIN	1,267	2,700	1,530	(1,433)	(263)	-53.1%	-17.2%
SOUTH EASTERN	1,876	4,065	1,153	(2,189)	723	-53.8%	62.7%
EASTERN	2	49	42	(47)	(40)	-95.9%	-95.2%

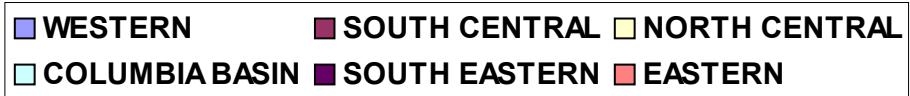
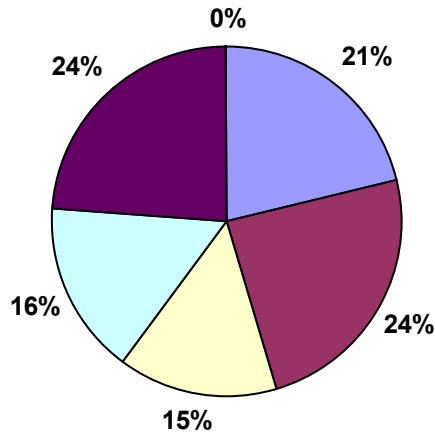
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



PERCENT CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT DECEMBER 2002



Statewide seasonal employment increased 1.3% from December 2001 to December 2002. However, seasonal employment declined statewide, 43.9% from November 2002 to December 2002. The crop activity exhibiting the highest gain in employment from December 2001 to December 2002 was wheat/grain work 100.0%. The crop activity having the greatest decline in employment for that same time period was hop work -87.5%. The crop activity adding the most workers from November 2002 to December 2002 was cherry work 170.0%. The crop activity shedding the greatest number of jobs during that same time period was hop work -95.8%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2002, statewide, was \$7.17 per hour.

CROP	STATEWIDE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Nov '02 - Dec '02</u>	<u>DEC '01 - Dec '02</u>
Apples	-59.8	55.3
Blueberry	-57.7	-54.2
Bulb	-14.5	-41.2
Cherries	170.0	10.2
Grapes	56.4	57.5
Hop	-95.8	-87.5
Misc Vegetables	-55.7	-53.0
Nursery	4.0	8.5
Onion	17.5	-13.2
Other Seasonal	-57.5	62.8
Other Tree Fruit	-46.8	-7.4
Pears	14.0	-41.0
Potato	-24.4	-30.3
Raspberry	-36.8	-64.0
Wheat/Grain	-80.2	100.0

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined 29.2% from December 2001 to December 2002. Seasonal employment also fell by 1.3% from November 2002 to December 2002. The crop activity rising the most in employment from December 2001 to December 2002 was nursery work 21.0%. The crop activity experiencing the largest downturn in employment for that same time period was raspberry work -64.0%. The crop activity posting the largest upturn in employment from November 2002 to December 2002 was other seasonal work 81.8%. The crop activity shrinking the by the greatest amount during that same time period was miscellaneous vegetables work -70.3%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2002 in Area 1 was \$7.41 per hour.

CROP	AREA 1 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Nov '02 - Dec '02</u>	<u>DEC '01 - Dec '02</u>
Blueberry	-57.7	-54.2
Bulb	-14.5	-41.2
Misc Vegetables	-70.3	
Nursery	74.0	21.0
Other Seasonal	81.8	-4.8
Potato	-5.9	-15.0
Raspberry	-36.8	-64.0

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment contracted by 8.2% from December 2001 to December 2002. This corresponded with a similar downturn in employment of 39.1% from November 2002 to December 2002. The crop activity experiencing the largest growth in employment from December 2001 to December 2002 was other seasonal work 166.7%. The crop activity falling by the largest amount for that same time period was miscellaneous vegetables work -68.9%. The crop activity experiencing the largest growth in employment from November 2002 to December 2002 was grapes work 74.6%. The crop activity displaying the greatest loss in employment for that same time period was hop work -94.6%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2002 in Area 2 was \$7.48 per hour.

CROP	AREA 2 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Nov '02 - Dec '02</u>	<u>DEC '01 - Dec '02</u>
Apples	-51.8	-1.3
Cherries	-25.0	82.6
Grapes	74.6	26.7
Hop	-94.6	-62.5
Misc Vegetables	-31.3	-68.9
Other Seasonal	-62.8	166.7
Other Tree Fruit	-75.0	
Pears	-11.9	-41.8

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment exhibited an over-the-year net growth of 89.0% from December 2001 to December 2002. This was contrasted with a downturn of 52.2% in employment from November 2002 to December 2002. The crop activity gaining the largest amount of employment from December 2001 to December 2002 was apple work 141.4%. The crop activity lagging the greatest in employment for that same time period was other tree fruit -81.5%. The crop activity adding the most employment from November 2002 to December 2002 was other tree fruit 25.0%. The crop activity having the largest decline during that same time period was apple work -56.6%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2002 in Area 3 was \$7.11 per hour.

CROP	AREA 3 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Nov '02 - Dec '02</u>	<u>DEC '01 - Dec '02</u>
Apples	-56.6	141.4
Cherries		9.1
Other Seasonal	-20.8	111.1
Other Tree Fruit	25.0	-81.5
Pears		-54.6

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment fell off by 17.2% from December 2001 to December 2002. This was echoed by a larger decline of 53.1% in employment from November 2002 to December 2002. The crop activity displaying the greatest upturn in employment from December 2001 to December 2002 was cherry work 340.0%. The crop activity experiencing the largest downturn in employment during that same time period was potato work -69.0%. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from November 2002 to December 2002 was onion work 4.5%. The crop activity netting the largest over-the-month loss in employment during that same time period was other seasonal work -91.2%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2002 in Area 4 was \$7.07 per hour.

CROP	AREA 4 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Nov '02 - Dec '02</u>	<u>DEC '01 - Dec '02</u>
Apples	-61.5	10.6
Cherries		340.0
Nursery	-72.4	-36.4
Onion	4.5	-33.8
Other Seasonal	-91.2	-53.9
Potato	-68.2	-69.0

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment expanded by 62.7% from December 2001 to December 2002. However December 2002 employment lagged by 53.8% from November 2002. The crop activity rising the greatest in employment from December 2001 to December 2002 was apple work 288.5%. The crop activity shrinking the most in employment during that same time period was miscellaneous vegetable work -55.1%. The crop activity expanding the greatest amount from November 2002 to December 2002 was cherry work 900.0%. The crop activity scaling back the greatest in employment for that same time period was wheat/grain work -72.3%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2002 in Area 5 was \$7.06 per hour.

CROP	AREA 5 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Nov '02 - Dec '02</u>	<u>DEC '01 - Dec '02</u>
Apples	-68.3	288.5
Cherries	900.0	-50.6
Grapes	38.7	124.5
Misc Vegetables	-47.9	-55.1
Nursery	-30.0	-12.5
Onion	58.4	145.2
Other Seasonal	-59.6	183.0
Other Tree Fruit	9.1	
Potato	-30.2	-35.4
Wheat/Grain	-72.3	

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment contracted by 95.2% in December 2002 from December 2001. December 2002 also had a similar downturn of 95.9% in seasonal employment from November 2002. No crop activity increased in employment from December 2001 to December 2002. The crop activity having the greatest downturn in employment for that same time period was nursery work -33.3%. Similarly, no crop activity experienced a gain in employment from November 2002 to December 2002. The crop activity losing the greatest number of employees for that same time period was also nursery work -80.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2002 in Area 6 was \$10.54 per hour.

CROP	AREA 6 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Nov '02 - Dec '02</u>	<u>DEC '01 - Dec '02</u>
Nursery	-80.0	-33.3

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

FARM LABOR ABSTRACT
DECEMBER 2002

A mid-month survey of farm labor employment and wages is 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: 1,687 (1,682 local, 0 intrastate, 5 interstate)

Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	378	\$ 7.69/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	339	\$ 7.06/hr
Nursery Harvester	290	\$ 6.99/hr
Raspberry Pruner	178	\$ 7.63/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,887 (1,670 local, 51 intrastate, 166 interstate)

Apple Pruner	755	\$ 7.37/hr or \$ 0.55 - \$ 6.00/tree
Grapes Pruner	314	\$ 7.19/hr or \$ 0.20 - \$ 0.25/vine
Pear Pruner	281	\$ 7.09/hr or \$ 0.75 - \$ 3.75/tree
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	251	\$ 7.22/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,164 (1,164 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate)

Apple Trainer	649	\$ 6.91/hr
Apple Pruner	233	\$ 7.11/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	111	\$ 7.68/hr
Pear Pruner	48	\$ 7.29/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,267 (1,160 local, 0 intrastate, 107 interstate)

Apple Pruner	618	\$ 7.04/hr
Misc Onion/Sorter/Grader/Packer	360	\$ 7.00/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	98	\$ 6.90/hr
Cherry Pruner	44	\$ 7.00/hr

SOUTHEAST (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,876 (1,876 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate)

Apple Pruner	859	\$ 6.92/hr
Grapes Pruner	225	\$ 6.94/hr or \$ 0.20 - \$ 0.30/vine
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	179	\$ 6.90/hr
Chicken Eggs Worker	135	\$ 7.50/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2 (2 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate)

Nursery Vehicle Operator	2	\$10.54/hr
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