



THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE REPORT

Prepared by

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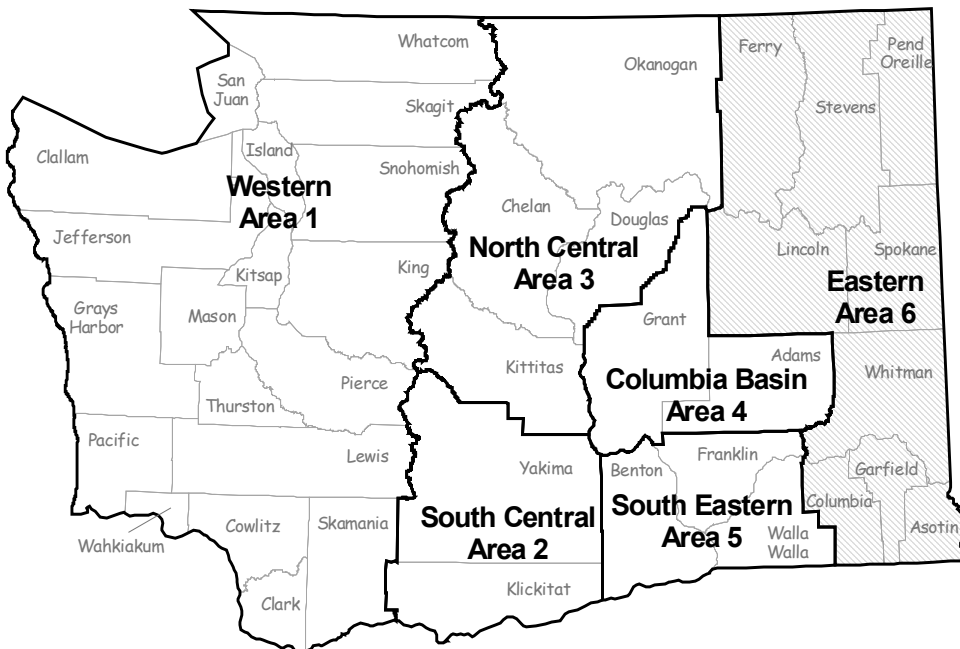
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Labor Market Information Center toll free: 800 215-1617

FEBRUARY 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

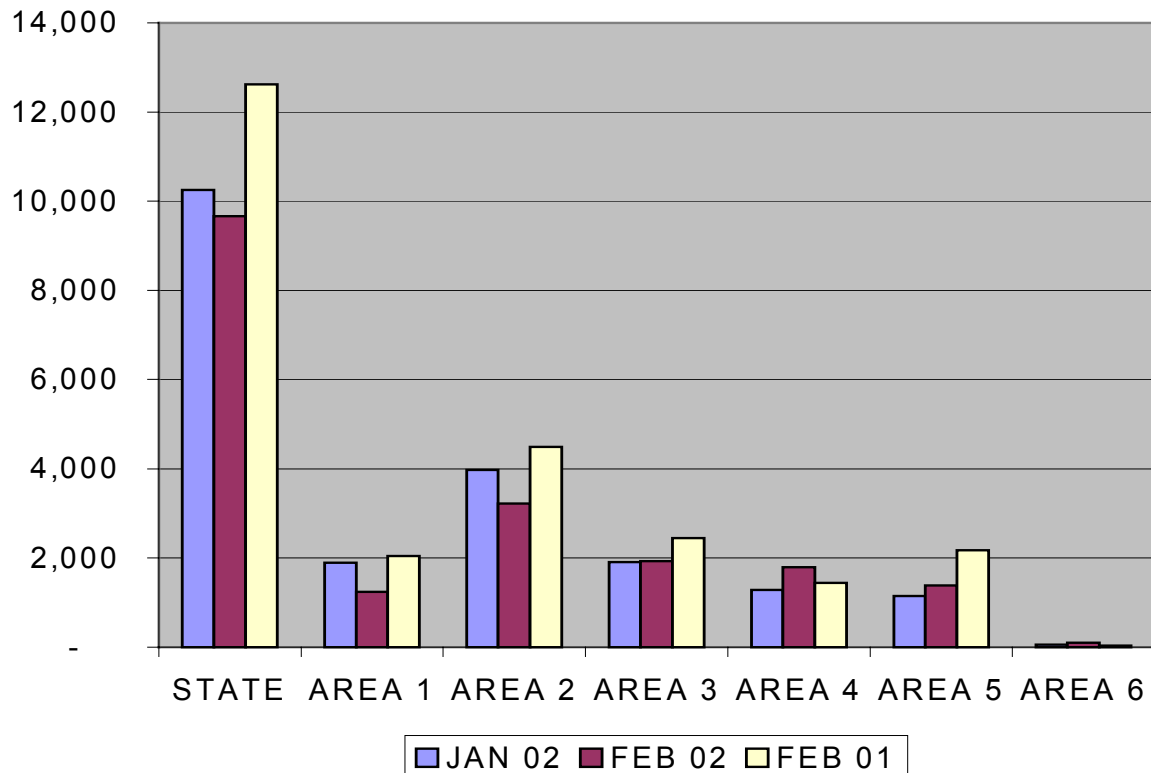
Area 5 = Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla

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

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

| | PERCENT CHANGE | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | FEB 02 | JAN 02 | FEB 01 | JAN 02- FEB 02 | FEB 01- FEB 02 | JAN 02- FEB 02 | FEB 01- FEB 02 |
| STATE | 9,668 | 10,254 | 12,622 | -586 | -2954 | -5.7% | -23.4% |
| Western | 1,241 | 1,894 | 2,043 | -653 | -802 | -34.5% | -39.3% |
| South Central | 3,220 | 3,975 | 4,487 | -755 | -1267 | -19.0% | -28.2% |
| North Central | 1,928 | 1,906 | 2,447 | 22 | -519 | 1.2% | -21.2% |
| Columbia Basin | 1,796 | 1,282 | 1,440 | 514 | 356 | 40.1% | 24.7% |
| South Eastern | 1,385 | 1,143 | 2,171 | 242 | -786 | 21.2% | -36.2% |
| Eastern | 98 | 54 | 34 | 44 | 64 | 81.5% | 188.2% |

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



Statewide seasonal employment was down 5.7% in February 2002 from January 2002. However, seasonal employment declined 23.4% from February 2001. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from February 2001 to February 2002 was onion work 142.6%. The crop activities contracting by the largest employment during that same time period were asparagus work and cucumber work, both at -100.0%. The crop activity increasing the most in employment from January 2002 to February 2002 was other tree fruit 300.0%. The crop activity decreasing by the greatest employment during that same time period was wheat/grain work -64.7%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2002, statewide, was \$7.15 per hour.

| CROP | STATEWIDE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| | <u>Jan '02 - Feb '02</u> | <u>Feb '01 - Feb '02</u> |
| Apples | -2.5 | -23.7 |
| Asparagus | | -100.0 |
| Blueberry | 138.6 | |
| Bulb | -3.9 | 54.2 |
| Cherries | 30.4 | -48.7 |
| Cucumber | | -100.0 |
| Grapes | 110.3 | -38.7 |
| Hop | 200.0 | -52.2 |
| Misc Vegetables | 134.8 | 66.7 |
| Nursery | 1.5 | -20.0 |
| Onion | -20.0 | 142.6 |
| Other Seasonal | -56.9 | -57.1 |
| Other Tree Fruit | 300.0 | -27.9 |
| Pears | 118.1 | 18.3 |
| Potato | 3.8 | 27.7 |
| Raspberry | -59.6 | 16.5 |
| Wheat/Grain | -64.7 | |

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined by 34.5% in February 2002 from January 2002. February 2002 also declined over February 2001 by 39.3%. The crop activity rising by the largest employment from February 2001 to February 2002 was rhubarb work 366.7%. The crop activities falling by the greatest employment for that same time period were cucumber and miscellaneous vegetable work, both at -100.0%. The crop activity growing the most in employment from January 2002 to February 2002 was rhubarb work 684.0%. The crop activity shrinking by the largest amount of employment for that same time period was potato work -61.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February was \$7.08 per hour.

| CROP | AREA 1 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| | <u>Jan '02 - Feb '02</u> | <u>Feb '01 - Feb '02</u> |
| Blueberry | 138.6 | |
| Bulb | -3.9 | 54.2 |
| Cucumber | | -100.0 |
| Misc Vegetables | | -100.0 |
| Nursery | 8.8 | -67.4 |
| Other Seasonal | 112.5 | -85.3 |
| Potato | -61.0 | -50.0 |
| Raspberry | -59.6 | 16.5 |
| Rhubarb | 684.0 | 366.7 |

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment decreased by 19.0% in February 2002 from January 2002. February 2002 employment also declined over February 2001 by 28.2%. The crop activity expanding the greatest in employment from February 2001 to February 2002 was pear work 27.5%. The crop activity contracting by the largest employment for that same time period was hop work -51.2%. The crop activity adding the largest employment from January 2002 to February 2002 was other seasonal work 400.0%. The crop activity lagging behind by the greatest employment for that same time period was apple work -6.3%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2002 was \$7.15 per hour.

| CROP | AREA 2 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT | |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| | <u>Jan '02 - Feb '02</u> | <u>Feb '01 - Feb '02</u> |
| Apples | -6.3 | -23.6 |
| Cherries | 236.8 | -49.6 |
| Grapes | 73.6 | -48.5 |
| Hop | 241.7 | -51.2 |
| Misc Vegetables | | -15.4 |
| Other Seasonal | 400.0 | -5.7 |
| Other Tree Fruit | 241.7 | -32.8 |
| Pears | 103.8 | 27.5 |

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment in February 2002 exceeded January 2002 by 1.2%. However February 2002 dipped by 21.2% from February 2001. No crop activity increased in employment from February 2001 to February 2002. The crop activity falling the most in employment for that same time period was asparagus work -100.0%. The crop activity growing by the largest employment from January 2002 to February 2002 was pear work 154.8%. The crop activity declining by the greatest employment for that same time period was other tree fruit -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2002 was \$7.24 per hour.

| AREA 3 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| PERCENT CHANGE | | |
| CROP | <u>Jan '02 - Feb '02</u> | <u>Feb '01 - Feb '02</u> |
| Apples | -11.1 | -14.9 |
| Cherries | 27.8 | -48.2 |
| Other Seasonal | -17.9 | -36.1 |
| Other Tree Fruit | -100.0 | -100.0 |
| Pears | 154.8 | -45.1 |

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment exhibited a growth of 24.7% in February 2002 over February 2001. The increase from February 2002 over January 2002 was 40.1%. The crop activity netting the greatest over-the-year gain from February 2001 to February 2002 was other seasonal work 566.7%. The crop activities experiencing a loss in employment during that same time period were asparagus and other tree fruit work, both at -100.0%. The crop activity advancing the most in employment from January 2002 to February 2002 was cherry work 500.0%. The crop activity pulling back by the largest employment for that same time period was mint work -71.4%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2002 was \$7.13 per hour.

| AREA 4 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| PERCENT CHANGE | | |
| CROP | <u>Jan '02 - Feb '02</u> | <u>Feb '01 - Feb '02</u> |
| Apples | 4.8 | -12.3 |
| Asparagus | | -100.0 |
| Cherries | 500.0 | -65.3 |
| Mint | -71.4 | |
| Misc Vegetables | -40.0 | -75.0 |
| Nursery | -65.6 | 4.8 |
| Onion | -24.7 | 241.2 |
| Other Seasonal | 66.7 | 566.7 |
| Other Tree Fruit | | -100.0 |
| Pears | 256.3 | |
| Potato | 169.3 | 344.2 |

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment fell by 36.2% in February 2002 from February 2001. However seasonal employment rose by 21.2% in February 2002 over January 2002. The crop activity posting the greatest increase in employment from February 2001 to February 2002 was other tree fruit work 433.3%. The crop activity scaling back by the largest employment during that same time period was wheat/grain - 100.0%. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from January 2002 to February 2002 was other tree fruit work 2,300.0%. The crop activity having the weakest demand during that same time period was other seasonal work -89.2%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2002 was \$7.05 per hour.

| CROP | AREA 5 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| | Jan '02 - Feb '02 | Feb '01 - Feb '02 |
| Apples | 75.3 | -57.2 |
| Cherries | -38.6 | -24.4 |
| Grapes | 191.1 | -18.1 |
| Hop | 150.0 | -53.7 |
| Misc Vegetables | 30.6 | 15.9 |
| Onion | -0.9 | 28.4 |
| Other Seasonal | -89.2 | -82.1 |
| Other Tree Fruit | 2,300.0 | 433.3 |
| Potato | | -65.8 |
| Wheat/Grain | | -100.0 |

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment grew by 188.2% in February 2002 over February 2001. February 2002 expanded by 81.5% from January 2002. The crop activity gaining the largest employment from February 2001 to February 2002 was nursery work 325.0%. No crop activity lost employment during that same time period. The crop activity increasing by the largest employment from January 2002 to February 2002 was nursery work 2,450.0%. The crop activity decreasing by the greatest employment for that same time period was wheat/grain -64.7%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2002 was \$8.19 per hour.

| CROP | AREA 6 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| | Jan '02 - Feb '02 | Feb '01 - Feb '02 |
| Nursery | 2,450.0 | 325.0 |
| Other Seasonal | 218.2 | 218.2 |
| Wheat/Grain | -64.7 | 9.1 |

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

FARM LABOR ABSTRACT
FEBRUARY 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: 1,241 (1,150 local, 0 intrastate, 91 interstate)

| | | |
|--|-----|------------|
| Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer | 168 | \$ 7.53/hr |
| Nursery Planter | 168 | \$ 6.95/hr |
| Raspberry Pruner | 138 | \$ 6.90/hr |
| Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer | 134 | \$ 7.06/hr |

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,220 (2,847 local, 171 intrastate, 202 interstate)

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|------------|---------------------------|
| Apple Pruner | 1,704 | \$ 7.05/hr | or \$ 0.30 - \$ 4.50/tree |
| Grapes Pruner | 515 | \$ 7.29/hr | or \$ 0.07 - \$ 0.41/vine |
| Pear Pruner | 477 | \$ 6.90/hr | or \$ 0.30 - \$ 5.50/tree |
| Grape Trainer | 157 | \$ 7.41/hr | |

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,928 (1,896 local, 19 intrastate, 13 interstate)

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------------------|
| Apple Pruner | 1,471 | \$ 6.98/hr | or \$ 0.77 - \$ 4.00/tree |
| Cherry Pruner | 115 | \$ 8.07/hr | |
| Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer | 112 | \$ 7.82/hr | |
| Apple Trainer | 102 | \$ 7.83/hr | |

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,796 (1,759 local, 4 intrastate, 34 interstate)

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------|---------------------------|
| Apple Pruner | 903 | \$ 7.07/hr | or \$ 0.70 - \$ 3.00/tree |
| Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer | 310 | \$ 6.95/hr | |
| Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer | 246 | \$ 6.99/hr | |
| Potato Tractor Operator | 57 | \$ 8.63/hr | |

SOUTHEAST (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,385 (1,385 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate)

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------|---------------------------|
| Grapes Pruner | 394 | \$ 6.98/hr | or \$ 0.15 - \$ 0.30/vine |
| Apple Pruner | 376 | \$ 7.01/hr | or \$ 0.35 - \$ 1.50/tree |
| Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer | 149 | \$ 6.90/hr | |
| Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer | 100 | \$ 6.90/hr | |

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 98 (98 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate)

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|------------|
| Nursery Planter | 37 | \$ 7.07/hr |
| Contract Misc Crop Worker | 35 | \$12.50/hr |
| Wheat Vehicle Operator | 12 | \$10.00/hr |
| Nursery Mechanic | 5 | \$10.25/hr |