



## THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE REPORT

Prepared by

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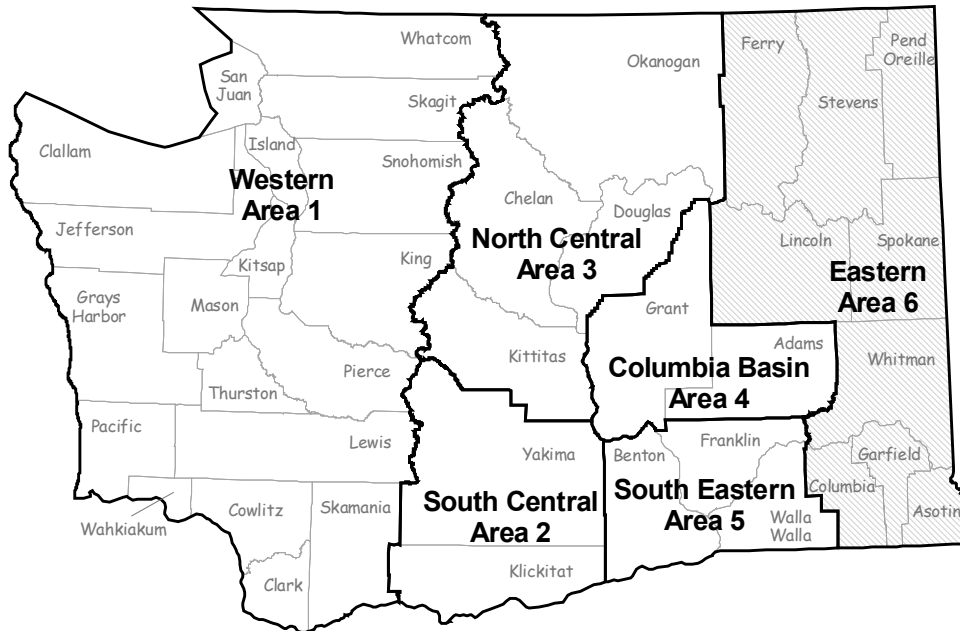
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry

Labor Market Information Center toll free: 800 215-1617

**MARCH 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

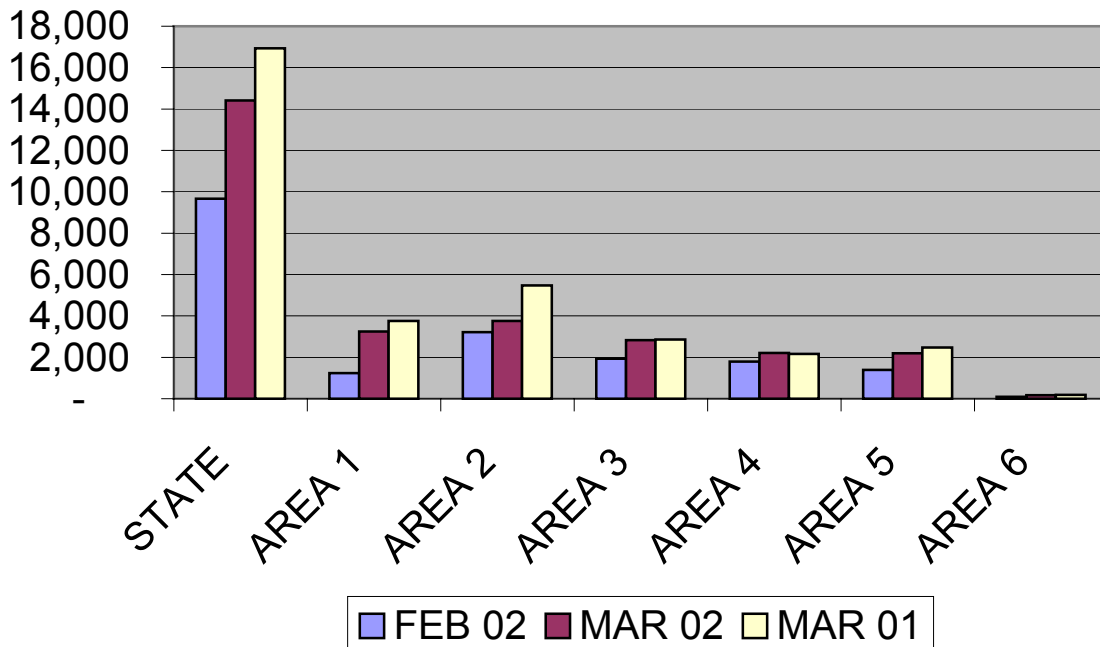
**Area 5** = Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla

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

### SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

	MAR 02	FEB 02	MAR 01	PERCENT CHANGE			
				FEB 02- MAR 02	MAR 01- MAR 02	FEB 02- MAR 02	MAR 01- MAR 02
<b>STATE</b>	14,408	9,668	16,928	4740	-2520	49.0%	-17.5%
<b>Western</b>	3,250	1,241	3,760	2009	-510	161.9%	-15.7%
<b>South Central</b>	3,757	3,220	5,480	537	-1723	16.7%	-45.9%
<b>North Central</b>	2,823	1,928	2,864	895	-41	46.4%	-1.5%
<b>Columbia Basin</b>	2,215	1,796	2,164	419	51	23.3%	2.3%
<b>South Eastern</b>	2,189	1,385	2,480	804	-291	58.1%	-13.3%
<b>Eastern</b>	174	98	180	76	-6	77.6%	-3.4%

### SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



**Statewide** seasonal employment decreased 17.5% from March 2001 to March 2002. However seasonal employment increased 49.0%, statewide, from February 2002 to March 2002. The crop activity gaining the largest amount of employment from March 2001 to March 2002 was asparagus work 1,458.8%. The crop activity losing the most employment during that same time period was hop work -92.4%. The crop activity adding the most workers from February 2002 to March 2002 was bulb work 2,596.0%. The crop activity experiencing the greatest loss in employment during that same time period was miscellaneous vegetables -42.3%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2002, statewide, was \$7.23 per hour.

<b>CROP</b>	<b>STATEWIDE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT</b>	
	<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b><u>Feb '02 - Mar '02</u></b>	<b><u>Mar '01 - Mar '02</u></b>
Apples	7.4	-14.9
Asparagus		1,458.8
Blueberry	-34.3	392.9
Bulb	2,596.0	48.3
Cherries	187.6	56.2
Grapes	68.2	-25.6
Hop	9.1	-92.4
Misc Vegetables	-42.3	-63.0
Nursery	55.4	-48.5
Onion	-30.6	65.0
Other Seasonal	243.8	-41.4
Other Tree Fruit	-17.9	-28.1
Pears	24.8	26.0
Potato	78.7	28.3
Raspberry	-26.7	-28.9
Strawberry		40.0
Wheat/Grain	75.0	-51.2

**Western (Area 1)** seasonal employment declined 15.7% in March 2002 from March 2001. However, seasonal employment expanded 161.9% in March 2002 over February 2002. The crop activity rising the greatest in employment from March 2001 to March 2002 was blueberry work 392.9%. The crop activity experiencing the largest downturn during that same time period was strawberry work -100.0%. The crop activity posting the largest upturn in employment from February 2002 to March 2002 was bulb work 2,596.0%. The crop activity shrinking by the largest amount of employment for that same time period was rhubarb work -84.7%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2002 was \$7.34 per hour.

CROP	AREA 1 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Feb '02 - Mar '02</u>	<u>Mar '01 - Mar '02</u>
Blueberry	-34.3	392.9
Bulb	2,596.0	48.3
Misc Vegetables		-90.7
Nursery	41.3	-57.6
Other Seasonal	129.4	-85.3
Potato	126.1	1.0
Raspberry	-26.7	-28.9
Rhubarb	-84.7	-60.0
Strawberry		-100.0

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment contracted by 45.9% in March 2002 from March 2001. However seasonal employment expanded by 16.7% from February 2002 to March 2002. The crop activity showing the largest increase in employment from March 2001 to March 2002 was onion work 366.7%. The crop activities falling the most in employment for that same time period were asparagus and potato work, both at -100.0%. The crop activity experiencing the largest growth in employment from February 2002 to March 2002 was miscellaneous vegetable work 300.0%. The crop activity displaying the greatest downturn in employment for that same time period was hop work -56.1%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2002 was \$7.35 per hour.

CROP	AREA 2 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Feb '02 - Mar '02</u>	<u>Mar '01 - Mar '02</u>
Apples	-4.3	-24.5
Asparagus		-100.0
Cherries	68.8	-16.3
Grapes	52.9	-36.3
Hop	-56.1	-97.6
Misc Vegetables	300.0	-56.9
Onion		366.7
Other Seasonal	22.0	-49.6
Other Tree Fruit	-34.1	-18.2
Pears	24.3	68.0
Potato		-100.0

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment slowed by 1.5% in March 2002 from March 2001. However March 2002 employment showed an over-the-year net growth of 46.4% from

February 2002. The crop activity gaining the greatest amount of employment from March 2001 to March 2002 was cherry work 202.6%. The crop activity lagging the most in employment during that same time period was other tree fruit -86.0%. The crop activity adding the most workers from February 2002 to March 2002 was cherry work 407.8%. No crop activity declined in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2002 was \$7.09 per hour.

CROP	AREA 3 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	Feb '02 - Mar '02	Mar '01 - Mar '02
Apples	16.9	-14.0
Cherries	407.8	202.6
Other Seasonal	378.3	175.0
Other Tree Fruit		-86.0
Pears	53.2	-52.4

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment exhibited a growth of 2.3% in March 2002 from March 2001. However, March 2002 advanced by 23.3% over February 2002. The crop activity displaying the largest upturn in employment from March 2001 to March 2002 was potato work 57.8%. The crop activity experiencing the largest downturn in employment during that same time period was other seasonal work -90.2%. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from February 2002 to March 2002 was mint work 950.0%. The crop activity netting an over-the-month loss during that same time period was onion work -64.9%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2002 was \$7.24 per hour.

CROP	AREA 4 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	Feb '02 - Mar '02	Mar '01 - Mar '02
Apples	22.1	0.3
Cherries	38.1	-53.2
Mint	950.0	-69.6
Misc Vegetables	533.3	26.7
Nursery	-22.7	-55.3
Onion	-64.9	-20.3
Other Seasonal	30.0	-90.2
Other Tree Fruit		-42.4
Pears	-10.5	
Potato	26.9	57.8
Wheat/Grain		50.0

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment contracted by 13.3% in March 2002 from March 2001. March 2002 posted an increase however of 58.1% over February 2002. The crop activity rising the greatest amount in employment from March 2001 to March 2002 was onion work 414.3%. The crop activity exhibiting the largest downturn in employment for that same time period was wheat/grain work -100.0%. The crop activity adding the most employees from February 2002 to March 2002 was potato work 953.8%. The crop activity scaling back the most in employment during that same time period was onion work -36.3%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2002 was \$7.18 per hour.

CROP	AREA 5 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Feb '02 - Mar '02</u>	<u>Mar '01 - Mar '02</u>
Apples	-18.8	-11.6
Asparagus		-100
Cherries	3.2	-14.7
Grapes	88.3	-9.4
Hop	116.0	-71.7
Misc Vegetables	-28.6	-65.8
Nursery	66.7	200.0
Onion	-36.3	414.3
Other Seasonal	897.4	52.2
Other Tree Fruit	-16.7	48.2
Potato	953.8	59.3
Wheat/Grain		-100.0

**Eastern (Area 6)** seasonal employment declined by 3.4% in March 2002 from March 2001. However, March 2002 grew by 77.6% over February 2002. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from March 2001 to March 2002 was nursery work 68.6%. The crop activity contracting by the greatest employment for that same time period was other seasonal work -100.0%. The crop activity increasing by the greatest amount in employment was nursery work 237.3%. The crop activities declining the most in employment for that same time period were other seasonal and wheat/grain, both at -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2002 was \$7.32 per hour.

CROP	AREA 6 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Feb '02 - Mar '02</u>	<u>Mar '01 - Mar '02</u>
Nursery	237.3	68.6
Other Seasonal	-100.0	-100.0
Wheat/Grain	-100.0	

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

**FARM LABOR ABSTRACT**  
**MARCH 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: 3,250 (3,157 local, 30 intrastate, 63 interstate)

Bulbs Harvester . . . . .	1,793	\$ 7.25/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	299	\$ 7.73/hr
Nursery Planter . . . . .	258	\$ 7.17/hr
Raspberry Pruner . . . . .	197	\$ 7.92/hr

**SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,757 (3,126 local, 239 intrastate, 392 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	1,076	\$ 6.94/hr	or \$ 0.17 - \$ 4.50/tree
Grapes Pruner . . . . .	685	\$ 7.35/hr	or \$ 0.12 - \$ 0.28/vine
Pear Pruner . . . . .	551	\$ 6.90/hr	or \$ 0.50 - \$ 4.50/tree
Grapes Trainer . . . . .	319	\$ 7.12/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,823 (2,776 local, 23 intrastate, 23 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	1,742	\$ 6.99/hr
Cherry Preparation . . . . .	341	\$ 6.90/hr
Cherry Pruner . . . . .	171	\$ 7.34/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	162	\$ 7.49/hr

**COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,215 (2,184 local, 19 intrastate, 12 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	905	\$ 7.08/hr	or \$ 0.20 - \$ 0.70/tree
Asparagus Planter . . . . .	256	\$ 7.00/hr	
Potato Worker . . . . .	234	\$ 6.99/hr	
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	109	\$ 6.90/hr	

**SOUTHEAST (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,189 (1,786 local, 0 intrastate, 403 interstate)

Grapes Pruner . . . . .	744	\$ 6.94/hr	or \$ 0.12 - \$ 0.30/vine
Chicken Eggs Worker . . . . .	323	\$ 7.50/hr	
Apple Pruner . . . . .	231	\$ 7.23/hr	
Grapes Trainer . . . . .	172	\$ 6.97/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 174 (132 local, 0 intrastate, 42 interstate)

Nursery Planter . . . . .	103	\$ 7.10/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	34	\$ 6.98/hr
Nursery Cultivator . . . . .	12	\$ 7.39/hr
Nursery Loader . . . . .	10	\$ 6.90/hr