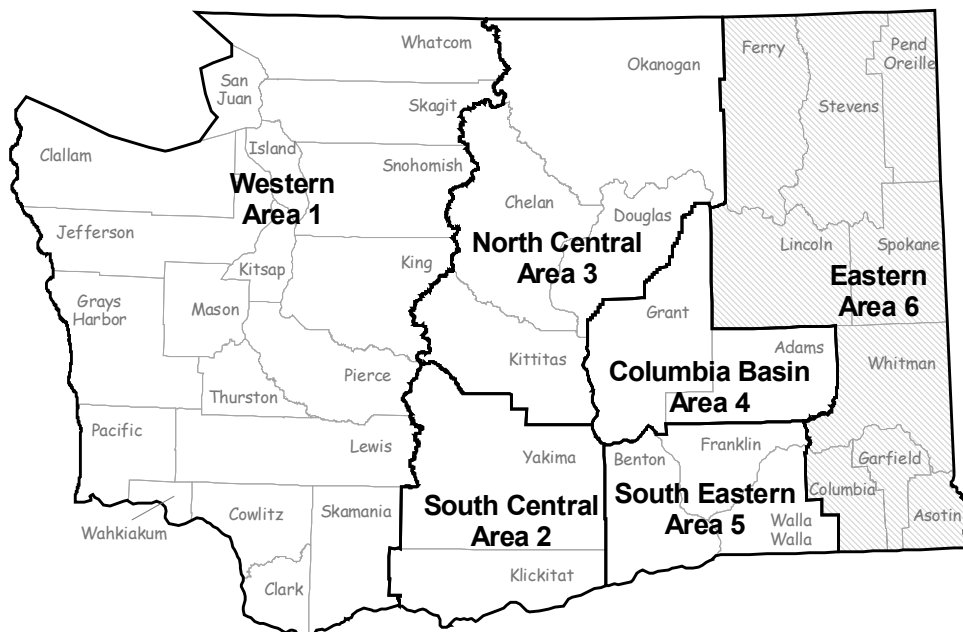


THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE REPORT

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MAY 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

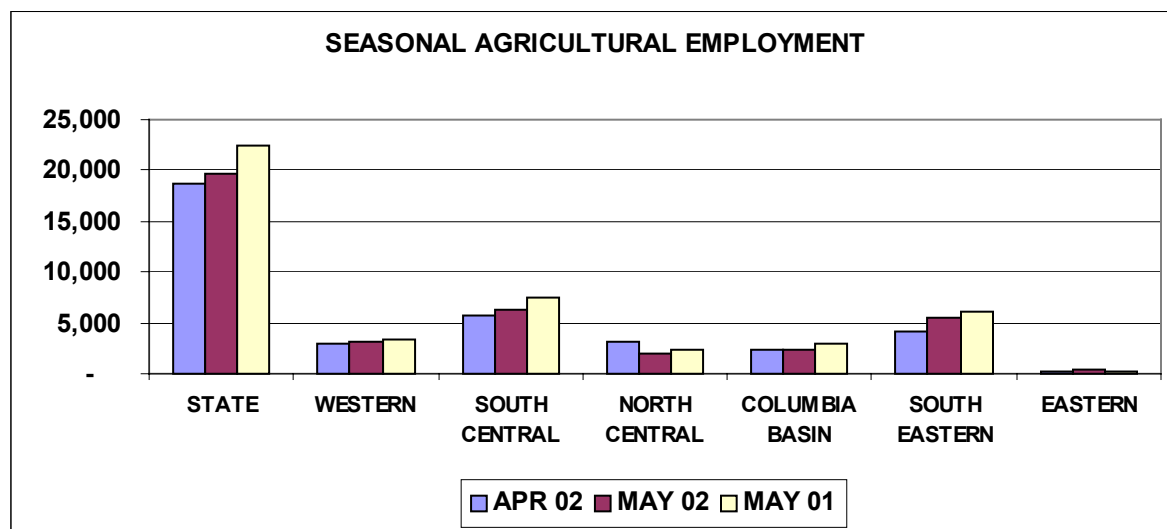
Area 3 = Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Okanogan

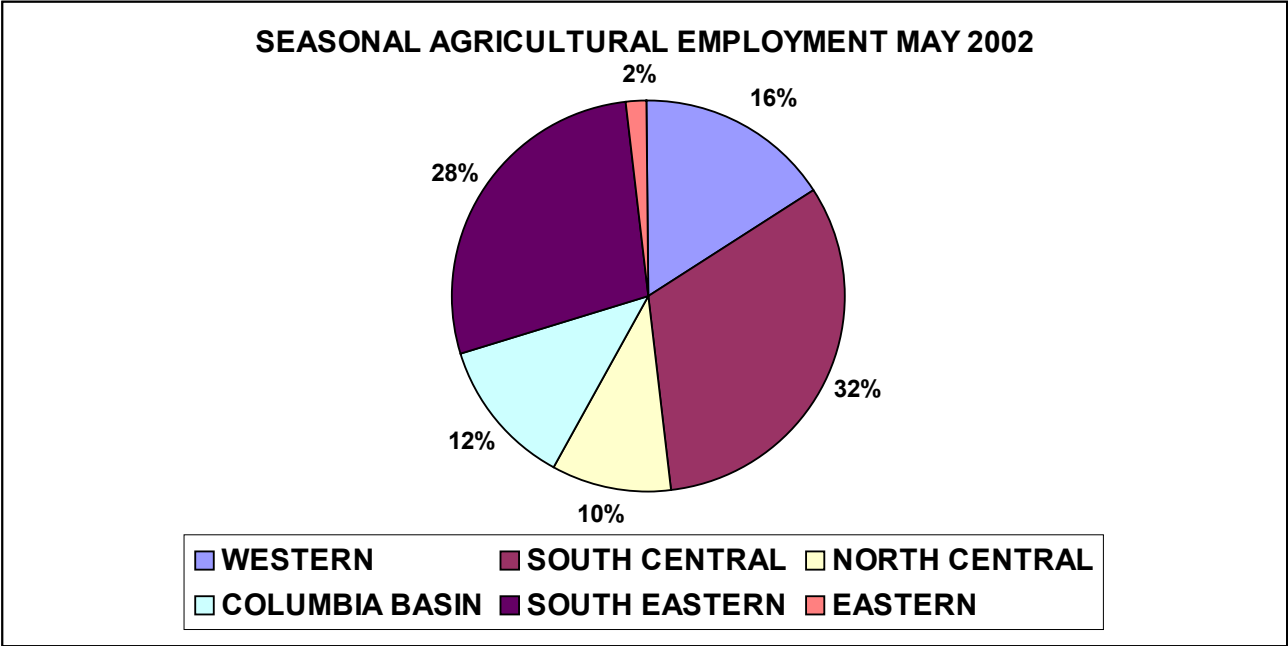
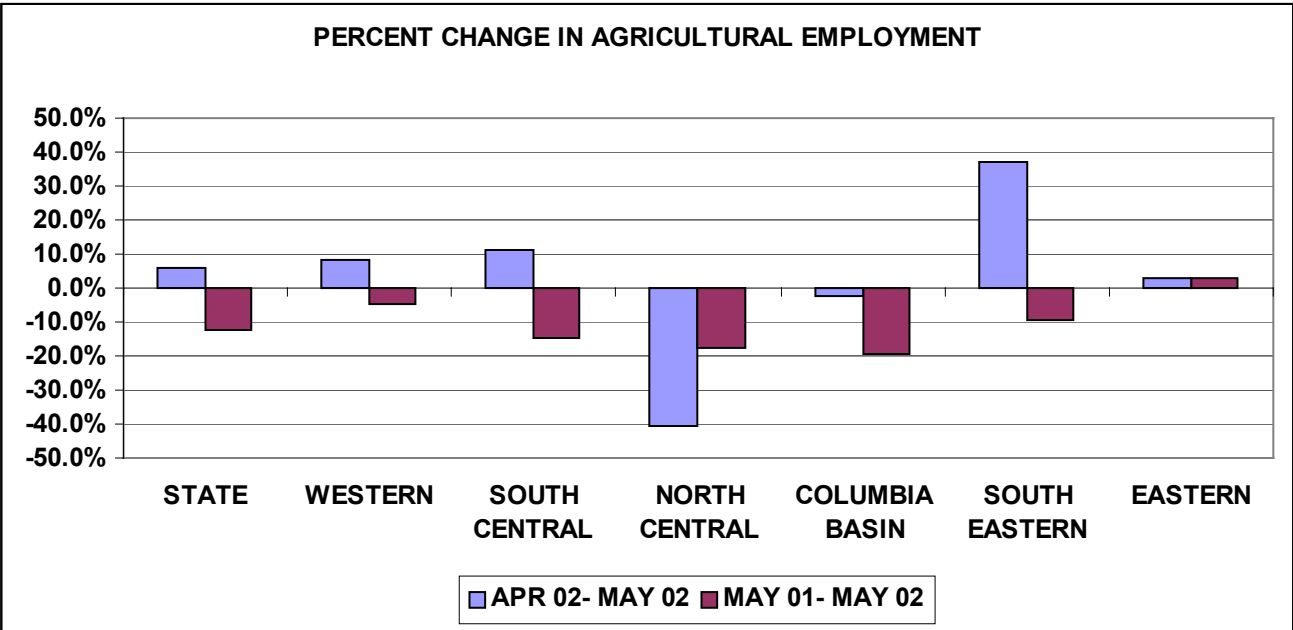
Area 4 = Adams, Grant

Area 5 = Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla

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

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	MAY 02	APR 02	MAY 01	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				APR 02- MAY 02	MAY 01- MAY 02	APR 02- MAY 02	MAY 01- MAY 02
STATE	19,682	18,633	22,489	1,049	(2,807)	5.6%	-12.5%
WESTERN	3,162	2,915	3,309	247	(147)	8.5%	-4.4%
SOUTH CENTRAL	6,315	5,684	7,416	631	(1,101)	11.1%	-14.8%
NORTH CENTRAL	1,914	3,214	2,329	(1,300)	(415)	-40.4%	-17.8%
COLUMBIA BASIN	2,395	2,453	2,975	(58)	(580)	-2.4%	-19.5%
SOUTH EASTERN	5,593	4,072	6,166	1,521	(573)	37.4%	-9.3%
EASTERN	303	295	294	8	9	2.7%	3.1%





Statewide seasonal employment decreased 12.5% from May 2001 to May 2002. However, seasonal employment increased 5.6%, statewide, from April 2002 to May 2002. The crop activity increasing the most in employment from May 2001 to May 2002 was blueberry work 206.8%. The crop activity decreasing by the largest amount during that same time period was other tree fruit -76.4%. The crop activity adding the most workers from April 2002 to May 2002 was blueberry work 1,828.6%. The crop activity losing the most workers during that same time period was onion work -89.7%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2002, statewide was \$7.23 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT		
PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	<u>Apr '02 - May '02</u>	<u>May '01 - May '02</u>
Apples	-30.9	12.9
Asparagus	103.8	-9.4
Blueberry	1,828.6	206.8
Bulb	-59.4	-45.4
Cherries	10.8	-26.9
Grapes	20.1	-32.3
Hop	142.9	28.5
Misc Vegetables	-1.1	-36.1
Nursery	18.3	4.8
Onion	-89.7	-58.3
Other Seasonal	-51.2	-66.2
Other Tree Fruit	-59.0	-76.4
Pears	-29.2	111.8
Potato	-28.0	15.4
Raspberry	-8.1	112.9
Strawberry	179.4	-45.7
Wheat/Grain	-19.5	-32.0

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined 4.4% from May 2001 to May 2002. Seasonal employment increased 8.5% from April 2002 to May 2002. The crop activity rising by the largest employment from May 2001 to May 2002 was blueberry work 206.8%. The crop activity experiencing the largest downturn in employment during that same time period was other seasonal work -84.3%. The crop activity posting the largest upturn in employment from April 2002 to May 2002 was blueberry work 1,828.6%. The crop activity shrinking the most in employment during that same time period was bulb work -59.4%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2002 in Area 1 was \$7.24 per hour.

AREA 1 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT		
PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	<u>Apr '02 - May '02</u>	<u>May '01 - May '02</u>
Blueberry	1,828.6	206.8
Bulb	-59.4	-45.4
Misc Vegetables	13.5	-0.5
Nursery	27.9	6.8
Other Seasonal	57.5	-84.3
Potato	-41.1	10.9
Raspberry	-8.1	112.9
Rhubarb	-25.6	-17.7
Strawberry	630.8	-24.6

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment contracted by 14.8% from May 2001 to May 2002. Conversely, it expanded by 11.1% in May 2002 over April 2002. The crop activity displaying the largest employment increase from May 2001 to May 2002 was miscellaneous vegetables 201.0%. The crop activity falling the most in employment during that same time period was onion work -96.5%. The crop activity experiencing the largest growth in employment from April 2002 to May 2002 was cherry work 567.9%. The crop activity showing the largest downturn in employment for that same time period was onion work -96.5%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2002 in Area 2 was \$7.21 per hour.

AREA 2 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT		
PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	<u>Apr '02 - May '02</u>	<u>May '01 - May '02</u>
Apples	-26.9	-0.7
Asparagus	50.2	-25.1
Cherries	567.9	114.9
Grapes	-6.1	-51.3
Hop	133.3	57.6
Misc Vegetables	102.0	201.0
Onion	-96.5	-96.5
Other Seasonal	139.1	-66.4
Other Tree Fruit	-85.5	-48.6
Pears	-75.8	-7.6

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment slowed by 17.8% from May 2001 to May 2002. May 2002 employment showed a net loss of 40.4% in employment from April 2002. The crop activity gaining the most employment from May 2001 to May 2002 was pear work 339.1%. The crop activity lagging the most in employment during that same time period was other tree fruit work -95.0%. The crop activity adding the most workers from April 2002 to May 2002 was pear work 3,266.7%. The crop activity scaling back the most in employment during that same time period was cherry work -91.9%. The weighted seasonal average for hourly paid farm workers for May 2002 in Area 3 was \$7.09 per hour.

AREA 3 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT		
PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	<u>Apr '02 - May '02</u>	<u>May '01 - May '02</u>
Apples	-43.6	36.5
Cherries	-91.9	-89.5
Other Seasonal	-15.9	-36.3
Other Tree Fruit	633.3	-95.0
Pears	3,266.7	339.1

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment exhibited a drop of 19.5% from May 2001 to May 2002. This was contrasted with a much smaller decline of 2.4% in employment from April 2002 to May 2002. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from May 2001 to May 2002 was other tree fruit 275.0%. The crop activity contracting by the most in employment for that same time period was wheat/grain work -100.0%. The crop activity showing the largest upturn in employment from April 2001 to May 2002 was other tree fruit 1,729.6%. The crop activity netting the largest over-the-month loss during that same time period was miscellaneous vegetable work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2002 in Area 4 was \$7.25 per hour.

AREA 4 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT		
PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	<u>Apr '02 - May '02</u>	<u>May '01 - May '02</u>
Apples	-2.3	-15.7
Asparagus	-78.8	-9.2
Cherries	-28.3	-70.3
Mint		-88.0
Misc Vegetables	-100.0	108.2
Nursery	18.7	-25.4
Onion	-41.0	27.3
Other Seasonal		31.4
Other Tree Fruit	1,729.6	275.0
Pears	-78.4	
Potato	-72.0	-33.4
Wheat/Grain	-19.8	-100.0

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment contracted by 9.3% in May 2002 from May 2001. May 2002 posted an increase of 37.4% over April 2002. The crop activity rising the most in employment from May 2001 to May 2002 was potato work 1,046.9%. The crop activity falling the most in employment for that same time period was strawberry work -100.0%. The crop activity adding the most employment from April 2002 to May 2002 was other tree fruit 3,133.3%. The crop activity losing the most employment during that same time period was strawberry work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2002 in Area 5 was \$7.23 per hour.

AREA 5 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT		
PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	<u>Apr '02 - May '02</u>	<u>May '01 - May '02</u>
Apples	20.6	127.9
Asparagus	133.5	5.6
Cherries	-33.3	-57.1
Grapes	46.4	-9.5
Hop		-76.6
Misc Vegetables	-77.3	-93.5
Nursery	112.0	307.7
Onion	-90.4	
Other Seasonal	-89.3	-81.3
Other Tree Fruit	3,133.3	83.0
Potato	8.3	1,046.9
Strawberry	-100.0	-100.0
Wheat/Grain	-29.4	-80.3

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment expanded by 3.1% in May 2002 from May 2001. May 2002 seasonal employment grew by 2.7% over April 2002. The crop activity increasing the most in employment from May 2001 to May 2002 was wheat/grain work 68.8%. The crop activity declining the most in employment for that same time period was other seasonal work -34.4%. The crop activity growing by the largest amount from April 2002 to May 2002 was wheat/grain work 5.9%. The crop activity shrinking the most in employment for that same time period was nursery work -14.3%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2002 in Area 6 was \$7.72 per hour.

AREA 6 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT		
PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	<u>Apr '02 - May '02</u>	<u>May '01 - May '02</u>
Nursery	-14.3	4.0
Other Seasonal		-34.4
Wheat/Grain	5.9	68.8

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

FARM LABOR ABSTRACT
MAY 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: 3,162 (3,003 local, 0 intrastate, 159 interstate)

Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	1,001	\$ 6.95/hr
Nursery Planter	358	\$ 7.06/hr
Raspberry Planter	283	\$ 6.91/hr
Nursery Worker	227	\$ 6.97/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,315 (5,654 local, 74 intrastate, 587 interstate)

Asparagus Harvester	2,505	\$ 6.91/hr	or \$ 0.18 - \$ 0.25/lb
Hops Trainer	761	\$ 6.92/hr	or \$37.87 - \$67.40/acre
Hops Twiner	336	\$ 7.43/hr	
Apple Irrigator	303	\$ 7.48/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,914 (1,894 local, 17 intrastate, 3 interstate)

Apple Trainer	1,179	\$ 6.91/hr
Apple Pruner	97	\$ 6.98/hr
Apple Chemical Applicator	94	\$ 7.62/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	77	\$ 6.90/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,395 (2,127 local, 220 intrastate, 48 interstate)

Asparagus Harvester	490	\$ 7.00/hr	or \$ 0.16¼ - \$ 0.28/lb
Apple Pruner	371	\$ 6.99/hr	
Apple Trainer	179	\$ 6.93/hr	
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	152	\$ 7.26/hr	

SOUTHEAST (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,593 (4,680 local, 210 intrastate, 704 interstate)

Asparagus Harvester	3,772	\$ 6.91/hr	or \$ 0.15 - \$ 0.25/lb
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	296	\$ 6.90/hr	
Apple Pruner	159	\$ 7.30/hr	
Grapes Pruner	123	\$ 6.92/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 303 (204 local, 0 intrastate, 99 interstate)

Nursery Worker	58	\$ 7.97/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	54	\$ 8.25/hr
Nursery Planter	53	\$ 6.95/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	51	\$ 7.36/hr