

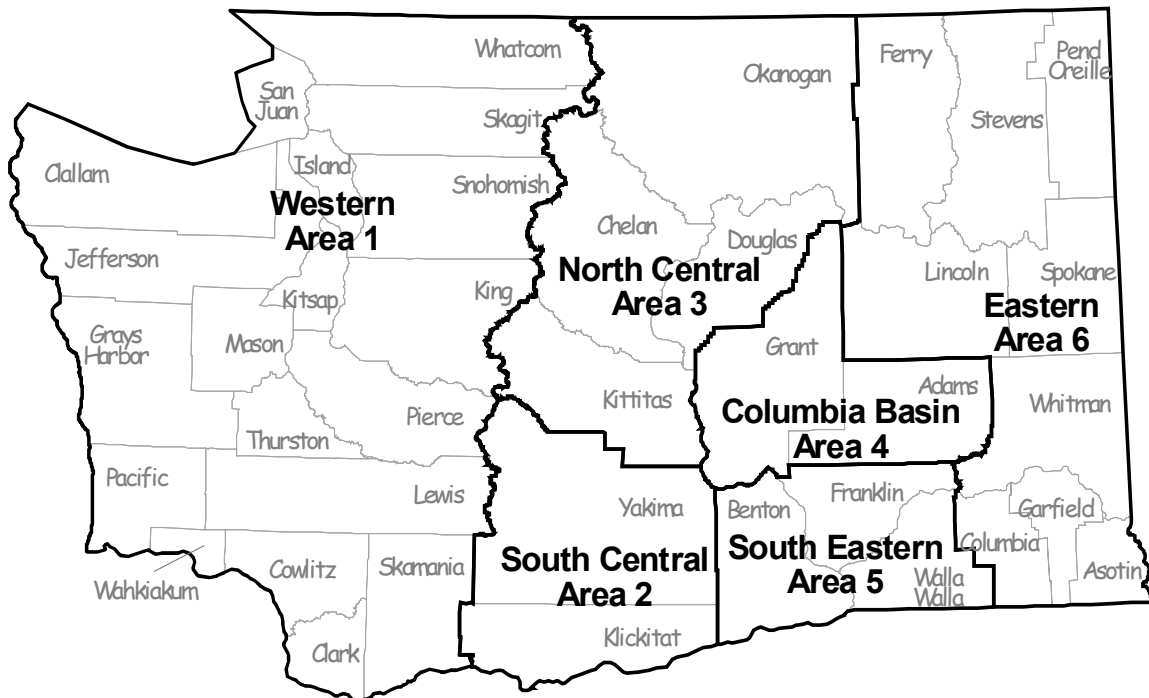


THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE REPORT

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NOVEMBER 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

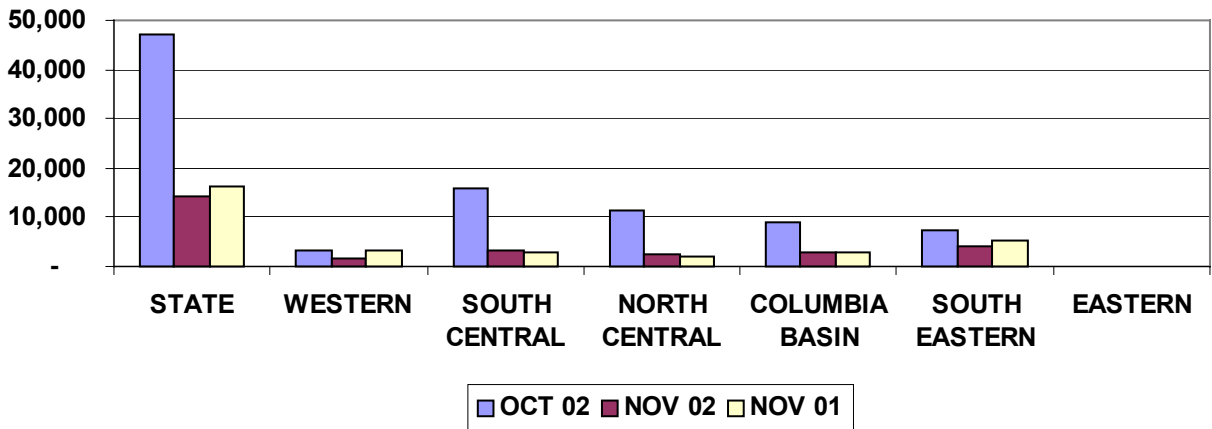
Area 5 = Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla

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

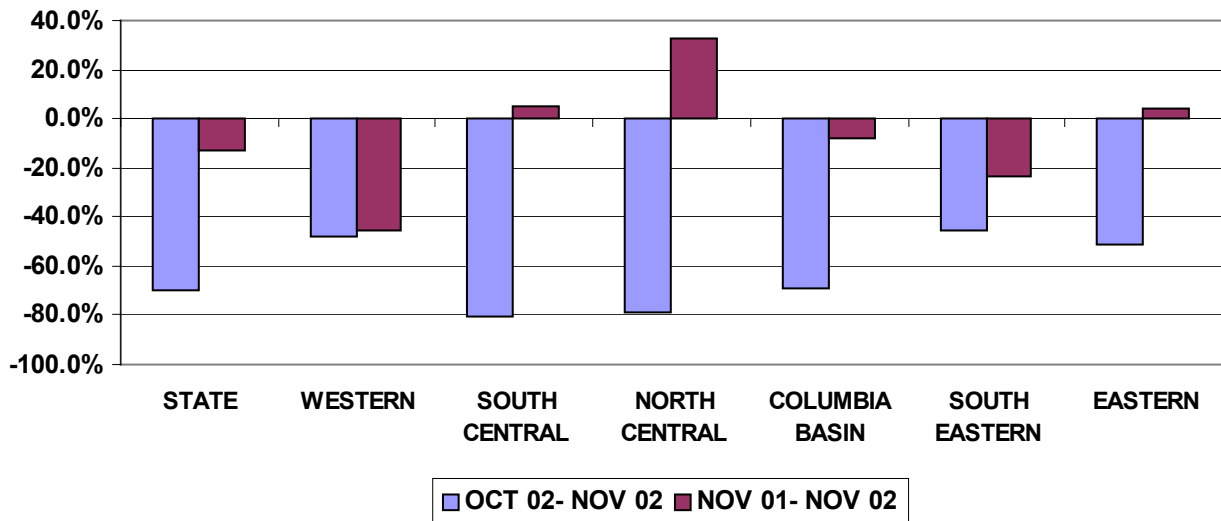
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

	NOV 02	OCT 02	NOV 01	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				OCT 02- NOV 02	NOV 01- NOV 02	OCT 02- NOV 02	NOV 01- NOV 02
STATE	14,057	47,207	16,164	(33,150)	(2,107)	-70.2%	-13.0%
WESTERN	1,709	3,289	3,116	(1,580)	(1,407)	-48.0%	-45.2%
SOUTH CENTRAL	3,100	15,940	2,944	(12,840)	156	-80.6%	5.3%
NORTH CENTRAL	2,434	11,544	1,840	(9,110)	594	-78.9%	32.3%
COLUMBIA BASIN	2,700	8,835	2,923	(6,135)	(223)	-69.4%	-7.6%
SOUTH EASTERN	4,065	7,499	5,294	(3,434)	(1,229)	-45.8%	-23.2%
EASTERN	49	100	47	(51)	2	-51.0%	4.3%

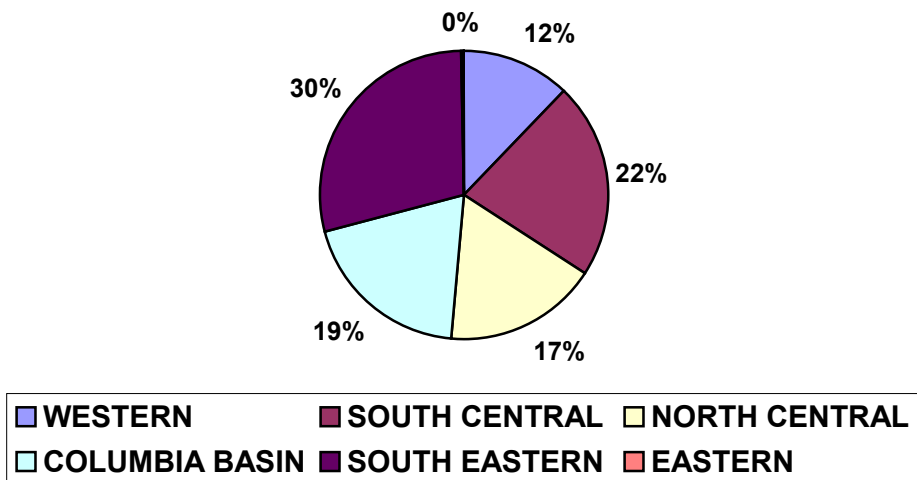
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



PERCENT CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT NOVEMBER 2002



Statewide seasonal employment fell 13.0% from November 2001 to November 2002. However, seasonal employment declined statewide, 70.2% from October 2002 to November 2002. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from November 2001 to November 2002 was grape work 47.8%. The crop activity contracting by the largest employment during that same time period was blueberry work -91.8%. The crop activity increasing the most in employment from October 2002 to November 2002 was cherry work 172.7%. The crop activity decreasing by the greatest employment during that same time period was cucumber work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2002, statewide, was \$7.39 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT		
PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	<u>Oct '02 - Nov '02</u>	<u>Nov '01 - Nov '02</u>
Apples	-75.3	-3.0
Blueberry	-92.4	-91.8
Bulb	-15.2	-36.8
Cherries	172.7	-28.6
Cucumber	-100.0	
Grapes	-61.8	47.8
Hop	-39.3	-33.6
Misc Vegetables	-61.5	-13.4
Nursery	22.9	-20.3
Onion	14.7	-27.7
Other Seasonal	-37.4	-22.7
Other Tree Fruit	-82.1	-9.3
Pears	-3.3	-10.6
Potato	-81.7	-31.8
Raspberry	39.1	-47.4
Wheat/Grain	5.8	37.9

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment decreased 45.2% from November 2001 to November 2002. Seasonal employment also contracted by 48.0% from October 2002 to November 2002. No crop activities rose in employment from November 2001 to November 2002. Miscellaneous Vegetable work at -16.5% fell by the smallest employment and blueberry work at -91.8% fell by the greatest employment for that same time period. The crop activity displaying the largest growth in employment from October 2002 to November 2002 was raspberry work 39.1%. The crop activities shrinking by the largest amount of employment for that same time period were cucumber work -100.0% and rhubarb work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2002 in Area 1 was \$7.48 per hour.

CROP	AREA 1 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Oct '02 - Nov '02</u>	<u>Nov '01 - Nov '02</u>
Blueberry	-92.4	-91.8
Bulb	-15.2	-36.8
Cucumber	-100.0	
Misc Vegetables	-85.0	-16.5
Nursery	-27.8	-35.9
Other Seasonal	-93.7	-85.3
Potato	-50.7	-28.4
Raspberry	39.1	-47.4
Rhubarb	-100.0	

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment gained 5.3% from November 2001 to November 2002. This contrasted with a downturn in employment of 80.6% from October 2002 to November 2002. The crop activity expanding by the greatest employment from November 2001 to November 2002 was other tree fruit work 255.6%. The crop activity contracting by the largest employment for that same time period was miscellaneous vegetable work -72.4%. The crop activity adding the most employment from October 2002 to November 2002 was cherry work 273.3%. The crop activity lagging behind by the most employment for that same time period was miscellaneous vegetable work -84.9%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2002 in Area 2 was \$7.50 per hour.

CROP	AREA 2 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Oct '02 - Nov '02</u>	<u>Nov '01 - Nov '02</u>
Apples	-84.0	7.2
Cherries	273.3	-17.7
Grapes	-67.7	11.7
Hop	-52.1	-37.8
Misc Vegetables	-84.9	-72.4
Other Seasonal	-61.4	120.5
Other Tree Fruit	-83.7	255.6
Pears	159.4	35.7

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment in November 2002 exceeded November 2001 by 32.3%. This contrasted with a loss of 78.9% in employment from October 2002 to November 2002. The crop activity posting the greatest gain in employment from November 2001 to November 2002 was other seasonal work 45.4%. The crop activity falling by the largest employment for that same time period was pear work -98.4%. No crop activity added jobs from October 2002 to November 2002. The crop activity losing the least amount of employment during that same time period was other seasonal work -37.7%. This was in contrast to cherry work at -100.0% employment loss. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2002 in Area 3 was \$7.31 per hour.

CROP	AREA 3 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Oct '02 - Nov '02</u>	<u>Nov '01 - Nov '02</u>
Apples	-78.9	41.9
Cherries	-100.0	
Other Seasonal	-37.7	45.4
Other Tree Fruit		-20.0
Pears	-98.2	-98.4

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment experienced a loss of 7.6% from November 2001 to November 2002. Over-the-month employment was down 69.4% from October 2002 to November 2002. The crop activity netting the greatest over-the-year gain in employment from November 2001 to November 2002 was miscellaneous vegetable work 133.3%. The crop activity posting the largest decline in employment during that same time period was wheat/grain work -89.5%. The crop activity advancing the most in employment from October 2002 to November 2002 was nursery work 603.7%. The crop activities contracting by the largest amount of employment were mint work and pear work, both at -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2002 in Area 4 was \$7.29 per hour.

CROP	AREA 4 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Oct '02 - Nov '02</u>	<u>Nov '01 - Nov '02</u>
Apples	-71.6	7.5
Mint	-100.0	
Misc Vegetables	14.3	133.3
Nursery	603.7	11.8
Onion	104.6	-40.1
Other Seasonal	-58.8	-18.1
Pears	-100.0	
Potato	-93.5	-39.1
Wheat/Grain	-80.0	-89.5

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment contracted by 23.2% in November 2002 from November 2001. November 2002 employment also lagged by 45.8% from October 2002. The crop activity posting the greatest increase in employment from November 2001 to November 2002 was grape work 116.4%. The crop activity scaling back by the largest employment during that same time period was cherry work -55.6%. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from October 2002 to November 2002 was wheat/grain work 209.5%. The crop activity exhibiting the weakest demand during that same time period was other tree fruit -83.3%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2002 in Area 5 was \$7.39 per hour.

CROP	AREA 5 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT PERCENT CHANGE	
	Oct '02 - Nov '02	Nov '01 - Nov '02
Apples	-48.8	-31.2
Cherries	33.3	-55.6
Grapes	-53.6	116.4
Hop		-11.8
Misc Vegetables	-13.3	8.6
Nursery	0.0	0.0
Onion	-51.9	105.4
Other Seasonal	52.7	-27.7
Other Tree Fruit	-83.3	10.0
Potato	-78.4	-32.0
Wheat/Grain	209.5	91.2

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment grew by 4.3% in November 2002 from November 2001. This contrasted with a downturn of 51.0% in seasonal employment in November 2002 over October 2002. The crop activity gaining the largest employment from November 2001 to November 2002 was wheat/grain work 84.6%. The crop activity showing the largest loss in employment during that same time period was nursery work -52.4%. No crop activities added workers from October 2002 to November 2002. The crop activity losing the fewest jobs for that same time period was nursery work -33.3%. The crop activity losing the greatest number of jobs during that same time period was wheat/grain work -56.4%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2002 in Area 6 was \$8.21 per hour.

CROP	AREA 6 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT PERCENT CHANGE	
	Oct '02 - Nov '02	Nov '01 - Nov '02
Nursery	-33.3	-52.4
Other Seasonal	-56.3	7.7
Wheat/Grain	-56.4	84.6

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Washington State Employment Security, Labor Market and Economic Analysis

FARM LABOR ABSTRACT NOVEMBER 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: 1,709 (1,489 local, 0 intrastate, 220 interstate)

Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	403	\$ 7.51/hr	
Raspberry Pruner	360	\$ 7.90/hr	or \$ 0.18 - \$ 0.22/plant
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	289	\$ 7.22/hr	
Raspberry Trainer	259	\$ 6.90/hr	

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,100 (2,842 local, 76 intrastate, 182 interstate)

Apple Harvester	663	\$ 6.90/hr	or \$12.00 - \$16.00/bin
Apple Pruner	567	\$ 7.15/hr	
Apple Irrigator	485	\$ 7.50/hr	
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	322	\$ 7.53/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,434 (2,410 local, 12 intrastate, 12 interstate)

Apple Harvester	1,434	\$ 8.00/hr	or \$10.00 - \$30.00/bin
Apple Pruner	569	\$ 6.93/hr	
Apple Worker	173	\$ 7.80/hr	
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	86	\$ 7.63/hr	

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,700 (2,541 local, 0 intrastate, 159 interstate)

Apple Harvester	1,403	\$ 7.88/hr	or \$10.00 - \$22.00/bin
Misc Onion/Sorter/Grader/Packer	325	\$ 7.03/hr	
Nursery Harvester	176	\$ 6.90/hr	
Apple Pruner	159	\$ 7.40/hr	

SOUTHEAST (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,065 (2,326 local, 2 intrastate, 1,737 interstate)

Apple Harvester	2,664	\$ 8.15/hr	or \$10.00 - \$22.00/bin
Chicken Eggs Worker	325	\$ 7.50/hr	
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	308	\$ 6.90/hr	
Grapes Worker	112	\$ 7.58/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 49 (44 local, 0 intrastate, 5 interstate)

Wheat Mechanized Harvester	24	\$ 8.50/hr	
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	12	\$ 7.00/hr	
Nursery Worker	6	\$ 7.63/hr	
Nursery Pruner	2	\$ 9.00/hr	