

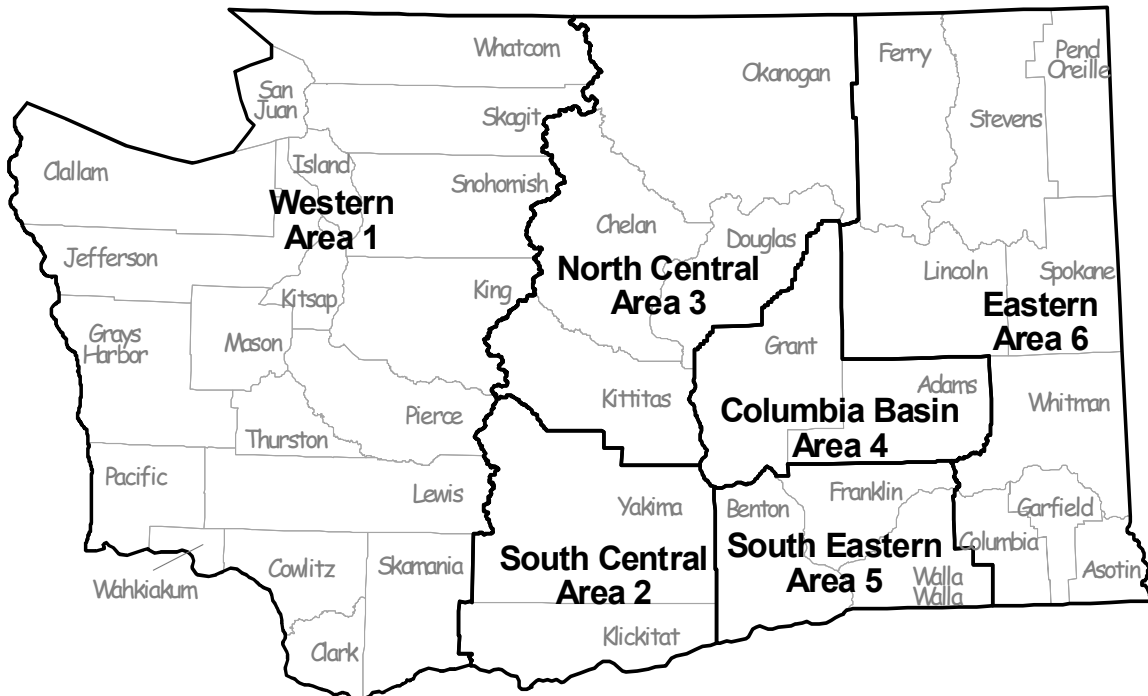


THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE REPORT

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OCTOBER 2002

Agricultural Reporting Areas in Washington State



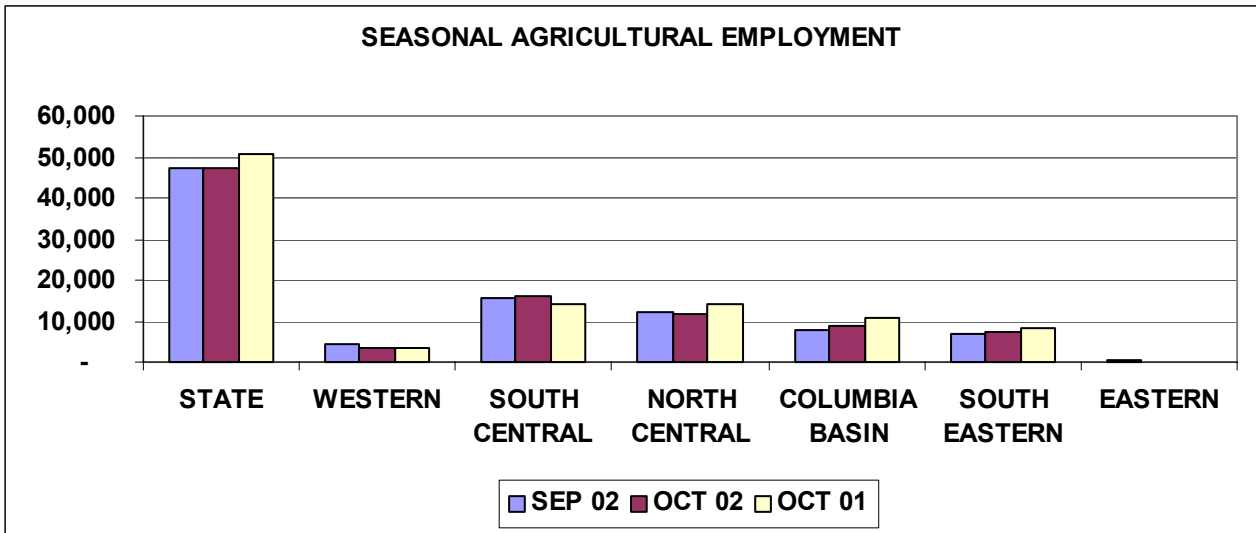
Counties Within Agricultural Reporting Areas

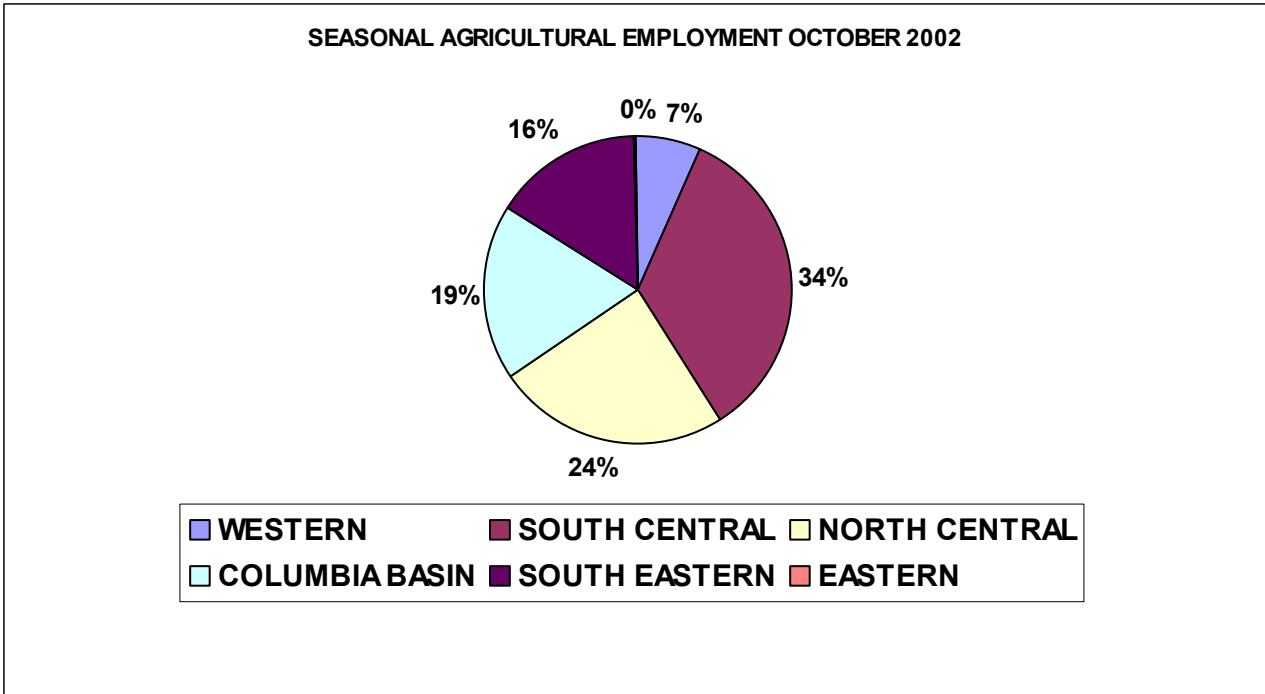
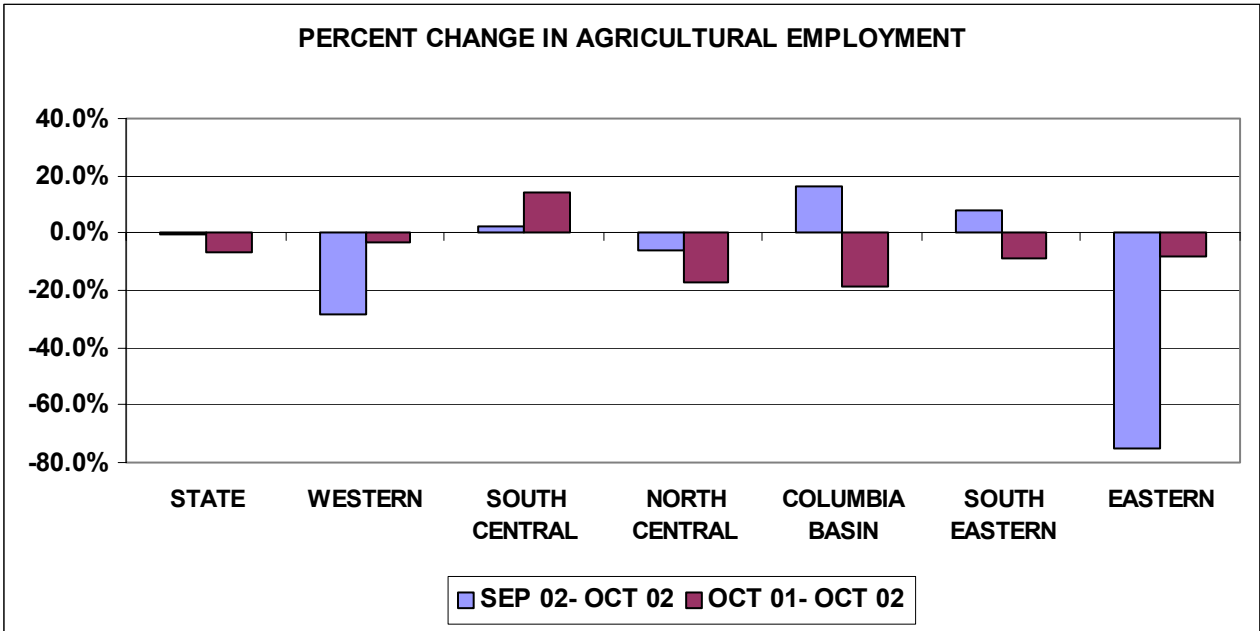
- Area 1** = Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom
- Area 2** = Klickitat, Yakima
- Area 3** = Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Okanogan
- Area 4** = Adams, Grant
- Area 5** = Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla
- Area 6** = Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

	OCT 02	SEP 02	OCT 01	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				SEP 02- OCT 02	OCT 01- OCT 02	SEP 02- OCT 02	OCT 01- OCT 02
STATE	47,207	47,390	50,559	(183)	(3,352)	-0.4%	-6.6%
WESTERN	3,289	4,592	3,388	(1,303)	(99)	-28.4%	-2.9%
SOUTH CENTRAL	15,940	15,601	13,983	339	1,957	2.2%	14.0%
NORTH CENTRAL	11,544	12,279	13,959	(735)	(2,415)	-6.0%	-17.3%
COLUMBIA BASIN	8,835	7,590	10,890	1,245	(2,055)	16.4%	-18.9%
SOUTH EASTERN	7,499	6,930	8,230	569	(731)	8.2%	-8.9%
EASTERN	100	398	109	(298)	(9)	-74.9%	-8.3%

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT





Statewide seasonal employment decreased 6.6% from October 2001 to October 2002. Similarly, seasonal employment also fell 0.4%, statewide, from September 2002 to October 2002. The crop activity adding the most workers from October 2001 to October 2002 was other tree fruit 394.3%. The crop activities losing the most employment during that same time period were asparagus work -100.0% and strawberry work -100.0%. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from September 2002 to October 2002 was cherry work 175.0%. The crop activities shedding the most jobs during that same time period were asparagus work -100.0% and strawberry work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2002, statewide, was \$7.54 per hour.

CROP	STATEWIDE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Sep '02 - Oct '02</u>	<u>Oct '01 - Oct '02</u>
Apples	25.8	-6.4
Asparagus	-100.0	-100.0
Blueberry	-69.3	-20.1
Bulb	8.7	-33.0
Cherries	175.0	-21.4
Cucumber	-79.3	360.0
Grapes	43.6	10.8
Hop	-95.2	-28.7
Misc Vegetables	-36.9	-7.5
Nursery	-27.7	-6.0
Onion	-54.8	-33.4
Other Seasonal	-47.3	-8.3
Other Tree Fruit	-80.4	394.3
Pears	-89.2	-14.4
Potato	74.4	-8.7
Raspberry	29.4	-15.2
Strawberry	-100.0	-100.0
Wheat/Grain	-58.9	21.1

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined 2.9% from October 2001 to October 2002. Seasonal employment also fell 28.4% from September 2002 to October 2002. The crop activity rising the most in employment from October 2001 to October 2002 was cucumber work 360.0%. The crop activity shrinking the most in employment for the same time period was strawberry work -100.0%. The crop activity posting the largest upturn in employment from September 2002 to October 2002 was other seasonal work 52.6%. The crop activity experiencing the largest downturn for that same time period was cucumber work -79.3%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2002 in Area 1 was \$7.51 per hour.

CROP	AREA 1 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Sep '02 - Oct '02</u>	<u>Oct '01 - Oct '02</u>
Blueberry	-69.3	-20.1
Bulb	8.7	-33.0
Cucumber	-79.3	360.0
Misc Vegetables	-34.0	-12.4
Nursery	-32.3	-9.0
Other Seasonal	52.6	-19.8
Potato	50.9	47.7
Raspberry	29.4	-15.2
Rhubarb	0.0	
Strawberry		-100.0

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment expanded by 14.0% from October 2001 to October 2002. Seasonal employment also expanded by 2.2% from September 2002 to October 2002. The crop activity showing the greatest increase from October 2001 to October 2002 was other tree fruit 444.4%. The crop activities experiencing the largest downturn during that same time period were asparagus work -100.0% and onion work -100.0%. The crop activity gaining the most employment from September 2002 to October 2002 was grape work 127.8%. The crop activities shedding the most jobs for that same time period were onion work -100.0% and potato work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2002 in Area 2 was \$7.37 per hour.

CROP	AREA 2 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Sep '02 - Oct '02</u>	<u>Oct '01 - Oct '02</u>
Apples	55.0	14.2
Asparagus		-100.0
Grapes	127.8	9.8
Hop	-95.0	-24.0
Misc Vegetables	-25.9	42.2
Onion	-100.0	-100.0
Other Seasonal	-26.9	5.7
Other Tree Fruit	-72.6	444.4
Pears	-94.2	11.8
Potato	-100.0	

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment exhibited an over-the-year net loss of 17.3% from October 2001 to October 2002. October 2002 employment also showed a decrease of 6.0% in employment from September 2002. The crop activity gaining the most employment from October 2001 to October 2002 was other seasonal work 108.1%. The crop activity shrinking the most in employment for the same time period was other tree fruit -100.0%. The crop activity adding the most employees from September 2002 to October 2002 was apple work 0.4%. The crop activity losing the most employees during that same time period was other tree fruit -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2002 in Area 3 was \$7.07 per hour.

CROP	AREA 3 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	Sep '02 - Oct '02	Oct '01 - Oct '02
Apples	0.4	-17.2
Other Seasonal	-21.4	108.1
Other Tree Fruit	-100.0	-100.0
Pears	-76.7	-36.2

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment fell off by 18.9% from October 2001 to October 2002. This contrasted with an increase of 16.4% in employment from September 2002 to October 2002. The crop activity displaying the greatest upturn in employment from October 2001 to October 2002 was pear work 207.7%. The crop activity having the largest downturn for the same time period was cherry work -100.0%. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from September 2002 to October 2002 was nursery work 440.0%. The crop activities contracting by the largest amount of employment for that same time period were asparagus work -100.0%, cherry work -100.0% and other tree fruit work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2002 in Area 4 was \$7.98 per hour.

CROP	AREA 4 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	Sep '02 - Oct '02	Oct '01 - Oct '02
Apples	16.3	-19.6
Asparagus	-100.0	
Cherries	-100.0	-100.0
Mint	-68.9	100.0
Misc Vegetables	2.1	96.0
Nursery	440.0	54.3
Onion	-70.3	-62.0
Other Seasonal	-4.6	-25.0
Other Tree Fruit	-100.0	
Pears	-83.4	207.7
Potato	110.0	-12.4
Wheat/Grain	-47.4	25.0

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment contracted by 8.9% in October 2002 from October 2001. However, October 2002 employment grew by 8.2% from September 2002. The crop activity rising the most in employment from October 2001 to October 2002 was onion work 250.8%. The crop activities posting the largest loss in employment for the same time period were asparagus work -100.0%, hop work -100.0% and strawberry work -100.0%. The crop activity adding the most employees from September 2002 to October 2002 was onion work 50.6%. The crop activities losing the largest number of employees during that same time period were hop work -100.0% and strawberry work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2002 in Area 5 was \$7.81 per hour.

CROP	AREA 5 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Sep '02 - Oct '02</u>	<u>Oct '01 - Oct '02</u>
Apples	43.0	-8.8
Asparagus		-100.0
Cherries	0.0	
Grapes	-5.5	12.3
Hop	-100.0	-100.0
Misc Vegetables	-48.9	-26.0
Nursery	-56.5	0.0
Onion	50.6	250.8
Other Seasonal	-67.3	-13.2
Other Tree Fruit	-76.0	
Potato	31.6	-32.2
Strawberry	-100.0	-100.0
Wheat/Grain	-63.8	-25.0

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment contracted by 8.3% in October 2002 from October 2001. This paralleled a similar downturn of 74.9% in seasonal employment in October 2002 over September 2002. The crop activity expanding by the largest amount of employment from October 2001 to October 2002 was wheat/grain work 57.1%. The crop contracting the most in employment for the same time period was other seasonal work -42.9%. The crop activity shedding the least number of workers from September 2002 to October 2002 was nursery work -25.0%. The crop activity scaling back by the greatest amount was other seasonal work -86.9%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2002 in Area 6 was \$9.26 per hour.

CROP	AREA 6 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Sep '02 - Oct '02</u>	<u>Oct '01 - Oct '02</u>
Nursery	-25.0	-16.7
Other Seasonal	-86.9	-42.9
Wheat/Grain	-58.3	57.1

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

FARM LABOR ABSTRACT
OCTOBER 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: 3,289 (2,547 local, 22 intrastate, 720 interstate)

Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	782	\$ 7.46/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	408	\$ 7.23/hr
Broccoli Harvester	296	\$ 8.00/hr
Raspberry Pruner	230	\$ 6.90/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 15,940 (13,265 local, 398 intrastate, 2,277 interstate)

Apple Harvester	12,715	\$ 7.23/hr	or \$10.00 - \$22.00/bin
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	623	\$ 7.24/hr	
Grapes Harvester	494	\$ 8.17/hr	
Apple Worker	384	\$ 7.11/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 11,544 (10,561 local, 408 intrastate, 575 interstate)

Apple Harvester	10,754	\$ 6.94/hr	or \$10.00 - \$25.00/bin
Apple Worker	270	\$ 8.45/hr	
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	129	\$ 7.71/hr	
Peach Harvester	105	\$ 7.00/hr	

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,835 (8,595 local, 9 intrastate, 231 interstate)

Apple Harvester	5,460	\$ 7.90/hr	or \$10.00 - \$23.00/bin
Potato Worker	812	\$ 7.50/hr	
Potato Vehicle Operator	577	\$ 9.50/hr	
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	383	\$ 7.17/hr	

SOUTHEAST (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 7,499 (6,638 local, 0 intrastate, 861 interstate)

Apple Harvester	5,302	\$ 7.74/hr	or \$10.00 - \$25.00/bin
Grapes Harvester	427	\$ 7.15/hr	or \$11.00 - \$45.00/bin
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	269	\$ 6.90/hr	
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	236	\$ 7.15/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 100 (87 local, 0 intrastate, 13 interstate)

Wheat Vehicle Operator	27	\$ 7.50/hr
Wheat Worker	14	\$ 9.00/hr
Beef Cattle Worker	14	\$13.00/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	14	\$ 8.50/hr