



**Washington State
Employment Security Department**

Labor Market and Economic Analysis



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Labor Market Information Center
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1-800-215-1617
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www.workforceexplorer.com

**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, and Whatcom
- Area 2 = Klickitat and Yakima
- Area 3 = Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Okanogan
- Area 4 = Adams and Grant
- Area 5 = Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla
- Area 6 = Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman

Agricultural Labor Employment and Wages

January 2010

Executive Summary

The statewide total agricultural employment increased by 22 percent from January 2009 to January 2010. The employment increase was mainly due to apple pruning.

- There were over-the-year increases in total employment in all six agricultural areas.

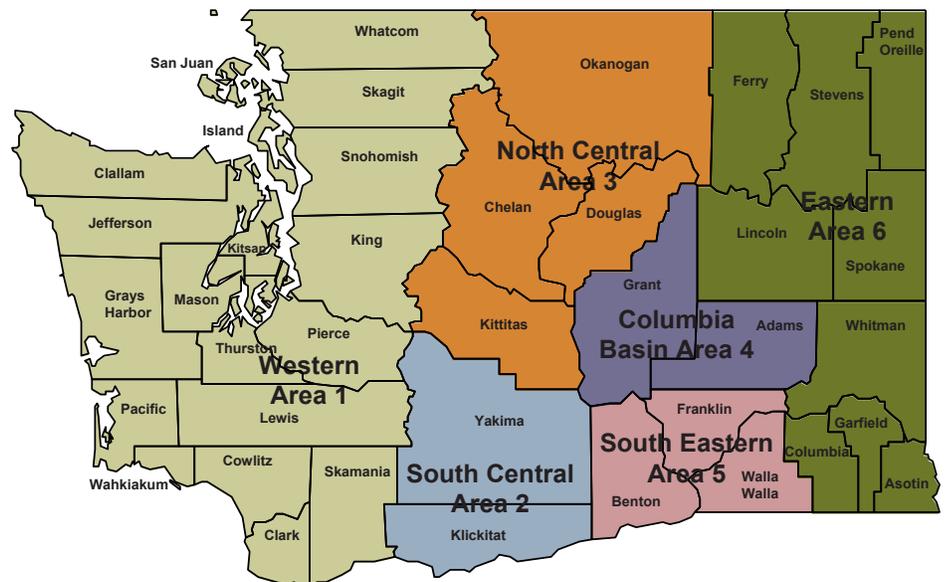


- North Central (Area 3) total employment increased by 5,760 and was the largest area increase.



- Eastern (Area 6) total employment had the smallest area increase of 30.

Agricultural Reporting Areas in Washington State





Statewide total agricultural employment increased by 22.0 percent from January 2009 to January 2010.



Total Agricultural Employment Summary

Statewide total agricultural employment increased by 22.0 percent from January 2009 to January 2010 due to the apple pruning. Over-the-month total employment increased 7.3 percent. Over the year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment increased by 5.2 percent. South Central (Area 2) total

employment increased by 17.4 percent. North Central (Area 3) total employment increased by 48.2 percent. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment increased by 13.9 percent. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment increased by 20.2 percent. Eastern (Area 6) total employment increased by 2.6 percent.

Seasonal Agricultural Employment Summary

Statewide seasonal agricultural employment increased by 47.4 percent from January 2009 to January 2010. Over-the-year increases in agricultural activities were:

- apple work (3,240),
- cherry work (1,170),
- pear work (1,150),
- raspberry work (600),
- onion work (520),
- other seasonal work (490),
- miscellaneous vegetables work (130), and
- grapes work (120).

Activities with decreases were blueberry work (-170) and nursery work (-400).

Across the state, Western area seasonal employment increased by 7.3 percent due to increases in other seasonal work (130). South Central seasonal employment increased by 38.2 percent due to an increase in pear work (770). North Central seasonal employment increased by 15.3 percent due to an increase in other pear work (600). Columbia Basin seasonal employment increased by 39.2 percent due to an increase in apple work (1,150). South Eastern seasonal employment increased by 155.4 percent due to an increase in apple work (1,950). Eastern seasonal employment increased by 84.6 percent.

Statewide and Regional Wage Trends

Statewide real (inflation-adjusted) agricultural seasonal employee wages increased by 9.0 percent from January 2008 to January 2010. Washington state real minimum wages increased 1.7 percent during this same time period. Statewide real agricultural seasonal employee wages increased by 6.2 percent from January 2009 to January 2010. The real state minimum wage increased by 0.7 percent during this same time period. Western (Area 1) real seasonal wages increased by 7.4 percent from January 2009 to January 2010. South Central (Area 2)

seasonal wages increased by 4.7 percent. North Central (Area 3) seasonal wages increased by 4.2 percent. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal wages increased by 4.5 percent. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal wages increased by 19.4 percent.

Statewide nominal agricultural seasonal employee wages increased by 13.6 percent from January 2008 to January 2010. Washington state nominal minimum wages increased by 5.9 percent during this same time period. Statewide nominal agricultural seasonal employee

wages increased by 7.2 percent from January 2009 to January 2010. The state minimum wage increased by 0.0 percent during this same time period. Western (Area 1) seasonal wages increased by 8.4 percent from January 2009 to January 2010. South Central (Area 2) seasonal wages increased by 5.6 percent. North Central (Area 3) seasonal wages increased by 5.0 percent. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal wages increased by 5.3 percent. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal wages increased by 20.5 percent.

Statewide and Regional Employment Trends

Statewide seasonal agricultural employment increased by 87.0 percent from January 2008 to January 2010. Statewide seasonal agricultural employment increased by 47.4 percent from January 2009 to January 2010. Western (Area 1) seasonal employment increased by 7.3 percent during the same time period. South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment in-

creased by 38.2 percent. North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment increased by 15.3 percent. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment increased by 39.2 percent. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment increased by 155.4 percent. Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment increased by 84.6 percent.

Labor Supply

The first question on the labor supply survey asks growers if they failed to complete some work due to lack of available seasonal labor. The second question asks growers how

many more employees they could have used. For January, 1,818 usable surveys were returned. The weighted percent of labor shortage employment reported was 0.3 percent.

[Link to Survey Methodology](#)



*In January, 1,818
usable labor
supply surveys
were returned.*



Agricultural Labor Report

Washington State Employment Security, Labor Market and Economic Analysis

Seasonal Labor Abstract

January 2010

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, and wages. Based on these data, estimates are developed on the size of the workforce and average wages for each crop activity. 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: 1,920

Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	440	\$ 8.55/hr
Blueberry Pruner	180	\$ 8.61/hr
Raspberry Worker	180	\$ 8.69/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	130	\$ 8.79/hr

South Central (Klickitat and Yakima counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,910

Apple Pruner	4,080	\$9.66/hr or \$ 0.12 - \$ 5.00 per tree
Pear Pruner	710	\$10.38/hr or \$ 1.75 - \$ 4.00 per tree
Grapes Pruner.....	540	\$10.47/hr
Cherry Worker.....	350	\$ 9.50/hr

North Central (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Okanogan counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,920

Apple Pruner	1,920	\$ 9.20/hr or \$ 0.50 - \$ 5.00 per tree
Pear Pruner.....	780	\$ 9.07/hr or \$ 3.00 - \$ 5.00 per tree
Cherry Pruner.....	770	\$ 9.25/hr or \$ 1.00 - \$ 5.00 per tree
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer.....	130	\$ 8.93/hr

Columbia Basin (Adams and Grant counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,410

Apple Pruner	2,370	\$ 9.09/hr or \$ 0.50 - \$ 3.00 per tree
Cherry Pruner.....	330	\$ 9.25/hr
Miscellaneous Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	150	\$ 8.69/hr
Pear Pruner.....	120	\$ 8.58/hr

South Eastern (Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,720

Apple Pruner	3,070	\$ 9.10/hr or \$ 1.00 - \$ 3.00 per tree
Cherry Pruner.....	720	\$ 9.01/hr
Grapes Pruner.....	520	\$ 9.10/hr
Miscellaneous Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	320	\$ 9.61/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 240

Wheat Worker	40	\$11.47/hr
Apple Pruner	40	\$ 8.88/hr
Pear Pruner	30	\$ 9.00/hr
Nursery & Tree Cultivator.....	30	\$12.00/hr

** Not published due to lack of statistical significance and/or to ensure employers' confidentiality.

**January 2010
Agricultural Farm Labor Report, Washington State**

Agricultural Reporting Area	Seasonal Area Total	Seasonal Area % of Total	Permanent Area Total	Permanent Area % of Total	Total Area Total	Total Area % of Total
1. Western	1,930	8.7%	6,580	14.2%	8,510	12.5%
2. South Central	6,750	30.5%	14,630	31.7%	21,380	31.3%
3. North Central	3,950	17.9%	13,760	29.8%	17,710	25.9%
4. Columbia Basin	3,450	15.6%	4,400	9.5%	7,850	11.5%
5. South Eastern	6,100	27.6%	5,580	12.1%	11,680	17.1%
6. Eastern	230	1.0%	970	2.1%	1,200	1.8%
State Totals	22,120	100.0%	46,210	100.0%	68,330	100.0%

Total Agricultural Employment

				Change		Percent Change	
	Jan 10-Prel.	Dec 09-Rev.	Jan 09-Rev.	Dec 09- Jan 10	Jan 09- Jan 10	Dec 09- Jan 10	Jan 09- Jan 10
State	68,330	63,660	56,030	4,670	12,300	7.3%	22.0%
Western	8,510	8,560	8,090	-50	420	-0.6%	5.2%
South Central	21,380	20,390	18,210	990	3,170	4.9%	17.4%
North Central	17,710	14,430	11,950	3,280	5,760	22.7%	48.2%
Columbia Basin	7,850	7,820	6,890	30	960	0.4%	13.9%
South Eastern	11,680	11,240	9,720	440	1,960	3.9%	20.2%
Eastern	1,200	1,220	1,170	-20	30	-1.6%	2.6%

Seasonal Agricultural Employment

				Change		Percent Change	
	Jan 10-Prel.	Dec 09-Rev.	Jan 09-Rev.	Dec 09- Jan 10	Jan 09- Jan 10	Dec 09- Jan 10	Jan 09- Jan 10
State	22,120	13,950	15,010	8,170	7,110	58.6%	47.4%
Western	1,920	2,010	1,790	-90	130	-4.5%	7.3%
South Central	6,910	3,860	5,000	3,050	1,910	79.0%	38.2%
North Central	3,920	3,760	3,400	160	520	4.3%	15.3%
Columbia Basin	3,410	2,550	2,450	860	960	33.7%	39.2%
South Eastern	5,720	1,680	2,240	4,040	3,480	240.5%	155.4%
Eastern	240	90	130	150	110	166.7%	84.6%

Due to increased sample size, over-the-month and over-the-year changes may not be comparable.

For more data and a sample of the Agricultural Labor Report survey, go to [January 2010 Agricultural Labor Employment and Wages Tables](#)

For historical, year-to-date employment, go to [2010 Year-to-Date Employment Tables](#)
at www.workforceexplorer.com

Agricultural Labor Report

Factors Affecting the Farm Labor Supply and Demand Situation

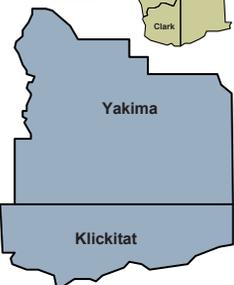
Crop, Market, and Weather Conditions by Area

Washington State, January 2010



Western (Area 1)

Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal during the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were raspberry warehouse work, blueberry pruning, and raspberry pruning.



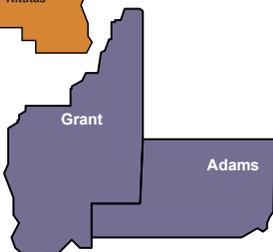
South Central (Area 2)

Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal during the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, pear pruning, and grapes pruning.



North Central (Area 3)

Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal during the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, pear pruning, cherry pruning, and apple warehouse work.



Columbia Basin (Area 4)

Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal during the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, cherry pruning, miscellaneous onion warehouse work and pear pruning.



South Eastern (Area 5)

Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal during the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, miscellaneous vegetables warehouse work, pear pruning, and grapes pruning.



Eastern (Area 6)

Seasonal employment did not meet the criterion of 500 seasonal employees and therefore is not published for the month of January.