

Washington State

Employment Security Department

Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch

Washington Agriculture 2000

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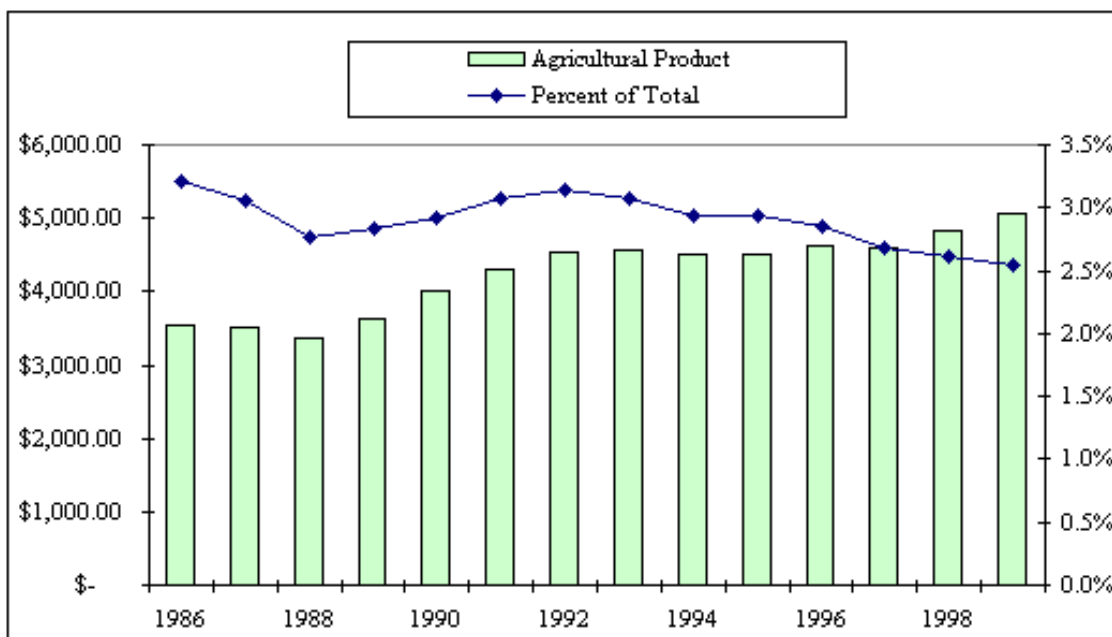
Introduction

Washington State encompasses a significant share of the nation's farm sector. Although the relative size and makeup of agriculture have changed dramatically over the last century, the farm sector remains an important part of the overall economy of the nation and the state. In 1929, agricultural production's share of U.S. gross domestic product was 9.2 percent. By 1999, this share had fallen to about 1.7 percent. For Washington State, the farm sector's share of gross state product fell from 3.2 percent in 1986 to 2.5 percent in 1999.

Figure 1

Farm Sector in Washington State: Share of Real Gross State Product, 1986-1999

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

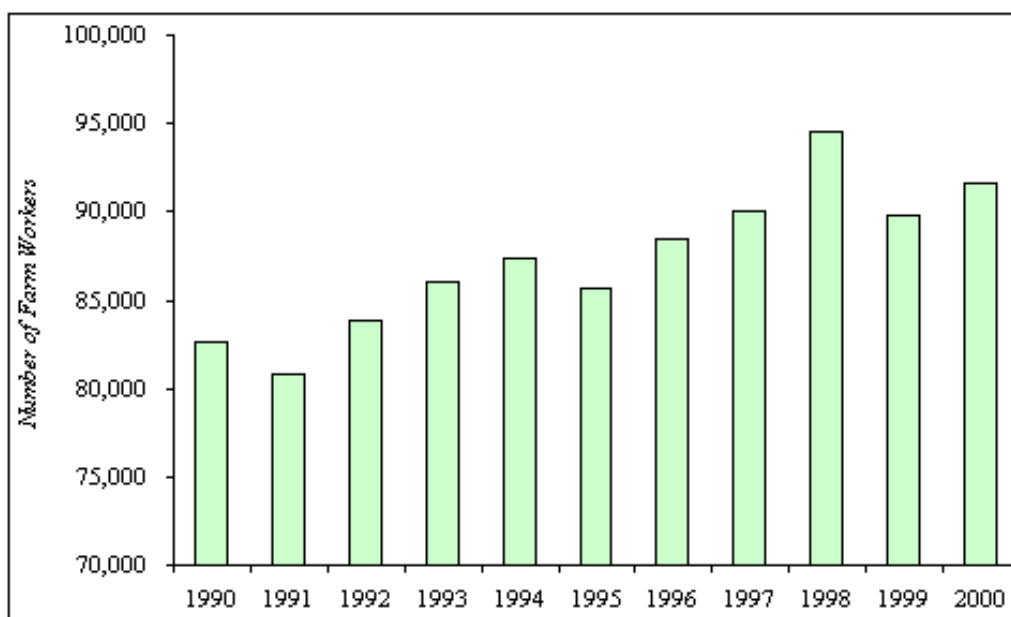


Agriculture remains a major industry in Washington State. In 2000, agriculture employed 91,593 people, more than were employed in aerospace—the state's largest manufacturing industry. In 2000, the state's farmers produced farm commodities valued at more than \$5.4 billion, 2.5 percent of all farm commodity sales nationwide. As much as one-third of the state's total value of agriculture production has been exported to foreign markets in the past.

Figure 2

Agricultural Employment in Washington State, 1990-2000

Source: Employment Security Department



A large share of the gross agricultural sales are recycled through the state's nonfarm economy as a result of farmers' purchases of manufactured inputs, labor, and services and their tax payments to various governmental units. Moreover, the economic value added by the many firms and industries that process and distribute the raw farm commodities worldwide is a significant multiple of the farm value of raw commodities.

Estimates for 2000 show that Washington had 15.7 million acres of farmland, which accounted for 37 percent of the state's total land area. The state's farmland is distributed among 40,000 farms. Farms vary widely in size, both within the state and the nation. In general, farms in Washington are roughly similar to the national average. The average farm in Washington encompasses 393 acres compared with 434 acres for the nation. Distribution of farms by gross sales of farm commodities is further evidence of the variation of farm size. About 17 percent of the farms in Washington State typically achieve \$100,000 or more in annual sales of farm commodities. These "commercial farms," with an average of 1,529 acres, account for just less than two-thirds of all the farmland in the state.

At the other end, 64 percent of the state's farms generate commodity sales of less than \$10,000 annually. Most of these farms, which average about 100 acres in size, are part-time or hobby farms. The most recent agricultural census (1997) indicated that an estimated 47 percent of farm operators in Washington had a principal occupation other than farming. This proportion of those that primarily earn their living off the farm is consistent with the number of small farms, which

are unlikely to sustain a livable income.

In between these ends lies a mix of commercial and part-time farms that average 360 acres in size and have annual sales of between \$10,000 and \$99,999. Some 19 percent of the state's farms and 17 percent of its land in farms fall within this latter category.

Importance of Agriculture to the Washington Economy

While agriculture is a mature industry, it is still growing in Washington State. Since 1990, total farm employment has increased by 8,950 workers, due largely to expanded acreage and production of the labor-intensive fruit tree growers.

The value of agricultural production in Washington has increased, for the most part, since 1970 to where agriculture is now a \$5.4 billion industry. The latest available data, however, show that after having reached \$5.88 billion in 1995, the value of production fell 2.9 percent (-\$169 million) in 1996, followed by a 3.1 percent decline (-\$183 million) in 1997, and a further 5.4 percent decline (-\$297 million) in 1998. However, since 1998, the value of Washington's agricultural output has risen by 3.1 percent. Basically, the 1995 expansion (which was exceptionally large because of substantial growth for a number of the state's major farm commodities) was followed by softness in overseas markets primarily in Asia, and weak prices due to increased supply.

Table 1

Value of Agricultural Production in Washington State, 1970-2000 (in thousands of current dollars)

Source: Washington Agricultural Statistics Service

Year	Field Crops	Fruits & Nuts	Vegetables	Seed Crops	Berry Crops	Total Crops	Specialty Products	Livestock & Products	State Total
1970	378,378	121,780	41,673	NA	NA	541,831	44,825	305,778	892,434
1971	422,854	115,013	45,562	NA	10,159	593,588	46,000	315,046	954,634
1972	534,548	162,486	49,983	20,278	11,863	779,158	49,599	348,901	1,177,658
1973	915,653	220,901	60,733	32,434	15,356	1,245,077	123,016	455,104	1,823,197
1974	1,068,376	239,328	83,711	31,021	12,951	1,435,387	122,699	447,605	2,005,691
1975	1,077,227	208,846	93,933	26,045	12,747	1,418,798	120,356	454,375	1,993,529
1976	920,547	283,467	90,295	30,320	14,988	1,339,617	108,776	483,460	1,931,853

Agriculture

1977	753,390	361,937	86,718	27,073	18,176	1,247,294	149,987	486,663	1,883,944
1978	961,421	417,810	103,679	35,325	20,840	1,539,075	141,595	602,144	2,282,814
1979	1,012,707	457,566	127,098	31,969	21,629	1,650,969	186,000	695,476	2,532,445
1980	1,432,130	369,823	115,898	41,795	17,185	1,976,831	160,400	815,129	2,952,360
1981	1,411,703	438,382	137,000	21,225	22,219	2,030,529	173,192	884,186	3,087,907
1982	1,356,088	388,978	144,915	NA	28,118	1,918,099	170,089	894,309	2,982,497
1983	1,482,916	501,516	138,770	NA	25,725	2,148,927	179,020	591,150	2,919,097
1984	1,508,748	461,494	149,682	NA	21,125	2,141,049	195,398	969,600	3,306,047
1985	1,229,633	490,021	155,947	25,195	27,369	1,928,165	215,693	885,151	3,029,009
1986	1,051,581	683,039	162,274	26,151	24,077	1,947,122	226,690	909,298	3,083,110
1987	987,515	555,487	171,064	35,618	31,106	1,780,790	274,326	948,730	3,003,846
1988	1,384,026	724,227	191,204	40,503	32,260	2,372,220	314,349	1,066,434	3,753,003
1989	1,380,363	732,004	219,615	31,792	36,129	2,399,903	374,958	1,151,560	3,926,421
1990	1,384,507	1,049,487	210,348	28,063	28,427	2,700,832	382,915	1,271,732	4,355,479
1991	1,308,033	1,191,123	240,150	24,058	33,269	2,796,633	375,747	1,234,966	4,407,346
1992	1,409,537	996,884	242,544	24,647	41,323	2,714,935	505,747	1,366,884	4,587,566
1993	1,710,278	1,014,647	285,169	30,069	44,882	3,085,045	577,919	1,413,019	5,075,983
1994	1,594,041	1,061,984	302,586	27,055	59,359	3,045,025	648,367	1,441,631	5,135,023
1995	2,095,094	1,351,311	317,143	26,086	53,159	3,842,793	640,724	1,396,058	5,879,575
1996	2,048,957	1,232,736	307,635	33,243	54,431	3,677,002	575,704	1,457,443	5,710,149
1997	1,832,616	1,235,716	357,558	37,070	50,182	3,513,142	569,731	1,443,985	5,526,858
1998	1,602,970	1,080,581	357,016	45,100	40,405	3,126,072	583,185	1,540,360	5,249,617
1999	1,531,646	1,241,789	299,306	42,100	66,401	3,181,242	587,962	1,551,686	5,320,890
2000	1,673,147	1,182,864	320,095	46,915	47,211	3,270,232	623,739	1,515,998	5,409,969

The wide variety of crops grown in Washington is second only to California. Wide diversity in the state's farm commodity basket generally results in gains in some commodities being offset by others.

In 2000, however, apples, milk, and potatoes—the state's first, second, and fifth ranked commodities in terms of value—all posted significant losses. Since 1996, the value of the state's apple crop fell by 23 percent (or \$245 million) and in the process, relinquishing its claim to being the state's only billion-dollar crop. The value fell over 11 percent between 1999 and 2000.

Washington State's agricultural output is important not only to the state's economy, but for the nation as well. In 1998, Washington ranked 9th among producing states in the sale of crops and 15th in the sale of all agricultural products. Washington is the leading producer of a cornucopia of crops including apples, pears, hops, lentils, spearmint oil, wrinkled seed peas, dry edible peas, processing carrots, processing sweet corn, red raspberries, grapes (Concord), and sweet cherries. The state also ranked high among all states in the production of other commodities including wheat (3rd), barley (4th), peppermint oil (2nd), fall potatoes (2nd), apricots (2nd), prunes (3rd), asparagus (2nd), processing green peas (2nd), and onions (3rd).

Table 2

Top Twenty Agricultural Commodities in Washington State, 1995-2000

(Based on Value of Production, Thousands of Current Dollars)

Source: Washington Agricultural Statistics Service

Note: Rankings based on 2000 value of production; * = not available.

								2000	
								Washington	Rank
2000								% of U.S.	Among
Rank									States
in State Commodity		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Production	States
1	Apples	1,017,800	912,700	821,400	700,000	856,000	760,200	55.4%	1
2	Milk	687,934	792,277	732,423	846,834	824,715	715,904	3.3%	9
3	Cattle & Calves	451,878	407,123	468,580	458,719	454,222	560,729	1.2%	29
4	Wheat, All	733,478	755,680	560,608	414,218	345,299	458,568	7.4%	3
5	Potatoes, Fall	553,823	451,203	431,984	447,480	476,000	446,250	22.5%	2
6	Hay	326,147	371,347	361,824	312,588	307,027	345,985	*	*
7	Nursery & Greenhouse	245,000	245,000	250,000	273,793	282,211	288,432	*	*
8	Forest Products, Farm	328,000	315,000	300,000	247,000	240,000	259,975	*	*
9	Sweet Cherries	106,519	118,940	132,694	128,801	115,860	154,725	46.0%	1

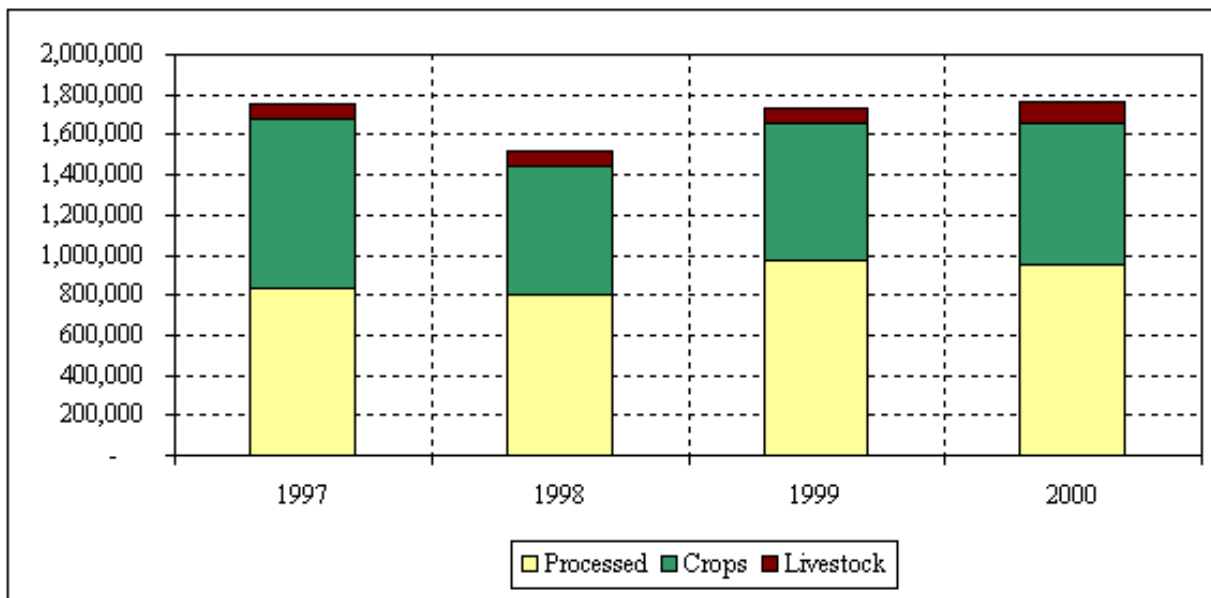
Agriculture									
10	Grapes, All	73,676	57,744	124,410	105,276	114,400	127,460	3.5%	2
11	Pears, All	114,081	125,768	123,670	107,886	121,204	115,995	42.0%	1
12	Hops	99,290	93,953	89,306	73,457	80,930	95,113	77.3%	1
13	Sweet Corn	69,221	57,584	61,905	65,752	64,103	70,261	26.8%	1
14	Barley				53,404	50,882	61,740	10.8%	
		59,299	72,019	80,630					4
15	Christmas Trees	42,000	45,000	45,000	48,000	50,000	60,025	*	*
16	Eggs	93,241	89,897	75,024	69,023	59,031	59,942	1.6%	18
17	Onions, All	45,940	60,479	99,569	84,255	51,795	58,940	11.9%	3
18	Asparagus	58,659	63,312	64,204	61,217	51,216	58,940	32.9%	2
19	Corn for Grain	64,923	69,930	54,150	46,550	41,940	40,755	*	*
20	Mint Oil	50,688	54,413	53,066	54,501	37,236	34,147	*	*

Washington is a major exporter of agricultural commodities. The Washington State Agricultural Statistics Service—estimated that the value of agricultural commodities grown in Washington State and exported to foreign countries amounted to \$1.64 billion in 2000. This represented about 30 percent of the total value of farm commodities grown in the state. The value of exported Washington State processed foods (e.g., frozen french fries, apple juice, powdered milk, wines) was even greater at \$1.33 billion. The export of raw and processed farm products together with related trade and transportation margins combined for a total of \$2.97 billion, directly creating 21,000 jobs in agriculture and food processing. An additional 3,000 workers were employed in the transportation services and trade sectors to deliver these products to foreign destinations. These raw and processed food exports, in turn bring money into the state economy and create additional jobs indirectly through a re-spending (multiplier) process. The total number of jobs—direct and indirect—created by the export of state-grown and produced farm products totaled 90,000 jobs in 1995.

Figure 3

Washington State Food and Agriculture Exports, 1997-2000

Source: Massachusetts Institute of Social and Economic Research



Employment on the Washington Farm

Agriculture is a major source of jobs in Washington State, providing employment for an annual average of 89,831 workers in 2000. Among goods-producing industries it ranked third in employment, behind aerospace and contract construction. Total employment in agriculture includes seasonal workers (i.e., those who work less than 150 days on any one farm), regular hired workers, unpaid family workers, and farm operators. Agricultural employment has had it ups and downs since 1995. It grew until 1998 as farmers rebounded for three years from unfavorable weather conditions. A number of factors contribute to these that lowered total farm workers in 1995.

Of the 85,820 agricultural workers in 2000, more than four-fifths (nearly 68,400) were located east of the Cascade Mountains. Western Washington counties had just over 17,420 farm workers, which was less than one percent of all jobs in the region.

In terms of farm employment, the state's leading agricultural region is the South Central area, containing Yakima and Klickitat counties. This region accounted for more than 21,810 agricultural jobs in 2000, about one-fourth of all farm jobs in the state. Compared with western Washington, agriculture accounted for one-fifth of all jobs in the South Central area. The region grows a wide variety of high-value crops including apples, cherries, other tree fruits, grapes, asparagus, hops, and miscellaneous vegetables. The region produces a diversity of livestock and products. Dairies, in particular, are a growing agricultural sector in the South Central area. In addition, many of the nonfarm jobs in the area are dependent on agriculture. Food processing was the largest manufacturing industry and fruit and vegetable packinghouses dominate the local wholesale and retail trade sector.

Table 3

Total Employment, Agricultural Employment and Percent Agricultural Employment:

Washington State and Selected Agricultural Areas, 2000

**Source: Employment
Security Department**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Area</i>	<i>Employment</i>	<i>Employment</i>	<i>Employment</i>
<i>STATE TOTAL</i>	2,887,500	85,820	3.0%
Western Washington	2,293,250	17,420	0.8%
Eastern Washington	594,300	68,400	11.5%
<i>STATE AGRICULTURAL AREA</i>			
Columbia Basin	40,800	10,410	25.5%
Adams County	7,420	2,440	32.9%
Grant County	33,380	7,970	23.9%
North Central	81,670	16,710	20.5%
Chelan & Douglas Counties	49,070	10,660	21.7%
Kittitas County	14,020	1,160	8.3%
Okanogan County	18,580	4,890	26.3%
South Central	105,000	21,810	20.8%
Klickitat County	7,800	1,120	14.4%
Yakima County	97,200	20,680	21.3%
South Eastern	111,790	13,730	12.3%
Benton & Franklin Counties	87,700	10,700	12.2%

Walla Walla County	24,090	3,030	12.6%
Eastern	255,040	5,740	2.3%
Lincoln County	4,330	1,060	24.4%
Spokane County	196,900	1,370	0.7%
Whitman County	19,050	1,560	8.2%
Other Eastern Counties	34,760	1,750	5.0%

Note: Total employment and agricultural employment have been adjusted to eliminate the effect of dual job holding.

Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

The North Central region—containing Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Okanogan counties—is the next largest agricultural employer in the state with a 1998 average of nearly 19,500 farm workers. The average employment declined to 16,710 in 2000. Besides being a major producer of beef cattle, the region's largest agricultural sector is tree fruits—principally apples, cherries, and pears. The South Eastern (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties) and Columbia Basin (Adams and Grant) regions are also highly diversified agricultural areas with tree fruits, potatoes, grapes, asparagus, hops, onions, and wheat.

Agricultural employment in the Eastern region—composed of nine counties extending from the Canadian border to Oregon and east to Idaho—totaled just over 6,000 farm workers in 1998. The number was an average of 5,740 in 2000. Although farm workers account for only 2.3 percent of the total regional employment, the area accounts for over one-half of the state's wheat production. Wheat is the state's second largest farm commodity (in terms of value of production) and the largest agricultural export.

While a relatively small proportion of all jobs, agriculture is important in many areas of western Washington. Skagit and Whatcom counties have more farm workers than Lincoln, Spokane, Adams, and Walla Walla counties in Eastern Washington. Nearly two-thirds of the state's total milk production came from dairies located in Western Washington. This milk production actually sent up from 1999 to 2000, reflecting the expansion of the Washington dairy industry as well as the movement of its milk production to Eastern Washington. Expansion of urban growth in Western Washington pushed milk production to Eastern Washington. Western Washington farmers lead the state in the production of eggs and broilers. Sizable numbers of seasonal workers were employed in such western Washington crops as nurseries, raspberries and other berries, and miscellaneous vegetables.

Seasonal Workers and Agricultural Commodities

Several of the state's major agricultural commodities require large numbers of seasonal workers for limited periods of time. (Seasonal farm workers are defined as those who are employed for less than 150 days in agriculture.) The availability of these workers, however, is not ensured. Seasonal jobs do not provide all the funds needed to support these workers or their families, so their job attachment is weaker than that of individuals who work in year-around jobs. Many seasonal workers live in other states or in Mexico, and while they have arrived each year in time for the critical harvest period, growers always have some doubt as to whether there will be an adequate number in the current year. Changing immigration policies add to the uncertainty, especially with the recent increases in border patrol personnel and proposals to develop an identification card that cannot be counterfeited.

Among the top twenty farm commodities in terms of value of production, eight were major employers of seasonal farm workers--apples, potatoes, nursery products, pears, sweet cherries, hops, grapes and asparagus. Other major agricultural commodity producers employed far fewer seasonal workers because they required more year-round workers (e.g., dairies and cattle-calves), or they were highly mechanized (e.g., wheat and hay).

Although some farm commodities do not require large numbers of workers directly, they indirectly create thousands of jobs in other businesses such as food processing, farm supply-equipment dealers, transportation, wholesalers, export houses, banking, insurance, veterinary and other agricultural services, and government. Wheat growers, for example, directly employed an average of less than 2,000 workers in 1997, but a study by Washington State University economists estimated that the wheat industry directly and indirectly supported more than 19,000 jobs in the state.

Table 4.

Hired Agricultural Workers in Washington State, 1990, 1995 and 1997

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department

	<i>Annual Averages*</i>		<i>% Change</i>	
	<i>1990</i>	<i>1995</i>		<i>20001990-2000</i>
<i>Agriculture Sector</i>				
TOTAL**	65,390	67,070	69,265	5.9%
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION-- CROPS	54,263	55,042	54,696	0.8%
Wheat, Corn & Other Cash Grains	2,692	2,214	2,053	-23.7%
Irish Potatoes	1,963	1,678	1,684	-14.2%
Field Crops, except Cash Grains	3,723	4,129	3,681	-1.1%

Agriculture

Vegetables & Melons	4,832	3,532	3,159	-34.6%
Berry Crops	1,928	1,854	2,058	6.7%
Grapes	1,374	1,445	2,103	53.1%
Deciduous Tree Fruits	30,966	32,008	31,038	0.2
Ornamental Floriculture/Nursery Products	4,084	4,626	5,184	26.9%
General Farms & Other	2,701	3,555	3,114	15.3%
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION-- LIVESTOCK	5,589	5,539	5,793	3.7%
Dairy Farms	3,207	3,342	3,533	10.2%
Agricultural Services**	5,538	6,489	8,776	58.5%

Notes: *Covered agricultural employment includes nearly all hired workers. Major exceptions are school youth, certain family members, and most corporate officers.

**Excludes SIC 074, 075, and 078 (veterinary, landscape, lawn-garden and tree services).

Hours and Earnings in Washington Agriculture

Annual earnings of hired agricultural workers in Washington State averaged \$17,739 in 2000, less than one-half of the \$38,818 average of all workers covered by the Employment Security Act and Federal civilian employees in the state. (Covered employment represents about 85 percent of total employment. The largest group of workers not covered is the self employed which includes many farm operators.) The average for farm workers was low because most farm workers do not work the entire year. Many are seasonal workers who may work only during harvest periods. Working hours of seasonal farm employees depend upon the needs of the crop activity, which are generally erratic due to changing weather conditions. Even during harvest periods, seasonal farm workers frequently do not work full days, much less full weeks or months.

Average annual earnings also vary widely among agricultural sectors. Farm sectors that have the highest averages have more stable employment, require more workers with specific skills or are mainly located in western Washington where there is more competition from higher paying nonfarm industries. Dairy workers were the highest paid farm workers in 2000, averaging \$21,572 for the year. Unlike most other agricultural industries, dairies operate year-round requiring workers seven days a week to milk cows regardless of weather conditions. Consequently most dairy workers are employed all year and work standard 40-hour workweeks. Workers employed by potato growers earned an average of \$20,591. Potato planting, cultivating, and harvesting are highly mechanized, and their relatively high earnings reflect the pay needed

to attract workers who have the ability to operate and maintain the equipment.

The general farm and other classification had the next highest earnings average of \$19,587. This group includes crops grown under cover, which consists mainly of mushroom farms. Like dairies, mushroom farming is a year-around operation and most of its workers are employed for standard workweeks.

The lowest average annual earnings in agriculture occur in crops, which have exceptionally high labor requirements during relatively short harvest periods. Most of these workers are paid on a “piece-rate” basis and affected by erratic weather conditions. Workers in berry crops had the lowest earnings with \$10,763 in 2000. Earnings in deciduous tree fruits (e.g., apples, cherries, apricots, pears) were low for similar reasons.

Table 5

Average Annual Earnings of Agricultural Workers in Washington, 2000

Source: Washington Employment Security Department

Industry	Annual Average
ALL COVERED & FEDERAL CIVILIAN WORKERS	\$38,818
ALL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS	\$17,739
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION--CROPS	\$14,552
Wheat, Corn & Other Cash Grains	\$16,994
Irish Potatoes	\$20,591
Field Crops, except Cash Grains	\$18,113
Vegetables & Melons	\$14,735
Berry Crops	\$10,763
Grapes	\$14,274
Deciduous Tree Fruits	\$12,564

Ornamental Floriculture/Nursery Products \$19,292

General Farms & Other \$19,587

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION--LIVESTOCK \$21,105

Dairy Farms \$21,572

Agricultural Services** \$15,327

Notes: *Covered agricultural employment includes nearly all hired workers. Major exceptions are school youth, certain family members, and most corporate officers.

**Excludes SIC 074, 075, and 078 (veterinary, landscape, lawn-garden and tree services).

Table 6

Occupational Profile of Agricultural Industry Workers in Washington, 1998 and 2008

Source: Washington Employment Security Department

<i>Agriculture, Sic 01/02</i>	<i>Estimated 1998</i>		<i>Projected 2008</i>	
	<i>Percent of</i>		<i>Percent of</i>	
	<i>Estimated</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Projected</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Employment</i>	<i>Employment</i>	<i>Employment</i>	<i>Employment</i>
Managerial & Administrative	1,776	9.0%	1,672	9.0%
Professional, Paraprofessional & Technical	40	0.2%	39	0.2%
Sales & Related Occupations	619	3.1%	583	3.1%
Clerical & Administrative Support	1,731	8.8%	1,648	8.9%
Service Occupations	68	0.3%	66	0.4%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	11,197	56.7%	10,554	56.7%
Production, Operating & Maintenance	1,182	6.0%	1,124	6.0%
Operators, Helpers & Laborers	1,927	9.8%	1,824	9.8%

Undefined Occupations	1,198	6.1%	1,098	5.9%
TOTAL	19,738	100.0%	18,608	100.0%

Outlook for Washington Agriculture

Weak export growth and later recovery is projected for the U.S. farm sector from 1999 to 2008 (US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service). By 2008, U.S. agricultural exports will increase, but not the \$73 billion that was projected by US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. The reason is that the projected recoveries in the Far East and other major export markets failed to materialize. In fact China has been a major exporter of apples to the United States, even Washington State. Domestic demand for most crops is projected to grow slightly faster than population. Although livestock producers will continue to undergo adjustments over the next few years, the outlook points to positive producer returns.

Large crops and stagnant export demand over the last five years (1997-00) have caused stocks to rise steadily, driving prices down for most commodities. Because of the diversity and interdependence of different players in U.S. agriculture, it is rare that an outlook scenario suggests that producers of both crops and livestock are well off. (Typically, for example, if grain prices are projected to increase—a favorable outlook for grain producers, livestock producers are likely to be hurt.) Four principal factors are behind this generally pessimistic forecast, namely world economic recovery has not happened. There was a decline in export demand; domestic policy and programs have worked a cross purposes; trade agreements and trade policy reforms in other countries have not produced many positive results for Washington State Agriculture; and continued, albeit small, structural decline in U.S. agriculture.

Continued consolidation and structural changes within Washington agriculture have resulted from a number of factors. Increased foreign competition, economic doldrums in key export markets, consolidation in retail and wholesale channels have depressed prices for a number of major agriculture commodities. As a result, agricultural producers and dependent rural communities have been impacted throughout Washington.

The economic recovery in many East Asian nations has not materialized, except China. Expanding Chinese agricultural exports does not bode well for agricultural export prospects and prices. For a number of Washington State commodities, the value of production has been very volatile from 1995 through 2000. The total value Washington Agricultural commodities ranged from \$4,624,289 in 1995 to \$4,414,861 in 2000. A slight decline in receipts is likely in 2002 based on a number of market forces. But significant improvement in overall Agriculture sector performance in both the U.S. and Washington is at least another two or three years away.