

Yakima County profile

By Donald W. Meseck, regional labor economist
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[Overview](#) | [Geographic facts](#) | [Outlook](#) | [Labor force and unemployment](#) | [Industry employment](#) | [Wages and income](#) | [Population](#) | [Useful links](#)



Overview

Regional context

Yakima County is in south central Washington state among seven neighboring counties. The geography varies from densely timbered, mountainous terrain in the west, rolling foothills, broad valleys and arid regions to the east and fertile valleys in its central and southern parts. Agriculture has been the staple of the economy over the last 100 years.

According to the Yakima County Economic Profile published by the Yakima County Development Association's New Vision office, Yakima is the second largest county in Washington state at 2.75 million acres. Three entities own 63.4 percent of this total:

- The Yakama Nation (1,074,174 acres)
- The U.S. Forest Service (503,726 acres)
- The Yakima Training Center (165,787 acres)

Yakima County was separated from Kittitas County in 1883. Yakima County's development was shaped largely by the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Yakima River. Most of the county's population is concentrated along this river, largely because irrigation was critical to the success of the communities and the farmers who settled in this area.

The Washington Legislature passed the State Fair Act in 1893 and designated North Yakima in Yakima County as the site for an annual State Agricultural Fair. Some say it was a consolation prize for Yakima, which lost its bid to Olympia to be named the state capital.

Local economy

Yakima settlers developed the land into a commercial agricultural enterprise in the 1880s. With irrigation and railroads, commercial fruit production flourished. Yakima established wine grape vineyards in 1869 and hops acreage in 1872, which remain major parts of its agricultural industry today. Forestry and livestock, dairies and the growing storage and shipping/processing of deciduous tree fruits (apples, cherries, pears, etc.), are bedrocks of Yakima County's economy.

In terms of jobs provided, agriculture is certainly the "big kid on the block" in Yakima County. The two other local industries in second and third place in terms of employment are health services and local government. Specifically, on an average annual basis in 2019, agricultural employers provided 31,638 jobs, or 27.3 percent of total covered employment countywide. Health services provided 16,700 jobs, or 14.4 percent; and local government averaged 14,032 jobs, or 12.1 percent of total employment. Hence, these three industries/sectors accounted for well over half (specifically 53.8 percent) of total covered employment (115,904 jobs) in the county in 2019.

Geographic facts

	Yakima County	Washington state
Land area, 2010 (square miles)	4,295.4	66,455.5
People per square mile, 2010	56.6	101.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

Outlook

If we take a relatively long-term view of average annual job growth in Yakima County during the past ten years (2009 to 2019), a “slower than the state” nonfarm job-growth trend is apparent. In fact, the local labor market’s average annual nonfarm growth pace never equaled or exceeded average annual job growth rates statewide during the recovery period from 2011 through 2019. However, during the dismal economic years of the 2007 to 2009 national recession (which hit Yakima County primarily in 2009 and 2010), nonfarm job-loss rates in Yakima County were not as severe as those experienced statewide. In 2009, Washington’s economy lost 4.4 percent of its nonfarm jobs while Yakima County’s labor economy shrank by 1.7 percent. In 2010, Washington’s nonfarm market still retrenched by -0.9 percent, while the county’s economy dipped at a more modest -0.4 percent. Why? The main reason is that the agricultural industry exerts a moderating effect on Yakima County’s labor market. In bad economic years the local economy does not lose jobs as rapidly as Washington, but in good years the County does not add jobs as robustly as the state.

The Yakima County economy added approximately 200 nonfarm jobs between 2018 (86,800 jobs) and 2019 (87,000 jobs), a modest average annual increase of 0.3 percent. However, negative effects of COVID-19-related layoffs on the statewide and local economies became apparent starting in April 2020. According to preliminary Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates, nonfarm employment job-loss rates in Yakima County registered -12.9 percent between April 2019 and April 2020. However, job-loss rates decelerated to -5.2 percent between September 2019 and September 2020 as the labor economy shed 4,600 nonfarm jobs, dropping from 88,400 jobs to 83,800. The bottom line: although the county’s economy has lost jobs for six consecutive months (April through September 2020), job-loss rates have generally decelerated - a trend also occurring across Washington. (Please note that September 2020 CES estimates were the most current data available at the time for this report.)

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program enables our agency to provide county-level, Civilian Labor Force (CLF) and monthly unemployment rates. LAUS data, current as of September 2020, show that Yakima County’s CLF increased 2.6 percent between 2018 (129,078 residents) and 2019 (132,466 residents), a growth pace comparable to Washington’s 2.8 percent labor force growth rate in 2019. Moving forward, between September 2019 and September 2020, the county’s CLF expanded 1.0 percent with 1,400 more residents entering the labor force. Unfortunately, the number of unemployed jumped by 64.7 percent during this period, as 3,969 more residents were out of work in September 2020 than in September 2019. This jump in the number of unemployed was the main reason that Yakima County’s unemployment rate rose two and eight-tenths percentage points between September 2019 (4.4 percent) and September 2020 (7.2 percent).

The CES and LAUS estimates up through September 2020 (see above) indicate a slowing of the Yakima County labor market starting in April 2020. How long this economic downturn will last is uncertain. Much depends on how soon the COVID-19 virus can be contained and/or eradicated. This makes preparing an outlook during these COVID-19 times is difficult. Nevertheless, official

long-term, (i.e., ten-year) industry employment projections produced by the Employment Security Department are for a 1.1 percent average annual nonfarm growth rate from 2017 to 2027 for the four-county (Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania and Yakima) South Central Workforce Development Area (WDA), and for a 1.5 percent growth rate for Washington state.

Labor force and unemployment

Current labor force and unemployment statistics are available on the [Labor area summaries](#) page on ESD's labor market information website.

Before the last recession in 2007 and 2008, average annual unemployment rates in Yakima County were in the 7.0 percent range. Specifically, the rate averaged 7.0 percent in 2007 and 7.3 percent in 2008. During the recession however, unemployment rates in Yakima County increased to 9.0 percent in 2009 and to 10.6 percent in 2010 before peaking at 10.7 percent in 2011. From 2011 through 2018 the average annual unemployment rate in Yakima County decreased. In fact, the 6.5 percent rate for calendar year 2018 is the lowest reading since our agency began compiling data electronically in 1990. However, between 2018 and 2019:

- Yakima County's not seasonally adjusted rate moved upwards five-tenths of a point, from 6.5 percent in 2018 to 7.0 percent in 2019. Conversely, Washington's unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of a point (from 4.5 percent in 2018 to 4.3 percent in 2018) – a historically low reading for the Evergreen State (i.e., the lowest average annual not seasonally adjusted rate since our agency began compiling data electronically in 1990).
- The average number of unemployed increased from 8,401 to 9,281 (up 10.5 percent), equating to 880 more residents out of work in the county during 2019. Simultaneously, the CLF in Yakima County rose by 3,388, from 129,078 to 132,466 residents, a 2.6 percent increase. This modest 2.6 percent rise in the number of residents entering the local labor force was insufficient to counter the more dramatic 10.5 percent upturn in the number of unemployed residents – hence, the rise in the local unemployment rate in 2019.

Yakima County's CLF expanded, year over year, for 32 months (October 2017 through May 2020), contracted in June, July, and August 2020, but then rose by 1.0 percent in September 2020.

When evaluating recent current labor force trends at the county level, it is also helpful to look at the bigger picture (i.e., what's going on in Washington state). The state's labor force expanded year over year for 76 months (February 2014 through May 2020). However, COVID-19-related work issues “put the damper on” this relatively long period of labor force expansion. Washington's CLF contracted by -0.3 percent in June 2020, expanded by 1.1 percent in July 2020, and by 0.8 percent in August 2020. In September 2019, Washington's CLF tallied only 3,906,624 residents versus 3,937,562 in September 2018, equating to 30,938 fewer Washingtonians in the labor force (down 0.8 percent).

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA

Industry employment

Current industry employment statistics are available on the [Labor area summaries](#) page.

The analysis in the first part of this section is derived primarily from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey sample and Washington Quarterly Benchmarked (WA-QB) data. Advantages of these data are that each month Employment Security Department (ESD) economists estimate job

gains and losses based on the survey of employers (CES). The next month, these estimates are replaced with revised estimates. Then, at the end of each quarter, economists revise these estimates based on actual numbers from employer tax records (QCEW). The process that replaces employment estimates with the actual number of job gains or losses is called benchmarking. While ESD benchmarks our data quarterly, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) benchmarks its data once a year. However, a limitation of WA-QB estimates is that they are nonfarm related (i.e., agricultural employment figures are not included).

The analysis in the second part of this section are derived from the BLS' QCEW program, conducted by ESD. Although it takes a little longer to acquire QCEW data (than WA-QB data), the economic information provided is broader and more detailed than that provided by WA-QB. First, QCEW includes employment, wage and size of firm figures for the agricultural sector, which WA-QB does not include. Second, QCEW data provide employment, wage and size of firm figures for businesses and government organizations in Yakima County down to the 3-digit NAICS sub-sector level (i.e., more detail than WA-QB). QCEW data include agricultural and nonagricultural employment and wages for firms, organizations and individuals whose employees are covered by the Washington State Employment Security Act. Also included are data for federal government agencies covered by Title 5, U.S.C. 85. Covered employment generally exceeds 85 percent of total employment in the state of Washington.

Types of jobs not covered under the unemployment compensation system, and hence not included in QCEW data, include:

- Casual laborers not performing duties in the course of the employer's trade or business
- Railroad personnel
- Newspaper delivery people
- Insurance or real estate agents paid on a commission basis only
- Non-covered employees working for parochial schools, religious or non-profit organizations
- Employees of sheltered workshops
- Inmates working in penal institutions
- Non-covered corporate officers, etc.

Analysis using CES Washington Quarterly Benchmarked (WA-QB) data:

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) announced that a national recession occurred from December 2007 through June 2009. However, the effects of the recession hit Yakima County's nonfarm labor market heavily in 2009, 2010 and again in 2012 with employment low points or "valleys" occurring in 2010 and in 2012 when nonfarm employment countywide averaged just 78,400 (in both years). Please note that nonfarm employment data do not count agricultural jobs. Nonfarm figures are derived from CES sample-based estimates and from WA-QB data.

The "pre-recession" peak for nonfarm employment was in 2008 when the local economy provided 80,100 jobs. Then the recession hit, and it took seven years (until 2015) for Yakima County to surpass the 80,100 job level of 2008. By 2015, nonfarm employment averaged 81,700 jobs. Hence, this recession hit Yakima County's "nonfarm" market harder than the total "covered" employment market (which includes agricultural jobs). In fact, it took only three years (from 2009 to 2011, inclusive) for total covered employment to bounce back to its pre-recession peak.

Following is a summary of average annual nonfarm job changes in the last three completed years (2017 to 2019, inclusive):

- In 2017 – The Yakima County economy netted 1,700 more nonfarm jobs as employment rose to an average of 85,000 (up 2.0 percent). Three Yakima County industries accounted for well over 80 percent of total nonfarm job growth in 2017: healthcare and social assistance (up 600), food services (up 300) and local government (up 500). Washington’s nonfarm market expanded at a slightly faster 2.4 percent clip in 2017.
- In 2018 – The local economy netted 1,800 more nonfarm jobs in 2018 than in 2017. Total nonfarm employment rose to an average of 86,800 (up 2.2 percent). Yakima County’s healthcare and social assistance and food services each added 400 new jobs during 2018. Construction, retail trade, and leisure and hospitality each lengthened payroll by 300. Washington’s nonfarm market expanded at a slightly more rapid 2.5 percent clip in 2018.
- In 2019 – The local economy netted 200 more nonfarm jobs in 2019 than in 2018, as total nonfarm employment rose slightly from 86,800 jobs to an average of 87,000 (up 0.3 percent). This was the most lethargic average annual growth rate in the past seven years (since the -0.4 percent pace in 2012). Private healthcare and social services providers added approximately 300 jobs in 2019. Wholesale trade, transportation and utilities, professional and business services, food services, and local government each rose by 100 jobs. But, retail trade cut back by 300, and manufacturing netted 200 fewer jobs in 2019 than in 2018. Conversely, Washington’s nonfarm market expanded at a more rapid 2.0 percent clip during 2019.

Analysis using QCEW data:

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is an industry classification system that groups businesses/organizations into categories or sectors based on the activities in which they are primarily engaged. There are 19 private sectors and 3 government sectors (for a total of 22 sectors) at the two-digit NAICS code level, within each county-level economy. One can observe much about the structure of a county’s economy by quantifying and comparing the number of jobs and the percentage of jobs in these sectors by using average annual QCEW data. The most recent average annual covered employment, or QCEW, data available for Yakima County are for 2019.

The top five Yakima County industry sectors in 2019 in terms of employment were:

Sector	Number of jobs	Share of employment
1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	31,638	27.3%
2. Health services	16,700	14.4%
3. Local government	13,032	12.1%
4. Retail trade	10,755	9.3%
5. Manufacturing	8,572	7.4%
All other industries	34,207	29.5%
Total covered employment	115,904	100%

Over seventy percent (70.5 percent, to be exact) of all jobs in Yakima County were in these five, two-digit NAICS industries or sectors – agriculture, health services, local government, retail trade and manufacturing. A comparison of the top five sectors that provided the most jobs in Yakima County in 2019 with the sectors that produced the highest payrolls shows that:

- Agriculture provided 27.3 percent of all jobs countywide, but supplied only 21.8 percent of total wage income. Why? Many agricultural jobs are seasonal.
- Conversely, private health services tallied 14.4 percent of total covered employment in 2019, but accounted for 16.4 percent of total wage income – indicating it is a relatively “good paying” industry.
- Local government provided 12.1 percent of total covered employment, but accounted for 14.9 percent of total wage income – indicating, as in health services, that this is a relatively “good paying” industry. Jobs with local public school districts (primary and secondary schools) are tallied under the local government category. Jobs and wages at Native American (tribal) businesses/organizations are also tallied under the local government category, along with county and city-level public healthcare agencies/providers.
- In 2019, retail trade businesses accounted for 9.3 percent of total covered employment countywide, but tallied only 7.2 percent of total wage income. The primary reason is that a relatively high percentage of jobs at retail stores are part time.
- Conversely, manufacturing supplied only 7.4 percent of total covered employment in Yakima County, but accounted for 9.0 percent of total wages/payroll. It is also interesting to note that the food manufacturing (NAICS 311) and beverage and tobacco product manufacturing (NAICS 312) subsectors accounted for 40.0 percent of all manufacturing sector (NAICS 31-33) jobs in Yakima County in 2019.

If one analyzes employment changes in Yakima County over the most recent ten-year period of 2009 to 2019 (eleven years, inclusive) using ESD’s average annual QCEW data, it is noted that total covered employment increased from 100,894 in 2009 to 115,094 in 2019, a 15,010 job and 14.9 percent expansion. Of the 22 NAICS sectors (mentioned earlier), there were five sectors in 2009; agriculture, local government, health services, retail trade and manufacturing (ranked by employment from highest to lowest) which accounted for 67.3 percent of all jobs countywide. The same “top five” accounted for 70.5 percent of total covered employment countywide ten years later in 2019. However, two sectors switched rankings during this ten-year period. Local government slipped from “number two” (in terms of covered employment jobs) in 2009 to “number three” in 2019, while health services rose from “number three” in 2009 to “number two” in 2019. This indicates that Yakima County’s health services sector (NAICS 62) has assumed a relatively larger role, in terms of employment during the past ten years in the local economy.

Trends in Yakima County for the top five industry sectors from 2009 to 2019:

- In terms of industry sectors generating the greatest number of jobs in the most recent ten-year period (2009 to 2019, inclusive), agriculture (NAICS 11) ranked first. Employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing (where most jobs were in agriculture) jumped 28.3 percent and 6,979 jobs (from 24,659 jobs in 2009 to 31,638 in 2019) – an annualized growth rate of 2.5 percent. Total covered employment rose 14.9 percent and 15,010 jobs (from 100,894 jobs in 2009 to 115,904 in 2019) for an annualized growth rate of 1.4 percent. Approximately 46.5 percent of all covered jobs gained during this timeframe were in agriculture. The subsector in which much of this job growth occurred was in agriculture and forestry support (NAICS 115) which tallied 6,604 jobs. By 2019, this subsector provided 11,174 jobs for a 69.2 percent, 4,570 job upturn with an annualized growth rate of 5.4 percent.

- Health services registered a strong 28.5 percent expansion with a gain of 3,707 jobs (from 12,993 jobs in 2009 to 16,700 in 2019). This was an annualized job growth rate of 2.5 percent which helped improve its ranking from the third-largest, job-providing sector countywide in 2009 to the number two position in 2019.
- Local government registered a 7.2 percent and 937 job upturn (from 13,095 jobs in 2009 to 14,032 in 2019), a modest 0.7 percent pace of growth. However, local government took a step backwards in the top five ranking, from the second-largest industry (by employment) in 2009, to the number three position by 2019. This was not because it did not expand, but because it did not expand at the pace of its next-closest “competitor” – health services.
- Retail trade was the fourth-largest, job-providing sector in Yakima County in 2019. The number of part- and full-time retail trade jobs increased by 1,143 (up 11.9 percent), from 9,612 jobs in 2009 to 10,755 in 2019, an annualized growth rate of 1.1 percent. Of the twelve three-digit NAICS subsectors classified within Yakima County’s retail sector, three accounted for 89.2 percent of the 1,143 new retail jobs added from 2009 to 2019. They were motor vehicle and parts dealers (NAICS 441) up 214 jobs and 15.1 percent; building material and garden supply stores (NAICS 444) up 335 jobs and 45.0 percent; and general merchandise stores (NAICS 452) up 470 jobs and 18.5 percent.
- Manufacturing was the fifth-largest of the “top five” job-providing sectors in Yakima County in 2019. Manufacturing employment increased 13.6 percent (from 7,545 jobs in 2009 to 8,572 in 2019), an annualized growth pace of 1.3 percent. This industry recently peaked at 8,755 jobs in 2018, but retrenched in 2019 when the manufacturing payroll numbers dipped to 8,572, a 183 job and 2.1 percent downturn. Ten-year employment trends (from 2009 to 2019), show that three of the 21 three-digit NAICS subsectors categorized under the manufacturing sector accounted for 894 jobs, or 87.0 percent of the 1,027 new manufacturing jobs added during this timeframe. Subsectors exhibiting relatively robust job growth from 2009 to 2019 were: plastics and rubber products manufacturing (NAICS 326), up 421 jobs and 38.2 percent; transportation equipment manufacturing (NAICS 336), up 274 jobs and 70.1 percent; and fabricated metal product manufacturing (NAICS 332), up 199 jobs and 29.5 percent. For historical industry employment data, [*contact an economist*](#).

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA

Industry employment by age and gender

The Local Employment Dynamics (LED) database, a joint project of state employment departments and the U.S. Census Bureau, matches state employment data with federal administrative data. Among the products is industry employment by age and gender. All workers covered by state unemployment insurance data are included; federal workers and non-covered workers, such as the self-employed, are not. Data are presented by place of work, not place of residence.

Yakima County highlights:

In 2019, women held 48.8 percent of the jobs in Yakima County. However, there were substantial differences in gender by industry.

- Male-dominated industries included utilities (83.4 percent), construction (80.9 percent) and mining (79.7 percent).

- Female-dominated industries included healthcare and social assistance (79.2 percent), finance and insurance (71.3 percent) and educational services (68.9 percent).

There were differences in 2019 between Yakima County and Washington state in the percentages of workers by age group:

- Only 21.0 percent of workers in Yakima County in all industries were in the 25-34 years of age group versus 23.0 percent statewide.
- Approximately 26.0 percent of workers in Yakima County in all industries were in the 55+ years of age category versus only 22.8 percent statewide.

Source: The Local Employment Dynamics

Wages and income

The total covered payroll in 2019 in Yakima County was approximately \$4.807 billion. The average annual wage was \$41,475 or 59.6 percent of the state average of \$69,606.

The top five Yakima County industries in 2019 in terms of payrolls were:

Sector	Payroll	Share of payrolls
1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	\$1,048,278,346	21.8%
2. Health services	\$788,009,638	16.4%
3. Local government	\$714,069,189	14.9%
4. Manufacturing	\$431,995,177	9.0%
5. Retail trade	\$348,194,242	7.2%
All other industries	\$1,476,553,363	30.7%
Total covered payrolls	\$4,807,099,955	100%

QCEW data showed that Yakima County's workers earned approximately \$4.807 billion in wages in 2019. Nearly \$7 out of \$10 (69.3 percent) dollars of covered wage income was earned in five two-digit NAICS industries or sectors (i.e., agriculture, private health services, local government, manufacturing and retail trade). Agriculture was clearly the largest provider of wages and jobs in the county in 2019, supplying 21.8 percent of total covered wage income and accounting for 27.3 percent covered employment. Private health services (i.e., jobs at a doctor/dentist's office, in a hospital, nursing home, vocational rehab facility, etc.) ranked second out of 22 industries in 2019 in terms of wages. This industry provided \$788.0 million in payroll and 16.4 percent of total earned wage income while accounting for 14.4 percent of total covered employment indicating that, in aggregate, this is a relatively good-paying industry.

Average annual wages in Yakima County 2019 were highest in utilities (\$95,746), management of companies and enterprises (\$77,215) and in finance and insurance (\$65,871). Conversely, the three sectors tallying the lowest average annual wages were accommodation and food services (\$19,366), arts, entertainment and recreation (\$22,303) and other services (\$31,732).

Personal income

Personal income includes earned income, investment income, and government payments such as Social Security and veterans' benefits. Investment income includes income imputed from pension funds and from owning a home. Per capita personal income equals total personal income divided by the resident population.

Inflation-adjusted per capita income in Yakima County in 2018 was \$43,379 compared to the state at \$62,026 and the nation at \$54,446.

Median household income from 2014 through 2018 (in 2018 dollars) was \$49,871 in Yakima County, 71.1 percent of the state's median household income of \$70,116 and 82.7 percent of the United States' at \$60,293, according to the Census Bureau QuickFacts.

Yakima County's poverty rate in 2018 was higher (16.5 percent) than the state's (9.8 percent) and the nation's (10.5 percent) poverty rates according to Census Bureau QuickFacts. The state and national rates are not directly comparable to the county rate because they each use different data sources.

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Population

During the last ten years, Yakima County had an annual average population growth rate of about 0.6 percent, which was slower than Washington's 1.3 percent growth rate.

Yakima County's population was estimated at 250,873 in 2019, up 3.1 percent from the 243,240 county residents in 2010. Washington state's population grew 13.2 percent to 7,614,893 residents in 2019 from 6,724,540 in 2010. Hence, the local population grew less than one-quarter as fast as did the state's population during the past nine years.

During the next ten years (2020 through 2030), Yakima County's population is estimated to grow annually by 0.9 percent, not too far behind the state's projected yearly growth rate of 1.1 percent.

Population facts

	Yakima County	Washington state
Population 2019	250,873	7,614,893
Population 2010	243,240	6,724,540
Percent change, 2010 to 2019	3.1%	13.2%

Age, gender and ethnicity

Compared with the state, Yakima County's 2019 population had more children under 5 years old and more youth under 18 years old. Approximately 29.5 percent of the county's residents are under 18 years old compared to 21.8 percent statewide. However, the county's population age 65 or older totals only 14.0 percent compared to 15.9 percent in Washington state. Therefore, one may generalize that Yakima County has a younger population than the state.

As of July 1, 2019, Yakima County had a higher percentage of Latino and Hispanic residents than the state and nation. Specifically, Yakima County's Hispanic or Latino population comprises 50.2 percent of its population, much higher than Washington state (13.0 percent). Yakima County's American Indian/Native Alaskan population was 6.7 percent compared to 1.9 percent in the state, reflecting the presence of the Yakama Nation.

Demographics

	Yakima County	Washington state
Population by age, 2019		
Under 5 years old	7.8%	6.0%
Under 18 years old	29.5%	21.8%
65 years and older	14.0%	15.9%
Females, 2019	50.0%	49.9%
Race/ethnicity, 2019		
White, not Hispanic or Latino	42.3%	67.5%
Black	1.6%	4.4%
American Indian, Alaskan Native	6.7%	1.9%
Asian, alone	1.6%	9.6%
Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.8%
Hispanic or Latino, any race	50.2%	13.0%

Educational attainment

According to the American Community Survey, during the period 2013 to 2017, 73.1 percent of Yakima County's population 25 years and older were high school graduates or higher, considerably lower than the statewide average of 91.1 percent and the national average of 87.7 percent.

Yakima County had a lower percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher (16.0 percent) compared to the state at 35.3 percent and the nation at 31.3 percent during the same time period.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

Useful links

- [County data tables](#)
- [Census Bureau Profile](#)
- [Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Self Sufficiency Calculator for Washington State](#)
- [South Central Workforce Council](#)
- [Census Bureau QuickFacts](#)
- [Port of Grandview](#)
- [Port of Sunnyside](#)
- [Washington Ports](#)
- [Workforce Development Areas and WorkSource Office Directory](#)
- [Yakima County Development Association/New Vision](#)
- [Yakima County History](#)
- [Yakima County home page](#)
- [Yakima County on ChooseWashington.com](#)
- [Yakima County on ofm.wa.gov](#)

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