



LOCAL LABOR MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON STATE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

YAKIMA OFFICE

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EMPLOYMENT REACHES PEAK FOR YEAR DURING OCTOBER

Employment has been higher in the Yakima area during most of October than in the last several years. Some curtailment of activities was noted the latter part of the month and the decline in employment will be greater as seasonal activities end. With the exception of trade in commercial and industrial enterprises affected by the more stringent credit controls, business has been excellent in this area. Employment can be expected to decrease rapidly from now on through the winter months as seasonal industries complete their operation or are forced to curtail because of the weather.

SERIOUS LOSS OF APPLE CROP AVERTED BY OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ACTION

Inclement weather and an alarming shortage of apple pickers threatened a serious loss of the apple crop. This loss was averted, however, by the quick action of many organizations in this area. Much credit is due the Chamber of Commerce, the Yakima Valley Traffic Association, the Retail Trade Bureau, the Washington Apple Commission, state, county and city officials, and the schools. Soldiers from the firing range and also those stationed in Richland contributed materially and thousands of local people, many of whom had never picked apples, volunteered. Many workers were released by employers in order to assist in saving the crop. Transportation was furnished by many concerns, a factor that was of inestimable value. The people of Yakima County can be justly proud of their accomplishment.

ANOTHER SERIOUS PROBLEM IMPENDING

While the problem of seasonal unemployment may not be as serious this year as in the past few years, it will be of sufficient importance to deserve considerable attention. Demands for workers in other areas will draw many of those soon to be unemployed from this area and probably keep unemployment somewhat lower this year. But many workers have their homes here, will remain here, and will be unemployed either with or without unemployment compensation. While those who do receive compensation retain some purchasing power, it is a minimum, and is not the equivalent of productive employment. Many of these workers are anxious to obtain any kind of work they are able to do. Individual, as well as the type of concerted community effort which so effectively saved the apple crop may turn up employment opportunities where none were

thought to exist. This office will be glad to lend assistance to or cooperate in any endeavor with the ultimate end, the creation of employment opportunities in private industry.

NUMBER OF PERSONS DRAWING BENEFITS CONTINUES TO DECREASE

The number of persons drawing benefits in October 1950 was less than one-third of those drawing benefits in October 1949, as the following table shows:

	September 1950	Weekly Average October 1950	October 1949	October 1948
Total	337	257	811	378

The continued decrease can be noted in the number of persons drawing benefits in October 1950 compared with the number of persons drawing in September 1950. The expected layoff of many workers in local industries will increase unemployment compensation activity materially after the first of November.