

# YAKIMA COUNTY PROFILE

Population	Education	Community
Economy	Government	Transportation
Labor	Housing	Culture

## Location

Yakima County is located in South Central Washington State. It is bounded to the north by Kittitas County, to the south by Klickitat County, on the west by Thurston, Lewis and Skamania Counties and the east by Benton and Grant Counties. The geography varies from densely timbered, mountainous terrain at the crest of the Cascade Mountain Range in the west to rolling foothills, broad valleys, and arid sagebrush covered regions to the east to fertile valleys in the central and southern parts of the County that has made agriculture the staple of the economy over the last 100 years. The highest point in the county is Mount Adams at 12,277 feet (3,742 meters) above sea level. The city of Yakima sits at 1,068 feet.



Yakima County is 4,296 square miles, or approximately 2.75 million acres, making it the second largest county in Washington. Three entities own over 1.7 million of the total acres of Yakima County. The city of Yakima, the tenth largest city in the state, contains over 35% of the population (84,074). 90% of the state's population is within a 3-hour drive from Yakima.



Land Owner	Acres Owned
Yakama Nation	1,074,174
U.S. Forest Service	503,726
Military Reservation	165,787

## Climate

The County derives its names from the regional Yakama Indian tribes. There are several theories on the meaning of "Yakima," including a native legend about a Chief's daughter from Moxee who fled from her home after breaking tribal rules. The word Yakima in this legend means "runaway." Others believe "runaway" refers to the rivers that surround the valley. Yakima has also been interpreted to mean "well-fed people."

Yakima has four distinct seasons. Sunshine is the norm in Yakima County, and nearly of 300 days per year. Average precipitation is 8 inches a year, of which 24 inches occurs as snowfall in the months of November, December, and January. The average temperature in the winter is 37°, spring 63°, summer 88°, and fall 64°. This favorable weather makes Yakima a leader in agricultural products, wine growing, outdoor recreation & tourism

## Demographics

Yakima is the largest city in the county. In addition to its permanent resident base, the county has a large seasonal population related to the agricultural industry. This temporary population has been estimated at up to 50,000 during peak activity.

Area Population	2010	2011	2013
<b>County</b>	243,231	244,700	246,640
<b>Unincorporated</b>	83,889	85,090	84,300
<b>Incorporated</b>	159,342	161,887	162,340
<b>Grandview</b>	10,862	10,920	11,010
<b>Granger</b>	3,246	3,270	3,315
<b>Harrah</b>	625	630	645
<b>Mabton</b>	2,286	2,290	2,305
<b>Moxee</b>	3,308	3,415	3,655
<b>Naches</b>	795	805	805
<b>Selah</b>	7,147	7,205	7,340
<b>Sunnyside</b>	15,858	16,010	16,200
<b>Tieton</b>	1,191	1,195	1,235
<b>Toppenish</b>	8,949	8,950	8,950
<b>Union Gap</b>	6,047	6,055	6,110
<b>Wapato</b>	4,997	5,025	5,035
<b>Yakima</b>	91,067	91,630	92,620
<b>Zillah</b>	2,964	3,000	3,115

### Total County Population by Age

Age	2013	Estimate 2015
0-19	81,328	77,023
20-24	17,217	13,962
25-54	92,000	92,795
55-64	26,821	27,213
65+	31,393	28,443
<b>Total</b>	<b>247,250</b>	<b>239,436</b>

The median age in 2013 was 33.31, with median age of men being 32.07, women 34.46.

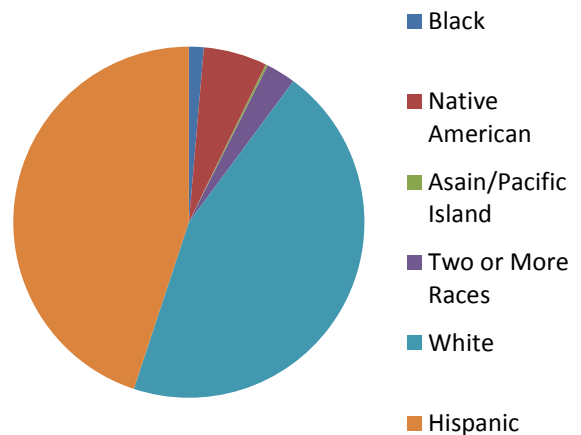
Classification	2012
Speaking English only	60.8%
Speaking language other than English	39.2%
Speaking Spanish at home	37.3%
Other languages	.8%
Asian and Pacific Islander	.7%
Speaking Indo-European	.4%

Income	
2012 Median Household Income	\$49,008
2012 Per Capita Income	\$19,610
2012 Annual Covered Wage	\$33,108

## Ethnicity

Classification	2012
White	114,597
Black	3,457
Native American	14,077
Asian/Pacific Island	493
Two or More Races	6,915
Hispanic (race)	114,350
Total	246,977

### 2012 Race & Ethnicity



### Sources of Personal Income - 2012 (000's)

Total Personal Income	\$8,566,757
Net Earnings	\$4,841,330
Personal Current Transfers	\$2,152,369
Investment, Dividends, Rent	\$1,573,052
Retirement/Transfer Pmts	\$ 585,272
Non-Farm Proprietors Income	\$ 566,577
Farm Proprietors Income	\$ 311,375
Earnings by place of work	\$5,390,643
Wages/Salaries	\$3,572,908
Other Labor	\$ 566,577
Proprietors	\$ 877,952

## Structure of Economy

### Agriculture

Yakima County has 558,000 irrigated acres of private land used for agriculture. As the state's leading agricultural county (\$850 million per year), Yakima has a large and highly varied farm base, complemented by diverse non-agricultural sectors. Yakima County is Washington State's number one producer of apples, hops, corn, spearmint, peppermint and grapes and one of the top producers of sweet cherries. Farmers in the Yakima Valley harvest 40 million pounds of hops annually – 20% of the world's supply. Yakima's wine industry has gained national awareness, producing blue ribbon varieties of Riesling, Merlot, and Syrah wines. Yakima produces 29% of the nation's cherries, 42% of the nation's pears, and 38% of the nation's concord grapes. Yakima County has the largest inventory of bee colonies, cattle and sheep of any county in the state. Washington ranked first in the nation for milk production per cow

### Non-Agricultural Industries

Between February 2012 and 2013, the Yakima County nonfarm labor market added 1,800 jobs, a 2.4% upturn.

### Wholesale/Retail Trade

Trade comprises 22 percent of the non-farm employment, or 13,000 jobs. Yakima County has a high concentration in wholesale trade (i.e. fresh fruit packing houses) reflecting warehousing of food products. They added 700 jobs in 2006; retail sales for the county were over 2.6 billion.

### Construction, Mining, Forestry

Construction accounts for the vast majority of jobs in this category. Residential and commercial real estate sales increased 1.2% in 2006, allowing the construction industry to add 400 new jobs.

### Services

The Services industry is the largest employment group in Yakima County employing about 66,500. Health care comprises 19% of this growing industry, reflecting Yakima's importance as a regional medical center.

### Government

Over 21% of the county's non-farm work force is in government. Of the three levels of government (federal, state and local) the largest numbers of employees are in the local level, specifically in the elementary and secondary school system. The Yakima Training Center, located seven miles north of Yakima, is the Army's premier maneuver training area in the Northwest and has 325 permanent military/civilian personnel.

### Manufacturing

Closely tied with Washington's agricultural tradition is value added manufacturing processes with specific focus on food processing. These activities include milling, blending, packaging, canning, freezing, processing, manufacturing, and refining end products for industrial, business and consumer production. Food processing represents about 40 percent of the manufacturing sector. It's more than 250 firms employ nearly 8,000 workers, and, in 2006, the gross sales for Yakima's food processors exceeded \$1.4 billion. A significant share of manufacturing employment stems from the agricultural sector but lumber & wood products, non-electrical machinery, paper and allied products, transportation equipment, metals, plastics, and fabricated metal products all have a significant impact. Bio-fuel is an emergent industry with a bright future in Yakima County, and includes bio-diesel, bio-gas and ethanol products.

### Top 16 Employers - 2013

Company	FTEs
Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital	2200
Yakima School District, No. 7	1756
Wal-Mart -Yakima/Sunnyside/Grandview	1700
Zirkle	1500+
Washington Fruit	1500+
Borton	1212
Yakima County	1027
Monson Fruit	1023
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic	1006
Yakima Regional Cardiac & Medical	985
AB Foods & Washington Beef	900
Sunnyside School	740
City of Yakima	681
Yakama Nation Legends Casino.	644
Tree Top	615
Shields Bag and Printing	500

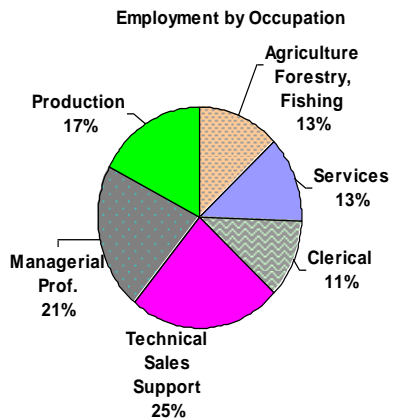
### 2012 - # Firms, Employees & Covered Wages Paid

	#Firms	Employees	Wages (million)
Ag, Forestry & Fishing	1,082	27,029	\$651,858
Mining/Construction	557	2,646	\$106,531
Manufacturing	224	7,813	\$318,746
Transportation, Warehousing, Utility	206	3,054	\$121,660
Trade (Wholesale/Retail)	868	14,025	\$451,836
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Information	387	3,137	\$135,466
Services	3,624	3,978	\$61,194
Government	138	16,773	\$723,999
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,584 Firms</b>	<b>78,455 Employees</b>	<b>\$2,571,294,029 Wages</b>

## Labor Analysis

Yakima County's total non-agricultural employment in 2012 was 125,257. The labor force fluctuates throughout the year due largely to seasonal agricultural activity and ranged in size from 118,489 to 135,363 in 2013. The average unemployment rate for 2013 was 9.2%, which represents an

average of approximately 11,500 people monthly looking for work. Yakima County's employment outlook has been one of continued growth. From 2012-2014, jobs have increased by 8,760 in the county.



2012 Annual Workforce - 16 & Over

Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed
125,250	102,748	12,240
Total Firms	Unemployment Rate	Average Annual Wage
8,501	8.0%	\$33,108

Labor Force & Industry Employment, not seasonally adjusted (Yakima County)		
	2012	2013
**NAICS Industry (numbers in thousands)	An Avg	An Avg
Total Nonfarm 1/	78.8	79.2
Total Private	61.8	62.2
Goods Producing	11.0	11.3
Mining, Logging, and Construction	3.0	3.2
Manufacturing	8.0	8.1
Nondurable Goods	5.2	5.4
Service Providing	67.8	68.0
Private Service Providing	50.8	50.9
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	17.5	18.0
Wholesale Trade	4.1	4.4
Retail Trade	10.2	10.4
Transportation and Utilities	3.2	3.3
Professional and Business Services	4.0	4.0
Education and Health Services	16.4	16.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	15.4	14.9
Leisure and Hospitality	6.7	6.7
Food Services	4.8	4.9
Government	17.0	17.1
Federal Government	1.3	1.2
State Government	2.7	2.7
Local Government	13.1	13.1

May 2013 Salary Information	Entry Level	Mean Hourly	Hourly – Fully Experienced	Mean Yearly
Bookkeeping, Accounting, Auditing Clerk	\$14.61 hr	\$17.97	\$21.01	\$37,370
First-Line Manager/Supervisor - Production	\$15.93 hr	\$22.76	\$27.42	\$47,330
Sales Reps, Wholesale & Manufacturing	\$30.12 hr	\$41.02	\$52.73	\$85,320
Purchasing Agents – Wholesale, Retail	\$19.37 hr	\$25.35	\$29.62	\$52,740
Human Resource Manager	\$31.42 hr	\$43.37	\$53.99	\$90,200
Office Clerks, General	\$11.92 hr	\$14.83	\$16.97	\$30,840
Machinist	\$15.71 hr	\$19.95	\$23.89	\$41,500
Structural Metal Fabricators & Fitters	\$16.47 hr	\$18.29	\$20.34	\$38,030
Assembly & Fabricators	\$9.49hr	\$13.04	\$15.44	\$27,130
Laborers of Freight/Material Movers	\$9.67 hr	\$12.25	\$14.30	\$25,470
Helpers – Production Workers	\$9.49 hr	\$11.28	\$13.00	\$23,460
Truck Driver, Heavy or Tractor Trailer	\$13.92 hr	\$17.24	\$19.92	\$35,860

# Education

Yakima County offers a complete range of educational resources. Options range from a private technical college and to major universities. Parents can choose from a wide variety of public and private educational settings for their children.

## Primary & Secondary Education

Public School Districts	Enrollment (2013)
East Valley	3,000
Grandview	3,453
Granger	1,496
Highland	1,246
Mabton	899
Mt. Adams	985
Naches Valley	1,390
Selah	3,459
Sunnyside	6,493
Toppenish	3,836
Union Gap (K-8)	599
Wapato	3,426
West Valley	4,929
Yakima	15,186
Zillah	1,322
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,719</b>

Private schools (Top 10 most attended)	Enrollment (2012-2013)
La Salle High School	196
Montessori School of Yakima	105
Riverside Christian School	350
St. Joseph/Marquette	341
St. Paul Cathedral School	220
Sunnyside Christian Elementary	250
Sunnyside Christian High	80
Westpark Christian Academy	80
Yakima Adventist Christian	85
Yakima Nation Tribal School	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,815</b>

<b>Number of Public Districts</b>	<b>15</b>
Total Number of Teachers	2,870
Total Operating Revenue	\$491,702,920

## Education Levels of Population

Persons 25 years and older 2012

Years of school completed	Percentage
Less than 9th grade	17.0%
4 or more years of high school	71.1%
4 or more years of college	15.9%

## Higher Education

Over 20,000 students are enrolled in higher education in area colleges and vocational-technical schools. The largest school in the region is Central Washington University, located within commuting distance in nearby Ellensburg.

Higher Education Technical Institute	Enrollment 2013-2014
Central Washington University	10,737
Yakima Valley Community College	9,226
Heritage College	1,108
WSU Extension	1,347
Perry Technical Institute	685
Pacific Northwest University Of Health Sciences	364

## Central Washington University

CWU is a branch of the state of Washington's higher education system. It is a four-year university offering undergraduate degrees in arts and sciences, business, professional education, technical fields, and graduate degrees at the master's level in arts and sciences and professional education.

## Yakima Valley Community College

YVCC is a public two-year institution offering 58 programs of study. It provides lower division college arts and sciences, university transfer, and vocational & technical education. They feature a well-respected two year nursing program while also allowing the student to earn their Bachelor's in nursing through work-based internships and clock hours.

## Washington State University Learning Center

is a Higher Education Center offering four-year and postgraduate degrees in partnership with Central Washington University and Washington State University.

## Heritage University

Heritage is a private four-year institution whose major fields of concentration are teacher education, business administration and social sciences.

## Perry Technical Institute

Perry Tech is a privately endowed, non-profit institute that offers a nationally recognized vocational/technical program. In cooperation with Central Washington University, it offers extension programs in engineering, robotics, and other technology.

## Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences

Opened in 2007 PNWU is the Pacific Northwest's first Osteopathic Medical University focusing on the education of primary care physicians for practicing in rural and underserved communities. They also offer the courses from the College of Allied Health Studies and College of Post Graduate Studies.

# Government

Yakima County has a County Commission with three elected commissioners. The city of Yakima has a City Manager, a seven-member City Council and serves as the county seat. There are 15 incorporated towns within the county that are governed by town councils. Yakima County maintains 1,737 miles of roads, a large majority of which are oiled or gravel. There are 12 County Fire Districts that operate outside the Valley's major towns or cities. Over 600 paid and volunteer firemen help run these rural fire stations. Yakima County maintains a jail facility with an average monthly inmate population of over 600.

## Yakima County Building Permits

Year	Permits Issued	\$Value-Millions
2013	77	\$ 109.4

## Retail Sales-City and County

Year	City of Yakima	Countywide
2013	\$ 1,630,076,358	\$ 3,214,688,425
2012	\$ 1,532,458,231	\$ 2,979,171,518
2011	\$ 1,405,582,328	\$ 2,777,584,276
2010	\$ 1,430,578,741	\$ 2,722,622,265
2009	\$ 1,421,263,019	\$ 2,724,992,404
2008	\$ 1,539,739,751	\$ 2,954,364,053

## State and Local Tax Structure

Washington State uses sales and use taxes, business and occupation (B&O) taxes, gas taxes and property taxes to generate a predominate share of overall state revenue. The state's tax structure is relatively stable when tracked against changes in personal income. Washington State has no corporate income, unitary, or inventory tax. There is also no tax on interest, dividends, or capital gains. The business and occupation tax is based on gross receipts generated within the state. Local governments work within the state tax collection system. A portion of local property taxes and sales taxes is also retained by Yakima County. Total Assessed Value of all Taxable Property in 2013 = \$14,671,231,105. Total Property Tax Collected 2013 = \$191,871,368.

Average Property/ Tax Levy Rates \$/000			
Year	2010	2012	2013
Levy Rate	11.58	11.80	11.85

## Tax Rates 2014

Washington State Sales Tax	6.5 %
Yakima City Local Tax	1.7 %
Other City Local Tax Rates	1.5 %
Real Estate Tax	.0025 %

## Yakima County General Fund - Revenues & Expenditures

Revenue By Source	2013
Property Taxes	\$37,826,621
Sales and Use Taxes	\$22,440,640
Other Taxes	\$2,890,905
Licenses and Permits	\$411,400
Intergovernmental	\$37,164,780
Charges for Services	\$18,918,755
Fines and Forfeits	\$2,769,633
Interest Earnings	\$1,781,672
Special Assessments	\$997,784
Donations	\$73,971
Other Revenues	\$1,283,458
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$126,559,619</b>

Expenditures by Function	2013
General Government Services	\$19,704,599
Judicial	\$8,671,891
Public Safety	\$40,081,001
Physical Environment	\$2,534,416
Transportation	\$12,542,883
Economic Environment	\$4,897,056
Health and Human Services	\$18,854,038
Culture & Recreation	\$397,164
Debt Service (Principal & Interest)	\$4,892,351
Capital Outlays	\$9,178,693
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$121,754,092</b>
Excess (Deficit) Revenues Over Expenditures	\$4,805,527

# Housing – Yakima County

March 2014 Residential Sales	
Residential Sales	315
Average Price	\$163,869
Active Listings	979

## 2014 Sales by Category

Category	Sale Price	Sales
Agricultural	\$82,158,462	193
Commercial	\$91,102,709	137
Manufacturing	\$13,092,481	17
Multi Family	\$11,102,350	62
Other	\$34,518,876	264
Single Family	\$372,324,006	2649

## Cost of 2,200 sq. ft. Single Family Home

Area	Cost	Area	Cost
Yakima	\$159,100	Seattle	\$344,400
Tri-Cities	\$181,700	Spokane	\$171,000



Housing Availability – January 2014		
Description	#	Avg List price
4+ Bedrooms	216	\$335,957
3 bedrooms	374	\$229,308
1-2 bedrooms – all areas	125	\$139,427
Condo/Townhouse	40	\$152,923
All homes on the market	715	\$244,988
Manufactured Home, with land	80	\$146,744

Rental Information - 2014	
Description	Average Cost (Yakima)
<b>Home (s)</b>	
One Bedroom	\$450 - \$700
Two Bedroom	\$550 - \$1,100
Three Bedroom	\$850 - \$2,000
<b>Duplexes</b>	
One Bedroom	\$450 - \$700
Two Bedroom	\$550 - \$1,100
Three Bedroom	\$950 - \$1,500
<b>Apartments</b>	
Studio	\$350 - \$600
One Bedroom	\$500 - \$745
Two Bedroom	\$750 - \$1150



## ACCRA Cost of Living Index - Selected Cities – Annual Report 2013

Weight	Cost	Yakima WA	Seattle WA	Portland OR	Spokane WA	Tri-Cities WA
100%	Composite Index	91.7	119.1	101.4	96.0	95.8
13%	Grocery Items	91.9	102.9	88.1	92.1	90.7
29%	Housing	86.8	141.1	98.6	89.1	101.8
10%	Utilities	80.7	97.0	94.6	91.3	90.5
11%	Transportation	100.0	118.6	109.6	99.8	99.3
4%	Health Care	111.0	119.1	109.8	110.0	107.5
32%	Misc. Goods & Services	98.7	115.1	106.7	100.9	91.7

## Banking/Financing

Yakima County has 167 banks and financial institutions. This includes nine commercial banks with 44 branches, one savings and loan with four branches, one savings bank with six branches and eight credit unions with 15 branches. Combined total deposits are \$2+ billion. The local business community has access to comprehensive financial services including assistance with international business transactions.

Several non-traditional finance programs are available to businesses and entrepreneurs. Micro-loans from \$1000-\$25,000 are available to emerging businesses that complete a certified training program. Other loan programs such as Small Business Administration [SBA], State Development Loan Fund, Industrial Revenue Bonds and others offer financing ranging from \$10,000-\$10,000,000. Most of these programs operate in conjunction with a commercial banking institution and the borrower will usually have to obtain credit approval from a bank to access these programs.

## Community Facilities

### Health Care

Yakima County, the region's medical center, has five hospitals and a number of clinics. The largest two hospitals, *Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center* and *Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital*, are located in the city of Yakima. Yakima Regional, with a hospital in *Toppenish*, was named among the top 100 cardiovascular hospitals in the nation. *Sunnyside Community Hospital* serves the Lower Valley and is a critical access hospital with a 24 hour emergency room, 4 bed Intensive Care Unit, Medical Surgical Floor, Family Birth Center, Operating Rooms, Laboratory and Diagnostic Imaging (X-Ray, CT Scan, Mobile MRI, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, Bone Density Scan). *Children's Village* is a comprehensive medical facility designed for children with disabilities and special health needs. *North Star Lodge* provides total care outpatient cancer treatment. The *Yakima Regional Cancer Care Center* was opened in 2000 to provide a one-stop location for a wide range of out-patient cancer services. Approximately 275 physicians from 36 medical specialties support these hospitals, providing surgical, general medical, neurosurgery, oncology, coronary care, intensive care, pediatric services and maternity.

## Worship

There are over 250 churches in Yakima County. The variety includes divisions of Christianity, Jewish, Buddhist, Latter Day Saints, and other non-denominational practices.

## Media

### Newspapers

Publication	Frequency	Circulation
Yakima Herald Rep.	daily	29,821
Daily-Sun News	daily	4,000
VIVA	weekly	9,000
Toppenish Review	weekly	6,400
Grandview Herald	weekly	2,500
Wapato Independ't	weekly	2,000
Selah Independent	weekly	1,800
Yakima Bus Times	monthly	6,000
Valley Press	weekly	22,000
Centr'l Wa S. Times	weekly	19,000

### Television Stations

Station	Affil.	L-Local C-Cable
KIMA	CBS	L29/C6
KNDO	NBC	L23/C4
KAPP	ABC	L35/C2
KYVE	PBS	L47/C8
KCYU	FOX	L68/C3
UNIVISION		L2.1/C18

### Radio Stations

Station	Frequency	Category
KYXE	AM1020	Spanish
KJOX	AM1390	ESPN/Sports
KUTI	AM1460	Country
KIT	AM1280	News/Talk
KATS	FM94.5	Rock
KXDD	FM104.1	Country
KDBL	FM92.9	Country
KFFM	FM107.3	Contemporary
KYPL	FM91.1	Christian
KYAK	AM930	Christian
KRSE	FM105.7	Soft Rock
KENE	AM1490	Spanish
KARY	FM100.9	Oldies
KDNA	FM91.9	Spanish
KZTA	FM96.9	Spanish
KHHK	FM99.7	Hot Rock
KBBO	AM980	Talk Radio



# Transportation

---

## **Major Highways**

Interstate 82 runs through the heart of Yakima County. The modern freeway links with Interstate 90 at Ellensburg, just 30 miles north of Yakima and Interstate 84 to the south. I-90 connects Seattle with New York City. Major highways include US Routes 12 and 97, and State Routes 22, 24, 241 and 410.

## **Local Transit**

Yakima Transit buses connect Yakima, Selah, and Union Gap with all downtown services. Buses run every 20 minutes.

## **Airport**

General aviation service is available at Yakima Air Terminal, Sunnyside Airport, and Buena Field. Yakima has a 7,603 and a 4,239 foot asphalt runway. Sunnyside has a 3,500 foot asphalt runway, while the Buena runway has 2,600 feet of turf. Yakima is served by Horizon Air with three flights daily to Seattle. There are two full service fixed base operators on the airfield. Airfreight service is available from Federal Express and UPS.

## **Motor Freight Carriers**

Within Yakima County there are 10 trucking firms for heavy hauling, one for liquid or dry bulk, two for local cartage, and 38 for motor freight.

## **Railroads**

Rail shipment to and from Yakima County is available via Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Central Washington railroad lines with 292 active spurs throughout the county.

## **Ports**

Puget Sound is three hours from Yakima County and provides major international ports on the Pacific Ocean. Inland ports are available within two hours on the Columbia River.

## **Bus Service**

Greyhound Bus Lines serve daily routes from Grandview, Sunnyside, Granger, Toppenish, Wapato, and Yakima to Seattle, Pasco, and Portland.

# Utilities

---

## **Electric**

Hydroelectric dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers provide Washington State with the lowest rates in the nation. Yakima County is served by two electric utilities, Pacific Power, an investor-owned utility, and the Benton County Rural Electric Association.

## **Natural Gas**

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation distributes natural gas throughout Yakima County with service available for all types of installations. An ample supply of natural gas from U.S. and Canadian sources is expected to meet all anticipated future demand.

## **Solid Waste Disposal**

Solid waste collection service is available throughout the county either by municipal systems or private companies. There are three solid waste landfills and two transfer stations within Yakima County. The area has recycling centers for a number of items.

## **Water**

There are 16 municipal/public water systems in the county. Through interagency agreements, they are able to meet water demands in a more efficient manner.

## **Wastewater**

Each city operates its own wastewater collection system. The Port of Sunnyside operates a system dedicated to the treatment of industrial waste. The regional treatment plant operated by the city of Yakima has a delegated industrial pretreatment monitoring program in place.

## **Telecommunications**

Advanced telecommunication services are available in Yakima County. Competition between local providers has helped improve telecommunications infrastructure dramatically. Extensive fiber optic cables are in place in most of the major communities in the region, including Yakima. These systems are supported by four different state-of-the-art digital switches. Multimillion dollar investments allow businesses to tap into broadband services that are increasingly in today's digital economy. Cowiche Telephone, CenturyLink, United Telephone, and Fairpoint Communications serve Yakima County. Cellular companies serving Yakima County are: AT&T, U.S. Cellular, Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile.

## **Culture/Recreation**

Yakima County offers an almost limitless variety of [recreational opportunities](#). Twelve ski resorts within a few hours drive offer excellent downhill and cross-country skiing. 71 lakes, 14 rivers and numerous streams offer stream and lake fishing, white water rafting, boating, swimming, windsurfing and water skiing. Upland bird and big game hunting, backpacking, hiking, bicycling are all available in season. Golfing (three private and six public courses) challenges even the master golfer. At the Apple Tree Golf Course water hazards come into play on twelve holes. The signature hole is #17, a 180-yard, par 3, requiring a tee shot over water to an apple-shaped island green. "Golf Digest" has rated this as one of the top ten "Best in State" courses. Tennis, baseball and softball are avidly pursued sports. Park and Recreation departments offer varied year round programs for both children and adults.

Entertainment events include the annual [Central Washington State Fair](#), Wild West Parades & Rodeos, auto racing, art fairs, and colorful community celebrations and festivals. Yakima is the home to [several semi-professional sports teams](#): The Yakima Valley Pippins, the Yakima Reds (soccer - 2000 Western Conference Champions and 2003 Northwest Division Champions), the Yakima Valley Warriors (indoor football, American Indoor

Football Association affiliate), and the Yakima Mavericks (outdoor football, Evergreen Football League). NASCAR sanctioned stock car racing and drag racing can be experienced at the Yakima Speedway or Renegade Raceway.

Touring professional and local [performing arts](#) are regularly presented at the beautifully restored Capitol Theatre in Yakima where the Yakima Symphony Orchestra and Chorus perform and Broadway style shows are featured, The Seasons Performance

Hall, a 100-year old church transformed into a performing arts venue, and an active community

theatre group performs at the Warehouse Theatre.



There are 63 historic and culturally significant sites within Yakima County. [Art galleries](#), Libraries, Yakima Valley Museum, Yakama Indian Nation Cultural Center and the Legends Casino, Agricultural Museums, McAllister Museum of Aviation, Fort Simcoe State Park, and the Historical Toppenish Murals preserve our history and enrich our culture in Yakima County.

## **Hotel & Convention Facilities**

There are over 2,900 hotel and motel rooms available in the Yakima County. Additional facilities are available in several of the smaller communities and in more rural, secluded settings. The Yakima Convention Center offers 41,000 square feet of meeting space, free parking, on site caterers, an all-inclusive bid process that offers booking incentives, and a full range of support services.

### **For additional information on Yakima County contact:**

#### **Yakima County Development Association**

(509) 575-1140

[www.ycda.com](http://www.ycda.com)

Economic development, sites and buildings, workforce

#### **Yakima County**

1-800-572-7354

<http://www.yakimacounty.us/>

Public works, permitting, planning

#### **Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce**

(509) 248-2021

[www.yakima.org](http://www.yakima.org)

Business networking and advocacy

#### **City of Yakima**

(509) 575-6000

[www.ci.yakima.wa.us](http://www.ci.yakima.wa.us)

Public works, permitting, community development

#### **Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau**

1-800-221-0751

[www.visityakima.com](http://www.visityakima.com)

Tourism and convention center information