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# Yakima County, Washington

42 languages

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**Yakima County** is a county in the U.S. state of Washington. As of the 2020 census, its population was 256,728.<sup>[1]</sup> The county seat and largest city is Yakima.<sup>[2]</sup> The county was formed out of Ferguson County in January 1865 and is named for the Yakama tribe of Native Americans.

Yakima County comprises the Yakima, WA Metropolitan Statistical Area and is Washington state's largest majority-Hispanic county as of 2020.<sup>[3]</sup>

## History

The area that now comprises Yakima County was part of the Oregon Country at the start of the nineteenth century, inhabited both by fur prospectors from Canada, and Americans seeking land for agricultural and mineral-extraction opportunities. Unable to resolve which country should control this vast area, the Treaty of 1818 provided for joint control. By 1843, the Provisional Government of Oregon had been established, although at first there were questions as to its authority and extent. During its existence, that provisional government formed the area north of the Columbia River first into the Washington Territory, and then (December 19, 1845) into two vast counties: Clark and Lewis.

The Washington Territory was formed as a separate governing entity in 1853. In 1854, that legislature carved several counties out of the two original large counties, including Skamania County. Later in 1854 the new Skamania County was reduced in size by carving out Walla Walla County. This arrangement lasted until January 23, 1863, when Ferguson County was carved out of Walla Walla County.<sup>[4]</sup> However, the Ferguson County government and boundary was dissolved on January 18, 1865, and its area was assigned to Yakima County three days later.

Since its creation, the Yakima County boundary has been altered two times. In 1883 a portion of its area was carved off in the creation of Kittitas County, and in 1905 a further reduction added to the creation of Benton County.

The Yakama Indian Reservation was created in 1855. However, several tribes felt the agreement creating this reserved area had been completed without sufficient native input, and skirmishes and local war (the Yakima War, which lasted until 1858) meant that the reservation was not fully operational for two decades. The Reservation is the 15th largest reservation in America, covering 1,573 sq mi (4,070 km²),<sup>[5]</sup> and comprising 36% of the county's total area. Its population was 31,799 in 2000, and its largest city is Toppenish.

## Geography

According to the United States Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 4,311 square miles (11,170 km²), of which 4,295 square miles (11,120 km²) is land and 16 square miles (41 km²) (0.4%) is water.<sup>[6]</sup> Yakima County is the second-largest county in Washington by land area and third-largest by total area. Yakima County is reputed to be one of the most difficult places on earth to predict weather, because of its surrounding mountains. The county's area is larger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined.<sup>[7]</sup> The highest point in the county is Mount Adams, which is the second tallest peak in Washington and the third tallest in the Cascade Range.

### Geographic features

- Mount Adams, 12,281 feet (3,743 m)
- Gilbert Peak, 8,184 feet (2,494 m)
- Mount Aix, 7,766 feet (2,367 m)
- Tieton Peak, 7,768 feet (2,368 m)
- Cascade Mountains
- Rattlesnake Hills
- Horse Heaven Hills

### Major rivers

- Yakima River
- Columbia River
- Naches River
- Tieton River
- Bumping River
- American River

### National protected areas

- Wenatchee National Forest (part)
- Gifford Pinchot National Forest (part)
- Snoqualmie National Forest (part)
- Goat Rocks Wilderness
- Mount Adams Wilderness (part)
- Norse Peak Wilderness (part)
- William O. Douglas Wilderness
- Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge

### Major roads

- Interstate 82
- U.S. Route 12
- U.S. Route 97

### Adjacent counties

- Pierce County - northwest
- Lewis County - west
- Skamania County - southwest
- Kittitas County - north
- Klickitat County - south
- Grant County - northeast
- Benton County - east

## Demographics

### 2010 census

As of the 2010 census, there were 243,231 people, 80,592 households, and 58,790 families living in the county.<sup>[13]</sup> The population density was 56.6 people per square mile (21.9 people/km²). There were 85,474 housing units at an average density of 19.9 units per square mile (7.7 units/km²).<sup>[14]</sup> The racial makeup of the county was 63.7% White, 4.3% American Indian, 1.1% Asian, 1.0% Black or African American, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 26.1% from other races, and 3.7% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 45.0% of the population.<sup>[13]</sup> In terms of ethnicity, 15.8% reported German, 8.0% English, 7.3% Irish, and 3.6% American ancestry.<sup>[15]</sup>

Of the 80,592 households, 42.1% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 51.4% were married couples living together, 14.7% had a female householder with no husband present, 27.1% were non-families, and 21.6% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.97 and the average family size was 3.46. The median age was 32.2 years.<sup>[13]</sup>

The median income for a household in the county was \$42,877 and the median income for a family was \$48,004. Males had a median income of \$37,029 versus \$29,824 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$19,325. About 16.8% of families and 21.8% of the population were below the poverty line, including 31.9% of those under age 18 and 11.9% of those age 65 or over.<sup>[16]</sup>

### 2000 census

As of the 2000 census, there were 222,581 people, 73,993 households, and 54,606 families living in the county. The population density was 52 people per square mile (20 people/km²). There were 79,174 housing units at an average density of 18 units per square mile (6.9 units/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 65.60% White, 0.97% Black or African American, 4.48% Native American, 0.95% Asian, 0.09% Pacific Islander, 24.43% from other races, and 3.48% from two or more races. 35.90% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 13.2% were of German,

**Yakima County**  
County



Yakima County Courthouse

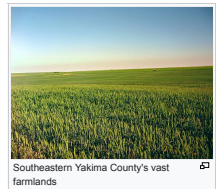


Location within the U.S. state of Washington



Washington's location within the U.S.  
Coordinates: 46°28′N 120°44′W﻿ / ﻿46.467°N 120.733°W﻿ / 46.467; -120.733

<b>Country</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United States
<b>State</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Washington
<b>Founded</b>	January 21, 1865
<b>Named for</b>	Yakama Nation
<b>Seat</b>	Yakima
<b>Largest city</b>	Yakima
<b>Area</b>	
<span> </span> <span>•</span> <b>Total</b>	4,311 sq mi (11,170 km²)
<span> </span> <span>•</span> <b>Land</b>	4,295 sq m (11,120 km²)
<span> </span> <span>•</span> <b>Water</b>	16 sq mi (40 km²) 0.4%
<b>Population</b> (2020)	
<span> </span> <span>•</span> <b>Total</b>	256,728
<span> </span> <span>•</span> <b>Estimate</b> (2022)	257,001 <span>▲</span>
<span> </span> <span>•</span> <b>Density</b>	58/sq mi (22/km²)
<b>Time zone</b>	UTC−8 (Pacific)
<span> </span> <span>•</span> <b>Summer (DST)</b>	UTC−7 (PDT)
<b>Congressional district</b>	4th
<b>Website</b>	<span>www.yakimacounty.us</span> <span>↗</span>



#### Historical population

Census	Pop.	%±
1870	432	—
1880	2,811	550.7%
1890	4,429	57.6%
1900	13,462	204.0%
1910	41,709	209.8%
1920	63,710	52.7%
1930	77,402	21.5%
1940	99,019	27.9%
1950	135,723	37.1%
1960	145,112	6.9%
1970	144,971	−0.1%
1980	172,508	19.0%
1990	188,823	9.5%
2000	222,581	17.9%
2010	243,231	9.3%
2020	256,728	5.5%

6.4%  United States or American, 5.9%  English and 5.4%  Irish ancestry.

There were 73,993 households, out of which 39.7% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 55.8% were **married couples** living together, 12.5% had a female householder with no husband present, and 26.2% were non-

2022 (est.)	257,001 <sup>(9)</sup>	0.7%
<span><span></span></span> U.S. Decennial Census <sup>(8)</sup>		
<span><span></span></span> 1790–1960 <sup>(10)</sup>	<span><span></span></span> 1900–1990 <sup>(11)</sup>	
<span><span></span></span> 1990–2000 <sup>(12)</sup>	<span><span></span></span> 2010–2020 <sup>(1)</sup>	

families. 21.5% of all households were made up of individuals, and 9.6% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.96 and the average family size was 3.44.

In the county, 31.8% of the population was under the age of 18, 9.8% was from 18 to 24, 27.5% from 25 to 44, 19.7% from 45 to 64, and 11.2% was 65 years of age or older. The median age was 31 years. For every 100 females there were 99.6 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 97.1 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$34,828, and the median income for a family was \$39,746. Males had a median income of \$31,620 versus \$24,541 for females. The *per capita income* for the county was \$15,606. About 14.8% of families and 19.7% of the population were below the *poverty line*, including 27.2% of those under age 18 and 11.3% of those age 65 or over.

## Economy [ edit ]

At the last census, the county harvested 1,027 acres (416 ha) of **potato** (*Solanum tuberosum*).<sup>[17]: 395</sup>

The northeastern corner of the county is part of the U.S. Army's **Yakima Training Center**.

## Wine regions [ edit ]

Washington ranks second in the **United States** in the production of **wine**, behind only **California**.<sup>[18]</sup> The **Yakima Valley AVA** was established in 1983 in the state's oldest agricultural region. It is Washington's third largest officially designated **American Viticultural Area** (AVA), and is responsible for more than 40% of the state's wine production.

Located within the larger **Columbia Valley AVA**, the Yakima Valley AVA is sub-divided into the three smaller wine regions, each with distinctive growing conditions. They are **Red Mountain AVA**, **Snipes Mountain AVA**, and **Rattlesnake Hills AVA**.<sup>[19]</sup> Of the viticultural region's 665,000 acres (269,000 ha), nearly 11,120 acres (4,500 ha) were planted in 2008.<sup>[18]</sup>

## Pests [ edit ]

Common **agricultural pests** here include the Green Peach Aphid (*Myzus persicae*), the Spotted Cutworm (*Xestia c-nigrum*), and the Beet Leafhopper (*Circulifer tenellus*) in potato.<sup>[20]</sup>

## Communities [ edit ]

### Cities [ edit ]

- Grandview
- Granger
- Mabton
- Moxee
- Selah
- Sunnyside
- Tieton
- Toppenish
- Union Gap
- Wapato
- Yakima (county seat)
- Zillah

### Towns [ edit ]

- Harrah
- Naches

### Census-designated places [ edit ]

- Ahtanum
- Buena
- Cowiche
- Donald
- Eschbach
- Gleed
- Outlook
- Parker
- Satus
- Summitview
- Tampico
- Terrace Heights
- West Valley
- White Swan

### Unincorporated communities [ edit ]

- Artesian
- Ashue
- Belma
- Birchfield
- Blackrock
- Brownstown
- Buena
- Byron
- Cliffdell
- East Selah
- Emerald
- Empire
- Farron
- Flint
- Fort Simcoe
- Fruitvale
- Givens Corner
- Goose Prairie
- Gromore
- Harwood
- Holtzinger
- Jonathan
- Liberty
- Lichty
- Midvale
- Nass
- Nile
- Pinecliff
- Plainview
- Pomona
- Rimrock
- Sawyer
- Spitzenberg
- Venner
- Waneta
- Weikel
- Wenas
- Wiley City
- Yethonat

## Politics [ edit ]

Yakima County leans Republican in statewide elections. On only four occasions has it backed a Democrat for President – it has voted for the same candidate as the state of **South Dakota** in every election since they first voted for President – and the last Democratic gubernatorial candidate it backed was **Albert D. Rosellini** in 1956.<sup>[21]</sup>

Only **Adams County** and **Columbia County**, which last backed a Democrat for governor in 1936 when **Clarence D. Martin** swept every county in the state, have consistently backed Republicans for governor for longer.<sup>[21]</sup> Although Yakima County did narrowly support **Maria Cantwell** in 2012, the previous statewide candidate to carry Yakima County for the Democrats was popular Senator "**Scoop**" **Jackson** in 1982.<sup>[22]</sup>

## See also [ edit ]

- National Register of Historic Places listings in Yakima County, Washington

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## Further reading [ edit ]

- William Denison Lyman, *History of the Yakima Valley, Washington: Comprising Yakima, Kittitas, and Benton Counties*. In Two Volumes. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1919. Volume 1 [ edit ] and Volume 2 [ edit ].

## External links [ edit ]

- Yakima County, official county site
- Yakima Valley Visitors Bureau
- Washington Wine Commission



	<b>Places adjacent to Yakima County, Washington</b>	<span>[</span> show <span>]</span>
<span>V</span> <span>•</span> <span>T</span> <span>•</span> <span>E</span>	<b>Municipalities and communities of Yakima County, Washington, United States</b>	<span>[</span> show <span>]</span>
<span>V</span> <span>•</span> <span>T</span> <span>•</span> <span>E</span>	<b>State of Washington</b>	<span>[</span> show <span>]</span>
	<b>Authority control databases</b> <span><span></span></span>	<span>[</span> show <span>]</span>
Categories: <span>Washington (state) counties</span>   <span>Yakima County, Washington</span>   <span>1865 establishments in Washington Territory</span>   <span>Populated places established in 1865</span>   <span>Eastern Washington</span>   <span>Washington placenames of Native American origin</span>		

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