

## Yakima MSA Ranks #1 in Nation for Projected Job Growth

Yakima's Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is projected to have the country's best employment outlook for the second quarter 2009, according to a survey by Manpower, Inc., a consulting services company based in Milwaukee. Among survey participants, from April to June, 27% of them plan on hiring more employees while 6% expect to reduce their payrolls. Sixty percent expect to maintain their current staff levels and 7% are not certain of their hiring plans. The survey has an error rate of 0.6%.

Yakima's strong agricultural sector enjoyed the largest apple crop on record in 2008 which reasons why durable and nondurable goods manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and professional and business services will lead hiring growth. Dave McFadden, president of New Vision, said the survey results are good news for the Yakima Valley, "I have always felt our economy is performing relatively well versus other areas of the country. We have a strong, diverse agricultural sector and they are doing very well. There are sometimes storm clouds but our area weathers them very well."

Manpower Inc., surveys 31,800 employers located within the 200 MSA's in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Their next outlook survey will be released on June 9, 2009 to report hiring expectations for Quarter 3, 2009.