



## THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE REPORT

Prepared by

John Wines, Statewide Agricultural Analyst  
 Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch  
 Washington State Employment Security Department  
 Telephone: (360) 438-4843, FAX (360) 438-4109  
 E-mail: [jwines@esd.wa.gov](mailto:jwines@esd.wa.gov)

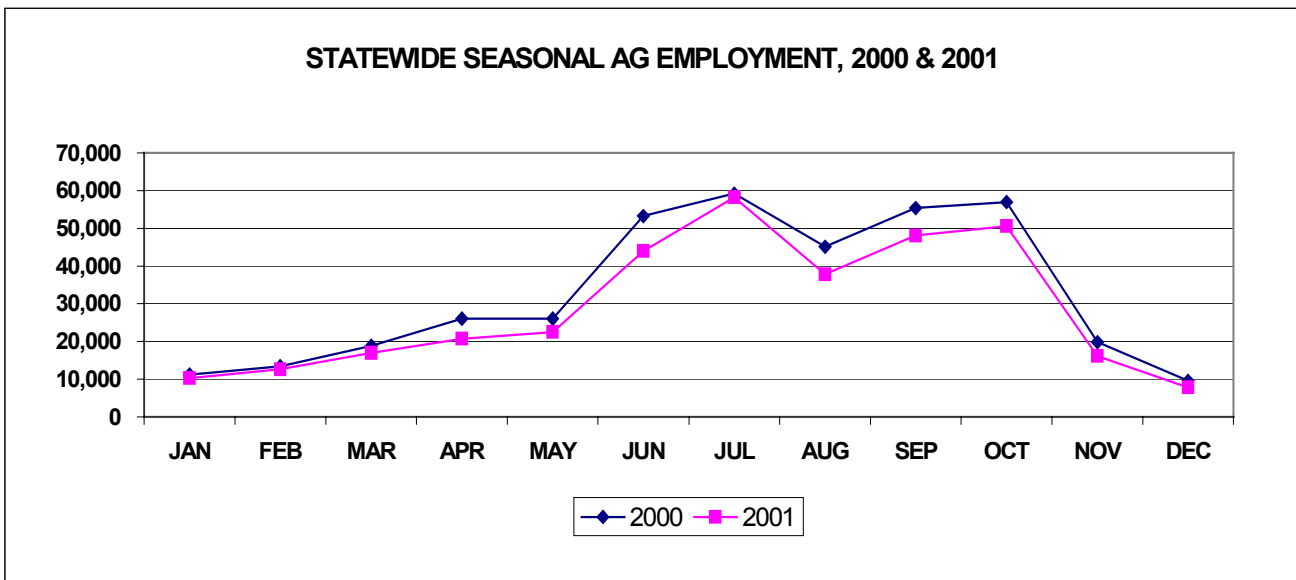
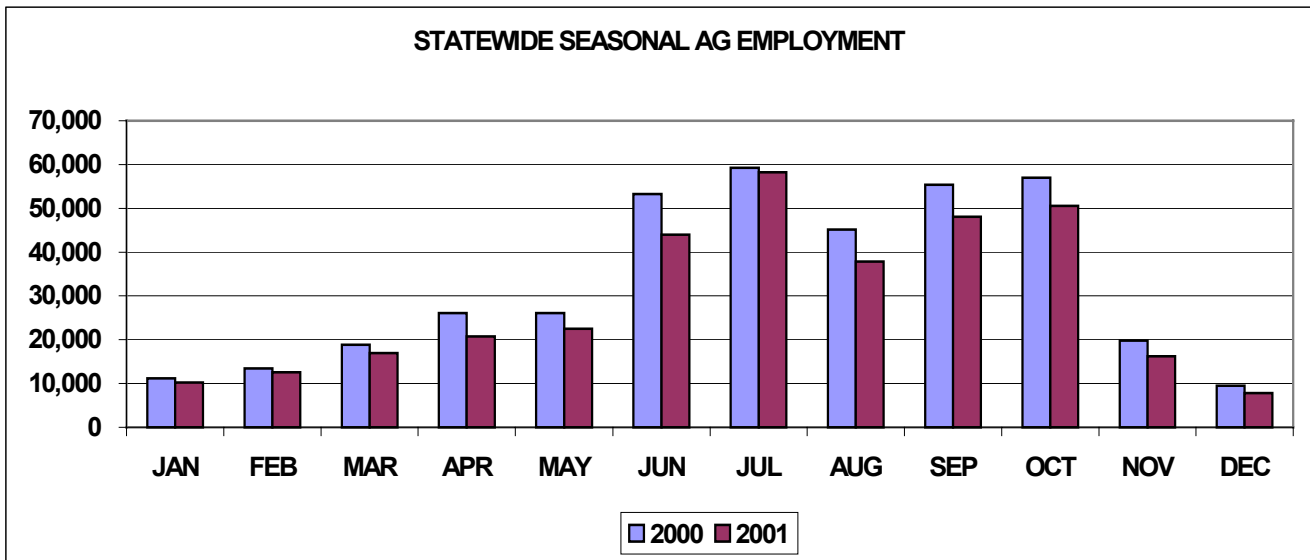
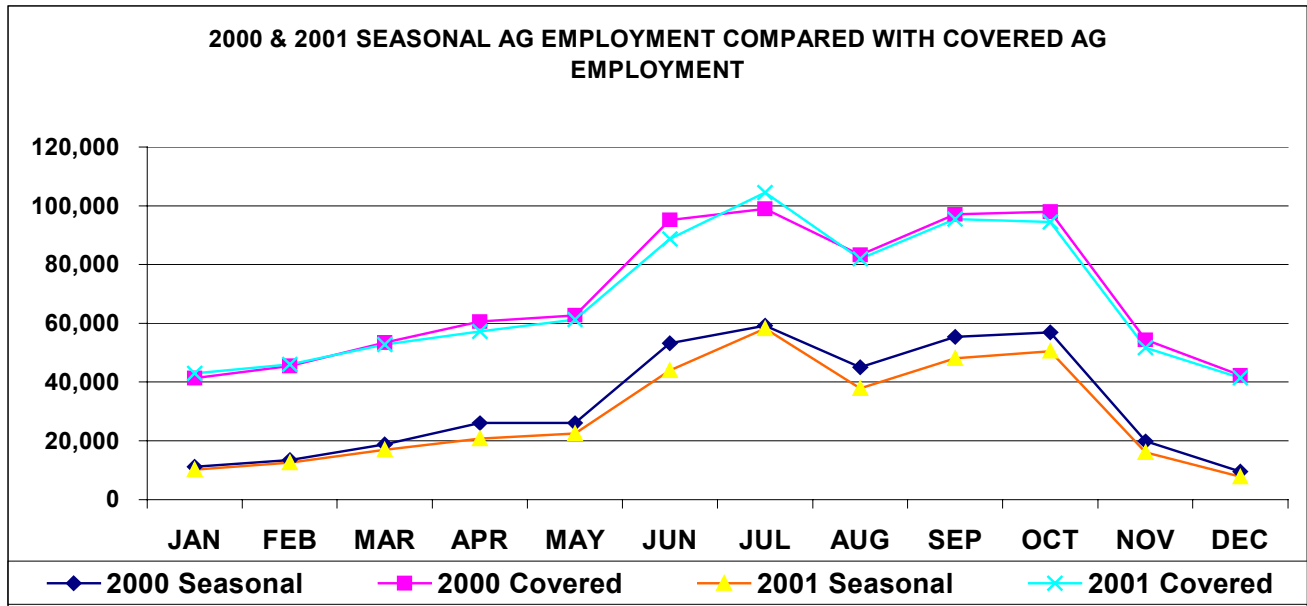
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This report will document and analyze the changes in monthly seasonal agricultural employment by agricultural area, crop and activity. The sources for the data are the "Seasonal Farm Labor Survey" and the "Covered Employment and Payrolls by County and Industry." The Seasonal Farm Labor Survey contains estimates developed from a survey of approximately 600 growers, statewide, broken out into 6 geographical areas. This monthly survey provides employment and wage estimates of seasonal employees working in specific jobs such as apple pruning in South Central Washington (Ag Area 2- Yakima and Klickitat Counties). Seasonal agricultural employees are individuals who are employed on any one farm for less than 150 days.

### STATEWIDE, 2001 YEAR IN REVIEW

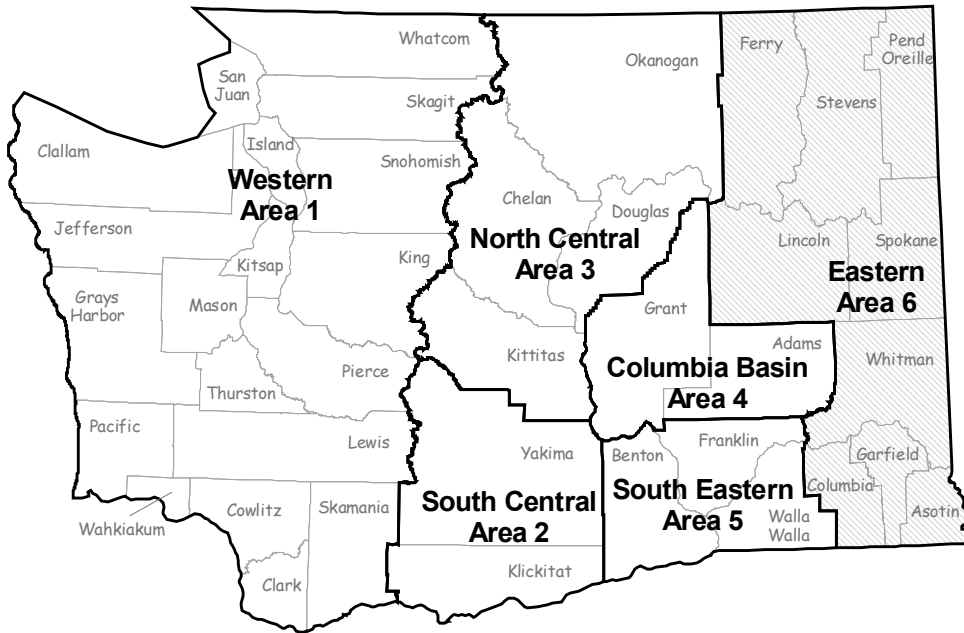
The total average seasonal employment for the year 2001 decreased by 4,097 or 12.4% from the year 2000. However the total Covered Employment for agriculture decreased by only 1,160 or 1.7%. This can be accounted for by the downturn in solely seasonal employees in labor intensive activities such as apple pruning and apple harvest. Total seasonal employment for all apple activity fell by nearly 4,000. Conversely, seasonal employment for cherries, pears, grapes, hops and nursery grew by 1,087.

SEASONAL AG EMPLOYMENT													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
2000	11,208	13,416	18,823	26,021	26,063	53,252	59,232	45,112	55,380	56,952	19,797	9,510	32,897
2001	10,254	12,622	16,928	20,733	22,489	43,976	58,218	37,800	48,078	50,559	16,164	7,780	28,800
COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
2000	41,333	45,506	53,402	60,559	62,739	95,229	98,933	83,319	97,005	97,969	54,406	42,247	69,387
2001	43,005	45,965	52,804	57,309	61,337	88,637	104,544	81,976	95,463	94,502	51,723	41,458	68,227
COVERED AND SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
2000 Seasonal	11,208	13,416	18,823	26,021	26,063	53,252	59,232	45,112	55,380	56,952	19,797	9,510	32,897
2000 Covered	41,333	45,506	53,402	60,559	62,739	95,229	98,933	83,319	97,005	97,969	54,406	42,247	69,387
2001 Seasonal	10,254	12,622	16,928	20,733	22,489	43,976	58,218	37,800	48,078	50,559	16,164	7,780	28,800
2001 Covered	43,005	45,965	52,804	57,309	61,337	88,637	104,544	81,976	95,463	94,502	51,723	41,458	68,227



**JANUARY 2002**

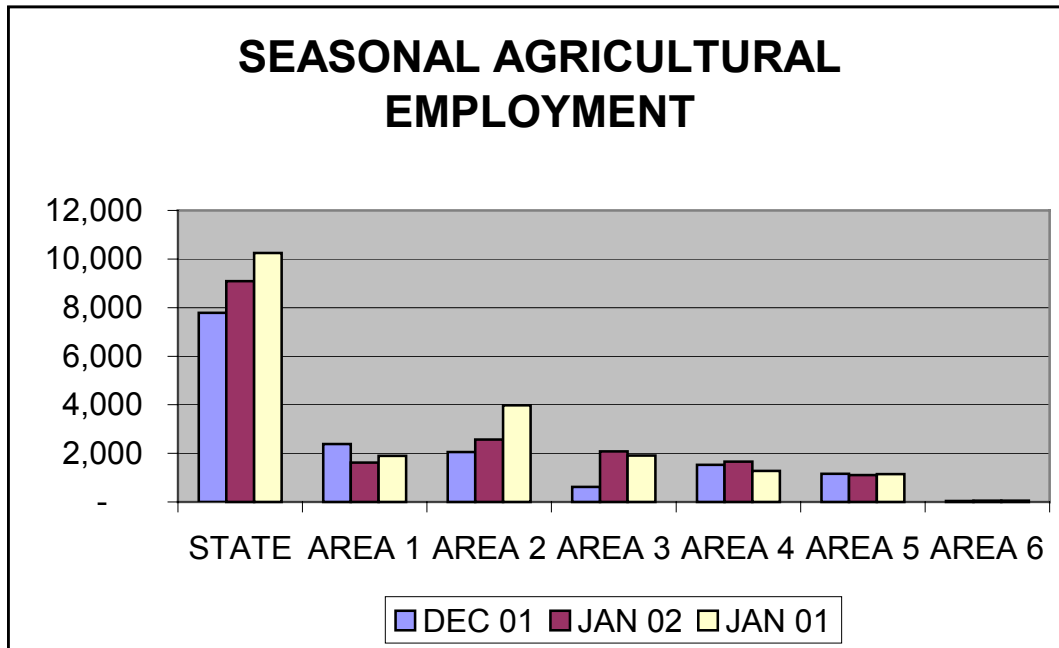
**Agricultural Reporting Areas in Washington State**



**Counties Within Agricultural Reporting Areas**

- Area 1** = Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom
- Area 2** = Klickitat, Yakima
- Area 3** = Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Okanogan
- Area 4** = Adams, Grant
- Area 5** = Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla
- Area 6** = Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman

<b>SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
				<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>			
	<b>JAN 02</b>	<b>DEC 01</b>	<b>JAN 01</b>	<b>DEC 01 JAN 02</b>	<b>JAN 01 JAN 02</b>	<b>DEC 01- JAN 02</b>	<b>JAN 01- JAN 02</b>
<b>STATE</b>	9,087	7,780	10,254	1,307	-1167	16.8%	-11.4%
<b>Western</b>	1,620	2,383	1,894	-763	-274	-32.0%	-14.5%
<b>South Central</b>	2,569	2,056	3,975	513	-1406	25.0%	-35.4%
<b>North Central</b>	2,077	616	1,906	1,461	171	237.2%	9.0%
<b>Columbia Basin</b>	1,661	1,530	1,282	131	379	8.6%	29.6%
<b>South Eastern</b>	1,112	1,153	1,143	-41	-31	-3.6%	-2.7%
<b>Eastern</b>	48	42	54	6	-6	14.3%	-11.1%



**Statewide** seasonal employment was up 16.8% in January 2002 from December 2001. However, following the recent trend, employment was down 11.4% from January 2001. The crop activity gaining the largest employment from January 2001 to January 2002 was miscellaneous vegetable work 266.7%. The crop activity losing the most employment during that same time period was other tree fruit work -82.2%. The crop activity adding the greatest employment from December 2001 to January 2002 was wheat/grain work 277.8%. The crop activity losing the most employment for that same time period was miscellaneous vegetable work -68.8%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2002, statewide, was \$7.23 per hour.

CROP	STATEWIDE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Dec '01 - Jan '02</u>	<u>Jan '01 - Jan '02</u>
Apples	106.9	-2.3
Blueberry	83.3	62.5
Bulb	-54.7	87.8
Cherries	47.6	-58.3
Grapes	29.6	-52.3
Hop	-8.3	266.7
Misc Vegetables	-68.8	-33.9
Nursery	-35.1	-52.9
Onion	-9.3	93.3
Other Seasonal	175.0	95.9
Other Tree Fruit	96.3	-82.2
Pears	-54.7	-34.4
Potato	-37.8	14.3
Raspberry	-32.6	
Wheat/Grain	277.8	-10.5

**Western (Area 1)** seasonal employment declined 32.0% in January 2002 from December 2001. The decrease from January 2001 was only 14.6%. The crop activity expanding by the greatest employment from January 2001 to January 2002 was rhubarb work 177.8%. The crop activity contracting by the largest employment for that same time period was other seasonal work -61.9%. The crop activity displaying the largest upturn in employment from December 2001 to January 2002 was bulb work 87.8%. The crop activity showing the largest downturn in employment for that same time period was other seasonal work -91.2%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2002 was \$7.25 per hour.

CROP	AREA 1 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Dec '01 - Jan '02</u>	<u>Jan '01 - Jan '02</u>
Blueberry	-14.6	83.3
Bulb	87.8	-54.7
Nursery	-61.3	-37.6
Other Seasonal	-91.2	-61.9
Potato	18.2	-23.9
Raspberry	62.5	-32.6
Rhubarb	25.0	177.8

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment increased by 25.0% in January 2002 over December 2001. However, seasonal employment decreased by 35.4% from January 2001. The crop activity rising the greatest in employment from January 2001 to January 2002 was hop work 300.0%. The crop activity shrinking by the largest employment during that same time period was miscellaneous vegetable work -100.0%. The crop activity experiencing the most growth from December 2001 to January 2002 was apple work 64.7%. The crop activity exhibiting the largest downturn in employment during that same time period was miscellaneous vegetable work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2002 was \$7.45 per hour.

CROP	AREA 2 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Dec '01 - Jan '02</u>	<u>Jan '01 - Jan '02</u>
Apples	64.7	-17.4
Cherries	-17.4	-85.8
Grapes	30.0	-60.5
Hop	50.0	300.0
Misc Vegetables	-100.0	-100.0
Other Seasonal	-16.7	-87.7
Other Tree Fruit		-77.7
Pears	-51.6	-22.3

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment in January 2002 exceeded December 2001 by 237.2%. However, seasonal employment increased only 9.0% from January 2001. The crop activity experiencing the largest increase in employment from January 2001 to January 2002 was apple work 25.8%. The crop activity

lagging the most in employment during that same time period was other tree fruit work -96.2%. The crop activity adding the greatest employment from December 2001 to January 2002 was apple work 349.8%. The crop activity showing the weakest demand for that same time period was other tree fruit -88.9%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2002 was \$ 7.39 per hour.

<b>CROP</b>	<b>AREA 3 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT</b>	
	<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b><u>Dec '01 - Jan '02</u></b>	<b><u>Jan '01 - Jan '02</u></b>
Apples	349.8	25.8
Cherries	172.7	-57.8
Other Seasonal	55.6	
Other Tree Fruit	-88.9	-96.2
Pears	-71.8	-63.1

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment exhibited a growth of 8.6% in January 2002 over December 2001. However, seasonal employment rose by 29.6% from January 2001. Weather was a factor in limiting crop activities. The crop activity netting the largest over-the-year gain in employment from January 2001 to January 2002 was onion work 134.5%. The crop activity experiencing the greatest loss in employment for that same time period was cherry work -92.9%. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from December 2001 to January 2002 was apple work 52.6%. The crop activity contracting the largest in employment for that same time period was wheat/grain work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2002 was \$7.02 per hour.

<b>CROP</b>	<b>AREA 4 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT</b>	
	<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b><u>Dec '01 - Jan '02</u></b>	<b><u>Jan '01 - Jan '02</u></b>
Apples	52.6	22.6
Cherries	-30.0	-92.9
Nursery	-22.4	30.6
Onion	-17.8	134.5
Other Seasonal	-7.7	
Pears	-40.7	-62.8
Potato	-19.6	8.6
Wheat/Grain	-100.0	

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment dwindled by 3.6% in January 2002 over December 2001. The downturn from January 2001 to January 2001 however, was only 2.7%. The crop activity posting the largest increase in employment from January 2001 to January 2002 was other seasonal work 1,312.0%. The crop activities scaling back the most in employment were potato and wheat/grain work, both at -100.0%. The crop activity expanding by the largest employment from December 2001 to January 2002 was other seasonal work 566.0%. The crop activities exhibiting the softest demand for that same time period were nursery and wheat/grain work, both at -100.0%. Warmer weather conditions contributed to smaller declines in pruning and other activities, as compared to other areas of the state. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2002 was \$7.13 per hour.

CROP	AREA 5 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Dec '01 - Jan '02</u>	<u>Jan '01 - Jan '02</u>
Apples	-3.1	-56.6
Cherries	24.7	34.7
Grapes	28.8	-11.8
Hop	-37.5	233.3
Misc Vegetables	-67.3	-38.5
Nursery	-100.0	
Onion	56.2	12.9
Other Seasonal	566.0	1,312.0
Other Tree Fruit		-33.3
Potato	-100.0	-100.0
Wheat/Grain		-100.0

**Eastern (Area 6)** Seasonal employment grew by 14.3% in January 2002 over December 2001. However seasonal employment contracted by 11.1% from January 2001. Market as well as weather conditions played a role in the above changes. The crop activity expanding by the largest employment from January 2001 to January 2002 was wheat/grain work 6.3%. The crop activity lagging the greatest in employment for that same time period was other seasonal work -50.0%. No crop activities showed an increase in employment from December 2001 to January 2002. The crop activity experiencing the largest downturn in employment for that same time period was wheat/grain -71.8%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2002 was \$10.88 per hour.

CROP	AREA 6 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	
	PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>Dec '01 - Jan '02</u>	<u>Jan '01 - Jan '02</u>
Nursery	-33.3	
Other Seasonal	-71.8	-50.0
Wheat/Grain		6.3

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**  
Washington State Employment Security, Labor Market and Economic Analysis

**FARM LABOR ABSTRACT**  
**JANUARY 2002**

A mid-month survey of farm labor employment and wages was conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department. At least five percent of all growers are surveyed for employment data about seasonal workers, type of crop, work activity, wages and their residence. Based on that data, the Washington Employment Security Department develops estimates on the size of the workforce, average wages for each crop activity, and whether workers commute, live within the state or come in from another state. These data are reported for each agricultural area identified as having similar farm labor characteristics and a significant supply/demand for seasonal hired workforce.

**WESTERN (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum and Whatcom counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,620 (1,542 local, 0 intrastate, 78 interstate)

Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	344	\$ 7.61/hr	
Raspberry Pruner . . . . .	327	\$ 6.90/hr	or \$ 0.18 - \$ 0.21/plant
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	309	\$ 7.20/hr	
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	208	\$ 6.90/hr	

**SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,569 (2,196 local, 134 intrastate, 239 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	1,644	\$ 7.40/hr	or \$ 0.30 - \$ 9.50/tree
Grapes Pruner . . . . .	370	\$ 7.28/hr	or \$ 0.21 - \$ 0.26/vine
Pear Pruner . . . . .	234	\$ 0.75 - \$ 3.75/tree	
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	161	\$ 7.21/hr	

**NORTH CENTRAL (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas and Okanogan counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,077 (2,060 local, 14 intrastate, 3 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	1,775	\$ 7.05/hr	or \$ 0.55 to \$ 4.00/tree
Cherry Pruner . . . . .	87	\$ 8.12/hr	
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	42	\$ 7.56/hr	
Apple Trainer . . . . .	42	\$ 7.50/hr	

**COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,661 (1,591 local, 0 intrastate, 70 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	823	\$ 7.05/hr	or \$ 0.20 - \$ 1.50/tree
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	427	\$ 6.96/hr	
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	123	\$ 6.90/hr	
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	110	\$ 6.90/hr	

**SOUTHEAST (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,112 (1,103 local, 0 intrastate, 9 interstate)

Chicken Eggs Worker . . . . .	328	\$ 7.50/hr	
Apple Pruner . . . . .	213	\$ 7.02/hr	or \$ 0.35 - \$ 3.00/tree
Grapes Pruner . . . . .	141	\$ 6.90/hr	or \$ 0.15 - \$ 0.30/vine
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	134	\$ 6.90/hr	

**EASTERN (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 48 (48 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate)

Contract Establishment Planter . . . . .	34	\$12.50/hr	
Peas Vehicle Operator . . . . .	11	\$10.00/hr	
Nursery Planter . . . . .	2	\$ 6.90/hr	