

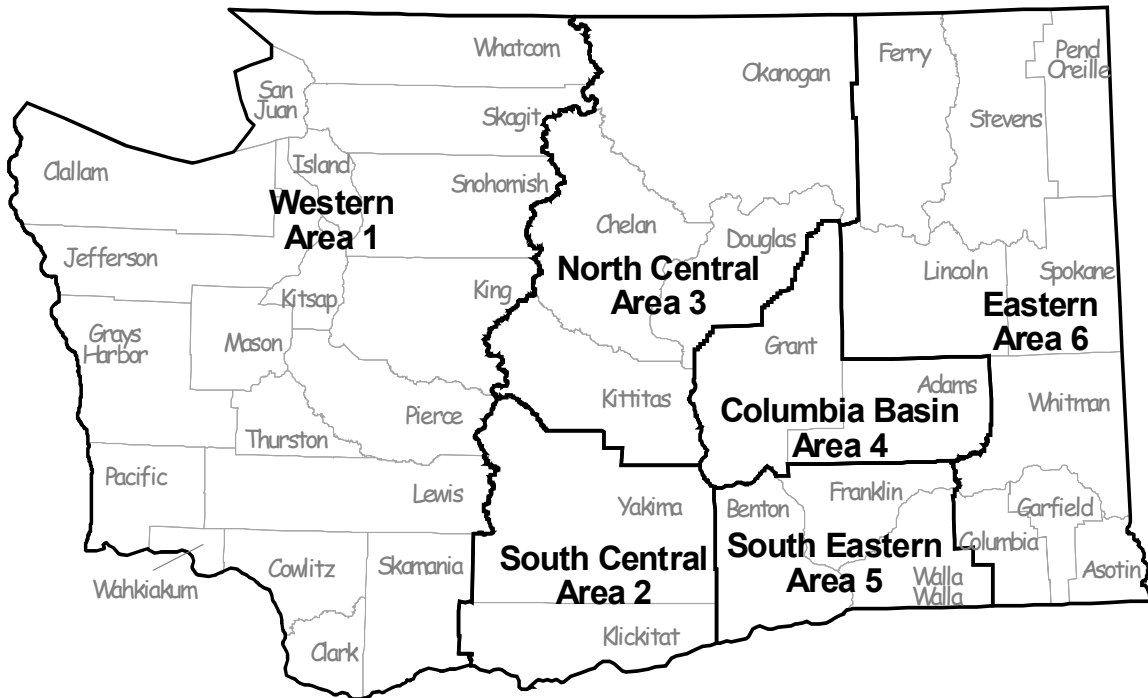


## THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE REPORT

Prepared by  
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**SEPTEMBER 2002**

### **Agricultural Reporting Areas in Washington State**



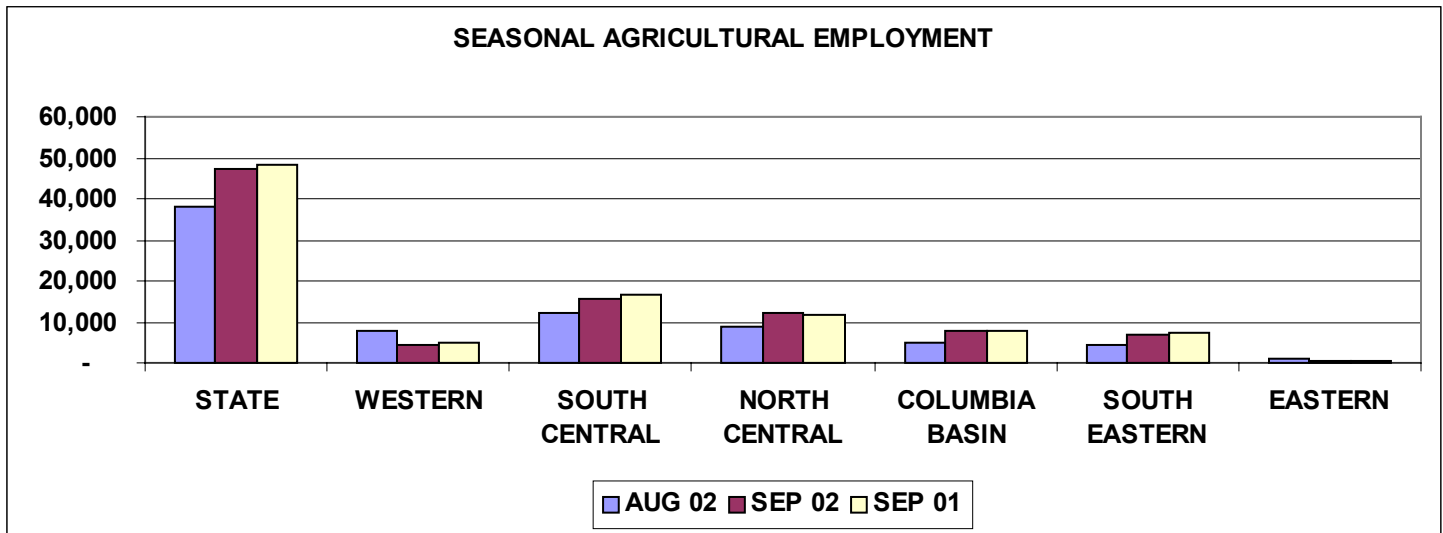
### **Counties Within Agricultural Reporting Areas**

- 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

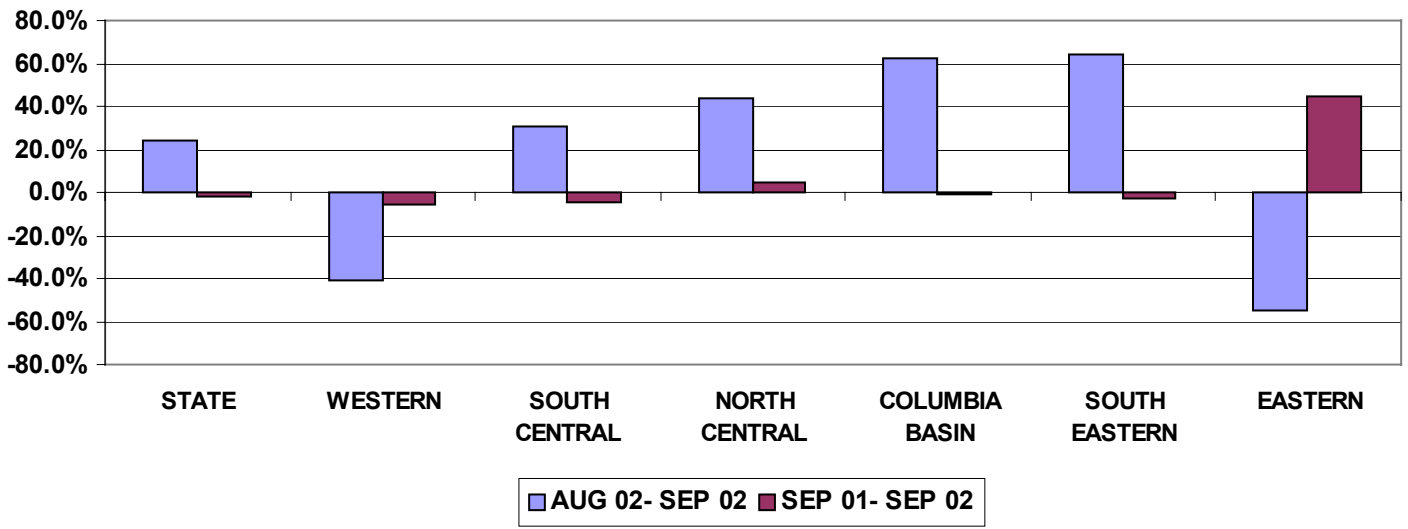
**SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

|                | SEP 02 | AUG 02 | SEP 01 | CHANGE            |                   | PERCENT CHANGE    |                   |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                |        |        |        | AUG 02-<br>SEP 02 | SEP 01-<br>SEP 02 | AUG 02-<br>SEP 02 | SEP 01-<br>SEP 02 |
| STATE          | 47,390 | 38,136 | 48,078 | 9,254             | (688)             | 24.3%             | -1.4%             |
| WESTERN        | 4,592  | 7,828  | 4,883  | (3,236)           | (291)             | -41.3%            | -6.0%             |
| SOUTH CENTRAL  | 15,601 | 11,969 | 16,381 | 3,632             | (780)             | 30.3%             | -4.8%             |
| NORTH CENTRAL  | 12,279 | 8,564  | 11,759 | 3,715             | 520               | 43.4%             | 4.4%              |
| COLUMBIA BASIN | 7,590  | 4,665  | 7,661  | 2,925             | (71)              | 62.7%             | -0.9%             |
| SOUTH EASTERN  | 6,930  | 4,221  | 7,119  | 2,709             | (189)             | 64.2%             | -2.7%             |
| EASTERN        | 398    | 889    | 275    | (491)             | 123               | -55.2%            | 44.7%             |

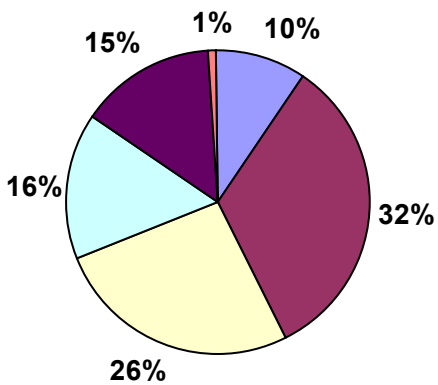
**SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**



**PERCENT CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**



**SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SEPTEMBER 2002**



**Statewide** seasonal employment decreased 1.4% from September 2001 to September 2002. However, seasonal employment increased 24.3%, statewide, from August 2002 to September 2002. The crop activity exhibiting the highest gain in employment from September 2001 to September 2002 was blueberry work 42.6%. The crop activity showing the largest decline in employment for the same time period was asparagus work -87.6%. The crop activity adding the most workers from August 2002 to September 2002 was hop work 224.9%. The crop activity shedding the most jobs during that same time period was cherry work -99.8%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2002, statewide, was \$7.32 per hour.

| <b>CROP</b>      | <b>STATEWIDE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT<br/>PERCENT CHANGE</b> |                          |
|------------------|---|--------------------------|
|                  | <b>Aug '02 - Sep '02</b>                                | <b>Sep '01 - Sep '02</b> |
| Apples           | 92.3  | 12.9                     |
| Asparagus        | -86.4   | -87.6                    |
| Blueberry        | -50.3   | 42.6                     |
| Bulb             | -71.5   | -64.6                    |
| Cherries         | -99.8   | -80.0                    |
| Cucumber         | -13.8   | -21.9                    |
| Grapes           | 8.7   | -48.1                    |
| Hop              | 224.9   | 4.1                      |
| Misc Vegetables  | 8.9   | -2.0                     |
| Nursery          | -23.2   | -16.6                    |
| Onion            | -25.2   | -13.7                    |
| Other Seasonal   | -11.2   | 13.5                     |
| Other Tree Fruit | -1.3  | -2.0                     |
| Pears            | 44.8  | -43.5                    |
| Potato           | 44.9  | -20.8                    |
| Raspberry        | -80.6   | -12.5                    |
| Strawberry       | -94.7   | -79.1                    |
| Wheat/Grain      | -77.6   | -14.3                    |

**Western (Area 1)** seasonal employment declined 6.0% from September 2001 to September 2002. Seasonal employment also fell 41.3% from August 2002 to September 2002. The crop activity rising the most in employment from September 2001 to September 2002 was blueberry work 42.6%. The crop activity experiencing the largest downturn in employment for the same time period was bulb work -64.6%. The crop activity posting the largest upturn in employment from August 2002 to September 2002 was potato work 1,041.7%. The crop activity shrinking the most during that same time period was strawberry work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2002 in Area 1 was \$7.23 per hour.

| CROP            | AREA 1 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT |                          |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
|                 | PERCENT CHANGE             |                          |
|                 | <u>Aug '02 - Sep '02</u>   | <u>Sep '01 - Sep '02</u> |
| Blueberry       | -50.3                      | 42.6                     |
| Bulb            | -71.5                      | -64.6                    |
| Cucumber        | -13.8                      | -21.9                    |
| Misc Vegetables | -15.1                      | -10.2                    |
| Nursery         | -10.5                      | -8.2                     |
| Other Seasonal  | -79.5                      | -49.1                    |
| Potato          | 1,041.7                    | 29.3                     |
| Raspberry       | -80.6                      | -12.5                    |
| Rhubarb         | -92.1                      | -57.1                    |
| Strawberry      | -100.0                     |                          |

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment contracted by 4.8% from September 2001 to September 2002. Conversely, it expanded by 30.3% from August 2002 to September 2002. The crop activity growing the most in employment from September 2001 to September 2002 was miscellaneous vegetables work 38.1%. The crop activity falling the greatest in employment for the same time period was grapes work -70.4%. The crop activity experiencing the largest growth in employment from August 2002 to September 2002 was miscellaneous vegetables work 1,280.7%. The crop activities showing the largest loss in employment during that same time period were cherry and asparagus work, both at -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2002 in Area 2 was \$7.36 per hour.

| CROP             | AREA 2 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT |                          |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
|                  | PERCENT CHANGE             |                          |
|                  | <u>Aug '02 - Sep '02</u>   | <u>Sep '01 - Sep '02</u> |
| Apples           | 57.7                       | 7.3                      |
| Asparagus        | -100.0                     |                          |
| Cherries         | -100.0                     |                          |
| Grapes           | 22.0                       | -70.4                    |
| Hop              | 215.2                      | 11.7                     |
| Misc Vegetables  | 1,280.7                    | 38.1                     |
| Onion            | -73.9                      | -34.9                    |
| Other Seasonal   | 17.3                       | 23.5                     |
| Other Tree Fruit | -32.2                      | -35.6                    |
| Pears            | 39.3                       | -20.2                    |
| Potato           | -80.9                      | -38.7                    |

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment exhibited an over-the-year net growth of 4.4% from September 2001 to September 2002. September 2002 employment also showed an increase by 43.4% in employment from August 2002. The crop activity gaining the most in employment from September 2001 to September 2002 was other tree fruit work 2,957.1%. The crop activity lagging the greatest in employment for that same time period was pear work -69.1%. The crop activity adding the most employment from August 2002 to September 2002 was apple work 106.0%. The crop activity having the largest decline in employment during that same time period was cherry work -100.0%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2002 in Area 3 was \$7.20 per hour.

| <b>CROP</b>      | <b>AREA 3 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT</b> |                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                  | <b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>             |                                 |
|                  | <b><u>Aug '02 - Sep '02</u></b>   | <b><u>Sep '01 - Sep '02</u></b> |
| Apples           | 106.0                             | 20.2                            |
| Cherries         | -100.0                            |                                 |
| Other Seasonal   | -21.6                             | 117.8                           |
| Other Tree Fruit | -10.5                             | 2,957.1                         |
| Pears            | 18.7                              | -69.1                           |

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment fell off by 0.9% from September 2001 to September 2002. This contrasted with an increase of 62.7% in employment from August 2002 to September 2002. The crop activity displaying the greatest upturn in employment from September 2001 to September 2002 was asparagus worker 266.7%. The crop activity experiencing the greatest downturn in employment for the same time period was nursery work -88.5%. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from August 2002 to September 2002 was apple work 114.0%. The crop activity netting the largest over-the-month loss in employment during that same time period was nursery work -94.6%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2002 in Area 4 was \$7.49 per hour.

| <b>CROP</b>     | <b>AREA 4 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT</b> |                                 |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                 | <b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>             |                                 |
|                 | <b><u>Aug '02 - Sep '02</u></b>   | <b><u>Sep '01 - Sep '02</u></b> |
| Apples          | 114.0                             | 8.1                             |
| Asparagus       | -84.5                             | 266.7                           |
| Cherries        | -93.7                             | 66.7                            |
| Mint            | -25.8                             | 51.7                            |
| Misc Vegetables | -76.8                             | 29.7                            |
| Nursery         | -94.6                             | -88.5                           |
| Onion           | -25.9                             | 11.4                            |
| Other Seasonal  | -39.3                             | -43.1                           |
| Pears           | 32.4                              | -47.0                           |
| Potato          | 109.3                             | -20.4                           |
| Wheat/Grain     | -92.3                             | -13.6                           |

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment contracted by 2.7% in September 2002 from September 2001. However, September 2002 employment grew by 64.2% from August 2002. The crop activity rising the greatest in employment from September 2001 to September 2002 was nursery work 109.1%. The crop activity shrinking the most in employment for the same time period was cherry worker -85.0%. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from August 2002 to September 2002 was hop work 1,125.0%. The crop activity scaling back the greatest in employment during that same time period was strawberry work -93.6%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2002 in Area 5 was \$7.34 per hour.

| CROP            | AREA 5 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT |                   |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
|                 | PERCENT CHANGE             |                   |
|                 | Aug '02 - Sep '02          | Sep '01 - Sep '02 |
| Apples          | 139.6                      | 13.4              |
| Cherries        | -50.0                      | -85.0             |
| Grapes          | 2.2                        | 7.4               |
| Hop             | 1,125.0                    | -60.3             |
| Misc Vegetables | 26.4                       | -6.5              |
| Nursery         | 21.1                       | 109.1             |
| Onion           | -61.6                      | -42.4             |
| Other Seasonal  | 108.1                      | 24.7              |
| Potato          | 0.8                        | -44.7             |
| Strawberry      | -93.6                      | -40.0             |
| Wheat/Grain     | -43.7                      | -43.1             |

**Eastern (Area 6)** seasonal employment expanded by 44.7% in September 2002 from September 2001. This contrasted with a downturn of 55.2% in seasonal employment in September 2002 over August 2002. The crop activity showing the greatest increase in employment from September 2001 to September 2002 was other seasonal work 163.4%. The crop activity losing the most in employment for that same time period was nursery work -67.87. The crop activity losing the fewest number of jobs from August 2002 to September 2002 was other seasonal work -77.3%. The crop activity exhibiting the largest loss in employment during that same time period was wheat/grain work -77.3%. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2002 in Area 6 was \$9.51 per hour.

| CROP           | AREA 6 SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT |                   |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
|                | PERCENT CHANGE             |                   |
|                | Aug '02 - Sep '02          | Sep '01 - Sep '02 |
| Nursery        | -33.3                      | -67.8             |
| Other Seasonal | -11.9                      | 163.4             |
| Wheat/Grain    | -77.3                      | 10.0              |

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

**FARM LABOR ABSTRACT**  
**September 2002**

A mid-month survey of farm labor employment and wages is 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: 4,592 (3,228 local, 122 intrastate, 1,242 interstate)

|  |     |            |
|--|-----|------------|
| Blueberry Harvester . . . . .          | 678 | \$ 6.90/hr |
| Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .  | 515 | \$ 7.57/hr |
| Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . . | 504 | \$ 7.22/hr |
| Cucumber Harvester . . . . .           | 403 | \$ 6.90/hr |

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 15,601 (12,619 local, 289 intrastate, 2,693 interstate)

|                                      |       |            |                           |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------------------|
| Apple Harvester . . . . .            | 7,523 | \$ 7.52/hr | or \$12.00 - \$23.00/bin  |
| Pear Harvester . . . . .             | 1,643 | \$ 6.91/hr | or \$12.00 - \$20.00/bin  |
| Hops Harvester . . . . .             | 1,533 | \$ 7.27/hr | or \$ 0.80 - \$ 4.00/bale |
| Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . . | 631   | \$ 7.16/hr |                           |

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 12,279 (11,167 local, 278 intrastate, 834 interstate)

|                           |        |            |                          |
|---------------------------|--------|------------|--------------------------|
| Apple Harvester . . . . . | 10,398 | \$ 7.14/hr | or \$ 7.00 - \$30.00/bin |
| Pear Harvester . . . . .  | 685    | \$ 7.12/hr | or \$12.50 - \$16.00/bin |
| Apple Worker . . . . .    | 418    | \$ 7.72/hr |                          |
| Peach Harvester . . . . . | 129    | \$ 6.90/hr |                          |

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 7,590 (6,783 local, 17 intrastate, 790 interstate)

|                                       |       |            |                          |
|---------------------------------------|-------|------------|--------------------------|
| Apple Harvester . . . . .             | 3,920 | \$ 7.30/hr | or \$11.00 - \$30.00/bin |
| Apple Hand Thinner . . . . .          | 477   | \$ 6.91/hr |                          |
| Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . . | 456   | \$ 6.98/hr |                          |
| Misc Onion Harvester . . . . .        | 383   | \$ 8.07/hr |                          |

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,930 (6,524 local, 11 intrastate, 395 interstate)

|                               |       |            |                          |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|--------------------------|
| Apple Harvester . . . . .     | 3,215 | \$ 7.27/hr | or \$10.00 - \$25.00/bin |
| Apple Hand Thinner . . . . .  | 449   | \$ 6.90/hr |                          |
| Chicken Eggs Worker . . . . . | 388   | \$ 7.50/hr |                          |
| Grapes Harvester . . . . .    | 387   | \$ 7.02/hr |                          |

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 398 (366 local, 8 intrastate, 24 interstate)

|   |     |            |
|---|-----|------------|
| Misc Grain & Seed Crops Harvester . . . . . | 132 | \$11.00/hr |
| Wheat Tractor Operator . . . . .            | 53  | \$ 8.25/hr |
| Wheat Vehicle Operator . . . . .            | 40  | \$12.00/hr |
| Wheat Worker . . . . .                      | 26  | \$ 8.50/hr |