



## SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

APRIL 2003



Prepared by

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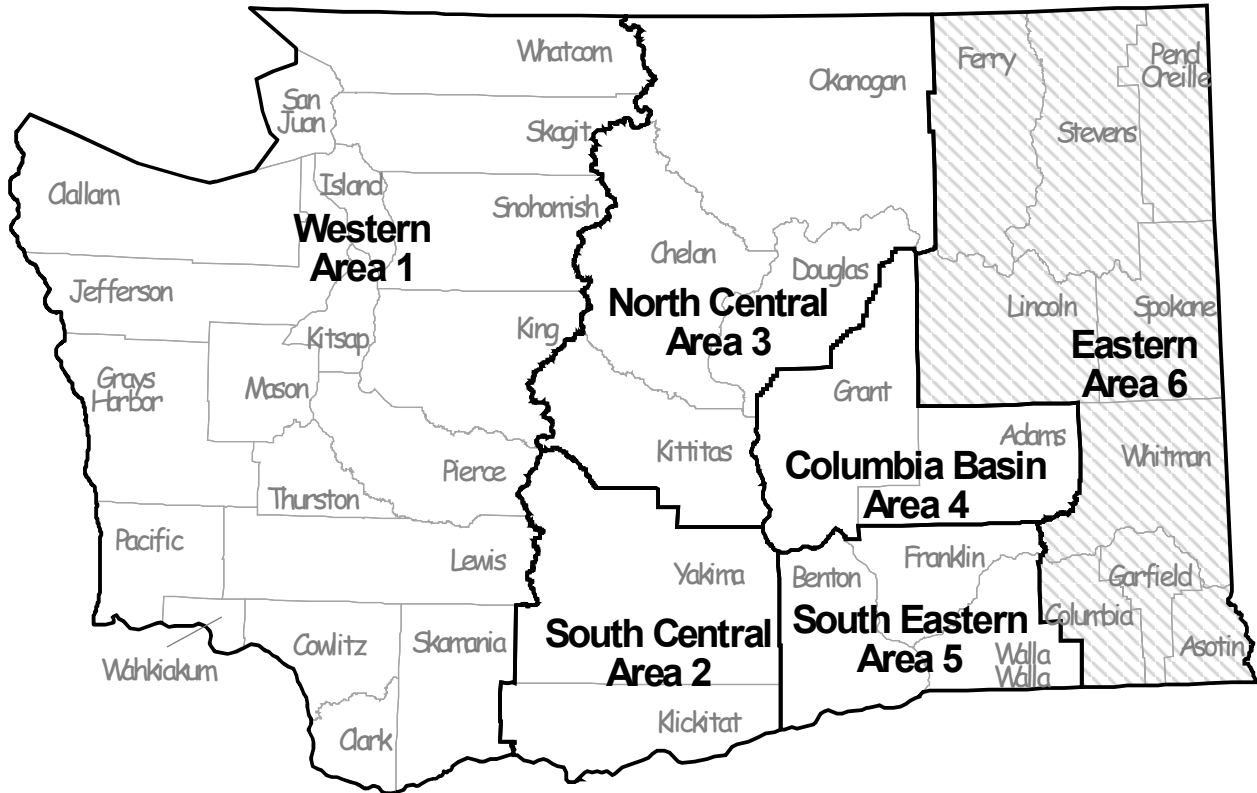
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry  
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

APRIL 2003

## 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

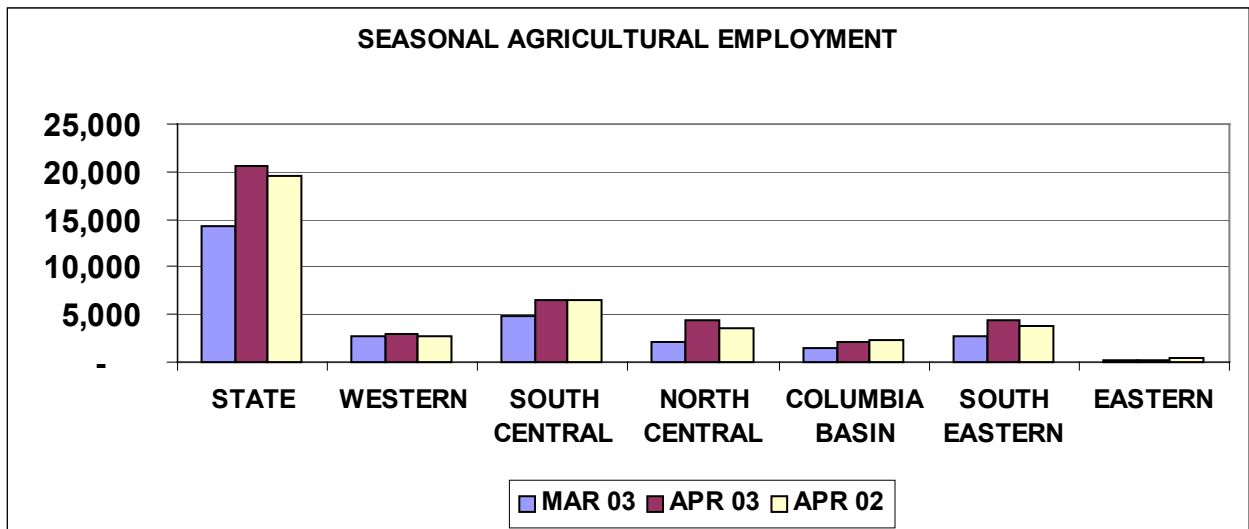
**Area 6** = Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

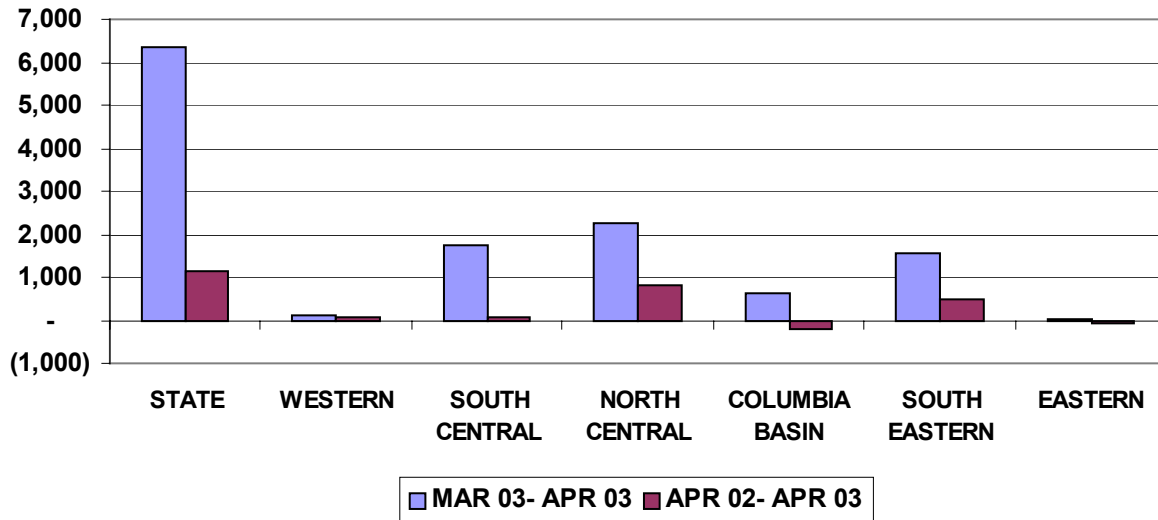
The Commerce Department recently imposed a preliminary 3.9 percent tariff on Canadian wheat imports. They decided this measure may be needed to counter Canadian subsidies of its wheat farmers.

About 70 percent of all fresh-market apples produced in the United States are grown in Washington. Between January and May, Washington controls 90 to 97 percent of all the Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Fuji and Gala apples available for sale in the United States. Even with this market share, the forces of supply and demand dictate pricing and profitability in the apple industry. This year, prices are good, primarily due to Washington's crop of high-quality apples in moderate volume, combined with below-normal yields in other apple-producing states. In Washington, revenue per acre is at its highest in 10 years. The domestic market for apples is mature and stable. However, export markets are becoming more competitive. China has become the world's largest apple producer, producing five times more apples than the United States. Ten years ago, their production about equaled that of the United States. Washington apples face high tariffs in countries throughout the world, while the United States collects no tariffs on apples imported here.

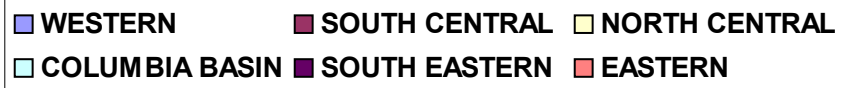
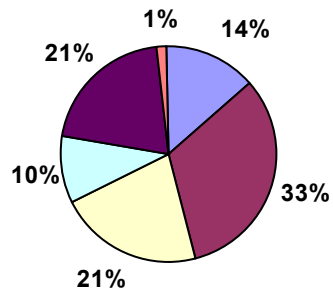
STATE	SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
	APR 03	MAR 03	APR 02	MAR 03- APR 03	APR 02- APR 03	MAR 03- APR 03	APR 02- APR 03	
STATE	20,648	14,279	19,493	6,369	1,155	44.6%	5.9%	
WESTERN	2,885	2,772	2,830	113	55	4.1%	1.9%	
SOUTH CENTRAL	6,558	4,796	6,478	1,762	80	36.7%	1.2%	
NORTH CENTRAL	4,419	2,150	3,627	2,269	792	105.5%	21.8%	
COLUMBIA BASIN	2,138	1,509	2,353	629	(215)	41.7%	-9.1%	
SOUTH EASTERN	4,349	2,777	3,855	1,572	494	56.6%	12.8%	
EASTERN	299	275	350	24	(51)	8.7%	-14.6%	



### CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



### SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT APRIL 2003



## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment increased 5.9% from April 2002 to April 2003. Seasonal employment also expanded statewide by 44.6% from March 2003 to April 2003. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from April 2002 to April 2003 was asparagus work (1,935). Other seasonal work contracted by the largest amount (-538) for that same time period. Asparagus work added the largest number of employees (4,440) from March 2003 to April 2003. During that same time period, grape work declined by the greatest number of jobs (-1,445). The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2003 was \$7.43 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	APR 03	MAR 03	APR 02	MAR 03- APR 03	APR 02- APR 03	MAR 03- APR 03	APR 02- APR 03
<b>CROP</b>	<b>APR 03</b>	<b>MAR 03</b>	<b>APR 02</b>	<b>MAR 03- APR 03</b>	<b>APR 02- APR 03</b>	<b>MAR 03- APR 03</b>	<b>APR 02- APR 03</b>
Apples	7,930	5,468	6,399	2,462	1,531	31.0%	23.9%
Asparagus	5,102	662	3,167	4,440	1,935	87.0%	61.1%
Blueberry	37	19	6	18	31	48.6%	516.7%
Bulb	527	1,289	506	(762)	21	-144.6%	4.2%
Cherries	335	164	227	171	108	51.0%	47.6%
Grapes	884	2,329	1,158	(1,445)	(274)	-163.5%	-23.7%
Hop	325	384	781	(59)	(456)	-18.2%	-58.4%
Misc Vegetables	308	147	667	161	(359)	109.5%	-53.8%
Nursery	1,931	1,142	1,973	789	(42)	69.1%	-2.1%
Onion	204	338	407	(134)	(203)	-39.6%	-49.9%
Other Seasonal	904	401	1,442	503	(538)	125.4%	-37.3%
Other Tree Fruit	519	589	737	(70)	(218)	-11.9%	-29.6%
Pears	256	491	349	(235)	(93)	-47.9%	-26.6%
Potato	974	549	1,177	425	(203)	77.4%	-17.2%
Raspberry	278	204	350	74	(72)	36.3%	-20.6%
Strawberry	15	3	35	12	(20)	400.0%	-57.1%
Wheat/Grain	120	56	112	64	8	114.3%	7.1%

**Western (Area 1)** over-the-year seasonal employment expanded by 1.9% from April 2002 to April 2003. Seasonal employment also increased by 4.1% from March 2003 to April 2003. Potato work was the crop activity that rose the most (84) in employment from April 2002 to April 2003. Raspberry work experienced the greatest decline (-72) in employment for that same time period. Nursery work displayed the largest growth in employment (605) from March 2003 to April 2003. Bulb work weakened by the greatest amount (-762) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2003 in Area 1 was \$7.51 per hour. (See pages 14 and 15 for Area 1 detail.)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	APR 03	MAR 03	APR 02	MAR 03- APR 03	APR 02- APR 03	MAR 03- APR 03	APR 02- APR 03
CROP							
Blueberry	37	19	6	18	31	94.7%	516.7%
Bulb	527	1289	506	(762)	21	-59.1%	4.2%
Misc Vegetables	83	11	148	72	(65)	654.5%	-43.9%
Nursery	1512	907	1498	605	14	66.7%	0.9%
Other Seasonal	48	45	35	3	13	6.7%	37.1%
Potato	235	190	151	45	84	23.7%	55.6%
Raspberry	278	204	350	74	(72)	36.3%	-20.6%
Rhubarb	164	105	118	59	46	56.2%	39.0%

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment grew by 1.2% from April 2002 to April 2003, with an over-the-month increase of 36.7% from March 2003 to April 2003. Apple work was the crop activity expanding by the greatest amount (620) of employment from April 2002 to April 2003. Hop work contracted by the largest amount (-506) for that same time period. Asparagus work added the largest number of workers (2,037) from March 2003 to April 2003. Grape work lagged behind by the greatest amount of employment (-795) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2003 in Area 2 was \$7.37 per hour. (See pages 16 - 18 for Area 2 detail.)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	APR 03	MAR 03	APR 02	MAR 03- APR 03	APR 02- APR 03	MAR 03- APR 03	APR 02- APR 03
CROP							
Apples	2436	2043	1816	393	620	19.2%	34.1%
Asparagus	2055	18	1615	2,037	440	11316.7%	27.2%
Cherries	193	90	33	103	160	114.4%	484.8%
Grapes	515	1310	574	(795)	(59)	-60.7%	-10.3%
Hop	275	363	781	(88)	(506)	-24.2%	-64.8%
Misc Vegetables	5	0	143	5	(138)	0.0%	-96.5%
Onion	0	0	78	0	(78)	0.0%	-100.0%
Other Seasonal	436	88	364	348	72	395.5%	19.8%
Other Tree Fruit	430	454	728	(24)	(298)	-5.3%	-40.9%
Pears	215	412	346	(197)	(131)	-47.8%	-37.9%
Potato	0	18	0	(18)	0	-100.0%	0.0%

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment expanded by 21.8% from April 2002 to April 2003. This was superceded by an even stronger recovery of 105.5% in employment in April 2003 over March 2003. The crop posting the greatest gain in employment from April 2002 to April 2003 was apple work (801). Cherry work fell behind by the largest amount (-73) for that same time period. Apple work rose by the largest employment (2,255) from March 2003 to April 2003. Other tree fruit work had the largest downturn in employment (-46) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2003 in Area 3 was \$7.31 per hour. (See pages 19 and 20 for Area 3 detail.)

<b>AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
<b>CROP</b>	<b>APR 03</b>	<b>MAR 03</b>	<b>APR 02</b>	<b>MAR 03- APR 03</b>	<b>APR 02- APR 03</b>	<b>MAR 03- APR 03</b>	<b>APR 02- APR 03</b>
Apples	4204	1949	3403	2,255	801	115.7%	23.5%
Cherries	51	43	124	8	(73)	18.6%	-58.9%
Other Seasonal	114	6	91	108	23	1800.0%	25.3%
Other Tree Fruit	10	56	6	(46)	4	-82.1%	66.7%
Pears	41	79	3	(38)	38	-48.1%	1266.7%

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment experienced a loss of 9.1% from April 2002 to April 2003. However, seasonal employment increased by 41.7% from March 2003 to April 2003. Apple work netted the greatest over-the-year gain in employment (107) from April 2002 to April 2003. Potato work posted the largest decline (-281) in employment during that same time period. However, potato work advanced the most (264) in employment from March 2003 to April 2003. Onion work experienced the weakest demand (-55) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2003 in Area 4 was \$7.55 per hour. (See pages 21 - 23 for Area 4 detail)

<b>AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
<b>CROP</b>	<b>APR 03</b>	<b>MAR 03</b>	<b>APR 02</b>	<b>MAR 03- APR 03</b>	<b>APR 02- APR 03</b>	<b>MAR 03- APR 03</b>	<b>APR 02- APR 03</b>
Apples	968	755	861	213	107	28.2%	12.4%
Asparagus	131	140	27	(9)	104	-6.4%	385.2%
Cherries	56	19	51	37	5	194.7%	9.8%
Mint	37	24	103	13	(66)	54.2%	-64.1%
Misc Vegetables	16	14	96	2	(80)	14.3%	-83.3%
Nursery	268	65	231	203	37	312.3%	16.0%
Onion	70	125	63	(55)	7	-44.0%	11.1%
Other Seasonal	95	92	154	3	(59)	3.3%	-38.3%
Other Tree Fruit	16	55	0	(39)	16	-70.9%	0.0%
Pears	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Potato	475	211	756	264	(281)	125.1%	-37.2%
Wheat/Grain	5	5	11	0	(6)	0.0%	-54.5%

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment expanded by 12.8% from April 2002 to April 2003. April 2003 employment boomed ahead by 56.6% over March 2003. Asparagus work employment posted the largest increase (1,391) from April 2002 to April 2003. Other seasonal work scaled back by the greatest (-538) employment during that same time period. Asparagus work charged up by the largest amount (2,412) of employment from March 2003 to April 2003. This was contrasted by apple work employment weakening by the greatest amount (-399) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2003 in Area 5 was \$7.40 per hour. (See pages 24 - 26 for Area 5 detail)

<b>AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>			<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>		
<b>CROP</b>	<b>APR 03</b>	<b>MAR 03</b>	<b>APR 02</b>	<b>MAR 03- APR 03</b>	<b>APR 02- APR 03</b>	<b>MAR 03- APR 03</b>	<b>APR 02- APR 03</b>
Apples	322	721	319	(399)	3	-55.3%	0.9%
Asparagus	2916	504	1525	2,412	1,391	478.6%	91.2%
Cherries	35	12	19	23	16	191.7%	84.2%
Grapes	369	1019	584	(650)	(215)	-63.8%	-36.8%
Hop	50	21	0	29	50	138.1%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	40	17	162	23	(122)	135.3%	-75.3%
Nursery	4	2	20	2	(16)	100.0%	-80.0%
Onion	134	213	266	(79)	(132)	-37.1%	-49.6%
Other Seasonal	115	75	653	40	(538)	53.3%	-82.4%
Other Tree Fruit	63	24	3	39	60	162.5%	2000.0%
Potato	264	130	270	134	(6)	103.1%	-2.2%
Strawberry	15	0	17	15	(2)	0.0%	-11.8%
Wheat/Grain	21	15	17	6	4	40.0%	23.5%

**Eastern (Area 6)** Seasonal employment did not meet the criterion of 500 employees and therefore is not published for the month of April.



## Methodology

The "Agricultural Workforce Report" uses data from the monthly Seasonal Farm Labor Survey. This is a survey of 600 agricultural growers in the state. They report monthly the number of total and seasonal workers by crop, activity, and wage. Both hourly and piece rates are used. "Seasonal" workers for the purpose of the survey are those working less than 150 days per year. The state is grouped into six areas based on agricultural economic similarity. The tables and charts presented compare the seasonal agricultural employment for the state and the six areas for the current month, previous month and year ago. Percentage increases as well as raw numbers are given. The weighted monthly wage for seasonal employment is given for the state and the six areas. Each crop activity having significant employment is noted as a percentage change for previous month and year ago. The crops having the highest gain and highest decline in employment are highlighted in the narrative. The Farm Labor Abstract is also included. This contains the top four crop activities by employment and wage for each of the six areas. Piece rates are given in addition to hourly wages when available and disclosable. Some variation in the reporting of the seasonal data can be attributed to the requirement that employment be reported in the pay period including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. Due to the fact that the timing of a given crop's harvest and other activities can be affected by weather and other conditions, periods of peak employment do not always fit precisely within this reporting period. This can lead to some variation of estimated employment by crop when comparing activity in similar time periods. The report is used by economists, growers' associations, educators, state agencies, labor unions and outreach workers.

## Related Ag Links:

Click on <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa> for Washington crop harvest and weather information.

Click on <http://www.usda.gov/oce/oce/labor-affairs/whatsnew.htm> for What's New in Agricultural Employment.

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

**FARM LABOR ABSTRACT**  
**APRIL 2003**

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: 2,885 (2,324 local, 0 intrastate, 561 interstate)

Bulbs Harvester . . . . .	488	\$ 7.12/hr
Nursery Planter . . . . .	394	\$ 7.39/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	346	\$ 7.29/hr
Nursery Worker . . . . .	326	\$ 8.15/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,558 (5,791 local, 92 intrastate, 675 interstate)

Asparagus Harvester . . . . .	2,025	\$ 7.01/hr or \$ 0.18 - \$ 0.28/lb
Apple Pruner . . . . .	1,548	\$ 7.27/hr
Grapes Trainer . . . . .	353	\$ 7.22/hr
Apple Planter . . . . .	315	\$ 7.14/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,419 (4,123 local, 162 intrastate, 134 interstate)

Apple Hand Thinner . . . . .	1,669	Not Available
Apple Planter . . . . .	1,471	\$ 7.05/hr
Apple Worker . . . . .	400	\$ 7.48/hr
Apple Pruner . . . . .	238	\$ 7.21/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,138 (1,986 local, 69 intrastate, 83 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	257	\$ 7.25/hr
Apple Planter . . . . .	255	\$ 7.44/hr
Apple Trainer . . . . .	235	\$ 7.67/hr
Nursery Worker . . . . .	176	\$ 7.03/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,349 (3,443 local, 54 intrastate, 852 interstate)

Asparagus Harvester . . . . .	2,910	\$ 7.01/hr or \$ 0.17 - \$ 0.26/lb
Grapes Trainer . . . . .	176	\$ 7.07/hr
Apple Pruner . . . . .	173	\$ 7.27/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	134	\$ 7.01/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 299 (275 local, 0 intrastate, 24 interstate)

Nursery Planter. . . . .	93	\$ 7.38/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator. . . . .	47	\$ 8.15/hr
Contract Misc Crop Planter. . . . .	35	\$11.00/hr
Wheat Worker. . . . .	23	\$ 9.25/hr

## Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas Harvest Periods

Washington State crop harvest timetables are listed below by agricultural areas. The dates may vary considerably due to weather or other conditions.

Note that the five area groupings in the following five timeline charts do not directly match with the six agricultural area groupings that are used in the Seasonal Farm Labor Survey data used in this report.

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Okanogan and Wenatchee Crop Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Apples												
Cherries												
Pears												
Golden Delicious												
Red Delicious												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Bellingham and Mount Vernon Crop Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowers												
Cucumbers												
Broccoli												
Cauliflower												
Spinach												
Blueberries												
Raspberries												
Strawberries												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Tri-Cities and Walla Walla Crop Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Asparagus												
Apples												
Cherries												
Apricots												
Peaches												
Pears												
Onions												
Strawberries												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Bingen, Sunnyside and Yakima Areas											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Asparagus												
Apples												
Cherries												
Peaches												
Pears												
Grapes												
Hops												
Vegetables												

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas												
Major Crops	Moses Lake Crop Area											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Asparagus												
Apples												
Cherries												
Peaches												
Potatoes												

**SEASONAL FARM LABOR SURVEY**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DETAIL BY CROP ACTIVITY**

**APRIL 2003**

**TABLE 1**

**APRIL 2003**

**Seasonal Farm Labor Report, Washington State  
 Estimated Number of Domestic Seasonal Hired Workers  
 by Place of Origin**

Agricultural Reporting Area	Local	Intra-state	Inter-state	Area Total
1. Western	2,324	0	561	2,885
2. South Central	5,791	92	675	6,558
3. North Central	4,123	162	134	4,419
4. Columbia Basin	1,986	69	83	2,138
5. Southeastern	3,443	54	852	4,349
6. Eastern	275	0	24	299
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>17,940</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>20,648</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>86.9%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2003

Area Name: **WESTERN** (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom) State: WASHINGTON

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## SECTION A. (see attachments)

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### SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	2,885
a. Local	2,324
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	561
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

#### 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The April 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,157.

#### 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:

##### a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. This above average rainfall throughout the entire month delayed field cultivation. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations. Blueberry growers were applying sawdust mulches to plants. Hothouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth. Tulip cut flower harvest was completed. Fruit trees continued to blossom along with spring flowers.

##### b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.51 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for raspberry planter, nursery harvester, potato sorter/grader/packer, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, raspberry trainer, beets planter, blueberry planter, cabbage trainer, potato worker, raspberry weeder and general farm worker to \$15.00 for miscellaneous vegetables worker. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited.

##### c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated at 80.5% local, 0.0% intrastate and 19.5% interstate.

##### d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

##### e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: APRIL 2003

State: WASHINGTON

**Area 1: WESTERN (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Lewis, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,885</b>
		* = piece rate
Bulbs Harvester	488	\$ 7.12
Nursery Planter	394	\$ 7.39
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	346	\$ 7.29
Nursery Worker	326	\$ 8.15
Raspberry Planter	232	\$ 7.01
Nursery Harvester	201	\$ 7.01
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	150	\$ 7.01
Nursery Vehicle Operator	133	\$ 9.05
Rhubarb Harvester	127	\$ 7.05
Nursery Grafter	51	\$ 8.33
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	39	\$ 7.01
Potato Planter	38	\$ 8.50
Broccoli Planter	38	\$ 8.50
Potato Tractor Operator	37	\$10.07
Raspberry Trainer	34	\$ 7.01
General Farm Planter	27	\$ 9.00
Rhubarb Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.12
Nursery Irrigator	23	\$ 7.54
Blueberry Pruner	21	\$ 7.01
Nursery Loader	17	\$ 7.72
Misc Field Crops Weeder	16	\$ 8.00
Beets Planter	16	\$ 7.01
Blueberry Planter	16	\$ 7.01
Cabbage Trainer	14	\$ 7.01
Rhubarb Planter	11	\$ 7.25
Potato Worker	10	\$ 7.01
Raspberry Weeder	9	\$ 7.01
Nursery Weeder	9	\$ 7.25
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	9	\$ 9.25
Spinach Tractor Operator	5	\$10.50
Misc Vegetables Worker	5	\$15.00
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	5	\$10.00
General Farm Worker	5	\$ 7.01
Raspberry Manager	3	\$10.00
Nursery Tractor Operator	3	\$ 9.30

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 ..... \$ 7.51/hr (weighted average)

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Area Name: **SOUTH CENTRAL** (Klickitat, Yakima)

Period: APRIL 2003

State: WASHINGTON

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## SECTION A. (see attachments)

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### SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	6,559
a. Local .....	5,792
b. Intrastate migratory .....	93
c. Interstate migratory .....	675
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Sunnyside, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The April 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 12,358.
  
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Growers were applying fungicides to apple orchards. Average temperatures ranged from 13 degrees above normal to 6 degrees below normal. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported. Full bloom in apples began. Tree fruit continued to develop about 5 to 10 days ahead of normal.
  
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.37 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for asparagus harvester, nectarine hand thinner, miscellaneous fruit trees pruner, cherry worker, hops worker, nectarine worker, nursery suckering worker, nursery weeder, nursery planter and prune worker to \$16.94 for grapes manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.18 to \$0.28 per pound for asparagus harvest to \$50.00 to \$65.00 per acre for hops twiner. Housing was limited; workers provided their own transportation.
  
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 88.3% local, 1.4% intrastate, and 10.3% interstate.
  
    - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
  
    - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-



**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: APRIL 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 2: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	TOTAL 6,558	* = piece rate
Asparagus Harvester	2,025	\$ 7.01 or * \$ 0.18 - \$ 0.28 per lb
Apple Pruner	1,548	\$ 7.27
Grapes Trainer	353	\$ 7.22
Apple Planter	315	\$ 7.14
Apple Trainer	248	\$ 7.61
Hops Twiner	213	\$ 7.50 or * \$50.00 - \$65.00 per acre
Pear Pruner	196	Not Available
Nectarine Hand Thinner	156	\$ 7.01
Peach Hand Thinner	152	\$ 7.00
Apple Worker	116	\$ 7.91
Apple Hand Thinner	112	Not Available
Cherry Planter	109	\$ 7.34
Misc Field Crops Weeder	107	\$ 7.03
General Farm Planter	104	\$ 8.07
General Farm Irrigator	104	\$ 8.07
Grapes Worker	77	\$ 7.29
Apple Irrigator	76	\$ 8.00
Apricot Hand Thinner	74	Not Available
Grapes Planter	53	\$ 7.42
Cherry Hand Thinner	48	Not Available
Mint Weeder	35	\$ 7.05
Hops Preparation	35	\$ 7.50
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	29	\$ 7.01
Silage Vehicle Operator	20	\$ 8.50
Grapes Chemical Applicator	19	\$ 8.75
Pear Hand Thinner	19	Not Available
Field Corn Irrigator	15	\$ 7.28
Asparagus Preparation	15	\$11.00
Cherry Worker	15	\$ 7.01
Asparagus Tractor Operator	15	\$ 7.50
Apple Chemical Applicator	13	\$ 8.18
Cherry Chemical Applicator	13	\$ 8.17
Hops Worker	12	\$ 7.01
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	12	\$ 8.40
Nectarine Worker	10	\$ 7.01
Grapes Tractor Operator	10	\$ 8.25

(continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period:       APRIL 2003  
State:         WASHINGTON

**Area 2: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>* = piece rate</b>
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	9	\$ 9.00
Hops Tractor Operator	9	\$ 8.58
Apple Vehicle Operator	8	\$10.00
Hops Irrigator	6	\$ 8.50
Nursery Suckering Worker	5	\$ 7.01
Mint Irrigator	5	\$ 7.25
Wheat Irrigator	5	\$ 7.25
Mint Tractor Operator	5	\$ 9.75
Nursery Weeder	5	\$ 7.01
Nursery Planter	5	\$ 7.01
Prune Worker	5	\$ 7.01
Sweet Corn Irrigator	5	\$ 7.25
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	4	\$ 7.25
Cherry Weeder	4	\$ 7.50
Cherry Irrigator	4	\$ 7.92
Grapes Manager	3	\$16.94

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 ..... \$ 7.37/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Area Name: **NORTH CENTRAL** (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Okanogan)      Period:      APRIL 2003  
State:      WASHINGTON

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers ..... 4,419
    - a. Local ..... 4,123
    - b. Intrastate migratory ..... 162
    - c. Interstate migratory ..... 134
  
  - 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
    - a. Intrastate: Mattawa, Wenatchee, Yakima
    - b. Interstate: California, Oregon
    - c. Foreign: Mexico
- 

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The April 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,610.
  
  - 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. The winter wheat crop was beginning to look better due to recent precipitation. Pears were in full bloom. Some hail was received in the Wenatchee area of Chelan County, but no damage was reported. Area estimates indicate a bumper cherry crop this year.
  
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.31 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for nursery planter, nursery worker, nursery irrigator, potato worker and pear worker to \$20.00 for miscellaneous field crops mechanic. No piece rates were reported. Housing was very limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
  
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 93.3% local, 3.7% intrastate and 3.0% interstate. A few growers reported a surplus of workers.
  
    - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
  
    - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: APRIL 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 3: NORTH CENTRAL (Chelan, Kittitas, Douglas and Okanogan Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	TOTAL 4,419	* = piece rate
Apple Hand Thinner	1,669	Not Available
Apple Planter	1,471	\$ 7.05
Apple Worker	400	\$ 7.48
Apple Pruner	238	\$ 7.21
Apple Chemical Applicator	221	\$ 7.74
Apple Trainer	75	\$ 7.20
Cherry Worker	51	\$ 7.61
Apple Mechanic	37	\$ 7.86
Misc Hay Irrigator	33	\$ 7.94
Apple Weeder	31	\$ 7.14
Pear Pruner	31	\$ 7.25
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	25	\$ 7.74
Apple Manager	20	\$ 9.58
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	20	\$ 7.74
Apple Tractor Operator	14	\$ 8.25
Horse and Equines Worker	13	\$17.00
Nursery Planter	13	\$ 7.01
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	10	\$ 8.50
Pear Chemical Applicator	7	\$ 7.63
Nursery Worker	7	\$ 7.01
Wheat Tractor Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Nursery Irrigator	7	\$ 7.01
Misc Field Crops Mechanic	7	\$20.00
Potato Worker	7	\$ 7.01
Pear Worker	3	\$ 7.01
Apple Irrigator	3	\$ 7.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 ..... \$ 7.31/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Area Name: **COLUMBIA BASIN** (Adams and Grant)

Period: APRIL 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	2,138
a. Local .....	1,986
b. Intrastate migratory .....	69
c. Interstate migratory .....	83
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Selah, Yakima	
b. Interstate: California	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The April 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,295.
2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
  - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Onion planting was completed. Sweet corn planting continued. Winter wheat conditions continued to improve with precipitation and favorable temperatures. Potatoes were being planted.
  - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.55 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for mint planter, potato irrigator, mint irrigator, nursery trainer, cherry hand thinner, nursery suckering worker, nursery tractor operator, mint weeder, cherry irrigator, nursery vehicle operator, nursery grafter and miscellaneous vegetables worker to \$13.75 for potato manager. No piece rates were reported. Low cost housing was limited and in short supply. Transportation was provided by the workers.
  - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 92.9% local, 3.2% intrastate and 3.9% interstate. Some growers reported a surplus of workers.
  - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
  - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period:       APRIL 2003  
State:        WASHINGTON

**Area 4: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)**

**SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY**

CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL           2,138	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	257	\$ 7.25
Apple Planter	255	\$ 7.44
Apple Trainer	235	\$ 7.67
Nursery Worker	176	\$ 7.03
Asparagus Harvester	131	Not Available
Potato Preparation	109	\$ 7.51
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	108	\$ 7.66
Apple Chemical Applicator	101	\$ 7.87
Potato Vehicle Operator	82	\$ 9.54
Nursery Planter	68	\$ 7.05
Apple Worker	68	\$ 7.13
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	60	\$ 7.23
Potato Planter	59	\$ 9.45
Cherry Pruner	49	\$ 7.25
Grass Seed Weeder	48	\$ 7.25
Potato Tractor Operator	46	\$ 9.13
Mint Planter	29	\$ 7.01
Potato Loader	22	\$ 9.63
Apple Grafter	21	Not Available
Potato Irrigator	20	\$ 7.01
Alfalfa Worker	18	\$ 8.50
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	16	\$12.50
Apple Weeder	15	\$ 7.11
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	15	\$ 8.00
Potato Mechanic	14	\$ 8.25
Misc Onion Irrigator	10	\$ 9.00
Peas Planter	10	\$ 8.00
Potato Cultivator	8	\$ 8.25
Apple Mechanic	8	\$ 8.50
Apple Irrigator	8	\$ 7.50
Mint Irrigator	7	\$ 7.01
Potato Manager	7	\$13.75
Nursery Trainer	7	\$ 7.01
Cherry Hand Thinner	6	\$ 7.01
Grapes Pruner	6	\$ 7.13
Nursery Pruner	6	\$ 7.96

(continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: APRIL 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

Area 4: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	* = piece rate
Nursery Suckering Worker	6	\$ 7.01
Wheat Irrigator	5	\$ 8.00
Sweet Corn Cultivator	5	\$ 7.50
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	5	\$10.75
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator	3	\$ 8.00
Nursery Tractor Operator	3	\$ 7.01
Mint Weeder	1	\$ 7.01
Cherry Irrigator	1	\$ 7.01
Nursery Vehicle Operator	1	\$ 7.01
Nursery Grafter	1	\$ 7.01
Misc Vegetables Worker	1	\$ 7.01

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 ..... \$ 7.55/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Area Name: **SOUTHEASTERN** (Benton, Franklin, & Walla Walla)

Period: APRIL 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	4,349
a. Local .....	3,443
b. Intrastate migratory .....	54
c. Interstate migratory .....	852
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Dryden, Omak, Seattle	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The April 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,573.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Asparagus cutting and spring planting were major activities. Mildew sprays and herbicides were applied to tree fruits and grapes. Potatoes, carrots, sweet corn and onions were being planted.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.40 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for asparagus harvester, miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, grapes pruner, grapes cultivator, apple planter, apple worker, strawberry weeder, hops trainer, apple cultivator, hops cultivator, miscellaneous grain and seed crops worker, potato irrigator and apricot worker to \$12.25 for apple tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.17 to \$0.26 per pound for asparagus harvester. Housing was limited; transportation was provided by the workers.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 79.2% local, 1.2% intrastate and 19.6% interstate. A few growers reported a shortage of asparagus cutters.
    - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
    - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

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Period: APRIL 2003

State: WASHINGTON

**Area 5: SOUTHEASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	TOTAL 4,349	* = piece rate
Asparagus Harvester	2,910	\$ 7.01 or * \$ 0.17 - \$ 0.26 per lb
Grapes Trainer	176	\$ 7.07
Apple Pruner	173	\$ 7.27
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	134	\$ 7.01
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	127	\$ 7.16
Grapes Pruner	104	\$ 7.01
Grass Seed Weeder	59	\$ 7.05
Apple Trainer	37	\$ 7.02
Apricot Hand Thinner	36	Not Available
Potato Planter	35	\$ 8.82
Grapes Cultivator	34	\$ 7.01
Potato Vehicle Operator	30	\$ 9.43
Grapes Weeder	29	\$ 7.20
Potato Preparation	28	\$ 7.91
Apple Planter	27	\$ 7.01
Carrot Planter	26	\$ 7.50
Apple Chemical Applicator	25	\$ 8.01
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	25	\$ 7.05
Apple Worker	25	\$ 7.01
Hops Twiner	24	Not Available
Grapes Worker	21	\$ 7.06
Apple Irrigator	21	\$ 8.18
Potato Mechanic	19	\$ 8.75
Potato Worker	16	\$ 7.35
Alfalfa Irrigator	15	\$ 8.00
Strawberry Weeder	15	\$ 7.01
Cherry Pruner	15	\$ 9.00
Hops Trainer	15	\$ 7.01
Apple Cultivator	11	\$ 7.01
Hops Cultivator	11	\$ 7.01
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	11	\$ 7.01
Cherry Irrigator	11	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Worker	8	\$ 8.00
Carrot Mechanic	8	\$ 8.60
Field Corn Mechanic	8	\$ 8.60
Wheat Irrigator	7	\$ 7.25

(continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

**Area 5: SOUTHEASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>* = piece rate</b>
Wheat Tractor Operator	7	\$10.50
Wheat Worker	7	\$ 7.50
Cherry Weeder	7	\$ 7.25
Sweet Corn Planter	6	\$ 8.50
Potato Tractor Operator	6	\$ 7.63
Grapes Tractor Operator	5	\$10.13
Alfalfa Weeder	4	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Chemical Applicator	4	\$ 8.50
General Farm Irrigator	4	\$ 8.00
Nursery Worker	4	\$ 7.75
Apple Tractor Operator	3	\$12.25
Asparagus Manager	3	Not Available
Asparagus Vehicle Operator	3	\$ 7.50
Potato Irrigator	3	\$ 7.01
Apricot Worker	2	\$ 7.01
Cherry Chemical Applicator	2	\$ 7.50
General Farm Tractor Operator	2	\$ 9.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTHEASTERN AREA 5 ..... \$ 7.40/hr (weighted average)