



## **SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS**

**FEBRUARY 2003**



Prepared by

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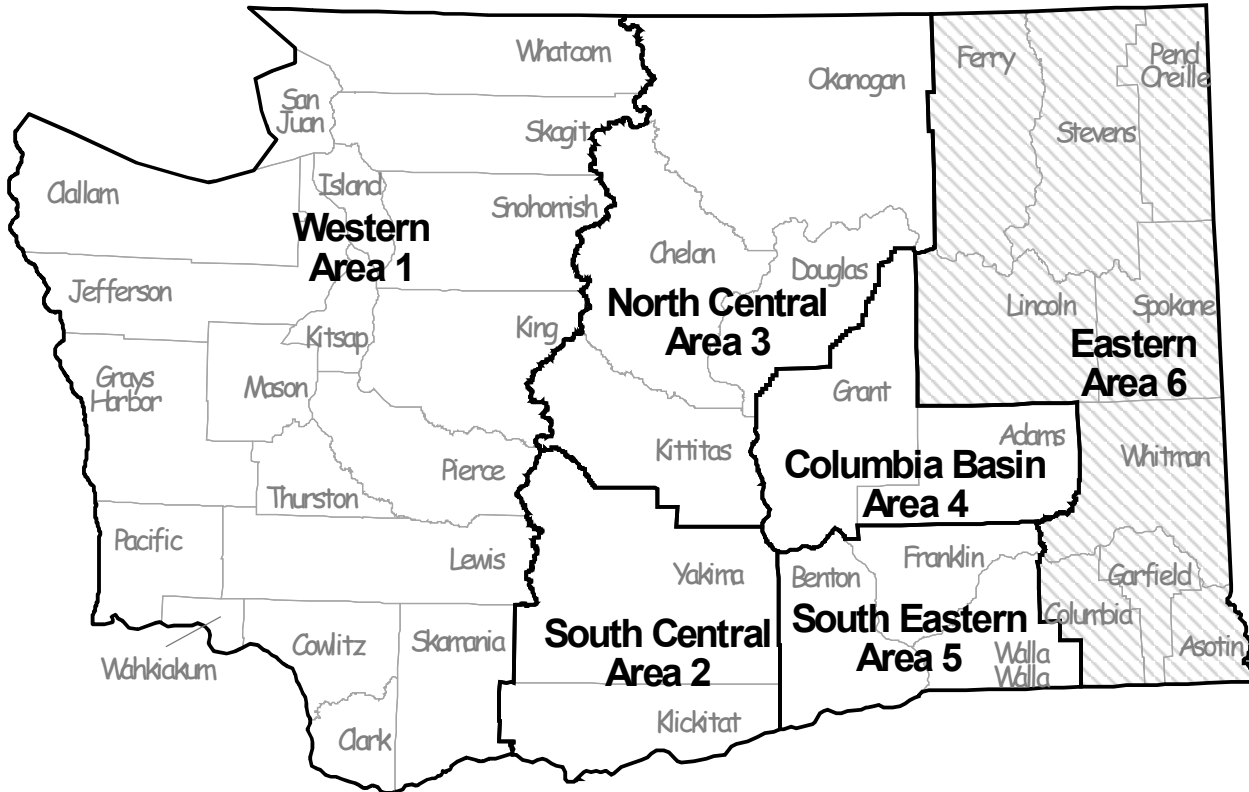
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry  
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

FEBRUARY 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

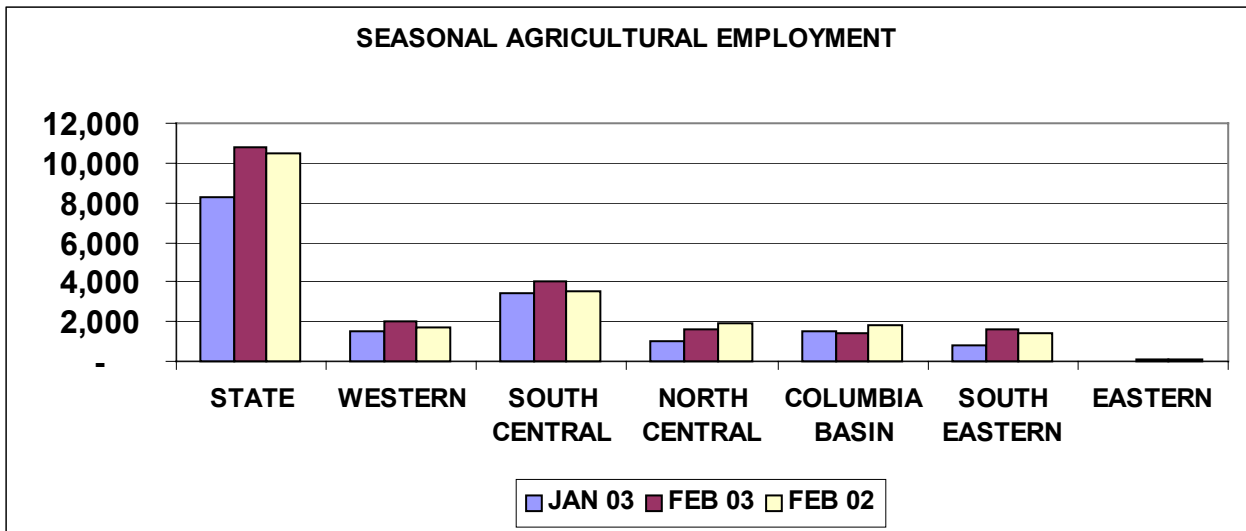
**Area 5** = Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla

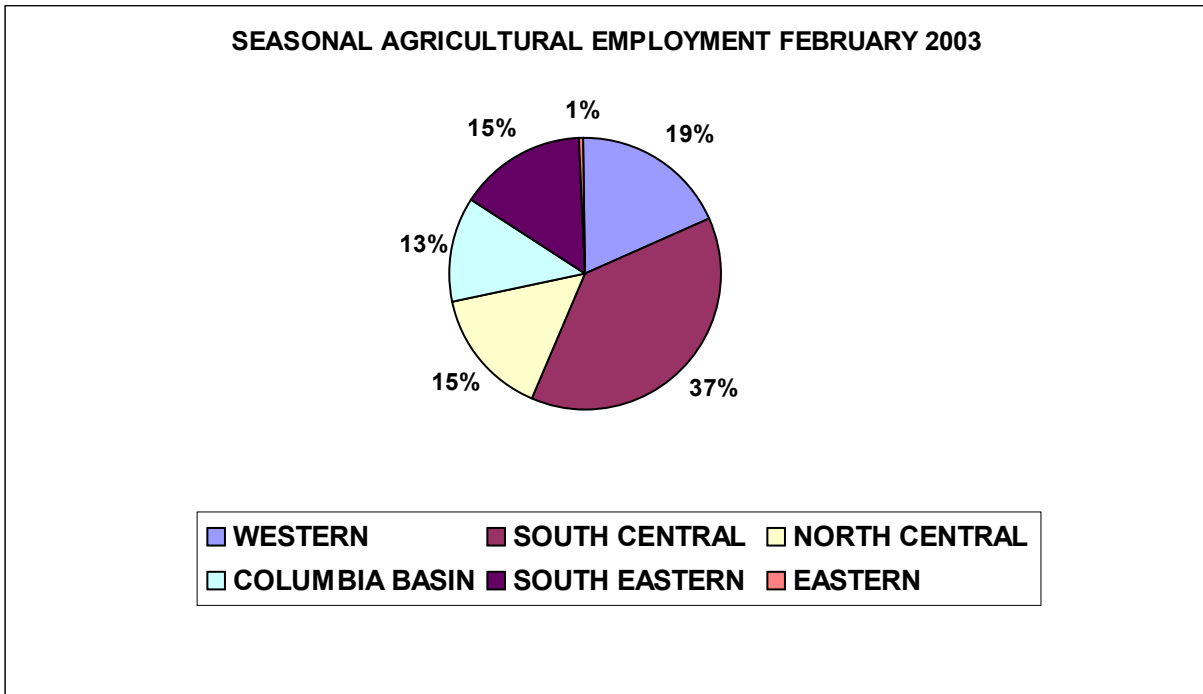
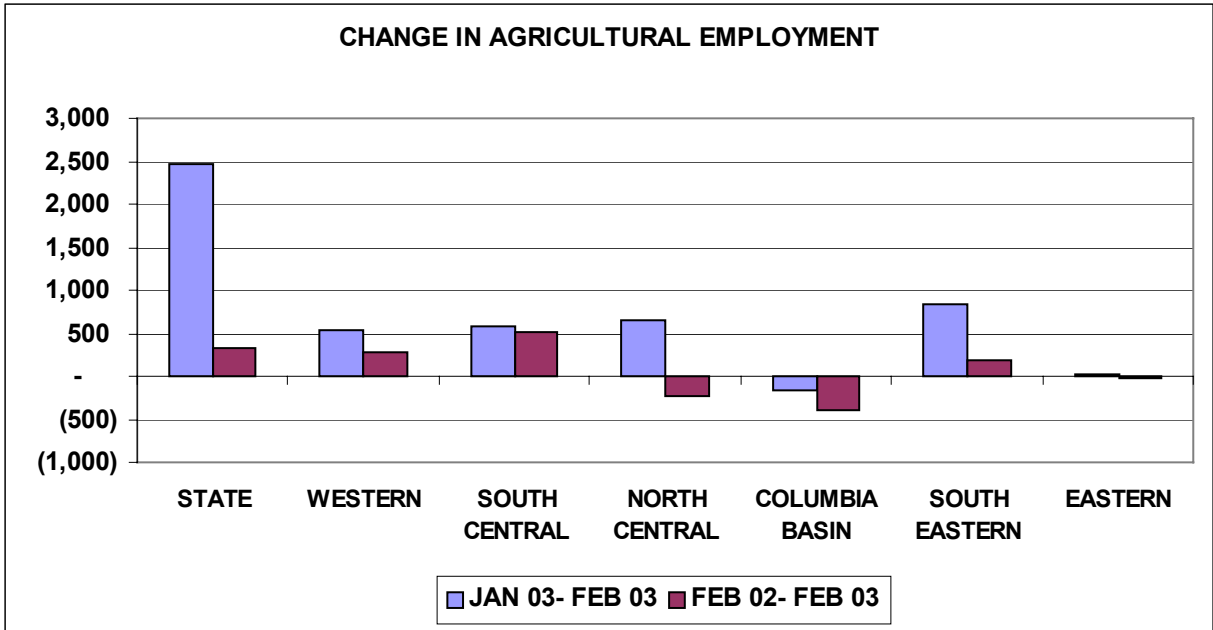
**Area 6** = Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Agricultural producers continued to express concern over high fuel prices and their potential impact on this year's crop production. Washington apple growers began receiving payments from the 2000 disaster relief bill. \$51 million of the \$94 million approved by Congress will go to Washington State. Washington State University scientists have recently announced the development of a new potato variety resistant to strains of late blight. Late blight, the disease that destroyed crops in Europe and led to famine in Ireland in the 1840's, has made a comeback recently. The new blight resistant variety of potato holds promise of 10 percent higher yields. Even if only 20 percent of the farmers adopt the new varieties, a \$10-11 million benefit results.

	<b>SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>		
	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>JAN 03</b>	<b>FEB 02</b>	<b>JAN 03- FEB 03</b>	<b>FEB 02- FEB 03</b>	<b>JAN 03- FEB 03</b>	<b>FEB 02- FEB 03</b>	
<b>STATE</b>	10,765	8,310	10,441	2,455	324	29.5%	3.1%	
<b>WESTERN</b>	2,001	1,463	1,732	538	269	36.8%	15.5%	
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	4,036	3,462	3,515	574	521	16.6%	14.8%	
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	1,654	1,013	1,884	641	(230)	63.3%	-12.2%	
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>	1,382	1,552	1,775	(170)	(393)	-11.0%	-22.1%	
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>	1,625	778	1,439	847	186	108.9%	12.9%	
<b>EASTERN</b>	68	42	96	26	(28)	61.9%	-29.2%	





## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment increased 3.1% from February 2002 to February 2003. Seasonal employment also expanded statewide by 29.5% from January 2003 to February 2003. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from February 2002 to February 2003 was apple work (937). Potato work contracted by the largest employment (-309) for that same time period. Apple work increased by the largest employment (1,617) from January 2003 to February 2003. During that same time period, onion work declined by the greatest number of jobs (-257). The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2003 was \$7.25 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
STATE CROP				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	FEB 03	JAN 03	FEB 02	JAN 03- FEB 03	FEB 02- FEB 03	JAN 03- FEB 03	FEB 02- FEB 03
Apples	5,967	4,350	5,030	1,617	937	37.2%	18.6%
Blueberry	166	28	94	138	72	492.9%	76.6%
Bulb	677	55	66	622	611	1130.9%	925.8%
Cherries	194	421	292	(227)	(98)	-53.9%	-33.6%
Grapes	1,425	703	1,277	722	148	102.7%	11.6%
Hop	15	4	66	11	(51)	275.0%	-77.3%
Misc Vegetables	95	19	322	76	(227)	400.0%	-70.5%
Nursery	757	880	922	(123)	(165)	-14.0%	-17.9%
Onion	243	500	474	(257)	(231)	-51.4%	-48.7%
Other Seasonal	194	153	170	41	24	26.8%	14.1%
Other Tree Fruit	97	165	223	(68)	(126)	-41.2%	-56.5%
Pears	446	444	564	2	(118)	0.5%	-20.9%
Potato	351	305	660	46	(309)	15.1%	-46.8%
Raspberry	106	266	259	(160)	(153)	-60.2%	-59.1%
Wheat/Grain	27	19	11	8	16	42.1%	145.5%

**Western (Area 1)** over-the-year seasonal employment expanded by 15.5% from February 2002 to February 2003. Seasonal employment also increased by 36.8% from January 2003 to February 2003. Bulb work was the crop activity that rose the most (611) in employment from February 2002 to February 2003. Nursery work experienced the greatest decrease (-160) in employment for that same time period. Bulb work displayed the largest growth in employment (622) from January 2003 to February 2003. Miscellaneous vegetables work weakened by the greatest amount (-804) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2003 in Area 1 was \$7.10 per hour. (See pages 14 and 15 for Area 1 detail)

**AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

WESTERN CROP	FEB 03	JAN 03	FEB 02	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				JAN 03- FEB 03	FEB 02- FEB 03	JAN 03- FEB 03	FEB 02- FEB 03
Blueberry	166	28	94	138	72	492.9%	76.6%
Bulb	677	55	66	622	611	1130.9%	925.8%
Cucumber	0	10	0	(10)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	5	809	3	(804)	2	-99.4%	66.7%
Nursery	661	10	821	651	(160)	6510.0%	-19.5%
Other Seasonal	11	283	9	(272)	2	-96.1%	22.2%
Potato	291	266	329	25	(38)	9.4%	-11.6%
Raspberry	106	0	259	106	(153)	0.0%	-59.1%
Rhubarb	82	0	151	82	(69)	0.0%	-45.7%

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment gained 14.8% from February 2002 to February 2003. This was surpassed by an increase of 16.6% from January 2003 to February 2003. Apple work was the crop activity expanding by the greatest amount (786) of employment from February 2002 to February 2003. Grape work contracted by (-657), the largest amount for that same time period. Hop work added the largest employment (693) from January 2003 to February 2003. Grape work lagged behind by the greatest amount of employment (-425) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2003 in Area 2 was \$7.46 per hour. (See pages 16 and 17 for Area 2 detail)

**AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

SOUTH CENTRAL CROP	FEB 03	JAN 03	FEB 02	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				JAN 03- FEB 03	FEB 02- FEB 03	JAN 03- FEB 03	FEB 02- FEB 03
Apples	2829	2348	2,043	481	786	20.5%	38.5%
Cherries	39	238	71	(199)	(32)	-83.6%	-45.1%
Grapes	693	464	696	(425)	(657)	-91.6%	-94.4%
Hop	0	0	41	693	652	0.0%	1590.2%
Misc Vegetables	8	9	0	(9)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Other Seasonal	32	8	47	0	(39)	0.0%	-83.0%
Other Tree Fruit	42	73	175	(41)	(143)	-56.2%	-81.7%
Pears	392	322	431	(290)	(399)	-90.1%	-92.6%

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment slowed by 12.2% from February 2002 to February 2003. This was contrasted by a strong recovery of 63.6% in employment in February 2003 over January 2003. The crop posting the greatest gain in employment from February 2002 to February 2003 was other tree fruit work (38). Apple work employment fell behind by the largest amount (-204) for that same time period. However, apple work rose by the largest employment (604) from January 2003 to February 2003. Other seasonal work had the largest downturn in employment (-8) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2003 in Area 3 was \$7.22 per hour. (See pages 18 and 19 for Area 3 detail)

**AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

NORTH CENTRAL CROP	FEB 03	JAN 03	FEB 02	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				JAN 03- FEB 03	FEB 02- FEB 03	JAN 03- FEB 03	FEB 02- FEB 03
Apples	1466	862	1,670	604	(204)	70.1%	-12.2%
Cherries	96	67	118	29	(22)	43.3%	-18.6%
Other Seasonal	0	8	19	(8)	(19)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Other Tree Fruit	38	36	0	2	38	5.6%	0.0%
Pears	54	41	77	13	(23)	31.7%	-29.9%

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment experienced a loss of 22.1% from February 2002 to February 2003. A smaller downturn of 11.0% in employment occurred from January 2003 to February 2003. Apple work netted the greatest over-the-year gain (43) in employment from February 2002 to February 2003. Potato work posted the largest decline (-315) in employment during that same time period. Other seasonal work advanced the most (174) in employment from January 2003 to February 2003. Mint work experienced the weakest demand (-53) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2003 in Area 4 was \$7.28 per hour. (See pages 20 and 21 for Area 4 detail)

**AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

COLUMBIA BASIN CROP	FEB 03	JAN 03	FEB 02	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				JAN 03- FEB 03	FEB 02- FEB 03	JAN 03- FEB 03	FEB 02- FEB 03
Apples	985	925	942	60	43	6.5%	4.6%
Cherries	33	18	42	15	(9)	83.3%	-21.4%
Mint	0	86	44	(53)	(11)	-61.6%	-25.0%
Misc Vegetables	0	22	0	(22)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Nursery	56	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Onion	242	3	348	53	(292)	1766.7%	-83.9%
Other Seasonal	1	68	19	174	223	255.9%	1173.7%
Pears	4	0	0	1	1	0.0%	0.0%
Potato	60	0	319	4	(315)	0.0%	-98.7%

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment expanded by 12.9% from February 2002 to February 2003. February 2003 employment boomed ahead by 108.9% over January 2003. Hop work employment posted the largest increase (732) from February 2002 to February 2003. Grape work scaled back by the greatest (-555) employment during that same time period. Hop work charged up by the largest amount (728) of employment from January 2003 to February 2003. This was contrasted by grape work employment weakening by the greatest amount (-213) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2003 in Area 5 was \$7.17 per hour. (See pages 22 and 23 for Area 5 detail)

<b>AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>SOUTH EASTERN CROP</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>JAN 03</b>	<b>FEB 02</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
				<b>JAN 03- FEB 03</b>	<b>FEB 02- FEB 03</b>	<b>JAN 03- FEB 03</b>	<b>FEB 02- FEB 03</b>
Apples	687	215	375	472	312	219.5%	83.2%
Cherries	26	98	61	(72)	(35)	-73.5%	-57.4%
Grapes	732	239	581	(213)	(555)	-89.1%	-95.5%
Hop	15	4	0	728	732	18200.0%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	0	0	165	15	(150)	0.0%	0.0%
Nursery	4	0	6	0	(6)	0.0%	-100.0%
Onion	1	146	126	(142)	(122)	-97.3%	-96.8%
Other Seasonal	136	11	40	(10)	(39)	-90.9%	-97.5%
Other Tree Fruit	17	56	48	80	88	142.9%	183.3%
Potato	0	0	12	17	5	0.0%	41.7%
Wheat/Grain	7	9	0	(9)	0	-100.0%	0.0%

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



## 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**  
**FEBRUARY 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: 2,001 (1,975 local, 7 intrastate, 19 interstate)

Bulbs Harvester . . . . .	660	\$ 7.01/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	362	\$ 7.12/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	283	\$ 7.00/hr
Blueberry Pruner . . . . .	166	\$ 7.07/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,036 (3,720 local, 130 intrastate, 186 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	2,675	\$ 7.38/hr	or \$ 0.20 - \$ 9.00/tree
Grapes Pruner . . . . .	673	\$ 7.40/hr	or \$ 0.11 - \$ 0.36/vine
Pear Pruner . . . . .	392	\$ 7.40/hr	
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	106	\$ 7.49/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,654 (1,639 local, 2 intrastate, 13 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	1,333	\$ 7.09/hr	
Cherry Pruner . . . . .	92	\$ 8.23/hr	or \$ 2.00 - \$ 3.00/tree
Pear Pruner . . . . .	50	\$ 7.34/hr	
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	36	\$ 7.75/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,382 (1,310 local, 0 intrastate, 72 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	774	\$ 7.26/hr	or \$ 0.30 - \$ 1.50/tree
Misc Onion/Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	201	\$ 7.30/hr	
Apple Trainer . . . . .	170	\$ 7.03/hr	
Nursery Worker . . . . .	48	\$ 7.03/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,625 (1,625 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	680	\$ 7.10/hr	or \$ 0.35 - \$ 1.35/tree
Grapes Pruner . . . . .	636	\$ 7.11/hr	or \$ 0.10 - \$ 0.30/vine
Chicken Eggs Worker . . . . .	135	\$ 7.70/hr	
Grapes Trainer . . . . .	50	\$ 7.01/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 68 (68 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate)

Nursery Planter . . . . .	23	\$ 7.45/hr
Wheat Worker . . . . .	10	\$10.00/hr
Wheat Vehicle Operator . . . . .	10	\$10.00/hr
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker . . . . .	10	\$10.00/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**

**FEBRUARY 2003**

**TABLE 1**

**FEBRUARY 2003**

**In-Season 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	1,975	7	19	2,001
2. South Central	3,720	130	186	4,036
3. North Central	1,639	2	13	1,654
4. Columbia Basin	1,310	0	72	1,382
5. Southeastern	1,625	0	0	1,625
6. Eastern	68	0	0	68
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>10,337</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>10,766</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>96.0%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: FEBRUARY 2003

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

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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 .....	2,001
a. Local .....	1,975
b. Intrastate migratory .....	7
c. Interstate migratory .....	19
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Sunnyside	
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 February 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,803.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
    Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were bulbs harvesting, nursery and potato warehouse work and blueberry pruning.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
    The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.10 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$6.90 for raspberry chemical applicator to \$16.25 for raspberry worker. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
    The labor force was estimated at 98.6% local, 0.4% intrastate and 1.0% interstate.
    - 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**

Period: FEBRUARY 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)**

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY	EMPLOYMENT	WAGES
CROP ACTIVITY (1)	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS (2)	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS (3)
	TOTAL 2,001	* = piece rate
Bulbs Harvester	660	\$ 7.01
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	362	\$ 7.12
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	283	\$ 7.01
Blueberry Pruner	166	\$ 7.07
Nursery Worker	99	\$ 7.14
Nursery Planter	93	\$ 7.22
Nursery Harvester	62	\$ 7.01
Raspberry Pruner	55	\$ 7.01
Raspberry Trainer	42	\$ 7.01
Rhubarb Harvester	41	\$ 7.01
Rhubarb Planter	41	\$ 7.01
Nursery Weeder	33	\$ 7.01
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	17	\$ 7.01
Potato Worker	8	\$ 7.01
Misc Field Crops Weeder	8	\$ 8.25
Raspberry Chemical Applicator	6	\$ 6.90
Misc Vegetables Worker	5	\$14.50
Nursery Tractor Operator	4	\$ 7.01
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	4	\$ 9.35
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	3	\$ 9.00
Raspberry Worker	3	\$16.25
Nursery Forklift Driver	2	\$ 7.01
Nursery Irrigator	2	\$ 7.01
AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 . . . . .		
		\$ 7.10/hr (weighted average)

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

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

Period: FEBRUARY 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 .....	4,036
a. Local .....	3,720
b. Intrastate migratory .....	130
c. Interstate migratory .....	186
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Sunnyside, Toppenish, 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 February 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 10,697.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, grapes pruning, pear pruning and apple warehouse work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.46 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.04 for cherry worker to \$16.25 for grapes manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.11 to \$0.36 per vine for grapes pruning to \$0.20 to \$9.00 per tree for apple pruning. Housing was limited; workers provided their own transportation.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 92.2% local, 3.2% intrastate, and 4.6% interstate.
    - 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**

Period: FEBRUARY 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY	EMPLOYMENT	WAGES
CROP ACTIVITY (1)	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS (2)	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS (3)
	TOTAL 4,036	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	2,675	\$ 7.38 or * \$ 0.20 - \$ 9.00/tree
Grapes Pruner	673	\$ 7.40 or * \$ 0.11 - \$ 0.36/vine
Pear Pruner	392	\$ 7.40
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	106	\$ 7.49
Nectarine Pruner	42	Not Available
Cherry Pruner	28	\$15.00
General Farm Worker	27	\$ 7.34
Apple Trainer	21	\$ 7.75
Apple Worker	16	\$ 8.76
Apple Vehicle Operator	11	\$12.00
Grapes Tractor Operator	10	\$ 8.25
Misc Vegetables Preparation	8	\$10.50
Cherry Worker	7	\$ 7.04
Grapes Trainer	7	Not Available
Misc Field Crops Worker	5	\$ 8.00
Cherry Planter	4	\$ 9.00
Grapes Manager	3	\$16.94
AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 ..... \$ 7.46/hr (weighted average)		

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

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

Period: FEBRUARY 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 .....	1,653
a.	Local .....	1,637
b.	Intrastate migratory .....	2
c.	Interstate migratory .....	13
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a.	Intrastate: Yakima	
b.	Interstate: None	
c.	Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The February 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,008.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, cherry pruning, pear pruning and apple warehouse work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.22 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for miscellaneous fruit trees sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous fruit trees workers, miscellaneous fruit trees grafter and cherry weeder to \$9.17 for apple manager. Typical piece rates were: \$2.00 to \$3.00 per tree for cherry pruning. 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 99.1% local, 0.1% intrastate and 0.8% interstate. Some growers reported a shortage of skilled cherry pruners.
    - 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**

Period: FEBRUARY 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY	EMPLOYMENT	WAGES
CROP ACTIVITY (1)	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS (2)	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS (3)
	TOTAL 1,654	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,333	\$ 7.09
Cherry Pruner	92	\$ 8.23 or * \$ 2.00 - \$ 3.00/tree
Pear Pruner	50	\$ 7.34
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	36	\$ 7.75
Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer	28	\$ 7.01
Apple Worker	21	\$ 8.07
Apple Weeder	20	Not Available
Apple Trainer	17	\$ 7.25
Apple Mechanic	17	\$ 7.90
Apple Cultivator	13	\$ 7.75
Apple Manager	7	\$ 9.17
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	5	\$ 7.01
Misc Fruit Trees Grafter	5	\$ 7.01
Cherry Weeder	4	\$ 7.01
Pear Manager	4	\$ 9.00
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	2	\$ 7.75
AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 . . . . . \$ 7.22/hr (weighted average)		

## DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

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

Period: FEBRUARY 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 .....	1,382
a. Local .....	1,310
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	72
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
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 February 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 3,940.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, miscellaneous onion warehouse work, apple training and nursery work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.28 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for cherry pruner, cherry weeder, nursery sorter/grader/packer and mint planter to \$13.25 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.30 to \$1.50 per tree for apple pruning. 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 94.8% local, 0.0% intrastate and 5.2% interstate. Some growers reported a surplus of workers with general skills.
    - 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**

Period: FEBRUARY 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY	EMPLOYMENT	WAGES
CROP ACTIVITY (1)	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS (2)	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS (3)
	TOTAL 1,382	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	774	\$ 7.26 or * \$ 0.30 - \$ 1.50/tree
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	201	\$ 7.30
Apple Trainer	170	\$ 7.03
Nursery Worker	48	\$ 7.03
Misc Onion Worker	41	\$ 7.13
Potato Worker	29	\$ 8.78
Apple Weeder	29	\$ 7.25
Cherry Pruner	19	\$ 7.01
Potato Mechanic	18	\$ 8.00
Cherry Weeder	14	\$ 7.01
Apple Worker	8	\$ 7.50
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	8	\$ 7.01
Potato Manager	7	\$13.25
Apple Mechanic	4	\$ 8.00
Mint Planter	4	\$ 7.01
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	3	\$ 7.25
Potato Vehicle Operator	3	\$11.00
Grapes Pruner	1	\$ 8.00
AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 . . . . . \$ 7.28/hr (weighted average)		

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

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

Period: FEBRUARY 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 .....	1,625
a. Local .....	1,625
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	0
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: None	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The February 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,098.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, grapes pruning, chicken eggs work and grapes training.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.17 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for grapes trainer, grapes cultivator, and hops trainer to \$12.00 for general farm worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.10 to \$0.30 per vine for grapes pruning to \$0.35 to \$1.35 per tree for apple pruning. 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 100.0% local, 0.0% intrastate and 0.0% interstate. Some growers reported a shortage of general labor.
    - 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**

Period: FEBRUARY 2003

State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY	EMPLOYMENT	WAGES
CROP ACTIVITY (1)	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS (2)	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS (3)
	TOTAL 1,625	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	680	\$ 7.10 or * \$ 0.35 - \$ 1.35/tree
Grapes Pruner	636	\$ 7.11 or * \$ 0.10 - \$ 0.30/vine
Chicken Eggs Worker	135	\$ 7.70
Grapes Trainer	50	\$ 7.01
Grapes Cultivator	27	\$ 7.01
Cherry Pruner	26	\$ 7.46
Grapes Worker	19	\$ 8.00
Apricot Pruner	17	Not Available
Hops Trainer	15	\$ 7.01
Wheat Worker	7	\$ 9.00
Apple Trainer	7	\$ 7.25
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	3	\$10.00
General Farm Worker	1	\$12.00
Nursery Worker	1	\$ 7.50
Misc Onion Preparation	1	\$ 8.00
<p>AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS                      EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG                      PRODUCERS IN SOUTHEASTERN AREA 5 ..... \$ 7.17/hr (weighted average)</p>		