



## SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

MARCH 2003



Prepared by

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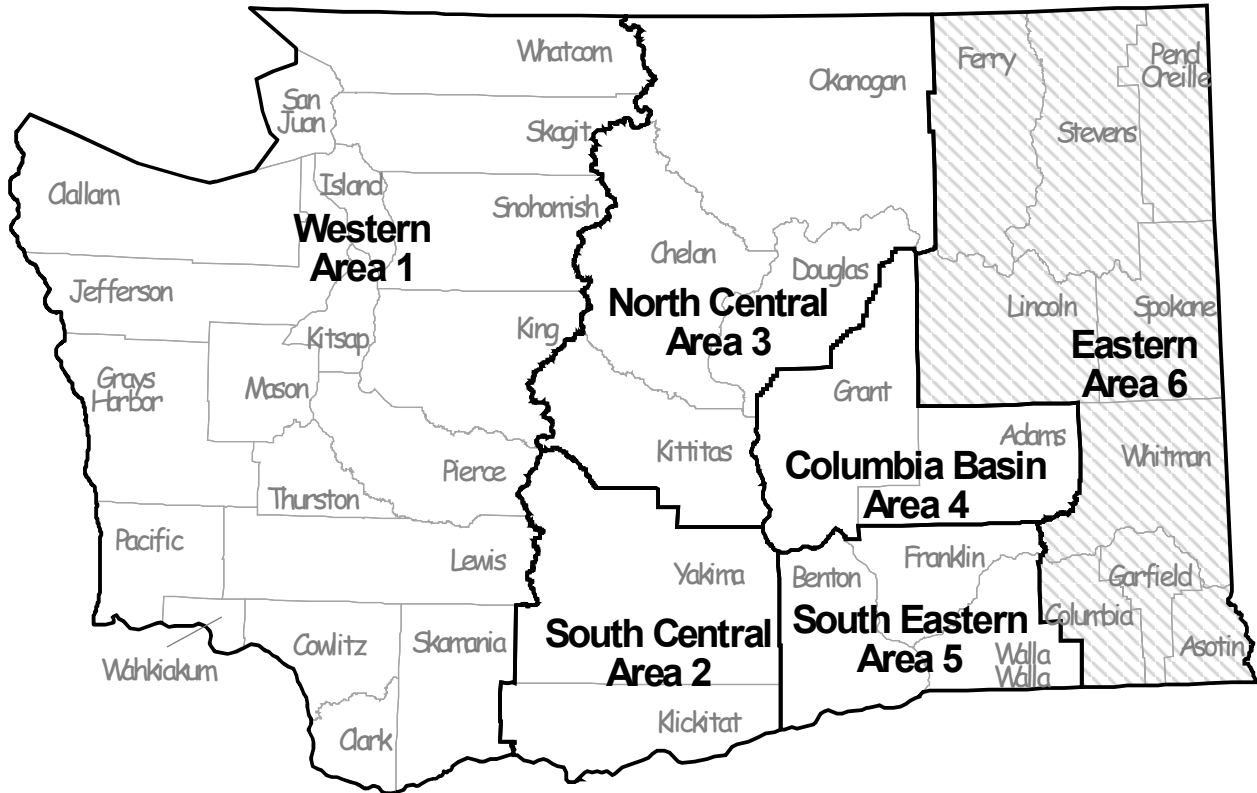
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry  
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

MARCH 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

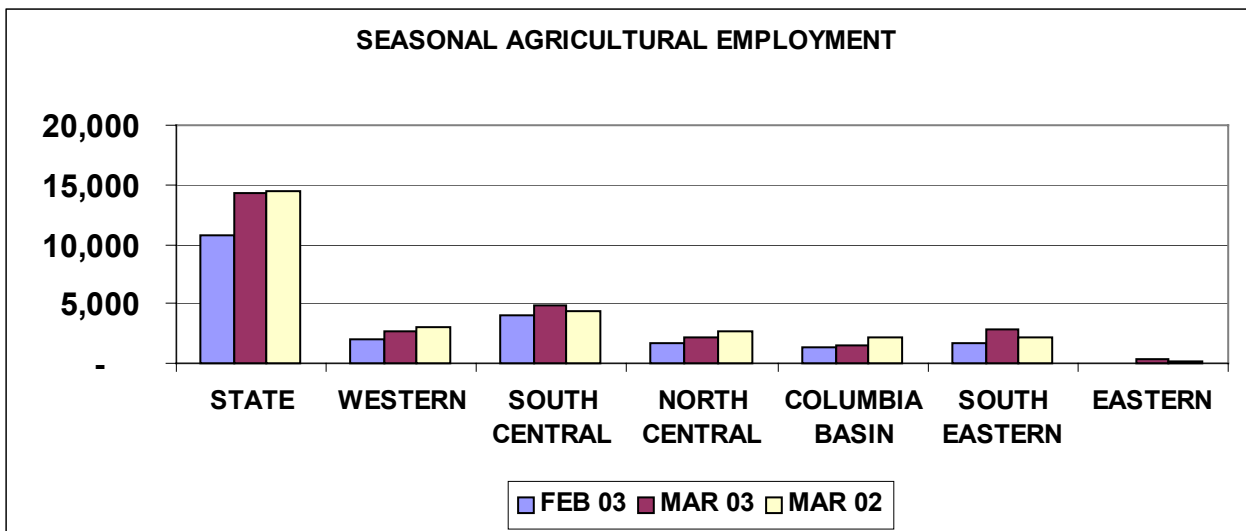
**Area 6** = Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman

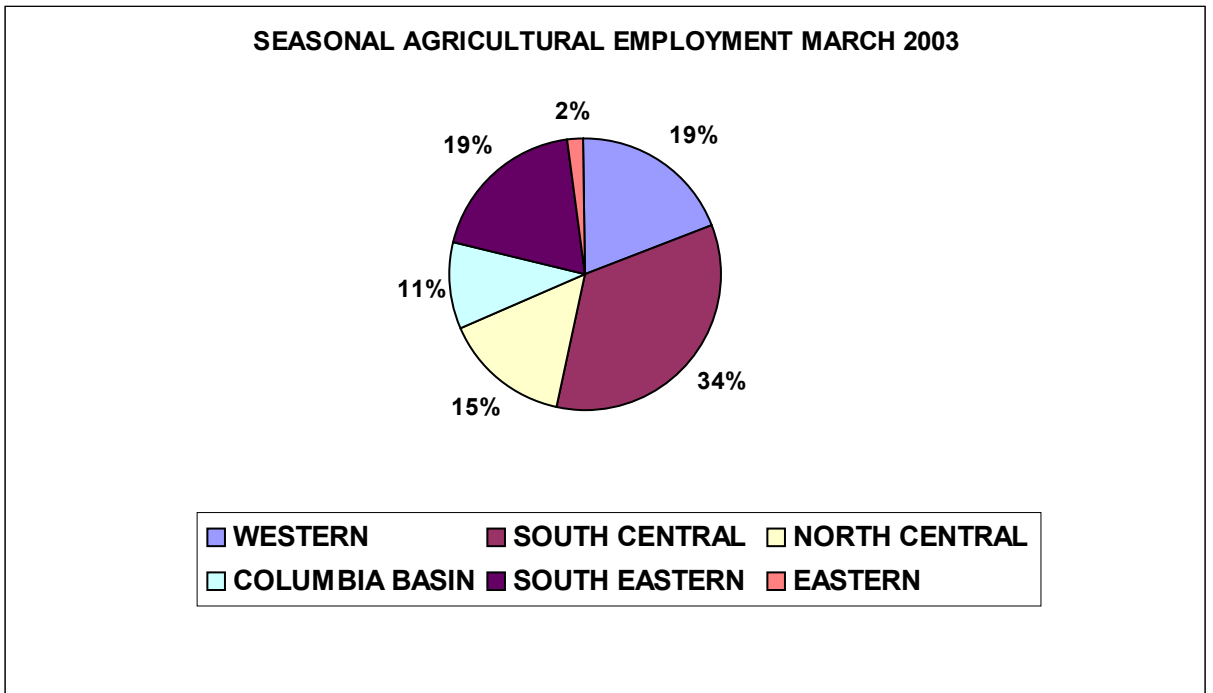
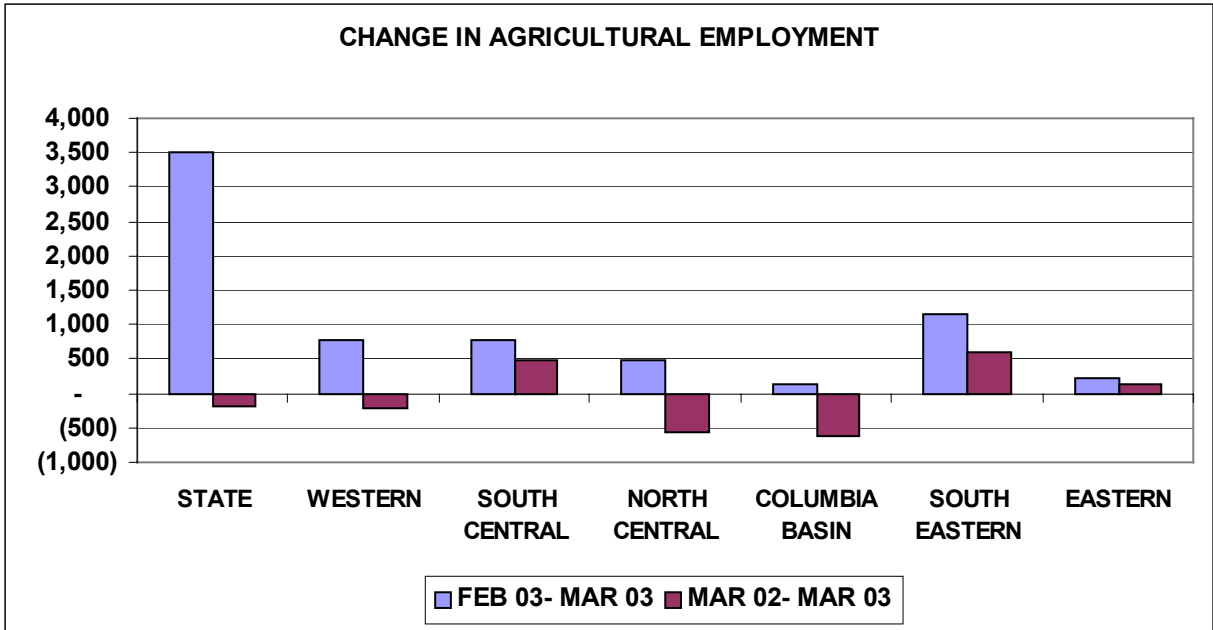
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Mexico has agreed to open its fresh potato market to U.S. imports. This could provide up to \$20 million in additional sales annually for Washington State growers. Until the agreement, Mexico had blocked fresh potato imports, citing food safety concerns. Mexico imported about \$151 million in agricultural commodities from Washington state in 2001, or about 8 percent of the state's \$1.9 billion in agricultural exports that year.

A U.S. District Court ruling has barred the Washington Apple Commission from collecting fees from growers, citing that these fees violated the growers' first amendment rights. A 25-cent-per-box assessment on growers amounted to about \$22 million a year in fees. The court ruling said that the commission was a corporate body, not a state agency that was subject to regulatory oversight. The Commission, created in 1937, has laid off most of its employees and will settle out of court. This decision was made by the Commission to avoid the estimated \$50 million in refund assessments demanded by the defendants. The growers argued that too much of their money was being spent on promoting generic apples and not enough on Red Delicious and organic apples. They contended that this helped their competitors and violated their free speech rights.

	<b>STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>		
	<b>MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>MAR 02</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- MAR 03</b>	
<b>STATE</b>	14,279	10,765	14,453	3,514	(174)	32.6%	-1.2%	
<b>WESTERN</b>	2,772	2,001	2,976	771	(204)	38.5%	-6.9%	
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	4,796	4,036	4,311	760	485	18.8%	11.3%	
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	2,150	1,654	2,705	496	(555)	30.0%	-20.5%	
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>	1,509	1,382	2,141	127	(632)	9.2%	-29.5%	
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>	2,777	1,625	2,177	1,152	600	70.9%	27.6%	
<b>EASTERN</b>	275	68	143	207	132	304.4%	92.3%	





## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment decreased 1.2% from March 2002 to March 2003. However, seasonal employment increased statewide by 32.6% from February 2003 to March 2003. The crop activity exhibiting the highest gain in employment from March 2002 to March 2003 was potato work (435). Grape work had the greatest decline in employment (-625) for that same time period. Cherry work added the most workers (1,095) from February 2003 to March 2003. During that same time period, grape work shed the greatest number of jobs (-1,261). The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2003 was \$7.30 per hour.

STATE CROP	STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT								
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE			
	MAR 03	FEB 03	MAR 02	FEB 03- MAR 03	MAR 02- MAR 03	FEB 03- MAR 03	MAR 02- MAR 03		
Apples	5,468	5,967	5,073	(499)	395	-8.4%	7.8%		
Asparagus	662	0	252	662	410	0.0%	162.7%		
Blueberry	19	166	56	496	410	298.8%	162.7%		
Bulb	1,289	677	1,647	(658)	(37)	-97.2%	-66.1%		
Cherries	164	194	789	1,095	(358)	564.4%	-21.7%		
Grapes	2,329	1,425	2,015	(1,261)	(625)	-88.5%	-79.2%		
Hop	384	15	353	2,314	314	15426.7%	15.6%		
Misc Vegetables	147	95	172	2,234	314	2351.6%	15.6%		
Nursery	1,142	757	1,036	(373)	31	-49.3%	8.8%		
Onion	338	243	390	(96)	(25)	-39.5%	-14.5%		
Other Seasonal	401	194	860	948	106	488.7%	10.2%		
Other Tree Fruit	589	97	154	241	(52)	248.5%	-13.3%		
Pears	491	446	730	(45)	(459)	-10.1%	-53.4%		
Potato	549	351	729	238	435	67.8%	282.5%		
Raspberry	204	0	169	491	(239)	0.0%	-32.7%		
Strawberry	3	0	5	549	(180)	0.0%	-24.7%		
Wheat/Grain	56	27	23	522	(180)	1933.3%	-24.7%		

**Western (Area 1)** over-the-year seasonal employment declined by 6.9% from March 2002 to March 2003. This was contrasted by an increase in seasonal employment of 38.5% from February 2003 to March 2003. Rhubarb work was the crop activity rising the most (78) in employment from March 2002 to March 2003. Bulb work experienced the largest downturn (-358) in employment for that same time period. However, bulb work posted the largest upturn in employment (612) from February 2003 to March 2003. Blueberry work shrunk by the greatest amount (-147) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2003 in Area 1 was \$7.33 per hour. (See pages 14 and 15 for Area 1 detail)

**AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

<b>WESTERN CROP</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>MAR 02</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- FEB 03</b>
Blueberry	19	166	56	(147)	(37)	-88.6%	-66.1%
Bulb	1289	677	1647	612	(358)	90.4%	-21.7%
Misc Vegetables	11	5	2	6	9	120.0%	450.0%
Nursery	907	661	849	246	58	37.2%	6.8%
Other Seasonal	45	11	29	34	16	309.1%	55.2%
Potato	190	291	197	(101)	(7)	-34.7%	-3.6%
Raspberry	204	106	169	98	35	92.5%	20.7%
Rhubarb	105	82	27	23	78	28.0%	288.9%
	3	0	0	3	3	0.0%	0.0%

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment expanded by 11.3% from March 2002 to March 2003. This was exceeded by an increase of 18.8% from February 2003 to March 2003. Hop work was the crop activity experiencing the largest growth (1,002) in employment from March 2002 to March 2003. Grape work fell by (-929) the largest amount for that same time period. The largest over-the-month growth in employment from February 2003 to March 2003 was hop work (1,310). Apple work displayed the greatest loss in employment (-786) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2003 in Area 2 was \$7.38 per hour. (See pages 16 - 18 for Area 2 detail)

**AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

<b>SOUTH CENTRAL CROP</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>MAR 02</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- FEB 03</b>
Apples	2043	2829	1829	(786)	214	-27.8%	11.7%
Asparagus	18	0	0	18	18	0.0%	0.0%
Cherries	90	39	119	51	(29)	130.8%	-24.4%
Grapes	1310	693	1019	(603)	(929)	-87.0%	-91.2%
Hop	363	0	308	1,310	1,002	0.0%	325.3%
Misc Vegetables	0	8	16	355	347	4437.5%	2168.8%
Onion	0	0	77	0	(77)	0.0%	0.0%
Other Seasonal	88	32	264	(32)	(264)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Other Tree Fruit	454	42	97	46	(9)	109.5%	-9.3%
Pears	412	392	569	(304)	(481)	-77.6%	-84.5%
Potato	18	0	13	454	441	0.0%	3392.3%

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment exhibited an over-the-year net loss of 20.5% from March 2002 to March 2003. This was contrasted by a strong recovery of 30.0% in employment in March 2003 over February 2003. The crop activity gaining the largest amount of employment from March 2002 to March 2003 was other tree fruit work (49). Cherry work lagged by the largest amount (-513) for that same time period. Apple work added the most employment (483) from February 2003 to March 2003. Cherry work had the largest decline in employment (-53) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2003 in Area 3 was \$7.16 per hour. (See pages 19 and 20 for Area 3 detail)

<b>AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>NORTH CENTRAL CROP</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>MAR 02</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- FEB 03</b>
Apples	1949	1466	1920	483	29	32.9%	1.5%
Cherries	43	96	556	(53)	(513)	-55.2%	-92.3%
Other Seasonal	6	0	106	6	(100)	0.0%	-94.3%
Other Tree Fruit	56	38	7	18	49	47.4%	700.0%
Pears	79	54	116	25	(37)	46.3%	-31.9%

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment fell 29.5% from March 2002 to March 2003. This was contrasted by a gain of 9.2% in employment from February 2003 to March 2003. Pear work and other tree fruit work displayed the greatest upturn (98) in employment from March 2002 to March 2003. Apple work experienced the largest downturn (-313) in employment during that same time period. Other tree fruit work expanded the most (125) in employment from February 2003 to March 2003. Apple work netted the largest over-the-month loss (-230) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2003 in Area 4 was \$7.40 per hour. (See pages 21 - 23 for Area 4 detail)

<b>AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN CROP</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>MAR 02</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- FEB 03</b>
Apples	755	985	1068	(230)	(313)	-23.4%	-29.3%
Asparagus	140	0	252	140	(112)	0.0%	-44.4%
Cherries	19	33	55	(14)	(36)	-42.4%	-65.5%
Mint	24	0	28	24	(4)	0.0%	-14.3%
Misc Vegetables	14	0	34	19	(9)	0.0%	-32.1%
Nursery	65	56	33	(32)	(10)	-57.1%	-29.4%
Onion	125	242	154	(228)	(19)	-94.2%	-57.6%
Other Seasonal	92	1	27	64	(89)	6400.0%	-57.8%
Other Tree Fruit	55	0	17	125	98	0.0%	363.0%
Pears	0	4	45	121	98	3025.0%	363.0%
Potato	211	60	405	32	75	53.3%	441.2%
Wheat/Grain	5	0	23	55	10	0.0%	22.2%

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment grew by 27.6% from March 2002 to March 2003. March 2003 employment charged ahead by 70.9% over February 2003. Miscellaneous vegetables work employment rose by the greatest amount (974) from March 2002 to March 2003. Other tree fruit work decreased the most (-193) in employment during that same time period. Miscellaneous vegetables work propelled up by the largest amount (1,019) of employment from February 2003 to March 2003. Grape work had the weakest demand (-228) for employment for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2003 in Area 5 was \$7.24 per hour. (See pages 24 - 26 for Area 5 detail)

<b>AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>SOUTH EASTERN CROP</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>MAR 02</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- MAR 03</b>	<b>FEB 03- MAR 03</b>	<b>MAR 02- FEB 03</b>
Apples	721	687	256	34	465	4.9%	181.6%
Asparagus	504	0	0	504	504	0.0%	0.0%
Cherries	12	26	59	478	504	1838.5%	0.0%
Grapes	1019	732	996	(228)	445	-31.1%	754.2%
Hop	21	15	45	(3)	(984)	-20.0%	-98.8%
Misc Vegetables	17	0	93	1,019	974	0.0%	2164.4%
Nursery	2	4	11	17	(72)	425.0%	-77.4%
Onion	213	1	159	16	6	1600.0%	54.5%
Other Seasonal	75	136	406	(134)	(157)	-98.5%	-98.7%
Other Tree Fruit	24	17	33	196	(193)	1152.9%	-47.5%
Potato	130	0	114	75	42	0.0%	127.3%
Strawberry	0	0	5	24	(90)	0.0%	-78.9%
Wheat/Grain	15	7	0	17	(90)	242.9%	-78.9%

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



## 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 MARCH 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: 2,772 (2,248 local, 7 intrastate, 517 interstate)

Bulbs Harvester . . . . .	1,273	\$ 7.27/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	268	\$ 7.36/hr
Nursery Planter . . . . .	263	\$ 7.42/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	178	\$ 7.01/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,796 (4,385 local, 137 intrastate, 274 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	1,433	\$ 7.35/hr or \$ 0.50 - \$ 4.50/tree
Grapes Pruner . . . . .	1,250	\$ 7.35/hr or \$ 0.11 - \$ 0.40/vine
Pear Pruner . . . . .	412	\$ 7.01/hr
Apple Planter . . . . .	319	\$ 7.03/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,150 (2,023 local, 50 intrastate, 77 interstate)

Apple Trainer . . . . .	1,218	\$ 7.05/hr
Apple Pruner . . . . .	530	\$ 7.11/hr
Pear Pruner . . . . .	73	\$ 7.31/hr
Apple Grafter . . . . .	43	Not Available

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,509 (1,450 local, 0 intrastate, 59 interstate)

Apple Pruner . . . . .	550	\$ 7.17/hr or \$ 0.45 - \$ 1.50/tree
Apple Trainer . . . . .	161	\$ 7.06/hr
Asparagus Planter . . . . .	140	\$ 7.01/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer . . . . .	106	\$ 7.27/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,777 (2,478 local, 0 intrastate, 299 interstate)

Grapes Pruner . . . . .	724	\$ 7.04/hr or \$ 0.06 - \$ 0.25/vine
Apple Pruner . . . . .	650	\$ 7.15/hr or \$ 0.40 - \$ 0.90/tree
Asparagus Planter . . . . .	504	Not Available
Grapes Trainer . . . . .	279	\$ 7.20/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 275 (240 local, 0 intrastate, 35 interstate)

Nursery Planter . . . . .	109	\$ 7.39/hr
General Farm Planter . . . . .	71	\$11.00/hr
Nursery Harvester . . . . .	26	\$ 8.00/hr
Wheat Worker . . . . .	18	\$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**  
**MARCH 2003**

**TABLE 1**

**MARCH 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	2,248	7	517	2,772
2. South Central	4,385	137	274	4,796
3. North Central	2,023	50	77	2,150
4. Columbia Basin	1,450	0	59	1,509
5. Southeastern	2,478	0	299	2,777
6. Eastern	240	0	35	275
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>12,824</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>14,279</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>89.8%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>100%</b>

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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 .....	2,772
a. Local .....	2,248
b. Intrastate migratory .....	7
c. Interstate migratory .....	517
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 March 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,641.
  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. Fieldwork began in most areas. Some bottom land was still too wet to work. Excessive rainfall in some areas delayed soil cultivation. Raspberry and blueberry growers were applying herbicides to control weeds. Christmas tree growers finished planting trees and preparing equipment for herbicide applications. Primary agricultural activities were bulbs harvesting, nursery planting, nursery warehouse work and potato warehouse work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.33 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for potato sorter/grader/packer, nursery harvester, rhubarb planter, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery pruner, potato worker and general farm worker to \$15.67 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 81.1% local, 0.3% intrastate and 18.6% 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: MARCH 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 2,772	* = piece rate
Bulbs Harvester	1,273	\$ 7.27
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	268	\$ 7.36
Nursery Planter	263	\$ 7.42
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	178	\$ 7.01
Nursery Weeder	133	\$ 7.26
Nursery Harvester	117	\$ 7.01
Raspberry Pruner	110	\$ 7.03
Rhubarb Planter	97	\$ 7.01
Raspberry Trainer	89	\$ 7.23
Nursery Worker	47	\$ 7.32
Nursery Vehicle Operator	29	\$ 8.48
General Farm Planter	28	\$ 9.00
Blueberry Pruner	19	\$ 7.43
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	16	\$ 7.01
Nursery Pruner	14	\$ 7.01
Potato Worker	12	\$ 7.01
Misc Field Crops Weeder	12	\$ 8.50
Nursery Grafter	11	\$ 8.37
Nursery Irrigator	9	\$ 8.88
Nursery Loader	9	\$ 7.68
Misc Vegetables Worker	8	\$15.67
Rhubarb Sorter/Grader/Packer	8	\$ 7.50
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	5	\$ 9.25
Strawberry Mechanic	3	\$ 9.00
Misc Vegetables Preparation	3	\$15.00
Raspberry Manager	3	\$ 9.00
Apple Pruner	3	\$ 7.25
Raspberry Planter	2	\$ 7.50
Nursery Tractor Operator	2	\$ 9.30
General Farm Worker	2	\$ 7.01
AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS		
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG		
PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 . . . . . \$ 7.33/hr (weighted average)		

## DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

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

Period: MARCH 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 .....	4,796
a. Local .....	4,385
b. Intrastate migratory .....	137
c. Interstate migratory .....	274
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 March 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 11,373.
  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. Average temperatures ranged from 6 degrees below normal to 15 degrees above normal, with .36 of an inch of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, grapes pruning, pear pruning and apple planting.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.38 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for grapes pruner, nectarine pruner, peach pruner, nectarine hand thinner, peach hand thinner, potato planter and hops preparer to \$16.94 for grapes manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.11 to \$0.40 per vine for grapes pruning to \$0.50 to \$4.50 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 91.4% local, 2.9% intrastate, and 5.7% 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: MARCH 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 4,796	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,433	\$ 7.35 or * \$ 0.50 - \$ 4.50/tree
Grapes Pruner	1,250	\$ 7.35 or * \$ 0.11 - \$ 0.40/vine
Pear Pruner	412	\$ 7.01
Apple Planter	319	\$ 7.03
Nectarine Pruner	196	\$ 7.01
Peach Pruner	190	\$ 7.01
Hops Worker	151	Not Available
Apple Trainer	133	\$ 7.76
Hops Planter	103	\$ 7.06
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	57	\$ 7.50
Hops Tractor Operator	56	\$ 7.70
Grapes Trainer	53	\$ 7.32
Apple Irrigator	48	\$ 8.00
Cherry Pruner	42	\$ 7.10
Silage Fertilizer Applicator	37	\$ 8.50
Nectarine Hand Thinner	36	\$ 7.01
Hops Trainer	36	\$ 7.88
Cherry Planter	35	\$ 8.00
Field Corn Irrigator	28	\$ 7.10
Peach Hand Thinner	24	\$ 7.01
Apple Worker	24	\$ 7.94
Potato Planter	18	\$ 7.01
Asparagus Irrigator	18	\$ 8.25
Cherry Chemical Applicator	13	\$ 8.00
Apple Chemical Applicator	13	\$ 7.88
Hops Preparation	11	\$ 7.01
Misc Field Crops Weeder	11	\$ 8.00
Mint Tractor Operator	9	\$ 9.75
Apple Vehicle Operator	8	\$12.00
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	8	\$ 8.13
Apple Tractor Operator	8	\$ 8.00
Grapes Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.00
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	3	\$ 9.00
Hops Irrigator	3	\$ 8.00
continued		

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: MARCH 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	* = piece rate
Hops Manager	3	\$12.00
Grapes Manager	3	\$16.94
AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 ..... \$ 7.38/hr (weighted average)		

## DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

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

Period: MARCH 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 .....	2,150
	a. Local .....	2,023
	b. Intrastate migratory .....	50
	c. Interstate migratory .....	50
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Mattawa, Wenatchee, 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 March 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,717.
  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. In spite of the large amount of precipitation received over the winter months, subsoil moisture was still well below normal. Many areas within fields of winter wheat were in poor condition. Spring reseeding will be necessary for many growers. Spring fieldwork began. Cherry growers finished up with their pruning. Apricot trees were in bloom. Primary agricultural activities were apple training, apple pruning, pear pruning and apple grafting.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.16 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for miscellaneous fruit trees pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees sorter/grader/packer, cherry trainer and pear worker to \$9.58 for apple manager. 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 94.1% local, 2.3% intrastate and 3.6% 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: MARCH 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 2,150	* = piece rate
Apple Trainer	1,218	\$ 7.05
Apple Pruner	530	\$ 7.11
Pear Pruner	73	\$ 7.31
Apple Grafter	43	Not Available
Apple Weeder	43	\$ 7.34
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	39	\$ 7.96
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	39	\$ 7.01
Cherry Pruner	37	\$ 8.38
Apple Planter	34	Not Available
Apple Cultivator	17	\$ 7.50
Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer	17	\$ 7.01
Apple Worker	16	\$ 7.46
Apple Manager	11	\$ 9.58
Apple Mechanic	8	\$ 8.10
Apple Chemical Applicator	6	\$ 7.67
Cherry Trainer	6	\$ 7.01
Pear Worker	6	\$ 7.01
Misc Hay Mechanic	6	\$ 7.75
AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 . . . . . \$ 7.16/hr (weighted average)		

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

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

Period: MARCH 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 .....	1,509
a. Local .....	1,450
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	59
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 March 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,107.
  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. Winter wheat remained in mostly fair conditions with small amounts in both excellent and very poor condition. Spring cereal planting was mostly completed and about 5 percent had emerged. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, apple training, asparagus planting and miscellaneous onion warehouse work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.40 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for asparagus planter, cherry irrigator, cherry pruner, nursery grafter, cherry weeder, nursery pruner, nursery sorter/grader/packer, peas planter and nursery irrigator to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.45 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 96.1% local, 0.0% intrastate and 3.9% interstate. Some growers reported a surplus 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: MARCH 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 1,509	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	550	\$ 7.17 or * \$ 0.45 - \$ 1.50/tree
Apple Trainer	161	\$ 7.06
Asparagus Planter	140	\$ 7.01
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	106	\$ 7.27
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	67	\$ 7.51
Nursery Worker	57	\$ 7.10
Misc Fruit Trees Trainer	55	\$ 7.75
Grass Seed Weeder	44	\$ 7.25
Potato Tractor Operator	37	\$ 9.20
Potato Worker	31	\$ 7.86
Potato Planter	26	\$ 9.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	23	\$ 9.00
Apple Weeder	20	\$ 7.25
Mint Planter	17	\$ 7.15
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	16	\$ 8.00
Misc Field Crops Worker	16	\$ 8.33
Grapes Pruner	15	\$ 7.38
Misc Onion Planter	13	\$ 9.40
Apple Worker	12	\$ 7.25
Potato Mechanic	10	\$ 8.25
Cherry Irrigator	10	\$ 7.01
Potato Preparation	10	\$ 9.50
Mint Irrigator	7	\$ 7.01
Potato Manager	7	\$13.75
Cherry Pruner	7	\$ 7.01
Wheat Preparation	5	\$ 7.50
Peas Preparation	5	\$ 7.50
Sweet Corn Preparation	5	\$ 7.50
Apple Chemical Applicator	4	\$ 7.40
Apple Irrigator	4	\$ 7.25
Apple Mechanic	4	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Worker	4	\$ 7.10
Beans Vehicle Operator	3	\$10.75
Nursery Grafter	3	\$ 7.01
continued		

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: MARCH 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	* = piece rate
Misc Onion Preparation	2	\$10.00
Cherry Weeder	2	\$ 7.01
Nursery Pruner	2	\$ 7.01
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	1	\$ 7.01
Peas Planter	1	\$ 7.01
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	1	\$ 7.50
Nursery Weeder	1	\$ 9.50
Nursery Irrigator	1	\$ 7.01
AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 . . . . . \$ 7.40/hr (weighted average)		

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Area Name: **SOUTHEASTERN** (Benton, Franklin, & Walla Walla)      Period: MARCH 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 .....	2,777
a. Local .....	2,478
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	299
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: El Salvador, Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The March 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,842.
  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. Orchard and vineyard pruning and cleanup neared completion. Soil preparation was in progress. Occasional cold temperatures caused some bud loss. Primary agricultural activities were grapes pruning, apple pruning, asparagus planting and grapes training.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.24 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, apple irrigator, hops trainer, hops cultivator, Walla Walla Sweets weeder and miscellaneous onion irrigator to \$12.00 for general farm worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.06 to \$ 0.25 per vine for grapes pruning to \$0.40 to \$0.90 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 89.2% local, 0.0% intrastate and 10.8% 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: MARCH 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 2,762	* = piece rate
Grapes Pruner	724	\$ 7.04 or * \$ 0.06 - \$ 0.25/vine
Apple Pruner	650	\$ 7.15 or * \$ 0.40 - \$ 0.90/tree
Asparagus Planter	504	Not Available
Grapes Trainer	279	\$ 7.20
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	195	\$ 7.01
Potato Planter	74	\$ 8.06
Grass Seed Planter	52	\$ 7.10
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	38	\$ 7.18
Apple Trainer	28	\$ 7.03
Apple Irrigator	24	\$ 7.01
Apple Tractor Operator	19	\$ 8.30
Peach Pruner	17	\$ 7.25
Carrot Planter	15	\$ 7.50
Grapes Worker	13	\$ 7.30
Grass Seed Weeder	11	\$ 7.05
Hops Trainer	11	\$ 7.01
Wheat Worker	10	\$ 7.38
Cherry Irrigator	10	\$ 8.00
Walla Walla Sweets Weeder	10	\$ 7.01
General Farm Mechanic	10	\$ 8.60
Potato Vehicle Operator	10	\$ 9.30
Hops Cultivator	10	\$ 7.01
Misc Onion Irrigator	6	\$ 7.01
Nectarine Pruner	5	Not Available
Wheat Tractor Operator	5	\$10.50
Potato Worker	5	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Worker	4	\$ 8.00
Potato Preparation	3	\$ 9.50
Potato Irrigator	3	\$ 9.50
Grapes Tractor Operator	3	\$ 7.25
Sweet Corn Planter	2	\$ 8.50
Cherry Pruner	2	\$ 8.25
Nursery Worker	2	\$ 7.75
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	2	Not Available
continued		

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: MARCH 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	* = piece rate
Cherry Chemical Applicator	2	\$ 7.50
General Farm Worker	1	\$12.00
General Farm Tractor Operator	1	\$ 9.00
AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG PRODUCERS IN SOUTHEASTERN AREA 5 ..... \$ 7.24/hr (weighted average)		