



## SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

NOVEMBER 2003



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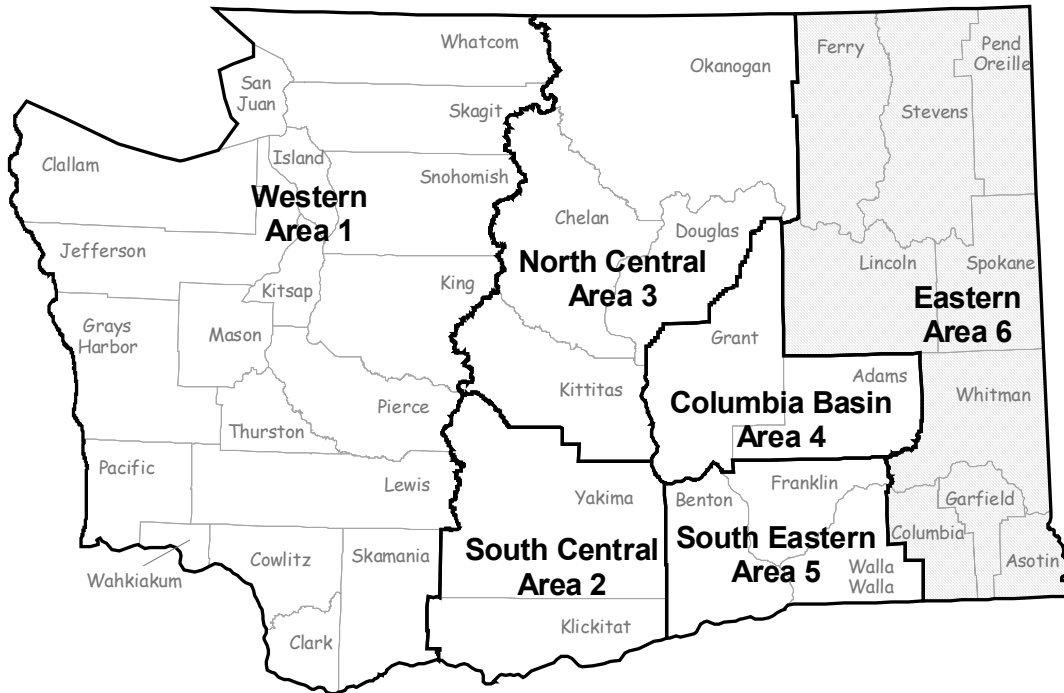
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry  
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

NOVEMBER 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 and Whatcom

**Area 2** = Klickitat and Yakima

**Area 3** = Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas and Okanogan

**Area 4** = Adams and Grant

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Statewide seasonal agricultural employment decreased slightly by 2.4% from November 2002 to November 2003. This was primarily due to a smaller and earlier apple harvest. The other crops contributing to an over-the-year decline were miscellaneous vegetables work (-224), other seasonal work (-187), onion work (-143), hop work (-43) and other tree fruit work (-5). Partially offsetting the over-the-year loss were gains in nursery work (528), potato work (310), raspberry work (207), grapes work (196), cherry work (59), wheat/grain work (10) and bulb work (7). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment rose 47.6%, driven by an increase of 446 in nursery work. South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment declined by 9.8% due to a drop of 1,098 in apple work. North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment charged ahead by 74.1% courtesy of a bump of 1,587 in apple work. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment increased a respectable 16.6% due to an increase of 349 in apple work. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment declined by a huge 71.4%. This was courtesy of a large decrease in apple work of 2,678. Eastern (Area 6) bucked that trend with an increase of 70.6% in seasonal employment due to an increase of 45 in wheat/grain work.

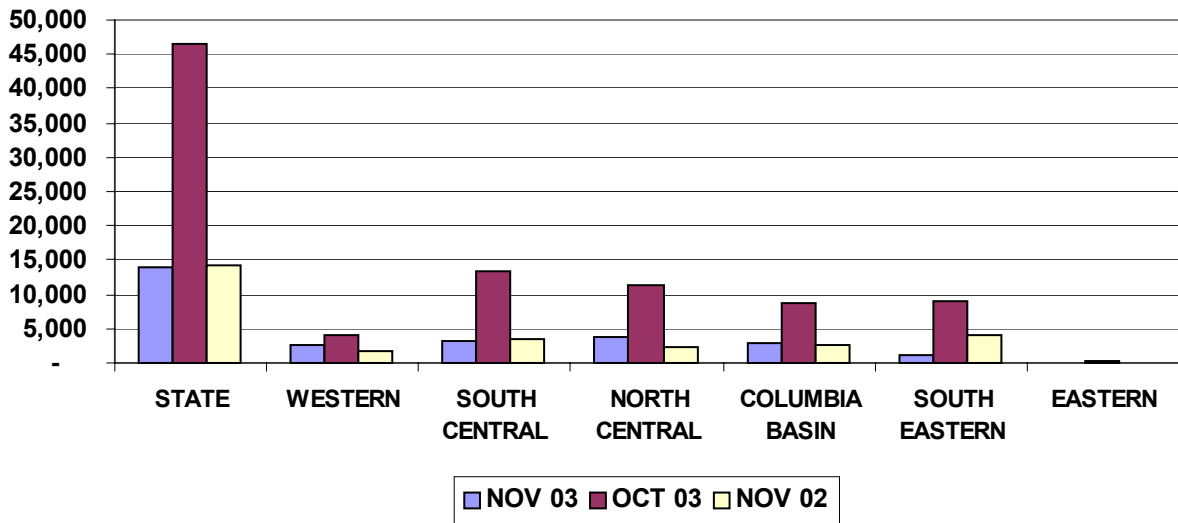
## ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Mexico could lift a 47 percent tariff on imported Red and Golden Delicious apples by next year. This would likely push up prices for those varieties in the United States, an industry official says. Opening Mexico to more apples should increase the demand on this year's smaller Washington crop, which in turn should increase prices. Sales could increase by 2 million boxes if the tariff is ended, but could drop because of the short crop by the same amount if it isn't lifted.

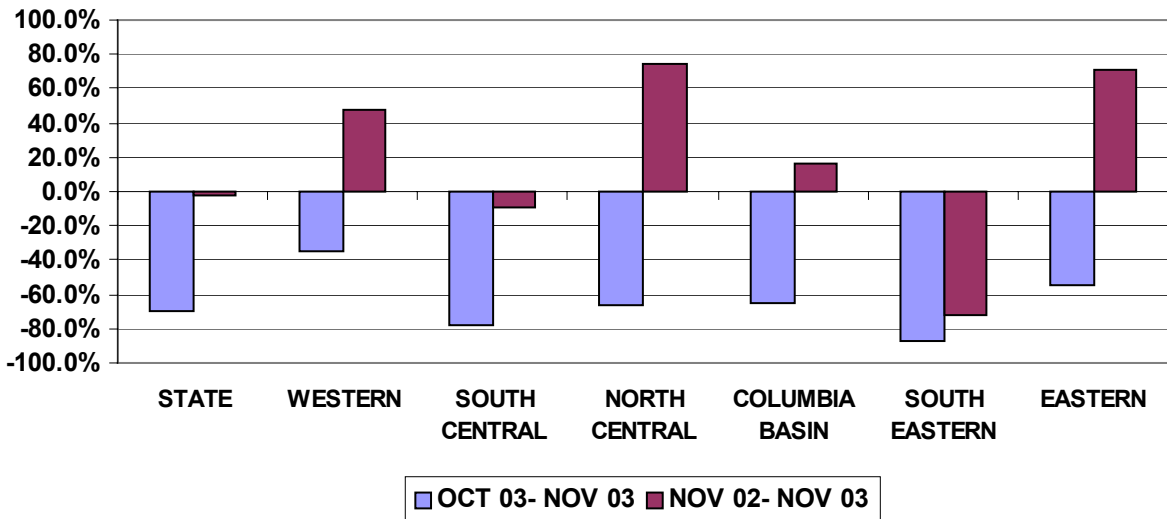
Wine-grape growers have harvested less fruit this year than anticipated, but the smaller quantity – and key weather conditions – mean more intense flavors and an exceptional 2003 vintage, growers and winemakers say. The crop estimated by the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers for the 2003 growing season was 124,000 tons at the end of July. This is the highest estimate ever for the Washington wine grape crop. Actual harvests, though, have been coming in anywhere from 15 percent to 25 percent below that estimate. Industry leaders said weather was the biggest factor this year: a cooler spring, a really hot summer that kept the berry size down, followed by an Indian summer in the autumn that lengthened grapes' hang time on the vine and improved flavor. Wine is a \$2.4 billion business in the state, with more than 200 wineries and 300 wine grape growers here, according to the Washington Wine Commission. The state is the country's second largest producer of wine, behind California.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>NOV 03</u>	<u>OCT 03</u>	<u>NOV 02</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>OCT 03- NOV 03</u>	<u>NOV 02- NOV 03</u>	<u>OCT 03- NOV 03</u>	<u>NOV 02- NOV 03</u>
<b>STATE</b>	13,820	46,530	14,153	(32,710)	(333)	-70.3%	-2.4%
<b>WESTERN</b>	2,626	4,041	1,779	(1,415)	847	-35.0%	47.6%
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	3,057	13,517	3,389	(10,460)	(332)	-77.4%	-9.8%
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	3,850	11,232	2,211	(7,382)	1,639	-65.7%	74.1%
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>	3,036	8,651	2,604	(5,615)	432	-64.9%	16.6%
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>	1,164	8,898	4,119	(7,734)	(2,955)	-86.9%	-71.7%
<b>EASTERN</b>	87	191	51	(104)	36	-54.5%	70.6%

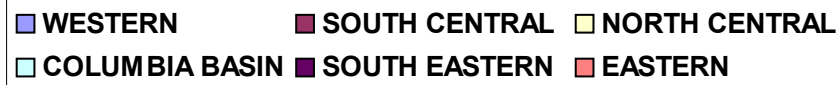
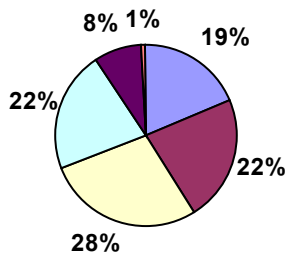
### SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



### CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



### SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT NOVEMBER 2003



## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment declined 2.4% from November 2002 to November 2003. However, seasonal employment shrank drastically statewide by -70.3% from October 2003 to November 2003. This was primarily due to the ending of apple harvest. The crop activity exhibiting the highest gain in employment from November 2002 to November 2003 was pear work (807). Apple work had the largest decrease in employment (-1,840) for that same time period. Nursery work expanded by the most workers (470) from October 2003 to November 2003. During that same time period, apple work contracted by the largest number of jobs (-27,480), due to harvest activities ending. The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2003 was \$7.47 per hour.

STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	NOV 03	OCT 03	NOV 02	OCT 03- NOV 03	NOV 02- NOV 03	OCT 03- NOV 03	NOV 02- NOV 03
Apples	7,411	34,891	9,251	(27,480)	(1,840)	-78.8%	-19.9%
Blueberry	4	357	27	(353)	(23)	-98.9%	-85.2%
Bulb	124	123	117	1	7	0.8%	6.0%
Cherries	123	19	64	104	59	547.4%	92.2%
Cucumbers	0	25	0	(25)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Grapes	640	1,328	444	(688)	196	-51.8%	44.1%
Hop	24	23	67	1	(43)	4.3%	-64.2%
Misc Vegetables	302	1,167	526	(865)	(224)	-74.1%	-42.6%
Nursery	1,289	819	761	470	528	57.4%	69.4%
Onion	307	464	450	(157)	(143)	-33.8%	-31.8%
Other Seasonal	393	1,021	580	(628)	(187)	-61.5%	-32.2%
Other Tree Fruit	35	149	40	(114)	(5)	-76.5%	-12.5%
Pears	1,172	1,523	365	(351)	807	-23.0%	221.1%
Potato	1,098	3,635	788	(2,537)	310	-69.8%	39.3%
Raspberry	806	857	599	(51)	207	-6.0%	34.6%
Wheat/Grain	84	130	74	(46)	10	-35.4%	13.5%

\*\*Crop detail may not add due to rounding

**Western (Area 1)** over-the-year seasonal employment grew by 47.6% from November 2002 to November 2003. This was contrasted by a decrease in seasonal employment of 35.0% from October 2003 to November 2003. Nursery work displayed the largest increase (446) in employment from November 2002 to November 2003. Miscellaneous vegetable work experienced the largest downturn (-31) in employment for that same time period. Nursery work posted the largest upturn in employment (124) from October 2003 to November 2003. Miscellaneous vegetables work shrank by the greatest amount (-593) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2003 in Area 1 was \$7.51 per hour. (See pages 14 and 15 for Area 1 detail)

**AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT\*\***

WESTERN  CROP				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>NOV 03</u>	<u>OCT 03</u>	<u>NOV 02</u>	<u>OCT 03-</u> <u>NOV 03</u>	<u>NOV 02-</u> <u>NOV 03</u>	<u>OCT 03-</u> <u>NOV 03</u>	<u>NOV 02-</u> <u>NOV 03</u>
	Blueberry	4	357	27	(353)	(23)	-98.9%
Bulb	124	123	117	1	7	0.8%	6.0%
Cucumbers	0	25	0	(25)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	78	671	109	(593)	(31)	-88.4%	-28.4%
Nursery	878	754	432	124	446	16.4%	103.2%
Other Seasonal	64	202	10	(138)	54	-68.3%	540.0%
Potato	672	1,038	485	(366)	187	-35.3%	38.6%
Raspberry	806	857	599	(51)	207	-6.0%	34.6%
Rhubarb	0	10	0	(10)	0	-100.0%	0.0%

\*\*Crop detail may not add due to rounding

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment contracted by 9.8% from November 2002 to November 2003. This was superceded by a larger decrease of 77.4% from October 2003 to November 2003. Pear work was the crop activity experiencing the largest growth (778) in employment from November 2002 to November 2003. Apple work fell by the largest amount (-1,098) for that same time period due to an earlier and smaller harvest. The largest over-the-month growth in employment from October 2003 to November 2003 was pear work (171). Apple work displayed the greatest loss in employment (-9,838) for that same time period caused by the end in harvest activities. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2003 in Area 2 was \$7.73 per hour. (See pages 16 and 17 for Area 2 detail)

**AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

SOUTH CENTRAL  CROP				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>NOV 03</u>	<u>OCT 03</u>	<u>NOV 02</u>	<u>OCT 03-</u> <u>NOV 03</u>	<u>NOV 02-</u> <u>NOV 03</u>	<u>OCT 03-</u> <u>NOV 03</u>	<u>NOV 02-</u> <u>NOV 03</u>
	Apples	1,448	11,286	2546	(9,838)	(1,098)	-87.2%
Cherries	38	19	60	19	(22)	100.0%	-36.7%
Grapes	285	661	233	(376)	52	-56.9%	22.3%
Hop	24	23	52	1	(28)	4.3%	-53.8%
Misc Vegetables	61	284	34	(223)	27	-78.5%	79.4%
Other Seasonal	49	262	75	(213)	(26)	-81.3%	-34.7%
Other Tree Fruit	10	6	26	4	(16)	66.7%	-61.5%
Pears	1141	970	363	171	778	17.6%	214.3%
Potato	0	8	0	(8)	0	-100.0%	0.0%

\*\*Crop detail may not add due to rounding

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment exhibited an over-the-year net gain of 74.1% from November 2002 to November 2003. This was contrasted by a larger decrease of 65.7% in employment in November 2003 over October 2003. The crop activity gaining the largest amount of employment from November 2002 to November 2003 was apple work (1,587). Other seasonal work lagged by the largest amount (-26) for that same time period. Cherry work added the most employment (27) from October 2003 to November 2003. Apple work had the largest decline in employment (-6,829) during that same time period, due to the winding down of harvest. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2003 in Area 3 was \$7.29 per hour. (See pages 18 and 19 for Area 3 detail)

<b>AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>				<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>		
	<b>NOV 03</b>	<b>OCT 03</b>	<b>NOV 02</b>	<b>OCT 03- NOV 03</b>	<b>NOV 02- NOV 03</b>	<b>OCT 03- NOV 03</b>	<b>NOV 02- NOV 03</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	3,734	10,563	2147	(6,829)	1,587	-64.7%	73.9%
Cherries	27	0	0	27	27	0.0%	0.0%
Other Seasonal	32	64	58	(32)	(26)	-50.0%	-44.8%
Other Tree Fruit	25	83	4	(58)	21	-69.9%	525.0%
Pears	31	522	2	(491)	29	-94.1%	1450.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment advanced by 16.6% from November 2002 to November 2003. However seasonal employment fell back by 64.9% from October 2003 to November 2003. Apple work experienced the largest growth (349) in employment from November 2002 to November 2003. Onion work showed the largest decline (-247) in employment during that same time period. Nursery work expanded the most (345) in employment from October 2003 to November 2003. Due to the end of harvest, apple work netted the largest over-the-month loss (-4,567) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2003 in Area 4 was \$7.45 per hour. (See pages 20 and 21 for Area 4 detail)

<b>AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>				<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>		
	<b>NOV 03</b>	<b>OCT 03</b>	<b>NOV 02</b>	<b>OCT 03- NOV 03</b>	<b>NOV 02- NOV 03</b>	<b>OCT 03- NOV 03</b>	<b>NOV 02- NOV 03</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	2,095	6,662	1746	(4,567)	349	-68.6%	20.0%
Misc Vegetables	3	19	46	(16)	(43)	-84.2%	-93.5%
Nursery	385	40	308	345	77	862.5%	25.0%
Onion	63	142	310	(79)	(247)	-55.6%	-79.7%
Other Seasonal	136	102	52	34	84	33.3%	161.5%
Pears	0	31	0	(31)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Potato	351	1,649	141	(1,298)	210	-78.7%	148.9%
Wheat/Grain	2	8	1	(6)	1	-75.0%	100.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment shrank by 71.7% from November 2002 to November 2003. November 2003 employment also declined by 86.9% over October 2003. Grapes work employment rose by the greatest amount (144) from November 2002 to November 2003. Apple work decreased the most (-2,678) in employment during that same time period. Cherry work crept ahead by the largest amount (58) of employment from October 2003 to November 2003. Apple work retreated by the largest amount of employment (-6,246) for that same time period, as harvest finished. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2003 in Area 5 was \$7.37 per hour. (See pages 22 and 23 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>NOV 03</b>	<b>OCT 03</b>	<b>NOV 02</b>	<b>OCT 03- NOV 03</b>	<b>NOV 02- NOV 03</b>	<b>OCT 03- NOV 03</b>	<b>NOV 02- NOV 03</b>
Apples	134	6,380	2812	(6,246)	(2,678)	-97.9%	-95.2%
Cherries	58	0	4	58	54	0.0%	1350.0%
Grapes	355	667	211	(312)	144	-46.8%	68.2%
Hop	0	0	15	0	(15)	0.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	160	183	337	(23)	(177)	-12.6%	-52.5%
Nursery	11	9	10	2	1	22.2%	10.0%
Onion	244	322	140	(78)	104	-24.2%	74.3%
Other Seasonal	112	311	370	(199)	(258)	-64.0%	-69.7%
Other Tree Fruit	0	60	10	(60)	(10)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Potato	75	940	162	(865)	(87)	-92.0%	-53.7%
Wheat/Grain	12	26	48	(14)	(36)	-53.8%	-75.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

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



## 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 NOVEMBER 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 outside of Washington 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: 2,626 (2,054 local, 83 intrastate, 83 interstate, 13 foreign, 393 unknown origin)

Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	665	\$ 7.81/hr
Raspberry Pruner	399	\$ 7.01/hr or \$ 0.18 - \$ 0.21/plant
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	379	\$ 7.25/hr
Raspberry Trainer	302	\$ 7.01/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,057 (2,799 local, 80 intrastate, 125 interstate, 53 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	911	\$ 8.00/hr
Apple Pruner	438	\$ 7.07/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	307	\$ 8.00/hr
Apple Trainer	274	\$ 7.38/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,850 (3,156 local, 149 intrastate, 541 interstate, 4 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	1,840	\$12.00 - \$30.00/bin
Apple Trainer	1,549	\$ 7.07/hr
Apple Worker	131	\$ 8.47/hr
Apple Tractor Operator	89	\$ 8.72/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,036 (2,752 local, 11 intrastate, 57 interstate, 110 foreign, 106 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	1,506	\$ 8.00/hr
Apple Pruner	420	\$ 7.46/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	221	\$ 7.92/hr
Nursery Worker	114	\$ 7.01/hr

### **SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,164 (1,124 local, 5 intrastate, 0 interstate, 15 foreign, 20 unknown origin)

Miscellaneous Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	244	\$ 7.01/hr
Grapes Pruner	229	\$ 7.01/hr
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	131	\$ 7.01/hr
Grapes Trainer	63	\$ 7.18/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 87 (69 local, 0 intrastate, 9 interstate, 9 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Wheat Worker	28	\$25.00/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	28	\$ 8.50/hr
Wheat Irrigator	14	\$ 7.50/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	6	\$ 7.01/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**  
**NOVEMBER 2003**

**TABLE 1**

**NOVEMBER 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	Foreign	Unknown	Area Total
1. Western	2,054	83	83	13	393	2,626
2. South Central	2,799	80	125	53	0	3,057
3. North Central	3,156	149	541	4	0	3,850
4. Columbia Basin	2,752	11	57	110	106	3,036
5. South Eastern	1,124	5	0	15	20	1,164
6. Eastern	69	0	9	9	0	87
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>11,954</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>13,820</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>86.5%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: NOVEMBER 2003

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **WESTERN** (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, 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	2,626
a. Local	2,054
b. Intrastate migratory	83
c. Interstate migratory	83
d. Unknown	13
e. Foreign	393
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Mount Vernon	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The November 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 1,633.

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. Early snowfalls were reported in many areas on November 19th, with heavy accumulations in places. Several rivers reported minor flooding due to the heavy rainfall. Christmas tree harvest was in full swing. Livestock producers were feeding supplemental hay to compensate for the cold temperatures.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in November averaged \$7.51 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for raspberry pruner, raspberry trainer, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, raspberry worker, nursery loader, beets harvester, cabbage harvester, bulbs weeder, nursery irrigator, apple sorter/grader/packer, apple worker, pumpkin worker and general farm worker to \$14.00 for blueberry vehicle operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.18 to \$0.21 per plant for raspberry pruning. Housing was limited.

c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated at 78.1% local, 3.2% intrastate, 3.2% interstate 0.5% foreign and 15.0% unknown.

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: NOVEMBER 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		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 2,626	* = piece rate
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	665	\$ 7.81
Raspberry Pruner	399	\$ 7.01 or * \$ 0.18 - \$ 0.21 per plant
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	379	\$ 7.25
Raspberry Trainer	302	\$ 7.01
Nursery Harvester	237	\$ 7.26
Nursery Planter	116	\$ 7.51
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	104	\$ 7.01
Raspberry Worker	63	\$ 7.01
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	42	\$ 7.25
Nursery Loader	40	\$ 7.01
Nursery Worker	40	\$ 7.54
Beets Harvester	34	\$ 7.01
Nursery Weeder	29	\$ 7.54
Dairy Worker	27	Not Available
Cabbage Harvester	24	\$ 7.01
Bulbs Weeder	20	\$ 7.01
Nursery Irrigator	14	\$ 7.01
Nursery Vehicle Operator	14	\$10.85
Misc Vegetables Worker	10	\$11.50
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	10	\$ 7.01
Wheat Worker	7	\$13.00
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	6	\$12.50
Apple Worker	5	\$ 7.01
Pumpkin Worker	5	\$ 7.01
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.00
Wheat Loader	5	\$ 8.50
Potato Worker	5	\$ 9.00
Blueberry Vehicle Operator	4	\$14.00
Misc Field Crops Harvester	4	\$ 9.50
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$ 7.50
Nursery Tractor Operator	3	\$ 9.30
General Farm Worker	2	\$ 7.01
Potato Mechanized Harvester	2	\$10.00

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**

Period: NOVEMBER 2003  
State: WASHINGTON

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

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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 . . . . .	3,057
a. Local . . . . .	2,799
b. Intrastate migratory . . . . .	80
c. Interstate migratory . . . . .	125
d. Unknown . . . . .	53
e. Foreign . . . . .	0
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 November 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 13,841.
  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. Recent snow accumulation was welcomed. The precipitation provided soil moisture and insulation for crops. Almost all ranchers were feeding their livestock. Tree fruit pruning was in full swing. No crop damage due to weather conditions were reported.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in November averaged \$7.73 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for apple harvester, miscellaneous squash sorter/grader/packer, apple worker, nectarine worker, mint weeder and mint chemical applicator to \$11.00 for apple vehicle operator. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited; workers provided their own transportation.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 91.6% local, 2.6% intrastate, 4.1% interstate 1.7% foreign and 0.0% unknown.
    - 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: NOVEMBER 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>3,057</b>
		* = piece rate
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	911	\$ 8.00
Apple Pruner	438	\$ 7.07
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	307	\$ 8.00
Apple Trainer	274	\$ 7.38
Pear Pruner	230	Not Available
Grapes Pruner	201	\$ 7.34
Apple Tractor Operator	192	\$ 8.00
Apple Harvester	111	\$ 7.01
Apple Irrigator	86	\$ 7.94
Grapes Trainer	75	\$ 8.13
Cherry Pruner	38	\$ 7.25
Mint Planter	37	\$ 7.25
Misc Squash Sorter/Grader/Packer	34	\$ 7.01
Misc Vegetables Worker	27	\$ 9.29
Apple Vehicle Operator	19	\$11.00
Hops Tractor Operator	12	\$ 8.00
Apple Worker	12	\$ 7.01
Nectarine Worker	10	\$ 7.01
Grapes Tractor Operator	9	\$ 8.50
Apple Manager	9	\$ 8.00
Mint Weeder	6	\$ 7.01
Hops Worker	6	\$ 9.00
Mint Chemical Applicator	6	\$ 7.01
Hops Trainer	6	\$ 7.25

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 ..... \$ 7.73/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: NOVEMBER 2003

State: WASHINGTON

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

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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 .....	3,850
a.	Local .....	3,156
b.	Intrastate migratory .....	149
c.	Interstate migratory .....	541
d.	Unknown .....	4
e.	Foreign .....	0
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a.	Intrastate: Chelan, Chelan Falls, Mattawa, Orondo, Wenatchee, Yakima	
b.	Interstate: Arizona, California, Florida, 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 November 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,169.
  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. Tree fruit harvest and cleanup were complete. Experts in the fruit industry were analyzing tree data to determine if the trees suffered damage due to the recent freezing. Fall fertilization continued on timothy hay fields.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in November averaged \$7.29 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 pear trainer, cherry worker, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, nursery worker and miscellaneous fruit trees vehicle operator to \$22.00 for horse and equines trainer. Typical piece rates were: \$12.00 to \$30.00 per bin for apple picking. 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 82.0% local, 3.9% intrastate, 14.0% interstate, 0.1% foreign and 0.0% unknown.
    - 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: NOVEMBER 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>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	3,850
		* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	1,840	* \$12.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Apple Trainer	1,589	\$ 7.07
Apple Worker	131	\$ 8.47
Apple Tractor Operator	89	\$ 8.72
Pear Trainer	27	\$ 7.01
Cherry Worker	27	\$ 7.01
Apple Pruner	24	\$ 7.18
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	23	\$ 7.01
Nursery Worker	21	\$ 7.01
Apple Irrigator	19	\$ 7.25
Apple Weeder	15	\$ 7.75
Apple Preparation	15	\$ 8.17
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	8	\$ 7.75
Misc Hay Worker	5	\$ 7.50
Apple Manager	4	\$ 9.50
Pear Worker	4	\$ 7.50
Horse and Equines Worker	2	\$10.00
Horse and Equines Trainer	2	\$22.00
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	2	\$ 9.00
Misc Fruit Trees Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 7.01

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 ..... \$ 7.29/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: NOVEMBER 2003

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant)

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	3,036
a. Local .....	2,752
b. Intrastate migratory .....	11
c. Interstate migratory .....	57
d. Unknown .....	110
e. Foreign .....	106
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Entiat, Wentachee	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The November 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,354.
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. Few processing carrots were left for harvest. Snow hampered any field activities left to complete. However, the precipitation maintained moisture and crop conditions. Additional precipitation is needed to improve both moisture and winter wheat conditions.
  - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in November averaged \$7.45 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for nursery worker, miscellaneous grain & seed crops sorter/grader/packer, nursery harvester, nursery planter, nursery preparation, general farm worker, apple chemical applicator and nursery tractor operator 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 90.6% local, 0.4% intrastate, 1.9% interstate, 3.6% foreign and 3.5% unknown.
  - 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: NOVEMBER 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>	<b>3,036</b>
		* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	1,506	\$ 8.00
Apple Pruner	420	\$ 7.46
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	221	\$ 7.92
Nursery Worker	114	\$ 7.01
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	112	\$ 7.01
Nursery Harvester	109	\$ 7.01
Nursery Planter	73	\$ 7.01
Potato Vehicle Operator	73	\$ 9.99
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	63	\$ 7.21
Nursery Preparation	52	\$ 7.01
Apple Worker	42	\$ 7.81
Nursery Loader	30	\$ 7.01
Potato Tractor Operator	28	\$ 9.56
Apple Tractor Operator	21	\$ 8.25
Apple Trainer	21	\$ 8.00
Apple Irrigator	21	\$ 8.00
Apple Weeder	21	\$ 8.00
Apple Planter	21	\$ 7.50
General Farm Worker	14	\$ 7.01
Apple Chemical Applicator	11	\$ 7.01
Apple Mechanic	11	Not Available
Potato Mechanic	9	\$ 9.00
Potato Forklift Driver	8	\$ 7.75
Potato Manager	7	\$13.75
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	7	\$ 8.00
Nursery Tractor Operator	7	\$ 7.01
Pumpkin Harvester	3	\$ 7.75
Potato Worker	3	\$ 8.50
Field Corn Combine Driver	3	\$ 8.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	2	\$12.00
Potato Irrigator	2	\$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 ..... \$ 7.45/hr (weighted average)

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: NOVEMBER 2003

State: WASHINGTON

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

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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 .....	1,164
a. Local .....	1,124
b. Intrastate migratory .....	5
c. Interstate migratory .....	0
d. Unknown .....	15
e. Foreign .....	20
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Lowden	
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 November 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,419.
  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. Cold weather with strong winds (20 – 50 mph) caused damage to much of the wheat crop in the dryland area. Precipitation is needed so the winter wheat can be reseeded. Some pruning in concord grapes began. Most field activities were complete for the season, although field corn and carrot harvest continued.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in November averaged \$7.37 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, grapes pruner, carrot sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous field crops irrigator, apple trainer and wheat worker to \$14.50 for nursery vehicle operator. No piece rates were reported. 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 96.6% local, 0.4% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 1.3% foreign and 1.7% unknown.
    - 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: NOVEMBER 2003

State: WASHINGTON

**Area 5: SOUTH EASTERN (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 1,164	* = piece rate
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	244	\$ 7.01
Grapes Pruner	229	\$ 7.01
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	131	\$ 7.01
Grapes Trainer	63	\$ 7.18
Cherry Pruner	52	\$ 7.50
Grapes Planter	50	\$ 7.02
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	46	\$ 7.70
Apple Harvester	45	\$ 7.15
Potato Worker	45	\$ 8.70
Apple Pruner	35	\$ 7.33
Apple Worker	35	\$ 7.52
General Farm Worker	34	\$ 7.25
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	23	\$ 7.01
Spinach Harvester	21	\$ 7.50
Apple Trainer	19	\$ 7.01
Grapes Worker	13	\$ 7.25
Potato Forklift Driver	10	\$ 8.50
Misc Field Crops Worker	9	\$ 7.05
Carrot Vehicle Operator	8	Not Available
Nursery Vehicle Operator	8	\$14.50
Cherry Trainer	6	\$ 7.25
Wheat Worker	6	\$ 7.01
Wheat Tractor Operator	6	\$ 8.00
Potato Irrigator	5	\$ 8.75
Potato Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.00
Potato Mechanic	5	\$ 8.89
Potato Manager	5	\$14.01
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	3	\$10.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 ..... \$ 7.37/hr (weighted average)