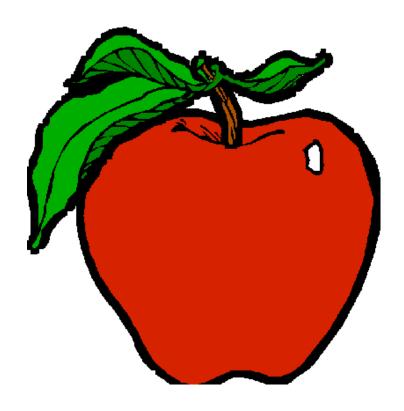




SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

OCTOBER 2003



Prepared by

John Wines, Economic Analyst Judy Anderson, Data Compiler

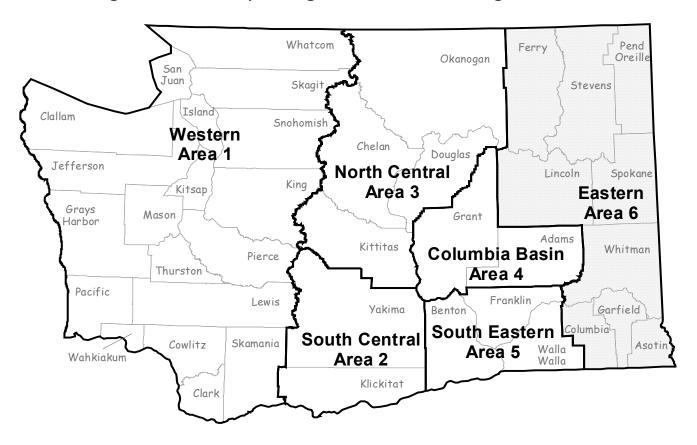
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch Greg Weeks, Director Washington State Employment Security Department

For More Information Contact: John Wines Telephone: (360) 438-4843 E-mail: jwines@esd.wa.gov or call the Labor Market Information Center toll free: 1-800-215-1617

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

OCTOBER 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

Total seasonal agricultural employment continued to pull back in October 2003 with a decline of 2.6% from October 2002. This was largely driven by a smaller apple harvest with seasonal employment decreasing by 2,614 from October 2002. Other crops declining over-the-year were miscellaneous vegetables work (-421) and other tree fruit work (-158). Pears led the statewide seasonal employment increase with an over-the-year bump of 1,190 from October 2002. Other gainers were raspberry work (361), grapes work (154), nursery work (150) and onion work (122). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment advanced by a whopping 20.8%, led by a bump in pear work (361). South Central (Area 2) led the decrease with a 23.2% decline. Apple work was the largest contributor to this (-4,658) over-the-year loss. North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment edged up by a respectable 10.4% courtesy of a good-sized increase in pear work (688). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment took a slight dip of 3.1%. A decrease in potato work (-467) was the main reason. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment ramped up by 16.4%. Apple work, primarily harvest, was the leader (1,095). Eastern (Area 6) increased over the year by 85.4%. This was due to increases in both other seasonal work (48) and wheat/grain work (40).

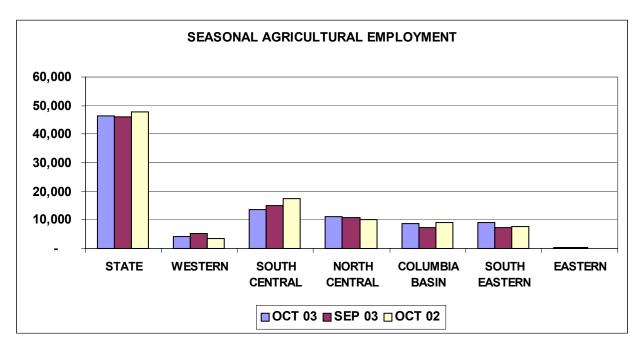
ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

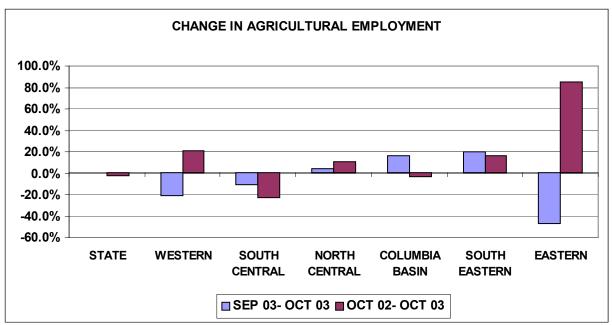
Washington apple growers sold a record \$1.02 billion worth of apples in 2002, even as total sales of Washington farm products barely grew from the previous year, the state Agricultural Statistics Service reported. It was only the second time in history that Washington apple sales topped the \$1 billion barrier, beating the previous record set in 1995 by \$3 million. Washington is the nation's top apple producer, growing about half the U.S. crop.

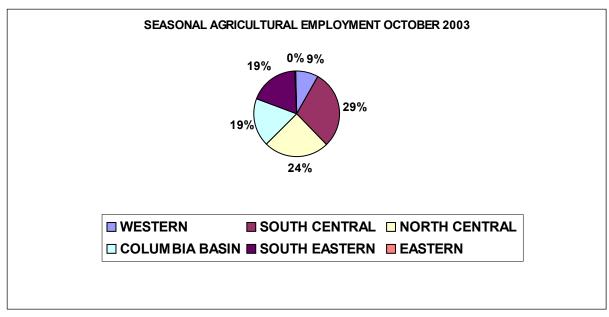
The total value of Washington crops in 2002 was \$5.53 billion, only \$180 million more than the year before. But that was still good news for the farmers. "Overall, Washington farmers fared a little better than the rest of the nation," said Ray Garibay, director of the statistics service. "Nationally, farm cash receipts declined more than 3 percent between 2001 and 2002."

At a time when the state's aerospace and computer industries are battered, agriculture is an island of stability, said Valoria Loveland, director of the state Department of Agriculture. Sales by the state's farmers are only the tip of the iceberg, as many of their products are processed into higher-value products like wine, juice, french fries and other foods. "Agriculture is the state's largest employer, providing jobs for 170,000 people and contributing almost \$29 billion, or 13 percent, to the state's economy," Loveland said. Grapes, which include wine grapes and those grown for juice and jellies, posted record sales of \$135 million, because of the increased value of wine grapes. Onions had the sweetest increase, growing 57 percent to \$100 million.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT									
				CHANGE PERCENT CHAN					
				SEP 03-	OCT 02-	SEP 03-	OCT 02-		
	OCT 03	SEP 03	OCT 02	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03		
STATE	46,530	46,200	47,790	330	(1,260)	0.7%	-2.6%		
WESTERN	4,041	5,101	3,344	(1,060)	697	-20.8%	20.8%		
SOUTH CENTRAL	13,517	15,072	17,597	(1,555)	(4,080)	-10.3%	-23.2%		
NORTH CENTRAL	11,232	10,821	10,176	411	1,056	3.8%	10.4%		
COLUMBIA BASIN	8,651	7,451	8,926	1,200	(275)	16.1%	-3.1%		
SOUTH EASTERN	8,898	7,394	7,644	1,504	1,254	20.3%	16.4%		
EASTERN	191	361	103	(170)	88	-47.1%	85.4%		







STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment decreased 2.6% from October 2002 to October 2003. This was primarily due to a 7.0% decrease in apple harvest employment. However seasonal employment inched up statewide by 0.7% from September 2003 to October 2003. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from October 2002 to October 2003 was pear work (1,190). Apple work had the greatest decline in employment (-2,614) for that same time period. Apple work added the most workers (5,385) from September 2003 to October 2003. During that same time period, pear work shed the greatest number of jobs (-1,504). The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2003 was \$7.65 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**								
STATE				CHAN	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				SEP 03-	OCT 02-	SEP 03-	OCT 02-	
CROP	OCT 03	SEP 03	OCT 02	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03	
Apples	34,891	29,506	37,505	5,385	(2,614)	18.3%	-7.0%	
Blueberry	357	340	384	17	(27)	5.0%	-7.0%	
Bulb	123	117	138	6	(15)	5.1%	-10.9%	
Cherries	19	24	25	(5)	(6)	-20.8%	-24.0%	
Cucumbers	25	226	81	(201)	(56)	-88.9%	-69.1%	
Grapes	1,328	1,073	1,174	255	154	23.8%	13.1%	
Нор	23	1,401	118	(1,378)	(95)	-98.4%	-80.5%	
Misc Vegetables	1,167	2,311	1,588	(1,144)	(421)	-49.5%	-26.5%	
Nursery	819	1,139	669	(320)	150	-28.1%	22.4%	
Onion	464	653	342	(189)	122	-28.9%	35.7%	
Other Seasonal	1,021	1,399	942	(378)	79	-27.0%	8.4%	
Other Tree Fruit	149	1,216	307	(1,067)	(158)	-87.7%	-51.5%	
Pears	1,523	3,027	333	(1,504)	1,190	-49.7%	357.4%	
Potato	3,635	2,368	3,606	1,267	29	53.5%	0.8%	
Raspberry	857	1,138	496	(281)	361	-24.7%	72.8%	
Strawberry	0	36	0	(36)	0	-100.0%	0.0%	
Wheat/Grain	130	215	82	(85)	48	-39.5%	58.5%	
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding								

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment ramped up by an impressive 20.8% from October 2002 to October 2003. However, this was contrasted by a 20.8% decrease in seasonal employment from September 2003 to October 2003. Raspberry work was the crop activity that rose the most (361) in employment from October 2002 to October 2003. Cucumber work displayed the largest decline (-56) in employment for that same time period. Potato work expanded up by the largest employment (196) from September 2003 to October 2003. Miscellaneous vegetables work retreated by the greatest amount (-569) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2003 in Area 1 was \$7.46 per hour. (See pages 14 -16 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**									
WESTERN			CHAN	IGE	PERCENT CHANGE				
				SEP 03-	OCT 02-	SEP 03-	OCT 02-		
CROP	OCT 03	SEP 03	OCT 02	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03		
Blueberry	357	340	384	17	(27)	5.0%	-7.0%		
Bulb	123	117	138	6	(15)	5.1%	-10.9%		
Cucumbers	25	226	81	(201)	(56)	-88.9%	-69.1%		
Misc Vegetables	671	1,240	563	(569)	108	-45.9%	19.2%		
Nursery	754	966	600	(212)	154	-21.9%	25.7%		
Other Seasonal	202	185	199	17	3	9.2%	1.5%		
Potato	1,038	842	881	196	157	23.3%	17.8%		
Raspberry	857	1,138	496	(281)	361	-24.7%	72.8%		
Rhubarb	10	4	2	6	8	150.0%	400.0%		
Strawberry	0	36	0	(36)	0	-100.0%	0.0%		
**Crop detail may no	t add due to ro	unding							

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment contracted by 23.2% from October 2002 to October 2003. This was greater than the 10.3% decrease in employment from September 2003 to October 2003. Pear work was the crop activity expanding the most (829) in employment from October 2002 to October 2003. Apple work declined by the largest amount (-4,658) for that same time period due to a smaller harvest. The largest month-to-month growth in employment from September 2003 to October 2003 was apple work (1,291). Hop work posted the greatest loss in employment (-1,121) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2003 in Area 2 was \$7.54 per hour. (See pages 17 - 19 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT									
SOUTH CENTRAL			CHAN	IGE	PERCENT CHANGE				
				SEP 03-	OCT 02-	SEP 03-	OCT 02-		
CROP	OCT 03	SEP 03	OCT 02	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03		
Apples	11,286	9,995	15,944	1,291	(4,658)	12.9%	-29.2%		
Cherries	19	0	18	19	1	0.0%	5.6%		
Grapes	661	495	704	166	(43)	33.5%	-6.1%		
Нор	23	1,144	118	(1,121)	(95)	-98.0%	-80.5%		
Misc Vegetables	284	323	290	(39)	(6)	-12.1%	-2.1%		
Onion	0	101	0	(101)	0	-100.0%	0.0%		
Other Seasonal	262	297	158	(35)	104	-11.8%	65.8%		
Other Tree Fruit	6	820	224	(814)	(218)	-99.3%	-97.3%		
Pears	970	1,836	141	(866)	829	-47.2%	587.9%		
Potato	8	59	0	(51)	8	-86.4%	0.0%		
**Crop detail may not	add due to ro	unding							

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment displayed a net gain of 10.4% from October 2002 to October 2003. This was accompanied by a weaker bump of only 3.8% in employment in from September 2003 to October 2003. The crop activity posting the greatest over-the-year increase in employment from October 2002 to October 2003 was pear work (688). During that same time period, no crops decreased in employment, but other tree fruit had the smallest increase (14) in employment. Apple work experienced the largest increase in employment (773) from September 2003 to October 2003. Pear work exhibited the largest downturn in employment (-320) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2003 in Area 3 was \$7.93 per hour. (See pages 20 and 21 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT								
NORTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
				SEP 03-	OCT 02-	SEP 03-	OCT 02-	
CROP	OCT 03	SEP 03	OCT 02	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03	
Apples	10,563	9,790	9,929	773	634	7.9%	6.4%	
Cherries	0	24	4	(24)	20	-100.0%	500.0%	
Other Seasonal	64	152	89	(88)	63	-57.9%	70.8%	
Other Tree Fruit	83	14	0	69	14	492.9%	0.0%	
Pears	522	842	154	(320)	688	-38.0%	446.8%	
**Crop detail may not a	**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment fell 3.1% from October 2002 to October 2003. This was contrasted by a gain of 16.1% in employment from September 2003 to October 2003. Apple work displayed the greatest upturn (315) in employment from October 2002 to October 2003. Potato work experienced the largest downturn (-467) in employment during that same time period. Apple work advanced the most (1,408) in employment from September 2003 to October 2003. Pear work showed the weakest demand (-318) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2003 in Area 4 was \$7.82 per hour. (See pages 22 and 23 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT								
COLUMBIA BASIN				CHANGE PERCENT			HANGE	
				SEP 03-	OCT 02-	SEP 03-	OCT 02-	
CROP	OCT 03	SEP 03	OCT 02	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03	
Apples	6,662	5,254	6,347	1,408	315	26.8%	5.0%	
Mint	0	20	42	(20)	(42)	-100.0%	-100.0%	
Misc Vegetables	19	36	41	(17)	(22)	-47.2%	-53.7%	
Nursery	40	117	44	(77)	(4)	-65.8%	-9.1%	
Onion	142	220	144	(78)	(2)	-35.5%	-1.4%	
Other Seasonal	102	305	144	(203)	(42)	-66.6%	-29.2%	
Pears	31	349	38	(318)	(7)	-91.1%	-18.4%	
Potato	1,649	1,133	2,116	516	(467)	45.5%	-22.1%	
Wheat/Grain	8	19	10	(11)	(2)	-57.9%	-20.0%	
**Crop detail may not a	dd due to ro	unding						

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment expanded by 16.4% from October 2002 to October 2003. October 2003 employment moved ahead by 20.3% over September 2003. Apple work charged up by the greatest amount (1,095) from October 2002 to October 2003. Miscellaneous vegetables work scaled back by the largest (-509) employment during that same time period. Due to harvest activity, apple work propelled up by the largest amount (1,913) of employment from September 2003 to October 2003. Miscellaneous vegetables work displayed the weakest demand (-525) for employment for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2003 in Area 5 was \$7.69 per hour. (See pages 24 - 26 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT									
SOUTH EASTERN	OUTH EASTERN				IGE	PERCENT CHANGE			
				SEP 03-	OCT 02-	SEP 03-	OCT 02-		
CROP	OCT 03	SEP 03	OCT 02	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03	OCT 03		
Apples	6,380	4,467	5,285	1,913	1,095	42.8%	20.7%		
Cherries	0	0	3	0	(3)	0.0%	-100.0%		
Grapes	667	578	470	89	197	15.4%	41.9%		
Нор	0	257	0	(257)	0	-100.0%	0.0%		
Misc Vegetables	183	708	692	(525)	(509)	-74.2%	-73.6%		
Nursery	9	6	10	3	(1)	50.0%	-10.0%		
Onion	322	332	198	(10)	124	-3.0%	62.6%		
Other Seasonal	311	311	278	0	33	0.0%	11.9%		
Other Tree Fruit	60	382	83	(322)	(23)	-84.3%	-27.7%		
Potato	940	334	609	606	331	181.4%	54.4%		
Wheat/Grain	26	15	16	11	10	73.3%	62.5%		
**Crop detail may not a	dd due to ro	unding							

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

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 12th 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.

Washington State Employment Security, Labor Market and Economic Analysis

FARM LABOR ABSTRACT OCTOBER 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: 4,041 (3,218 local, 44 intrastate, 530 interstate, 84 foreign, 165 unknown)

Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	901	\$ 7.84/hr
Raspberry Pruner	498	\$7.01/hr or \$0.08 - \$0.18/plant
Raspberry Trainer	271	\$7.01/hr or \$0.08 - \$0.18/plant
Broccoli Harvester	227	\$ 7.25/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 13,517 (10,078 local, 906 intrastate, 893 interstate, 1,083 foreign, 557 unknown)

Apple Harvester	9,563	\$ 7.30/hr or \$11.00 - \$25.00/bin
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	655	\$ 8.00/hr
Apple Worker	581	\$ 7.61/hr
Grapes Harvester	524	\$ 8.08/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 11,232 (9,590 local, 368 intrastate, 1,168 interstate, 97 foreign, 10 unknown)

Apple Harvester	9,702	\$ 8.37/hr or \$11.00 - \$30.00/bin
Apple Worker	579	\$ 7.70/hr
Pear Harvester	502	\$ 7.85/hr
Apple Tractor Operator	163	\$ 9.69/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,651 (5,499 local, 0 intrastate, 103 interstate, 971 foreign, 2,078 unknown)

Apple Harvester	5,797	\$ 7.49/hr or \$12.00 - \$25.00/bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	713	\$ 7.23/hr
Potato Vehicle Operator	348	\$ 9.58/hr
Apple Pruner	267	\$ 7.01/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,898 (7,956 local, 129 intrastate, 301 interstate, 294 foreign, 218 unknown)

Apple Harvester	6,230	\$7.16/hr or\$	11.00 - \$22.00/bin
Grapes Harvester	655	\$7.38/hr or\$	12.00 - \$45.00/bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	487	\$ 7.45/hr	
Potato Vehicle Operator	337	\$ 9.20/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 191 (191 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown)

Wheat Tractor Operator	80	\$ 8.90/hr
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	48	\$ 8.50/hr
Beef Cattle Worker	16	\$12.00/hr
Wheat Worker	16	\$10.00/hr

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas Harvest Periods

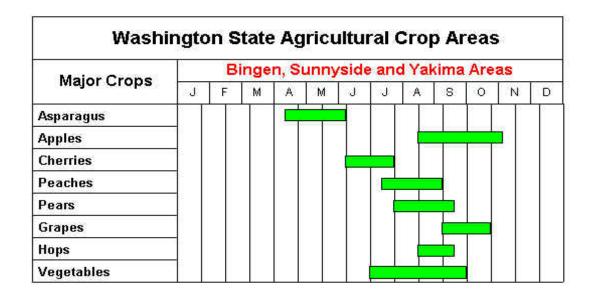
Washington State crop harvest timetables are listed below by agricultural areas. The dates may vary considerably due to weather or other conditions.

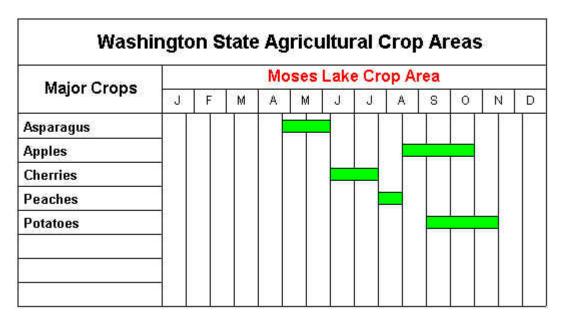
Note that the five area groupings in the following five timeline charts do not directly match with the six agricultural area groupings that are used in the Seasonal Farm Labor Survey data used in this report.

Major Crana	Okanogan and Wenatchee Crop Ar							Are	eas			
Major Crops	IJ	F	M	Α	M	J	IJ	Α	s	0	N	D
Apples												W. 1.
Cherries												
Pears									i e			
Golden Delicious												
Red Delicious									+			

Major Crops		Bellingham and Mount Vernon Crop							ор А	Areas			
Major Crops	IJ	Į,F	М	Α	M	J	IJ	Α	s	0	N	D	
Flowers		0.0				W. I.	4-3	W 1-1	W. 1-1		W		
Cucumbers									3				
Broccoli													
Cauliflower					-	-		-					
Spinach													
Blueberries													
Raspberries								1					
Strawberries													

Major Crops	Tri-Cities and Walla						Tri-Cities and Walla Walla Cro					
Major Crops	J	F	М	Α	М	IJ	IJ	Α	S	0	N	D
Asparagus		Mr. 10-1	M. 10.									
Apples												
Cherries												
Apricots												
Peaches				1 1						to I		
Peaches Pears												
1000000000	= 3 ²											





SEASONAL FARM LABOR SURVEY

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DETAIL BY CROP ACTIVITY

OCTOBER 2003

TABLE 1
OCTOBER 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	3,218	44	530	84	165	4,041
2. South Central	10,078	906	893	1,083	557	13,517
3. North Central	9,590	368	1,168	97	10	11,232
4. Columbia Basin	5,499	0	103	971	2,078	8,651
5. South Eastern	7,956	129	301	294	218	8,898
6. Eastern	191	0	0	0	0	191
State Totals	36,532	1,447	2,995	2,529	3,027	46,530
% State Total	78.5%	3.1%	6.4%	5.4%	6.5%	100%

Period: OCTOBER 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)

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1.	. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	,041
	a. Local 3,	,218
	b. Intrastate migratory	44
	c. Interstate migratory	530
	d. Unknown	84
	e. Foreign	165

2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers

a. Intrastate: Mount Vernonb. Interstate: California, Texas

c. Foreign: Mexico

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The October 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,540.

- 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. <u>Crop, market, and weather conditions:</u>

Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Record rainfall flooded some fields, damaging corn silage, potato, seed and nursery crops. There were a record number of squash and pumpkin crops. Apple harvest continued. Raspberry growers were in the process of caning their fields.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.46 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for raspberry pruner, raspberry trainer, cauliflower harvester, nursery weeder, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery loader, raspberry sorter/grader/packer, cranberry sorter/grader/packer, carrot harvester, nursery irrigator, pumpkin worker, raspberry weeder, potato worker, cabbage worker and general farm worker to \$13.00 for miscellaneous vegetables worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.08 to \$0.18 per plant for both raspberry pruning and training. Housing was limited; transportation was provided by the workers.

c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated at 79.6% local, 1.1% intrastate, 13.1% interstate, 2.1% foreign and 4.1% unknown.

- d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
- e. <u>Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year:</u> None.

Period: OCTOBER 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. A	LL SEASONA	L HIRED FA	ARM WORK	ERS
EMPLOYME	NT AND WAG	ES BY CR	OP ACTIVITY	Υ
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEA HIRED W			WAGES and/or PIECE RATES MESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL	4,041		* = piece rate
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer		901	\$ 7.84	+00000 0040
Raspberry Pruner		498		or * \$ 0.08 - \$ 0.18 per plant
Raspberry Trainer		271		or * \$ 0.08 - \$ 0.18 per plant
Broccoli Harvester		227	\$ 7.25	
Blueberry Pruner		225	\$ 7.04	
Cauliflower Harvester		202	\$ 7.01	
Nursery Planter		199	\$ 7.42	
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer		143	\$ 7.93	
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer		132	\$ 7.15	
Nursery Weeder		118	\$ 7.01	
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer		106	\$ 7.01	
Nursery Loader		93	\$ 7.01	
Apple Harvester		93	\$ 7.25	
Misc Squash Harvester		76	\$ 7.40	
Nursery Worker		68	\$ 7.24	
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer		68	\$ 7.01	
Nursery Harvester		65 59	\$ 7.48 \$ 7.01	
Cranberry Sorter/Grader/Packer Carrot Harvester		51	\$ 7.01 \$ 7.01	
Potato Harvester		51	\$ 7.01	
Potato Vehicle Operator		47	\$ 7.44	
•		44	\$ 9.40 \$ 7.01	
Nursery Irrigator Pumpkin Worker		30	\$ 7.01	
Misc Field Crops Harvester		29	\$ 7.01	
Cucumber Harvester		25	\$ 7.40	
Sweet Corn Harvester		20	\$ 7.40	
Potato Tractor Operator		20	\$ 7.50	
Raspberry Weeder		20	\$ 7.01	
Potato Worker		17	\$ 7.01	
Bulbs Planter		17	\$ 7.01	
Misc Vegetables Harvester		10	\$ 7.40	
Rhubarb Harvester		10	\$ 7.50	
Pumpkin Harvester		10	\$ 8.00	
Beets Harvester		10	\$ 7.40	
Cabbage Worker		10	\$ 7.01	
Nursery Tractor Operator		9	\$ 8.27	

Area 1 (continued)

Period: OCTOBER 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)

	SEASONAL HIRED FA	
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL	* = piece rate
Nursery Mechanized Harvester Nursery Vehicle Operator Cauliflower Forklift Driver Cauliflower Vehicle Operator Celery Harvester Lettuce Harvester Field Corn Harvester Wheat Cultivator Wheat Planter Misc Vegetables Worker General Farm Worker Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer Potato Mechanized Harvester Wheat Combine Driver	9655555552222	\$ 8.83 \$12.00 \$ 7.50 \$ 8.00 \$ 8.00 \$ 9.25 \$ 9.25 \$13.00 \$ 7.01 \$ 7.50 \$ 9.00 \$12.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

Period: OCTOBER 2003

State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1.	Total domestic seasonal hired workers	13,517
	a. Local	10,078
	b. Intrastate migratory	906
	c. Interstate migratory	893
	d. Unknown	1,083
	e. Foreign	557

2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers

- a. Intrastate: Mesa, Othello, Pasco, Sunnyside, Wenatchee
- b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Oregon
- c. Foreign: Mexico

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The October 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 17,854.

- 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. Apple harvest was focused on finishing up the late varieties of Fuji and Pink Lady apples. No new crop losses were reported due to weather.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.54 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for miscellaneous field crops weeder, miscellaneous squash sorter/grader/packer, grapes vehicle operator, pear weeder and grapes weeder to \$13.00 for general farm mechanic. Typical piece rates were: \$11.00 to \$25.00 per bin for apple picking. 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 74.6% local, 6.7% intrastate, 6.6% interstate, 8.0% foreign and unknown 4.1%.

- d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
- e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.

Period: OCTOBER 2003 State: WASHINGTON

Area 2: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

SECTION A.	ALL SEASONA	L HIRED F	ARM WORKERS
EMPLOYN	MENT AND WAG	SES BY CR	OP ACTIVITY
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEA HIRED W		HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL	13,517	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer Apple Worker Grapes Harvester Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer Apple Tractor Operator Pear Harvester Apple Pruner Misc Peppers Harvester Apple Loader Misc Field Crops Weeder Grapes Worker Apple Vehicle Operator Grapes Tractor Operator		9,563 655 581 524 351 320 302 253 211 128 126 59 51 27	\$ 7.30 or * \$11.00 - \$25.00 per bin \$ 8.00 \$ 7.61 \$ 8.09 \$ 7.25 \$ 8.03 Not Available \$ 7.10 \$ 7.25 Not Available \$ 7.01 \$ 7.45 \$ 9.82 \$ 7.75
Apple Irrigator Silage Worker Misc Squash Sorter/Grader/Packer Misc Vegetables Worker Cherry Pruner Misc Field Crops Irrigator Misc Field Crops Manager Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator		26 25 24 24 19 19 15 15	\$ 8.00 \$ 8.50 \$ 7.01 \$ 9.75 \$ 7.25 \$ 7.80 \$ 7.50 \$ 8.12 \$ 9.20
Misc Peppers Irrigator Apple Manager Grapes Vehicle Operator Pear Weeder General Farm Worker General Farm Mechanic Grapes Trainer Grapes Mechanized Harvester Mint Vehicle Operator Grapes Weeder Hops Vehicle Operator		15 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 12	\$ 9.00 \$ 8.00 \$ 7.01 \$ 7.01 \$ 8.00 \$13.00 \$ 8.50 \$ 8.00 \$ 9.00 \$ 7.01 \$ 8.00
Misc Peppers Forklift Driver Misc Field Crops Worker		10 8	\$ 9.00 Not Available

Area 2 (continued)

Period: OCTOBER 2003 State: WASHINGTON

Area 2: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

SECTION A. ALL	SEASONAL HIRED F	ARM WORKERS
EMPLOYMENT	AND WAGES BY CR	OP ACTIVITY
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL	* = piece rate
Hops Irrigator Potato Irrigator Misc Fruit Trees Worker Hops Tractor Operator	8 8 8 6 4 4	\$ 8.50 \$ 7.50 \$10.00 \$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

Period: OCTOBER 2003 State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

11,232
9,590
368
1,168
97
10

- 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
 - Intrastate: Beverly, Chelan Falls, Ellensburg, Forks, Omak, Orondo, Oroville, Tonasket, Wenatchee Woodland, Yakima
 - b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Florida, Oregon, Utah
 - c. Foreign: Mexico

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The October 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 12,278.

- 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. Alfalfa hay and apple harvests were completed. Apple growers were encouraged by the high quality, but yields were uniformly less. Pear harvest was complete. The pear crop size was smaller than normal. Recent precipitation helped the winter wheat crop's emergence.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.93 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for nursery worker, peach worker and miscellaneous fruit trees mechanic to \$22.00 for horse and equines worker. Typical piece rates were: \$11.00 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 85.3% local, 3.3% intrastate, 10.4% interstate, 0.9 foreign and 0.1% unknown.

- d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
- Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.

Period: OCTOBER 2003 State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT	AND WAGES BY	ROP ACTIVITY
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 11,232	2 * = piece rate
Apple Harvester Apple Worker Pear Harvester Apple Tractor Operator Apple Trainer Misc Fruit Trees Worker Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer Apple Manager Pear Worker Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer Apple Pruner Nursery Worker Misc Field Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer Misc Hay Tractor Operator Pear Manager Peach Worker Misc Fruit Trees Mechanic Horse and Equines Worker Horse and Equines Trainer Potato Mechanized Harvester Misc Hay Irrigator		9 2 3 9 9 9 9 0 5 0 0

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

Period: OCTOBER 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	8,651
	a. Local	5,499
	b. Intrastate migratory	0
	c. Interstate migratory	103
	d. Unknown	971
	e. Foreign	2,078

2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers

a. Intrastate: None

b. Interstate: California, Texasc. Foreign: Mexico, Japan

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The October 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,368.

- 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. Carrot harvest continued. The end of the fruit season neared as most fruit was harvested prior to cold temperatures settling in October 31. Sweet corn harvest was nearly complete. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 90 percent complete. The first picking of Pink Lady and Fuji apples was over. The second picking of Fuji and Cameo apples was complete.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.82 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for potato weeder, nursery worker, nursery trainer, carrot weeder, miscellaneous vegetables worker, general farm worker, nursery weeder and nursery tractor operator to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$12.00 to \$25.00 per bin for apple picking. 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 63.6% local, 0.0% intrastate, 1.2% interstate, 11.2% foreign and 24.0% unknown. Some employers reported a labor surplus.

- d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
- e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.

Period: OCTOBER 2003 State: WASHINGTON

Area 4: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS			
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY			
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS	
	TOTAL 8,651	* = piece rate	
Apple Harvester	5,797	\$ 7.49 or * \$12.00 - \$25.00 per bin	
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	713	\$ 7.23	
Potato Vehicle Operator	348	\$ 9.58	
Apple Pruner	267	\$ 7.01	
Apple Worker	204	\$ 8.13	
Potato Weeder	191	\$ 7.01	
Apple Trainer	189	\$ 7.35	
Apple Tractor Operator	157	\$ 8.40	
Potato Loader	157	\$ 7.38	
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	95	\$ 7.32	
Potato Tractor Operator	75	\$ 8.68	
Potato Mechanized Harvester	59	\$ 9.80	
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	54	\$ 9.35	
Potato Worker	50	\$ 7.45	
Potato Mechanic Pear Harvester	46	\$ 8.32 \$ 7.25	
Nursery Worker	24	\$ 7.25	
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Combine Driver	18	\$ 8.50	
Misc Onion Harvester	18	\$ 7.18	
Apple Irrigator	16	\$ 8.00	
Apple Imgator Apple Mechanic	16	\$ 8.50	
Apple Manager	16	\$ 9.50	
Misc Onion Vehicle Operator	14	\$ 8.00	
Nursery Trainer	13	\$ 7.01	
Silage Vehicle Operator	12	\$ 9.00	
Potato Manager	10	\$13.75	
Pumpkin Harvester	8	\$ 7.75	
Wheat Tractor Operator	8	\$10.00	
Misc Field Crops Worker	8	\$ 9.00	
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	6	\$12.00	
Carrot Weeder	6	\$ 7.01	
Misc Vegetables Worker	5	\$ 7.01	
Misc Onion Loader	5	\$ 7.25	
Misc Onion Worker	5	\$ 8.50	
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	5	\$ 8.00	
General Farm Worker	4	\$ 7.01	
Nursery Weeder	2	\$ 7.01	
Nursery Tractor Operator	1	\$ 7.01	

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

Period: OCTOBER 2003 State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

١.	Total domestic seasonal hired workers	8,898
	a. Local	7,956
	b. Intrastate migratory	129
	c. Interstate migratory	301
	d. Unknown	294
	e. Foreign	218

2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers

a. Intrastate: Kennewick, Mesa, Pasco

b. Interstate: California, Oregon

c. Foreign: Mexico

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The October 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,017.

- 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. Sweet corn harvest was completed. Carrot harvests continued. Grape and apple harvests were nearly finished. The first cutting of alfalfa neared completion. Winter wheat crops emerged and were looking good. There was still great concern of continued drought conditions and the long term effect of the drought on 2004 crops.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.69 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, pumpkin sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous field crops sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous grain & seed crops sorter/grader/packer, grapes worker, contract miscellaneous crop worker and wheat irrigator to \$15.00 for miscellaneous onion mechanic. Typical piece rates were: \$11.00 to \$22.00 per bin for apple picking to \$12.00 to \$45.00 per bin for grapes picking. 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 89.4% local, 1.4% intrastate, 3.4% interstate, 3.3% foreign and 2.5% unknown.

- d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
- e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.

Period: OCTOBER 2003 State: WASHINGTON

Area 5: SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT	AND WAGES BY C	ROP ACTIVITY
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 8,898	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	6,230	· ·
Grapes Harvester	655	5 \$ 7.38 or * \$12.00 - \$45.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	487	
Potato Vehicle Operator	337	
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	310) \$ 7.01
Apple Worker	87	7 \$ 8.42
Field Corn Vehicle Operator	85	5 \$ 9.20
Misc Fruit Trees Harvester	60	\$ 7.25
Pumpkin Harvester	60) \$ 7.25
Apple Tractor Operator	56	S \$ 9.07
Misc Field Crops Harvester	47	Not Available
Pumpkin Sorter/Grader/Packer	47	7 \$ 7.01
Misc Field Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	47	7 \$ 7.01
Potato Tractor Operator	45	5 \$10.34
Chicken Eggs Worker	35	5 \$ 7.70
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	35	5 \$ 7.01
Misc Squash Harvester	30) \$ 7.25
Field Corn Combine Driver	25	5 \$11.60
Spinach Mechanized Harvester	24	
Potato Irrigator	2′	1 \$ 8.01
Potato Forklift Driver	2′	1 \$ 8.17
Wheat Worker	13	3 \$ 7.06
Silage Vehicle Operator	13	3 \$ 9.00
Potato Mechanized Harvester	11	1 \$ 8.17
Potato Manager	11	1 \$11.17
Wheat Tractor Operator	9	\$10.50
Potato Harvester	7	7 \$ 8.48
Apple Manager	7	7 \$ 7.65
Grapes Worker	7	7 \$ 7.01
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	7	\$ 8.50
Nursery Vehicle Operator	7	7 \$14.00
Carrot Vehicle Operator	7	Not Available
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	6	8 \$ 8.50
Beans Worker	6	§ \$ 9.65
Contract Misc Crop Worker	6	5 \$ 7.01
Misc Onion Vehicle Operator	4	\$10.50

Area 5 (continued)

Period: OCTOBER 2003 State: WASHINGTON

Area 5: SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla 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	* = piece rate
Misc Onion Tractor Operator Misc Onion Mechanic Wheat Irrigator Grapes Vehicle Operator Misc Field Crops Irrigator Misc Hay Irrigator Alfalfa Irrigator Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator Grapes Tractor Operator Sweet Corn Preparation Nursery Mechanized Harvester	4 4 4 3 3 3 3 3 2 2 2 2	\$11.00 \$15.00 \$ 7.01 \$ 8.00 \$ 7.05 \$ 8.00 \$ 7.05 \$ 9.15 \$11.00 \$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG