



## SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

AUGUST 2004



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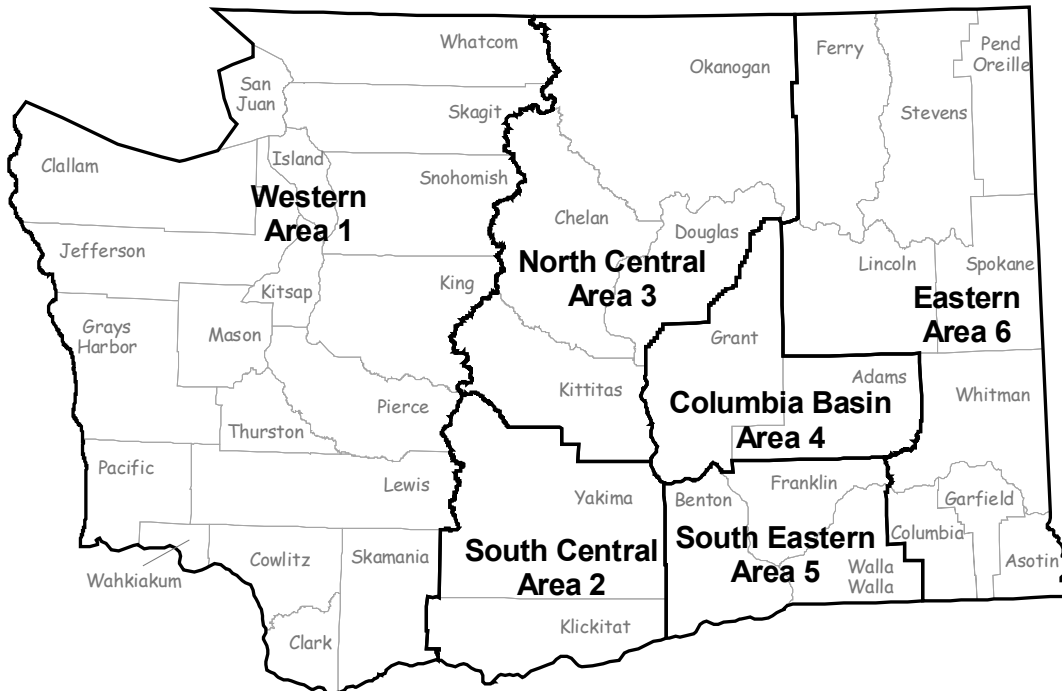
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry  
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

AUGUST 2004

## 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 employment fell by 1.2% from August 2003 to August 2004. Agricultural activities displaying an over-the-year increase were apple work (4,165), other tree fruit work (1,427), grape work (679), miscellaneous vegetables work (243), onion work (156), nursery work (78) and asparagus work (14). Activities exhibiting a decline were cherry work (-2,262), pear work (-1,490), blueberry work (-895), cucumber work (-757), raspberry work (-755), potato work (-677), other seasonal work (-133), hop work (-105), wheat/grain work (-73), bulb work (-43) and strawberry work (-18). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment decreased by 32.2%, due to a decline in blueberry work (-895). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment ramped up by 16.1%, thanks to a large bump in other tree fruit work (1,473). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment grew by 9.7%, courtesy of a large increase in apple work (4,382). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment edged ahead by a small 2.2% growth rate, due to an expansion in pear work (681). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment pulled back by 7.2% caused by a decline in potato work (618). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment weakened by 25.3% caused by downturns in both other seasonal work (-104) and wheat/grain work (-104).

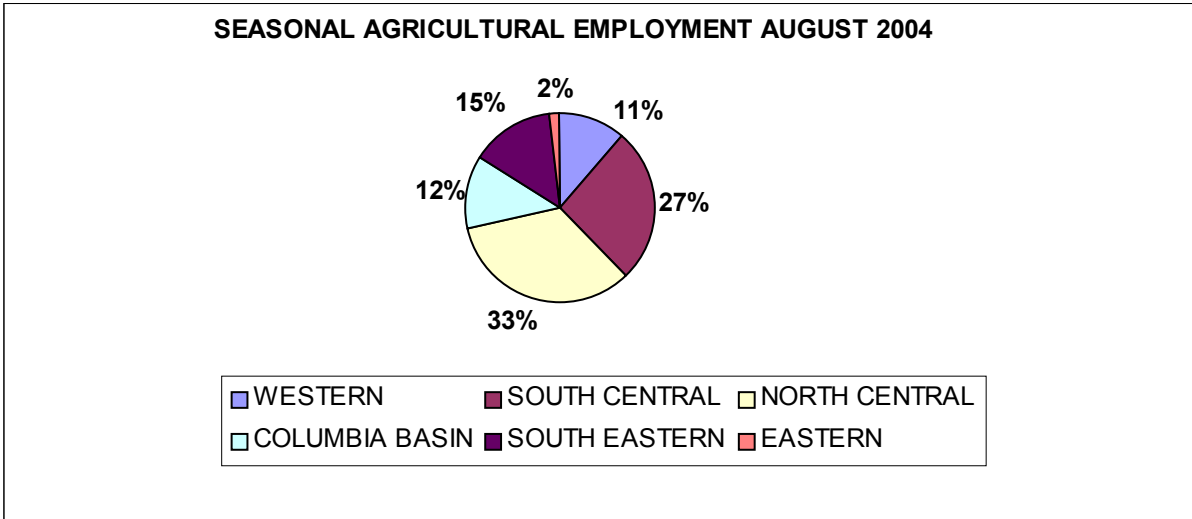
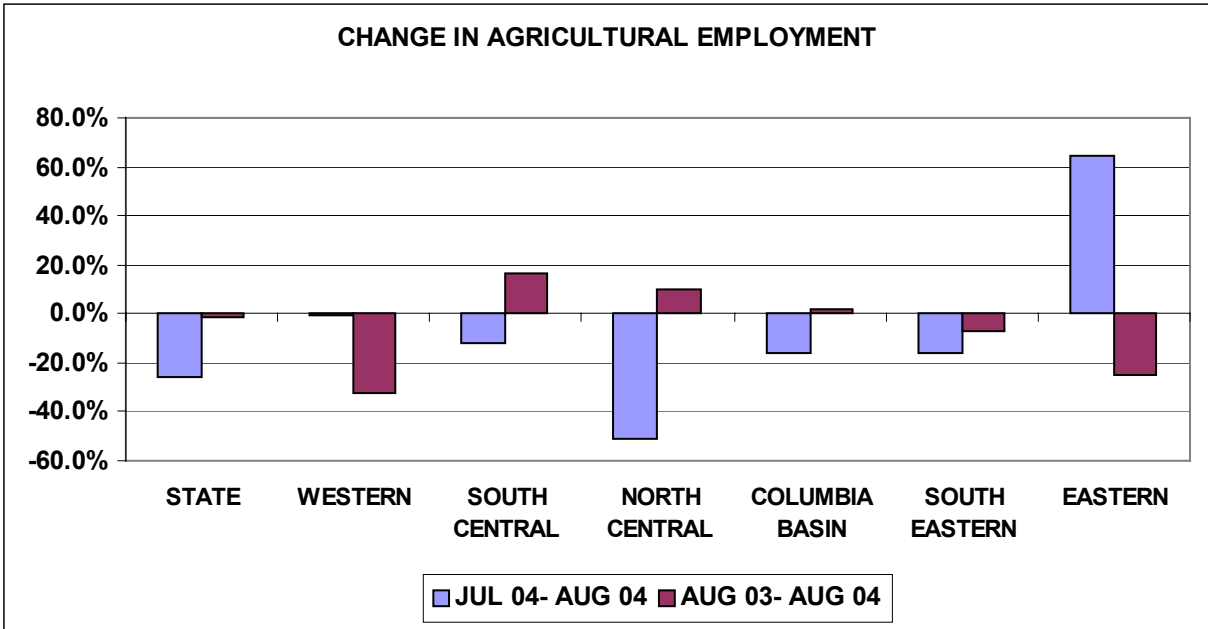
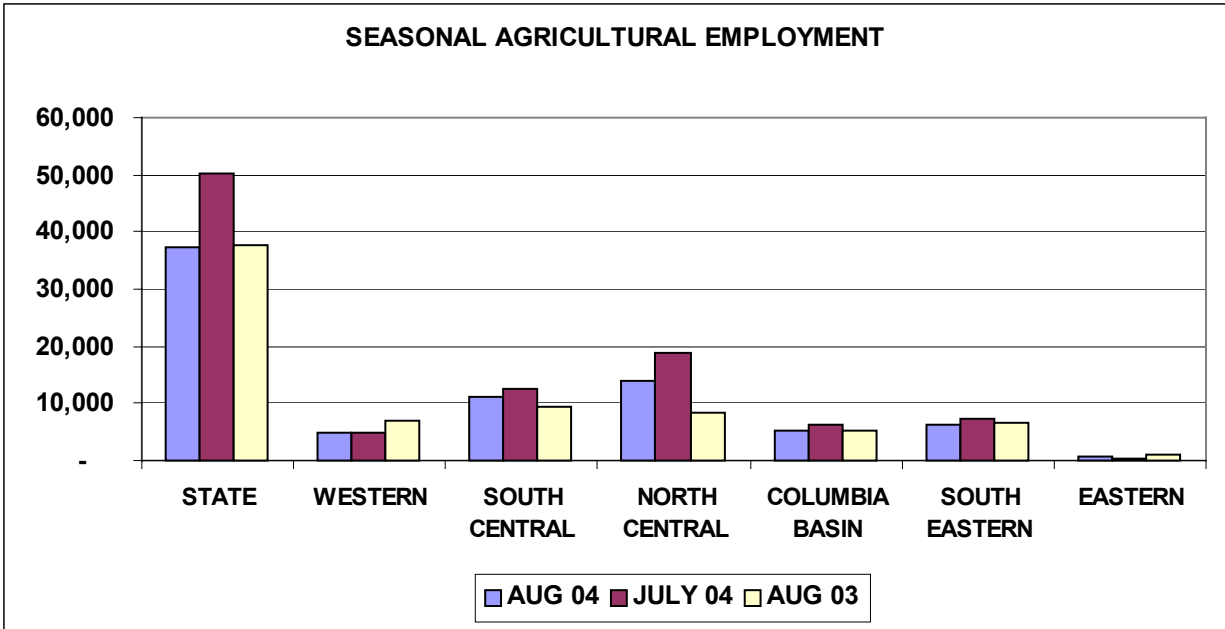
## ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Washington apple growers are forecasting they expect to harvest 88.4 million boxes this fall. The Yakima Valley Growers-Shippers Association made its August estimate of the fresh crop. Although historically, these early-season estimates vary from the final crop size, it is estimated that growers will see their harvest increase from 10 percent to 12 percent over 2003. Prices for last year's apples have stayed extremely strong, partially driven by the fact that last year's crop was the smallest in recent history. The monthly average price for Red Delicious apples, still the most abundant variety, was \$16.36 per 42-pound box. The previous 2002 crop, which was similar in size to the forecast for the current season, earned growers an average of \$14.30 a box. According to Desmond O'Rourke, a Pullman-based expert in world agricultural markets, prices are inversely related to crop size. He said for every 1 percent increase in crop size, the industry can expect a 1 percent decrease in price.

The Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers estimates this year's crop at 108,300 tons statewide, down about 3 percent from the 111,700 tons harvested last year, one of the largest on record. The lower forecast is due to the chilly weather this past winter, when freezes nipped fruit-bearing buds across much of the state's prime wine acreage.

The state's wheat farmers will harvest about the same amount as last year. The yield is estimated to be 140 million bushels. This compares with 137 million bushels last year, even though 100,000 fewer acres were planted. There is still quite a bit of movement in prices, which is normal during harvest. Prices for softwhite wheat have stabilized at around \$3.40 to \$3.50 per bushel. Yields are running about 50 bushels per acre on winter wheat and 30 bushels per acre on spring wheat.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>AUG 04</u>	<u>JULY 04</u>	<u>AUG 03</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>JUL 04- AUG 04</u>	<u>AUG 03- AUG 04</u>	<u>JUL 04- AUG 04</u>	<u>AUG 03- AUG 04</u>
STATE	37,171	50,218	37,628	(13,047)	(457)	-26.0%	-1.2%
WESTERN	4,716	4,763	6,951	(47)	(2,235)	-1.0%	-32.2%
SOUTH CENTRAL	11,122	12,590	9,576	(1,468)	1,546	-11.7%	16.1%
NORTH CENTRAL	9,312	18,976	8,485	(9,664)	827	-50.9%	9.7%
COLUMBIA BASIN	5,222	6,213	5,112	(991)	110	-16.0%	2.2%
SOUTH EASTERN	6,109	7,256	6,580	(1,147)	(471)	-15.8%	-7.2%
EASTERN	690	420	924	270	(234)	64.3%	-25.3%



## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment contracted 1.2% from August 2003 to August 2004. Seasonal employment also fell statewide by a much larger 26.0% from July 2004 to August 2004, due to the completion of cherry harvest. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from August 2003 to August 2004 was apple work (4,165). Cherry work had the largest downturn in employment (-2,262) for that same time period. Pear work displayed the largest over-the-month gain (3,674) from July 2004 to August 2004. During that same time period, cherry work lost the most in employment (-15,570). The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2004 was \$7.53 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	AUG 04	JULY 04	AUG 03	JUL 04- AUG 04	AUG 03- AUG 04	JUL 04- AUG 04	AUG 03- AUG 04
<b>CROP</b>	<b>AUG 04</b>	<b>JULY 04</b>	<b>AUG 03</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>
Apples	16,929	20,765	12,764	(3,836)	4,165	-18.5%	32.6%
Asparagus	43	226	29	(183)	14	-81.0%	48.3%
Blueberry	695	366	1,590	329	(895)	89.9%	-56.3%
Bulb	311	810	354	(499)	(43)	-61.6%	-12.1%
Cherries	313	15,883	2,575	(15,570)	(2,262)	-98.0%	-87.8%
Cucumbers	542	0	1,299	542	(757)	0.0%	-58.3%
Grapes	1,676	2,138	997	(462)	679	-21.6%	68.1%
Hop	108	92	213	16	(105)	17.4%	-49.3%
Misc Vegetables	2,207	2,634	1,964	(427)	243	-16.2%	12.4%
Nursery	1,362	1,120	1,284	242	78	21.6%	6.1%
Onion	1,149	425	993	724	156	170.4%	15.7%
Other Seasonal	1,837	1,780	1,970	57	(133)	3.2%	-6.8%
Other Tree Fruit	3,341	759	1,914	2,582	1,427	340.2%	74.6%
Pears	3,846	172	5,336	3,674	(1,490)	2136.0%	-27.9%
Potato	1,374	907	2,051	467	(677)	51.5%	-33.0%
Raspberry	614	1,671	1,369	(1,057)	(755)	-63.3%	-55.1%
Strawberry	34	149	52	(115)	(18)	-77.2%	-34.6%
Wheat/Grain	801	332	874	469	(73)	141.3%	-8.4%

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

**Western (Area 1)** seasonal employment decreased by 32.2% from August 2003 to August 2004. A much smaller decrease in seasonal employment of 1.0% from July 2004 to August 2004 occurred. Other seasonal work was the crop activity rising the most (135) in employment from August 2003 to August 2004. Blueberry work slowed the most (-895) in employment for that same time period. Cucumber work posted the largest gain in employment (542) from July 2004 to August 2004. Raspberry work scaled back by the greatest amount (-1,057) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2004 in Area 1 was \$7.54 per hour. (See pages 14 -16 for Area 1 detail)

<b>AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**</b>							
<b>WESTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>AUG 04</b>	<b>JULY 04</b>	<b>AUG 03</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Blueberry	695	366	1,590	329	(895)	89.9%	-56.3%
Bulb	311	810	354	(499)	(43)	-61.6%	-12.1%
Cucumbers	542	0	1,299	542	(757)	0.0%	-58.3%
Misc Vegetables	809	698	785	111	24	15.9%	3.1%
Nursery	1,140	819	1,035	321	105	39.2%	10.1%
Other Seasonal	491	172	356	319	135	185.5%	37.9%
Potato	117	53	61	64	56	120.8%	91.8%
Raspberry	614	1,671	1,369	(1,057)	(755)	-63.3%	-55.1%
Rhubarb	0	25	99	(25)	(99)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Strawberry	0	149	3	(149)	(3)	-100.0%	-100.0%

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

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment increased by 16.1% from August 2003 to August 2004. However this was contrasted by a drop of 11.7% from July 2004 to August 2004. Other tree work was the crop activity adding the most seasonal jobs (1,473) from August 2003 to August 2004. Cherry work decreased by the largest amount (-591) for that same time period. The largest expansion in seasonal crop employment from July 2004 to August 2004 was pear work (2,792). Apple work posted the largest loss in employment (-3,819) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2004 in Area 2 was \$7.44 per hour. (See pages 17 - 19 for Area 2 detail)

<b>AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>AUG 04</b>	<b>JULY 04</b>	<b>AUG 03</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	3,321	7,140	2,782	(3,819)	539	-53.5%	19.4%
Asparagus	26	205	26	(179)	0	-87.3%	0.0%
Cherries	22	2,207	613	(2,185)	(591)	-99.0%	-96.4%
Grapes	1,067	1,350	315	(283)	752	-21.0%	238.7%
Hop	96	0	200	96	(104)	0.0%	-52.0%
Misc Vegetables	237	339	256	(102)	(19)	-30.1%	-7.4%
Onion	0	50	418	(50)	(418)	0.0%	-100.0%
Other Seasonal	533	612	370	(79)	163	-12.9%	44.1%
Other Tree Fruit	2,644	440	1,171	2,204	1,473	500.9%	125.8%
Pears	2,931	139	3,082	2,792	(151)	2008.6%	-4.9%
Potato	244	108	343	0	(99)	0.0%	-28.9%

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

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment displayed a net gain of 9.7% from August 2003 to August 2004. This was contrasted by a large decline of 50.9% in seasonal employment from July 2004 to August 2004, due to completion of the cherry harvest. The crop activity posting the largest over-the-year increase in employment from August 2003 to August 2004 was apple work (4,382). Pear work showed the largest decrease in employment (-2,020) for that same time period. Apple work expanded the most in employment (1,236) from July 2004 to August 2004. Cherry work experienced the greatest decrease in employment (-11,242) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2004 in Area 3 was \$7.63 per hour. (See pages 20 and 21 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE		
	AUG 04	JULY 04	AUG 03	JUL 04- AUG 04	AUG 03- AUG 04	JUL 04- AUG 04	AUG 03- AUG 04
<b>CROP</b>	<b>AUG 04</b>	<b>JULY 04</b>	<b>AUG 03</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>
Apples	8,544	7,308	4,162	1,236	4,382	16.9%	105.3%
Cherries	176	11,418	1,851	(11,242)	(1,675)	-98.5%	-90.5%
Other Seasonal	128	67	102	61	26	91.0%	25.5%
Other Tree Fruit	230	167	116	63	114	37.7%	98.3%
Pears	234	13	2,254	221	(2,020)	1700.0%	-89.6%

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

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment expanded by a small 2.2% from August 2003 to August 2004. This was contrasted by a loss of 16.0% in employment from July 2004 to August 2004. Pear work displayed the greatest upturn (681) in employment from August 2003 to August 2004. Apple work experienced the largest decline (-409) in employment during that same time period. Pear work also grew by the largest (661) employment from July 2004 to August 2004. Cherry work produced the weakest demand (-1,834) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2004 in Area 4 was \$7.49 per hour. (See pages 22 - 24 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE		
	AUG 04	JULY 04	AUG 03	JUL 04- AUG 04	AUG 03- AUG 04	JUL 04- AUG 04	AUG 03- AUG 04
<b>CROP</b>	<b>AUG 04</b>	<b>JULY 04</b>	<b>AUG 03</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>
Apples	2,672	2,665	3,081	7	(409)	0.3%	-13.3%
Asparagus	7	21	0	(14)	7	-66.7%	0.0%
Cherries	107	1,941	111	(1,834)	(4)	-94.5%	-3.6%
Mint	27	16	216	11	(189)	68.8%	-87.5%
Misc Vegetables	306	452	303	(146)	3	-32.3%	1.0%
Nursery	194	236	191	(42)	3	-17.8%	1.6%
Onion	82	68	95	14	(13)	20.6%	-13.7%
Other Seasonal	280	315	374	(35)	(94)	-11.1%	-25.1%
Other Tree Fruit	252	33	67	219	0	663.6%	0.0%
Pears	681	20	0	661	681	3305.0%	0.0%
Potato	458	402	474	56	(16)	13.9%	-3.4%
Wheat/Grain	160	52	200	108	(40)	207.7%	-20.0%

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

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment decreased by 7.2% from August 2003 to August 2004. August 2004 employment also slipped by 15.8% from July 2004. Onion work employment rose by the largest amount (587) from August 2003 to August 2004. Potato work displayed the greatest over-the-year drop (-618) in employment during that same time period. Onion work ramped up by the largest amount (760) of employment from July 2004 to August 2004. Apple work had the largest decline (-1,260) in employment for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2004 in Area 5 was \$7.42 per hour. (See pages 25 - 28 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>AUG 04</b>	<b>JULY 04</b>	<b>AUG 03</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>
Apples	2,392	3,652	2,739	(1,260)	(347)	-34.5%	-12.7%
Asparagus	10	0	3	10	0	0.0%	0.0%
Cherries	8	317	0	(309)	8	-97.5%	0.0%
Grapes	609	788	682	(179)	(73)	-22.7%	-10.7%
Hops	12	92	13	(80)	(1)	-87.0%	-7.7%
Misc Vegetables	855	1,120	521	(265)	334	-23.7%	64.1%
Nursery	0	2	4	0	(4)	0.0%	-100.0%
Onion	1,067	307	480	760	587	247.6%	122.3%
Other Seasonal	238	409	308	(171)	(70)	-41.8%	-22.7%
Other Tree Fruit	215	119	560	96	(345)	80.7%	-61.6%
Potatoes	555	344	1,173	211	(618)	61.3%	-52.7%
Strawberry	34	0	49	34	(15)	0.0%	-30.6%
Wheat/Grain	115	108	48	7	67	6.5%	139.6%

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

**Eastern (Area 6)** seasonal employment scaled back by 25.3% from August 2003 to August 2004. However seasonal employment charged ahead by 64.3% in August 2004 over July 2004. No seasonal crop activities showed an increase in employment, but nursery work shed the fewest number (-26) of jobs from August 2003 to August 2004. Wheat/grain and other seasonal work tied for the largest decrease (-104) in employment during that same time period. Wheat/grain work ramped up by the greatest amount of employment (350) from July 2004 to August 2004. Other seasonal work contracted by the most jobs (-49) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2004 in Area 6 was \$10.29 per hour. (See pages 29 and 30 for Area 6 detail)

<b>AREA 6 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>EASTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
<b>CROP</b>	<b>AUG 04</b>	<b>JULY 04</b>	<b>AUG 03</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>	<b>JUL 04- AUG 04</b>	<b>AUG 03- AUG 04</b>
Nursery	28	63	54	(35)	(26)	-55.6%	-48.1%
Other Seasonal	140	189	244	(49)	(104)	-25.9%	-42.6%
Wheat/Grain	522	172	626	350	(104)	203.5%	-16.6%

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



## 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 AUGUST 2004

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: 4,716 (2,730 local, 41 intrastate, 408 interstate, 277 foreign, 1,260 unknown origin)

Cucumber Harvester .....	477	\$ 7.16/hr
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	474	\$ 7.45/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	444	\$ 7.88/hr
Cauliflower Harvester .....	358	\$ 7.16/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 11,122 (8,671 local, 492 intrastate, 405 interstate, 1,245 foreign, 309 unknown origin)

Pear Harvester .....	2,887	\$ 7.16/hr or \$ 11.00 - \$ 35.00 per bin
Apple Hand Thinner .....	1,280	\$ 7.48/hr
Nectarine Harvester .....	1,030	\$ 7.16/hr
Peach Harvester .....	1,006	\$ 7.16/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 9,312 (6,762 local, 50 intrastate, 167 interstate, 179 foreign, 2,154 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester .....	7,076	\$ 7.65/hr or \$ 18.00 - \$ 28.00 per bin
Apple Trainer .....	1,029	\$ 7.20/hr
Pear Harvester .....	204	\$ 7.16/hr
Cherry Harvester .....	161	\$ 7.16/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,222 (3,188 local, 4 intrastate, 187 interstate, 589 foreign, 1,254 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester .....	1,145	\$ 7.61/hr
Pear Harvester .....	657	\$ 7.20/hr or \$ 14.00 - \$ 18.00 per bin
Apple Worker .....	526	\$ 7.58/hr
Apple Hand Thinner .....	398	\$ 7.30/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,109 (3,767 local, 0 intrastate, 676 interstate, 993 foreign, 673 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester .....	1,687	\$ 7.33/hr
Walla Walla Sweets Harvester .....	431	\$ 7.16/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	402	\$ 7.27/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	394	\$ 7.18/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 690 (634 local, 11 intrastate, 0 interstate, 11 foreign, 34 unknown origin)

Wheat Vehicle Operator .....	242	\$ 9.56/hr
Wheat Combine Driver .....	191	\$12.18/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator .....	76	\$ 9.67/hr
Barley Vehicle Operator .....	25	\$ 9.25/hr

## Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas Harvest Periods

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SEASONAL FARM LABOR SURVEY**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DETAIL BY CROP ACTIVITY**  
**AUGUST 2004**

**TABLE 1**

**AUGUST 2004**

**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	2,730	41	408	277	1,260	4,716
2. South Central	8,671	492	405	1,245	309	11,122
3. North Central	6,762	50	167	179	2,154	9,312
4. Columbia Basin	3,188	4	187	589	1,254	5,222
5. South Eastern	3,767	0	676	993	673	6,109
6. Eastern	634	11	0	11	34	690
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>25,752</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>3,295</b>	<b>5,684</b>	<b>37,171</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>69.3%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 2004  
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	4,716
a. Local	2,730
b. Intrastate migratory	41
c. Interstate migratory	408
d. Unknown	277
e. Foreign	1,260
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Forks, Gig Harbor, Mount Vernon, Port Townsend, Sedro Wolley	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The August 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,610.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. However record rainfalls later in the month helped ease the dry conditions. Sweet corn benefited most from the rain. Hay and garlic harvest was completed. Cabbage and spinach seed were nearly all harvested prior to the rain. Apple harvest was in its second week. Blueberry harvest was winding down.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$7.54 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for cucumber harvester, cauliflower harvester, raspberry harvester, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, potato sorter/grader/packer, raspberry pruner, raspberry weeder, blueberry weeder, bulbs harvester, cabbage planter, cauliflower planter, blackberry weeder, raspberry tractor operator and raspberry forklift driver to \$14.00 for miscellaneous vegetables mechanic. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated at 57.9% local, 0.9% intrastate, 8.6% interstate, foreign 5.9% and 26.7% 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: AUGUST 2004  
State: WASHINGTON

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

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	4,716
		* = piece rate
Cucumber Harvester	477	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	474	\$ 7.45
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	444	\$ 7.88
Cauliflower Harvester	358	\$ 7.16
Blackberry Harvester	319	\$ 7.17
Raspberry Harvester	308	\$ 7.16
Nursery Planter	305	\$ 7.51
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	254	\$ 7.16
Nursery Pruner	115	\$ 8.07
Misc Vegetables Harvester	102	\$ 7.18
Nursery Worker	97	\$ 7.89
Misc Squash Harvester	94	\$ 7.40
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	92	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Harvester	88	\$ 7.19
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	75	\$ 7.28
Raspberry Pruner	68	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Weeder	61	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Weeder	61	\$ 7.16
Bulbs Harvester	57	\$ 7.16
Nursery Harvester	57	\$ 7.92
Nursery Preparation	54	\$ 7.92
Misc Field Crops Harvester	51	\$ 8.51
Raspberry Preparation	51	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Mechanized Harvester	51	\$ 8.00
Misc Field Crops Weeder	47	\$ 8.51
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	39	\$ 7.25
Cauliflower Manager	34	\$ 7.50
General Farm Worker	34	\$ 7.79
Raspberry Manager	31	\$ 8.57
Nursery Weeder	29	\$ 7.38
Beets Harvester	26	\$ 7.16
Lettuce Harvester	26	\$ 7.46
Nursery Irrigator	21	\$ 7.23
Cabbage Planter	21	\$ 7.16
Cucumber Manager	19	\$ 8.25
Nursery Tractor Operator	18	\$ 8.89

Area 1 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: AUGUST 2004

State: WASHINGTON

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

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>* = piece rate</b>
Misc Vegetables Worker	17	\$13.00
Misc Vegetables Mechanic	17	\$14.00
Beans Harvester	17	\$ 7.40
Cabbage Harvester	17	\$ 7.50
Potato Cultivator	17	\$ 9.00
Cauliflower Irrigator	17	\$ 7.50
Raspberry Worker	14	\$ 8.50
Blueberry Manager	10	\$11.33
Spinach Harvester	9	\$ 7.37
Misc Peppers Weeder	9	\$ 7.50
Misc Vegetables Vehicle Operator	9	\$10.50
Misc Vegetables Manager	9	\$10.50
Cauliflower Forklift Driver	9	\$ 7.50
Sweet Corn Harvester	9	\$ 7.37
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	9	\$ 7.50
Cauliflower Planter	9	\$ 7.16
Chicken Eggs Worker	7	\$ 8.60
Cucumber Forklift Driver	7	\$ 8.25
Blueberry Worker	7	\$ 9.09
Blackberry Weeder	7	\$ 7.16
Blackberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	7	\$ 7.50
General Farm Mechanic	4	\$ 9.55
Potato Irrigator	4	\$ 7.50
Potato Weeder	4	\$ 7.50
Beef Cattle Worker	3	\$ 7.25
Raspberry Tractor Operator	3	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Forklift Driver	3	\$ 7.16
Blackberry Manager	3	\$ 8.50
Blueberry Vehicle Operator	2	\$13.00
Blueberry Forklift Driver	2	\$ 9.25

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 ..... \$ 7.54/hr (weighted average)



**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: AUGUST 2004

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 . . . . .	11,122
a. Local . . . . .	8,671
b. Intrastate migratory . . . . .	492
c. Interstate migratory . . . . .	405
d. Unknown . . . . .	1,245
e. Foreign . . . . .	309
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Sunnyside, Wenatchee, Yakima	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

---

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The August 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 13,500.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Cooler temperatures and rainfall later in the month helped improve the quality of stored fruit. Harvest of Gala apples continued at a steady pace. Bartlett pear harvest was being completed. No new crop losses were reported due to weather conditions.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$7.54 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for pear harvester, nectarine harvester, peach harvester, miscellaneous field crops weeder, peach sorter/grader/packer, grapes suckering worker, tomato harvester, tomato sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous peppers harvester, sweet corn harvester, miscellaneous vegetables sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous peppers sorter/grader/packer, alfalfa irrigator, wheat irrigator and sweet corn sorter/grader/packer to \$16.94 for grapes manager. Typical piece rates were: \$11.00 to \$35.00 per bin for pear picking. Housing was limited; workers provided their own transportation.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 78.0% local, 4.4% intrastate, 3.6% interstate, foreign 11.2% and unknown 2.8%.
    - 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: AUGUST 2004  
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 11,122</b>	<b>* = piece rate</b>
Pear Harvester	2,887	\$ 7.16 or * \$ 11.00 - \$ 35.00 per bin
Apple Hand Thinner	1,280	\$ 7.48
Nectarine Harvester	1,030	\$ 7.16
Peach Harvester	1,006	\$ 7.16
Apple Harvester	706	\$ 7.20
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	660	\$ 7.27
Grapes Hand Thinner	530	\$ 7.37
Prune Harvester	465	Not Available
Misc Field Crops Weeder	353	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	244	\$ 7.20
Apple Trainer	238	\$ 7.19
Grapes Trainer	183	\$ 7.23
Apple Worker	173	\$ 7.42
Peach Sorter/Grader/Packer	130	\$ 7.16
Apple Irrigator	123	\$ 7.38
Grapes Irrigator	86	\$ 7.83
Apple Pruner	76	\$ 7.16
Hops Tractor Operator	75	\$ 8.50
Grapes Worker	71	\$ 8.66
Grapes Weeder	53	\$ 8.15
Grapes Suckering Worker	51	\$ 7.16
Grapes Mechanic	43	\$ 8.17
Misc Vegetables Harvester	39	\$ 7.20
Contract Misc Crew Weeder	37	\$ 8.42
Tomato Harvester	35	\$ 7.16
Tomato Sorter/Grader/Packer	35	\$ 7.16
Apple Tractor Operator	32	\$ 8.01
Misc Peppers Harvester	31	\$ 7.16
Sweet Corn Harvester	31	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	31	\$ 7.16
Asparagus Weeder	26	\$ 8.08
Grapes Tractor Operator	25	\$ 9.13
Silage Irrigator	22	\$ 8.50
Nursery Weeder	22	\$ 8.05
Pear Tractor Operator	22	\$ 8.04
Cherry Worker	22	\$ 7.83

Area 2 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: AUGUST 2004  
State: WASHINGTON

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

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>* = piece rate</b>
Apple Forklift Driver	22	\$ 8.28
Hops Irrigator	21	\$ 8.50
Misc Peppers Sorter/Grader/Packer	18	\$ 7.16
Nursery Irrigator	15	\$ 8.05
Alfalfa Irrigator	15	\$ 7.16
Wheat Irrigator	15	\$ 7.16
Nursery Worker	15	\$10.88
Dairy Worker	14	\$ 8.00
Grapes Chemical Applicator	14	\$ 8.25
Apple Vehicle Operator	11	\$12.20
Pear Worker	11	\$ 7.65
Pear Vehicle Operator	11	\$12.20
Grapes Manager	11	\$16.94
Sweet Corn Sorter/Grader/Packer	9	\$ 7.16
Wheat Combine Driver	7	\$11.00
Misc Fruit Trees Manager	7	\$10.00
Nursery Pruner	7	\$ 8.05
Nursery Fertilizer Applicator	7	\$ 8.05
Prune Worker	6	\$ 7.50
Nursery Harvester	4	\$ 7.50
Misc Vegetables Worker	4	\$ 8.00
Pumpkin Harvester	4	\$ 7.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 ..... \$ 7.44/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: AUGUST 2004  
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 ..... 9,312
    - a. Local ..... 6,762
    - b. Intrastate migratory ..... 50
    - c. Interstate migratory ..... 167
    - d. Unknown ..... 179
    - e. Foreign ..... 2,154
  
  - 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
    - a. Intrastate: Beverly, Wenatchee, Yakima
    - b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Oregon
    - c. Foreign: Mexico
- 

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The August 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,338.
  
  - 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. However the rainfall toward the end of the month temporarily halted the wheat harvest. Early variety apple harvest began and pear harvest was underway. Sweet corn was nearly ready to harvest. Approximately half of the second cutting of timothy hay was completed. However, the timothy hay and the third cutting of alfalfa were damaged due to heavy rains.
  
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$7.63 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for pear harvester, cherry harvester, plum harvester, pear proper, miscellaneous fruit trees pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees vehicle operator, miscellaneous fruit trees weeder, apple proper and potato irrigator to \$24.00 for miscellaneous field crops manager. Typical piece rates were: \$18.00 to \$26.00 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 72.6% local, 0.5% intrastate, 1.8% interstate, 1.9% foreign and 23.2% 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: AUGUST 2004  
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>		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 9,312	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	7,076	\$ 7.65 or * \$18.00 - \$26.00 per bin
Apple Trainer	1,029	\$ 7.20
Pear Harvester	204	\$ 7.16
Cherry Harvester	161	\$ 7.16
Apple Pruner	131	\$ 7.19
Apple Worker	124	\$ 8.34
Plum Harvester	110	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	81	\$ 7.29
Apple Tractor Operator	75	\$ 8.50
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	67	\$ 7.30
Misc Hay Irrigator	36	\$ 9.60
Pear Propper	30	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	25	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	22	\$ 7.50
Apple Grafter	20	Not Available
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	18	\$ 9.50
Cherry Worker	15	\$ 8.32
Misc Field Crops Worker	11	\$14.67
Wheat Vehicle Operator	11	\$19.58
Horse and Equines Worker	7	\$12.00
Misc Fruit Trees Vehicle Operator	7	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Weeder	7	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Worker	7	\$ 8.00
Apple Hand Thinner	5	\$ 7.37
Apple Manager	5	\$12.00
Apple Chemical Applicator	5	\$ 7.75
Apple Propper	5	\$ 7.16
Horse and Equines Trainer	4	\$22.00
Potato Irrigator	4	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Manager	4	\$24.00
Wheat Combine Driver	4	\$18.75
Apple Vehicle Operator	2	\$14.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 ..... \$ 7.63/hr (weighted average)

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 2004

State: WASHINGTON

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

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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 .....	5,222
a. Local .....	3,188
b. Intrastate migratory .....	4
c. Interstate migratory .....	187
d. Unknown .....	589
e. Foreign .....	1,254
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Tacoma	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Canada, Japan, Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The August 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,712.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Heavy rainfall later in the month delayed fieldwork and harvest. Fifty percent of the third cutting of alfalfa still in the field suffered rain damage. Sweet corn harvest continued. Winter wheat seeding should begin soon. Primary agricultural activities were apple and pear harvesting and apple thinning.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$7.49 per hour. Hourly wages ranged \$7.16 for sweet corn weeder, cherry pruner, miscellaneous field crops sorter/grader/packer, nursery grafter, cherry weeder, mint mechanized harvester, nursery weeder, grapes hand thinner, apple grafter, apple chemical applicator, potato loader, asparagus weeder, miscellaneous vegetables worker, nursery tractor operator and nursery planter to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$14.00 to \$18.00 per bin for pear 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 61.0% local, 0.1% intrastate, 3.6% interstate 11.3% foreign and 24.0% 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: AUGUST 2004  
State: WASHINGTON

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

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	1,145	\$ 7.61
Pear Harvester	657	\$ 7.20 or * \$14.00 - \$18.00 per bin
Apple Worker	526	\$ 7.58
Apple Hand Thinner	398	\$ 7.30
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	328	\$ 7.20
Apple Pruner	257	\$ 7.33
Peach Harvester	238	\$ 7.24
Apple Trainer	231	\$ 7.38
Sweet Corn Weeder	180	\$ 7.16
Nursery Worker	140	\$ 7.20
Misc Vegetables Weeder	104	\$ 7.39
Misc Field Crops Mechanized Harvester	86	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	73	\$ 9.75
Misc Onion Weeder	59	\$ 7.50
Cherry Pruner	57	\$ 7.16
Wheat Combine Driver	51	\$ 9.03
Apple Weeder	48	\$ 7.40
Wheat Vehicle Operator	45	\$11.43
Misc Field Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	38	\$ 7.16
Potato Worker	32	\$ 9.33
Nursery Grafter	30	\$ 7.16
Cherry Weeder	29	\$ 7.16
Wheat Worker	29	\$ 7.50
Potato Vehicle Operator	28	\$ 8.00
Apple Irrigator	27	\$ 7.43
Mint Mechanized Harvester	27	\$ 7.16
Pear Worker	24	\$ 7.90
Mint Vehicle Operator	22	\$ 8.00
Cherry Irrigator	21	\$ 7.16
Potato Tractor Operator	21	\$ 9.08
Wheat Mechanized Harvester	21	\$ 7.75
Nursery Weeder	18	\$ 7.16
Potato Forklift Driver	18	\$ 7.83
Misc Onion Harvester	17	\$ 7.50
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	17	\$ 7.67
Grapes Hand Thinner	15	\$ 7.16

Area 4 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: AUGUST 2004  
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>* = piece rate</b>
Sweet Corn Harvester	14	\$ 7.50
Apple Grafter	14	\$ 7.16
Peach Sorter/Grader/Packer	14	\$ 7.25
Apple Chemical Applicator	14	\$ 7.16
Potato Mechanic	14	\$10.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	14	\$10.00
Apple Forklift Driver	12	\$ 8.80
Potato Loader	10	\$ 7.16
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	10	\$ 9.33
Asparagus Weeder	7	\$ 7.16
Potato Manager	7	\$13.75
General Farm Worker	6	\$ 9.50
Misc Onion Worker	6	Not Available
Alfalfa Irrigator	5	\$ 8.00
Grapes Weeder	4	\$ 8.00
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Worker	4	\$ 7.16
Nursery Harvester	3	\$ 7.50
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 8.00
Wheat Irrigator	2	\$10.00
Nursery Tractor Operator	1	\$ 7.16
Nursery Vehicle Operator	1	\$12.00
Nursery Planter	1	\$ 7.16

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 ..... \$ 7.49/hr (weighted average)



# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 2004

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 .....	6,109
a. Local .....	3,767
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	676
d. Unknown .....	993
e. Foreign .....	673
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The August 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,831.
2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
  - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Early apples, peaches and nectarines were being harvested. However, rain later in the month was delaying the harvest. Wine grape harvest began about ten days earlier than normal. Sweet corn, potatoes, dry beans and carrots continued to be harvested. Vegetable crops looked good. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was about 50 percent complete.
  - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$7.42 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for Walla Walla Sweets harvester, carrot sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous onion harvester, pear harvester, miscellaneous peppers harvester, miscellaneous melon harvester, grapes chemical applicator, strawberry weeder, miscellaneous onion weeder, strawberry irrigator, apple chemical applicator, grass seed weeder, wheat irrigator, grapes mechanized harvester, miscellaneous onion worker and apricot harvester to \$10.85 for potato manager. 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 61.7% local, 0.0% intrastate, 11.1% interstate, 16.2% foreign and 11.0% 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: AUGUST 2004  
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>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,109</b>
		* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	1,687	\$ 7.33
Walla Walla Sweets Harvester	431	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	402	\$ 7.27
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	394	\$ 7.18
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	328	\$ 7.16
Apple Hand Thinner	324	\$ 7.17
Misc Onion Harvester	198	\$ 7.16
Pear Harvester	194	\$ 7.16
Grapes Suckering Worker	154	\$ 7.17
Misc Peppers Harvester	140	\$ 7.16
Grapes Trainer	126	\$ 8.10
Grapes Hand Thinner	116	\$ 7.25
Misc Melon Harvester	114	\$ 7.16
Apple Worker	105	\$ 7.38
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	96	\$ 9.11
Grapes Chemical Applicator	94	\$ 7.16
Apple Trainer	92	\$ 7.30
Sweet Corn Vehicle Operator	79	\$10.40
Apple Tractor Operator	77	\$ 7.57
Grapes Worker	59	\$ 8.25
Sweet Corn Mechanized Harvester	50	\$ 9.00
Wheat Vehicle Operator	46	\$10.39
Potato Mechanized Harvester	43	\$ 8.11
Potato Vehicle Operator	40	\$ 8.79
Apple Irrigator	35	\$ 7.35
Wheat Combine Driver	32	\$ 9.00
Potato Harvester	31	\$ 8.11
Apple Propper	30	\$ 7.17
Sweet Corn Forklift Driver	30	\$ 9.00
Misc Vegetables Harvester	30	\$ 7.50
Grapes Tractor Operator	23	\$ 7.33
Strawberry Weeder	22	\$ 7.16
Mint Vehicle Operator	20	\$ 8.50
Grapes Irrigator	19	\$ 7.25
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	19	\$ 8.50
Potato Loader	19	\$ 8.00

Area 5 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: AUGUST 2004  
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>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	18	\$ 7.50
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	18	\$ 8.89
Misc Onion Weeder	17	\$ 7.16
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	16	\$ 7.50
Carrot Harvester	15	\$ 7.25
General Farm Worker	13	\$ 8.68
Wheat Harvester	13	\$ 9.75
Grass Seed Worker	13	\$ 7.50
Alfalfa Weeder	13	\$ 7.50
Pumpkin Weeder	13	\$ 8.00
Strawberry Irrigator	12	\$ 7.16
Pear Pruner	12	Not Available
Apple Chemical Applicator	12	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	10	\$ 8.75
Asparagus Weeder	10	\$ 7.50
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	10	\$ 7.50
Potato Tractor Operator	9	\$ 7.63
Grapes Weeder	9	\$ 7.30
Grass Seed Weeder	9	\$ 7.16
Alfalfa Irrigator	8	\$ 8.17
Apple Weeder	8	\$ 7.25
Potato Worker	7	\$ 8.60
Wheat Irrigator	6	\$ 7.16
Wheat Tractor Operator	6	\$10.50
Wheat Worker	6	\$ 8.50
Wheat Manager	6	\$17.00
Alfalfa Worker	6	Not Available
Hops Vehicle Operator	6	\$ 7.51
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	6	\$ 8.50
Sweet Corn Worker	5	Not Available
Sweet Corn Manager	5	Not Available
Hops Harvester	5	\$ 7.25
Carrot Irrigator	5	\$ 7.25
Potato Irrigator	5	\$ 7.25
Grass Seed Planter	5	\$ 8.00
Potato Manager	5	\$10.85

Area 5 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: AUGUST 2004  
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>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>* = piece rate</b>
Sweet Corn Harvester	5	\$ 7.33
Grapes Mechanized Harvester	5	\$ 7.16
Plum Trainer	4	\$ 7.25
Cherry Tractor Operator	4	\$ 7.75
Apple Manager	4	\$10.10
Cherry Irrigator	4	\$ 7.75
Misc Fruit Trees Mechanic	4	\$ 8.40
Grapes Manager	4	\$10.10
Carrot Vehicle Operator	4	Not Available
Misc Hay Cultivator	4	\$ 9.00
Misc Field Crops Vehicle Operator	3	\$ 9.00
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	3	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Planter	3	\$ 9.00
Contract Aerial Pruner	3	Not Available
Contract Misc Crop Worker	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Worker	2	\$ 7.16
Carrot Mechanized Harvester	2	\$ 9.13
Sweet Corn Irrigator	2	\$ 8.50
Potato Forklift Driver	2	\$10.00
Apricot Harvester	1	\$ 7.16
General Farm Weeder	1	\$ 7.50
Hops Loader	1	\$ 7.26
Misc Onion Vehicle Operator	1	Not Available

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 ..... \$ 7.42/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: AUGUST 2004

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **EASTERN** (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, PendOreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman)

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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 .....	690
a. Local .....	634
b. Intrastate migratory .....	11
c. Interstate migratory .....	0
d. Unknown .....	11
e. Foreign .....	34
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Walla Walla	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The August 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 1,632.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. However, heavy rains later in the month halted the wheat harvest in some areas. Winter wheat seeding began. Primary agricultural activities were wheat vehicle, combine and tractor drivers.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$10.29 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for nursery sorter/grader/packer to \$12.75 for lentil combine driver. 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 91.8% local, 1.6% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 1.6% foreign and 5.0% 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: AUGUST 2004  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 6: EASTERN (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman 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>	690
		* = piece rate
Wheat Vehicle Operator	242	\$ 9.56
Wheat Combine Driver	191	\$12.18
Wheat Tractor Operator	76	\$ 9.67
Barley Vehicle Operator	25	\$ 9.25
Lentil Combine Driver	25	\$12.75
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	13	\$ 8.08
Wheat Worker	13	\$ 9.00
Grass Seed Mechanized Harvester	13	\$12.00
Lentil Cultivator	13	\$ 8.00
Lentil Vehicle Operator	13	\$ 7.50
Barley Combine Driver	13	Not Available
Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester	13	\$ 8.08
Contract Aerial Chemical Applicator	12	Not Available
Nursery Tractor Operator	8	\$ 9.00
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	8	\$ 7.16
Nursery Mechanic	4	\$12.50
Nursery Vehicle Operator	4	\$10.00
Nursery Pruner	4	\$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN EASTERN AREA 6 ..... \$10.29/hr (weighted average)