



SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

DECEMBER 2004



Prepared by

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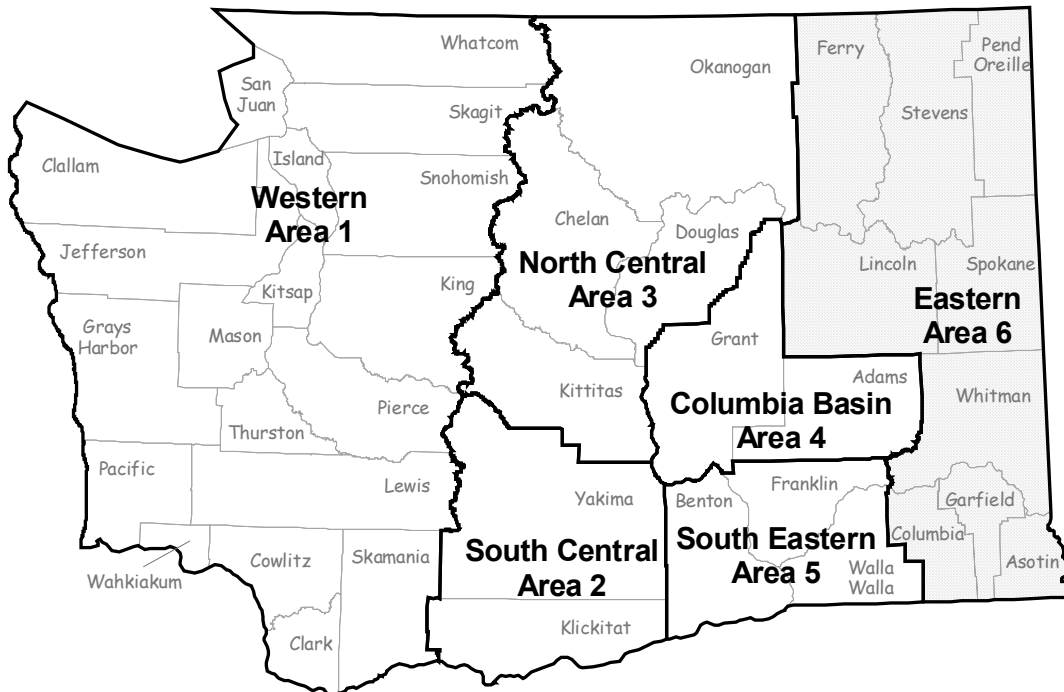
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

DECEMBER 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 charged ahead by 29.0% from December 2003 to December 2004 due to a large apple harvest. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year increases were apple work (3,978), raspberry work (547), other seasonal work (470), cherry work (421), other tree fruit work (117), blueberry work (98), pear work (47) and wheat/grain work (45). Activities displaying declines were onion work (-455), potato work (-301), nursery work (-255), grape work (-101), miscellaneous vegetables work (-72), hop work (-3) and bulb work (-1). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined by 15.4%, caused by a decline in nursery work (-401). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment ramped up by 49.5%, led by an increase in apple work (1,587). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment moved ahead by 14.3%, thanks to an increase in apple work (1,696). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment expanded by 9.2%, again led by the seasonal increase in apple work (346). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment charged ahead by 140.5%, again courtesy of an increase in apple work (349). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment expanded by 84.8%, thanks to an increase in wheat/grain work (53).

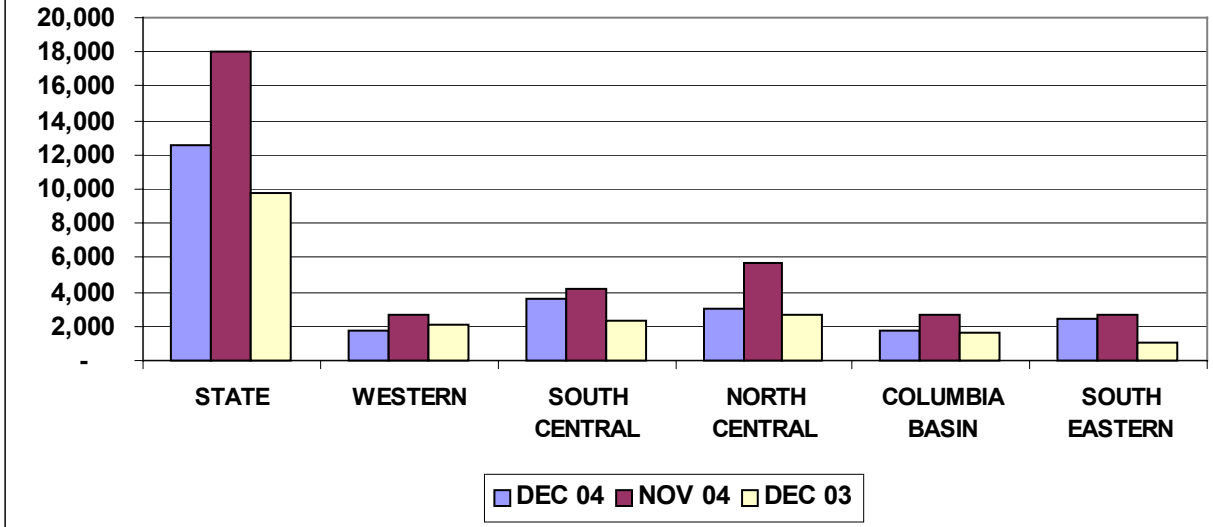
ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

In yet another blow to the apple industry, Taiwan has suspended U.S. apple imports after the discovery of a codling moth in a shipment of apples from northeastern Oregon. This is the second time in three years that Taiwan has closed its borders to U.S apples. The destructive codling moths, which dig into an apple's core and destroy it from the inside, do not exist in Taiwan. The United States is in its 25th year of shipping apples there and never had problems with the pests until they were discovered in two shipments in 2002. Taiwan is this country's third-largest apple export market behind Mexico and Canada. Roughly 23 percent of Washington's 13 million box Fuji crop was destined for Taiwan this year, along with fewer Red Delicious and other varieties. Fujis make up 13 percent of this year's total state crop.

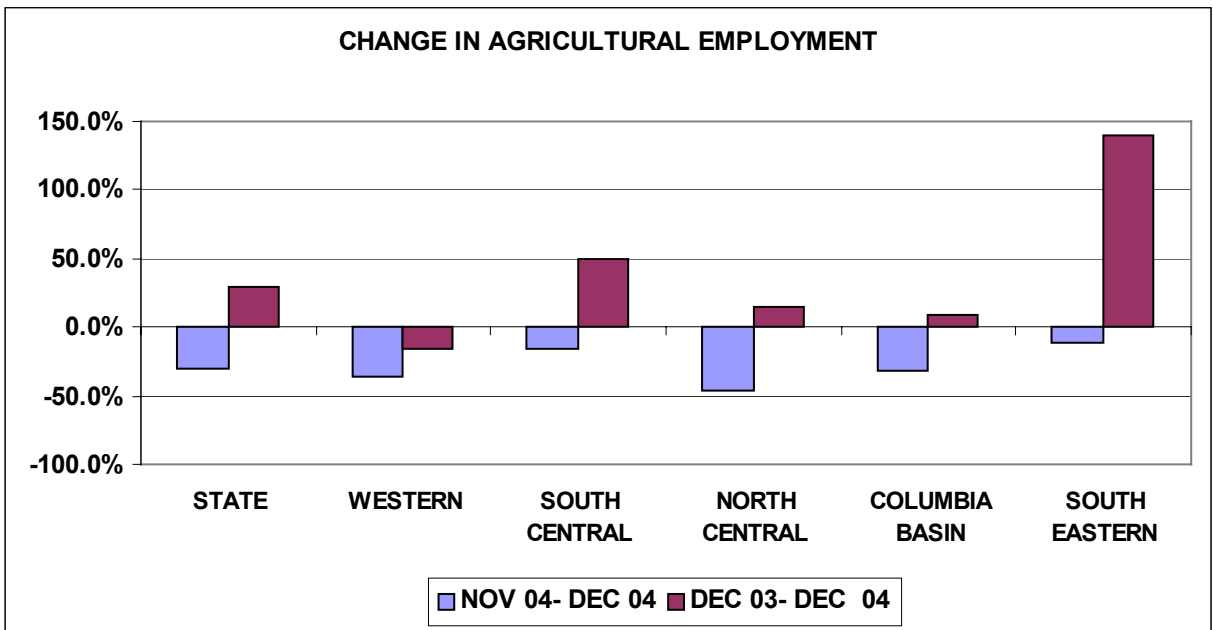
The wine grape harvest in Washington State this year was down slightly from 2003, but some winemakers are calling it one of the best harvests for quality wine on record despite a harsh winter. Some growers and wineries entered the 2004 harvest with a feeling of uncertainty following a harsh winter freeze last January that hurt pockets of the state, particularly near Walla Walla. But freeze damage to vineyards was nearly balanced out by new vineyard acres coming into production, according to the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers. Washington State has nearly 27,000 bearing vineyard acres and nearly 30,000 total vineyard acres planted statewide. Wine grape growers harvested 100,500 tons of grapes this year, down from an earlier estimate of 108,500 tons. Last year, growers harvested a record 111,700 tons, topping the previous record 109,750 tons from a year earlier.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>DEC 04</u>	<u>NOV 04</u>	<u>DEC 03</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>NOV 04- DEC 04</u>	<u>DEC 03- DEC 04</u>	<u>NOV 04- DEC 04</u>	<u>DEC 03- DEC 04</u>
STATE	12,586	18,076	9,758	(5,490)	2,828	-30.4%	29.0%
WESTERN	1,725	2,719	2,039	(994)	(314)	-36.6%	-15.4%
SOUTH CENTRAL	3,554	4,218	2,377	(664)	1,177	-15.7%	49.5%
NORTH CENTRAL	3,051	5,713	2,670	(2,662)	381	-46.6%	14.3%
COLUMBIA BASIN	1,785	2,633	1,634	(848)	151	-32.2%	9.2%
SOUTH EASTERN	2,386	2,688	992	(302)	1,394	-11.2%	140.5%
EASTERN	85	105	46	(20)	39	-19.0%	84.8%

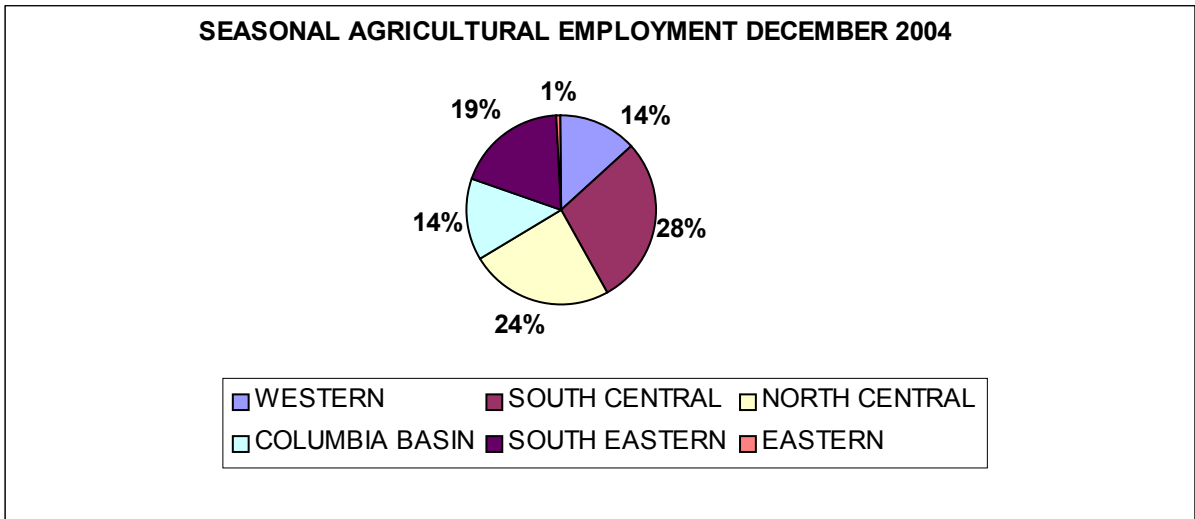
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT DECEMBER 2004



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment expanded by 29.0% from December 2003 to December 2004. However seasonal employment decreased by 30.4% statewide from November 2004 to December 2004. The crop activity adding the most in employment from December 2003 to December 2004 was apple work (3,978). Onion work displayed the greatest decline in employment (-455) for that same time period. Cherry work added the most jobs (527) from November 2004 to December 2004. Apple work lost the greatest number of jobs (-4,008) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2004 was \$7.43 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	DEC 04	NOV 04	DEC 03	NOV 04- DEC 04	DEC 03- DEC 04	NOV 04- DEC 04	DEC 03- DEC 04
CROP	DEC 04	NOV 04	DEC 03	NOV 04- DEC 04	DEC 03- DEC 04	NOV 04- DEC 04	DEC 03- DEC 04
Apples	7,739	11,747	3,761	(4,008)	3,978	-34.1%	105.8%
Blueberry	109	0	11	109	98	0.0%	890.9%
Bulb	99	87	100	12	(1)	13.8%	-1.0%
Cherries	581	54	160	527	421	975.9%	263.1%
Grapes	588	674	689	(86)	(101)	-12.8%	-14.7%
Hop	0	15	3	(15)	(3)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	159	647	231	(488)	(72)	-75.4%	-31.2%
Nursery	591	1,407	846	(816)	(255)	-58.0%	-30.1%
Onion	82	261	537	(179)	(455)	-68.6%	-84.7%
Other Seasonal	730	585	260	145	470	24.8%	180.8%
Other Tree Fruit	141	94	24	47	117	50.0%	487.5%
Pears	448	850	401	(402)	47	-47.3%	11.7%
Potato	318	604	619	(286)	(301)	-47.4%	-48.6%
Raspberry	936	977	389	(41)	547	-4.2%	140.6%
Wheat/Grain	59	81	14	(22)	45	-27.2%	321.4%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined by 15.4% from December 2003 to December 2004. Seasonal employment also declined by a larger 36.6% from November 2004 to December 2004. Raspberry work rose by the largest amount of employment (547) from December 2003 to December 2004. Nursery work shed the largest number of jobs (-401) for that same time period. Blueberry work posted the largest over-the-month gain in employment (109) from November 2004 to December 2004. Nursery work scaled back by the largest amount (-649) of employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2004 in Area 1 was \$7.62 per hour. (See pages 14 -15 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>DEC 04</u>	<u>NOV 04</u>	<u>DEC 03</u>	<u>NOV 04- DEC 04</u>	<u>DEC 03- DEC 04</u>	<u>NOV 04- DEC 04</u>	<u>DEC 03- DEC 04</u>
CROP							
Blueberry	109	0	11	109	98	0.0%	890.9%
Bulb	99	87	100	12	(1)	13.8%	-1.0%
Misc Vegetables	16	263	29	(247)	(13)	-93.9%	-44.8%
Nursery	352	1,001	753	(649)	(401)	-64.8%	-53.3%
Other Seasonal	33	95	20	(62)	13	-65.3%	65.0%
Potato	172	296	458	(124)	(286)	-41.9%	-62.4%
Raspberry	936	977	389	(41)	547	-4.2%	140.6%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment ramped up by 49.5% from December 2003 to December 2004. This trend was reversed by a decline of 15.7% in employment from November 2004 to December 2004. Apple work was the crop activity adding the largest amount of seasonal employment (1,587) from December 2003 to December 2004. Pear work displayed the softest demand (-141) for that same time period. Apple work created the most jobs (217) from November to December 2004. Pear work declined by the largest number of jobs (-628) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2004 in Area 2 was \$7.43 per hour. (See pages 16 and 17 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>DEC 04</u>	<u>NOV 04</u>	<u>DEC 03</u>	<u>NOV 04- DEC 04</u>	<u>DEC 03- DEC 04</u>	<u>NOV 04- DEC 04</u>	<u>DEC 03- DEC 04</u>
CROP							
Apples	2,824	2,607	1,237	217	1,587	8.3%	128.3%
Cherries	26	41	44	(15)	(18)	-36.6%	-40.9%
Grapes	324	476	395	(152)	(71)	-31.9%	-18.0%
Hop	0	0	3	0	(3)	0.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	141	68	24	73	117	107.4%	487.5%
Onion	0	78	0	(78)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Other Seasonal	61	130	33	(69)	28	-53.1%	84.8%
Other Tree Fruit	5	17	8	(12)	(3)	-70.6%	-37.5%
Pears	175	803	316	(628)	(141)	-78.2%	-44.6%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment displayed a bump of 14.3% from December 2003 to December 2004. However seasonal employment sank by 46.6% from November 2004 to December 2004 due to the winding down of apple harvest. The crop activity posting the largest increase in employment from December 2003 to December 2004 was apple work (1,696). No crop activities declined but other tree fruit work had the smallest increase in employment (18) for that same time period. Pear work advanced by the largest amount of employment (140) from November 2004 to December 2004. Apple work lost the largest number of jobs (-2,898) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2004 in Area 3 was \$7.39 per hour. (See pages 18 and 19 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE		
	DEC 04	NOV 04	DEC 03	NOV 04- DEC 04	DEC 03- DEC 04	NOV 04- DEC 04	DEC 03- DEC 04
Apples	2,641	5,539	945	(2,898)	1,696	-52.3%	179.5%
Cherries	99	0	33	99	66	0.0%	200.0%
Other Seasonal	102	115	47	(13)	55	-11.3%	117.0%
Other Tree Fruit	22	14	4	8	18	57.1%	450.0%
Pears	187	47	47	140	140	297.9%	297.9%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment moved ahead by 9.2% from December 2003 to December 2004. This was contrasted by a decrease of 32.2% in employment from November 2004 to December 2004. Apple work led all other seasonal activities (346) in employment from December 2003 to December 2004. Potato work declined by the largest number of jobs (-288) during that same time period. Nursery work showed the largest advance (381) in employment from November 2004 to December 2004. Potato work experienced the greatest over-the-month decline in employment (-1,195) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2004 in Area 4 was \$7.34 per hour. (See pages 20 - 21 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE		
	DEC 04	NOV 04	DEC 03	NOV 04- DEC 04	DEC 03- DEC 04	NOV 04- DEC 04	DEC 03- DEC 04
Apples	1,032	1,787	686	(755)	346	-42.2%	50.4%
Cherries	123	3	47	3	3	100.0%	6.4%
Mint	14	23	6	8	23	34.8%	383.3%
Misc Vegetables	2	3	0	(9)	(1)	-300.0%	0.0%
Nursery	237	397	85	381	(31)	96.0%	-36.5%
Onion	69	105	337	(68)	32	-64.8%	9.5%
Other Seasonal	36	93	4	(66)	(84)	-71.0%	-2100.0%
Other Tree Fruit	46	54	0	42	54	77.8%	0.0%
Pears	86	0	38	(27)	0	0.0%	0.0%
Potato	139	146	42	(1,195)	(288)	-818.5%	-685.7%
Wheat/Grain	0	19	0	(18)	16	-94.7%	0.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment charged ahead by 140.5% from December 2003 to December 2004. However December 2004 employment softened by 11.2% from November 2004. Apple work employment created the most jobs (349) from December 2003 to December 2004. Onion work lost the largest number of jobs (-187) during that same time period. Other seasonal work expanded by the largest amount of employment (370) from November 2004 to December 2004. Apple work contracted by the largest amount of employment (-572) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2004 in Area 5 was \$7.43 per hour. (See pages 22 and 23 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	DEC 04	NOV 04	DEC 03	NOV 04- DEC 04	DEC 03- DEC 04	NOV 04- DEC 04	DEC 03- DEC 04
CROP							
Apples	1,242	1,814	893	(572)	349	-31.5%	39.1%
Cherries	333	10	36	323	297	3230.0%	825.0%
Grapes	264	198	294	66	(30)	33.3%	-10.2%
Hops	0	15	0	(15)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	0	313	178	(313)	(178)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Nursery	2	1	6	1	(4)	100.0%	-66.7%
Onion	13	78	200	(65)	(187)	-83.3%	-93.5%
Other Seasonal	451	81	150	370	301	456.8%	200.7%
Other Tree Fruit	68	9	12	59	56	655.6%	466.7%
Potatoes	7	162	119	(155)	(112)	-95.7%	-94.1%
Wheat/Grain	6	10	14	(4)	(8)	-40.0%	-57.1%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

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

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.

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Washington State Employment Security, Labor Market and Economic Analysis

FARM LABOR ABSTRACT DECEMBER 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: 1,725 (1,612 local, 0 intrastate, 4 interstate, 23 foreign, 86 unknown origin)

Raspberry Pruner	553	\$ 7.45/hr
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	378	\$ 7.75/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	217	\$ 7.46/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	172	\$ 7.16/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,554 (3,156 local, 69 intrastate, 54 interstate, 206 foreign, 69 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,222	\$ 7.27/hr or \$ 0.50 - \$ 3.00 per tree
Apple Worker	982	\$ 7.18/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	615	\$ 7.80/hr
Grapes Pruner	304	\$ 7.80/hr or \$ 0.16 - \$ 0.28½ per plant

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,051 (3,051 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	2,263	\$ 7.18/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	344	\$ 7.50/hr
Pear Pruner	187	\$ 7.25/hr
Cherry Pruner	84	\$ 8.77/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,785 (1,388 local, 0 intrastate, 6 interstate, 188 foreign, 203 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	929	\$ 7.46/hr or \$ 0.10 - \$ 1.25 per tree
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	146	\$ 7.16/hr
Cherry Pruner	123	\$ 7.17/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	103	\$ 7.20/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,386 (2,010 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 376 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,171	\$ 7.25/hr or \$ 0.40 - \$ 1.50 per tree
Chicken Eggs Worker	356	\$ 7.70/hr
Cherry Pruner	317	\$ 7.16/hr
Grapes Pruner	155	\$ 7.50/hr or \$ 0.22 - \$ 0.30 per plant

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 85 (85 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Wheat Worker	53	\$ 7.50/hr
Grass Seed Worker	27	\$ 7.16/hr
Misc Other Fruit Mechanic	3	\$13.50/hr
Strawberry Worker	3	\$ 8.25/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
DECEMBER 2004

TABLE 1
DECEMBER 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	1,612	0	4	23	86	1,725
2. South Central	3,156	69	54	206	69	3,554
3. North Central	3,051	0	0	0	0	3,051
4. Columbia Basin	1,388	0	6	188	203	1,785
5. South Eastern	2,010	0	0	376	0	2,386
6. Eastern	85	0	0	0	0	85
State Totals	11,302	69	64	793	358	12,586
% State Total	89.8%	0.5%	0.5%	6.3%	2.8%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: DECEMBER 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)

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	1,725
a. Local	1,612
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	4
d. Foreign	23
e. Unknown	86
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The December 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,299.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were raspberry pruning and warehouse work, nursery warehouse work and potato warehouse work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.62 per hour. Hourly wages ranged \$7.16 for potato sorter/grader/packer, blueberry pruner, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery harvester, beets harvester and raspberry tractor operator to \$18.00 for raspberry mechanic. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated at 93.5% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.2% interstate, foreign 1.3% 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: DECEMBER 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)

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	1,725
		* = piece rate
Raspberry Pruner	553	\$ 7.45
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	378	\$ 7.75
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	217	\$ 7.46
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	172	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Pruner	104	\$ 7.16
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	99	\$ 7.16
Nursery Harvester	59	\$ 7.16
Nursery Worker	33	\$ 9.86
Nursery Planter	26	\$ 7.85
Beets Harvester	16	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Weeder	11	\$ 8.28
Nursery Tractor Operator	10	\$ 9.93
Nursery Vehicle Operator	7	\$10.95
Raspberry Mechanic	5	\$18.00
Blueberry Manager	5	\$13.00
Blackberry Tractor Operator	5	\$10.00
Misc Berries Weeder	5	\$ 9.00
Raspberry Tractor Operator	5	\$ 7.16
Misc Berries Mechanic	5	\$12.00
Chicken Eggs Worker	4	\$ 8.00
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	3	\$ 7.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.62/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: DECEMBER 2004

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	3,554
a. Local	3,156
b. Intrastate migratory	69
c. Interstate migratory	54
d. Foreign	206
e. Unknown	69
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Kennewick, Sunnyside, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The December 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 12,259.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, apple miscellaneous work, apple warehouse work and grapes pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.43 per hour. Hourly wages ranged \$7.16 for miscellaneous vegetables worker, cherry pruner, grapes worker, nursery worker, nursery weeder and wheat tractor operator to \$12.00 for alfalfa vehicle operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.16 to \$0.28½ per plant for grapes pruning and \$0.50 to \$3.00 per tree for apple pruning. Housing was limited; workers provided their own transportation.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 88.9% local, 1.9% intrastate, 1.5% interstate, foreign 5.8% and unknown 1.9%.
 - 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: DECEMBER 2004
State: WASHINGTON

Area 2: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima 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 3,554	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,222	\$ 7.27 or * \$ 0.50 - \$ 3.00 per tree
Apple Worker	982	\$ 7.18
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	615	\$ 7.80
Grapes Pruner	304	\$ 7.80 or * \$ 0.16 - \$ 0.28½ per plant
Pear Pruner	175	\$ 8.50
Misc Vegetables Worker	75	\$ 7.16
Misc Squash Sorter/Grader/Packer	66	\$ 7.50
Cherry Pruner	26	\$ 7.16
Dairy Worker	24	\$10.00
Grapes Worker	20	\$ 7.16
General Farm Worker	9	\$ 8.50
Nursery Weeder	9	\$ 7.16
Wheat Tractor Operator	9	\$ 7.16
Plum Pruner	5	\$10.00
Apple Forklift Driver	5	\$ 8.72
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	5	\$12.00
Nursery Worker	5	\$10.16

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.43/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: DECEMBER 2004

State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1.	Total domestic seasonal hired workers	3,051
	a. Local	3,051
	b. Intrastate migratory	0
	c. Interstate migratory	0
	d. Foreign	0
	e. Unknown	0
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: None	
	b. Interstate: None	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The December 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,603.

 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, apple warehouse work, pear pruning and cherry pruning.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.39 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for nursery sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous fruit trees worker and nursery mechanic to \$22.00 for miscellaneous field crops worker and horse and equines manager. No piece rates were reported. Housing was very limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 100.0% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 0.0% foreign and 0.0% unknown.

 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: DECEMBER 2004
State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 3,051	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	2,263	\$ 7.18
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	344	\$ 7.50
Pear Pruner	187	\$ 7.25
Cherry Pruner	84	\$ 8.77
Nursery Worker	55	\$ 7.18
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	31	\$ 7.16
Apple Forklift Driver	22	\$ 9.00
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	17	\$ 7.16
Cherry Weeder	10	\$ 8.00
Apple Manager	10	\$ 8.00
Cherry Manager	5	\$ 9.30
Misc Fruit Trees Mechanic	5	\$15.00
Misc Field Crops Worker	4	\$22.00
Beef Cattle Worker	4	\$ 9.00
Apple Loader	2	\$ 9.00
Horse and Equines Worker	2	\$12.00
Nursery Mechanic	2	\$ 7.16
Horse and Equines Manager	2	\$22.00
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	2	\$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.39/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: DECEMBER 2004
State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant)

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

Table with 2 columns: Description and Count. Rows include: 1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers (1,725), a. Local (1,388), b. Intrastate migratory (0), c. Interstate migratory (6), d. Foreign (188), e. Unknown (203); 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers (a. Intrastate: None, b. Interstate: California, c. Foreign: Mexico)

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers: The December 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,711.
2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
a. Crop, market, and weather conditions: Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, nursery warehouse work, cherry pruning and potato warehouse work.
b. Wages, housing, and transportation: The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.34 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for nursery sorter/grader/packer, apricot pruner, apple sorter/grader/packer, mint planter, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, mint worker, nursery grafter and miscellaneous vegetables worker to \$11.00 for general farm mechanic. Typical piece rates were: \$0.10 to \$1.25 per tree for apple pruning. Low cost housing was limited and in short supply. Transportation was provided by the workers.
c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force: The labor force was estimated to be 77.8% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.3% interstate 10.5% foreign and 11.4% 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: DECEMBER 2004

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	1,785
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	929	\$ 7.46 or * \$ 0.10 - \$ 1.25 per tree
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	146	\$ 7.16
Cherry Pruner	123	\$ 7.17
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	103	\$ 7.20
Nursery Worker	89	\$ 7.18
Pear Pruner	86	\$ 7.30
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	46	\$ 7.19
Apple Worker	46	\$ 8.06
Apricot Pruner	36	\$ 7.16
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	30	\$ 7.16
Apple Trainer	27	\$ 7.35
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	24	\$10.00
Misc Onion Worker	16	\$ 7.24
Potato Worker	13	\$ 9.50
Mint Planter	12	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	10	\$ 7.16
Potato Forklift Driver	9	\$ 8.37
Field Corn Cultivator	6	\$ 7.50
Potato Weeder	5	\$ 8.00
Potato Mechanic	5	\$10.00
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	5	\$ 8.50
General Farm Mechanic	2	\$11.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 9.00
Potato Loader	2	\$ 7.50
Mint Worker	2	\$ 7.16
Field Corn Combine Driver	2	\$ 8.50
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	2	\$ 7.50
Misc Onion Manager	2	\$ 9.00
Nursery Grafter	2	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Worker	2	\$ 7.16

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.34/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: DECEMBER 2004

State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers | 2,386 |
| a. Local | 2,010 |
| b. Intrastate migratory | 0 |
| c. Interstate migratory | 0 |
| d. Foreign | 376 |
| e. Unknown | 0 |
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
- a. Intrastate: None
 - b. Interstate: None
 - c. Foreign: Mexico
-

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The December 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,960.
2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
- a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, chicken eggs work, cherry pruning and grapes pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.43 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for cherry pruner, pear pruner, apple sorter/grader/packer, grapes worker and blueberry trainer to \$12.00 for potato vehicle operator, wheat vehicle operator, wheat mechanized harvester and general farm worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.22 to \$0.30 per plant for grapes pruning and \$0.40 to \$1.50 per tree for apple pruning. Housing was limited; transportation was provided by the workers.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 84.2% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 15.8% foreign and 0.0% unknown.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: DECEMBER 2004

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 2,386	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,171	\$ 7.25 or * \$ 0.40 - \$ 1.50 per tree
Chicken Eggs Worker	356	\$ 7.70
Cherry Pruner	317	\$ 7.16
Grapes Pruner	155	\$ 7.50 or * \$ 0.22 - \$ 0.30 per plant
Pear Pruner	68	\$ 7.16
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	57	\$ 7.16
Grapes Trainer	56	\$ 7.22
Misc Berries Worker	47	\$ 7.57
Grapes Worker	35	\$ 7.16
Grass Seed Weeder	21	\$ 7.75
Cherry Mechanized Harvester	16	\$ 8.50
Apple Worker	14	\$ 8.00
Walla Walla Sweets Worker	13	\$ 8.50
Blueberry Trainer	13	\$ 7.16
Grapes Tractor Operator	10	\$ 8.85
Potato Vehicle Operator	7	\$12.00
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	6	\$ 7.50
Alfalfa Worker	6	\$ 8.50
Grapes Manager	5	\$10.10
Wheat Vehicle Operator	4	\$12.00
Grapes Fertilizer Applicator	3	\$ 8.00
Wheat Mechanized Harvester	2	\$12.00
General Farm Worker	2	\$12.00
Nursery Harvester	2	\$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 7.43/hr (weighted average)