



## SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

FEBRUARY 2004



Prepared by

John Wines, Economic Analyst  
Judy Anderson, Data Compiler

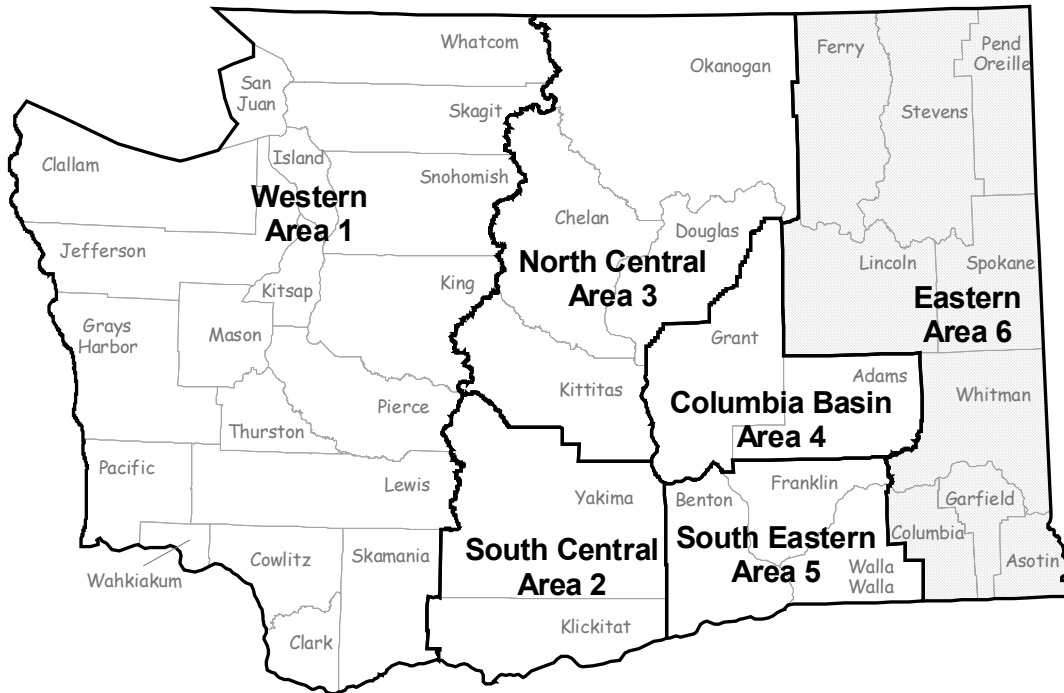
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch  
Greg Weeks, Director  
Washington State Employment Security Department

For More Information Contact: John Wines Telephone: (360) 438-4843  
E-mail: [jwines@esd.wa.gov](mailto: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>

FEBRUARY 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 remained flat with a meager 0.1% increase from February 2003 to February 2004. The increase was led by crops classified in other seasonal work. Crops displaying an over-the-year increase were other seasonal work (453), cherry work (297), apple work (224), blueberry work (117), miscellaneous vegetables work (113), nursery work (24), onion work (17), cucumber work (11) and pear work (2). Declines were experienced in grape work (-615), bulb work (-289), potato work (-206), other tree fruit work (-76), hop work (-24), raspberry work (-18) and wheat/grain work (-10). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined by 13.7%, due to a decrease in bulb work (-289). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment contracted by a larger 26.2%, led by a drop in apple work (-908). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment bucked the trend with an expansion of 36.5%, thanks to a large increase in apple work (986). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment grew slightly by 6.8%, courtesy of an increase in cherry work (164). South Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment also experienced moderate growth of 15.5%, thanks to growth in other seasonal work (211). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment expanded by a huge 133.8%, caused by an increase in other seasonal work (63).

## ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

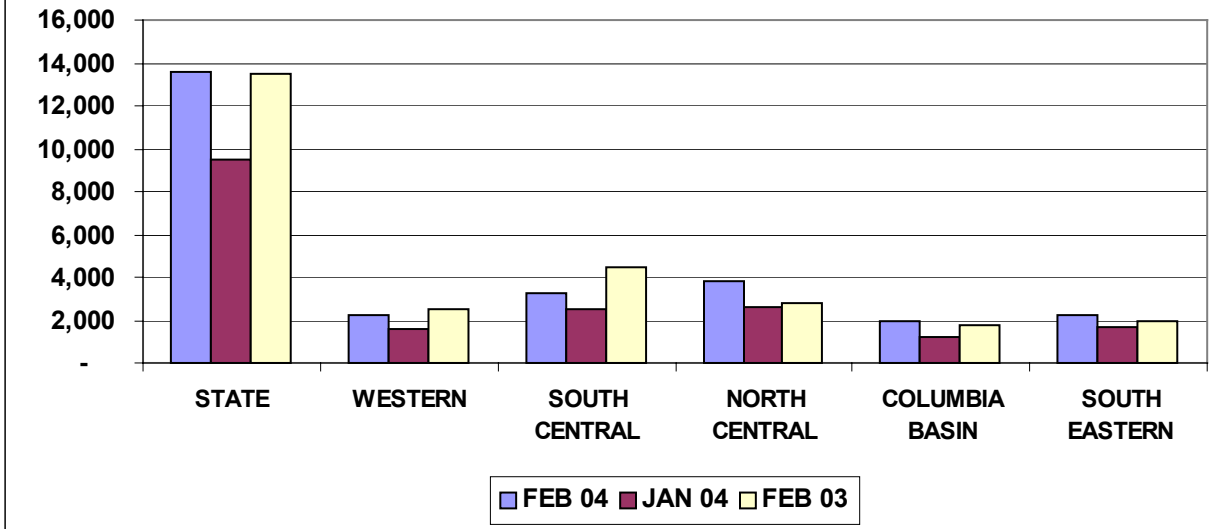
Thousands of Washington farmers have quit farming since 1997, forced out of fields and orchards by thin profit margins. There were 4,126 fewer farms in Washington in 2002 than in 1997, according to the 2002 U.S. Census of Agriculture statistics released in February. "That's about a 10-percent decrease. It's the economics of agriculture. The last five years producers have experienced very tight profit margins and so more of them have chosen different livelihoods," said Ray Garibay, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Washington Agricultural Statistics Service in Olympia. While the number of farms of all sizes dropped, the greatest decrease was among those under 50 acres.

Shoppers will pay less for beef this year as the industry unloads at home the meat that other countries refuse to buy because of America's case of mad cow disease, the Agriculture Department said. Bans imposed by more than 50 nations against U.S. beef and cattle will push U.S. retail prices down 10 percent to 15 percent in the second half of the year, said Keith Collins, the department's chief economist.

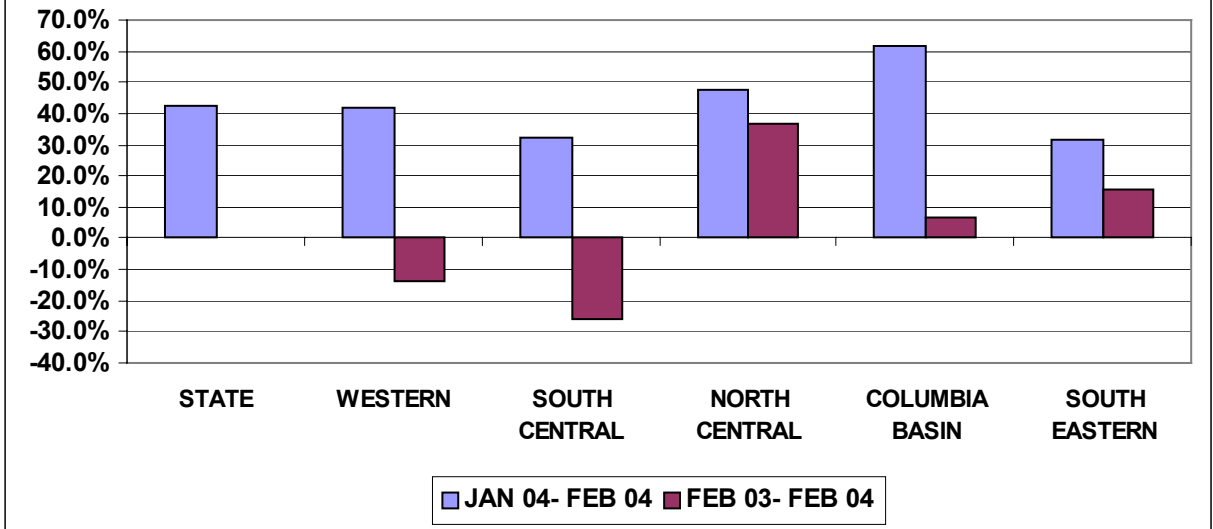
Federal investigators said that they have given up the search for 11 remaining cows most likely to have eaten the same feed as a Mabton Holstein diagnosed with mad cow disease shortly before Christmas. Officials said the cows "very likely" were slaughtered and processed for human consumption, but they assert that safeguards in place would have detected any diseased animal.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	FEB 04	JAN 04	FEB 03	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				JAN 04- FEB 04	FEB 03- FEB 04	JAN 04- FEB 04	FEB 03- FEB 04
STATE	13,547	9,503	13,531	4,044	16	42.6%	0.1%
WESTERN	2,187	1,544	2,535	643	(348)	41.6%	-13.7%
SOUTH CENTRAL	3,275	2,482	4,436	793	(1,161)	32.0%	-26.2%
NORTH CENTRAL	3,792	2,569	2,779	1,223	1,013	47.6%	36.5%
COLUMBIA BASIN	1,924	1,192	1,802	732	122	61.4%	6.8%
SOUTH EASTERN	2,203	1,671	1,908	532	295	31.8%	15.5%
EASTERN	166	45	71	121	95	268.9%	133.8%

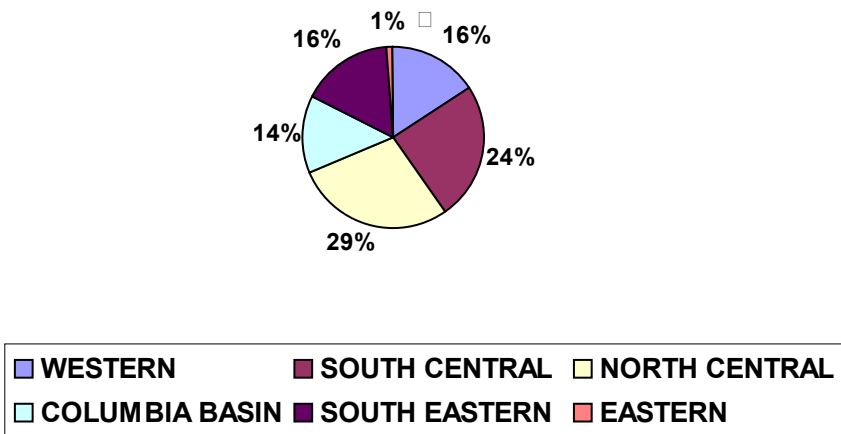
### SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



### CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



### SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT FEBRUARY 2004



## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment increased a meager 0.1% from February 2003 to February 2004. However, seasonal employment increased statewide by 42.6% from January 2004 to February 2004. The crop activity growing the most in employment from February 2003 to February 2004 was other seasonal work (453). Grape work had the greatest decline in employment (-615) for that same time period. Apple work expanded by the largest employment (2,382) from January 2004 to February 2004. During that same time period, raspberry work declined by the greatest number of jobs (-391). The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2004 was \$7.37 per hour.

STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	JAN 04- FEB 04	FEB 03- FEB 04	JAN 04- FEB 03	JAN 04- FEB 04	FEB 03- FEB 04		
<b>CROP</b>	<b>FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 04</b>		
Apples	7,911	5,529	7,687	2,382	224	43.1%	2.9%
Blueberry	325	73	208	252	117	345.2%	56.3%
Bulb	565	112	854	453	(289)	404.5%	-33.8%
Cherries	629	314	332	315	297	100.3%	89.5%
Cucumbers	11	7	0	4	11	57.1%	0.0%
Grapes	873	712	1,488	161	(615)	22.6%	-41.3%
Hop	13	0	37	13	(24)	0.0%	-64.9%
Misc Vegetables	251	39	138	212	113	543.6%	81.9%
Nursery	982	656	958	326	24	49.7%	2.5%
Onion	421	377	404	44	17	11.7%	4.2%
Other Seasonal	642	212	189	430	453	202.8%	239.7%
Other Tree Fruit	95	234	171	(139)	(76)	-59.4%	-44.4%
Pears	483	472	481	11	2	2.3%	0.4%
Potato	140	171	346	(31)	(206)	-18.1%	-59.5%
Raspberry	188	579	206	(391)	(18)	-67.5%	-8.7%
Wheat/Grain	22	20	32	2	(10)	10.0%	-31.3%

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

**Western (Area 1)** seasonal employment fell back by 13.7% from February 2003 to February 2004. This was contrasted by an increase in seasonal employment of 41.6% from January 2004 to February 2004. Blueberry work was the crop activity rising the most (117) in employment from February 2003 to February 2004. Bulb work experienced the largest downturn (-289) in employment for that same time period. However, bulb work displayed the largest over-the-year upturn in employment (453) from January 2004 to February 2004. Raspberry work pulled back by the greatest amount (-391) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2004 in Area 1 was \$7.28 per hour. (See pages 15 and 16 for Area 1 detail)

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

<b>WESTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>JAN 04- FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 03- FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04- FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 03- FEB 04</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Blueberry	325	73	208	252	117	345.2%	56.3%
Bulb	565	112	854	453	(289)	404.5%	-33.8%
Cucumbers	11	7	0	4	11	57.1%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	34	5	9	29	25	580.0%	277.8%
Nursery	882	596	845	286	37	48.0%	4.4%
Other Seasonal	27	51	19	(24)	8	-47.1%	42.1%
Potato	39	102	288	(63)	(249)	-61.8%	-86.5%
Raspberry	188	579	206	(391)	(18)	-67.5%	-8.7%
Rhubarb	113	22	106	91	7	413.6%	6.6%

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

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment decreased by 26.2% from February 2003 to February 2004. However, February 2004 employment expanded by 32.0% over January 2004. Other seasonal work increased by the largest amount (58) in employment from February 2003 to February 2004. Apple work declined by the greatest employment (-908) for that same time period. However apple work increased by the largest employment (495) from January 2004 to February 2004. Other tree fruit work posted the greatest loss in jobs (-126) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2004 in Area 2 was \$7.51 per hour. (See pages 17 and 18 for Area 2 detail)

**AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>JAN 04- FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 03- FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04- FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 03- FEB 04</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	2,135	1,640	3,043	495	(908)	30.2%	-29.8%
Cherries	92	58	94	34	(2)	58.6%	-2.1%
Grapes	492	357	744	135	(252)	37.8%	-33.9%
Hop	0	0	26	0	(26)	0.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	57	12	23	45	34	375.0%	147.8%
Other Seasonal	84	0	26	84	58	0.0%	223.1%
Other Tree Fruit	30	156	127	(126)	(97)	-80.8%	-76.4%
Pears	389	259	353	130	36	50.2%	10.2%

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

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment displayed a net gain of 36.5% from February 2003 to February 2004. This was accompanied by a slightly stronger recovery of 47.6% in employment in February 2004 over January 2004. The crop activity posting the largest over-the-year increase in employment from February 2003 to February 2004 was apple work (986). Pear work lagged by the largest amount (-67) for that same time period. Apple work expanded the most in employment (1,186) from January 2004 to February 2004. Pear work experienced the greatest decrease in employment (-74) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2004 in Area 3 was \$7.55 per hour. (See pages 19 and 20 for Area 3 detail)

<b>AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>JAN 04- FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 03- FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04- FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 03- FEB 04</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	3,445	2,259	2,459	1,186	986	52.5%	40.1%
Cherries	168	56	167	112	1	200.0%	0.6%
Other Seasonal	96	67	0	29	96	43.3%	0.0%
Other Tree Fruit	22	53	25	(31)	(3)	-58.5%	-12.0%
Pears	61	135	128	(74)	(67)	-54.8%	-52.3%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment expanded by 6.8% from February 2003 to February 2004. This was surpassed by a much larger gain of 61.4% in employment from January 2004 to February 2004. Cherry work displayed the greatest upturn (164) in employment from March 2002 to March 2003. Onion work experienced the largest downturn (-82) in employment during that same time period. Apple work showed the most expansion (520) in employment from January 2004 to February 2004. Pear work produced the weakest demand (-45) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2004 in Area 4 was \$7.30 per hour. (See pages 21 and 22 for Area 4 detail)

<b>AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>JAN 04- FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 03- FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04- FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 03- FEB 04</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	1,394	874	1,410	520	(16)	59.5%	-1.1%
Cherries	205	29	41	176	164	606.9%	400.0%
Mint	0	0	6	0	(6)	0.0%	-100.0%
Nursery	22	54	68	(32)	(46)	-59.3%	-67.6%
Onion	135	87	217	48	(82)	55.2%	-37.8%
Other Seasonal	25	2	2	23	23	1150.0%	1150.0%
Other Tree Fruit	12	0	0	12	12	0.0%	0.0%
Pears	33	78	0	(45)	(25)	-57.7%	-43.1%
Potato	96	69	58	27	96	39.1%	0.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment grew by 15.5% from February 2003 to February 2004. February 2004 employment also advanced by 31.8% over January 2004. Other seasonal work employment rose by the greatest amount (211) from February 2003 to February 2004. Grapes work decreased the most (-363) in employment during that same time period. Other seasonal work propelled up by the largest amount (277) of employment from January 2004 to February 2004. Wheat/grain work had the weakest demand (-9) for employment for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2004 in Area 5 was \$7.31 per hour. (See pages 23 and 24 for Area 5 detail)

<b>AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>FEB 03</b>	<b>JAN 04- FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 03- FEB 04</b>	<b>JAN 04- FEB 04</b>	<b>FEB 03- FEB 04</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	937	756	775	181	162	23.9%	20.9%
Cherries	164	171	30	(7)	134	-4.1%	446.7%
Grapes	381	355	744	26	(363)	7.3%	-48.8%
Hops	13	0	11	13	2	0.0%	18.2%
Misc Vegetables	47	0	0	47	47	0.0%	0.0%
Nursery	3	0	7	3	(4)	0.0%	-57.1%
Onion	286	290	187	(4)	99	-1.4%	52.9%
Other Seasonal	336	59	125	277	211	469.5%	168.8%
Other Tree Fruit	31	25	19	6	12	24.0%	63.2%
Potatoes	5	0	0	5	5	0.0%	0.0%
Wheat/Grain	5	14	10	(9)	(5)	-64.3%	-50.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

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



## 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 FEBRUARY 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: 2,187 (1,880 local, 0 intrastate, 5 interstate, 95 foreign, 207 unknown origin)

Bulbs Harvester .....	427	\$ 7.16/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	394	\$ 7.31/hr
Nursery Planter .....	356	\$ 7.26/hr
Blueberry Pruner .....	325	\$ 7.17/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,275 (2,897 local, 153 intrastate, 96 interstate, 115 foreign, 14 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	1,555	\$ 7.35/hr or \$ 0.40 - \$ 5.00 per tree
Apple Hand Thinner .....	527	\$ 7.16/hr
Grapes Pruner .....	392	\$ 7.55/hr or \$0.15 - \$ 0.37 per plant
Pear Pruner .....	389	\$ 7.16/hr or \$ 2.00 - \$ 3.75 per tree

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,792 (3,769 local, 18 intrastate, 0 interstate, 5 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	3,324	\$ 7.50/hr or \$ 0.30 - \$ 3.00 per tree
Cherry Pruner .....	163	\$ 8.44/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	64	\$ 7.33/hr
Nursery Worker .....	50	\$ 7.17/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,924 (1,557 local, 0 intrastate, 3 interstate, 107 foreign, 257 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	1,382	\$ 7.28/hr or \$ 0.15 - \$ 2.25 per tree
Cherry Pruner .....	163	\$ 7.17/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	124	\$ 7.16/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	57	\$ 7.20/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,203 (1,816 local, 0 intrastate, 22 interstate, 339 foreign, 26 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	893	\$ 7.22/hr or \$ 0.25 - \$ 2.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner .....	307	\$ 7.19/hr or \$ 0.12 - \$ 0.30 per plant
Chicken Eggs Worker .....	285	\$ 7.70/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	272	\$ 7.23/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 166 (129 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 37 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	52	\$ 7.40/hr
Nursery Planter .....	47	\$ 7.23/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	14	\$ 7.16/hr
Beef Cattle Worker .....	9	\$11.50/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**  
**FEBRUARY 2004**

**TABLE 1**

**FEBRUARY 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	1,880	0	5	95	207	2,187
2. South Central	2,897	153	96	115	14	3,275
3. North Central	3,769	18	0	5	0	3,792
4. Columbia Basin	1,557	0	3	107	257	1,924
5. South Eastern	1,816	0	22	339	26	2,203
6. Eastern	129	0	0	0	37	166
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>12,048</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>13,547</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 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	2,187
a. Local	1,880
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	5
d. Unknown	95
e. Foreign	207
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 February 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,303.
  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. Primary agricultural activities were bulbs harvesting, nursery work and blueberry pruning.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.28 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for bulbs harvester, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery harvester, rhubarb weeder, rhubarb sorter/grader/packer, raspberry planter, raspberry worker, rhubarb worker, cucumber worker and potato worker to \$15.00 for miscellaneous vegetables worker. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated at 86.0% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.2% interstate, foreign 4.3% and 9.5% unknown.
    - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
    - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: FEBRUARY 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>2,187</b>
		* = piece rate
Bulbs Harvester	427	\$ 7.16
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	394	\$ 7.31
Nursery Planter	356	\$ 7.26
Blueberry Pruner	325	\$ 7.17
Raspberry Trainer	140	\$ 7.24
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	138	\$ 7.16
Nursery Worker	66	\$ 7.63
Nursery Harvester	66	\$ 7.16
Rhubarb Weeder	47	\$ 7.16
Rhubarb Sorter/Grader/Packer	47	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	31	\$ 7.17
Cabbage Weeder	30	\$ 7.35
Raspberry Planter	26	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Worker	18	\$ 7.16
Rhubarb Worker	14	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Weeder	14	\$ 9.87
Cucumber Worker	11	\$ 7.16
Potato Worker	8	\$ 7.16
Rhubarb Harvester	5	\$ 8.00
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	5	\$ 7.50
Raspberry Manager	4	\$11.00
Misc Vegetables Worker	4	\$15.00
Dairy Worker	4	Not Available
Chicken Eggs Worker	4	\$ 8.65

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 ..... \$ 7.28/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: FEBRUARY 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 .....	3,275
a. Local .....	2,897
b. Intrastate migratory .....	153
c. Interstate migratory .....	96
d. Unknown .....	115
e. Foreign .....	14
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Eltopia, Mesa, 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 February 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 12,320.
  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. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning and thinning, grapes pruning and pear pruning.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.51 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for apple hand thinner, pear pruner, miscellaneous vegetables preparer, grapes irrigator, nectarine pruner and apple trainer to \$10.96 for apple worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.40 to \$5.00 per tree for apple pruning, \$0.15 to \$0.37 per plant for grapes pruning, \$0.75 to \$3.75 per tree for pear pruning and \$2.00 to \$2.75 per tree for cherry 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 88.5% local, 4.7% intrastate, 2.9% interstate, foreign 3.5% and unknown 0.4%.
    - 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: FEBRUARY 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> 3,275	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,555	\$ 7.35 or * \$ 0.40 - \$ 5.00 per tree
Apple Hand Thinner	527	\$ 7.16
Grapes Pruner	392	\$ 7.55 or * \$ 0.15 - \$ 0.37 per plant
Pear Pruner	389	\$ 7.16 or * \$ 0.75 - \$ 3.75 per tree
Cherry Pruner	92	\$ 8.13 or * \$ 2.00 - \$ 2.75 per tree
Contract Misc Crew Worker	73	\$ 8.72
Misc Vegetables Preparation	57	\$ 7.16
Grapes Irrigator	41	\$ 7.16
Grapes Worker	38	\$ 8.00
Nectarine Pruner	30	\$ 7.16
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	25	\$ 8.66
Grapes Trainer	16	\$ 8.75
Apple Worker	10	\$10.96
Apple Vehicle Operator	10	\$10.00
Misc Berries Pruner	8	Not Available
Grapes Sorter/Grader/Packer	5	Not Available
Apple Trainer	5	\$ 7.16
Nursery Worker	3	\$ 7.50
Apple Manager	3	\$ 7.75

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 ..... \$ 7.51/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: FEBRUARY 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 .....	3,792
	a. Local .....	3,769
	b. Intrastate migratory .....	18
	c. Interstate migratory .....	0
	d. Unknown .....	5
	e. Foreign .....	0
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Brewster, Wenatchee, Yakima	
	b. Interstate: None	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

---

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The February 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 9,307.
  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. Primary agricultural activities were apple and cherry pruning and nursery work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.55 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for potato sorter/grader/packer, pear pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, nursery sorter/grader/packer, nursery mechanic and nursery grafter to \$15.00 for apple loader. Typical piece rates were: \$ 0.30 to \$ 3.00 per tree for apple pruning. 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 99.4% local, 0.5% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 0.1% foreign and 0.0% unknown.
    - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
    - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: FEBRUARY 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>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	3,792
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	3,324	\$ 7.50 or * \$ 0.30 - \$ 3.00 per tree
Cherry Pruner	163	\$ 8.44
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	64	\$ 7.33
Nursery Worker	50	\$ 7.17
Apple Trainer	41	\$ 7.25
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	36	\$ 7.25
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.16
Pear Pruner	25	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	22	\$ 7.16
Apple Grafter	15	Not Available
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	10	\$ 7.16
Cherry Manager	5	\$ 9.30
Misc Hay Mechanic	2	\$ 9.00
Nursery Mechanic	2	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Mechanic	2	\$ 7.00
Nursery Grafter	2	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Worker	2	\$12.00
Apple Loader	1	\$15.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 ..... \$ 7.55/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: FEBRUARY 2004  
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 .....	1,924
a. Local .....	1,557
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	3
d. Unknown .....	107
e. Foreign .....	257
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 February 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,880.
  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. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, cherry pruning and onion and potato warehouse work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.30 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, grapes pruner, cherry weeder, nursery sorter/grader/packer, cherry planter, apple weeder, cherry trainer, miscellaneous fruit trees worker and miscellaneous fruit trees pruner to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$ 0.15 to \$ 2.25 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 80.9% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.2% interstate 5.5% foreign and 13.4% 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: FEBRUARY 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>		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL      1,924	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,382	\$ 7.28 or * \$ 0.15 - \$ 2.25 per tree
Cherry Pruner	163	\$ 7.17
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	124	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	57	\$ 7.20
Pear Pruner	33	\$ 7.50
Grapes Pruner	23	\$ 7.16
Cherry Weeder	20	\$ 7.16
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	15	\$ 7.16
Potato Tractor Operator	14	\$ 9.83
Cherry Planter	14	\$ 7.16
Apple Weeder	12	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	11	\$ 7.67
Potato Manager	9	\$13.75
Cherry Trainer	8	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	8	\$ 7.16
Nursery Worker	7	\$ 7.60
Potato Forklift Driver	6	\$ 7.25
Potato Worker	4	\$ 8.00
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	4	\$ 7.16
Potato Mechanic	4	\$ 8.25
Potato Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 9.00
General Farm Worker	2	\$ 7.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 ..... \$ 7.30/hr (weighted average)

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 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 .....	2,203
a. Local .....	1,816
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	22
d. Unknown .....	339
e. Foreign .....	26
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 February 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,649.
  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. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, grapes pruning, chicken eggs work and onion warehouse work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.31 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for cherry sorter/grader/packer, pear pruner, grapes preparer, peach pruner, apple worker, grapes worker and hops cultivator to \$15.00 for wheat vehicle operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.12 to \$0.30 per plant for grapes pruning, \$0.25 to \$2.50 per tree for apple pruning and \$0.75 to \$3.50 per tree for cherry 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 82.4% local, 0.0% intrastate, 1.0% interstate. 15.4% foreign and 1.2% 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: FEBRUARY 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> 2,203	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	893	\$ 7.22 or * \$ 0.25 - \$ 2.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	307	\$ 7.19 or * \$ 0.12 - \$ 0.30 per plant
Chicken Eggs Worker	285	\$ 7.70
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	272	\$ 7.23
Cherry Pruner	117	\$ 7.25 or * \$ 0.75 - \$ 3.50 per tree
Grapes Trainer	63	\$ 7.17
Grass Seed Weeder	45	\$ 7.34
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	39	\$ 7.16
Apple Trainer	38	\$ 7.20
Carrot Planter	26	\$ 7.25
Pear Pruner	23	\$ 7.16
Hops Trainer	11	Not Available
Carrot Irrigator	10	\$ 7.25
Grapes Preparation	8	\$ 7.16
Peach Pruner	8	\$ 7.16
Cherry Preparation	8	\$ 7.75
Walla Walla Sweets Preparation	8	\$ 8.50
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	6	\$ 8.00
Apple Worker	6	\$ 7.16
Wheat Vehicle Operator	5	\$15.00
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	4	\$ 9.50
Carrot Preparation	4	\$ 7.50
Potato Planter	3	\$10.00
Peas Vehicle Operator	3	\$10.00
Grapes Worker	3	\$ 7.16
Nursery Harvester	3	\$ 7.90
Hops Cultivator	2	\$ 7.16
Alfalfa Preparation	2	\$ 9.50
Potato Preparation	2	\$10.00
Field Corn Planter	2	\$10.00
Field Corn Preparation	2	\$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 ..... \$ 7.31/hr (weighted average)