



## SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

**JUNE 2004**



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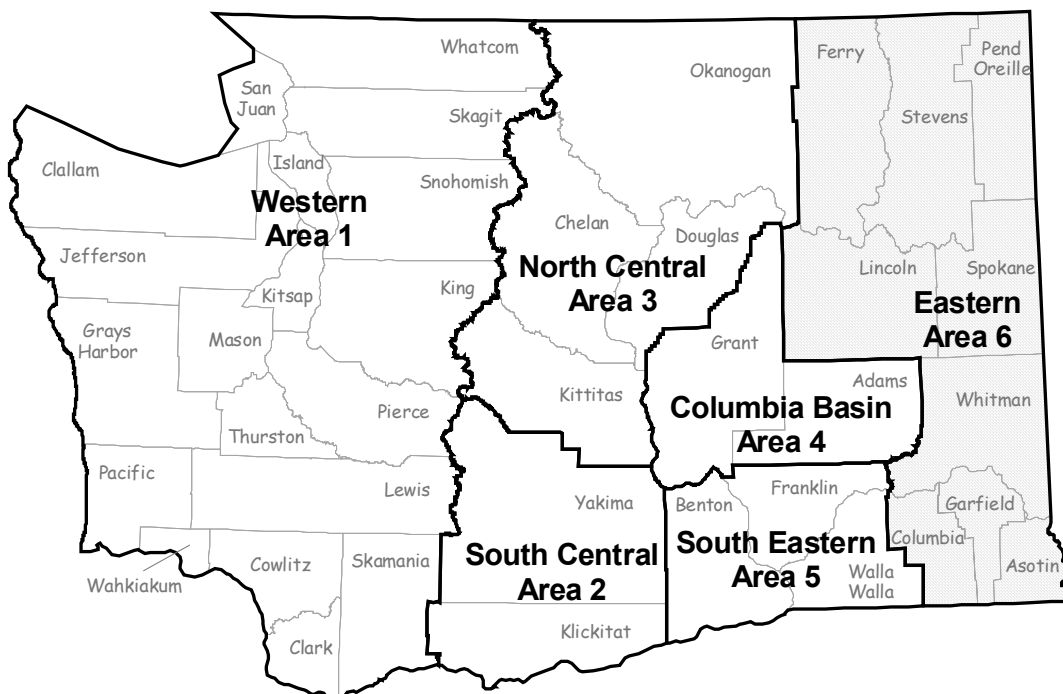
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry  
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

JUNE 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 grew by 11.9% from June 2003 to June 2004. Agricultural employment displaying an over-the-year increase was cherry work (7,197), raspberry work (519), grape work (428), other seasonal work (148), strawberry work (142), blueberry work (99) and miscellaneous vegetables work (42). Declines were experienced in apple work (-1,269), nursery work (-552), potato work (-351), other tree fruit work (-282), asparagus work (-182), hop work (-157), bulb work (-95), pear work (-61), cucumber work (-58), onion work (-18) and wheat/grain work (-3). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment decreased by 1.2% due to a drop in nursery work (-436). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment also declined by 3.2%, thanks to jobs being shed in cherry work (-663). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment, however, ramped up by 36.8%, courtesy of a huge bump in cherry work (4,908). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment surged ahead by a respectable 17.5%, also led by cherry work (1,887). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment expanded by 14.8%, again led by cherry work (1,065). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment declined by 1.7%, due to a drop in other seasonal work (-36).

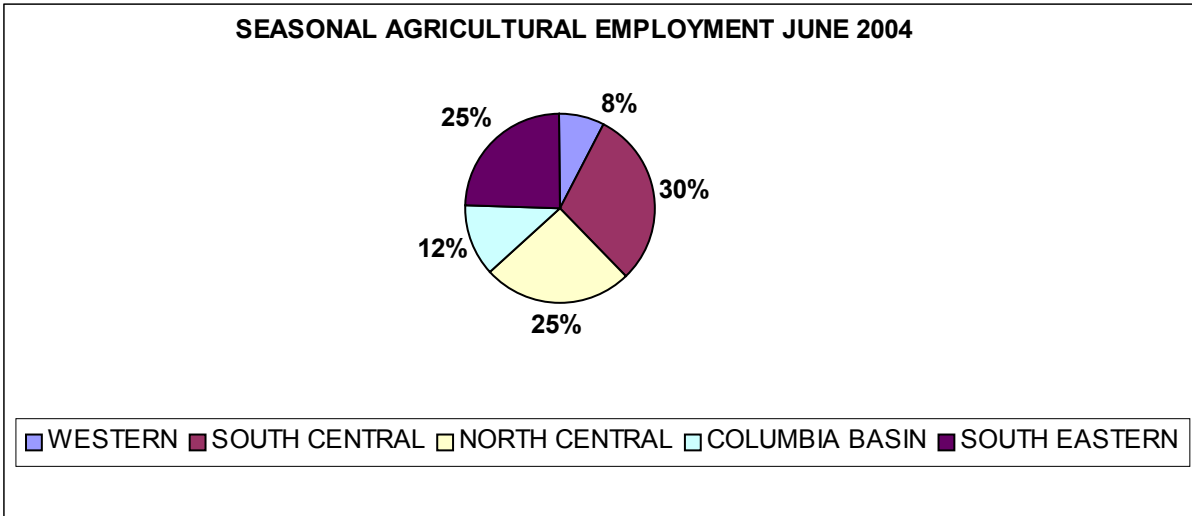
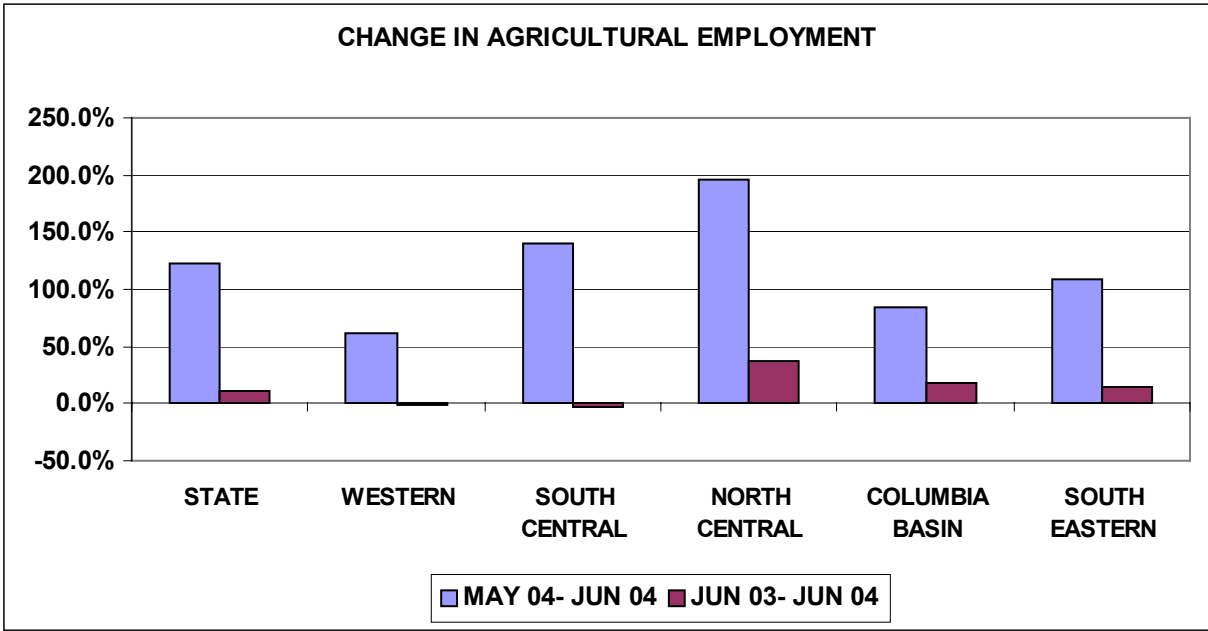
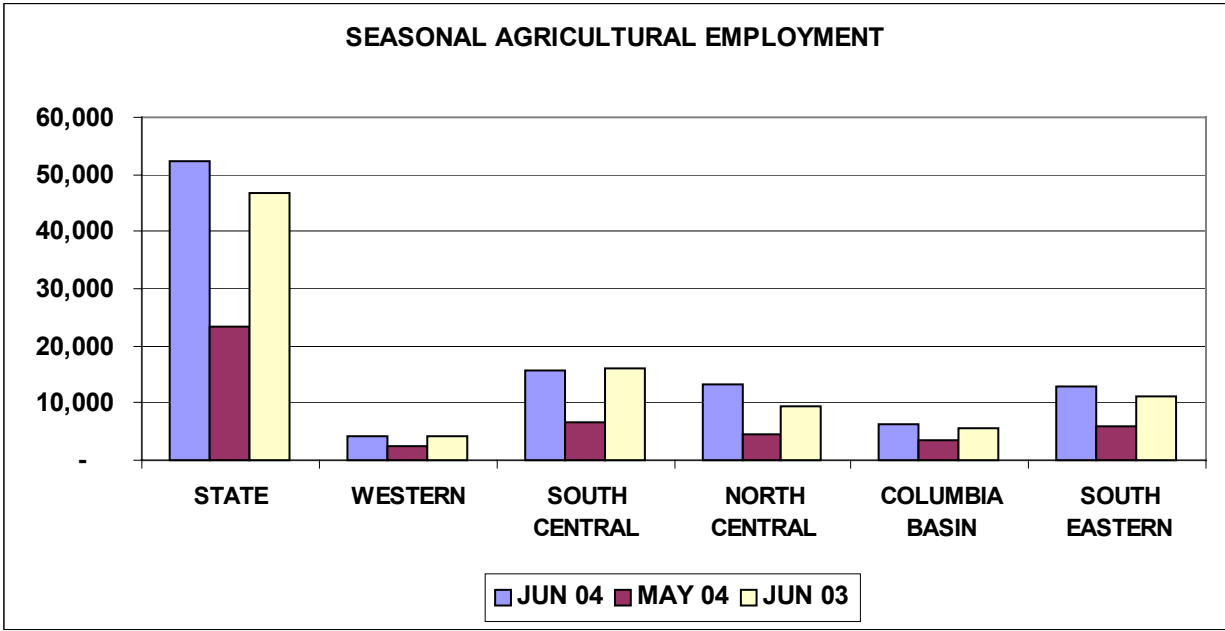
## ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

The Washington-Oregon cherry crop won't be a record one because damage from rain this month was greater than first thought, according to a leading official. B.J. Thurlby, president of the Yakima-based State Fruit Commission, had predicted an 11 million to 12 million box crop. Now, he says it will be more like 9 million to 10 million, 20-pound boxes, falling below the 2003 record of 11.5 million. Fewer cherries, along with good quality and strong retail demand, should keep prices from falling as much as they usually do as the season continues. The average warehouse sales price of Bings was \$35.70 a box. Rainiers were \$61.04. That compares with \$33.28 and \$60.20, respectively, a year ago.

Northwest cherry growers could soon be shipping to Mexico while the state's apple industry is in line for some tariff relief, Governor Locke announced from a trade conference in Mexico City. U.S. Red and Golden Delicious apples are hit with a 47 percent tariff at the Mexican border, while cherries have been held up by expensive inspection and other regulatory requirements. Apple shipments were as high as 9.6 million boxes when the tariff was temporarily suspended in 2000-2001, although a large crop that year also increased exports. Last season, Washington sent 6 million boxes to Mexico. Estimates have been that another 2 million boxes could be exported if the tariff was lifted.

The irrigation for Eastern Washington has improved somewhat since the last projections. Federal Bureau of Reclamation officials lessened the potential for irrigation-water rationing this summer. They announced that all users should receive at least 82 percent of a full supply. The new estimate is an improvement from the May 1 projection of a 70 percent supply.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>JUN 04</u>	<u>MAY 04</u>	<u>JUN 03</u>	<u>MAY 04- JUN 04</u>	<u>JUN 03- JUN 04</u>	<u>MAY 04- JUN 04</u>	<u>JUN 03- JUN 04</u>
STATE	52,236	23,502	46,693	28,734	5,543	122.3%	11.9%
WESTERN	4,016	2,490	4,065	1,526	(49)	61.3%	-1.2%
SOUTH CENTRAL	15,585	6,491	16,101	9,094	(516)	140.1%	-3.2%
NORTH CENTRAL	13,102	4,425	9,578	8,677	3,524	196.1%	36.8%
COLUMBIA BASIN	6,362	3,463	5,413	2,899	949	83.7%	17.5%
SOUTH EASTERN	12,764	6,101	11,122	6,663	1,642	109.2%	14.8%
EASTERN	407	542	414	(135)	(7)	-24.9%	-1.7%



## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment expanded 11.9% from June 2003 to June 2004. Seasonal employment ramped up statewide by 122.3% from May 2004 to June 2004. The crop activity increasing the most in employment from June 2003 to June 2004 was cherry work (7,197). Apple work had the largest decrease in employment (-1,269) for that same time period. Cherry work logged the largest over-the-month gain (20,898) from May 2004 to June 2004. During that same time period, asparagus work fell back the most in employment (-1,985). The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2004 was \$7.31 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE CROP	STATE			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	JUN 04	MAY 04	JUN 03	MAY 04- JUN 04	JUN 03- JUN 04	MAY 04- JUN 04	JUN 03- JUN 04
Apples	15,645	8,564	16,914	7,081	(1,269)	82.7%	-7.5%
Asparagus	4,071	6,056	4,253	(1,985)	(182)	-32.8%	-4.3%
Blueberry	166	0	67	166	99	0.0%	147.8%
Bulb	75	174	170	(99)	(95)	-56.9%	-55.9%
Cherries	21,619	721	14,422	20,898	7,197	2898.5%	49.9%
Cucumbers	12	8	70	4	(58)	50.0%	-82.9%
Grapes	1,605	1,611	1,177	(6)	428	-0.4%	36.4%
Hop	156	623	313	(467)	(157)	-75.0%	-50.2%
Misc Vegetables	1,385	516	1,343	869	42	168.4%	3.1%
Nursery	1,474	1,577	2,026	(103)	(552)	-6.5%	-27.2%
Onion	704	181	722	523	(18)	289.0%	-2.5%
Other Seasonal	1,469	1,115	1,321	354	148	31.7%	11.2%
Other Tree Fruit	105	490	387	(385)	(282)	-78.6%	-72.9%
Pears	523	165	584	358	(61)	217.0%	-10.4%
Potato	625	615	976	10	(351)	1.6%	-36.0%
Raspberry	845	523	326	322	519	61.6%	159.2%
Strawberry	1,652	246	1,510	1,406	142	571.5%	9.4%
Wheat/Grain	109	145	112	(36)	(3)	-24.8%	-2.7%

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

**Western (Area 1)** seasonal employment decreased by 1.2% from June 2003 to June 2004. This was contrasted by a large increase of 61.3% in seasonal employment from May 2004 to June 2004. Raspberry work was the crop activity rising the most (519) in employment from June 2003 to June 2004. Nursery work experienced the largest downturn (-436) in employment for that same time period. Strawberry work posted the largest uptick in employment (1,262) from May 2004 to June 2004. Rhubarb work shrunk by the greatest amount (-116) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2004 in Area 1 was \$7.29 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>JUN 04</b>	<b>MAY 04</b>	<b>JUN 03</b>	<b>MAY 04- JUN 04</b>	<b>JUN 03- JUN 04</b>	<b>MAY 04- JUN 04</b>	<b>JUN 03- JUN 04</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Blueberry	166	0	67	166	99	0.0%	147.8%
Bulb	75	174	170	(99)	(95)	-56.9%	-55.9%
Cucumbers	12	8	70	4	(58)	50.0%	-82.9%
Misc Vegetables	125	96	246	29	(121)	30.2%	-49.2%
Nursery	978	1,045	1,414	(67)	(436)	-6.4%	-30.8%
Other Seasonal	116	66	69	50	47	75.8%	68.1%
Potato	67	98	122	(31)	(55)	-31.6%	-45.1%
Raspberry	845	523	326	322	519	61.6%	159.2%
Rhubarb	148	264	125	(116)	23	-43.9%	18.4%
Strawberry	1,479	217	1,456	1,262	23	581.6%	1.6%

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

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment declined by 3.2% from June 2003 to June 2004. However, this was contrasted by a large increase of 140.1% from May 2004 to June 2004. Apple work was the crop activity adding the most seasonal jobs (574) from June 2003 to June 2004. Cherry work decreased by the largest amount (-663) for that same time period. The largest expansion in seasonal crop employment from May 2004 to June 2004 was cherry work (5,738). Asparagus work posted the largest loss in employment (-1,086) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2004 in Area 2 was \$7.35 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>JUN 04</b>	<b>MAY 04</b>	<b>JUN 03</b>	<b>MAY 04- JUN 04</b>	<b>JUN 03- JUN 04</b>	<b>MAY 04- JUN 04</b>	<b>JUN 03- JUN 04</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	6,070	1,431	5,496	4,639	574	324.2%	10.4%
Asparagus	1,212	2,298	1,296	(1,086)	(84)	-47.3%	-6.5%
Cherries	6,225	487	6,888	5,738	(663)	1178.2%	-9.6%
Grapes	979	955	668	24	311	2.5%	46.6%
Hop	95	348	277	(253)	(182)	-72.7%	-65.7%
Misc Vegetables	194	128	287	66	(93)	51.6%	-32.4%
Onion	0	76	321	(76)	(321)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Other Seasonal	398	350	492	48	(94)	13.7%	-19.1%
Other Tree Fruit	0	336	296	(336)	(296)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Pears	411	80	74	331	337	413.8%	455.4%
Potato	0	0	6	0	(6)	0.0%	-100.0%

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

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment displayed a net gain of 36.8% from June 2003 to June 2004. This was exceeded by a stronger recovery of 196.1% in seasonal employment from May 2004 to June 2004. The crop activity posting the largest over-the-year increase in employment from June 2003 to June 2004 was cherry work (4,908). Apple work had the largest decrease in employment (-1,060) for that same time period. Cherry work expanded the most in employment (9,755) from May 2004 to June 2004. Apple work experienced the greatest decrease in employment (-1,199) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2004 in Area 3 was \$7.26 per hour. (See pages 20 and 21 for Area 3 detail)

<b>AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>								
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>					<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>JUN 04</b>	<b>MAY 04</b>	<b>JUN 03</b>	<b>MAY 04- JUN 04</b>	<b>JUN 03- JUN 04</b>	<b>MAY 04- JUN 04</b>	<b>JUN 03- JUN 04</b>	
<b>CROP</b>								
Apples	3,016	4,215	4,076	(1,199)	(1,060)	-28.4%	-26.0%	
Cherries	9,789	34	4,881	9,755	4,908	28691.2%	100.6%	
Other Seasonal	105	82	136	23	(31)	28.0%	-22.8%	
Other Tree Fruit	90	56	75	34	15	60.7%	20.0%	
Pears	105	34	410	71	(305)	208.8%	-74.4%	
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding								

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment expanded by 17.5% from June 2003 to June 2004. This was exceeded by a much larger gain of 83.7% in employment from May 2004 to June 2004. Cherry work displayed the greatest upturn (1,877) in employment from June 2003 to June 2004. Apple work experienced the largest decline (-780) in employment during that same time period. Cherry work grew by the largest (1,980) employment from May 2004 to June 2004. Asparagus work produced the weakest demand (-404) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2004 in Area 4 was \$7.38 per hour. (See pages 22 - 24 for Area 4 detail)

<b>AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>								
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>					<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>JUN 04</b>	<b>MAY 04</b>	<b>JUN 03</b>	<b>MAY 04- JUN 04</b>	<b>JUN 03- JUN 04</b>	<b>MAY 04- JUN 04</b>	<b>JUN 03- JUN 04</b>	
<b>CROP</b>								
Apples	2,852	1,747	3,632	1,105	(780)	63.3%	-21.5%	
Asparagus	88	492	94	(404)	(6)	-82.1%	-6.4%	
Cherries	2,051	71	164	1,980	1,887	2788.7%	1150.6%	
Mint	2	76	152	(74)	(150)	-97.4%	-98.7%	
Misc Vegetables	282	12	133	270	149	2250.0%	112.0%	
Nursery	339	368	490	(29)	(151)	-7.9%	-30.8%	
Onion	0	6	86	(6)	(86)	-100.0%	-100.0%	
Other Seasonal	371	179	54	192	317	107.3%	587.0%	
Other Tree Fruit	0	87	0	(87)	0	-100.0%	0.0%	
Pears	7	51	100	(44)	(93)	-86.3%	-93.0%	
Potato	352	362	501	(10)	(149)	-2.8%	-29.7%	
Wheat/Grain	20	8	7	12	13	150.0%	185.7%	
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding								

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment grew by a respectable 14.8% from June 2003 to June 2004. June 2004 employment ramped up by 109.2% over May 2004, primarily due to the start of cherry harvest. Cherry work rose by the greatest amount (1,065) from June 2003 to June 2004. Potato work displayed an over-the-year drop (-141) in employment during that same time period. Cherry work expanded by the largest amount (3,425) of employment from May 2004 to June 2004. Hop work had the largest decline (-214) in employment for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2004 in Area 5 was \$7.27 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>JUN 04</b>	<b>MAY 04</b>	<b>JUN 03</b>	<b>MAY 04- JUN 04</b>	<b>JUN 03- JUN 04</b>	<b>MAY 04- JUN 04</b>	<b>JUN 03- JUN 04</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	3,707	1,171	3,710	2,536	(3)	216.6%	-0.1%
Asparagus	2,771	3,266	2,863	(495)	(92)	-15.2%	-3.2%
Cherries	3,554	129	2,489	3,425	1,065	2655.0%	42.8%
Grapes	626	656	509	(30)	117	-4.6%	23.0%
Hops	61	275	36	(214)	25	-77.8%	69.4%
Misc Vegetables	636	16	552	620	84	3875.0%	15.2%
Nursery	2	4	3	0	(1)	0.0%	-33.3%
Onion	704	99	315	605	389	611.1%	123.5%
Other Seasonal	302	275	207	27	95	9.8%	45.9%
Other Tree Fruit	15	11	16	4	(1)	36.4%	-6.3%
Potatoes	206	155	347	51	(141)	32.9%	-40.6%
Strawberry	173	29	54	144	119	496.6%	220.4%
Wheat/Grain	12	16	21	(4)	(9)	-25.0%	-42.9%
**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 June.



## **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 JUNE 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: 4,016 (2,678 local, 436 intrastate, 603 interstate, 30 foreign, 269 unknown origin)

Strawberry Harvester .....	1,126	\$ 7.16/hr	or \$ 0.14 - \$ 0.16 per pound
Raspberry Harvester .....	610	\$ 7.16/hr	
Nursery Planter .....	376	\$ 7.27/hr	
Nursery Weeder .....	295	\$ 7.55/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 15,585 (12,806 local, 344 intrastate, 296 interstate, 1,140 foreign, 999 unknown origin)

Apple Hand Thinner .....	5,904	\$ 7.45/hr	or \$ 0.20 - \$ 5.50 per tree
Cherry Harvester .....	3,398	\$ 7.27/hr	or \$ 1.60 - \$ 4.25 per bucket
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	2,744	\$ 7.21/hr	
Asparagus Harvester .....	1,210	\$ 7.16/hr	or \$ 0.17 - \$ 0.23 per pound

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 13,102 (6,538 local, 1,210 intrastate, 489 interstate, 196 foreign, 4,669 unknown origin)

Cherry Harvester .....	9,744	\$ 7.16/hr	
Apple Hand Thinner .....	2,355	\$ 7.28/hr	
Apple Trainer .....	524	\$ 7.20/hr	
Pear Hand Thinner .....	94	\$ 7.22/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,362 (4,459 local, 0 intrastate, 314 interstate, 257 foreign, 1,332 unknown origin)

Apple Hand Thinner .....	2,580	\$ 7.30/hr	or \$ 0.10 - \$ 2.75 per tree
Cherry Harvester .....	1,860	\$ 7.32/hr	or \$ 3.50 - \$ 4.50 per lug
Nursery Worker .....	235	\$ 7.20/hr	
Carrot Weeder .....	197	\$ 7.16/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 12,764 (8,611 local, 101 intrastate, 1,112 interstate, 1,295 foreign, 1,645 unknown origin)

Cherry Harvester .....	3,389	\$ 7.18/hr	or \$ 3.00 - \$ 7.50 per box
Apple Hand Thinner .....	3,385	\$ 7.25/hr	or \$ 0.15 - \$ 3.00 per tree
Asparagus Harvester .....	2,504	\$ 7.16/hr	or \$ 0.15 - \$ 0.27 per pound
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	461	\$ 7.16/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 407 (390 local, 0 intrastate, 9 interstate, 4 foreign, 4 unknown origin)

Nursery Planter .....	84	\$ 7.48/hr	
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	38	\$ 7.16/hr	
Wheat Worker .....	29	\$ 9.75/hr	
Nursery Vehicle Operator .....	25	\$10.54/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**

**JUNE 2004**

**TABLE 1**

**JUNE 2004**

**Seasonal Farm Labor Report, Washington State**  
**Estimated Number of Domestic Seasonal Hired Workers**  
**by Place of Origin**

<b>Agricultural Reporting Area</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Intra-state</b>	<b>Inter-state</b>	<b>Foreign</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Area Total</b>
1. Western	2,678	436	603	30	269	4,016
2. South Central	12,806	344	296	1,140	999	15,585
3. North Central	6,538	1,210	489	196	4,669	13,102
4. Columbia Basin	4,459	0	314	257	1,332	6,362
5. South Eastern	8,611	101	1,112	1,295	1,645	12,764
6. Eastern	390	0	9	4	4	407
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>35,484</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>2,822</b>	<b>2,922</b>	<b>8,917</b>	<b>52,236</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>67.9%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: JUNE 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 .....	4,016
a. Local .....	2,678
b. Intrastate migratory .....	436
c. Interstate migratory .....	603
d. Unknown .....	30
e. Foreign .....	269
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Bremerton, Mabton, Mount Vernon, Pasco, Shelton	
b. Interstate: California, Minnesota, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

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1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The June 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,830.

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. High temperatures reaching 90 degrees challenged growers to maintain adequate water for their crops. The warm conditions have been excellent for hay harvest. Production of fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers were weeks ahead of normal. Local strawberries were featured at local Farmer's Markets. Raspberry harvest was speeding up. The second cutting of alfalfa was harvested.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$7.14 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for strawberry harvester, raspberry harvester, strawberry sorter/grader/packer, raspberry weeder, blueberry weeder, bulbs harvester, nursery irrigator, rhubarb weeder, rhubarb sorter/grader/packer, strawberry planter, blueberry harvester, miscellaneous vegetables weeder, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, raspberry cultivator, raspberry chemical applicator, raspberry fertilizer applicator, blueberry sorter/grader/packer, cauliflower weeder, miscellaneous squash weeder, cauliflower weeder, cucumber weeder, pumpkin planter, blackberry harvester, miscellaneous peppers weeder, miscellaneous vegetables worker, blueberry fertilizer applicator, blueberry chemical applicator and blueberry cultivator to \$38.34 for general farm worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.14 to \$ 0.16 per pound for strawberry picking. Housing was limited.

c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated at 66.7% local, 10.8% intrastate, 15.0% interstate, foreign 0.8% and 6.7% 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: JUNE 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>	4,016
		* = piece rate
Strawberry Harvester	1,126	\$ 7.45 or * \$ 0.14 - \$ 0.16 per lb
Raspberry Harvester	610	\$ 7.27
Nursery Planter	376	\$ 7.16
Nursery Weeder	295	\$ 7.30
Strawberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	209	\$ 7.88
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	162	\$ 7.16
Strawberry Worker	111	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Weeder	97	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Weeder	93	\$ 7.67
Nursery Worker	87	\$ 7.33
Rhubarb Harvester	73	\$ 7.30
Raspberry Worker	61	\$ 7.65
Bulbs Harvester	52	\$ 7.69
Nursery Irrigator	46	\$ 9.50
Misc Field Crops Weeder	44	Not Available
Rhubarb Weeder	40	\$ 7.99
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	38	\$ 7.43
Rhubarb Sorter/Grader/Packer	35	\$ 6.63
Strawberry Planter	33	\$ 8.09
Blueberry Harvester	27	\$ 7.16
Potato Tractor Operator	25	\$ 7.76
Misc Vegetables Weeder	25	\$ 7.16
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	23	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Cultivator	22	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Chemical Applicator	22	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Fertilizer Applicator	22	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Harvester	22	\$ 8.75
Chicken Eggs Worker	20	\$ 7.25
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	18	\$ 8.86
Cauliflower Weeder	16	\$ 7.16
Misc Squash Weeder	12	\$ 8.00
Cauliflower Worker	12	\$ 7.25
Cucumber Weeder	12	\$ 8.00
Pumpkin Planter	12	\$ 8.50
Lettuce Planter	12	\$ 9.25
Nursery Tractor Operator	12	\$ 8.50

Area 1 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: JUNE 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>	* = piece rate
Blackberry Harvester	11	\$ 7.16
General Farm Worker	10	\$38.34
Spinach Tractor Operator	8	\$ 9.00
Misc Peppers Weeder	8	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Worker	8	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Fertilizer Applicator	7	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Pruner	7	\$ 8.00
Blueberry Chemical Applicator	7	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Cultivator	7	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	7	\$ 7.50
Blackberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	5	\$ 7.50
Cabbage Planter	4	\$ 8.04
Misc Vegetables Cultivator	4	\$ 8.04
Raspberry Mechanized Harvester	4	\$ 9.00
Misc Vegetables Mechanic	4	\$ 8.00
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$ 7.50
Potato Vehicle Operator	4	\$ 8.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 ..... \$ 7.29/hr (weighted average)



# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 .....	15,585
a. Local .....	12,806
b. Intrastate migratory .....	344
c. Interstate migratory .....	296
d. Unknown .....	1,140
e. Foreign .....	999
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Basin City, Connell, Eltopia, Quincy, Sunnyside, Wenatchee, Yakima	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The June 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 13,177.
  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. Average temperatures ranged from 5 to 15 degrees above normal. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions. Primary agricultural activities were apple thinning, cherry harvest, cherry warehouse work and asparagus harvest.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$7.35 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$6.63 for beans harvester to \$12.00 for asparagus worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.17 to \$0.23 per pound for asparagus picking, \$0.20 to \$5.50 per tree for apple thinning and \$1.60 to \$ 4.25 per bucket for cherry 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 82.2% local, 2.2% intrastate, 1.9% interstate, foreign 7.3% and unknown 6.4%.
    - 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: JUNE 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>	15,585
		* = piece rate
Apple Hand Thinner	5,904	\$ 7.45 or * \$ 0.20 - \$ 5.50 per tree
Cherry Harvester	3,398	\$ 7.27 or * \$ 1.60 - \$ 4.25 per bucket
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	2,744	\$ 7.21
Asparagus Harvester	1,210	\$ 7.16 or * \$ 0.17 - \$ 0.23 per lb
Grapes Suckering Worker	423	\$ 7.88
Misc Field Crops Weeder	254	\$ 7.16
Pear Hand Thinner	209	\$ 7.16
Pear Pruner	202	\$ 7.16
Grapes Chemical Applicator	192	\$ 7.67
Grapes Sorter/Grader/Packer	120	\$ 7.33
Grapes Trainer	113	\$ 7.30
Cherry Tractor Operator	76	\$ 7.65
Grapes Pruner	65	\$ 7.69
Hops Trainer	63	\$ 9.50
Apple Worker	56	\$ 7.99
Nursery Planter	54	\$ 9.17
Grapes Hand Thinner	48	\$ 7.43
Beans Harvester	43	\$ 6.63
Apple Chemical Applicator	43	\$ 8.09
Misc Squash Weeder	41	\$ 7.16
Apple Irrigator	39	\$ 7.76
Misc Squash Harvester	30	\$ 7.16
Mint Weeder	29	\$ 7.16
Sweet Corn Weeder	21	\$ 7.16
Misc Peppers Harvester	17	\$ 7.16
Misc Peppers Sorter/Grader/Packer	15	\$ 7.16
Nursery Worker	15	\$ 8.75
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	14	\$ 8.86
Apple Weeder	14	\$ 7.16
Hops Weeder	14	\$ 7.25
Alfalfa Irrigator	12	\$ 8.00
Grapes Weeder	10	\$ 7.25
Hops Tractor Operator	9	\$ 8.00
Hops Irrigator	9	\$ 8.50
Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester	9	\$ 9.25
Grapes Worker	8	\$ 8.50

Area 2 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: APRIL 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>
Spinach Sorter/Grader/Packer	9	\$ 7.16
Spinach Harvester	9	\$ 7.16
Silage Tractor Operator	9	\$ 8.50
Grapes Weeder	7	\$ 7.01
Potato Planter	7	\$ 7.50
Nursery Worker	7	\$12.34
Wheat Irrigator	7	\$ 7.21
Grapes Manager	5	\$16.94
General Farm Tractor Operator	4	\$ 7.75
Contract Misc Crew Planter	4	\$ 7.40
Misc Vegetables Worker	3	\$12.00
Grapes Worker	3	\$ 7.60
General Farm Irrigator	2	\$ 7.75
Misc Fruit Trees Manager	2	\$ 8.00
Nursery Mechanic	2	\$10.35

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 ..... \$ 7.41/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: JUNE 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 ..... 13,102
    - a. Local ..... 6,538
    - b. Intrastate migratory ..... 1,210
    - c. Interstate migratory ..... 489
    - d. Unknown ..... 196
    - e. Foreign ..... 4,669
  
  - 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
    - a. Intrastate: Kelso, Kent, Mattawa, Seattle, Wenatchee, Yakima
    - b. Interstate: California, Florida
    - c. Foreign: Mexico
- 

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The June 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,590.
  
  - 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. Cherry harvest was in full swing. Some damage was reported due to last year's freeze and recent rains. Total damage has not yet been determined. The first cutting of timothy hay neared completion. Cultivating sweet corn fields continued. Range and pastures were in good shape. Irrigation water supplies improved, prompting the irrigation districts to increase the amount of water available.
  
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$7.44 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for cherry harvester, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, wheat weeder, potato sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous fruit trees mechanic, potato irrigator and sweet corn irrigator to \$22.00 for horse and equines trainer. 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 50.0% local, 9.2% intrastate, 3.7% interstate, 1.5% foreign and 35.6% 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: JUNE 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> 13,102	* = piece rate
Cherry Harvester	9,744	\$ 7.16
Apple Hand Thinner	2,355	\$ 7.28
Apple Trainer	524	\$ 7.20
Pear Hand Thinner	94	\$ 7.22
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	81	\$ 7.16
Apple Irrigator	63	\$ 7.93
Apple Chemical Applicator	36	\$ 7.80
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	33	\$ 7.75
Wheat Weeder	24	\$ 7.16
Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester	19	\$ 9.30
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	11	\$10.33
Apple Pruner	11	\$ 7.50
Pear Preparation	11	\$ 8.50
Apple Manager	11	\$10.83
Apple Tractor Operator	11	\$ 8.92
Misc Hay Irrigator	9	\$ 8.41
Misc Fruit Trees Irrigator	7	\$ 8.50
Alfalfa Worker	7	\$ 8.50
Nursery Worker	6	\$ 7.44
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	6	\$ 7.16
Horse and Equines Worker	4	\$12.00
Misc Field Crops Weeder	4	\$ 7.50
Misc Field Crops Worker	4	\$ 7.50
Cherry Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.50
Cherry Manager	4	\$12.50
Cherry Irrigator	4	\$ 8.00
Apple Vehicle Operator	4	\$11.00
Misc Hay Worker	2	\$ 8.00
Misc Fruit Trees Mechanic	2	\$ 7.16
Potato Irrigator	2	\$ 7.16
Horse and Equines Trainer	2	\$22.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	2	\$ 9.50
Sweet Corn Irrigator	2	\$ 7.16
Contract Misc Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	1	\$ 7.35
Apple Loader	1	\$12.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 ..... \$ 7.26/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: JUNE 2003

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 .....	5,065
a. Local .....	4,421
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	103
d. Unknown .....	541
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

---

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The June 2003 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,645.

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. Hot, dry conditions were not beneficial to spring cereal crops, especially spring wheat and barley. Sweet corn planting was near completion. Sugar snap pea harvest was underway. Carrot, onion and radish seed crops were in full bloom. The cherry harvest was underway. The second cutting of hay was being finished. Primary agricultural activities were apple hand thinning and training, potato warehouse work and nursery work.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$7.27 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.01 for mint weeder, nursery suckering worker, miscellaneous onion weeder, miscellaneous onion weeder, nursery pruner, potato weeder, grapes weeder, mint chemical applicator, asparagus weeder, miscellaneous vegetables irrigator, nursery trainer, nursery weeder, apple weeder, cherry worker, nursery tractor operator and nursery planter to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.20 to \$0.80 per tree for apple thinning. 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 87.3% local, 0.0% intrastate, 2.0% interstate and 10.7% 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: JUNE 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>6,362</b>
		* = piece rate
Apple Hand Thinner	2,580	\$ 7.30 or * \$ 0.10 - \$ 2.75 per tree
Cherry Harvester	1,860	\$ 7.32 or * \$ 3.50 - \$ 5.50 per lug
Nursery Worker	235	\$ 7.20
Carrot Weeder	197	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	172	\$ 7.16
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	131	\$ 8.21
Apple Pruner	91	\$ 7.24
Asparagus Harvester	88	\$ 7.16
Apple Chemical Applicator	73	\$ 8.03
Misc Vegetables Weeder	71	\$ 7.63
Cherry Worker	66	\$ 7.86
Nursery Suckering Worker	65	\$ 7.16
Grass Seed Weeder	63	\$ 7.50
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	53	\$ 7.22
Cherry Hand Thinner	48	\$ 7.16
Potato Preparation	43	\$ 7.16
Potato Mechanic	42	\$ 8.34
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	38	\$ 8.50
Potato Tractor Operator	34	\$ 8.75
Misc Field Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	33	\$ 7.16
Apple Trainer	32	\$ 7.16
Apple Irrigator	25	\$ 7.79
Misc Field Crops Weeder	22	\$ 7.16
Potato Vehicle Operator	18	\$ 8.00
Potato Worker	15	\$ 8.94
Nursery Weeder	15	\$ 7.16
Apple Worker	11	\$ 7.16
Apple Planter	11	\$ 7.16
Cherry Chemical Applicator	11	\$ 7.50
Grass Seed Combine Driver	11	\$ 8.50
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	10	\$ 8.00
General Farm Worker	10	\$ 9.67
Potato Planter	10	\$ 8.50
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	10	\$ 8.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Weeder	9	\$ 7.16
Wheat Tractor Operator	9	\$10.00

Area 4 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: JUNE 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
Nursery Planter	8	\$ 7.16
Cherry Tractor Operator	8	\$ 8.00
Pear Hand Thinner	7	\$ 7.16
Apple Tractor Operator	7	\$ 7.16
Apple Weeder	7	\$ 7.75
Grapes Hand Thinner	7	\$ 7.16
Grapes Suckering Worker	7	\$ 7.16
Potato Weeder	7	\$ 8.00
Potato Manager	7	\$13.75
Wheat Weeder	7	\$ 8.00
Nursery Trainer	6	\$ 7.16
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	6	\$10.25
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Manager	6	\$14.00
Grapes Weeder	5	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	5	\$ 8.50
Field Corn Irrigator	5	\$ 9.00
Misc Hay Irrigator	5	\$ 9.00
Apple Manager	5	\$ 8.50
Cherry Manager	5	\$ 8.50
Wheat Irrigator	4	\$ 8.00
Potato Irrigator	4	\$ 8.00
Nursery Harvester	3	\$ 7.50
Nursery Tractor Operator	3	\$ 7.16
General Farm Tractor Operator	2	\$ 7.50
Alfalfa Weeder	2	\$10.00
General Farm Cultivator	2	\$10.00
General Farm Weeder	2	\$ 7.16
Mint Weeder	2	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Worker	2	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Manager	2	\$14.00
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	2	\$ 7.16
Nursery Vehicle Operator	2	\$12.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 ..... \$ 7.38/hr (weighted average)



# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 ..... | 12,764 |
| a. Local .....                                 | 8,611  |
| b. Intrastate migratory .....                  | 101    |
| c. Interstate migratory .....                  | 1,112  |
| d. Unknown .....                               | 1,295  |
| e. Foreign .....                               | 1,645  |
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
- a. Intrastate: Mount Vernon, Yakima
  - b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Oregon, Texas
  - c. Foreign: Guatemala, Mexico
- 

### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The June 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,987.
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. Cherry harvest continued. Cherry damage from a storm in the middle of the month continued to be reported. The second cutting of alfalfa was underway. Pea harvest was nearly complete. Sweet corn was being planted as a second crop in some fields. Some asparagus acreage was being taken out in response to the announced closing of the cannery in Dayton. Onion harvest was in full swing.
  - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$7.40 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.15 for strawberry sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous field crops weeder, strawberry irrigator and strawberry vehicle operator to \$10.50 for wheat tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.15 to \$0.27 per pound for asparagus picking, \$0.15 to \$3.00 per tree for apple thinning and \$3.00 to \$7.50 per box for cherry picking. Housing was limited; transportation was provided by the workers.
  - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 67.5% local, 0.8% intrastate, 8.7% interstate, 10.1% foreign and 12.9% 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: JUNE 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 12,764</b>	<b>* = piece rate</b>
Cherry Harvester	3,389	\$ 7.18 or * \$ 3.00 - \$ 7.00 per box
Apple Hand Thinner	3,385	\$ 7.25 or * \$ 0.15 - \$ 3.00 per tree
Asparagus Harvester	2,504	\$ 7.16 or * \$ 0.15 - \$ 0.27 per lb
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	461	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	395	\$ 7.16
Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Packer	249	\$ 7.26
Grapes Hand Thinner	218	\$ 7.31
Grapes Trainer	185	\$ 7.38
Walla Walla Sweets Weeder	161	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	146	\$ 7.58
Strawberry Harvester	143	\$ 7.16
Walla Walla Sweets Harvester	129	Not Available
Apple Trainer	101	\$ 7.19
Blueberry Harvester	91	\$ 7.16
Apple Cultivator	88	\$ 7.16
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	82	\$ 7.16
Carrot Weeder	77	\$ 7.25
Apple Worker	76	\$ 7.20
Grapes Suckering Worker	75	\$ 7.16
Grass Seed Weeder	64	\$ 7.48
Grapes Cultivator	45	\$ 7.16
Grapes Worker	44	\$ 7.21
Grapes Pruner	35	\$ 7.16
Hops Twiner	34	\$ 7.16
Cherry Worker	33	\$ 7.78
Potato Planter	33	\$ 8.25
Apple Tractor Operator	30	\$ 7.82
Misc Vegetables Planter	26	\$ 7.16
Cherry Forklift Driver	24	\$ 7.58
Apple Irrigator	21	\$ 7.32
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	21	\$ 8.86
Carrot Planter	20	\$ 7.25
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	18	\$ 7.16
General Farm Worker	18	\$ 8.68
Cherry Manager	17	Not Available
Hops Cultivator	17	\$ 7.16

Area 5 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: JUNE 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>
Potato Irrigator	17	\$ 8.64
Strawberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	16	\$ 7.15
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	16	\$ 7.75
Alfalfa Weeder	13	\$ 8.10
Misc Melon Planter	13	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	13	\$ 8.75
Asparagus Tractor Operator	12	\$ 8.08
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	12	\$ 8.50
Pumpkin Weeder	11	\$ 7.16
Hops Weeder	10	\$ 7.16
Grapes Tractor Operator	9	\$ 7.42
Misc Vegetables Weeder	9	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Weeder	9	\$ 7.15
Peach Pruner	9	\$ 7.16
Grapes Irrigator	9	\$ 7.25
Misc Field Crops Mechanized Harvester	7	\$ 7.50
Carrot Irrigator	7	\$ 7.25
Cherry Trainer	6	\$ 7.33
Apple Manager	6	\$ 8.80
Blueberry Irrigator	6	\$ 7.16
Wheat Worker	6	\$ 9.75
Field Corn Tractor Operator	6	\$10.00
Potato Mechanic	6	\$10.00
Misc Field Crops Worker	6	\$ 7.77
Strawberry Irrigator	5	\$ 7.15
Strawberry Weeder	5	\$ 7.15
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	4	\$ 9.50
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	4	\$ 8.08
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.50
Grapes Chemical Applicator	3	\$ 7.16
Strawberry Vehicle Operator	3	\$ 7.15
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	3	\$ 7.16
Sweet Corn Planter	3	\$ 8.50
Grapes Manager	3	\$10.10
Cherry Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.00
Peach Harvester	3	\$ 7.16

Area 5 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT**

Period: JUNE 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>
Alfalfa Worker	3	Not Available
Wheat Tractor Operator	3	\$10.50
Wheat Irrigator	3	\$ 7.16
Peas Worker	3	\$ 9.75
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator	3	\$ 7.16
Contract Aerial Chemical Applicator	3	Not Available
Asparagus Forklift Driver	3	\$ 7.50
Asparagus Vehicle Operator	3	Not Available
Potato Tractor Operator	2	\$10.00
Misc Onion Weeder	2	\$ 7.16
Sweet Corn Cultivator	2	\$ 8.50
General Farm Irrigator	2	\$ 7.50
Potato Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 9.47
Nursery Pruner	2	\$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 ..... \$ 7.27/hr (weighted average)