



SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

MARCH 2004



Prepared by

John Wines, Economic Analyst
Judy Anderson, Data Compiler

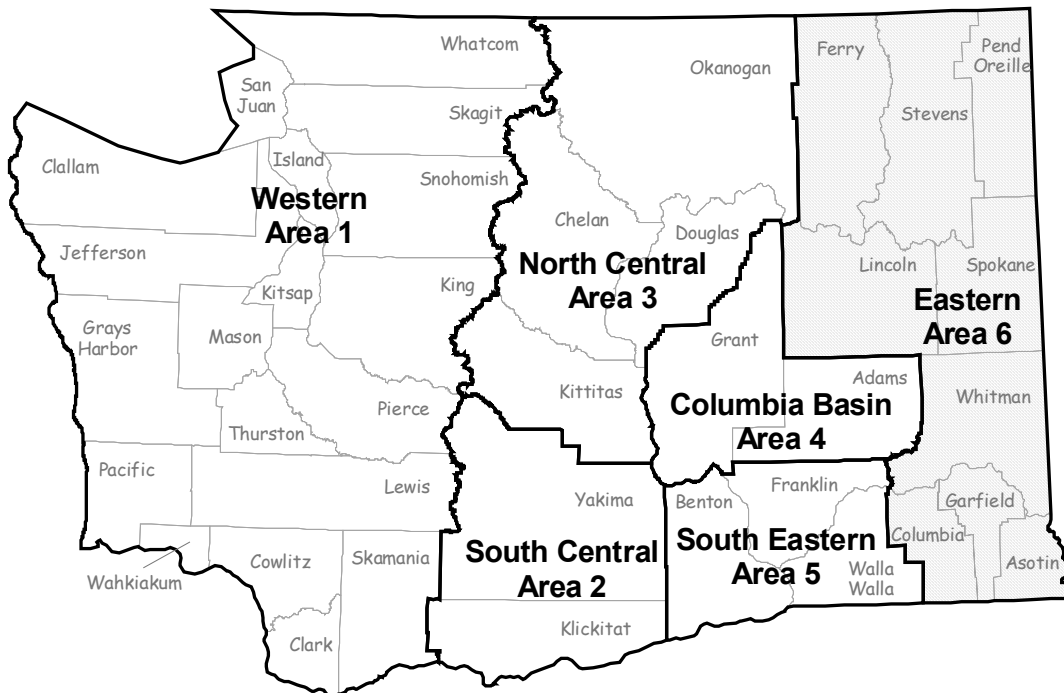
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch
Greg Weeks, Director
Washington State Employment Security Department

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

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

MARCH 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 inched up by 1.8% from March 2003 to March 2004. This increase was led by apple work. Agricultural employment contributing to an over-the-year increase was apple work (877), cherry work (810), onion work (335), bulb work (238), other seasonal work (224), hop work (135), strawberry work (80), raspberry work (43) and wheat/grain work (31). Crops displaying declines were grapes work (-793), asparagus work (-485), nursery work (-317), other tree fruit work (-302), potato work (-297), miscellaneous vegetables work (-153), pear work (-109) and blueberry work (-20). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment contracted by 13.4%, led by a decline in nursery work (-435). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment decreased by 9.7%, due to a decline in other tree fruit work (-325). North Central (Area 3) expanded by 12.8%, courtesy of an increase in apple work (391). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment grew by 24.6%, thanks to a growth in apple work (421). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment expanded by a small 4.0%, caused by a bump in onion work (373). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment expanded by a huge 46.0%, due to an increase in nursery work (86).

ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

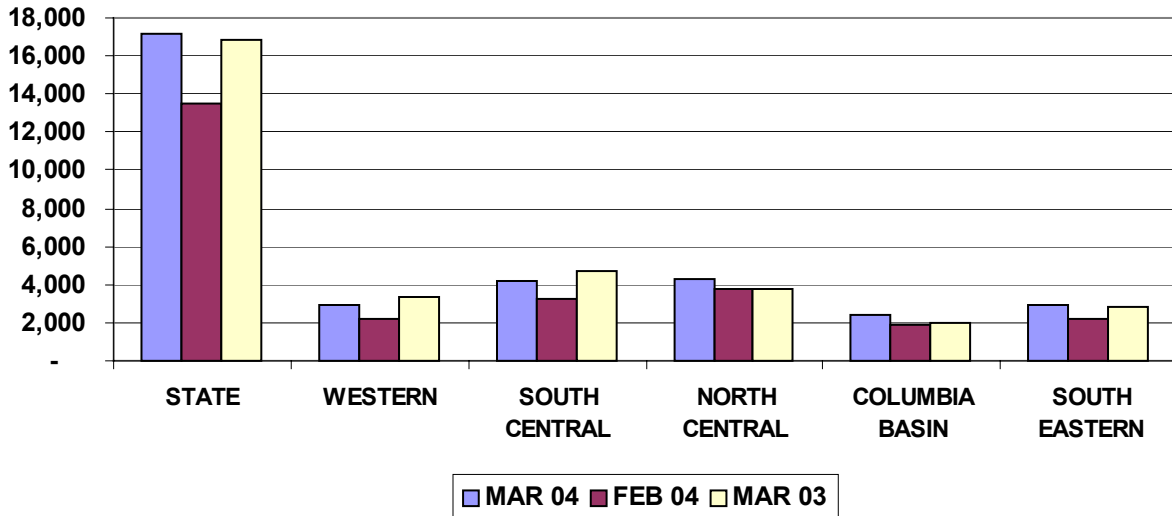
The J.R. Simplot Company's Hermiston, Oregon potato processing plant will close by the end of the year, eliminating 625 jobs. The major worldwide supplier of French fries blamed flat-to-declining demand in both the U.S. and Asia. However, this closure should help potato growers in Grant and Adams counties. Simplot's potato plants in Hermiston, Othello and Moses Lake have been running at 75 percent of their production capacity. The Othello and Moses Lake plants will now run closer to full capacity. That will require more potatoes to be grown in the northern Columbia Basin, while about 3,000 acres are taken out of production closer to Hermiston.

Washington's declining asparagus industry, suffering under a flood of cheap imports and the highest labor costs of any agricultural commodity in the state finally got a boost. The federal government announced plans to purchase as much as 6.9 million pounds of processed asparagus, easing a short-term surplus that has depressed prices and driven farmers out of business. The budget passed by the state Legislature includes about \$3.8 million for the industry. The bulk of the money is aimed at reducing labor costs through the purchase of automated equipment for processing and packing asparagus. However, \$300,000 of this money will go toward further research into mechanical asparagus-harvesting machines.

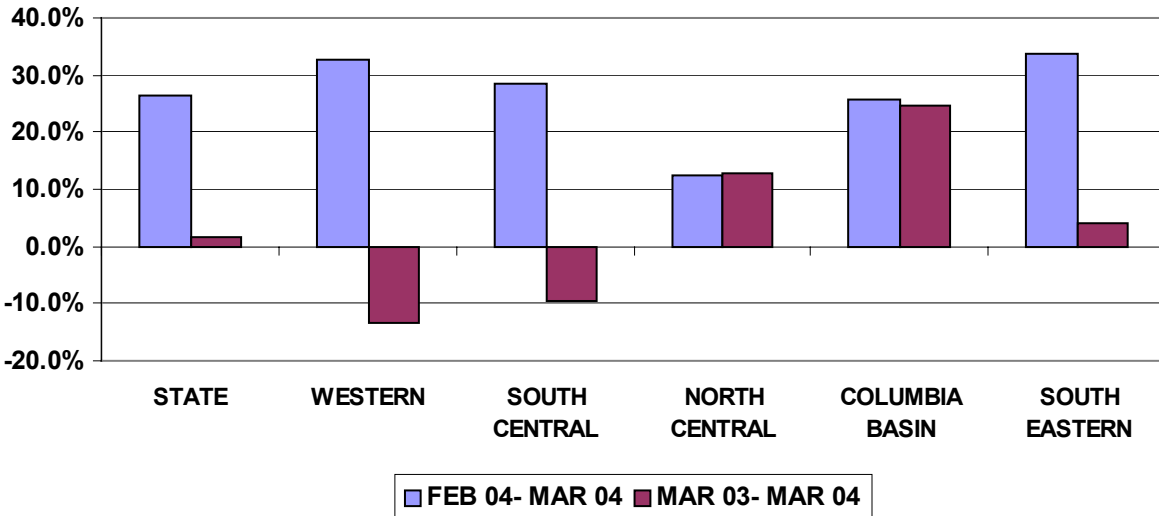
Wheat growers had some positive news recently. China—the world's largest producer and consumer of wheat—has agreed to purchase 300,000 metric tons of soft white wheat grown in the region, plus 550,000 metric tons of hard red spring wheat grown in Montana and North Dakota. Growers hope that the sales indicate that China finally will become a regular customer.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>MAR 04</u>	<u>FEB 04</u>	<u>MAR 03</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>FEB 04-</u> <u>MAR 04</u>	<u>MAR 03-</u> <u>MAR 04</u>	<u>FEB 04-</u> <u>MAR 04</u>	<u>MAR 03-</u> <u>MAR 04</u>
STATE	17,131	13,547	16,833	3,584	298	26.5%	1.8%
WESTERN	2,900	2,187	3,349	713	(449)	32.6%	-13.4%
SOUTH CENTRAL	4,207	3,275	4,657	932	(450)	28.5%	-9.7%
NORTH CENTRAL	4,268	3,792	3,784	476	484	12.6%	12.8%
COLUMBIA BASIN	2,421	1,924	1,943	497	478	25.8%	24.6%
SOUTH EASTERN	2,949	2,203	2,835	746	114	33.9%	4.0%
EASTERN	387	166	265	221	122	133.1%	46.0%

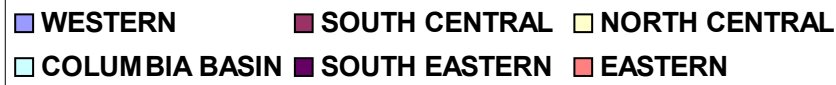
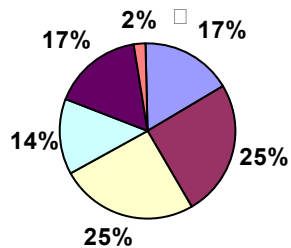
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT MARCH 2004



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment inched up a small 1.8% from March 2003 to March 2004. However, seasonal employment ramped up statewide by 26.5% from February 2004 to March 2004. The crop activity exhibiting the highest gain in employment from March 2003 to March 2004 was apple work (877). Grape work had the greatest loss in employment (-793) for that same time period. Bulb work added the most workers (1,097) from February 2004 to March 2004. During that same time period, blueberry work shed the greatest number of jobs (-317). The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2004 was \$7.38 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	MAR 04	FEB 04	MAR 03	FEB 04- MAR 04	MAR 03- MAR 04	FEB 04- MAR 04	MAR 03- MAR 04
Apples	8,536	7,911	7,659	625	877	7.9%	11.5%
Asparagus	10	0	495	10	(485)	0.0%	-98.0%
Blueberry	8	325	28	(317)	(20)	-97.5%	-71.4%
Bulb	1,662	565	1,424	1,097	238	194.2%	16.7%
Cherries	1,059	629	249	430	810	68.4%	325.3%
Cucumbers	0	11	0	(11)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Grapes	1,305	873	2,098	432	(793)	49.5%	-37.8%
Hop	606	13	471	593	135	4561.5%	28.7%
Misc Vegetables	209	251	362	(42)	(153)	-16.7%	-42.3%
Nursery	945	982	1,262	(37)	(317)	-3.8%	-25.1%
Onion	689	421	354	268	335	63.7%	94.6%
Other Seasonal	631	642	407	(11)	224	-1.7%	55.0%
Other Tree Fruit	232	95	534	137	(302)	144.2%	-56.6%
Pears	368	483	477	(115)	(109)	-23.8%	-22.9%
Potato	348	140	645	208	(297)	148.6%	-46.0%
Raspberry	347	188	304	159	43	84.6%	14.1%
Strawberry	84	0	4	84	80	0.0%	2000.0%
Wheat/Grain	91	22	60	69	31	313.6%	51.7%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) over-the-year seasonal employment declined by 13.4% from March 2003 to March 2004. However, the seasonal employment increased by 32.6% from February 2004 to March 2004. Bulb work displayed the largest increase (238) in employment from March 2003 to March 2004. Nursery work showed the greatest decrease (-435) in employment for that same time period. Bulb work posted the largest upturn in employment (1,097) from February 2004 to March 2004. Blueberry work decreased by the greatest amount (-317) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2004 in Area 1 was \$7.35 per hour. (See pages 14 and 15 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				FEB 04-	MAR 03-	FEB 04-	MAR 03-
	<u>MAR 04</u>	<u>FEB 04</u>	<u>MAR 03</u>	<u>MAR 04</u>	<u>MAR 04</u>	<u>MAR 04</u>	<u>MAR 04</u>
CROP							
Blueberry	8	325	28	(317)	(20)	-97.5%	-71.4%
Bulb	1,662	565	1,424	1,097	238	194.2%	16.7%
Cucumbers	0	11	0	(11)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	19	34	141	(15)	(122)	-44.1%	-86.5%
Nursery	592	882	1,027	(290)	(435)	-32.9%	-42.4%
Other Seasonal	66	27	45	39	21	144.4%	46.7%
Potato	78	39	254	39	(176)	100.0%	-69.3%
Raspberry	347	188	304	159	43	84.6%	14.1%
Rhubarb	44	113	122	(69)	(78)	-61.1%	-63.9%
Strawberry	84	0	4	84	80	0.0%	2000.0%

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment contracted by 9.7% from March 2003 to March 2004. This was in contrast to an increase of 28.5% from February 2004 to March 2004. Cherry work was the crop activity experiencing the largest growth (272) in employment from March 2003 to March 2004. Other tree fruit work fell by the largest amount (-325) for that same time period. The largest over-the-month growth in employment from February 2004 to March 2004 was cherry work (300). Pear work displayed the greatest loss in employment (-67) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2004 in Area 2 was \$7.44 per hour. (See pages 16 and 17 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				FEB 04-	MAR 03-	FEB 04-	MAR 03-
	<u>MAR 04</u>	<u>FEB 04</u>	<u>MAR 03</u>	<u>MAR 04</u>	<u>MAR 04</u>	<u>MAR 04</u>	<u>MAR 04</u>
CROP							
Apples	2,154	2,135	2,074	19	80	0.9%	3.9%
Asparagus	8	0	43	8	(35)	0.0%	-81.4%
Cherries	392	92	120	300	272	326.1%	226.7%
Grapes	761	492	1,051	269	(290)	54.7%	-27.6%
Hop	253	0	452	253	(199)	0.0%	-44.0%
Misc Vegetables	121	57	56	64	65	112.3%	116.1%
Onion	0	0	24	0	(24)	0.0%	-100.0%
Other Seasonal	86	84	64	2	22	0.0%	34.4%
Other Tree Fruit	99	30	424	69	(325)	230.0%	-76.7%
Pears	322	389	338	(67)	(16)	-17.2%	-4.7%
Potato	9	0	11	9	(2)	0.0%	-18.2%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment exhibited an over-the-year net gain of 12.8% from March 2003 to March 2004. This was echoed by an almost identical increase of 12.6% in employment in March 2004 over February 2004. The crop activity gaining the largest amount of employment from March 2003 to March 2004 was apple work (391). Pear work lagged by the largest amount (-98) for that same time period. Apple work added the most employment (454) from February 2004 to March 2004. Pear work had the largest decline in employment (-20) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2004 in Area 3 was \$7.46 per hour. (See pages 18 and 19 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	MAR 04	FEB 04	MAR 03	FEB 04- MAR 04	MAR 03- MAR 04	FEB 04- MAR 04	MAR 03- MAR 04
Apples	3,899	3,445	3,508	454	391	13.2%	11.1%
Cherries	205	168	85	37	120	22.0%	141.2%
Other Seasonal	107	96	4	11	103	11.5%	2575.0%
Other Tree Fruit	15	22	48	(7)	(33)	-31.8%	-68.8%
Pears	41	61	139	(20)	(98)	-32.8%	-70.5%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment grew by 24.6% from March 2003 to March 2004. This was paralleled by a gain of 25.8% in employment from February 2004 to March 2004. Apple work expanded by the largest employment (421) from March 2003 to March 2004. Asparagus work contracted by the largest amount (-124) of employment during that same time period. Apple work expanded the most (261) in employment from February 2004 to March 2004. Onion work netted the largest over-the-month loss (-48) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2004 in Area 4 was \$7.48 per hour. (See pages 20 - 22 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	MAR 04	FEB 04	MAR 03	FEB 04- MAR 04	MAR 03- MAR 04	FEB 04- MAR 04	MAR 03- MAR 04
Apples	1,655	1,394	1,234	261	421	18.7%	34.1%
Asparagus	0	0	124	0	(124)	0.0%	-100.0%
Cherries	203	205	27	(2)	176	-1.0%	651.9%
Mint	36	0	32	36	4	0.0%	12.5%
Misc Vegetables	5	0	13	5	(8)	0.0%	-61.5%
Nursery	121	22	91	99	30	450.0%	33.0%
Onion	87	135	101	(48)	(14)	-35.6%	-13.9%
Other Seasonal	100	25	84	75	16	300.0%	19.0%
Other Tree Fruit	33	12	38	21	(5)	175.0%	-13.2%
Pears	5	33	0	(28)	5	-84.8%	0.0%
Potato	149	96	195	53	(46)	55.2%	-23.6%
Wheat/Grain	27	0	4	27	23	0.0%	575.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment crept up by a meager 4.0% from March 2003 to March 2004. However, March 2004 employment charged ahead by 33.9% over February 2004. Onion work employment expanded by the greatest amount of employment (373) from March 2003 to March 2004. Grapes work lost the most (-503) employment during that same time period. Hops work ramped up by the largest amount (340) of employment from February 2004 to March 2004. Other seasonal work shrunk by the largest employment (-214) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2004 in Area 5 was \$7.28 per hour. (See pages 23 - 25 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	MAR 04	FEB 04	MAR 03	FEB 04- MAR 04	MAR 03- MAR 04	FEB 04- MAR 04	MAR 03- MAR 04
CROP							
Apples	828	937	843	(109)	(15)	-11.6%	-1.8%
Asparagus	2	0	328	2	(326)	0.0%	-99.4%
Cherries	259	164	17	95	242	57.9%	1423.5%
Grapes	544	381	1,047	163	(503)	42.8%	-48.0%
Hops	353	13	19	340	334	2615.4%	1757.9%
Misc Vegetables	20	47	30	(27)	(10)	-57.4%	-33.3%
Nursery	6	3	4	3	2	100.0%	50.0%
Onion	602	286	229	316	373	110.5%	162.9%
Other Seasonal	122	336	95	(214)	27	-63.7%	28.4%
Other Tree Fruit	85	31	24	54	61	174.2%	254.2%
Potatoes	112	5	185	107	(73)	2140.0%	-39.5%
Wheat/Grain	15	5	14	10	1	200.0%	7.1%

**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 March.

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 MARCH 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: 2,900 (2,636 local, 11 intrastate, 82 interstate, 0 foreign, 171 unknown origin)

Bulbs Harvester	1,466	\$ 7.27/hr
Nursery Planter	293	\$ 7.54/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	244	\$ 7.31/hr
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	196	\$ 7.16/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,207 (3,561 local, 168 intrastate, 113 interstate, 311 foreign, 54 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,411	\$ 7.46/hr or \$ 0.25 - \$ 5.00 per tree
Grapes Pruner	625	\$ 7.51/hr or \$ 0.02 - \$ 0.40 per plant
Apple Hand Thinner	522	\$ 7.16/hr
Cherry Pruner	349	\$ 7.17/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,268 (3,963 local, 29 intrastate, 52 interstate, 157 foreign, 67 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	2,924	\$ 7.37/hr or \$ 0.15 - \$ 8.00 per tree
Apple Preparation	544	\$ 7.22/hr
Apple Hand Thinner	272	\$ 7.25/hr
Cherry Pruner	180	\$ 8.42/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,421 (2,030 local, 0 intrastate, 18 interstate, 141 foreign, 233 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,311	\$ 7.34/hr or \$ 0.10 - \$ 1.00 per tree
Apple Trainer	190	\$ 7.21/hr
Cherry Pruner	185	\$ 7.36/hr
Nursery Worker	72	\$ 7.23/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,949 (2,230 local, 6 intrastate, 28 interstate, 419 foreign, 266 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	813	\$ 7.22/hr or \$ 0.50 - \$ 1.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	435	\$ 7.22/hr or \$ 0.12 - \$ 0.27 per plant
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	296	\$ 7.24/hr
Hops Worker	292	Not Available

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 387 (290 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 97 unknown origin)

Nursery Planter	171	\$ 7.24/hr
Apple Pruner	55	\$ 7.42/hr
Strawberry Planter	27	\$ 8.00/hr
Nursery Loader	20	\$ 7.77/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
MARCH 2004

TABLE 1

MARCH 2004

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

Agricultural Reporting Area	Local	Intra-state	Inter-state	Foreign	Unknown	Area Total
1. Western	2,636	11	82	0	171	2,900
2. South Central	3,561	168	113	311	54	4,207
3. North Central	3,963	29	52	157	67	4,268
4. Columbia Basin	2,029	0	18	141	233	2,421
5. South Eastern	2,230	6	28	419	266	2,949
6. Eastern	290	0	0	0	97	387
State Totals	14,708	213	294	1,028	888	17,131
% State Total	85.9%	1.2%	1.7%	6.0%	5.2%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	2,900
a. Local	2,636
b. Intrastate migratory	11
c. Interstate migratory	82
d. Unknown	0
e. Foreign	171
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Seattle, Yakima	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: None	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The March 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,452.
 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, nursing planting, and nursery and bulbs warehouse work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.35 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for bulbs sorter/grader/packer, raspberry planter, raspberry pruner, strawberry pruner, strawberry planter, raspberry sorter/grader/packer, potato loader, cabbage sorter/grader/packer, rhubarb worker and strawberry weeder to \$16.00 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 90.9% local, 0.4% intrastate, 2.8% interstate, foreign 0.0% and 5.9% 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: MARCH 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	2,900
		* = piece rate
Bulbs Harvester	1,466	\$ 7.27
Nursery Planter	293	\$ 7.54
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	244	\$ 7.31
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	196	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Planter	165	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Pruner	121	\$ 7.16
Strawberry Planter	75	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	59	\$ 7.17
Nursery Worker	44	\$ 7.77
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	39	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Weeder	33	\$ 9.21
Rhubarb Sorter/Grader/Packer	30	\$ 7.00
Raspberry Trainer	22	Not Available
General Farm Planter	19	\$ 9.00
Potato Loader	16	\$ 7.16
Cabbage Sorter/Grader/Packer	13	\$ 7.16
Rhubarb Worker	11	\$ 7.16
Nursery Tractor Operator	11	\$ 8.43
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	10	\$ 7.50
Strawberry Weeder	9	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Worker	6	\$16.00
Blueberry Pruner	4	\$ 8.00
Blueberry Worker	4	\$11.00
Chicken Eggs Worker	4	\$ 8.50
Rhubarb Planter	3	\$ 7.50
Potato Mechanized Harvester	3	\$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.35/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	4,207
a. Local	3,561
b. Intrastate migratory	168
c. Interstate migratory	113
d. Unknown	311
e. Foreign	54
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: 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 March 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 11,636.
 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, grapes and cherry pruning and apple hand thinning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.44 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for apple hand thinner, pear pruner, miscellaneous vegetables preparer, nectarine pruner, apple planter, peach pruner and miscellaneous vegetables worker to \$9.84 for nursery planter and nursery loader. Typical piece rates were \$0.02 to \$0.40 per plant for grapes pruning and \$0.25 to \$5.00 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 84.6% local, 4.0% intrastate, 2.7% interstate, foreign 7.4% and unknown 1.3%.
 - 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: MARCH 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	4,210
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,411	\$ 7.46 or * \$ 0.25 - \$ 5.00 per tree
Grapes Pruner	625	\$ 7.51 or * \$ 0.02 - \$ 0.40 per plant
Apple Hand Thinner	522	\$ 7.16
Cherry Pruner	349	\$ 7.17
Pear Pruner	322	\$ 7.16
Hops Worker	208	\$ 7.20
Misc Vegetables Preparation	105	\$ 7.16
Grapes Trainer	105	\$ 7.48
Apple Irrigator	93	\$ 7.49
Nectarine Pruner	66	\$ 7.16
Apple Planter	62	\$ 7.16
Hops Preparation	45	Not Available
Cherry Planter	43	\$ 7.50
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	33	\$ 7.63
Peach Pruner	33	\$ 7.16
Nursery Worker	31	\$ 8.20
Apple Worker	24	\$ 8.86
Contract Misc Crew Worker	23	\$ 8.66
Misc Vegetables Worker	16	\$ 7.16
Nursery Planter	15	\$ 9.84
Dairy Worker	14	\$ 7.94
Grapes Planter	11	\$ 7.63
Grapes Worker	10	\$ 8.00
Apple Preparation	9	\$ 7.50
Potato Planter	9	\$ 7.50
Asparagus Tractor Operator	8	\$ 7.21
Grapes Tractor Operator	6	\$ 8.50
Grapes Preparation	4	\$ 8.66
Nursery Loader	3	\$ 9.84
Nursery Loader	3	\$ 9.84

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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 4,268
 - a. Local 3,963
 - b. Intrastate migratory 29
 - c. Interstate migratory 52
 - d. Unknown 157
 - e. Foreign 67

 - 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
 - a. Intrastate: Benton City, Mattawa, Wenatchee, Yakima
 - b. Interstate: California
 - c. Foreign: Mexico
-

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The March 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 9,456.

 - 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, apple preparation, apple hand thinning and cherry pruning.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.46 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for potato sorter/grader/packer and nursery grafter to \$9.50 for miscellaneous fruit trees pruner. Typical piece rates were: \$0.15 to \$8.00 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 92.8% local, 0.7% intrastate, 1.2% interstate, 3.7% foreign and 1.6% 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: MARCH 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 4,268	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	2,924	\$ 7.37 or * \$ 0.15 - \$ 8.00 per tree
Apple Preparation	544	\$ 7.22
Apple Hand Thinner	272	\$ 7.25
Cherry Pruner	180	\$ 8.42
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	61	\$ 7.68
Apple Trainer	56	\$ 7.25
Nursery Worker	44	\$ 7.21
Pear Pruner	41	\$ 7.25
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	31	\$ 7.16
Apple Planter	21	\$ 7.25
Apple Worker	12	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	10	\$ 9.50
Cherry Weeder	10	\$ 7.16
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	9	\$ 7.21
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	9	\$ 9.38
Cherry Preparation	5	\$ 8.00
Cherry Worker	5	\$ 8.00
Cherry Manager	5	\$ 9.30
Apple Chemical Applicator	5	\$ 7.25
Apricot Pruner	5	Not Available
Misc Field Crops Worker	4	\$ 8.00
Beef Cattle Worker	4	\$ 9.00
Apple Forklift Driver	4	\$ 8.52
Misc Hay Worker	2	\$ 7.75
Wheat Mechanic	2	\$ 8.25
Nursery Grafter	2	\$ 7.16

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.46/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	2,421
a. Local	2,029
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	18
d. Unknown	141
e. Foreign	233
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 March 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,956.
 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, apple training, cherry training and nursery work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.48 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, apple weeder, apple planter, nursery sorter/grader/packer, grapes pruner, apple worker, nectarine pruner, nursery planter, cherry preparer, nursery pruner, peach weeder, nectarine weeder, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, pear worker, nursery trainer, potato loader and nursery tractor operator to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.10 to \$1.00 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 83.8% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.7% interstate 5.8% foreign and 9.6% 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: MARCH 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 2,421	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,311	\$ 7.34 or * \$ 0.10 - \$ 1.00 per tree
Apple Trainer	190	\$ 7.21
Cherry Pruner	185	\$ 7.36
Nursery Worker	72	\$ 7.23
Potato Preparation	69	\$ 7.92
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	63	\$ 7.16
Grass Seed Weeder	61	\$ 7.50
Apple Weeder	51	\$ 7.16
Apple Planter	46	\$ 7.16
Mint Planter	36	\$ 8.50
Apple Preparation	28	\$ 7.55
Potato Tractor Operator	28	\$ 9.50
Wheat Tractor Operator	27	\$ 8.52
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.16
Grapes Pruner	23	\$ 7.16
Potato Planter	20	\$ 9.47
Apple Worker	18	\$ 7.16
Nectarine Pruner	18	\$ 7.16
Potato Worker	13	\$ 8.12
Nursery Planter	13	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Planter	9	\$10.00
Cherry Preparation	9	\$ 7.16
Apple Tractor Operator	9	\$ 7.50
Cherry Trainer	9	\$ 7.25
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Potato Manager	7	\$13.75
General Farm Worker	7	\$ 7.27
Nursery Pruner	5	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Worker	5	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Preparation	5	\$10.00
Pear Worker	5	\$ 7.16
Peach Weeder	5	\$ 7.16
Nectarine Weeder	5	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	5	\$ 7.16
Nursery Trainer	4	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$ 9.00

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	* = piece rate
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	4	\$ 8.00
Potato Mechanic	4	\$10.00
Misc Onion Loader	4	\$ 7.58
Apple Chemical Applicator	2	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	2	\$ 8.00
Potato Loader	2	\$ 7.16
Potato Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 9.00
Misc Onion Worker	2	\$ 8.00
Nursery Tractor Operator	1	\$ 7.16

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.48/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	2,949
a. Local	2,230
b. Intrastate migratory	6
c. Interstate migratory	28
d. Unknown	419
e. Foreign	266
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Walla Walla	
b. Interstate: Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The March 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,321.
 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, miscellaneous onion warehouse work and hops work .
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.28 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for Walla Walla Sweets planter, cherry sorter/grader/planter, miscellaneous fruit trees pruner, hops planter, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, hops cultivator, pear pruner, miscellaneous vegetables worker, cherry planter, grapes planter, grapes worker, peach irrigator, potato forklift driver and apple grafter to \$12.00 for alfalfa worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.12 to \$0.27 per plant for grapes pruning, \$0.50 to \$1.50 per tree for apple pruning and \$0.80 to \$1.95 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 75.6% local, 0.2% intrastate, 1.0% interstate, 14.2% foreign and 9.0% 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: MARCH 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 2,949	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	813	\$ 7.22 or * \$ 0.50 - \$ 1.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	435	\$ 7.22 or * \$ 0.12 - \$ 0.27 per plant
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	295	\$ 7.24
Hops Worker	292	Not Available
Walla Walla Sweets Planter	272	\$ 7.16
Cherry Pruner	191	\$ 7.17 or * \$ 0.80 - \$ 1.95 per tree
Grapes Trainer	100	\$ 7.18
Grass Seed Weeder	84	\$ 7.33
Potato Preparation	77	\$ 7.34
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	37	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	36	\$ 7.16
Hops Planter	31	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	30	\$ 7.16
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	27	\$ 7.50
Cherry Worker	23	\$ 8.00
Walla Walla Sweets Irrigator	23	\$ 8.50
Hops Cultivator	20	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	14	\$ 7.50
Pear Pruner	11	\$ 7.16
Apple Trainer	10	\$ 7.30
Hops Twiner	10	Not Available
Misc Vegetables Worker	9	\$ 7.16
Walla Walla Sweets Manager	9	\$ 8.00
Potato Worker	8	\$ 7.45
Wheat Tractor Operator	7	\$ 8.83
Wheat Planter	6	\$ 8.47
Potato Planter	6	\$10.00
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.50
Alfalfa Worker	5	\$12.00
Potato Tractor Operator	5	\$ 9.25
Peach Pruner	5	\$ 7.25
Cherry Planter	5	\$ 7.16
Grapes Planter	5	\$ 7.16
Grapes Worker	4	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.00
Peas Vehicle Operator	3	\$10.00

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	* = piece rate
Apple Irrigator	3	\$ 7.50
Carrot Preparation	3	\$ 7.50
Walla Walla Sweets Worker	3	\$ 9.50
Cherry Weeder	3	\$ 7.25
Nursery Harvester	3	\$ 7.90
Nursery Planter	3	\$ 7.90
Peach Irrigator	3	\$ 7.16
Wheat Worker	2	\$ 8.00
Asparagus Manager	2	\$ 9.00
Misc Hay Planter	2	\$ 9.40
Field Corn Planter	2	\$10.00
Potato Forklift Driver	2	\$ 7.16
Field Corn Preparation	2	\$10.00
Apple Grafter	2	\$ 7.16

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 7.28/hr (weighted average)