



SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

MAY 2004



Prepared by

John Wines, Economic Analyst
Judy Anderson, Data Compiler

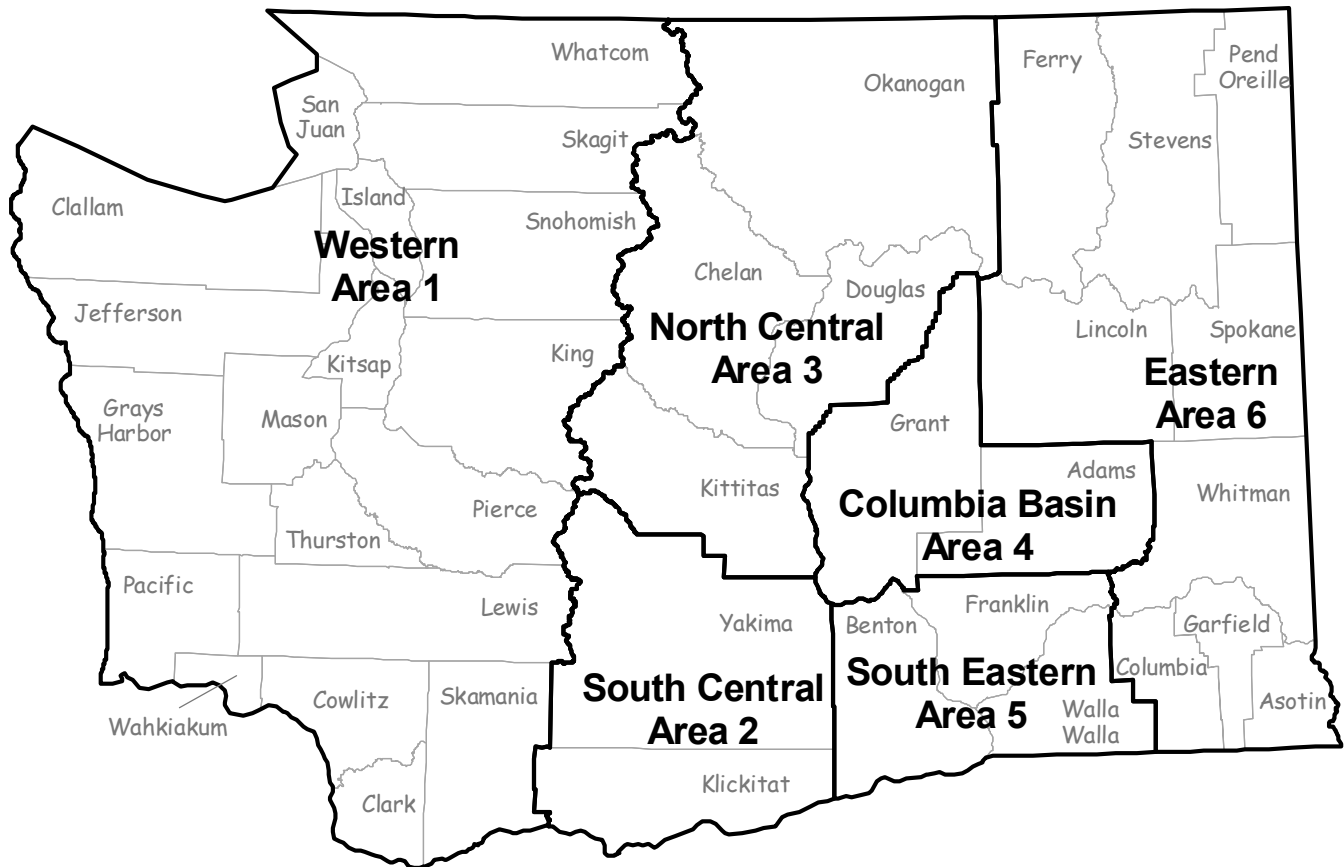
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch
Greg Weeks, Director
Washington State Employment Security Department

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>

MAY 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 propelled up by 10.4% from May 2003 to May 2004. This increase, as in the past two months, was led by apple work. Agricultural employment contributing to the over-the-year increase was apple work (2,244), cherry work (479), grape work (399), other tree fruit work (322), raspberry work (218), strawberry work (206) and onion work (87). Activities displaying declines were asparagus work (-688), potato work (-510), nursery work (-487), hop work (-201), other seasonal work (-170), miscellaneous vegetables work (-107), blueberry work (-94), bulb work (-42), pear work (-42), wheat/grain work (-9), and cucumber work (-7). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined by 17.7%, due to a decrease in nursery work (-664). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment increased by a small 3.5%, thanks to grape work (489). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment expanded by a large 31.0%, courtesy of a big bump in apple work (979). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment leapt ahead by an incredible 39.1%, helped by an increase in apple work (1,014). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment expanded by 6.1%, caused by a large advance in apple work (764). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment ramped up by a huge 47.3%, due to an expansion in nursery work (186).

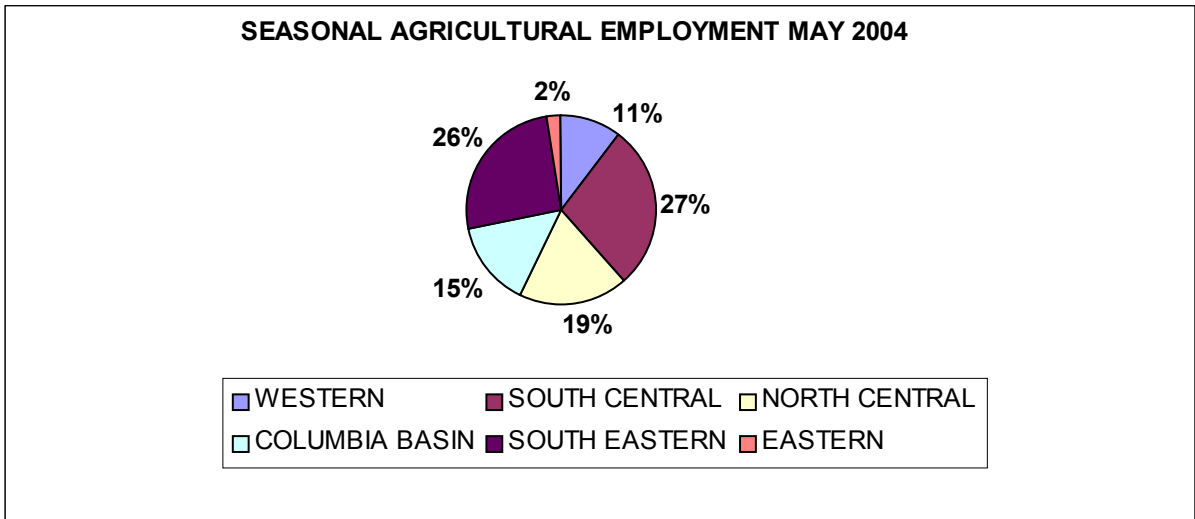
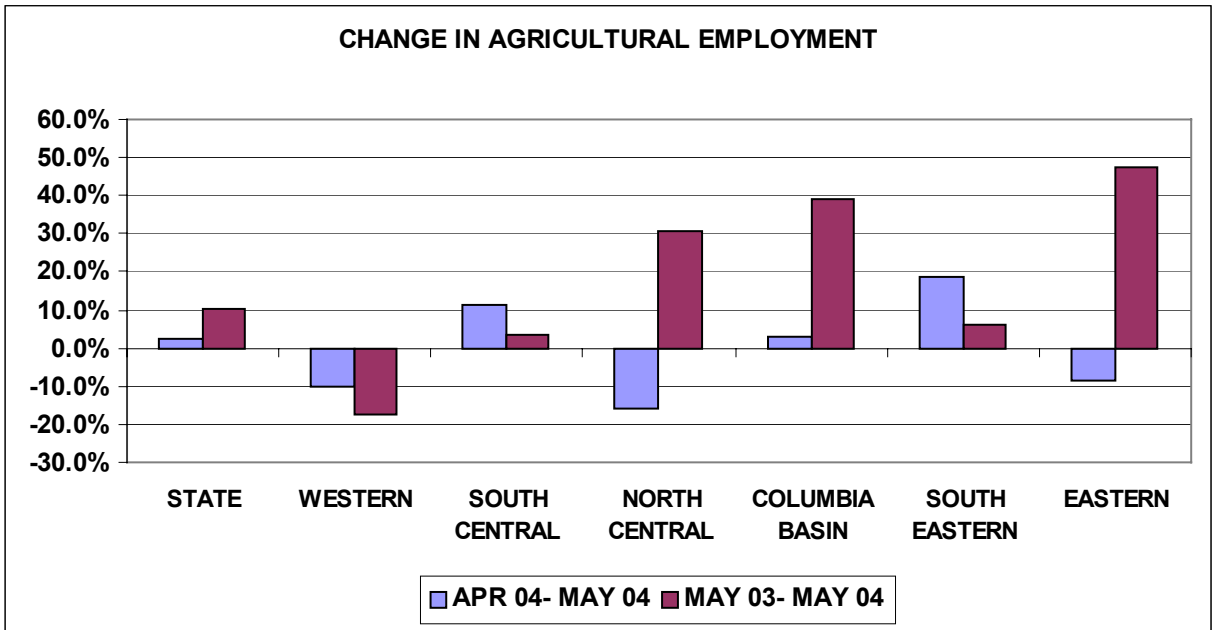
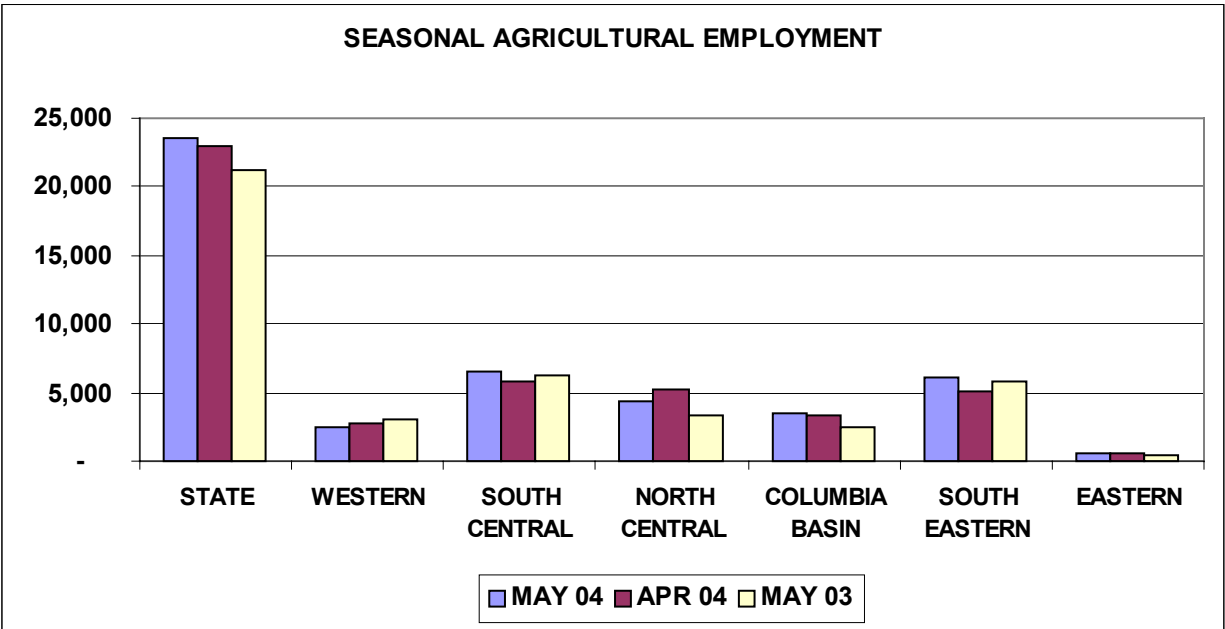
ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Washington State's strawberry harvest is running two to three weeks early due to a warmer and drier spring than usual. Farmers have stated that this is the earliest start to the season in 25 years. The previous record for an early start for the harvest was Memorial Day. Strawberry harvest generally does not start until mid-June. Washington is the country's fifth largest strawberry producer in volume behind California, Florida, Oregon and North Carolina with 1800 acres yielding a crop worth about \$8.3 million in 2002, according to statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Other crops in Washington also have been running early. Asparagus began hitting local markets last month. Cherries should begin appearing toward the start of June, about a week early, growers say.

The Bureau of Reclamation announced that farmers in the Yakima River Basin could expect only about 70 percent of their normal allocation of water. The estimate likely means reduced crop production and serious threats to juvenile fish trying to migrate to the ocean. Last month's 36 percent-of-normal rainfall made for the fifth-driest April in more than 90 years. The month continued a trend of warm and dry weather that began late last year. Rainfall is below normal, and the mountain snowpack is disappearing rapidly. Total precipitation for the water year is 89 percent of normal. However, the remaining snowpack is just 60 percent of average.

Cherry growers in four Western states predicted that the 2004 cherry crop would surpass the record crop of a year ago, despite a harsh winter or early blooms in some areas. In their first of three estimates of the 2004 growing season, growers predicted a harvest of nearly 118,000 tons, including cherries processed for brine, juice and frozen and canned products, according to B.J. Thurlby, president of Northwest Cherry Growers. Last year, growers harvested 113,000 tons of fresh cherries in the four states. The total crop was just over 146,000 tons.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	MAY 04	APR 04	MAY 03	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04
STATE	23,502	22,945	21,282	557	2,220	2.4%	10.4%
WESTERN	2,490	2,767	3,024	(277)	(534)	-10.0%	-17.7%
SOUTH CENTRAL	6,491	5,827	6,270	664	221	11.4%	3.5%
NORTH CENTRAL	4,425	5,260	3,379	(835)	1,046	-15.9%	31.0%
COLUMBIA BASIN	3,463	3,363	2,490	100	973	3.0%	39.1%
SOUTH EASTERN	6,101	5,134	5,751	967	350	18.8%	6.1%
EASTERN	542	594	368	(52)	174	-8.8%	47.3%



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment advanced a strong 10.4% from May 2003 to May 2004. Seasonal employment increased statewide by a respectable 2.4% from April 2004 to May 2004. The crop activity expanding by the largest employment from May 2003 to May 2004 was apple work (2,244). Asparagus work had the largest downturn in employment (-688) for that same time period. However, due to harvest, asparagus work displayed the greatest gain (1,530) in employment from April 2004 to May 2004. During that same time period, onion work displayed the largest downturn in employment (-789). The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2004 was \$7.35 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
CROP	<u>MAY 04</u>	<u>APR 04</u>	<u>MAY 03</u>	<u>APR 04- MAY 04</u>	<u>MAY 03- MAY 04</u>	<u>APR 04- MAY 04</u>	<u>MAY 03- MAY 04</u>
Apples	8,564	8,889	6,320	(325)	2,244	-3.7%	35.5%
Asparagus	6,056	4,526	6,744	1,530	(688)	33.8%	-10.2%
Blueberry	0	24	94	(24)	(94)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Bulb	174	793	216	(619)	(42)	-78.1%	-19.4%
Cherries	721	646	242	75	479	11.6%	197.9%
Cucumbers	8	7	15	1	(7)	14.3%	-46.7%
Grapes	1,611	1,176	1,212	435	399	37.0%	32.9%
Hop	623	225	824	398	(201)	176.9%	-24.4%
Misc Vegetables	516	805	623	(289)	(107)	-35.9%	-17.2%
Nursery	1,577	991	2,064	586	(487)	59.1%	-23.6%
Onion	181	970	94	(789)	87	-81.3%	92.6%
Other Seasonal	1,115	1,330	1,285	(215)	(170)	-16.2%	-13.2%
Other Tree Fruit	490	870	168	(380)	322	-43.7%	191.7%
Pears	165	259	207	(94)	(42)	-36.3%	-20.3%
Potato	615	787	1,125	(172)	(510)	-21.9%	-45.3%
Raspberry	523	498	305	25	218	5.0%	71.5%
Strawberry	246	22	40	224	206	1018.2%	515.0%
Wheat/Grain	145	129	154	16	(9)	12.4%	-5.8%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment contracted by 17.7% from May 2003 to May 2004. Seasonal employment also decreased by 10.0% from April 2004 to May 2004. Raspberry work expanded by the largest employment (218) from May 2003 to May 2004. Nursery work fell back the most (-664) in employment for that same time period. Nursery work posted the largest over-the-month gain in employment (564) from April 2004 to May 2004. Bulb work had the largest loss of jobs (-619) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2004 in Area 1 was \$7.41 per hour. (See pages 14 and 15 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	MAY 04	APR 04	MAY 03	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04
CROP							
Blueberry	0	24	94	(24)	(94)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Bulb	174	793	216	(619)	(42)	-78.1%	-19.4%
Cucumbers	8	7	15	1	(7)	14.3%	-46.7%
Misc Vegetables	96	399	268	(303)	(172)	-75.9%	-64.2%
Nursery	1,045	481	1,709	564	(664)	117.3%	-38.9%
Other Seasonal	66	83	84	(17)	(18)	-20.5%	-21.4%
Potato	98	119	149	(21)	(51)	-17.6%	-34.2%
Raspberry	523	498	305	25	218	5.0%	71.5%
Rhubarb	264	357	158	(93)	106	-26.1%	67.1%
Strawberry	217	7	26	210	191	3000.0%	734.6%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment grew by 3.5% from May 2003 to May 2004. This was multiplied by a larger increase of 11.4% from April 2004 to May 2004. Grape work was the crop activity having the largest gain in employment (489) from May 2003 to May 2004. Apple work slowed the most in employment (-513) for that same time period. Asparagus work expanded by the largest over-the-month seasonal employment (515) from April 2004 to May 2004. Apple work showed the largest decline in employment (-664) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2004 in Area 2 was \$7.41 per hour. (See pages 16 - 18 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	MAY 04	APR 04	MAY 03	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04
CROP							
Apples	1,431	2,095	1,944	(664)	(513)	-31.7%	-26.4%
Asparagus	2,298	1,783	2,640	515	(342)	28.9%	-13.0%
Cherries	487	367	170	120	317	32.7%	186.5%
Grapes	955	506	466	449	489	88.7%	104.9%
Hop	348	91	703	257	(355)	282.4%	-50.5%
Misc Vegetables	128	21	57	107	71	509.5%	124.6%
Onion	76	80	14	(4)	62	-5.0%	442.9%
Other Seasonal	350	352	511	(2)	(161)	-0.6%	-31.5%
Other Tree Fruit	336	322	32	14	304	4.3%	950.0%
Pears	80	203	183	(123)	(103)	-60.6%	-56.3%
Potato	0	7	0	(7)	0	-100.0%	0.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment ramped up by a huge 31.0% from May 2003 to May 2004. This was contrasted by a large dip of 15.9% in seasonal employment from April 2004 to May 2004. The crop activity expanding by the greatest employment from May 2003 to May 2004 was apple work (979). No crop activity experienced a decrease in employment, however pear work added the smallest number of jobs (10) for that same time period. Cherry work advanced by a meager amount of employment (14) from April 2004 to May 2004. Apple work eased back by the greatest amount of employment (-440) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2004 in Area 3 was \$7.29 per hour. (See pages 19 - 21 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	MAY 04	APR 04	MAY 03	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04
Apples	4,215	4,655	3,236	(440)	979	-9.5%	30.3%
Cherries	34	20	20	14	14	70.0%	70.0%
Other Seasonal	82	449	62	(367)	20	-81.7%	32.3%
Other Tree Fruit	56	84	37	(28)	19	-33.3%	51.4%
Pears	34	52	24	(18)	10	-34.6%	41.7%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment exploded by a whopping 39.1% from May 2003 to May 2004. This dwarfed the small gain of 3.0% in employment from April 2004 to May 2004. Apple work accelerated by the greatest employment (1,014) from May 2003 to May 2004. Potato work contacted by the largest employment (-163) during that same time period. Nursery work pulled ahead by the largest (300) employment from April 2004 to May 2004. Other tree fruit work netted the largest over-the-month decline (-276) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2004 in Area 4 was \$7.41 per hour. (See pages 22 - 24 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	MAY 04	APR 04	MAY 03	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04
Apples	1,747	1,632	733	115	1,014	7.0%	138.3%
Asparagus	492	436	459	56	33	12.8%	7.2%
Cherries	71	145	20	(74)	51	-51.0%	255.0%
Mint	76	11	172	65	(96)	590.9%	-55.8%
Misc Vegetables	12	19	23	(7)	(11)	-36.8%	-47.8%
Nursery	368	68	187	300	181	441.2%	96.8%
Onion	6	123	80	(117)	(74)	-95.1%	-92.5%
Other Seasonal	179	203	220	(24)	(41)	-11.8%	-18.6%
Other Tree Fruit	87	363	63	(276)	24	-76.0%	38.1%
Pears	51	4	0	47	51	1175.0%	0.0%
Potato	362	345	525	17	(163)	4.9%	-31.0%
Wheat/Grain	8	12	8	(4)	0	-33.3%	0.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment increased by 6.1% from May 2003 to May 2004. May 2004 employment more than tripled that amount by 18.8% over April 2004, due to asparagus harvest. Apple work employment expanded by the largest amount (764) from May 2003 to May 2004. Asparagus work lost the most seasonal jobs (-379) during that same time period. However, asparagus work bumped up by the largest amount (959) of employment from April 2004 to May 2004. Onion work showed the largest downturn (-668) in employment for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2004 in Area 5 was \$7.27 per hour. (See pages 25 - 27 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	MAY 04	APR 04	MAY 03	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04
Apples	1,171	507	407	664	764	131.0%	187.7%
Asparagus	3,266	2,307	3,645	959	(379)	41.6%	-10.4%
Cherries	129	114	32	15	97	13.2%	303.1%
Grapes	656	670	746	(14)	(90)	-2.1%	-12.1%
Hops	275	134	121	141	154	105.2%	127.3%
Misc Vegetables	16	9	117	7	(101)	77.8%	-86.3%
Nursery	4	6	8	0	(4)	0.0%	-50.0%
Onion	99	767	0	(668)	99	-87.1%	0.0%
Other Seasonal	275	166	149	109	126	65.7%	84.6%
Other Tree Fruit	11	101	36	(90)	(25)	-89.1%	-69.4%
Potatoes	155	316	451	(161)	(296)	-50.9%	-65.6%
Strawberry	29	15	14	14	15	0.0%	107.1%
Wheat/Grain	16	23	25	(7)	(9)	-30.4%	-36.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment expanded by 47.3% from May 2003 to May 2004. This was contrasted by a decline of 8.8% in seasonal employment from April 2004 to May 2004. Nursery work displayed the largest increase (186) in employment from May 2003 to May 2004. Wheat/grain work shed the most seasonal jobs (34) during that same time period. Other seasonal work displayed the largest over-the-month employment gain (45) from April 2004 to May 2004. Nursery work had the largest downturn (-90) in seasonal employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2004 in Area 6 was \$7.81 per hour. (See pages 28 and 29 for Area 6 detail)

AREA 6 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
EASTERN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	MAY 04	APR 04	MAY 03	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04	APR 04- MAY 04	MAY 03- MAY 04
Nursery	346	436	160	(90)	186	-20.6%	116.3%
Other Seasonal	111	66	87	45	24	68.2%	27.6%
Wheat/Grain	87	94	121	(7)	(34)	-7.4%	-28.1%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Methodology

The "Agricultural Workforce Report" uses data from the monthly Seasonal Farm Labor Survey. This is a survey of 600 agricultural growers in the state. They report monthly the number of total and seasonal workers by crop, activity, and wage. Both hourly and piece rates are used. "Seasonal" workers for the purpose of the survey are those working less than 150 days per year. The state is grouped into six areas based on agricultural economic similarity. The tables and charts presented compare the seasonal agricultural employment for the state and the six areas for the current month, previous month and year ago. Percentage increases as well as raw numbers are given. The weighted monthly wage for seasonal employment is given for the state and the six areas. Each crop activity having significant employment is noted as a percentage change for previous month and year ago. The crops having the highest gain and highest decline in employment are highlighted in the narrative. The Farm Labor Abstract is also included. This contains the top four crop activities by employment and wage for each of the six areas. Piece rates are given in addition to hourly wages when available and disclosable. Some variation in the reporting of the seasonal data can be attributed to the requirement that employment be reported in the pay period including the 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

MAY 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: 2,490 (2,100 local, 0 intrastate, 16 interstate, 147 foreign, 226 unknown origin)

Nursery Planter	543	\$ 7.37/hr
Raspberry Worker	211	\$ 7.16/hr
Nursery Weeder	196	\$ 7.29/hr
Strawberry Planter	189	\$ 7.16/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,491 (5,827 local, 144 intrastate, 124 interstate, 376 foreign, 21 unknown origin)

Asparagus Harvester	2,124	\$ 7.16/hr or \$ 0.17 - \$ 0.23 per pound
Apple Pruner	801	\$ 7.35/hr
Grapes Trainer	396	\$ 7.72/hr
Cherry Hand Thinner	328	\$ 7.16/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,425 (3,657 local, 25 intrastate, 0 interstate, 198 foreign, 545 unknown origin)

Apple Worker	3,164	\$ 7.20/hr
Apple Hand Thinner	410	\$ 7.22/hr
Apple Trainer	207	\$ 7.43/hr
Apple Pruner	102	\$ 7.25/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,453 (2,515 local, 68 intrastate, 15 interstate, 182 foreign, 674 unknown origin)

Apple Hand Thinner	743	\$ 7.31/hr
Asparagus Harvester	486	\$ 7.10/hr
Apple Trainer	243	\$ 7.23/hr
Nursery Worker	209	\$ 7.19/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,101 (3,013 local, 68 intrastate, 876 interstate, 1,187 foreign, 957 unknown origin)

Asparagus Harvester	3,007	\$ 7.16/hr or \$ 0.15 - \$ 0.27 per pound
Apple Hand Thinner	850	\$ 7.19/hr
Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Planter	246	\$ 7.26/hr
Grapes Trainer	239	\$ 7.20/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 542 (345 local, 0 intrastate, 18 interstate, 36 foreign, 143 unknown origin)

Nursery Worker	169	\$ 7.29/hr
Nursery Loader	63	\$ 7.41/hr
Nursery Planter	50	\$ 7.16/hr
Wheat Weeder	41	\$ 7.25/hr

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas Harvest Periods

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEASONAL FARM LABOR SURVEY
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DETAIL BY CROP ACTIVITY

MAY 2004

TABLE 1

MAY 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	2,100	0	16	147	226	2,490
2. South Central	5,827	144	124	376	21	6,491
3. North Central	3,657	25	0	198	545	4,425
4. Columbia Basin	2,515	68	15	182	674	3,453
5. South Eastern	3,013	68	876	1,187	957	6,101
6. Eastern	345	0	18	36	143	542
State Totals	17,458	306	1,048	2,126	2,565	23,502
% State Total	74.3%	1.3%	4.5%	9.0%	10.9%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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 2,490
 - a. Local 2,100
 - b. Intrastate migratory 0
 - c. Interstate migratory 16
 - d. Unknown 147
 - e. Foreign 226

 - 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
 - a. Intrastate: None
 - b. Interstate: California, Minnesota
 - c. Foreign: Mexico
-

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The May 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 8,454.

 - 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. However, heavy rainfall at the end of the month helped the dry conditions. Greenhouse tomato growers harvested their first ripe tomatoes of the season. Strawberry growers reported that the beginning of harvest was only a few days away. Vegetable production was still ahead of normal.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.41 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for raspberry worker, strawberry planter, rhubarb harvester, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, raspberry planter, rhubarb sorter/grader/packer, raspberry trainer, raspberry weeder, nursery irrigator, potato sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous vegetables weeder, raspberry pruner, bulbs harvester, strawberry weeder and miscellaneous vegetables harvester to \$10.60 for potato tractor operator. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited.

 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated at 84.4% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.6% interstate, foreign 5.9% and 9.1% 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: MAY 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 2,490	* = piece rate
Nursery Planter	543	\$ 7.37
Raspberry Worker	211	\$ 7.16
Nursery Weeder	196	\$ 7.29
Strawberry Planter	189	\$ 7.16
Rhubarb Harvester	186	\$ 7.16
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	173	\$ 7.65
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	139	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Planter	134	\$ 7.16
Rhubarb Sorter/Grader/Packer	75	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Trainer	65	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Weeder	65	\$ 7.16
Nursery Worker	64	\$ 7.68
Nursery Irrigator	52	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	51	\$ 7.18
Misc Vegetables Weeder	48	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Pruner	40	\$ 7.16
Bulbs Harvester	35	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Weeder	33	\$ 8.69
Strawberry Weeder	28	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Worker	24	\$ 8.33
Potato Planter	23	\$ 9.00
Nursery Tractor Operator	17	\$ 9.75
Potato Tractor Operator	17	\$10.60
Cauliflower Planter	16	\$ 8.00
Misc Field Crops Harvester	13	\$ 8.69
Raspberry Mechanic	8	\$ 9.00
Cucumber Planter	8	\$10.00
Misc Vegetables Harvester	8	\$ 7.16
Misc Under Cover Crop Worker	7	\$ 7.50
Potato Vehicle Operator	7	\$ 8.50
Misc Berries Worker	5	\$ 8.50
Chicken Eggs Worker	4	\$ 9.00
Rhubarb Weeder	3	\$ 8.00
General Farm Worker	3	\$ 8.00
Contract Misc Crop Worker	1	\$ 9.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.41/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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	6,491
a. Local	5,827
b. Intrastate migratory	144
c. Interstate migratory	124
d. Unknown	376
e. Foreign	21
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Quincy, Sunnyside, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, New Mexico, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The May 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 11,553.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Heavy rains and some hail storms at the end of the month however did some damage to cherry and apple crops. Primary agricultural activities were asparagus picking, apple pruning, grapes training and cherry hand thinning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$7.41 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for asparagus harvester, cherry hand thinner, hops trainer, peach hand thinner, miscellaneous field crops weeder, apple planter, cherry planter, pear pruner, cherry pruner, nectarine hand thinner, green onion harvester, mint weeder, miscellaneous squash planter, spinach sorter/grader/packer and grapes pruner to \$16.94 for grapes tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.17 to \$0.23 per pound for asparagus 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 89.8% local, 2.2% intrastate, 1.9% interstate, foreign 5.8% and unknown 0.3%.
 - 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: MAY 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 6,491	* = piece rate
Asparagus Harvester	2,124	\$ 7.16 or * \$ 0.17 - \$ 0.23 per lb
Apple Pruner	801	\$ 7.35
Grapes Trainer	693	\$ 7.72
Cherry Hand Thinner	328	\$ 7.16
Hops Trainer	302	\$ 7.16
Peach Hand Thinner	280	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Weeder	219	\$ 7.16
Apple Trainer	192	\$ 7.26
Grapes Planter	160	\$ 7.25
Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Packer	147	\$ 7.50
Apple Worker	132	\$ 7.45
Apple Planter	120	\$ 7.16
Misc Peppers Planter	97	\$ 7.25
Cherry Planter	96	\$ 7.16
Apple Chemical Applicator	93	\$ 8.05
Grapes Suckering Worker	92	\$ 7.85
Pear Pruner	80	\$ 7.16
Cherry Pruner	55	\$ 7.16
Apple Irrigator	53	\$ 7.28
Nursery Planter	49	\$ 9.57
Nectarine Hand Thinner	48	\$ 7.16
Green Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	40	Not Available
Hops Twiner	36	Not Available
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	32	\$ 8.44
Green Onion Harvester	32	\$ 7.16
Asparagus Worker	23	\$ 8.13
Mint Weeder	17	\$ 7.16
Misc Hay Vehicle Operator	15	\$ 7.50
Dairy Worker	14	\$ 7.94
Misc Squash Planter	11	\$ 7.16
Hops Irrigator	10	\$ 8.00
Spinach Harvester	8	Not Available
Apricot Hand Thinner	8	\$ 8.00
Apple Tractor Operator	8	\$ 8.04
Cherry Trainer	8	\$ 9.12
Nursery Worker	7	\$ 9.57

Area 2 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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	* = piece rate
Spinach Sorter/Grader/Packer	6	\$ 7.16
Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester	5	\$10.00
Grapes Tractor Operator	5	\$16.94
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	5	\$10.00
Grapes Pruner	5	\$ 7.16
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.50
Alfalfa Irrigator	5	\$ 8.00
Silage Irrigator	5	\$ 8.25
Asparagus Irrigator	4	\$ 9.25
Cucumber Irrigator	4	\$ 9.25
Misc Onion Irrigator	4	\$ 9.25
Wheat Irrigator	2	\$ 8.25
Silage Planter	2	\$ 8.50
Misc Vegetables Worker	2	\$ 8.00

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: MAY 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 4,425
 - a. Local 3,657
 - b. Intrastate migratory 25
 - c. Interstate migratory 0
 - d. Unknown 198
 - e. Foreign 545

 - 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
 - a. Intrastate: Mattawa, Wenatchee, Yakima
 - b. Interstate: None
 - c. Foreign: Mexico
-

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The May 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 7,614.

 - 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. However, heavy rain and hail storms late in the month did up to 80 percent damage to some apple, cherry and pear crops in Kittitas County. Many non-timothy hay fields were nearly ready for harvest. The Kittitas Reclamation District announced that it would cut back irrigation water supplies by 30 percent due to the dry weather conditions.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$7.29 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.00 for miscellaneous hay worker to \$22.00 for horse and equines worker. 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 82.6% local, 0.6% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 4.5% foreign and 12.3% 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: MAY 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 4,425	* = piece rate
Apple Worker	3,164	\$ 7.20
Apple Hand Thinner	410	\$ 7.22
Apple Trainer	207	\$ 7.43
Apple Pruner	102	\$ 7.25
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	73	\$ 7.32
Apple Grafter	53	\$ 7.25
Apple Preparation	49	\$ 7.50
Apple Planter	41	\$ 7.25
Nursery Worker	29	\$ 7.23
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	26	\$ 7.22
Apple Chemical Applicator	26	\$ 8.00
Apple Tractor Operator	23	\$ 8.50
Apple Weeder	19	\$ 7.23
Pear Preparation	19	\$ 7.25
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	17	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Irrigator	14	\$ 8.08
Misc Hay Irrigator	12	\$ 8.80
Apple Irrigator	11	\$ 7.75
Apricot Hand Thinner	11	Not Available
Pear Pruner	11	\$ 7.25
Cherry Worker	11	\$ 7.63
Apple Manager	11	\$13.00
Cherry Planter	11	\$ 7.44
Cherry Pruner	8	Not Available
Beef Cattle Worker	7	\$ 9.00
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	6	\$ 8.08
Misc Fruit Trees Planter	5	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Weeder	5	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Hand Thinner	5	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Worker	5	\$ 8.00
Pear Irrigator	4	\$ 8.25
Cherry Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.50
Pear Worker	4	\$ 7.16
Horse and Equines Trainer	2	\$22.00
Horse and Equines Worker	2	\$12.00
Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer	2	\$ 7.25

Area 3 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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	* = piece rate
Misc Fruit Trees Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 8.22
Potato Irrigator	2	\$ 7.16
Wheat Tractor Operator	2	\$ 9.00
Misc Hay Worker	2	\$ 7.00
Sweet Corn Irrigator	2	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Chemical Applicator	2	\$ 7.16

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.29/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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	3,453
a. Local	2,515
b. Intrastate migratory	68
c. Interstate migratory	15
d. Unknown	182
e. Foreign	674
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Sunnyside, Warden, Yakima	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The May 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,086.
 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. Late month storms resulted in hail damage to hay crops. Sweet corn planting continued. Most of the first cutting of hay suffered varying levels of quality loss due to the extended period of poor drying weather surrounding recent rains. Primary agricultural activities were apple thinning, asparagus picking and general nursery work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$7.41 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for nursery weeder, apple weeder, nursery suckering worker, mint weeder, cherry planter, nursery planter, miscellaneous fruit trees pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, cherry trainer, nursery trainer, nursery trainer, nectarine hand thinner, grapes suckering worker, cherry hand thinner, cherry worker, grapes hand thinner, nursery grafter, miscellaneous onion weeder, cherry harvester, asparagus weeder, mint chemical applicator, sweet corn fertilizer applicator and miscellaneous vegetables weeder to \$13.75 for potato manager. No piece rates were reported. 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 72.8% local, 2.0% intrastate, 0.4% interstate 5.3% foreign and 19.5% 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: MAY 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 3,453	* = piece rate
Apple Hand Thinner	743	\$ 7.31
Asparagus Harvester	486	\$ 7.10
Apple Trainer	243	\$ 7.23
Nursery Worker	209	\$ 7.19
Apple Pruner	199	\$ 7.43
Apple Worker	184	\$ 7.25
Apple Planter	151	\$ 7.18
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	136	\$ 7.37
Potato Preparation	83	\$ 8.00
Nursery Weeder	77	\$ 7.16
Apple Weeder	71	\$ 7.16
Apple Chemical Applicator	59	\$ 8.04
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	46	\$ 7.90
Apple Preparation	45	\$ 7.50
Potato Planter	40	\$ 8.13
Nursery Suckering Worker	39	\$ 7.16
Peach Hand Thinner	39	\$ 7.50
Misc Hay Worker	37	\$ 7.24
Mint Weeder	37	\$ 7.16
Apple Irrigator	34	\$ 7.62
Pear Hand Thinner	33	\$ 7.50
Mint Irrigator	33	\$ 8.50
Potato Vehicle Operator	31	\$ 8.88
Grass Seed Weeder	29	\$ 7.50
Cherry Planter	26	\$ 7.16
Potato Tractor Operator	23	\$ 9.70
Nursery Planter	23	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	18	\$ 7.16
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	18	\$ 7.25
Pear Chemical Applicator	18	\$ 8.25
Potato Loader	17	\$ 8.75
Cherry Trainer	15	\$ 7.16
Apple Tractor Operator	15	\$ 8.10
Nursery Trainer	13	\$ 7.16
Nectarine Hand Thinner	12	\$ 7.16
Potato Worker	12	\$ 8.83

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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
Grapes Suckering Worker	11	\$ 7.16
Potato Forklift Driver	10	\$ 7.25
Cherry Hand Thinner	9	\$ 7.16
Cherry Worker	9	\$ 7.16
General Farm Worker	9	\$ 8.67
Grapes Trainer	9	\$ 8.00
Grapes Hand Thinner	9	\$ 7.16
Wheat Irrigator	8	\$ 7.75
Nursery Grafter	7	\$ 7.16
Potato Mechanic	7	\$10.00
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	7	\$10.00
Field Corn Tractor Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Misc Onion Weeder	6	\$ 7.16
Cherry Harvester	6	\$ 7.16
Asparagus Weeder	6	\$ 7.16
Mint Chemical Applicator	6	\$ 7.16
Potato Manager	3	\$13.75
Contract Misc Crop Worker	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	3	\$10.75
Cherry Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.00
Cherry Chemical Applicator	3	\$ 8.00
Apple Mechanic	3	\$ 8.00
General Farm Irrigator	3	\$ 7.35
General Farm Tractor Operator	3	\$10.00
Sweet Corn Fertilizer Applicator	3	\$ 7.16
Field Corn Preparation	3	\$11.00
Sweet Corn Preparation	3	\$11.00
Sweet Corn Planter	2	\$13.00
Misc Vegetables Weeder	2	\$11.50
Misc Vegetables Worker	2	\$ 7.16

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.41/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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	6,101
a. Local	3,013
b. Intrastate migratory	68
c. Interstate migratory	876
d. Unknown	1,187
e. Foreign	957
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Othello, Seattle, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Guatemala, Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The May 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,641.
 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. Windy and rainy conditions late in the month did some damage to cherry crops. The first cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete. Asparagus harvest was also winding down. Sweet corn and bean planting continued. Green pea harvest was about to begin.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$7.27 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for asparagus harvester, hops trainer, miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, cherry sorter/grader/packer, strawberry weeder, cherry planter, grapes worker, apple planter, hops weeder, grapes irrigator, grapes mechanized harvester, cherry tractor operator, pear hand thinner, blueberry weeder, miscellaneous grain and seed crops irrigator, wheat irrigator, miscellaneous fruit trees tractor operator, alfalfa irrigator and miscellaneous onion weeder to \$12.00 for general farm worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.15 to \$0.27 per pound for asparagus 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 49.4% local, 1.1% intrastate, 14.3% interstate, 19.5% foreign and 15.7% 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: MAY 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 6,101	* = piece rate
Asparagus Harvester	3,007	\$ 7.16 or * \$ 0.15 - \$ 0.27 per lb
Apple Hand Thinner	850	\$ 7.19
Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Packer	246	\$ 7.26
Grapes Trainer	239	\$ 7.20
Grapes Hand Thinner	208	\$ 7.20
Hops Twiner	152	Not Available
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	143	\$ 7.36
Grapes Pruner	110	\$ 7.18
Hops Trainer	109	\$ 7.16
Grass Seed Weeder	84	\$ 7.40
Apple Trainer	79	\$ 7.22
Apple Tractor Operator	76	\$ 7.28
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	74	\$ 7.16
Apple Worker	67	\$ 7.17
Grapes Suckering Worker	62	\$ 7.28
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	52	\$ 7.16
Misc Hay Weeder	50	\$ 7.50
Cherry Hand Thinner	44	\$ 7.20
Apple Suckering Worker	40	\$ 7.71
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	31	\$ 7.50
Strawberry Weeder	29	\$ 7.16
Cherry Planter	28	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Trainer	27	Not Available
Apple Irrigator	24	\$ 7.18
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	21	\$ 9.31
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	21	\$ 7.31
Walla Walla Sweets Irrigator	20	\$ 8.00
Grapes Worker	19	\$ 7.16
Apple Pruner	15	\$ 7.59
Apple Planter	15	\$ 7.16
Hops Weeder	14	\$ 7.16
Alfalfa Weeder	13	\$ 7.75
Wheat Worker	10	\$ 9.42
Grapes Irrigator	9	\$ 7.16
Asparagus Worker	8	\$ 7.50
Potato Irrigator	6	\$10.00

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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
Grapes Mechanized Harvester	6	\$ 7.16
Cherry Tractor Operator	5	\$ 7.16
Pear Hand Thinner	5	\$ 7.16
Apple Chemical Applicator	5	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Cultivator	4	\$ 8.00
Sweet Corn Cultivator	4	\$ 8.50
Grass Seed Worker	4	\$ 7.30
Carrot Planter	4	\$ 7.50
Apricot Trainer	4	Not Available
Potato Worker	4	\$10.00
Blueberry Weeder	3	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.50
Wheat Tractor Operator	3	\$11.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator	3	\$ 7.16
Wheat Irrigator	3	\$ 7.16
Summer fallow Worker	3	\$ 9.75
Grapes Tractor Operator	3	\$ 9.00
Asparagus Forklift Driver	3	\$ 7.50
Misc Fruit Trees Tractor Operator	2	\$ 7.16
Nursery Planter	2	\$ 7.90
Nursery Pruner	2	\$ 7.90
General Farm Worker	2	\$12.00
General Farm Irrigator	2	\$ 7.50
Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester	2	\$12.00
Asparagus Manager	2	Not Available
Field Corn Cultivator	2	\$10.00
Asparagus Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 7.75
Potato Cultivator	2	\$10.00
Field Corn Worker	2	\$10.00
Alfalfa Irrigator	2	\$ 7.16
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	2	\$ 9.25
Misc Onion Weeder	2	\$ 7.16
Peas Tractor Operator	2	\$ 9.25

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 2004

State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	542
a. Local	345
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	18
d. Unknown	36
e. Foreign	143
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: Idaho, Wyoming	
c. Foreign: Mexico, Nicaragua	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The May 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 1,229.
 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. Rains later in the month were beneficial to both crops and pastures. However some growers reported hail on a few wheat fields and also onions. High winds were also detrimental to fruit trees. Most of the first cutting of hay suffered varying levels of quality loss due to the extended period of poor drying weather surrounding recent rains. Primary agricultural activities were general nursery work, nursery loading, nursery planting and wheat weeding.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$7.81 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for nursery planter, nursery irrigator and grass seed weeder to \$20.00 for beef cattle worker. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited. Workers provided their own transportation.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 63.7% local, 0.0% intrastate, 3.3% interstate, 6.6% foreign and 26.4% 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: MAY 2004
State: WASHINGTON

Area 6: EASTERN (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman 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 542	* = piece rate
Nursery Worker	169	\$ 7.29
Nursery Loader	63	\$ 7.41
Nursery Planter	50	\$ 7.16
Wheat Weeder	41	\$ 7.25
Nursery Irrigator	38	\$ 7.16
Grass Seed Weeder	31	\$ 7.16
Tomato Planter	25	\$ 8.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	21	\$ 9.00
Wheat Worker	16	\$10.33
Strawberry Weeder	13	\$ 7.30
Strawberry Cultivator	13	\$ 7.30
Strawberry Preparation	13	\$ 7.30
Nursery Weeder	13	\$ 8.00
Nursery Vehicle Operator	13	\$10.00
Contract Aerial Preparation	6	\$12.00
Wheat Chemical Applicator	5	\$10.00
Wheat Mechanic	5	\$10.00
Beef Cattle Worker	5	\$20.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Tractor Operator	5	Not Available

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN EASTERN AREA 6 \$ 7.81/hr (weighted average)