



SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

NOVEMBER 2004



Prepared by

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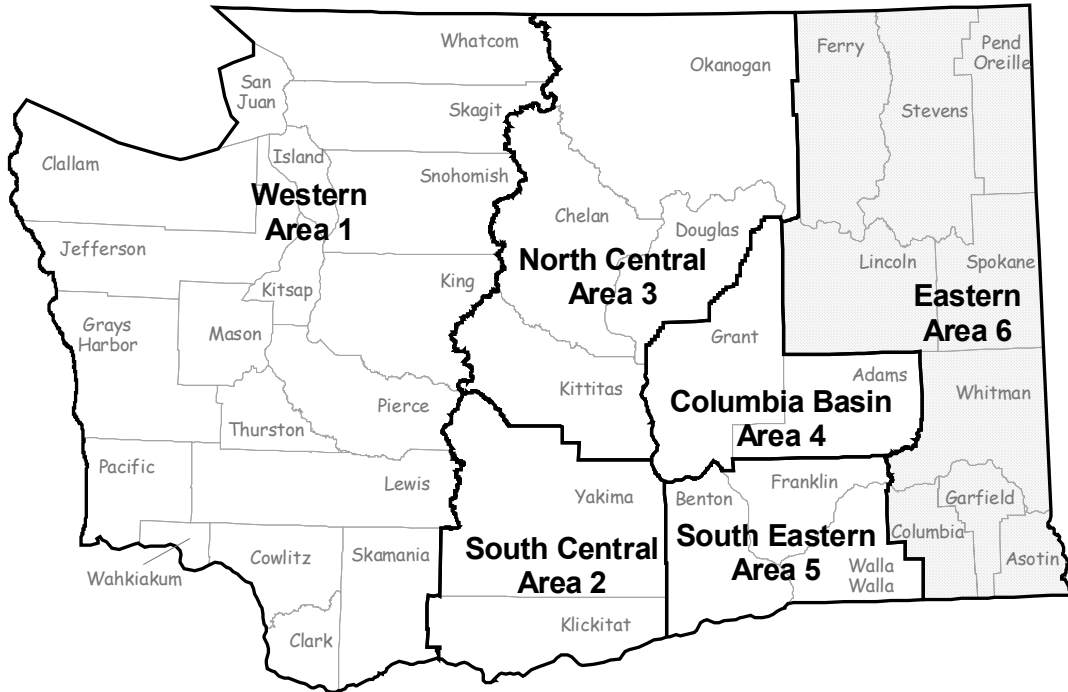
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

NOVEMBER 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 34.6% from November 2003 to November 2004. This increase was due to a near record apple harvest. Agricultural activities contributing to the over-the-year increases were apple work (4,145), miscellaneous vegetables (305), pear work (279), raspberry work (225), other seasonal work (153), grape work (91), nursery work (48), other tree fruit work (44) and wheat/grain work (27). Activities displaying declines were potato work (-549), cherry work (-44), bulb work (-38), hop work (-18) and onion work (-15). Asparagus, cucumber and strawberry workers all experienced a zero net gain in employment over the year. Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment advanced by 6.5%, led by an increase in raspberry work (225). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment grew by 101.7%, due to an increase in apple work (1,529). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment expanded by 24.4%, thanks to an increase in apple work (1,099). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment declined by 14.7%, courtesy of a decline in potato work (-288). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment leapt ahead by 158.0%, thanks to a large growth in apple work (1,699). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment forged ahead by 50.0%, caused by an increase in other seasonal work (48).

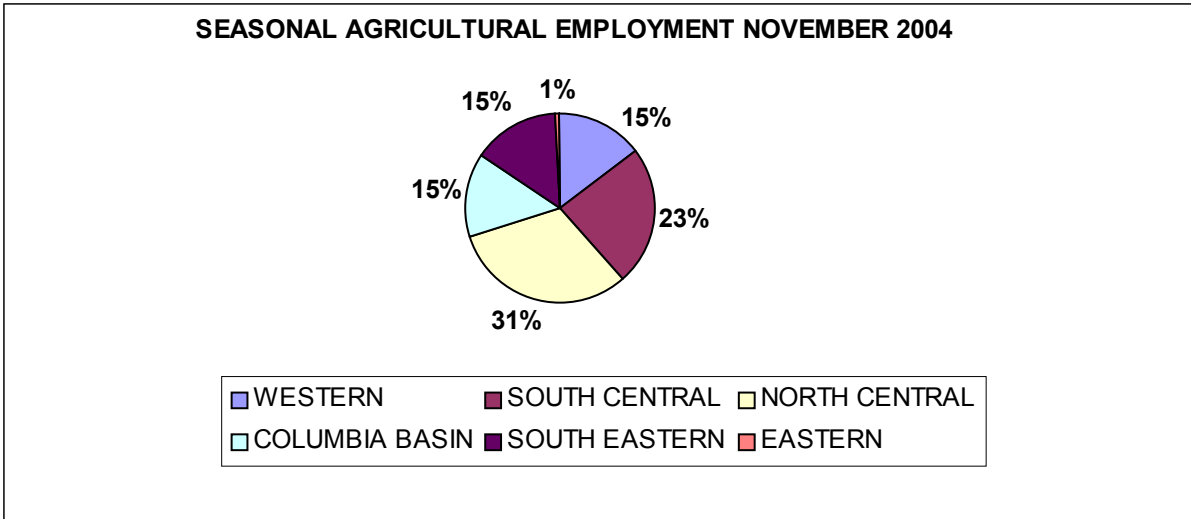
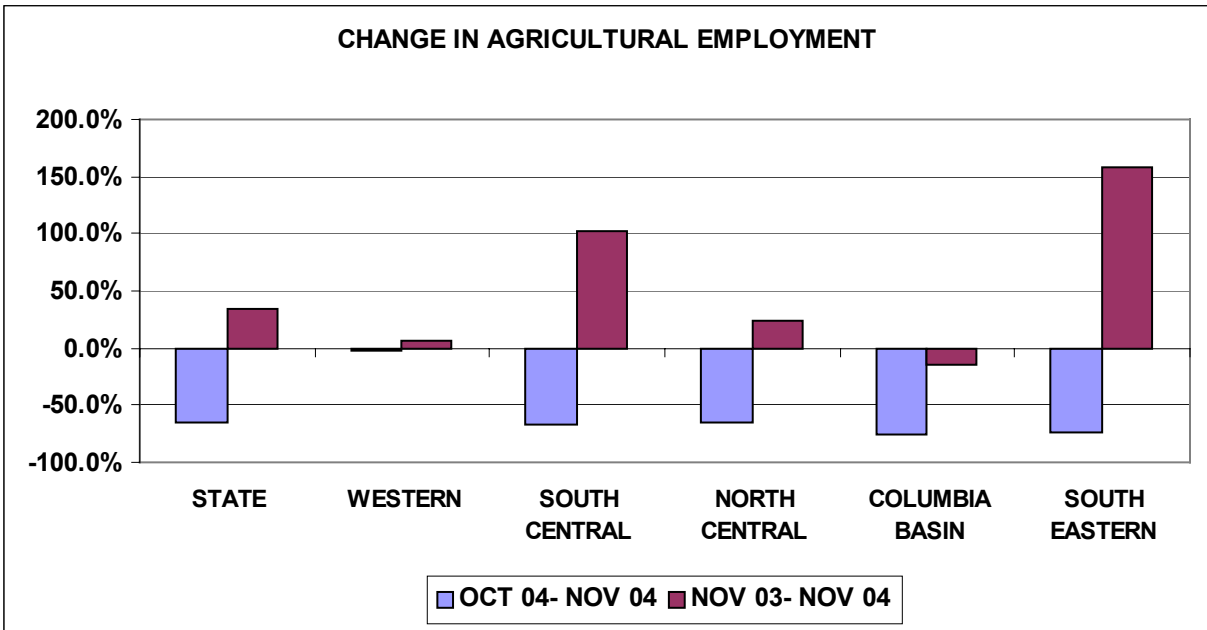
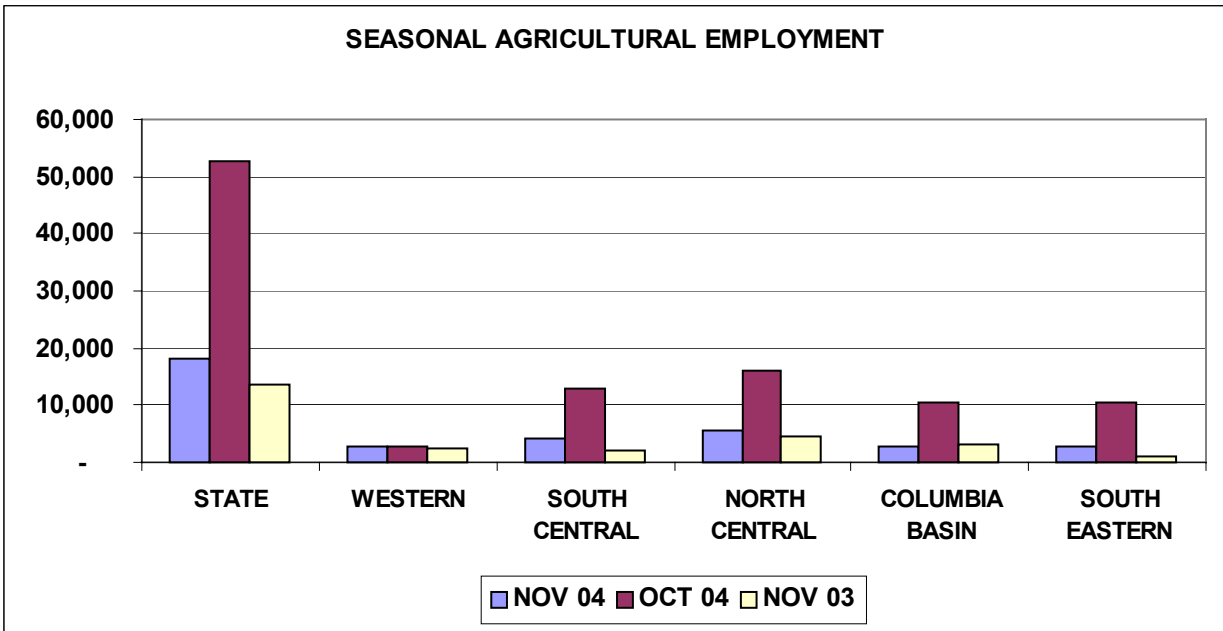
ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Apple growers may set a record crop this year. Growers in the state have estimated this year's harvest to be about 98.4 million boxes. That number would surpass the record crop of 2000, which was 98.34 million boxes. The harvest is about 25 percent larger than last year's crop and could depress prices. The 2003 harvest, smallest since 1992, produced some of the industry's best prices in recent years. Red Delicious, still the state's dominant variety, earned growers more than \$16 a box on average. For growers, the break even price for Reds is between \$13 and \$13.50, according to the Washington Growers Clearing House. The average price for all varieties as of Nov. 1, was \$16.37 per box, down from \$17.63 a year ago.

A smaller pear crop this year has led to better prices for growers, but industry officials say it's hard to say how much it will help. D'Anjou pear growers in the Wenatchee Valley struggled with low prices in 2002 and 2003, often below cost of production. So far this fall, prices are better. The average D'Anjou wholesale price was \$15.22 per 44-pound box, compared with \$14.08 for the same time last year. The price of Bartlett pears was \$16.37 per box compared to \$16.04 last year.

The nation's farmers are enjoying another record income year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest forecast for 2004 predicts farm income will reach \$73.7 billion nationwide, beating the record set in 2003 by nearly 25 percent. The driving force behind the record farm income in the past two years has been high prices for livestock and related products. The value of all livestock production is forecast at \$121.5 billion for 2004, the highest level ever recorded in the nation. The money is already starting to trickle down to business owners, especially farm implement sellers.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	NOV 04	OCT 04	NOV 03	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04
STATE	18,076	52,783	13,434	(34,707)	4,642	-65.8%	34.6%
WESTERN	2,719	2,775	2,552	(56)	167	-2.0%	6.5%
SOUTH CENTRAL	4,218	12,751	2,091	(8,533)	2,127	-66.9%	101.7%
NORTH CENTRAL	5,713	15,992	4,591	(10,279)	1,122	-64.3%	24.4%
COLUMBIA BASIN	2,633	10,539	3,088	(7,906)	(455)	-75.0%	-14.7%
SOUTH EASTERN	2,688	10,386	1,042	(7,698)	1,646	-74.1%	158.0%
EASTERN	105	340	70	(235)	35	-69.1%	50.0%



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment grew by 34.6% from November 2003 to November 2004. Seasonal employment contracted by 65.8% statewide from October 2004 to November 2004. The crop activity increasing the most in employment from November 2003 to November 2004 was apple work (4,145). Potato work lost the largest number of jobs (-549) for that same time period. Nursery work displayed the greatest over-the-month gain (939) from October 2004 to November 2004. Apple work displayed the largest drop in employment (-30,599), due to the winding down of harvest, during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2004 was \$7.58 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	NOV 04	OCT 04	NOV 03	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04
Apples	11,747	42,346	7,602	(30,599)	4,145	-72.3%	54.5%
Asparagus	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Blueberry	0	518	4	(518)	(4)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Bulb	87	118	125	(31)	(38)	-26.3%	-30.4%
Cherries	54	27	98	27	(44)	100.0%	-44.9%
Cucumbers	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Grapes	674	1,781	583	(1,107)	91	-62.2%	15.6%
Hop	15	11	33	4	(18)	36.4%	-54.5%
Misc Vegetables	647	1,471	342	(824)	305	-56.0%	89.2%
Nursery	1,407	468	1,359	939	48	200.6%	3.5%
Onion	261	523	276	(262)	(15)	-50.1%	-5.4%
Other Seasonal	585	1,030	432	(445)	153	-43.2%	35.4%
Other Tree Fruit	94	143	50	(49)	44	-34.3%	88.0%
Pears	850	1,370	571	(520)	279	-38.0%	48.9%
Potato	604	2,449	1,153	(1,845)	(549)	-75.3%	-47.6%
Raspberry	977	324	752	653	225	201.5%	29.9%
Strawberry	0	43	0	(43)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Wheat/Grain	81	161	54	(80)	27	-49.7%	50.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment expanded by 6.5% from November 2003 to November 2004. Seasonal employment experienced a downturn of 2.0% from October 2004 to November 2004. Raspberry work posted the largest over-the-year bump in employment (225) from November 2003 to November 2004. Potato work lost the largest number of jobs (-351) for that same time period. Nursery work expanded by the greatest amount of employment (689) from October 2004 to November 2004. Blueberry work declined by the largest amount (-518) of employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2004 in Area 1 was \$7.43 per hour. (See pages 14 -15 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	NOV 04	OCT 04	NOV 03	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04
CROP							
Blueberry	0	518	4	(518)	(4)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Bulb	87	118	125	(31)	(38)	-26.3%	-30.4%
Misc Vegetables	263	639	75	(376)	188	-58.8%	250.7%
Nursery	1,001	312	888	689	113	220.8%	12.7%
Other Seasonal	95	70	61	25	34	35.7%	55.7%
Potato	296	748	647	(452)	(351)	-60.4%	-54.3%
Raspberry	977	324	752	653	225	201.5%	29.9%
Rhubarb	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Strawberry	0	43	0	(43)	0	0.0%	0.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment advanced by 101.7% from November 2003 to November 2004. This leap was reversed by a decline of 66.9% in employment from October 2004 to November 2004 due to apple harvest ending. Apple work was the crop activity gaining the largest seasonal employment (1,529) from November 2003 to November 2004. Miscellaneous vegetables work displayed the softest employment demand (-77) for that same time period. Cherry work gained the greatest amount of employment (20) from October 2004 to November 2004. Apple work decreased by the largest number of jobs (-7,797) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2004 in Area 2 was \$8.03 per hour. (See pages 16 and 17 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	NOV 04	OCT 04	NOV 03	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04
CROP							
Apples	2,607	10,404	1,078	(7,797)	1,529	-74.9%	141.8%
Cherries	41	21	18	20	23	95.2%	127.8%
Grapes	476	696	211	(220)	265	-31.6%	125.6%
Hop	0	11	33	(11)	(33)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	68	238	145	(170)	(77)	-71.4%	-53.1%
Onion	78	125	0	(47)	78	-37.6%	0.0%
Other Seasonal	130	344	54	(214)	76	-62.2%	140.7%
Other Tree Fruit	17	0	18	17	(1)	0.0%	-5.6%
Pears	803	885	534	(82)	269	-9.3%	50.4%
Potato	0	28	0	(28)	0	-100.0%	0.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment posted a gain of 24.4% from November 2003 to November 2004. However seasonal employment dived by 64.3% from October 2004 to November 2004 due to the winding down of apple harvest. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from November 2003 to November 2004 was apple work (1,099). Cherry work had the largest decline in employment (-41) for that same time period. Cherry work crept up by a miniscule number of jobs (6) from October 2004 to November 2004. Apple work displayed the largest downturn in employment (-9,777) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2004 in Area 3 was \$7.34 per hour. (See pages 18 and 19 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	NOV 04	OCT 04	NOV 03	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04
CROP							
Apples	5,539	15,316	4,440	(9,777)	1,099	-63.8%	24.8%
Cherries	0	6	41	(6)	(41)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Other Seasonal	115	458	41	(343)	74	-74.9%	180.5%
Other Tree Fruit	14	131	32	(117)	(18)	-89.3%	-56.3%
Pears	47	78	37	(31)	10	-39.7%	27.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment lagged by 14.7% from November 2003 to November 2004. This decrease was dwarfed by a decline of 75.0% in employment from October 2004 to November 2004, caused by the end of apple harvest. Apple work boomed ahead of all other seasonal activities (1,787) in employment from November 2003 to November 2004. Potato work lost the largest number of jobs (-288) during that same time period. Nursery work (381) pulled ahead by the most jobs from October 2004 to November 2004. Apple work experienced the greatest loss in employment (-6,962) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2004 in Area 4 was \$7.53 per hour. (See pages 20 - 22 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	NOV 04	OCT 04	NOV 03	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04
CROP							
Apples	1,787	8,749	0	(6,962)	1,787	-79.6%	0.0%
Cherries	3	0	0	3	3	0.0%	0.0%
Mint	23	15	0	8	23	53.3%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	3	12	4	(9)	(1)	-75.0%	-25.0%
Nursery	397	16	428	381	(31)	2381.3%	-7.2%
Onion	105	173	73	(68)	32	-39.3%	43.8%
Other Seasonal	93	159	177	(66)	(84)	-41.5%	-47.5%
Other Tree Fruit	54	12	0	42	54	350.0%	0.0%
Pears	0	27	0	(27)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Potato	146	1,341	434	(1,195)	(288)	-89.1%	-66.4%
Wheat/Grain	19	37	3	(18)	16	-48.6%	533.3%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment boomed ahead by 158.0% from November 2003 to November 2004. However November 2004 employment shot downward by 74.1% from October 2004, as is typical at the end of apple harvest. Apple work employment expanded by the largest amount (1,699) from November 2003 to November 2004. Grape work shed the largest number of jobs (-174) during that same time period. Cherry work climbed by a small amount of employment (10) from October 2004 to November 2004. Apple work lost the largest amount of employment (-6,063) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for November 2004 in Area 5 was \$7.82 per hour. (See pages 23 - 25 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	NOV 04	OCT 04	NOV 03	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04	OCT 04- NOV 04	NOV 03- NOV 04
CROP							
Apples	1,814	7,877	115	(6,063)	1,699	-77.0%	1477.4%
Cherries	10	0	39	10	(29)	0.0%	-74.4%
Grapes	198	1,085	372	(887)	(174)	-81.8%	-46.8%
Hops	15	0	0	15	15	0.0%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	313	582	118	(269)	195	-46.2%	165.3%
Nursery	1	10	8	(9)	(7)	-90.0%	-87.5%
Onion	78	225	203	(147)	(125)	-65.3%	-61.6%
Other Seasonal	81	248	99	(167)	(18)	-67.3%	-18.2%
Other Tree Fruit	9	0	0	9	9	0.0%	0.0%
Potatoes	162	332	72	(170)	90	-51.2%	125.0%
Wheat/Grain	10	28	16	(18)	(6)	-64.3%	-37.5%

**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 November.

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 NOVEMBER 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: 2,719 (2,233 local, 78 intrastate, 178 interstate, 26 foreign, 204 unknown origin)

Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	793	\$ 7.17/hr
Raspberry Pruner	472	\$ 7.17/hr
Raspberry Trainer	372	\$ 7.16/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	296	\$ 7.16/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,218 (3,177 local, 249 intrastate, 196 interstate, 525 foreign, 71 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	1,188	\$ 7.66/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	674	\$ 8.01/hr
Pear Pruner	509	Not Available
Apple Worker	388	\$ 7.76/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,713 (5,708 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 5 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	3,227	\$ 7.20/hr
Apple Worker	1,483	\$ 7.23/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	494	\$ 7.48/hr
Apple Weeder	187	\$ 7.25/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,633 (2,004 local, 0 intrastate, 116 interstate, 290 foreign, 223 unknown origin)

Apple Worker	721	\$ 7.83/hr
Apple Pruner	502	\$ 7.43/hr
Nursery Harvester	288	\$ 7.16/hr
Apple Harvester	212	\$ 8.00/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,688 (2,223 local, 2 intrastate, 32 interstate, 334 foreign, 97 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	1,565	\$ 8.03/hr or \$10.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	283	\$ 7.16/hr
Apple Pruner	132	\$ 7.37/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	132	\$ 7.63/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 105 (105 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Wheat Worker	26	\$ 7.50/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	26	\$ 9.00/hr
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Tractor Operator	13	\$10.00/hr
Grass Seed Mechanized Harvester	13	\$12.00/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
NOVEMBER 2004

TABLE 1

NOVEMBER 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	2,233	78	178	26	204	2,719
2. South Central	3,177	249	196	525	71	4,218
3. North Central	5,708	0	0	5	0	5,713
4. Columbia Basin	2,004	0	116	290	223	2,633
5. South Eastern	2,223	2	32	334	97	2,688
6. Eastern	105	0	0	0	0	105
State Totals	15,450	329	521	1,181	595	18,076
% State Total	85.5%	1.8%	2.9%	6.5%	3.3%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: NOVEMBER 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	2,719
a. Local	2,233
b. Intrastate migratory	78
c. Interstate migratory	178
d. Foreign	26
e. Unknown	204
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Mount Vernon	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The November 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,489.
 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. Thousands of Christmas trees were being harvested and shipped to California and other Southern states. Brisk sales of Yellow Finn variety potatoes were reported in Grays Harbor County. Raspberries were still being pruned and tied in Whatcom County.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in November averaged \$7.59 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for raspberry trainer, potato sorter/grader/packer, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous squash harvester, beets harvester and general farm worker to \$14.00 for wheat worker. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated at 82.1% local, 2.9% intrastate, 6.5% interstate, foreign 1.0% and 7.5% 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: NOVEMBER 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 2,719	* = piece rate
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	793	\$ 7.17
Raspberry Pruner	472	\$ 7.17
Raspberry Trainer	372	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	296	\$ 7.16
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	87	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Worker	78	\$ 7.38
Cranberry Worker	78	\$ 7.38
Nursery Preparation	62	\$ 7.92
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	55	\$ 7.25
Nursery Worker	53	\$ 7.70
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	48	\$ 8.54
Nursery Pruner	48	\$ 7.92
Nursery Planter	45	\$ 7.24
Misc Squash Harvester	37	\$ 7.16
Beets Harvester	37	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Harvester	30	\$ 7.40
Misc Field Crops Harvester	27	\$ 8.43
Misc Vegetables Worker	23	\$12.51
Pumpkin Worker	22	\$ 7.25
Pumpkin Harvester	17	\$ 7.25
Misc Vegetables Planter	14	\$ 8.47
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	8	\$ 9.93
General Farm Worker	7	\$ 7.16
Chicken Eggs Worker	7	\$ 8.60
Wheat Worker	3	\$14.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.43/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: NOVEMBER 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	4,218
a. Local	3,177
b. Intrastate migratory	249
c. Interstate migratory	196
d. Foreign	525
e. Unknown	71
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Mesa, Sunnyside, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The November 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 14,807.
 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 varied from four degrees below normal to five degrees above normal. No new crop damage due to weather conditions was reported. Primary agricultural activities were apple harvesting, apple warehouse work and pear pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in November averaged \$7.68 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for apple trainer, miscellaneous onion weeder, peach worker and general farm worker to \$11.50 for grapes irrigator. 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 75.3% local, 5.9% intrastate, 4.6% interstate, foreign 12.5% and unknown 1.7%.
 - 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: NOVEMBER 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	4,218
		* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	1,188	\$ 7.66
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	674	\$ 8.01
Pear Pruner	509	Not Available
Apple Worker	388	\$ 7.76
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	285	\$ 8.25
Apple Trainer	228	\$ 7.16
Grapes Trainer	151	\$ 8.77
Apple Pruner	111	\$ 7.17
Grapes Tractor Operator	96	\$ 9.90
Grapes Irrigator	96	\$11.50
Misc Onion Weeder	78	\$ 7.16
Misc Squash Sorter/Grader/Packer	68	\$ 7.50
Nursery Worker	54	\$10.14
Silage Vehicle Operator	43	\$ 7.50
Grapes Worker	43	\$ 9.83
Cherry Pruner	41	\$ 8.50
Grapes Mechanic	38	\$ 9.00
Grapes Pruner	33	\$ 7.25
Grapes Planter	19	\$ 9.00
Peach Worker	17	\$ 7.16
Silage Worker	11	\$ 9.00
Silage Tractor Operator	11	\$ 8.00
General Farm Worker	11	\$ 7.16
Apple Irrigator	9	\$ 7.62
Apple Forklift Driver	9	\$ 8.72
Pear Worker	9	\$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 8.03/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: NOVEMBER 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	5,713
	a. Local	5,708
	b. Intrastate migratory	0
	c. Interstate migratory	0
	d. Foreign	5
	e. Unknown	0
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: None	
	b. Interstate: None	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The November 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 9,398.
 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. Winter wheat was below average in some areas and good in others. No snow cover was present. Primary agricultural activities were apple harvesting, apple warehouse work and miscellaneous apple work. All crops were harvested except some corn for grain. Most cattle were still on fall pastures while some cattle were on winter feeding grounds.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in November averaged \$7.35 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for miscellaneous hay irrigator, nursery mechanized harvester and nursery vehicle operator to \$24.00 for miscellaneous field crops manager. No piece rates were reported. Housing was very limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 99.9% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 0.1% foreign and 0.0% unknown.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: NOVEMBER 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 5,713	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	3,227	\$ 7.20
Apple Worker	1,483	\$ 7.23
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	494	\$ 7.48
Apple Weeder	187	\$ 7.25
Nursery Worker	44	\$ 7.18
Apple Trainer	31	\$ 7.50
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	31	\$ 7.67
Apple Forklift Driver	25	\$ 9.00
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	22	\$ 7.38
Apple Pruner	21	\$ 8.00
Apple Propper	16	\$ 7.75
Apple Preparation	16	\$ 7.75
Pear Weeder	16	\$ 7.50
Pear Trainer	16	\$ 7.50
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	14	\$ 8.55
Pear Pruner	10	\$ 8.00
Misc Hay Irrigator	7	\$ 7.16
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	7	\$ 9.60
Beef Cattle Worker	7	\$ 9.00
Apple Tractor Operator	5	\$ 9.50
Pear Worker	5	\$ 8.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	4	\$ 9.00
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	4	\$ 7.16
Nursery Vehicle Operator	4	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Worker	4	\$20.00
Horse and Equines Worker	4	\$12.00
Misc Field Crops Manager	4	\$24.00
Horse and Equines Trainer	4	\$22.00
Apple Loader	3	\$ 9.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.34/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: NOVEMBER 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	2,633
a. Local	2,004
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	116
d. Foreign	290
e. Unknown	223
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The November 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,369.
 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. Winter wheat was in good shape overall. Apple harvest was completed and pruning was underway. Processing carrot harvest continued.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in November averaged \$7.83 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for nursery harvester, nursery worker, apple sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, peach weeder, peach worker, field corn worker, mint loader, nursery preparer, general farm weeder, potato weeder, nursery tractor operator, miscellaneous vegetables worker and nursery mechanized harvester 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 76.1% local, 0.0% intrastate, 4.4% interstate 11.0% foreign and 8.5% 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: NOVEMBER 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 2,633	* = piece rate
Apple Worker	721	\$ 7.83
Apple Pruner	502	\$ 7.43
Nursery Harvester	288	\$ 7.16
Apple Harvester	212	\$ 8.00
Apple Trainer	137	\$ 7.46
Apple Preparation	109	\$ 7.96
Nursery Worker	96	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	82	\$ 7.23
Apple Weeder	64	\$ 7.57
Potato Worker	62	\$ 8.99
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	60	\$ 7.19
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	24	\$ 7.16
General Farm Preparation	19	\$10.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	19	\$10.00
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	18	\$ 7.75
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	18	\$ 7.16
Peach Weeder	18	\$ 7.16
Peach Worker	18	\$ 7.16
General Farm Worker	17	\$ 8.86
Field Corn Worker	16	\$ 7.16
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	13	\$10.00
Mint Loader	12	\$ 7.16
Mint Vehicle Operator	11	\$ 9.00
Potato Manager	9	\$13.75
Misc Onion Worker	8	\$ 9.80
Nursery Preparation	7	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Vehicle Operator	6	\$ 9.00
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	6	\$ 8.50
Field Corn Irrigator	5	\$ 8.50
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	5	\$ 9.50
General Farm Weeder	5	\$ 7.16
Potato Forklift Driver	5	\$ 7.83
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	5	\$11.50
Potato Weeder	5	\$ 7.16
Nursery Tractor Operator	4	\$ 7.16
Cherry Pruner	3	\$ 7.21

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: NOVEMBER 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 Vegetables Worker	3	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Mechanic	3	\$ 9.00
Potato Mechanic	3	\$10.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Harvester	3	\$ 7.50
Field Corn Combine Driver	3	\$ 8.50
Field Corn Tractor Operator	2	\$10.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	2	\$11.00
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	2	\$ 7.16

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.53/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: NOVEMBER 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	2,688
a. Local	2,223
b. Intrastate migratory	2
c. Interstate migratory	32
d. Foreign	334
e. Unknown	97
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Yakima	
b. Interstate: Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The November 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,650.
 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. Most crop harvests neared completion. There was some field corn left to harvest that was slow to dry. Winter wheat continued to look good. Numerous cattle producers were feeding hay. Primary agricultural activities were apple harvesting and pruning, carrot warehouse work and potato warehouse work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in November averaged \$7.84 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for carrot sorter/grader/packer, grapes pruner, hops trainer, miscellaneous onion weeder, field corn worker, pumpkin worker and peach trainer to \$13.75 for potato tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$10.00 to \$25.00 per bin for apple 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 82.7% local, 0.1% intrastate, 1.2% interstate, 12.4% foreign and 3.6% 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: NOVEMBER 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 2,688	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	1,565	\$ 8.03 or * \$10.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	283	\$ 7.16
Apple Pruner	132	\$ 7.37
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	132	\$ 7.63
Grapes Harvester	69	\$ 7.80
Grapes Pruner	50	\$ 7.16
Apple Worker	43	\$ 7.29
Walla Walla Sweets Worker	42	\$ 9.00
Grapes Worker	36	\$ 7.25
Grapes Trainer	33	\$ 7.29
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.16
Apple Tractor Operator	24	\$ 7.40
Hops Trainer	15	\$ 7.16
Potato Vehicle Operator	14	\$11.33
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	14	\$ 7.22
Misc Onion Weeder	13	\$ 7.16
Field Corn Worker	13	\$ 7.16
Apple Trainer	12	\$ 7.50
Potato Mechanized Harvester	11	\$10.00
Misc Field Crops Worker	11	\$ 7.33
Cherry Pruner	10	\$ 7.23
Apple Forklift Driver	10	\$ 8.00
Pumpkin Harvester	10	\$ 8.00
Field Corn Vehicle Operator	9	\$ 9.20
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	9	\$ 9.50
Pumpkin Worker	9	\$ 7.16
Carrot Harvester	8	\$ 7.25
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	8	\$ 7.88
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	7	\$ 9.50
Silage Vehicle Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Grass Seed Tractor Operator	6	\$ 8.00
General Farm Mechanic	6	\$ 8.35
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	6	\$ 9.83
Wheat Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.00
Wheat Mechanic	5	\$ 8.00
Grapes Irrigator	5	\$ 7.50

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: NOVEMBER 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 Fertilizer Applicator	5	\$ 8.00
Peach Trainer	5	\$ 7.16
Misc Berries Worker	4	\$ 8.03
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	4	\$ 8.63
Carrot Vehicle Operator	3	Not Available
Potato Loader	3	\$12.50
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	2	\$ 9.00
Apple Manager	2	\$10.10
Potato Tractor Operator	2	\$13.75
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	1	\$12.00
Nursery Planter	1	\$ 8.00
General Farm Worker	1	\$12.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 7.82/hr (weighted average)