



SEASONAL FARM LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

SEPTEMBER 2004



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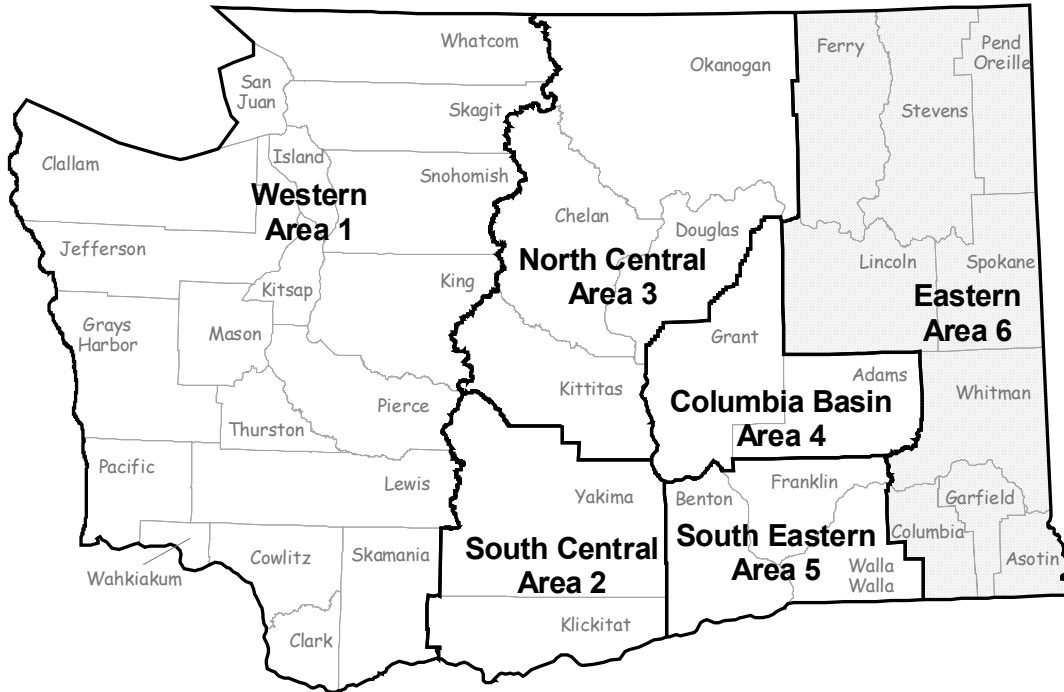
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

SEPTEMBER 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

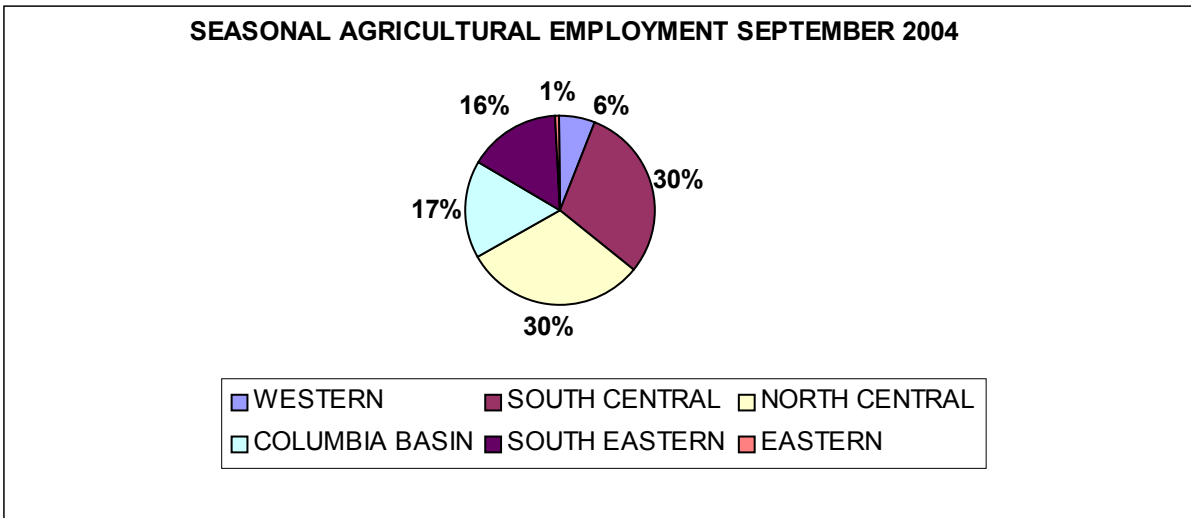
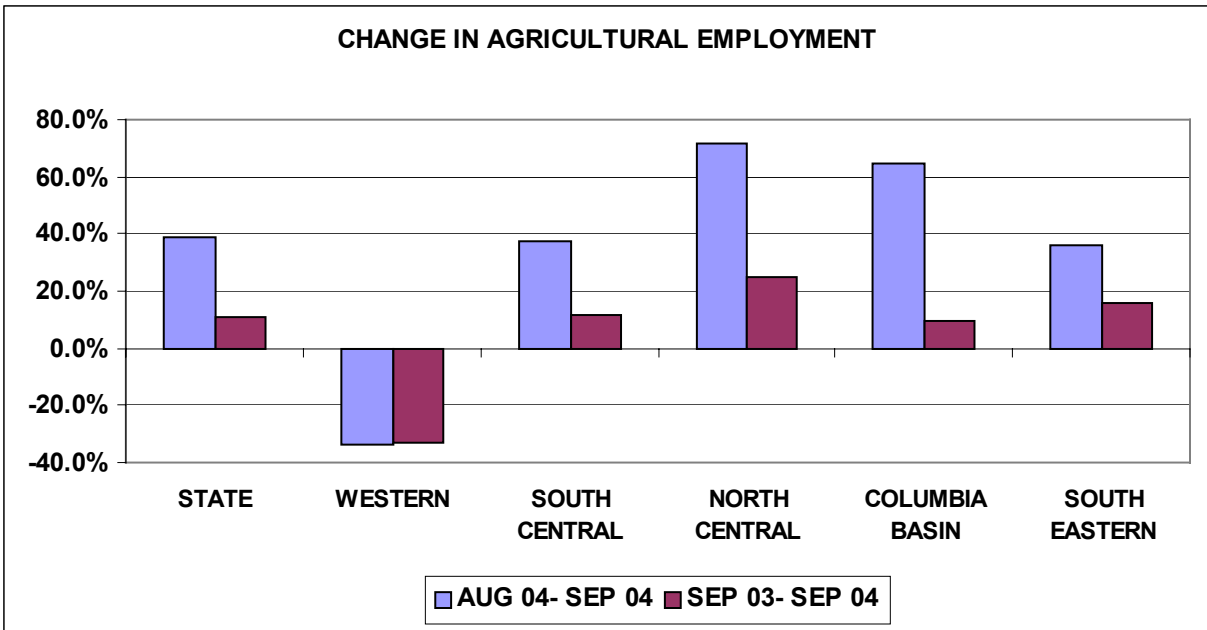
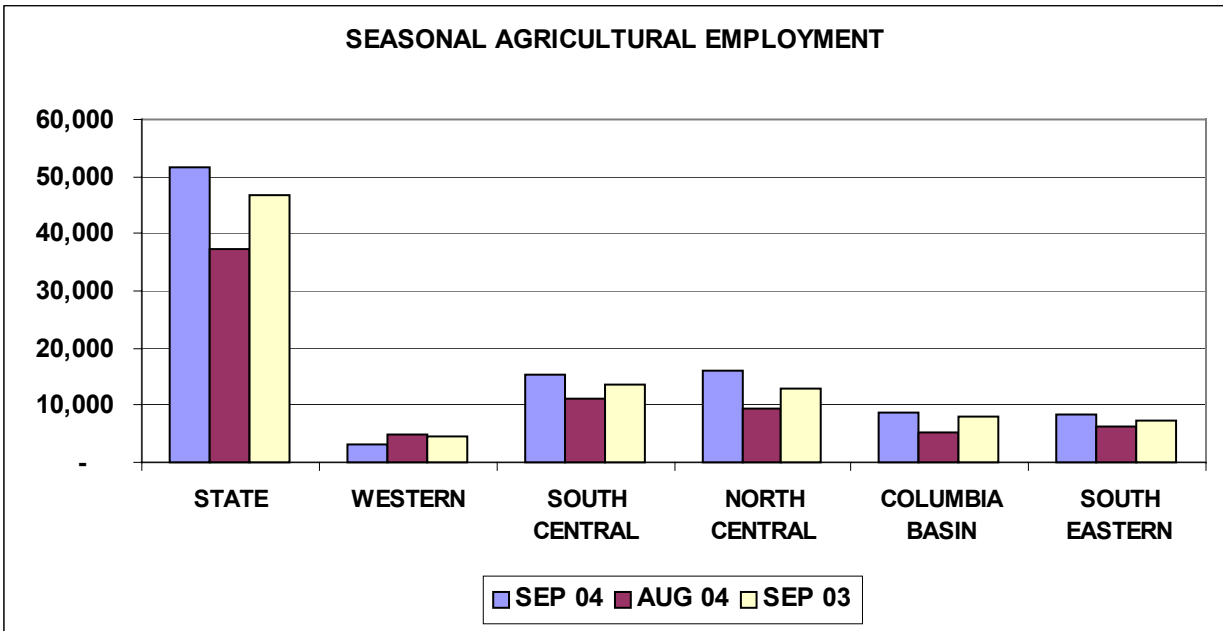
Statewide seasonal employment grew by 10.8% from September 2003 to September 2004. This increase was due to the seasonal bump in apple harvest employment. Agricultural activities contributing to the over-the-year increases were apple work (5,978), onion work (340), potato work (277), hop work (201), cherry work (118), wheat/grain work (29), asparagus work (17), other tree fruit work (13) and strawberry work (1). Activities displaying declines were raspberry work (-643), pear work (-412), nursery work (-373), cucumber work (-306), bulb work (-115), other seasonal work (-28), grape work (-23), miscellaneous vegetables work (-16) and blueberry work (-7). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined by 33.4%, led by a decrease in raspberry work (-643). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment grew by 11.6%, due to an increase in apple work (1,258). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment expanded by 24.9% thanks to an increase in apple work (2,873). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment advanced by 9.4%, courtesy of an expansion in apple work (1,041). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment leaped ahead by 15.8%, thanks to growth of apple work (806). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment pulled back by 14.0%, caused by a decline in other seasonal work (-76).

ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

The Lower Yakima Valley is home to the nation's largest hop growing area. About 75 percent of the nation's hops are grown in Yakima and Benton counties, accounting for 25 percent of world hop production. The hops are used by the top beer manufacturers, Anheuser-Busch and Miller, as well as regional favorites, like Deschutes Brewery and Ice Harbor. Travelers along Interstate 82 often mistake the tall hop trellises for string beans. More than 30 varieties of hops are strung each spring through out the Lower Valley. Alpha hops, which put the bitter in beer, are the most common and used in almost every beer. Aroma hops, are used for what their name implies—to add a distinct “nose” and finish to beer. While the demand for craft beers in the Northwest remains strong, around the world the trend is moving toward lighter beers, which isn't good news for hop farmers, said Ann George, administrator of the Washington Hop Commission. Prices have been stagnant for several years. In 1994, the value of Washington's hop production was about \$96 million, with about 30,000 acres planted in the state according to state agricultural statistics. Last year, the state's hops were worth only about \$73 million, and acreage had fallen to 19,500. About 60 percent of the hops grown in Washington are exported.

Washington State cherry growers fear oversupply could drive down prices. For years, growers have been planting more cherry trees to give them the money that's been lacking in apples. The lure is returns, after costs, of \$5,000 an acre or better. However, the Yakima-based Washington State Fruit Commission is predicting a 20- to 24-percent jump any year now in the number of cherries harvested because of all the new plantings just beginning to bear fruit. Most growers made less money from late-season cherries this year than in 2003. This was due to oversupply and weather problems. Growers must maintain quality of fruit, keep costs low and have good shipper-marketers to sell their cherries and to survive the oversupply.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	SEP 04	AUG 04	SEP 03	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04
STATE	51,670	37,171	46,630	14,499	5,040	39.0%	10.8%
WESTERN	3,126	4,716	4,691	(1,590)	(1,565)	-33.7%	-33.4%
SOUTH CENTRAL	15,318	11,122	13,728	4,196	1,590	37.7%	11.6%
NORTH CENTRAL	15,983	9,312	12,798	6,671	3,185	71.6%	24.9%
COLUMBIA BASIN	8,604	5,222	7,863	3,382	741	64.8%	9.4%
SOUTH EASTERN	8,331	6,109	7,192	2,222	1,139	36.4%	15.8%
EASTERN	308	690	358	(382)	(50)	-55.4%	-14.0%



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment expanded by 10.8% from September 2003 to September 2004. Seasonal employment grew by a wider margin of 39.0% statewide from August 2004 to September 2004, due to apple harvest. The crop activity increasing the most in employment from September 2003 to September 2004 was apple work (5,978).

Raspberry work had the greatest loss of employment (-643) for that same time period.

Apple work experienced the largest over-the-month gain (18,540) from August 2004 to September 2004. Other tree fruit work lagged by the greatest amount of employment (-2,190) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2004 was \$7.61 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	SEP 04	AUG 04	SEP 03	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04
CROP	SEP 04	AUG 04	SEP 03	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04
Apples	35,469	16,929	29,491	18,540	5,978	109.5%	20.3%
Asparagus	17	43	0	(26)	17	-60.5%	0.0%
Blueberry	363	695	370	(332)	(7)	-47.8%	-1.9%
Bulb	80	311	195	(231)	(115)	-74.3%	-59.0%
Cherries	147	313	29	(166)	118	-53.0%	406.9%
Cucumbers	284	542	590	(258)	(306)	0.0%	-51.9%
Grapes	1,151	1,676	1,174	(525)	(23)	-31.3%	-2.0%
Hop	1,639	108	1,438	1,531	201	1417.6%	14.0%
Misc Vegetables	2,058	2,207	2,074	(149)	(16)	-6.8%	-0.8%
Nursery	642	1,362	1,015	(720)	(373)	-52.9%	-36.7%
Onion	1,009	1,149	669	(140)	340	-12.2%	50.8%
Other Seasonal	1,367	1,837	1,395	(470)	(28)	-25.6%	-2.0%
Other Tree Fruit	1,151	3,341	1,138	(2,190)	13	-65.5%	1.1%
Pears	3,355	3,846	3,767	(491)	(412)	-12.8%	-10.9%
Potato	2,337	1,374	2,060	963	277	70.1%	13.4%
Raspberry	364	614	1,007	(250)	(643)	-40.7%	-63.9%
Strawberry	26	34	25	(8)	1	-23.5%	4.0%
Wheat/Grain	222	332	193	(110)	29	-33.1%	15.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined by 33.4% from September 2003 to September 2004. An almost equal amount of employment, 33.7%, was lost from August 2004 to September 2004. Other seasonal work added the largest number of jobs (122) from September 2003 to September 2004. Raspberry work posted the largest over-the-year loss (-643) in employment for that same time period. Potato work expanded by the largest employment (159) from July 2004 to August 2004. Nursery work dipped by the largest amount (-644) of employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2004 in Area 1 was \$7.56 per hour. (See pages 14 -16 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**								
WESTERN					CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	SEP 04	AUG 04	SEP 03	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04	
CROP								
Blueberry	363	695	370	(332)	(7)	-47.8%	-1.9%	
Bulb	80	311	195	(231)	(115)	-74.3%	-59.0%	
Cucumbers	284	542	590	(258)	(306)	-47.6%	-51.9%	
Misc Vegetables	936	809	974	127	(38)	15.7%	-3.9%	
Nursery	496	1,140	875	(644)	(379)	-56.5%	-43.3%	
Other Seasonal	303	491	181	(188)	122	-38.3%	67.4%	
Potato	276	117	471	159	(195)	135.9%	-41.4%	
Raspberry	364	614	1,007	(250)	(643)	-40.7%	-63.9%	
Rhubarb	0	0	3	0	(3)	0.0%	-100.0%	
Strawberry	23	0	25	23	(2)	0.0%	-8.0%	

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment advanced by 11.6% from September 2003 to September 2004. This was surpassed by a growth of 37.7% from August 2004 to September 2004. Apple work was the crop activity gaining the most seasonal jobs (1,258) from September 2003 to September 2004. Pear work demand softened by the largest number of jobs (-325) for that same time period. Apple work charged ahead by the greatest employment (5,946) from August 2004 to September 2004. Other tree fruit work shed the most jobs (-1,698) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2004 in Area 2 was \$7.58 per hour. (See pages 17 - 19 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT								
SOUTH CENTRAL					CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	SEP 04	AUG 04	SEP 03	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04	
CROP								
Apples	9,267	3,321	8,009	5,946	1,258	179.0%	15.7%	
Asparagus	17	26	0	(9)	0	-34.6%	0.0%	
Cherries	7	22	0	(15)	7	-68.2%	0.0%	
Grapes	823	1,067	486	(244)	337	-22.9%	69.3%	
Hop	1,332	96	1,181	1,236	151	0.0%	12.8%	
Misc Vegetables	206	237	417	(31)	(211)	-13.1%	-50.6%	
Onion	95	0	129	95	(34)	0.0%	-26.4%	
Other Seasonal	421	533	345	(112)	76	-21.0%	22.0%	
Other Tree Fruit	946	2,644	643	(1,698)	303	-64.2%	47.1%	
Pears	2,130	2,931	2,455	(801)	(325)	-27.3%	-13.2%	
Potato	72	244	63	0	9	0.0%	14.3%	

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment posted the largest uptick of 24.9% from September 2003 to September 2004. This was dwarfed by a 71.6% surge in seasonal employment from August 2004 to September 2004, due to apple harvest. The crop activity expanding the most in employment from September 2003 to September 2004 was apple work (2,873). Other seasonal work had the largest decline in employment (-10) for that same time period. Apple work propelled up by the largest amount of employment (5,930) from August 2004 to September 2004. Other tree fruit work displayed the softest demand in employment (-114) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2004 in Area 3 was \$7.56 per hour. (See pages 20 and 21 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	SEP 04	AUG 04	SEP 03	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04
Apples	14,474	8,544	11,601	5,930	2,873	69.4%	24.8%
Cherries	140	176	29	(36)	111	-20.5%	382.8%
Other Seasonal	152	128	162	24	(10)	18.8%	-6.2%
Other Tree Fruit	116	230	17	(114)	99	-49.6%	582.4%
Pears	1,105	234	989	871	116	372.2%	11.7%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment grew by a respectable 9.4% from September 2003 to September 2004. This was overshadowed by a huge seasonal bump of 64.8% in employment from August 2004 to September 2004, due to apple harvest. Apple work forged ahead of all other seasonal activities (1,041) in employment from September 2003 to September 2004. Pear work contracted by the largest number of jobs (-203) during that same time period. Apple work displayed the largest over-the-month gain (4,063) in employment from August 2004 to September 2004. Pear work experienced the greatest loss (-561) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2004 in Area 4 was \$7.63 per hour. (See pages 22 - 24 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	SEP 04	AUG 04	SEP 03	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04
Apples	6,735	2,672	5,694	4,063	1,041	152.1%	18.3%
Asparagus	0	7	0	(7)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Cherries	0	107	0	(107)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Mint	0	27	21	(27)	(21)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	23	306	49	(283)	(26)	-92.5%	-53.1%
Nursery	78	194	86	(116)	(8)	-59.8%	-9.3%
Onion	236	82	219	154	17	187.8%	7.8%
Other Seasonal	137	280	231	(143)	(94)	-51.1%	-40.7%
Other Tree Fruit	18	252	0	(234)	18	-92.9%	0.0%
Pears	120	681	323	(561)	(203)	-82.4%	-62.8%
Potato	1,231	458	1,227	773	4	168.8%	0.3%
Wheat/Grain	35	160	13	(125)	22	-78.1%	169.2%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment forged ahead by 15.8% from September 2003 to September 2004. September 2004 employment grew by 36.4% from August 2004. Apple work employment climbed by the greatest amount (806) from September 2003 to September 2004. Other tree fruit work scaled back the most (-407) in employment during that same time period. Apple work expanded by the largest number of jobs (2,601) from August 2004 to September 2004. Onion work dwindled by the largest amount (-389) of employment for that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2004 in Area 5 was \$7.64 per hour. (See pages 25 - 28 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	SEP 04	AUG 04	SEP 03	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04	AUG 04- SEP 04	SEP 03- SEP 04
CROP							
Apples	4,993	2,392	4,187	2,601	806	108.7%	19.3%
Asparagus	0	10	0	(10)	0	0.0%	0.0%
Cherries	0	8	0	(8)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Grapes	328	609	688	(281)	(360)	-46.1%	-52.3%
Hops	307	12	257	295	50	2458.3%	19.5%
Misc Vegetables	893	855	631	38	262	4.4%	41.5%
Nursery	0	0	6	0	(6)	0.0%	-100.0%
Onion	678	1,067	321	(389)	357	-36.5%	111.2%
Other Seasonal	284	238	309	46	(25)	19.3%	-8.1%
Other Tree Fruit	71	215	478	(144)	(407)	-67.0%	-85.1%
Potatoes	758	555	299	203	459	36.6%	153.5%
Strawberry	3	34	0	(31)	3	-91.2%	0.0%
Wheat/Grain	18	115	16	(97)	2	-84.3%	12.5%
**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 September.

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 SEPTEMBER 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: 3,126 (2,653 local, 0 intrastate, 142 interstate, 108 foreign, 223 unknown origin)

Cauliflower Harvester	469	\$ 7.16/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	216	\$ 7.17/hr
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	191	\$ 7.59/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	188	\$ 8.00/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 15,318 (11,118 local, 1,587 intrastate, 1,152 interstate, 1,461 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	8,578	\$ 7.47/hr	or \$10.00 - \$28.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,616	\$ 7.69/hr	or \$13.00 - \$20.00 per bin
Hops Mechanized Harvester	850	\$ 7.70/hr	
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	514	\$ 8.00/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 15,983 (12,859 local, 1,231 intrastate, 982 interstate, 905 foreign, 6 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	13,120	\$ 7.45/hr	or \$10.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	698	\$ 8.00/hr	
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	480	\$ 7.65/hr	
Apple Worker	366	\$ 8.40/hr	

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,604 (4,506 local, 15 intrastate, 497 interstate, 1,518 foreign, 2,068 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	5,797	\$ 7.41/hr	or \$10.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	495	\$ 7.36/hr	
Apple Pruner	409	\$ 7.57/hr	
Apple Worker	258	\$ 7.63/hr	

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,331 (6,490 local, 88 intrastate, 795 interstate, 848 foreign, 110 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	4,796	\$ 7.57/hr	or \$ 8.00 - \$23.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	467	\$ 7.35/hr	
Walla Walla Sweets Harvester	412	\$ 7.16/hr	
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	310	\$ 7.16/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 308 (287 local, 0 intrastate, 7 interstate, 7 foreign, 7 unknown origin)

Wheat Tractor Operator	47	\$ 9.80/hr
Wheat Combine Driver	47	\$11.60/hr
Nursery Weeder	40	\$ 7.30/hr
Wheat Worker	28	\$10.00/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
SEPTEMBER 2004

TABLE 1

SEPTEMBER 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	2,653	0	142	108	223	3,126
2. South Central	11,118	1,587	1,152	1,461	0	15,318
3. North Central	12,859	1,231	982	905	6	15,983
4. Columbia Basin	4,506	15	497	1,518	2,068	8,604
5. South Eastern	6,490	88	795	848	110	8,331
6. Eastern	287	0	7	7	7	308
State Totals	37,913	2,920	3,576	4,847	2,414	51,670
% State Total	73.4%	5.7%	6.9%	9.4%	4.7%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	3,126
a. Local	2,653
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	142
d. Foreign	108
e. Unknown	223
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The September 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,259.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were wetter and colder than normal for the reporting period. Potato harvest continued but was significantly behind schedule due to the wet conditions. Harvest also continued for corn silage and apples. Sweet corn yields were very good where irrigation equipment was adequate.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.56 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for cauliflower harvester, cucumber harvester, blueberry pruner, carrot sorter/grader/packer, blackberry harvester, raspberry pruner, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, cabbage planter, strawberry weeder, cauliflower planter, miscellaneous vegetables weeder, raspberry manager, beets harvester, nursery irrigator and raspberry tractor operator 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 84.9% local, 0.0% intrastate, 4.5% interstate, foreign 3.5% and 7.1% 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: SEPTEMBER 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 3,126	* = piece rate
Cauliflower Harvester	469	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	216	\$ 7.17
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	191	\$ 7.59
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	188	\$ 8.00
Cucumber Harvester	178	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Pruner	127	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Trainer	127	\$ 7.25
Raspberry Worker	123	\$ 7.25
Nursery Planter	121	\$ 7.61
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	112	\$ 7.16
Blackberry Harvester	104	\$ 7.16
Raspberry Pruner	100	\$ 7.16
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	97	\$ 7.28
Misc Squash Harvester	88	\$ 7.39
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	80	\$ 7.16
Nursery Pruner	67	\$ 8.05
Cabbage Harvester	60	\$ 7.36
Nursery Worker	54	\$ 7.98
Nursery Preparation	47	\$ 7.88
Potato Vehicle Operator	45	\$ 8.90
Misc Field Crops Weeder	43	\$ 8.39
Blackberry Pruner	41	\$ 7.39
Cauliflower Manager	32	\$ 8.00
Misc Field Crops Harvester	29	\$ 8.39
Cabbage Planter	29	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Weeder	27	\$ 7.83
General Farm Worker	25	\$ 7.83
Lettuce Harvester	24	\$ 7.45
Blackberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	23	\$ 8.50
Blackberry Weeder	23	\$ 7.50
Strawberry Weeder	23	\$ 7.16
Cauliflower Planter	18	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Weeder	16	\$ 7.16
Beans Harvester	16	\$ 7.25
Raspberry Manager	9	\$ 7.16
Blueberry Tractor Operator	9	\$ 9.00

Area 1 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	* = piece rate
Cucumber Forklift Driver	9	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Manager	8	\$10.50
Cauliflower Forklift Driver	8	\$ 7.50
Beets Harvester	8	\$ 7.16
Sweet Corn Harvester	8	\$ 7.34
Misc Vegetables Worker	8	\$13.00
Celery Harvester	8	\$ 7.34
Misc Peppers Harvester	8	\$ 7.50
Pumpkin Harvester	8	\$ 7.34
Misc Vegetables Vehicle Operator	8	\$10.50
Nursery Irrigator	7	\$ 7.16
Nursery Weeder	7	\$ 7.38
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	7	Not Available
Potato Tractor Operator	7	\$11.00
Nursery Tractor Operator	5	\$ 9.93
Blueberry Worker	5	Not Available
Raspberry Tractor Operator	5	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	4	\$ 9.00
Wheat Worker	4	\$14.00
Potato Mechanized Harvester	4	\$ 8.50
Potato Manager	4	\$ 8.25
Blueberry Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 7.84
Blueberry Forklift Driver	2	\$ 9.25

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.56/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	15,348
a. Local	11,118
b. Intrastate migratory	1,587
c. Interstate migratory	1,152
d. Foreign	1,461
e. Unknown	0
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Kennewick, Pasco, Sunnyside, Wenatchee, Yakima	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas, Utah	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 16,195.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Average temperatures ranged from five degrees below normal to ten degrees above normal. No new crop losses were due to weather conditions were reported. Primary agricultural activities were apple, pear and hops harvest and pear warehouse work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.58 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for miscellaneous field crops weeder, apple hand thinner, green onion sorter/grader/packer, green onion harvester, grapes trainer, grapes hand thinner, miscellaneous peppers harvester, miscellaneous peppers sorter/grader/packer, spinach harvester, spinach sorter/grader/packer, grapes mechanized harvester, alfalfa irrigator, mint mechanized harvester and grapes weeder to \$12.48 for apple vehicle operator. Typical piece rates were: \$10.00 to \$28.00 per bin for apple picking and \$13.00 to \$20.00 for pear 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 72.6% local, 10.4% intrastate, 7.5% interstate, foreign 9.5% and unknown 0.0%. Shortages of workers were reported for tree fruit picking.
 - 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: SEPTEMBER 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 15,318	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	8,578	\$ 7.47 or * \$10.00 - \$28.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,616	\$ 7.69 or * \$13.00 - \$20.00 per bin
Hops Mechanized Harvester	850	\$ 7.70
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	514	\$ 8.00
Nectarine Harvester	452	\$ 7.41
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	406	\$ 7.42
Grapes Harvester	327	\$ 7.67
Grapes Worker	277	\$ 7.31
Peach Sorter/Grader/Packer	240	\$ 7.50
Misc Field Crops Weeder	212	\$ 7.16
Peach Harvester	205	\$ 7.41
Hops Vehicle Operator	202	\$ 7.31
Hops Sorter/Grader/Packer	135	\$ 8.81
Misc Squash Harvester	121	\$ 7.50
Apple Worker	89	\$ 8.11
Apple Tractor Operator	84	\$ 8.05
Hops Tractor Operator	73	\$ 8.05
Apple Hand Thinner	72	\$ 7.16
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	63	\$ 7.21
Grapes Irrigator	57	\$10.88
Grapes Preparation	57	\$10.33
Silage Vehicle Operator	55	\$ 8.04
Green Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	52	\$ 7.16
Green Onion Harvester	43	\$ 7.16
Hops Worker	41	\$ 7.25
Grapes Trainer	38	\$ 7.16
Hops Loader	31	\$ 7.25
Grapes Hand Thinner	30	\$ 7.16
Feedlot Cattle Worker	29	\$ 9.00
Misc Peppers Harvester	26	\$ 7.16
Silage Irrigator	26	\$ 8.05
Prune Tractor Operator	22	\$ 7.50
Mint Vehicle Operator	19	\$ 8.25
Misc Peppers Sorter/Grader/Packer	17	\$ 7.16
Spinach Harvester	17	\$ 7.16
Apple Irrigator	17	\$ 7.25

Area 2 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Prune Sorter/Grader/Packer	16	\$ 7.50
Dairy Worker	14	\$ 8.00
Grapes Vehicle Operator	14	\$10.00
Spinach Sorter/Grader/Packer	13	\$ 7.16
Asparagus Weeder	13	\$ 7.27
Nursery Planter	13	\$ 8.02
Mint Worker	10	\$ 8.00
Grapes Mechanized Harvester	9	\$ 7.16
Nursery Pruner	9	\$ 8.02
Nursery Worker	9	\$11.33
Potato Tractor Operator	9	\$ 7.50
Nursery Weeder	9	\$ 8.02
Apple Trainer	7	\$ 7.62
Apple Vehicle Operator	7	\$12.48
Apple Forklift Driver	7	\$ 8.72
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	7	\$ 9.36
Cherry Worker	7	\$ 8.00
Grapes Suckering Worker	5	\$ 7.16
Grapes Pruner	5	\$ 8.16
Nursery Harvester	4	\$ 7.50
Pumpkin Harvester	4	\$ 7.50
Misc Vegetables Worker	4	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Harvester	4	\$ 7.50
General Farm Manager	4	\$10.00
Alfalfa Irrigator	4	\$ 7.16
Mint Mechanized Harvester	4	\$ 7.16
Grapes Weeder	4	\$ 7.16
Asparagus Irrigator	4	\$ 8.00
Peach Worker	4	\$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.58/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	15,983
a.	Local	12,859
b.	Intrastate migratory	1,231
c.	Interstate migratory	982
d.	Foreign	905
e.	Unknown	6
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a.	Intrastate: Chelan, Ephrata, George, Kent, Mattawa, Quincy, Seattle, Wenatchee, Yakima	
b.	Interstate: California, Florida	
c.	Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 10,737.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Golden apples were being harvested. Growers were finishing the harvest of Gala and Jonagold apples. Pear harvest was nearly completed. Replanting of rain damaged winter wheat was completed. Most of the third cutting of alfalfa was done. Second cutting of timothy continued on a few fields. Hay growers were still seeding in places.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.56 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.00 for miscellaneous hay tractor operator to \$24.00 for miscellaneous field crops manager. Typical piece rates were: \$10.00 to \$30.00 per bin for apple picking. 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 80.5% local, 7.7% intrastate, 6.1% interstate, 5.7% foreign and 0.0% unknown. Shortages of workers were reported for tree fruit picking.
 - 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: SEPTEMBER 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 15,983	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	13,120	\$ 7.45 or * \$10.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	698	\$ 8.00
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	480	\$ 7.65
Apple Worker	366	\$ 8.40
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	305	\$ 7.68
Apple Pruner	266	\$ 7.44
Apple Tractor Operator	130	\$ 8.46
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	116	\$ 7.16
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	80	\$ 7.25
Apple Manager	60	\$ 8.50
Pear Manager	60	\$ 8.75
Cherry Trainer	53	\$ 7.25
Pear Tractor Operator	40	\$ 7.67
Misc Hay Irrigator	35	\$ 8.70
Misc Field Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	35	\$ 7.16
Misc Field Crops Worker	18	\$12.79
Apple Forklift Driver	17	\$ 8.68
Apple Chemical Applicator	13	\$ 8.50
Nursery Worker	12	\$ 7.16
Apple Weeder	11	\$ 7.58
Wheat Combine Driver	8	\$14.38
Wheat Tractor Operator	8	\$11.00
Wheat Vehicle Operator	8	\$18.75
Potato Irrigator	8	\$ 7.16
Cherry Irrigator	7	\$10.00
Apple Hand Thinner	7	\$ 7.16
Apple Vehicle Operator	4	\$ 7.16
Horse and Equines Trainer	4	\$22.00
Misc Field Crops Manager	4	\$24.00
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	4	\$ 7.00
Horse and Equines Worker	4	\$12.00
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$ 7.16
Pear Forklift Driver	2	\$ 8.85

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.56/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	8,604
a. Local	4,506
b. Intrastate migratory	15
c. Interstate migratory	497
d. Foreign	1,518
e. Unknown	2,068
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Olympia, Mabton	
b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The September 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,316.

2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Winter wheat seeding was nearly completed and was emerging well. Other activities included were potato digging, onion lifting and some final cutting and baling of alfalfa. Scattered rain showers delayed bean and onion harvest. Carrot, onion and radish seed harvest neared completion. Some Golden Delicious and Gala apple harvests were underway. Pear harvest also continued.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.63 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for miscellaneous onion harvester, field corn irrigator, grapes harvester, nursery weeder and nursery grafter to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$10.00 to \$30.00 per bin for apple picking. 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 52.4% local, 0.2% intrastate, 5.8% interstate 17.6% foreign and 24.0% unknown. Shortages of workers were reported for tree fruit picking.

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: SEPTEMBER 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 8,604	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	5,797	\$ 7.41 or * \$10.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	495	\$ 7.36
Apple Pruner	409	\$ 7.57
Apple Worker	258	\$ 7.63
Potato Worker	229	\$ 7.54
Potato Vehicle Operator	149	\$ 9.19
Potato Tractor Operator	146	\$ 7.89
Potato Loader	138	\$ 7.99
Pear Harvester	120	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	92	\$ 7.59
Apple Trainer	86	\$ 7.51
Nursery Worker	68	\$ 7.19
Misc Onion Vehicle Operator	67	\$ 9.15
Apple Tractor Operator	56	\$ 8.33
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	52	\$ 9.75
Potato Mechanized Harvester	51	\$10.71
Apple Manager	43	\$ 9.00
Apple Vehicle Operator	34	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Loader	33	\$ 7.16
Wheat Weeder	28	\$ 9.00
Apple Irrigator	25	\$ 8.13
Misc Field Crops Mechanized Harvester	21	\$ 9.00
Apple Forklift Driver	18	\$ 8.75
Misc Onion Mechanized Harvester	17	\$10.00
Misc Onion Harvester	15	\$ 7.16
Field Corn Irrigator	14	\$ 7.16
Grapes Harvester	11	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Worker	10	\$ 7.61
Potato Forklift Driver	9	\$ 7.83
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	9	\$ 8.50
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Combine Driver	9	\$ 8.50
Nectarine Harvester	9	\$ 7.66
Peach Harvester	9	Not Available
Apple Chemical Applicator	9	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	8	\$ 8.67
Potato Manager	8	\$13.75

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Wheat Tractor Operator	7	\$ 9.25
Sweet Corn Harvester	7	\$ 7.50
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	6	\$ 7.50
Potato Mechanic	6	\$10.00
Nursery Weeder	6	\$ 7.16
Sweet Corn Vehicle Operator	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Weeder	3	\$11.50
Misc Onion Worker	3	\$ 7.25
General Farm Weeder	3	\$10.00
General Farm Tractor Operator	3	\$11.00
Nursery Harvester	3	\$ 7.50
Nursery Grafter	1	\$ 7.16

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.63/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	8,331
a. Local	6,490
b. Intrastate migratory	88
c. Interstate migratory	795
d. Foreign	848
e. Unknown	110
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Basin City, Bridgeport, Burien, Kennewick, Warden, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2004 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 7,817.
2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Harvest continued in wine and juice grapes, apples, hops and Walla Walla Sweets onions. Concord and Niagara grapes have been reported with a regional loss of 35 to 40 percent in some areas.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.64 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for Walla Walla Sweets harvester, carrot sorter/grader/packer, hops mechanized harvester, hops vehicle operator, pumpkin sorter/grader/packer, pear harvester, hops sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous field crops sorter/grader/packer, field corn sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous peppers harvester, potato mechanized harvester, miscellaneous melon sorter/grader/packer, spinach weeder, grass seed weeder, miscellaneous grain & seed crops worker, wheat irrigator and strawberry worker to \$25.00 for potato mechanic. Typical piece rates were: \$8.00 to \$23.00 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 77.9% local, 1.1% intrastate, 9.5% interstate, 10.2% foreign and 1.3% unknown. Shortages of workers were reported for tree fruit picking.
 - 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: SEPTEMBER 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 8,331	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	4,796	\$ 7.57 or * \$ 8.00 - \$23.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	467	\$ 7.35
Walla Walla Sweets Harvester	412	\$ 7.16
Carrot Sorter/Grader/Packer	310	\$ 7.16
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	266	\$ 7.35
Potato Vehicle Operator	171	\$ 9.20
Hops Mechanized Harvester	141	\$ 7.16
Grapes Hand Thinner	128	\$ 7.24
Sweet Corn Vehicle Operator	122	\$10.40
Grapes Weeder	104	\$ 8.10
Hops Vehicle Operator	93	\$ 7.19
Apple Pruner	85	\$ 7.58
Sweet Corn Mechanized Harvester	77	\$ 8.95
Apple Worker	72	\$ 7.63
Pumpkin Sorter/Grader/Packer	70	\$ 7.16
Pear Harvester	67	\$ 7.16
Hops Sorter/Grader/Packer	55	\$ 7.16
Misc Vegetables Harvester	53	\$ 7.50
Misc Field Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	53	\$ 7.16
Field Corn Sorter/Grader/Packer	53	\$ 7.16
Grapes Harvester	49	\$ 8.31
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	49	\$ 9.45
Sweet Corn Forklift Driver	46	\$ 9.00
Misc Peppers Harvester	44	\$ 7.16
Grapes Worker	36	\$ 8.16
Pumpkin Harvester	35	Not Available
Misc Field Crops Harvester	35	Not Available
Potato Mechanized Harvester	31	\$ 8.16
Mint Vehicle Operator	30	\$ 8.50
Potato Tractor Operator	30	\$10.31
Potato Harvester	29	\$ 8.11
Misc Melon Harvester	28	\$10.00
Misc Melon Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.16
Potato Loader	20	\$ 8.65
Spinach Weeder	17	\$ 7.16
Apple Tractor Operator	15	\$ 9.33

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Carrot Harvester	14	\$ 7.25
Grass Seed Weeder	13	\$ 7.16
General Farm Worker	13	\$ 8.68
Pumpkin Weeder	12	\$ 8.00
Hops Harvester	11	\$ 7.40
Alfalfa Irrigator	9	\$ 7.70
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	8	\$ 8.75
Sweet Corn Worker	8	Not Available
Sweet Corn Manager	8	Not Available
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	8	\$ 7.16
Apple Suckering Worker	7	\$ 7.50
Apple Irrigator	7	\$ 7.98
Spinach Mechanic	6	\$ 8.25
Potato Mechanic	6	\$25.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	6	\$ 8.00
Wheat Vehicle Operator	6	\$10.00
Wheat Irrigator	6	\$ 7.16
Hops Worker	6	\$ 7.29
Grapes Mechanic	5	\$ 8.25
Apple Vehicle Operator	5	\$ 8.00
Carrot Irrigator	5	\$ 7.25
Potato Irrigator	5	\$ 7.25
Apple Forklift Driver	4	\$ 8.00
Potato Manager	4	\$10.85
Grapes Forklift Driver	4	\$ 8.50
Alfalfa Planter	4	\$ 9.00
Silage Vehicle Operator	4	\$ 9.00
Strawberry Worker	3	\$ 7.16
Grapes Trainer	2	\$ 7.50
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	2	\$ 8.85
Prune Mechanized Harvester	2	\$11.00
Carrot Vehicle Operator	2	\$12.00
Sweet Corn Irrigator	2	\$ 8.50
Potato Forklift Driver	2	\$10.00
Potato Worker	2	\$ 8.60
Alfalfa Mechanic	2	\$12.50

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL FARM LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	2	\$ 9.28
Apple Trainer	2	\$ 8.50
Hops Loader	1	\$ 7.26
General Farm Weeder	1	\$ 7.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 7.64/hr (weighted average)