



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

APRIL 2005



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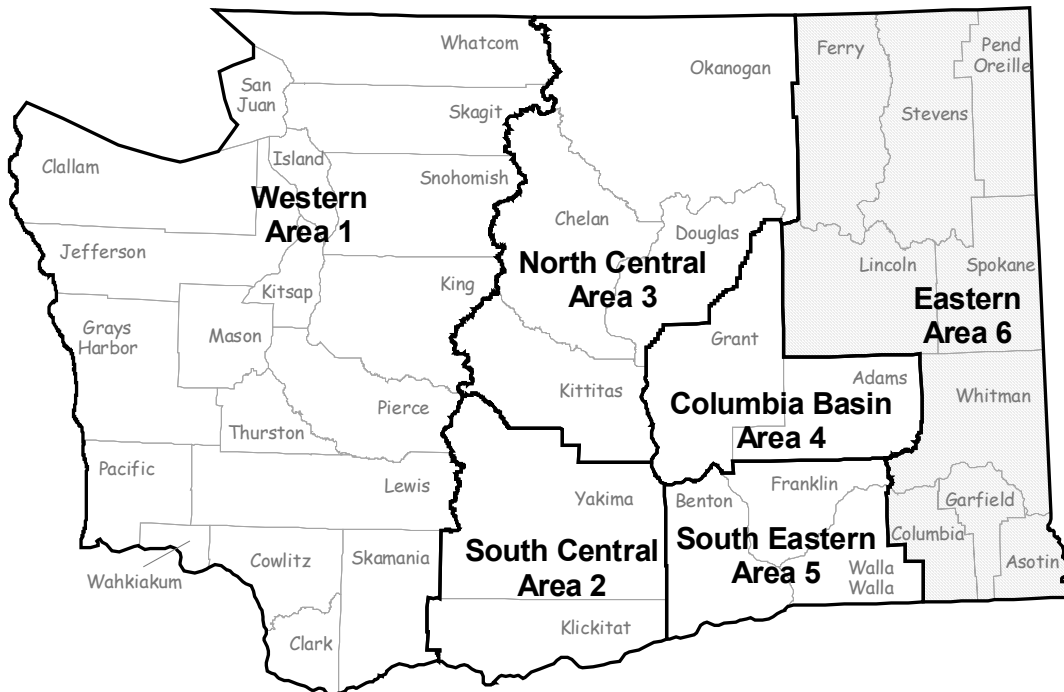
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

APRIL 2005

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 declined slightly by 0.1% from April 2004 to April 2005. This was due to a decline in the asparagus harvest. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year increases were apple work (1,509), onion work (1,174), nursery work (324), cucumber work (173), hop work (73), grape work (62), blueberry work (16), and wheat/grain work (3). Activities displaying declines were asparagus work (-1,457), miscellaneous vegetables work (-467), other tree fruit work (-433), cherry work (-379), potato work (-280), pear work (-127), bulb work (-101), other seasonal work (-50), raspberry work (-37) and strawberry work (-22). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment slid by 11.0%, due to a decline in rhubarb work (-235). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment also declined by 11.4%, caused by a decline in cherry work (-255). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment expanded by 16.4%, thanks to a large gain in apple work (1,099). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment contracted by 12.8%, courtesy of a decline in asparagus work (-310). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment grew by 8.8%, led by an increase in onion work (994). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment moved forward by 25.5%, thanks to an expansion in nursery work (58).

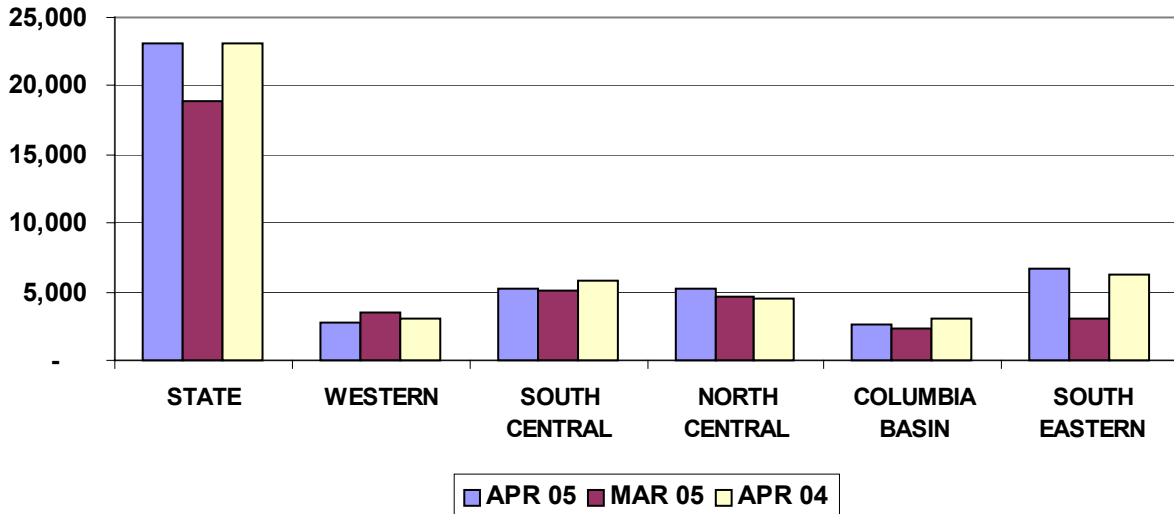
ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Taiwan, the third-largest overseas destination for Washington apples, will reopen its borders to fruit shipments by the end of April. Taiwan banned apple imports from the Northwest and California in December after three codling moth larvae were discovered in separate shipments last fall. This market reopening is good news for growers, since only Canada and Mexico receive more apple shipments than Taiwan. Taiwan buys more Fuji apples than any other country. The closure of the Taiwanese market has slowed shipment of Fujis—the state’s fourth-most-abundant variety—and contributed to slumping prices that don’t cover the cost of production for many growers. Through the third week in April, Washington shippers had only moved 71.7 percent of the Fuji crop, according to statistics from the Yakima Valley Growers-Shippers Association.

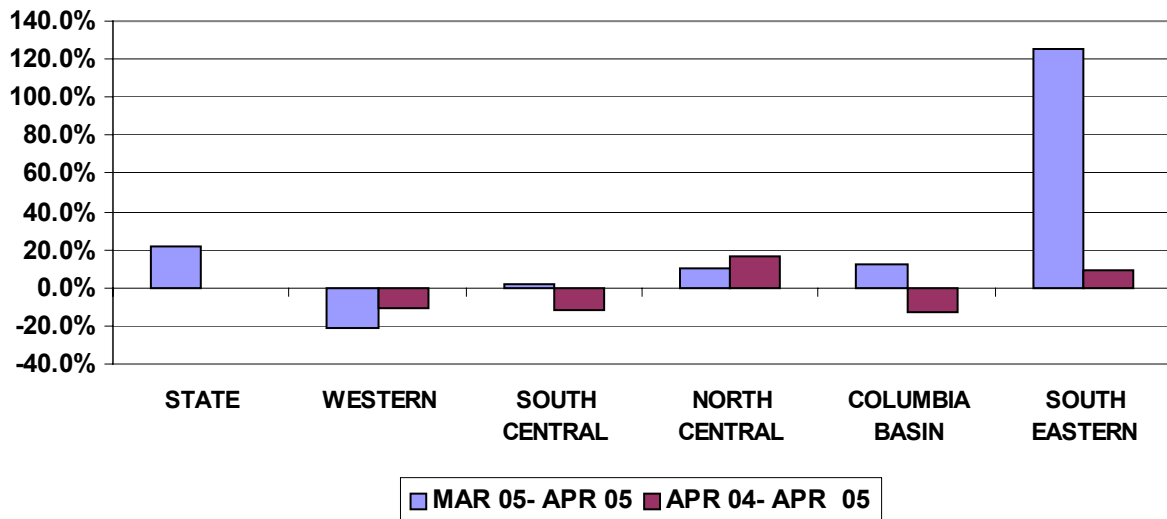
This year’s drought has forced farmers across Washington to “significantly” reduce plantings of spring wheat, barley, hay and corn, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture survey released recently. With spring wheat planting down 17 percent this year from 2004 and hay and field corn cultivation also down, these planting decisions likely will lead to a drop in farm income this year, the USDA survey said. In the Mid-Columbia, growers in irrigation districts facing water shortages are choosing not to plant these annual crops to save scarce water for crops that need it the most. The heavy snowfall that fell in parts of Washington last month boosted snowpack in the mountains but failed to make a dent in the drought. Snowpack statewide increased from 26 percent of average last month to 31 percent of average. However 10 of 13 Washington river basins still set new record lows for snowpack for that date.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>APR 05</u>	<u>MAR 05</u>	<u>APR 04</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>MAR 05- APR 05</u>	<u>APR 04- APR 05</u>	<u>MAR 05- APR 05</u>	<u>APR 04- APR 05</u>
STATE	23,038	18,918	23,065	4,120	(27)	21.8%	-0.1%
WESTERN	2,754	3,481	3,093	(727)	(339)	-20.9%	-11.0%
SOUTH CENTRAL	5,213	5,113	5,884	100	(671)	2.0%	-11.4%
NORTH CENTRAL	5,187	4,698	4,457	489	730	10.4%	16.4%
COLUMBIA BASIN	2,652	2,356	3,040	296	(388)	12.6%	-12.8%
SOUTH EASTERN	6,755	2,992	6,211	3,763	544	125.8%	8.8%
EASTERN	477	278	380	199	97	71.6%	25.5%

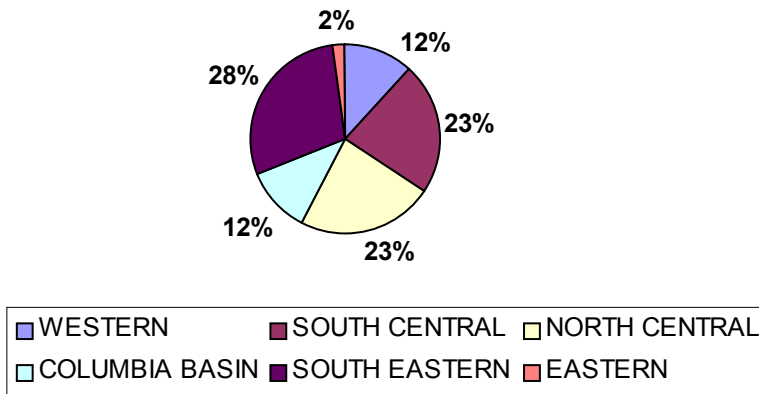
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT APRIL 2005



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment declined by 0.1% from April 2004 to April 2005. Seasonal employment expanded by 21.8% statewide from March 2005 to April 2005. The crop activity adding the most employment from April 2004 to April 2005 was apple work (1,509). Asparagus work lost the largest number of jobs (-1,457) for that same time period. Asparagus work added the most employment (3,709) from March 2005 to April 2005. Other tree fruit work had the largest downturn in employment (-934) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2005 was \$7.65 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE CROP	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	APR 05	MAR 05	APR 04	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05
Apples	9,285	8,180	7,776	1,105	1,509	13.5%	19.4%
Asparagus	3,745	36	5,202	3,709	(1,457)	10302.8%	-28.0%
Blueberry	40	50	24	(10)	16	-20.0%	66.7%
Bulb	433	39	534	394	(101)	1010.3%	-18.9%
Cherries	252	264	631	(12)	(379)	-4.5%	-60.1%
Cucumbers	179	162	6	17	173	10.5%	2883.3%
Grapes	1,562	2,075	1,500	(513)	62	-24.7%	4.1%
Hops	357	769	284	(412)	73	-53.6%	25.7%
Misc Vegetables	234	322	701	(88)	(467)	-27.3%	-66.6%
Nursery	1,782	2,582	1,458	(800)	324	-31.0%	22.2%
Onion	2,345	873	1,171	1,472	1,174	168.6%	100.3%
Other Seasonal	1,387	757	1,437	630	(50)	83.2%	-3.5%
Other Tree Fruit	315	1,249	748	(934)	(433)	-74.8%	-57.9%
Pears	45	605	172	(560)	(127)	-92.6%	-73.8%
Potato	483	320	763	163	(280)	50.9%	-36.7%
Raspberry	388	545	425	(157)	(37)	-28.8%	-8.7%
Strawberries	72	10	94	62	(22)	620.0%	-23.4%
Wheat/Grain	142	79	139	63	3	79.7%	2.2%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment shrunk by 11.0% from April 2004 to April 2005. Seasonal employment also decreased by 20.9% from March 2005 to April 2005. Cucumber work rose by the largest number of jobs (173) from April 2004 to April 2005. Rhubarb work shed the largest number of jobs (-235) for that same time period. Bulb work posted the largest over-the-month gain in employment increase (394) from March 2005 to April 2005. Nursery work displayed the greatest downturn in employment (-993) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2005 in Area 1 was \$8.16 per hour. (See pages 14 -15 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	APR 05	MAR 05	APR 04	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05
CROP							
Blueberry	40	50	24	(10)	16	-20.0%	66.7%
Bulb	433	39	534	394	(101)	1010.3%	-18.9%
Cucumbers	179	162	6	17	173	10.5%	2883.3%
Misc Vegetables	74	42	292	32	(218)	76.2%	-74.7%
Nursery	1,337	2,330	1,240	(993)	97	-42.6%	7.8%
Other Seasonal	180	43	125	137	55	318.6%	44.0%
Potato	68	122	108	(54)	(40)	-44.3%	-37.0%
Raspberry	388	545	425	(157)	(37)	-28.8%	-8.7%
Rhubarb	24	147	259	0	(235)	0.0%	-90.7%
Strawberries	34	4	80	0	(46)	0.0%	-57.5%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment dipped by 11.4% from April 2004 to April 2005. This was reversed by a small rise of 2.0% in employment from March 2005 to April 2005. Asparagus work experienced the largest bump in employment (262) from April 2004 to April 2005. Cherry work lost the largest number of jobs (-255) for that same time period. Asparagus work expanded by the largest amount of employment (2,117) from March 2005 to April 2005. Grapes work pulled back the most in employment (-754) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2005 in Area 2 was \$7.45 per hour. (See pages 16 -17 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	APR 05	MAR 05	APR 04	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05
CROP							
Apples	1,794	1,650	2,000	144	(206)	8.7%	-10.3%
Asparagus	2,139	22	1,877	2,117	262	9622.7%	14.0%
Cherries	72	28	327	44	(255)	157.1%	-78.0%
Grapes	454	1,208	659	(754)	(205)	-62.4%	-31.1%
Hops	229	528	113	(299)	116	-56.6%	102.7%
Misc Vegetables	0	101	117	(101)	(117)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Onions	157	40	57	117	100	292.5%	175.4%
Other Seasonal	193	119	394	74	(201)	62.2%	-51.0%
Other Tree Fruit	173	926	205	(753)	(32)	-81.3%	-15.6%
Pears	0	472	126	(472)	(126)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Potatoes	0	15	9	(15)	(9)	-100.0%	-100.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment showed an increase of 16.4% from April 2004 to April 2005. This trend was echoed by a smaller increase of 10.4% from March 2005 to April 2005. Apple work boomed ahead by the largest (1,099) amount of employment from April 2004 to April 2005. Other seasonal work displayed the greatest loss of jobs (-287) for that same time period. Apple work displayed the largest advance in employment (643) from March 2005 to April 2005. Pear work and cherry work both lost the most jobs (-91) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2005 in Area 3 was \$7.66 per hour. (See pages 18 and 19 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	APR 05	MAR 05	APR 04	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05
Apples	4,965	4,322	3,866	643	1,099	14.9%	28.4%
Cherries	40	131	49	(91)	(9)	-69.5%	-18.4%
Other Seasonal	126	97	413	29	(287)	29.9%	-69.5%
Other Tree Fruit	27	28	86	(1)	(59)	-3.6%	-68.6%
Pears	30	121	43	(91)	(13)	-75.2%	-30.2%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment slumped back by 12.8% from April 2004 to April 2005. However this trend was reversed by an increase of 12.6% in employment from March 2005 to April 2005. Nursery work led all other seasonal activities in employment (156) from April 2004 to April 2005. Asparagus work declined by the largest amount of employment (-310) during that same time period. Potato work displayed the largest advance in employment (249) from March 2005 to April 2005. Apple work showed the largest decline in employment (-161) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2005 in Area 4 was \$7.61 per hour. (See pages 20 - 22 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	APR 05	MAR 05	APR 04	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05
Apples	1,365	1,526	1,338	(161)	27	-10.6%	2.0%
Asparagus	148	5	458	143	(310)	2860.0%	-67.7%
Cherries	34	58	128	(24)	(94)	-41.4%	-73.4%
Mint	26	0	10	26	16	0.0%	160.0%
Misc Vegetables	28	12	17	16	11	133.3%	64.7%
Nursery	214	104	58	110	156	105.8%	269.0%
Onion	220	200	140	20	80	10.0%	57.1%
Other Seasonal	264	223	199	41	65	18.4%	32.7%
Other Tree Fruit	71	199	333	(128)	(262)	-64.3%	-78.7%
Pears	15	12	3	3	12	25.0%	400.0%
Potato	263	14	346	249	(83)	1778.6%	-24.0%
Wheat/Grain	6	0	10	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment moved forward by 8.8% from April 2004 to April 2005. However, April 2005 employment leaped ahead by a large 125.8% from March 2005. Onion work employment added the largest number of jobs (994) from April 2004 to April 2005. Asparagus work lost the largest amount of employment (-1,409) during that same time period. However, asparagus work increased by the largest number of jobs (1,449) from March 2005 to April 2005. Hops work fell back by the greatest employment (-113) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2005 in Area 5 was \$7.45 per hour. (See pages 23 - 25 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	APR 05	MAR 05	APR 04	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05	MAR 05- APR 05	APR 04- APR 05
CROP							
Apples	1,161	682	572	479	589	70.2%	103.0%
Asparagus	1,458	9	2,867	1,449	(1,409)	16100.0%	-49.1%
Cherries	106	47	127	59	(21)	125.5%	-16.5%
Grapes	1,108	867	841	241	267	27.8%	31.7%
Hops	128	241	171	(113)	(43)	-46.9%	-25.1%
Misc Vegetables	108	20	16	88	92	440.0%	575.0%
Nursery	19	26	6	(7)	13	-26.9%	216.7%
Onion	1,968	633	974	1,335	994	210.9%	102.1%
Other Seasonal	460	181	181	279	279	154.1%	154.1%
Other Tree Fruit	44	96	124	(52)	(80)	-54.2%	-64.5%
Potatoes	152	169	300	(17)	(148)	-10.1%	-49.3%
Strawberries	38	6	14	32	24	533.3%	171.4%
Wheat/Grain	7	15	18	(8)	(11)	-53.3%	-61.1%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment did not meet the criterion of 500 employees and therefore is not published for the month of April.

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 LABOR REPORT

Washington State Employment Security, Labor Market and Economic Analysis

SEASONAL LABOR ABSTRACT APRIL 2005

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: 2,754 (2,447 local, 0 intrastate, 39 interstate, 19 foreign, 249 unknown origin)

Nursery Worker	624	\$ 9.51/hr
Bulbs Harvester	406	\$ 7.16/hr
Nursery Planter	293	\$ 7.54/hr
Raspberry Pruner	259	\$ 7.35/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,213 (4,664 local, 245 intrastate, 125 interstate, 119 foreign, 60 unknown origin)

Asparagus Harvester	2,128	\$ 7.35/hr or \$ 0.19 - \$ 0.24 per pound
Apple Pruner	960	\$ 7.43/hr
Apple Worker	373	\$ 7.35/hr
Apple Planter	322	\$ 7.35/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,187 (5,077 local, 50 intrastate, 0 interstate, 13 foreign, 47 unknown origin)

Apple Hand Thinner	2,723	\$ 7.40/hr
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	499	\$ 7.75/hr
Apple Planter	425	\$ 7.40/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	290	\$ 7.45/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,652 (2,327 local, 0 intrastate, 12 interstate, 20 foreign, 293 unknown origin)

Apple Trainer	676	\$ 7.46/hr
Apple Worker	196	\$ 7.56/hr
Nursery Worker	176	\$ 7.37/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	173	\$ 7.35/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,755 (5,011 local, 94 intrastate, 319 interstate, 642 foreign, 689 unknown origin)

Asparagus Harvester	1,376	\$ 7.41/hr or \$ 0.15 - \$0.27 per pound
Misc Onion Planter	898	\$ 7.35/hr
Walla Walla Sweets Planter	723	\$ 7.35/hr
Grapes Pruner	650	\$ 7.40/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 477 (449 local, 28 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Nursery Planter	114	\$ 7.68/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	48	\$ 9.25/hr
Nursery Harvester	47	\$ 8.22/hr
Alfalfa Planter	36	\$10.67/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												

AGRICULTURAL LABOR SURVEY

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DETAIL BY CROP ACTIVITY

APRIL 2005

TABLE 1

APRIL 2005

**Agricultural 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	2,447	0	39	19	249	2,754
2. South Central	4,664	245	125	119	60	5,213
3. North Central	5,077	50	0	13	47	5,187
4. Columbia Basin	2,327	0	12	20	293	2,652
5. South Eastern	5,011	94	319	642	689	6,755
6. Eastern	449	28	0	0	0	477
State Totals	19,976	416	495	814	1,337	23,038
% State Total	86.7%	1.8%	2.1%	3.5%	5.8%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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	2,754
a. Local	2,447
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	39
d. Foreign	19
e. Unknown	249
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 April 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 8,116.

 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
 Weather conditions were wetter than normal for the reporting period. Field work continued in preparation for planting. Excellent crop conditions continued. Pasture forage, vegetable crops, and greenhouse production were many weeks ahead of schedule. Primary agricultural activities were nursery work, bulbs harvest and raspberry pruning.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
 The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$8.16 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for bulbs harvester to \$12.00 for blueberry worker and miscellaneous berries mechanic. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
 The labor force was estimated at 88.9% local, 0.0% intrastate, 1.4% interstate, foreign 0.7% and 9.0% unknown.

 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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 2,754	* = piece rate
Nursery Worker	624	\$ 9.51
Bulbs Harvester	406	\$ 7.16
Nursery Planter	293	\$ 7.54
Raspberry Pruner	259	\$ 7.35
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	179	\$ 7.35
Nursery Harvester	140	\$ 7.35
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	130	\$ 8.12
Raspberry Planter	123	\$ 7.45
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	69	\$ 7.37
Nursery Vehicle Operator	68	\$11.70
Blackberry Weeder	61	\$ 7.35
Beets Harvester	59	\$ 7.35
Misc Field Crops Weeder	43	\$ 8.55
Misc Onion Harvester	37	\$ 7.35
Nursery Irrigator	34	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Hand Thinner	28	\$ 7.75
Strawberry Weeder	28	\$ 7.35
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	27	\$ 7.35
Rhubarb Harvester	24	\$ 7.35
Nursery Weeder	20	\$ 7.38
Contract Misc Crop Worker	19	\$ 8.50
Misc Vegetables Preparation	15	\$10.00
Nursery Tractor Operator	14	\$10.63
Chicken Eggs Worker	8	\$ 8.60
Nursery Fertilizer Applicator	7	\$ 7.35
Nursery Forklift Driver	7	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Worker	6	\$12.00
Misc Berries Worker	6	\$10.00
Strawberry Tractor Operator	6	\$ 9.50
Blueberry Tractor Operator	6	\$ 8.00
Misc Berries Mechanic	6	\$12.00
Raspberry Tractor Operator	6	\$11.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 8.16/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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	5,213
a. Local	4,664
b. Intrastate migratory	245
c. Interstate migratory	125
d. Foreign	119
e. Unknown	60
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Quincy, 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 April 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 14,769.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were wetter than normal for the reporting period. Average temperatures varied from 12 degrees above normal to 2 degrees below normal. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported. Primary agricultural activities were asparagus harvesting, apple pruning and apple planting.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.45 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for asparagus harvester, apple worker, apple planter, miscellaneous onion harvester, peach hand thinner, hops weeder, apple proper, miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, grapes harvester, cherry proper, cherry trainer, nectarine hand thinner, peach pruner, nectarine hand thinner, peach pruner, nectarine pruner, general farm worker, wheat irrigator, asparagus tractor operator, nectarine worker, mint tractor operator, alfalfa worker, apricot worker and cherry worker to \$10.25 for grapes tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$.19 to \$.24 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 89.5% local, 4.7% intrastate, 2.4% interstate, foreign 2.3% and unknown 1.1%.
 - 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 LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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 5,213	* = piece rate
Asparagus Harvester	2,128	\$ 7.35 or * \$ 0.19 - \$ 0.24 per lb
Apple Pruner	960	\$ 7.43
Apple Worker	373	\$ 7.35
Apple Planter	322	\$ 7.35
Grapes Trainer	162	\$ 7.37
Hops Twiner	160	Not Available
Grapes Pruner	133	\$ 7.53
Misc Onion Harvester	111	\$ 7.35
Apple Trainer	89	\$ 7.53
Grapes Planter	76	\$ 7.85
Peach Hand Thinner	72	\$ 7.35
Hops Weeder	69	\$ 7.35
Apple Propper	50	\$ 7.35
Nursery Planter	48	\$ 8.44
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	46	\$ 7.35
Nursery Weeder	43	\$ 8.50
Grapes Worker	41	\$ 7.98
Grapes Harvester	38	\$ 7.35
Cherry Propper	33	\$ 7.35
Cherry Trainer	33	\$ 7.35
Nectarine Hand Thinner	28	\$ 7.35
Nursery Worker	24	\$ 9.60
Peach Pruner	22	\$ 7.35
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	17	\$ 7.36
Nectarine Pruner	17	\$ 7.35
Silage Mechanized Harvester	15	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	15	\$ 8.00
General Farm Worker	12	\$ 7.35
Silage Tractor Operator	12	\$ 8.50
Wheat Irrigator	12	\$ 7.35
Asparagus Tractor Operator	11	\$ 7.35
Nectarine Worker	11	\$ 7.35
Mint Tractor Operator	6	\$ 7.35
Alfalfa Worker	6	\$ 7.35
Apricot Worker	6	\$ 7.35
Cherry Worker	6	\$ 7.35
Grapes Tractor Operator	4	\$10.25

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.45/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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	5,187
a.	Local	5,077
b.	Intrastate migratory	50
c.	Interstate migratory	0
d.	Foreign	13
e.	Unknown	47
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 April 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,288.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were wetter than normal for the reporting period. A few more producers have planted spring wheat and barley. Acreage was down considerably from past years because of low moisture. There were no reports of any crop damage to fruit crops. Winter wheat looked good. Spring planting was underway. Primary agricultural activities were apple hand thinning, apple fertilizing, apple planting and apple warehouse work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.66 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for apple trainer, nursery worker, apple weeder, miscellaneous fruit trees worker and miscellaneous fruit trees sorter/grader/packer to \$25.00 for miscellaneous field crops manager and horse and equines manager. No piece rates were reported. 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 97.8 local, 1.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 0.3% foreign and 0.9% unknown.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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	5,187
		* = piece rate
Apple Hand Thinner	2,723	\$ 7.40
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	499	\$ 7.75
Apple Planter	425	\$ 7.40
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	290	\$ 7.45
Apple Pruner	189	\$ 7.39
Apple Worker	186	\$ 7.39
Apple Tractor Operator	159	\$ 7.98
Apple Trainer	152	\$ 7.35
Apple Irrigator	128	\$ 7.74
Nursery Worker	80	\$ 7.35
Apple Preparation	61	\$ 7.40
Apple Chemical Applicator	51	\$ 7.58
Apple Grafter	34	\$ 8.25
Cherry Trainer	24	\$ 8.50
Apple Manager	24	\$ 8.57
Apple Forklift Driver	21	\$ 9.00
Pear Worker	20	\$ 7.50
Apple Weeder	17	\$ 7.35
Cherry Worker	13	\$ 8.21
Misc Field Crops Worker	13	\$18.00
Horse and Equines Worker	10	\$12.00
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	10	\$ 7.35
Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer	10	\$ 8.46
Peach Pruner	7	\$ 7.50
Pear Preparation	7	\$ 8.25
Misc Hay Irrigator	7	\$ 9.88
Beef Cattle Worker	7	\$ 9.25
Apple Loader	6	\$11.50
Cherry Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.50
Pear Chemical Applicator	3	\$ 8.50
Misc Field Crops Manager	3	\$25.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	3	\$10.00
Horse and Equines Manager	3	\$25.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.66/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005

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	2,652
a. Local	2,327
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	12
d. Foreign	20
e. Unknown	293
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The April 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,138.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were wetter than normal for the reporting period. Corn planting was finishing up. Potato planting continued. Range and pasture conditions were in fair to good condition. Rhubarb was ready to harvest for the first time. The winter wheat looked to be in good condition. Potatoes, corn and peas continued to be planted. Primary agricultural activities were apple training, nursery work and miscellaneous onion warehouse work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.61 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, asparagus harvester, apple hand thinner, miscellaneous fruit trees planter, nursery planter, grapes trainer, mint irrigator, potato sorter/grader/packer, field corn planter, carrot loader, peach pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees trainer and miscellaneous fruit trees tractor operator to \$13.00 for miscellaneous vegetables chemical applicator. No piece rates were reported. 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 87.8% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.5% interstate 0.7% foreign and 11.0% unknown.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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 2,652	* = piece rate
Apple Trainer	676	\$ 7.46
Apple Worker	196	\$ 7.56
Nursery Worker	176	\$ 7.37
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	173	\$ 7.35
Asparagus Harvester	148	\$ 7.35
Potato Preparation	130	\$ 7.90
Apple Planter	128	\$ 7.48
Apple Pruner	128	\$ 7.48
Apple Hand Thinner	79	\$ 7.35
Alfalfa Irrigator	74	\$ 8.00
Apple Irrigator	74	\$ 7.64
Grass Seed Weeder	69	\$ 7.75
Misc Fruit Trees Planter	45	\$ 7.35
Apple Chemical Applicator	44	\$ 8.56
Field Corn Tractor Operator	44	\$ 8.43
Nursery Planter	38	\$ 7.35
Cherry Trainer	34	\$ 7.59
Grapes Trainer	32	\$ 7.35
Potato Vehicle Operator	31	\$10.38
Apple Grafter	30	\$ 8.00
Potato Planter	28	\$ 8.46
Potato Worker	27	\$ 8.71
Mint Irrigator	26	\$ 7.35
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	25	\$10.00
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	19	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Worker	16	\$ 7.95
Misc Onion Worker	15	\$ 8.26
Apricot Trainer	15	\$ 7.43
General Farm Worker	13	\$ 9.00
Potato Forklift Driver	11	\$ 9.00
Potato Loader	11	\$ 9.00
Apple Manager	10	\$ 7.75
Pear Planter	10	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Planter	8	\$ 8.78
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	8	\$ 8.50
Field Corn Planter	7	\$ 7.35

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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
Carrot Loader	6	\$ 7.35
Wheat Irrigator	6	\$10.00
Potato Tractor Operator	6	\$10.00
Peach Pruner	6	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Chemical Applicator	6	\$13.00
Pear Trainer	5	\$ 7.50
Misc Fruit Trees Trainer	4	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	4	\$11.00
Misc Onion Manager	4	\$ 9.00
Misc Onion Vehicle Operator	4	\$ 9.00
Misc Onion Preparation	4	\$ 8.78
Misc Fruit Trees Tractor Operator	1	\$ 7.35

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.61/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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	6,755
a. Local	5,011
b. Intrastate migratory	94
c. Interstate migratory	319
d. Foreign	642
e. Unknown	689
 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Mount Vernon, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The April 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,607.

 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were wetter than normal for the reporting period. Asparagus cutting, irrigation, hop tying, weed control and mildew sprays were major activities. Growers were also thinning apples. The first cutting of alfalfa was beginning. Potatoes were still being planted.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.45 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for miscellaneous onion planter, Walla Walla Sweets planter, hops trainer, apple preparer, apple irrigator, carrot planter, asparagus sorter/grader/packer, cherry grafter, grapes cultivator, blueberry pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, strawberry weeder, miscellaneous hay irrigator, potato worker, miscellaneous onion tractor operator, miscellaneous field crops irrigator, hops cultivator and cherry preparer to \$15.00 for alfalfa tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$.15 to \$.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 74.2% local, 1.4% intrastate, 4.7% interstate, 9.5% foreign and 10.2% unknown.

 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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 6,755	* = piece rate
Asparagus Harvester	1,376	\$ 7.41 or * \$ 0.15 - \$ 0.27 per lb
Misc Onion Planter	898	\$ 7.35
Walla Walla Sweets Planter	723	\$ 7.35
Grapes Pruner	650	\$ 7.40
Apple Trainer	475	\$ 7.36
Apple Worker	336	\$ 7.41
Misc Onion Harvester	322	Not Available
Chicken Eggs Worker	245	\$ 7.70
Grapes Trainer	239	\$ 7.44
Apple Pruner	138	\$ 7.43
Potato Preparation	102	\$ 7.42
Hops Trainer	97	\$ 7.35
Apple Preparation	92	\$ 7.35
Grapes Planter	86	\$ 7.45
Apple Irrigator	73	\$ 7.35
Carrot Planter	69	\$ 7.35
Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Packer	66	\$ 7.35
Cherry Grafter	58	\$ 7.35
Grass Seed Weeder	54	\$ 7.85
Grapes Cultivator	53	\$ 7.35
Potato Planter	40	\$ 9.34
Grapes Worker	39	\$ 7.57
Blueberry Pruner	39	\$ 7.35
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	38	\$ 7.35
Strawberry Weeder	38	\$ 7.35
Hops Twiner	31	Not Available
Misc Hay Irrigator	26	\$ 7.35
Cherry Pruner	25	\$ 7.58
Blueberry Planter	25	\$ 7.50
Grapes Irrigator	25	\$ 7.48
Apple Planter	22	\$ 8.33
Sweet Corn Planter	19	\$ 8.25
Cherry Worker	19	\$ 7.60
Peas Worker	17	\$ 8.75
Blueberry Irrigator	17	\$ 7.50
Apple Hand Thinner	17	\$ 7.50

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2005
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
Walla Walla Sweets Preparation	15	\$ 7.40
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	13	\$ 8.50
Nursery Harvester	13	\$ 7.80
Grapes Weeder	12	\$ 7.70
Potato Worker	10	\$ 7.35
Asparagus Worker	10	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	10	\$ 7.35
Apple Tractor Operator	8	\$ 7.50
Wheat Worker	7	\$13.00
Field Corn Tractor Operator	7	\$10.00
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	7	\$ 7.35
Hops Cultivator	7	\$ 7.35
Alfalfa Irrigator	7	\$ 6.50
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	7	\$15.00
General Farm Worker	6	\$12.00
Nursery Irrigator	6	\$ 7.50
Misc Fruit Trees Tractor Operator	6	\$ 7.85
Cherry Preparation	4	\$ 7.35
Grapes Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.00
Peas Vehicle Operator	3	\$10.00
Asparagus Manager	3	\$ 9.00
Asparagus Forklift Driver	3	\$ 7.75

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 7.45/hr (weighted average)