



## **AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS**

**DECEMBER 2005**



Prepared by

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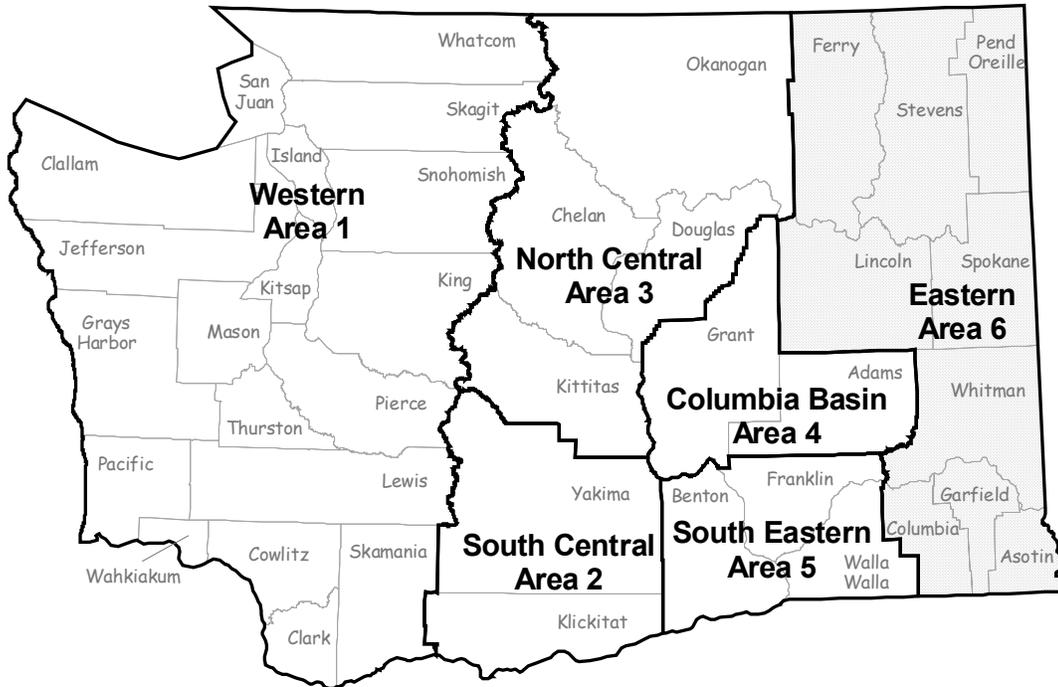
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry  
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

DECEMBER 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

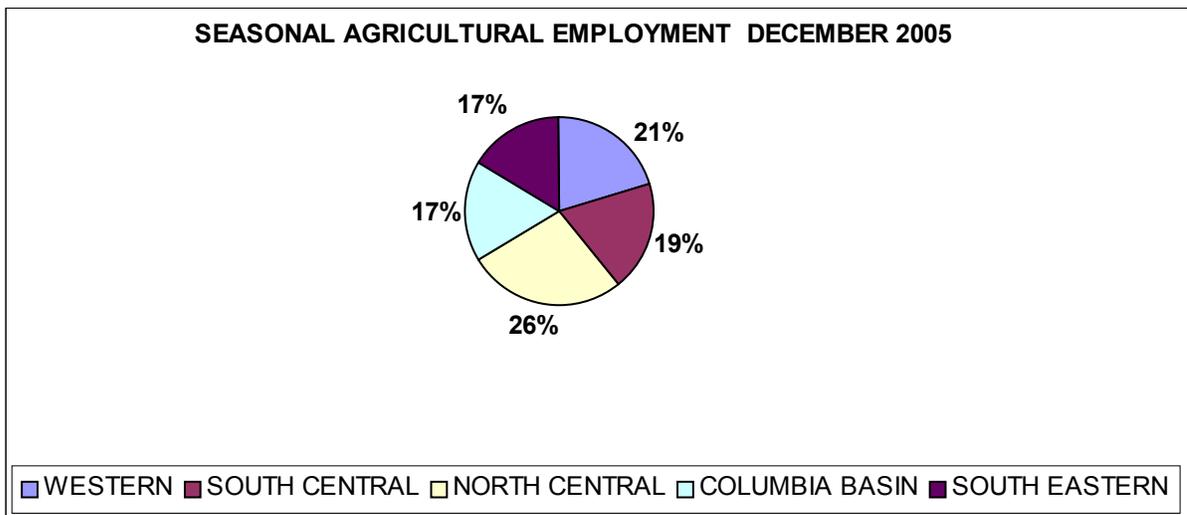
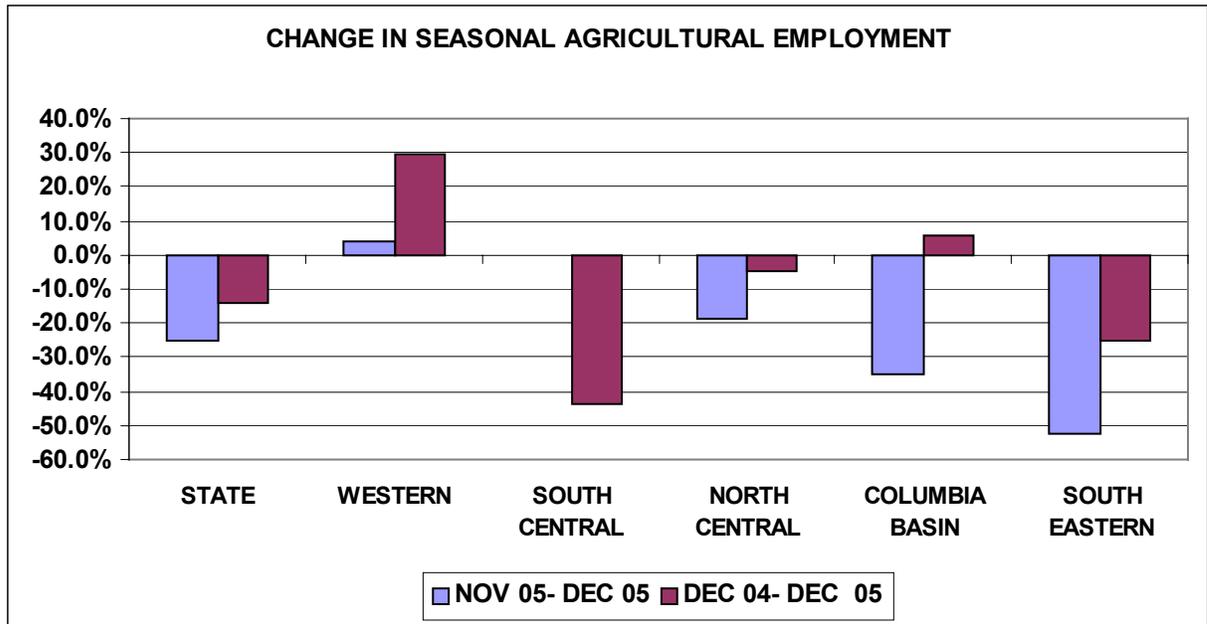
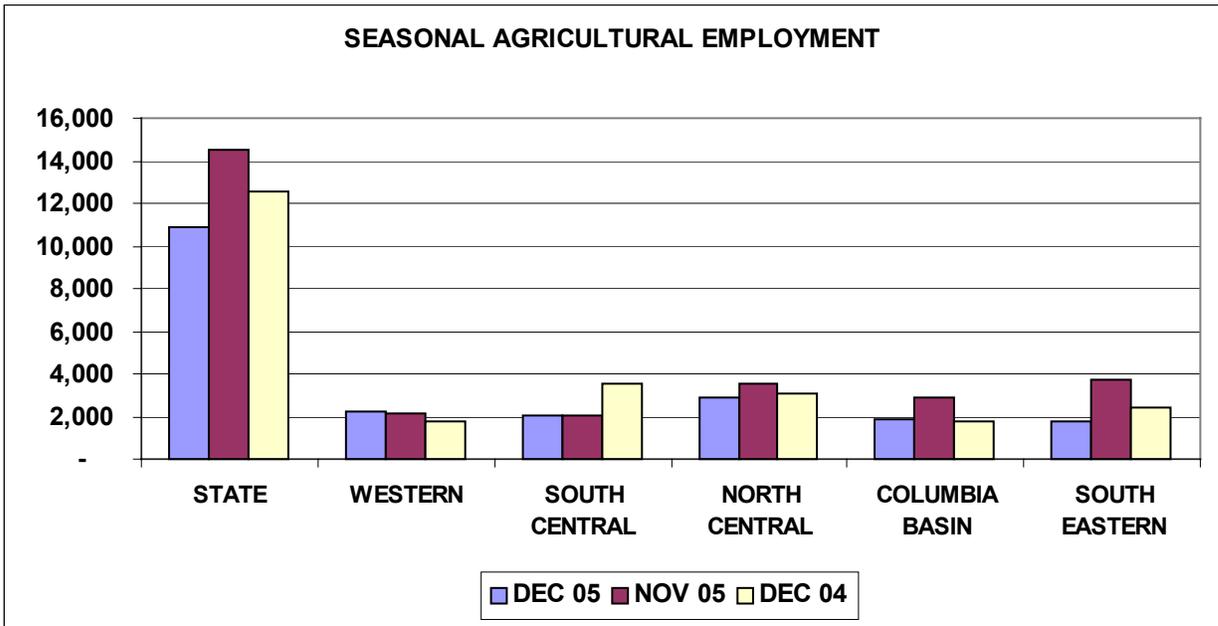
Statewide seasonal employment declined by 13.8% from December 2004 to December 2005. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year losses were apple work (-1,495), cherry work (-412), other seasonal work (-409), grapes work (-312), nursery work (-289) and wheat/grain (-22). Activities displaying gains were onion work (620), raspberry work (255), other tree fruit work (95), bulb work (68), potato work (68), hops work (39), miscellaneous vegetables work (33), blueberry work (21) and pear work (2). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment expanded by 29.6%, caused by an increase in raspberry work (255). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment fell by 43.7%, due to a decrease in apple work (-1,371). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment contracted by 4.8%, courtesy of a drop in other seasonal work (-90). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment moved ahead by 5.5%, thanks to growth in apple work (242). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment declined by 25.1%, led by a drop in apple work (-437). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment dropped by 58.1%, caused by a falloff in wheat/grain work (-28).

## ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Wine grape growers in Washington state had a record harvest this year, proving that some crops fare well even in drought conditions. The Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers estimated the 2005 harvest at 116,760 tons, surpassing the previous record of 115,000 tons in 2002. The harvest was 100,500 tons last year, when a harsh winter left many vineyards with freeze damage. Washington is the nation's No. 2 premium wine producer behind California with an industry valued at \$2.4 billion. It is home to more than 360 wineries and 350 wine grape growers.

A first-ever free-trade agreement between the United States and Peru will not limit imported asparagus, angering U.S. growers who have long complained the government gave away their industry in a failed war on the illicit drug trade. Growers say they will work to defeat the agreement in Congress. Asparagus is no longer processed at plants in Toppenish, Walla Walla nor Dayton. The loss of the processing industry is expected to push 90 percent of the state's crop into the fresh market, where it must compete with the less expensive Peruvian asparagus. Growers across the state removed 2,000 acres last year, and since 2002, one in five has stopped harvesting the vegetable according to the Asparagus Commission.

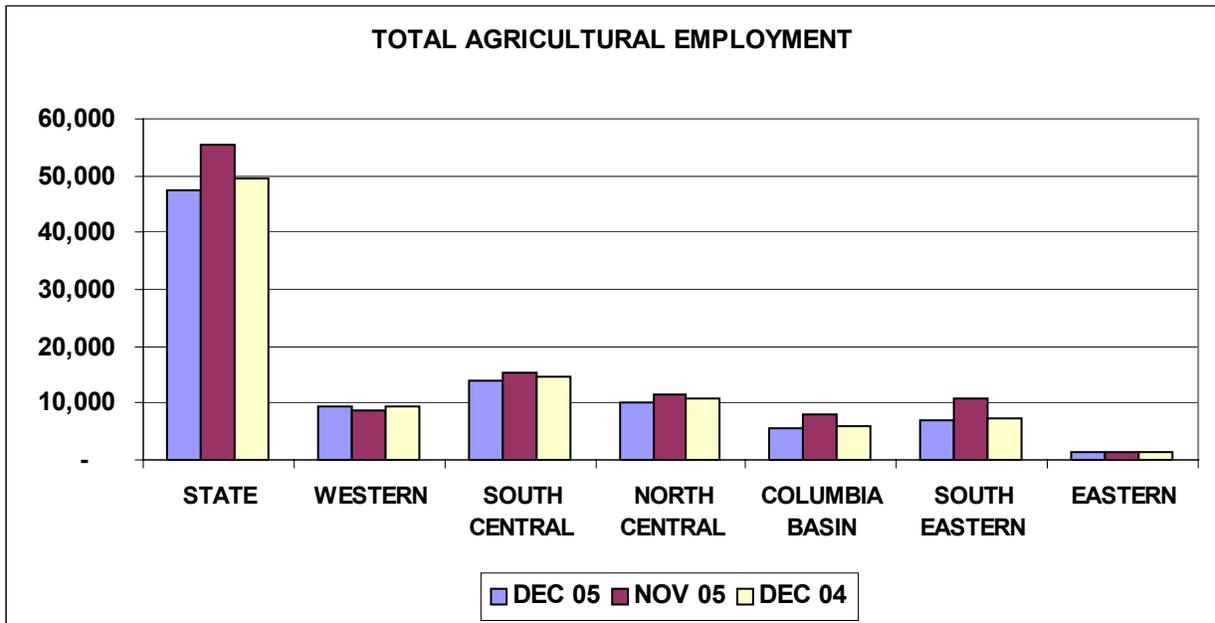
	<u>DEC 05</u>	<u>NOV 05</u>	<u>DEC 04</u>	<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
				<u>NOV 05- DEC 05</u>	<u>DEC 04- DEC 05</u>	<u>NOV 05- DEC 05</u>	<u>DEC 04- DEC 05</u>
<b>STATE</b>	10,844	14,530	12,585	(3,686)	(1,741)	-25.4%	-13.8%
<b>WESTERN</b>	2,232	2,148	1,722	84	510	3.9%	29.6%
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	2,003	2,007	3,556	(4)	(1,553)	-0.2%	-43.7%
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	2,905	3,575	3,051	(670)	(146)	-18.7%	-4.8%
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>	1,882	2,900	1,784	(1,018)	98	-35.1%	5.5%
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>	1,786	3,737	2,386	(1,951)	(600)	-52.2%	-25.1%
<b>EASTERN</b>	36	163	86	(127)	(50)	-77.9%	-58.1%



**TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY**

Statewide total agricultural employment fell by 4.3% in December 2005 from December 2004. However, over-the-month total employment decreased by a larger 14.5% from November 2005 to December 2005 due primarily to the winding down of the apple harvest. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment declined by 0.2%. South Central (Area 2) total employment decreased by 4.3%. North Central (Area 3) total employment also slid by 6.7%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment softened by 4.7%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment stepped back by 6.7%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment displayed a decrease of 3.1%.

TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>DEC 05</u>	<u>NOV 05</u>	<u>DEC 04</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				NOV 05- <u>DEC 05</u>	DEC 04- <u>DEC 05</u>	NOV 05- <u>DEC 05</u>	DEC 04- <u>DEC 05</u>
STATE	47,347	55,378	49,479	(8,031)	(2,132)	-14.5%	-4.3%
WESTERN	9,333	9,055	9,312	278	21	3.1%	0.2%
SOUTH CENTRAL	14,000	16,034	14,629	(2,034)	(629)	-12.7%	-4.3%
NORTH CENTRAL	10,210	11,773	10,931	(1,563)	(721)	-13.3%	-6.7%
COLUMBIA BASIN	5,665	7,010	5,944	(1,345)	(279)	-19.2%	-4.7%
SOUTH EASTERN	6,891	9,799	7,375	(2,908)	(484)	-29.7%	-6.7%
EASTERN	1,248	1,094	1,288	154	(40)	14.1%	-3.1%



## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment decreased by 13.8% from December 2004 to December 2005. However seasonal employment fell off by a larger 25.4% statewide from November 2005 to December 2005. The crop activity adding the most employment from December 2004 to December 2005 was onion work (620). Apple work lost the largest number of jobs (-1,495) for that same time period. Onion work gained the largest amount of employment (614) from November 2005 to December 2005. Apple work had the largest downturn in employment (-3,484) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2005 was \$7.54 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	NOV 05- DEC 05	DEC 04- DEC 05	NOV 05- DEC 04	NOV 05- DEC 05	DEC 04- DEC 05	NOV 05- DEC 05	DEC 04- DEC 05
<b>CROP</b>	<b>DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>
Apples	6,244	9,728	7,739	(3,484)	(1,495)	-35.8%	-19.3%
Blueberry	130	4	109	126	21	3150.0%	19.3%
Bulb	167	96	99	71	68	74.0%	68.7%
Cherries	169	73	581	96	(412)	131.5%	-70.9%
Grapes	276	447	588	(171)	(312)	-38.3%	-53.1%
Hops	39	110	0	(71)	39	-64.5%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	192	407	159	(215)	33	-52.8%	20.8%
Nursery	302	1,043	591	(741)	(289)	-71.0%	-48.9%
Onion	702	88	82	614	620	697.7%	756.1%
Other Seasonal	321	1,192	730	(871)	(409)	-73.1%	-56.0%
Other Tree Fruit	236	105	141	131	95	124.8%	67.4%
Pears	450	18	448	432	2	2400.0%	0.4%
Potato	386	407	318	(21)	68	-5.2%	21.4%
Raspberry	1,196	709	941	487	255	68.7%	27.1%
Wheat/Grain	37	104	59	(67)	(22)	-64.4%	-37.3%

\*\*Crop detail may not add due to rounding

**Western (Area 1)** seasonal employment expanded by 29.6% from December 2004 to December 2005. However, December 2005 employment rose only 3.9% over November 2005. Raspberry work grew by the largest amount of employment (255) from December 2004 to December 2005. Nursery work displayed the largest over-the-year employment loss (-75) for that same time period. Raspberry work added the greatest number of jobs (487) from November 2005 to December 2005. Nursery work showed the greatest downturn in employment (-413) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2005 in Area 1 was \$7.63 per hour. (See pages 15 -16 for Area 1 detail)

**AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

<b>WESTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Blueberry	130	4	109	126	21	3150.0%	19.3%
Bulb	167	96	99	71	68	74.0%	68.7%
Misc Vegetables	132	202	16	(70)	116	-34.7%	725.0%
Nursery	277	690	352	(413)	(75)	-59.9%	-21.3%
Other Seasonal	146	145	33	1	113	0.7%	342.4%
Potato	185	296	172	(111)	13	-37.5%	7.6%
Raspberry	1,196	709	941	487	255	68.7%	27.1%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment slid by 43.7% from December 2004 to December 2005. However seasonal employment fell only 0.2% from November 2005 to December 2005. Pear work displayed the largest bump in employment (106) from December 2004 to December 2005. Apple work lost the largest number of jobs (-1,371) for that same time period. Pear work gained the most employment (276) from November 2005 to December 2005. Other seasonal work had the largest job contraction (-128) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2005 in Area 2 was \$7.74 per hour. (See pages 17 -18 for Area 2 detail)

**AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	1,453	1,487	2,824	(34)	(1,371)	-2.3%	-48.5%
Cherries	10	26	26	(16)	(16)	-61.5%	-61.5%
Grapes	178	275	324	(97)	(146)	-35.3%	-45.1%
Misc Vegetables	60	59	141	1	(81)	1.7%	-57.4%
Other Seasonal	16	144	61	(128)	(45)	-88.9%	-73.8%
Other Tree Fruit	5	10	5	(5)	0	-50.0%	0.0%
Pears	281	5	175	276	106	5520.0%	60.6%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment pulled back by 4.8% from December 2004 to December 2005. This was superseded by a larger loss of 18.7% in jobs from November 2005 to December 2005. Apple work moved ahead by the largest jump in employment (71) from December 2004 to December 2005. Other seasonal work lost the largest number of jobs (-90) for that same time period. Pear work moved forward by the largest amount of employment (106) from November 2005 to December 2005. Apple work softened by the largest number of jobs (-750) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2005 in Area 3 was \$7.58 per hour. (See pages 19 - 20 for Area 3 detail)

<b>AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>			<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>		
<b>CROP</b>	<b>DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>
Apples	2,712	3,462	2,641	(750)	71	-21.7%	2.7%
Cherries	40	3	99	37	(59)	1233.3%	-59.6%
Other Seasonal	12	57	102	(45)	(90)	-78.9%	-88.2%
Other Tree Fruit	23	42	22	(19)	1	-45.2%	4.5%
Pears	119	13	187	106	(68)	815.4%	-36.4%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment advanced by 5.5% from December 2004 to December 2005. However November 2005 to December 2005 employment fell back by 35.1%. Apple work experienced the greatest over-the-year gain in employment (242) from December 2004 to December 2005. Nursery work lost the largest number of jobs (-212) during that same time period. Potato work displayed the largest increase in jobs (130) from November 2005 to December 2005. Apple work registered the greatest decline in employment (-622) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2005 in Area 4 was \$7.456 per hour. (See pages 21 - 22 for Area 4 detail)

<b>AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>			<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>		
<b>CROP</b>	<b>DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>
Apples	1,274	1,896	1,032	(622)	242	-32.8%	23.4%
Cherries	9	44	123	(35)	(114)	-79.5%	-92.7%
Mint	0	276	14	(276)	(14)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	0	5	2	(5)	(2)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Nursery	25	299	237	(274)	(212)	-91.6%	-89.5%
Onion	170	65	69	105	101	161.5%	146.4%
Other Seasonal	78	235	36	(157)	42	-66.8%	116.7%
Other Tree Fruit	126	48	46	78	80	162.5%	173.9%
Pears	50	0	86	50	(36)	0.0%	-41.9%
Potato	150	20	139	130	11	650.0%	7.9%
Wheat/Grain	0	14	0	(14)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment shed 25.1% of its jobs from December 2004 to December 2005. Seasonal employment however declined by a greater 52.2% from November 2005 to December 2005. Onion work grew by the greatest employment (519) from December 2004 to December 2005. Apple work lost the most employment (-437) during that same time period. Onion work was the largest over-the-month gainer in employment (509) from November 2005 to December 2005. Apple work experienced the largest loss in employment (-2,078) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for December 2005 in Area 5 was \$7.09 per hour. (See pages 23 - 24 for Area 5 detail)

<b>AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>			<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>		
<b>CROP</b>	<b>DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>	<b>NOV 05- DEC 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- DEC 05</b>
Apples	805	2,883	1,242	(2,078)	(437)	-72.1%	-35.2%
Cherries	110	0	333	110	(223)	0.0%	-67.0%
Grapes	98	172	264	(74)	(166)	-43.0%	-62.9%
Hops	39	110	0	(71)	39	-64.5%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	0	141	0	(141)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Nursery	0	0	2	0	(2)	0.0%	-100.0%
Onion	532	23	13	509	519	2213.0%	3992.3%
Other Seasonal	57	302	451	(245)	(394)	-81.1%	-87.4%
Other Tree Fruit	82	5	68	77	14	1540.0%	20.6%
Potatoes	51	91	7	(40)	44	-44.0%	628.6%
Wheat/Grain	12	12	6	0	6	0.0%	100.0%

\*\*Crop detail may not add due to rounding

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

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 DECEMBER 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: 2,232 (1,874 local, 110 intrastate, 69 interstate, 23 foreign, 156 unknown origin)

Raspberry Worker .....	530	\$ 7.51/hr
Raspberry Pruner .....	495	\$ 7.35/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	192	\$ 7.40/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	183	\$ 7.35/hr

### **SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,003 (1,035 local, 249 intrastate, 136 interstate, 311 foreign, 272 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	1,165	\$ 7.46/hr or \$ 0.75 - \$ 4.40 per tree
Pear Pruner .....	281	\$ 1.25 - \$ 4.25 per tree
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	262	\$ 7.35/hr
Grapes Pruner .....	178	\$ 0.16 - \$ 0.28½ per vine

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,905 (2,731 local, 0 intrastate, 3 interstate, 164 foreign, 7 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	2,388	\$ 7.43/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	278	\$ 7.87/hr
Pear Pruner .....	112	\$ 7.71/hr
Cherry Pruner .....	40	\$ 9.10/hr

### **COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,882 (1,504 local, 0 intrastate, 24 interstate, 85 foreign, 269 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	1,233	\$ 7.39/hr or \$ 0.25 - \$ 1.50 per tree
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	139	\$ 7.35/hr
Misc Fruit Trees Worker .....	126	\$ 7.35/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	123	\$ 7.41/hr

### **SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,786 (1,729 local, 0 intrastate, 12 interstate, 0 foreign, 45 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	805	\$ 7.36/hr or \$ 0.40 - \$ 1.25 per tree
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	493	\$ 7.36/hr
Cherry Pruner .....	110	\$ 7.35/hr
Grapes Pruner .....	56	\$ 7.35/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 36 (26 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 10 unknown origin)

Wheat Worker .....	25	\$ 9.50/hr
Dairy Worker .....	8	Not Available
Beef Cattle Worker .....	4	\$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												

**AGRICULTURAL LABOR SURVEY**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DETAIL BY CROP ACTIVITY**  
**DECEMBER 2005**

**TABLE 1**

**DECEMBER 2005**

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

<b>Agricultural Reporting Area</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Intra-state</b>	<b>Inter-state</b>	<b>Foreign</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Area Total</b>
1. Western	1,875	110	69	23	156	2,232
2. South Central	1,035	249	136	311	272	2,003
3. North Central	2,731	0	3	164	7	2,905
4. Columbia Basin	1,504	0	24	85	269	1,882
5. South Eastern	1,729	0	12	0	45	1,786
6. Eastern	26	0	0	0	10	36
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>10,844</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>82.1%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 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)

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	2,232
a. Local .....	1,874
b. Intrastate migratory .....	110
c. Interstate migratory .....	69
d. Foreign .....	23
e. Unknown .....	156
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Mount Vernon, Wenatchee, Yakima	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
    The December 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,509.
  
  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. Primary agricultural activities were raspberry general farm work and pruning, nursery 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 December averaged \$7.63 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for raspberry pruner, potato sorter/grader/packer, blackberry pruner, blueberry sorter/grader/packer, nursery harvester, nursery worker, nursery tractor operator, miscellaneous onion harvester, beets harvester, miscellaneous vegetables tractor operator, miscellaneous vegetables planter to \$15.00 for blueberry 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 84.0% local, 4.9% intrastate, 3.1% interstate, foreign 1.0% and 7.0% 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: DECEMBER 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)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	TOTAL 2,232	* = piece rate
Raspberry Worker	530	\$ 7.51
Raspberry Pruner	495	\$ 7.35
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	192	\$ 7.40
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	183	\$ 7.35
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	171	\$ 7.41
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	167	Not Available
Blackberry Pruner	106	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	83	\$ 7.35
Nursery Harvester	53	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	53	\$ 8.84
Misc Vegetables Worker	43	\$ 9.72
Blueberry Pruner	41	Not Available
Nursery Worker	20	\$ 7.35
Apple Worker	13	\$10.00
Nursery Tractor Operator	12	\$ 7.35
Misc Field Crops Harvester	11	\$ 8.70
Chicken Eggs Worker	8	\$ 9.20
Misc Onion Harvester	7	\$ 7.35
Misc Squash Harvester	7	\$ 7.40
Cauliflower Mechanic	7	\$14.00
Beets Harvester	7	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Mechanic	6	\$15.00
Blackberry Manager	6	\$11.50
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	4	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Planter	4	\$ 7.35
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	2	\$ 8.00
Potato Mechanic	2	\$ 9.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 ..... \$ 7.63/hr (weighted average)

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: DECEMBER 2005

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **SOUTH CENTRAL** (Klickitat, Yakima)

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## SECTION A. (see attachments)

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### SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers . . . . . | 2,003 |
| a. Local . . . . .                                 | 1,035 |
| b. Intrastate migratory . . . . .                  | 249   |
| c. Interstate migratory . . . . .                  | 136   |
| d. Foreign . . . . .                               | 311   |
| e. Unknown . . . . .                               | 272   |
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
- a. Intrastate: Mesa, Othello, Royal City, Sunnyside, 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 December 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 13,146.
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. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, pear pruning, apple warehouse work and grapes pruning.
  - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.74 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for apple sorter/grader/packer to \$35.00 for apple mechanic. Typical piece rates were: \$0.75 to \$4.40 per tree for apple pruning, \$1.25 to \$4.25 per tree for pear pruning and \$0.16 to \$0.28½ per vine for grapes pruning. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
  - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 51.7% local, 12.4% intrastate, 6.8% interstate, foreign 15.5% and unknown 13.6%.
  - 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: DECEMBER 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 2,003	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,165	\$ 7.46 or * \$ 0.75 - \$ 4.40 per tree
Pear Pruner	281	* \$ 1.25 - \$ 4.25 per tree
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	262	\$ 7.35
Grapes Pruner	178	* \$ 0.16 - \$ 0.28½ per vine
Misc Squash Sorter/Grader/Packer	60	\$ 7.75
Apple Worker	21	\$ 9.41
Nursery Planter	16	\$ 9.75
Cherry Pruner	10	\$15.00
Apple Mechanic	5	\$35.00
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	5	\$ 9.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 ..... \$ 7.74/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2005

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **NORTH CENTRAL** (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Okanogan)

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1.	Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	2,905
	a. Local .....	2,731
	b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
	c. Interstate migratory .....	3
	d. Foreign .....	164
	e. Unknown .....	7
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: None	
	b. Interstate: Illinois	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The December 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,186.
  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. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning and warehouse work, pear pruning and cherry pruning.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.58 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for miscellaneous fruit trees worker to \$25.00 for 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 94.1% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.1% interstate, 5.6% foreign and 0.2% 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: DECEMBER 2005  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 3: NORTH CENTRAL (Chelan, Kittitas, Douglas and Okanogan Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,905</b>
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	2,388	\$ 7.43
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	278	\$ 7.87
Pear Pruner	112	\$ 7.71
Cherry Pruner	40	\$ 9.10
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	23	\$ 7.35
Apple Forklift Driver	22	\$ 8.65
Apple Manager	7	\$ 8.50
Pear Manager	7	\$ 8.00
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	7	\$ 8.00
Horse and Equines Manager	6	\$25.00
Misc Field Crops Worker	6	\$15.00
Apple Trainer	4	Not Available
Apple Worker	4	\$ 7.45
Apple Loader	2	\$12.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 ..... \$ 7.58/hr (weighted average)

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: DECEMBER 2005

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **COLUMBIA BASIN** (Adams and Grant)

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## SECTION A. (see attachments)

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### SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	1,882
a. Local .....	1,504
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	24
d. Foreign .....	85
e. Unknown .....	269
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The December 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 3,806.
  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. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, miscellaneous onion and potato warehouse work and miscellaneous fruit tree work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.45 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, contract miscellaneous crop worker, nursery sorter/grader/packer, alfalfa tractor operator, cherry pruner, apple weeder, miscellaneous onion planter and nursery pruner to \$10.88 for general farm worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.25 to \$1.50 per tree for apple pruning. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 79.9% local, 0.0% intrastate, 1.3% interstate 4.5% foreign and 14.3% 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: DECEMBER 2005  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 4: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	TOTAL 1,882	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,233	\$ 7.39 or * \$ 0.25 - \$ 1.50 per tree
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	139	\$ 7.35
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	126	\$ 7.35
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	123	\$ 7.41
Pear Pruner	50	\$ 7.46
Apple Preparation	35	\$ 8.40
Contract Misc Crop Worker	32	\$ 7.35
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	24	\$ 7.35
Grapes Trainer	23	\$ 7.35
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	17	\$10.00
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	15	\$ 8.25
Misc Onion Vehicle Operator	10	\$10.00
Potato Worker	9	\$ 8.75
Cherry Pruner	9	\$ 7.35
Potato Mechanic	7	\$ 8.83
Potato Loader	6	\$ 8.25
General Farm Worker	6	\$10.88
Apple Weeder	6	\$ 7.35
Potato Forklift Driver	5	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Planter	4	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Manager	2	\$ 8.35
Nursery Pruner	1	\$ 7.35

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 ..... \$ 7.45/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2005  
State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **SOUTHEASTERN** (Benton, Franklin, & Walla Walla)

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	1,786
a. Local .....	1,729
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	12
d. Foreign .....	0
e. Unknown .....	45
 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The December 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,743.
  
  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. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, miscellaneous onion warehouse work, cherry pruning and grapes pruning.
  
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in December averaged \$7.09 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for cherry pruner, grapes pruner, pear pruner, hops trainer, peach trainer, grapes trainer, grapes weeder, miscellaneous hay worker and potato worker to \$35.00 for wheat mechanic. Typical piece rates were: \$0.40 to \$1.25 per tree for apple pruning. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
  
    - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:  
The labor force was estimated to be 96.8% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.7% interstate, 0.0% foreign and 2.5% 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 LABOR REPORT**

Period: DECEMBER 2005  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 5: SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,786</b>
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	805	\$ 7.36 or * \$ 0.40 - \$ 1.25 per tree
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	493	\$ 7.36
Cherry Pruner	110	\$ 7.35
Grapes Pruner	56	\$ 7.35
Pear Pruner	51	\$ 7.35
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	50	\$ 7.43
Hops Trainer	39	\$ 7.35
Peach Trainer	31	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	26	\$ 8.50
Grapes Trainer	26	\$ 7.35
Grapes Weeder	16	\$ 7.35
Chicken Eggs Worker	13	\$ 8.00
Walla Walla Sweets Worker	10	\$ 8.50
Misc Field Crops Worker	9	\$12.17
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	9	\$ 8.00
General Farm Worker	8	\$12.00
Misc Hay Worker	6	\$ 7.35
Wheat Worker	6	\$ 9.00
Wheat Mechanic	6	\$35.00
Field Corn Vehicle Operator	6	\$10.00
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	3	\$ 9.50
Contract Aerial Worker	3	Not Available
Field Corn Mechanized Harvester	3	\$10.00
Potato Worker	1	\$ 7.35

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 ..... \$ 7.47/hr (weighted average)