



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

FEBRUARY 2005



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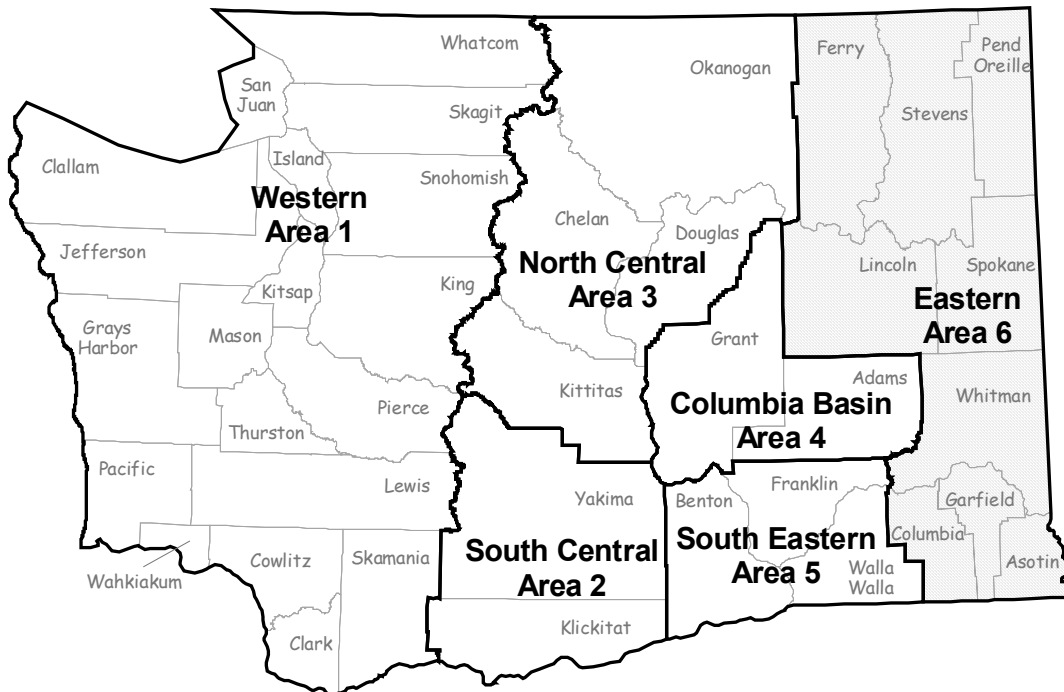
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<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

FEBRUARY 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

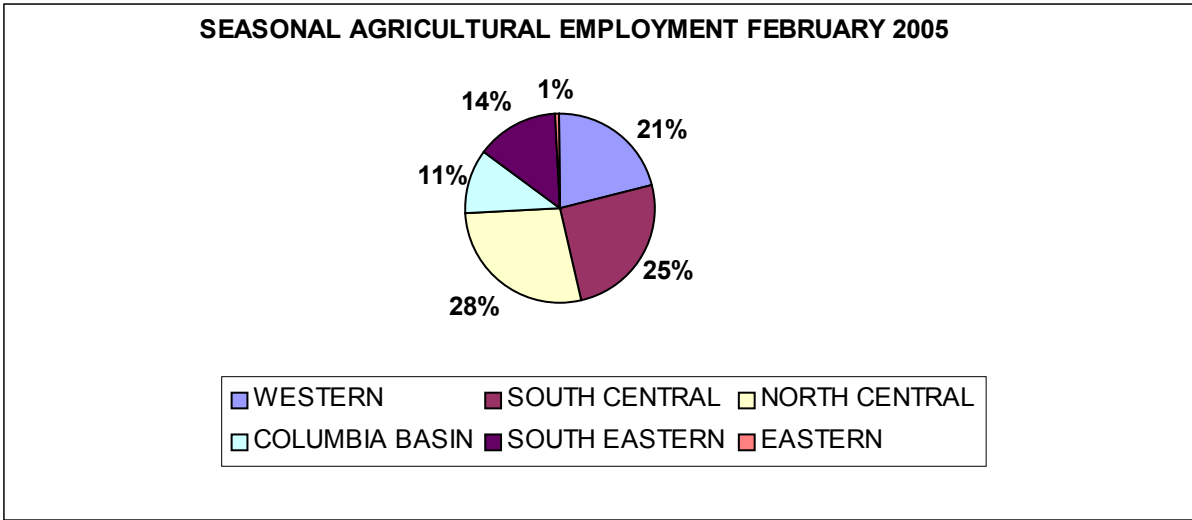
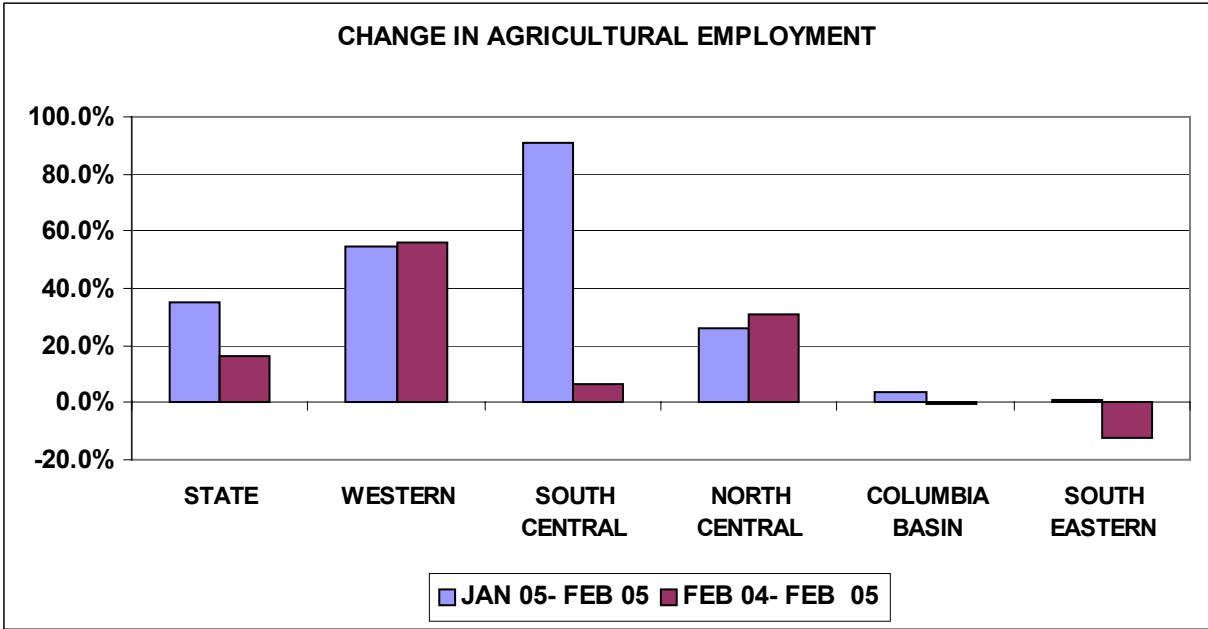
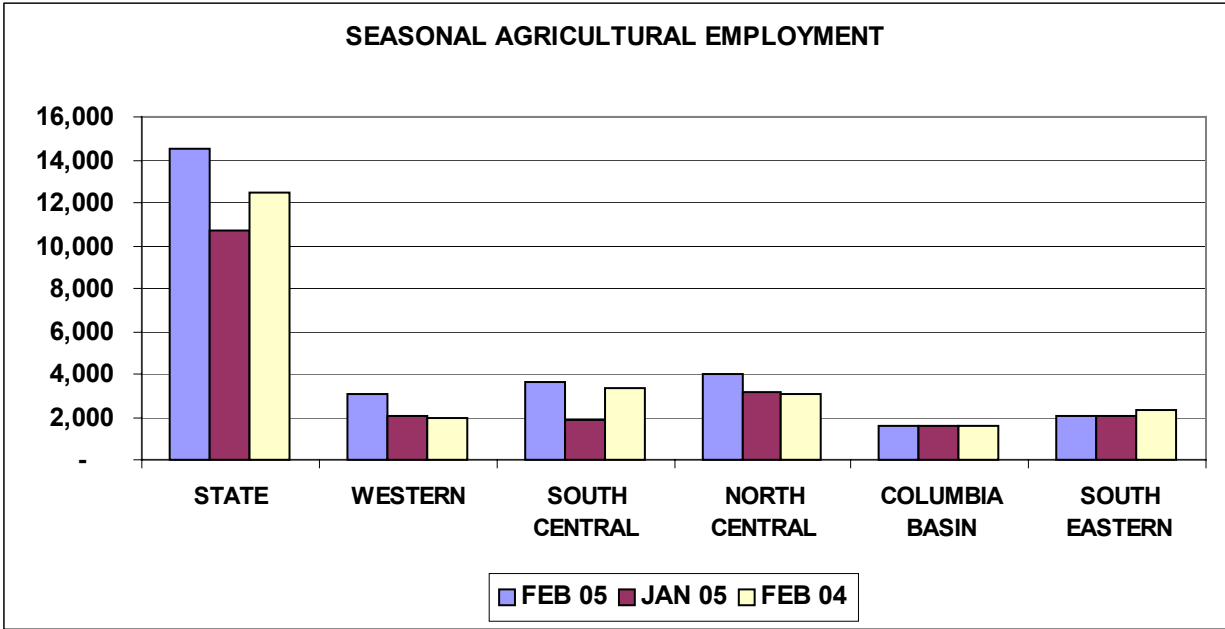
Statewide seasonal employment moved forward by 16.2% from February 2004 to February 2005. This was caused by an above average amount of apple pruning due to warm weather. Agricultural activities displaying an over-the-year increase were apple work (1,099), nursery work (636), grapes work (427), bulb work (240), hops work (207), other tree fruit work (131), raspberry work (97), strawberry work (66), potato work (56), cucumber work (32) and wheat/grain work (13). Activities displaying declines were onion work (-502), cherry work (-240), other seasonal work (-123), blueberry work (-64), pear work (-48) and miscellaneous vegetables work (-17). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment leaped ahead by a huge 56.2%, thanks to an increase in nursery work (596). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment inched ahead by a meager 6.7%, due to a growth in grapes work (279). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment grew by a large 30.8%, courtesy of an expansion in apple work (1,021). Columbia Basin (Area 4) slipped back by 0.6%, caused by a decline in cherry work (-108). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment also experienced a downturn of 12.2%, led by a decline in onion work (-473). Eastern (Area 6) expanded by 21.2%, due to an increase in nursery work (40).

ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

The Washington snowpack is well below normal. Snowfall has been so light this winter that the snowpack in Washington's mountains is near record lows, setting the state for drought this summer. The Natural Resources Conservation Service reported that February snowpack readings across the state ranged from 25 percent of average to 72 percent of average. Statewide, the snowpack was just 26 percent of average. The state received only 75 percent of normal precipitation in November and December. The Wenatchee River flow this spring and summer may be as low or lower than in the state's record drought year of 1977, a federal official said. The March 1 streamflow forecast likely will predict the Wenatchee River at 45 percent of normal or less for April through September runoff. We would have to receive 600 percent, or six times the normal snow, in the next month and a half in the Chelan, Entiat and Wenatchee basins to get back to normal water this year, and 400 percent or four times in the Okanogan and Methow basins. The chance of such snow is unlikely. The Yakima River system, fed by Kachess and Keechelus lakes east of Snoqualmie Pass, supplies large irrigation districts in the Yakima Valley and Tri-Cities. Those systems are most at risk, at just 21 percent of average snowpack and 57 percent of average total precipitation.

Chinese professor Jianshe Sun, a visiting researcher at the WSU Tree Fruit Research Extension Center in Wenatchee for four years, believes that China apple exports to the U.S. are not a big threat. He maintains that the Chinese apple industry faces too many challenges to become as big a threat to the U.S. apple industry, as some people foresee. With cold storage for only 5 percent of its crops, poor quality fruit and slim profits, China is "far from being a qualified international fresh apple supplier," says Sun, a professor at the Agricultural University of Hebei in Baoding, China. China produces and consumes more apples than any other nation, with 90 percent of the 1 billion boxes of apples it produced in 2003 being consumed domestically, Sun said. 79 percent of what was exported went to neighboring countries soon after harvest. China's acreage in apples, while at 5.2 million in 2003, declined 34 percent between 1996 and 2002 as prices dropped from overproduction and about 30 percent of growers found it more profitable to cut down their trees and raise corn. Sun said his own family cut down its 2.8 acres of apple trees and switched to corn last year.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>FEB 05</u>	<u>JAN 05</u>	<u>FEB 04</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>JAN 05- FEB 05</u>	<u>FEB 04- FEB 05</u>	<u>JAN 05- FEB 05</u>	<u>FEB 04- FEB 05</u>
STATE	14,473	10,737	12,460	3,736	2,013	34.8%	16.2%
WESTERN	3,106	2,009	1,988	1,097	1,118	54.6%	56.2%
SOUTH CENTRAL	3,583	1,879	3,359	1,704	224	90.7%	6.7%
NORTH CENTRAL	4,021	3,191	3,073	830	948	26.0%	30.8%
COLUMBIA BASIN	1,608	1,548	1,618	60	(10)	3.9%	-0.6%
SOUTH EASTERN	2,052	2,037	2,337	15	(285)	0.7%	-12.2%
EASTERN	103	73	85	30	18	41.1%	21.2%



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment grew by 16.2% from February 2004 to February 2005. However, seasonal employment expanded by 34.8% statewide from January 2005 to February 2005. The crop activity adding the most in employment from February 2004 to February 2005 was apple work (1,099). Onion work displayed the greatest decline in employment (-502) for that same time period. Grapes work added the most jobs (1,347) from January 2005 to February 2005. Raspberry work lost the greatest number of jobs (-792) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2005 was \$7.50 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	FEB 05	JAN 05	FEB 04	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05
CROP	FEB 05	JAN 05	FEB 04	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05
Apples	7,784	6,781	6,685	1,003	1,099	14.8%	16.4%
Blueberry	256	27	320	229	(64)	848.1%	-20.0%
Bulb	585	109	345	476	240	436.7%	69.6%
Cherries	317	359	557	(42)	(240)	-11.7%	-43.1%
Cucumbers	58	0	26	0	32	0.0%	123.1%
Grapes	1,650	303	1,223	1,347	427	444.6%	34.9%
Hops	217	0	10	217	207	0.0%	2070.0%
Misc Vegetables	145	90	162	55	(17)	61.1%	-10.5%
Nursery	1,617	671	981	946	636	141.0%	64.8%
Onion	116	552	618	(436)	(502)	-79.0%	-81.2%
Other Seasonal	481	142	604	339	(123)	238.7%	-20.4%
Other Tree Fruit	252	42	121	210	131	500.0%	108.3%
Pears	411	328	459	83	(48)	25.3%	-10.5%
Potato	219	221	163	(2)	56	-0.9%	34.4%
Raspberry	255	1,047	158	(792)	97	-75.6%	61.4%
Strawberries	66	0	0	66	66	0.0%	0.0%
Wheat/Grain	41	68	28	(27)	13	-39.7%	46.4%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment rose by 56.2% from February 2004 to February 2005. Seasonal employment also moved upward by 54.6% from January 2005 to February 2005. Nursery work rose by the largest amount of employment (596) from February 2004 to February 2005. Blueberry work shed the largest number of jobs (-64) for that same time period. Nursery work posted the largest over-the-month gain in employment (993) from January 2005 to February 2005. Raspberry work displayed the largest downturn in employment (-792) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2005 in Area 1 was \$7.49 per hour. (See pages 14 -15 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	FEB 05	JAN 05	FEB 04	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05
CROP							
Blueberry	256	27	320	229	(64)	848.1%	-20.0%
Bulb	585	109	345	476	240	436.7%	69.6%
Cucumbers	58	0	26	0	32	0.0%	123.1%
Misc Vegetables	15	74	34	(59)	(19)	-79.7%	-55.9%
Nursery	1,539	546	943	993	596	181.9%	63.2%
Other Seasonal	39	16	32	23	7	143.8%	21.9%
Potato	196	179	58	17	138	9.5%	237.9%
Raspberry	255	1,047	158	(792)	97	-75.6%	61.4%
Rhubarb	97	10	72	0	25	0.0%	34.7%
Strawberries	66	0	0	0	66	0.0%	0.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment moved steadily ahead by 6.7% from February 2004 to February 2005. This was surpassed by a leap of 90.7% in employment from January 2005 to February 2005. Grapes work experienced the largest bump in employment (279) from February 2004 to February 2005. Apple work shed the largest amount of employment (-180) for that same time period. Grapes work created the largest number of jobs (879) from January 2005 to February 2005. Cherry work slid by a tiny bit (-1) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2005 in Area 2 was \$7.49 per hour. (See pages 16 and 17 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	FEB 05	JAN 05	FEB 04	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05
CROP							
Apples	1,749	1,447	1,929	302	(180)	20.9%	-9.3%
Cherries	18	19	91	(1)	(73)	-5.3%	-80.2%
Grapes	1,096	217	817	879	279	405.1%	34.1%
Hops	197	0	0	197	197	0.0%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	15	6	25	9	(10)	150.0%	-40.0%
Other Seasonal	11	0	80	11	(69)	0.0%	-86.3%
Other Tree Fruit	141	10	27	131	114	1310.0%	422.2%
Pears	354	181	390	173	(36)	95.6%	-9.2%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment displayed an increase of 30.8% from February 2004 to February 2005. Seasonal employment also expanded by a large 26.0% from January 2005 to February 2005. Apple work ramped up by the largest (1,021) amount of employment from February 2004 to February 2005. Other seasonal work showed the greatest loss of jobs (-52) for that same time period. Apple work displayed the largest advance in employment (829) from January 2005 to February 2005. Pear work lost the largest number of jobs (-18) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2005 in Area 3 was \$7.48 per hour. (See pages 18 and 19 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE		
	FEB 05	JAN 05	FEB 04	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05
CROP	FEB 05	JAN 05	FEB 04	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05
Apples	3,785	2,956	2,764	829	1,021	28.0%	36.9%
Cherries	117	82	134	35	(17)	42.7%	-12.7%
Other Seasonal	54	71	106	(17)	(52)	-23.9%	-49.1%
Other Tree Fruit	10	7	21	3	(11)	42.9%	-52.4%
Pears	57	75	48	(18)	9	-24.0%	18.8%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment slumped back by 0.6% from February 2004 to February 2005. This was reversed by a small increase of 3.9% in employment from January 2005 to February 2005. Apple work led all other seasonal activities in employment (258) from February 2004 to February 2005. Cherry work decreased by the greatest amount of employment (-108) during that same time period. Apple work displayed the largest advance in employment (299) from January 2005 to February 2005. Nursery work experienced the greatest decline in employment (-121) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2005 in Area 4 was \$7.46 per hour. (See pages 20 - 21 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN	CHANGE				PERCENT CHANGE		
	FEB 05	JAN 05	FEB 04	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05
CROP	FEB 05	JAN 05	FEB 04	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05
Apples	1,379	1,080	1,121	299	258	27.7%	23.0%
Cherries	47	84	155	(37)	(108)	-44.0%	-69.7%
Mint	4	0	0	4	4	0.0%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	3	0	0	3	3	0.0%	0.0%
Nursery	4	125	14	(121)	(10)	-96.8%	-71.4%
Onion	108	110	137	(2)	(29)	-1.8%	-21.2%
Other Seasonal	40	41	24	(1)	16	-2.4%	66.7%
Other Tree Fruit	9	0	45	9	(36)	0.0%	-80.0%
Pears	0	72	21	(72)	(21)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Potato	13	38	101	(25)	(88)	-65.8%	-87.1%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment slowed by 12.2% from February 2004 to February 2005. February 2005 employment inched ahead by a very meager 0.7% from January 2005. Grapes work employment added the most jobs (148) from February 2004 to February 2005. Onion work lost the largest number of jobs (-473) during that same time period. Grapes work expanded by the greatest amount of employment (468) from January 2005 to February 2005. Onion work scaled back by the largest amount of employment (-434) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2005 in Area 5 was \$7.55 per hour. (See pages 22 and 23 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT								
SOUTH EASTERN					CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	FEB 05	JAN 05	FEB 04	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05	JAN 05- FEB 05	FEB 04- FEB 05	
CROP								
Apples	871	1,298	871	(427)	0	-32.9%	0.0%	
Cherries	135	174	177	(39)	(42)	-22.4%	-23.7%	
Grapes	554	86	406	468	148	544.2%	36.5%	
Hops	20	0	10	20	10	0.0%	100.0%	
Misc Vegetables	15	0	31	15	(16)	0.0%	-51.6%	
Nursery	12	0	2	12	10	0.0%	500.0%	
Onion	8	442	481	(434)	(473)	-98.2%	-98.3%	
Other Seasonal	321	8	322	313	(1)	3912.5%	-0.3%	
Other Tree Fruit	92	25	28	67	64	268.0%	228.6%	
Potatoes	10	4	4	6	6	150.0%	150.0%	
Wheat/Grain	9	0	5	9	4	0.0%	80.0%	
**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 February.

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 FEBRUARY 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: 3,106 (2,986 local, 0 intrastate, 44 interstate, 0 foreign, 76 unknown origin)

Nursery Harvester	941	\$ 7.35/hr
Bulbs Harvester	560	\$ 7.35/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	477	\$ 7.50/hr
Blueberry Pruner	219	\$ 7.35/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,583 (3,128 local, 225 intrastate, 52 interstate, 178 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,729	\$ 7.39/hr or \$ 0.30 - \$ 4.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	1,045	\$ 7.60/hr or \$ 0.12 - \$ 0.33 per plant
Pear Pruner	354	\$ 7.75/hr
Hops Worker	197	Not Available

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,021 (4,001 local, 10 intrastate, 7 interstate, 3 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	3,313	\$ 7.41/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	294	\$ 7.44/hr
Cherry Pruner	117	\$ 8.08/hr
Apple Worker	59	\$ 7.38/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,608 (1,398 local, 0 intrastate, 8 interstate, 75 foreign, 127 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,366	\$ 7.43/hr or \$ 0.30 - \$ 4.00 per tree
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	75	\$ 7.35/hr
Cherry Pruner	35	\$ 7.35/hr
Grapes Pruner	29	\$ 7.35/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,052 (1,904 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 138 foreign, 10 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	757	\$ 7.41/hr or \$ 0.40 - \$ 2.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	440	\$ 7.39/hr or \$ 0.10 - \$ 0.30 per plant
Chicken Eggs Worker	247	\$ 7.70/hr
Cherry Pruner	135	\$ 7.53/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 103 (75 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 28 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Nursery Planter	30	\$ 7.55/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	24	\$ 7.35/hr
Wheat Worker	16	\$ 7.50/hr
Wheat Loader	16	\$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
FEBRUARY 2005

TABLE 1
FEBRUARY 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	2,986	0	44	0	76	3,106
2. South Central	3,128	225	52	178	0	3,583
3. North Central	4,001	10	7	3	0	4,021
4. Columbia Basin	1,398	0	8	75	127	1,608
5. South Eastern	1,904	0	0	138	10	2,052
6. Eastern	75	0	0	28	0	103
State Totals	13,492	234	111	422	213	14,473
% State Total	93.2%	1.6%	0.8%	2.9%	1.5%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 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	3,106
a. Local	2,986
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	44
d. Foreign	0
e. Unknown	76
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 February 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,974.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were nursery harvesting, bulbs harvesting, nursery warehouse work and blueberry pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.49 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for nursery harvester, bulbs harvester, blueberry pruner, potato sorter/grader/packer, raspberry pruner, rhubarb weeder, strawberry sorter/grader/packer, raspberry sorter/grader/packer, blueberry sorter/grader/packer, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, rhubarb harvester, raspberry planter, miscellaneous vegetables harvester, nursery planter, blueberry weeder, and nursery irrigator to \$13.00 for blueberry manager and raspberry 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 at 96.1% local, 0.0% intrastate, 1.4% interstate, foreign 0.0% 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: FEBRUARY 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	3,106
		* = piece rate
Nursery Harvester	941	\$ 7.35
Bulbs Harvester	560	\$ 7.35
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	477	\$ 7.50
Blueberry Pruner	219	\$ 7.35
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	196	\$ 7.36
Raspberry Pruner	185	\$ 7.35
Nursery Worker	95	\$ 9.48
Rhubarb Weeder	76	\$ 7.35
Strawberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	63	\$ 7.35
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	58	\$ 7.54
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	54	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.35
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	25	\$ 7.35
Rhubarb Harvester	21	\$ 7.35
Chicken Eggs Worker	18	\$ 8.60
Misc Field Crops Weeder	15	\$ 8.95
Raspberry Planter	13	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Harvester	10	\$ 7.35
Nursery Vehicle Operator	10	\$10.60
Nursery Planter	10	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Weeder	5	\$ 7.35
Beets Harvester	5	\$ 7.35
Nursery Tractor Operator	3	\$ 9.00
Nursery Irrigator	3	\$ 7.35
Misc Berries Mechanic	3	\$12.00
Blueberry Manager	3	\$13.00
Raspberry Manager	3	\$13.00
Strawberry Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.00
Blueberry Tractor Operator	3	\$10.00
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	3	\$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.49/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 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	3,583
a. Local	3,128
b. Intrastate migratory	225
c. Interstate migratory	52
d. Foreign	178
e. Unknown	0
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: 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 February 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 13,079.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, grapes pruning, pear pruning and hops work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.19 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for nectarine pruner, grapes weeder and miscellaneous vegetables preparer to \$10.60 for apple worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.30 to \$4.50 per tree for apple pruning and \$0.12 to \$0.33 per plant 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 87.2% local, 6.3% intrastate, 1.5% interstate, foreign 5.0% and unknown 0.0%.
 - 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: FEBRUARY 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	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,729	\$ 7.39 or * \$ 0.30 - \$ 4.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	1,045	\$ 7.60 or * \$ 0.12 - \$ 0.33 per plant
Pear Pruner	354	\$ 7.75
Hops Worker	197	Not Available
Peach Pruner	76	\$ 7.43
Nectarine Pruner	65	\$ 7.35
Grapes Planter	30	\$ 7.50
Cherry Pruner	18	Not Available
Grapes Weeder	16	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Preparation	15	\$ 7.35
Nursery Harvester	11	\$ 9.25
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	5	\$ 8.72
Apple Worker	5	\$10.60
Grapes Trainer	5	Not Available
Apple Manager	5	\$ 7.75
Apple Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.25

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.49/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 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	4,021
	a. Local	4,001
	b. Intrastate migratory	10
	c. Interstate migratory	7
	d. Foreign	3
	e. Unknown	0
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Wenatchee, Yakima	
	b. Interstate: California	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The February 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,524.

 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, apple warehouse work and cherry pruning.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.48 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for potato sorter/grader/packer, nursery sorter/grader/packer and miscellaneous fruit trees grafter to \$22.00 for miscellaneous field crops worker. 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 99.5% local, 0.2% intrastate, 0.2% interstate, 0.1% foreign and 0.0% unknown.

 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

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

Period: FEBRUARY 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 4,021	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	3,313	\$ 7.41
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	294	\$ 7.44
Cherry Pruner	117	\$ 8.08
Apple Worker	59	\$ 7.38
Pear Pruner	50	\$ 7.65
Apple Trainer	32	\$ 7.50
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	30	\$ 7.35
Apple Weeder	28	\$ 7.80
Apple Manager	25	\$ 7.75
Apple Grafter	21	Not Available
Apple Forklift Driver	13	\$ 9.00
Pear Weeder	7	\$ 8.25
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	7	\$ 7.40
Misc Field Crops Worker	7	\$22.00
Beef Cattle Worker	7	\$ 9.00
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	7	\$ 7.35
Misc Fruit Trees Grafter	3	\$ 7.35
Horse and Equines Worker	3	\$12.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.48/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 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	1,608
a. Local	1,398
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	8
d. Foreign	75
e. Unknown	127
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 February 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,187.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, 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 February averaged \$7.46 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for miscellaneous vegetables worker to \$10.00 for alfalfa tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.30 to \$4.00 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 86.9% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.5% interstate 4.7% foreign and 7.9% 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: FEBRUARY 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	1,608
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,366	\$ 7.43 or * \$ 0.30 - \$ 4.00 per tree
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	75	\$ 7.35
Cherry Pruner	35	\$ 7.35
Grapes Pruner	29	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Worker	22	\$ 7.35
Apple Manager	13	\$ 7.75
Cherry Worker	12	\$ 7.35
Potato Worker	11	\$ 8.00
Peach Pruner	9	\$ 8.75
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	7	\$ 8.50
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	6	\$10.00
Alfalfa Worker	5	\$ 8.43
Misc Onion Manager	4	\$ 9.00
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	3	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Worker	3	\$ 7.16
Mint Irrigator	2	\$ 7.35
Mint Planter	2	\$ 7.35
Potato Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 9.00
Nursery Planter	1	\$ 7.35

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.46/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 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	2,052
a. Local	1,904
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	0
d. Foreign	138
e. Unknown	10
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The February 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,806.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, grapes pruning, chicken eggs work and cherry pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$7.55 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for grapes preparer, peach pruner, hops planter, miscellaneous field crops irrigator, apple trainer, grapes planter, grapes worker, miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, apple worker and nursery planter to \$12.00 for general farm worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.40 to \$2.50 per tree for apple pruning and \$0.10 to \$0.30 per plant 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 92.8% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 6.7% foreign and 0.5% 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: FEBRUARY 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 2,052	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	757	\$ 7.41 or * \$ 0.40 - \$ 2.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	440	\$ 7.39 or * \$ 0.10 - \$ 0.30 per plant
Chicken Eggs Worker	247	\$ 7.70
Cherry Pruner	135	\$ 7.53
Apple Hand Thinner	97	\$ 7.67
Apricot Pruner	61	Not Available
Grapes Trainer	43	\$ 7.43
Grass Seed Weeder	42	\$ 7.85
Grapes Preparation	39	\$ 7.35
Peach Pruner	20	\$ 7.35
Hops Planter	20	\$ 7.35
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	13	\$ 7.35
Apple Trainer	13	\$ 7.35
Grapes Planter	13	\$ 7.35
Grapes Worker	12	\$ 7.35
Nectarine Pruner	11	\$ 7.65
Wheat Worker	9	\$ 9.88
Misc Vegetables Worker	9	\$11.50
Misc Hay Loader	9	\$ 6.80
Nursery Worker	8	\$ 8.68
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	8	\$ 7.35
Potato Preparation	6	\$10.00
Field Corn Preparation	6	\$10.00
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.50
Apple Worker	4	\$ 7.35
Grapes Hand Thinner	4	\$ 8.35
Nursery Planter	4	\$ 7.35
General Farm Worker	4	\$12.00
Potato Worker	4	\$ 9.50
Beans Worker	4	\$ 8.00
Grapes Tractor Operator	3	\$ 7.20
Peas Worker	2	\$ 9.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 7.55/hr (weighted average)