



## AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

JANUARY 2005



Prepared by

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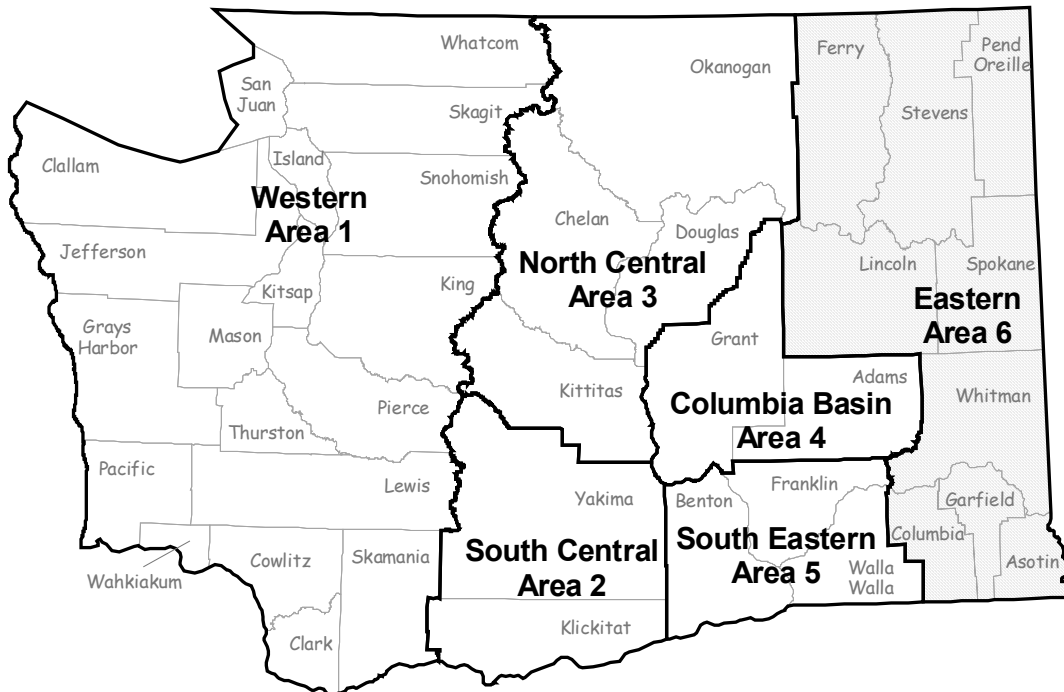
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry  
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

JANUARY 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

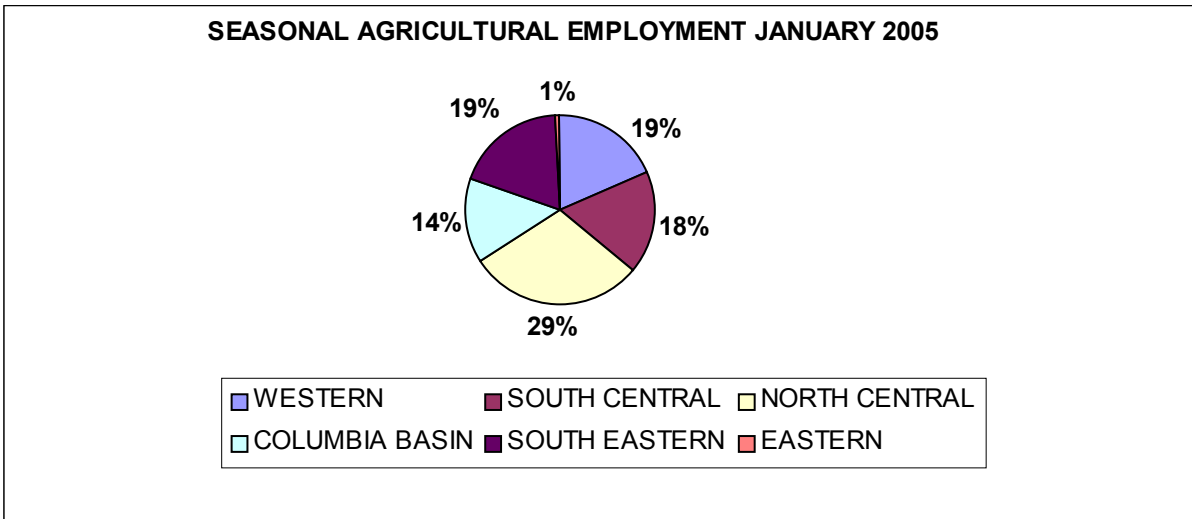
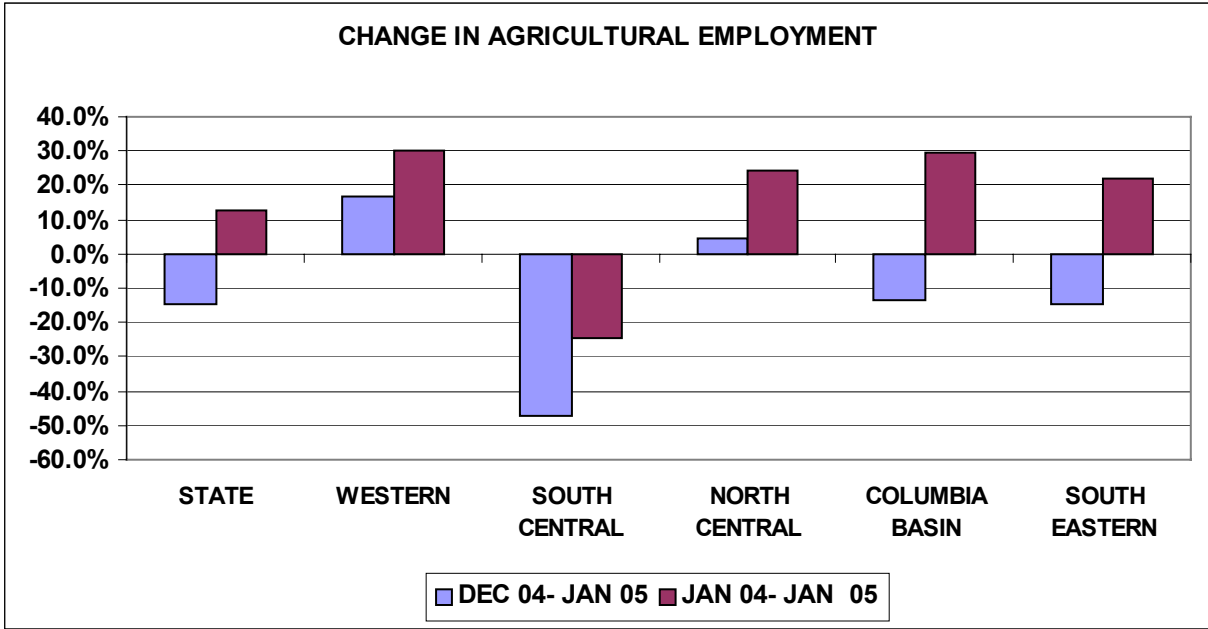
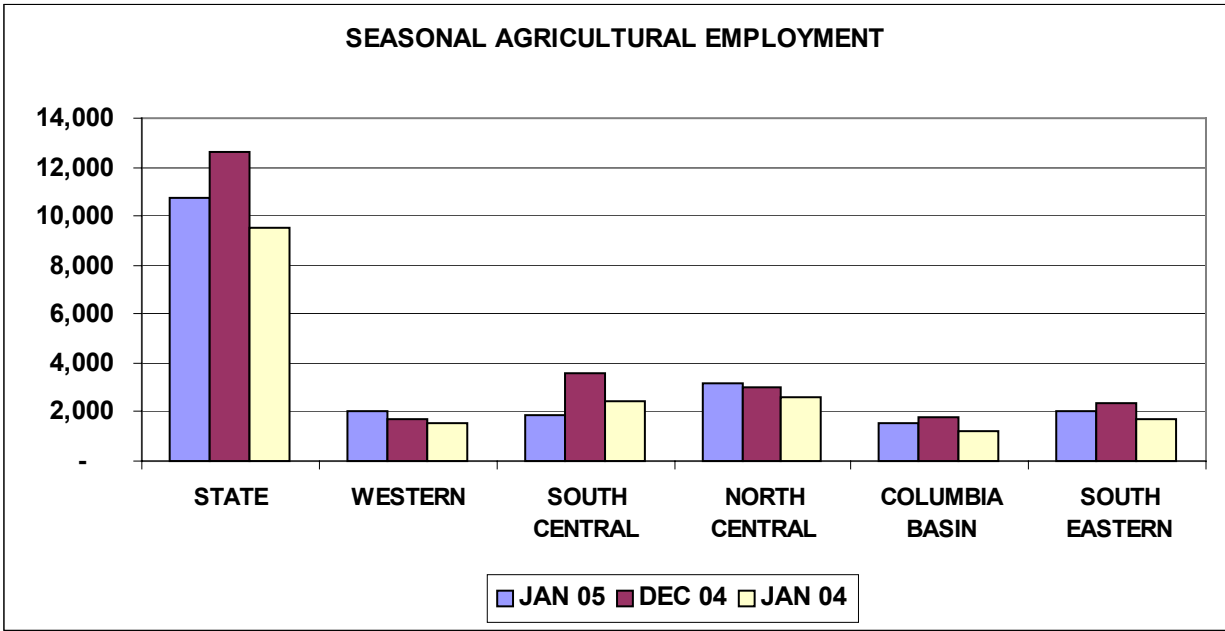
Statewide seasonal employment expanded by 12.9% from January 2004 to January 2005. This increase was due to more apple pruning allowed by warmer weather. Agricultural activities contributing to the over-the-year increases were apple work (1,252), raspberry work (468), onion work (175), miscellaneous vegetables work (51), potato work (50), wheat/grain work (48), cherry work (45) and nursery work (15). Activities displaying declines were grape work (-409), other tree fruit work (-192), pear work (-144), other seasonal work (-70), blueberry work (-46) and cucumber work (-7). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment advanced by 29.9%, led by raspberry work (468). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment declined by 24.3%, due to a decrease in apple work (-193). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment expanded by 24.2%, thanks to an increase in apple work (697). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment increased by 29.8%, again courtesy of an increase in apple work (206). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment grew by 22.0%, caused again by an increase in apple work (542). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment forged ahead by 62.2%, led by an increase in wheat/grain work (62).

## ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

In a recent setback, a Mexican court has placed a temporary injunction on a deal to end a 47 percent tariff on U.S. apples, dashing the industry's hopes of boosting sales south of the border. The tariff has essentially blocked exports of the state's two most abundant varieties, Red and Golden Delicious apples, by making them more expensive than apples grown in Mexico and other exporting countries. In August 2002, the Mexican government imposed the tariff to penalize Northwest exporters for selling at below-market prices. In exchange for duty-free access, exporters would sell at set minimum prices that protect Mexico's domestic apple industry. Mexico once accounted for as much as 30 percent of Washington's apple exports and was historically a strong market for the lower-priced varieties affected by the tariff. The end of the tariff would have meant the sale of close to 10 million boxes of apples to Mexico. Without it, the state will probably sell about 4 million boxes. The blow comes at a time when Washington growers face a record 101 million box crop, the largest ever, and the recent ban on exports to Taiwan, the state's third-largest foreign market.

U.S. agriculture officials reaffirmed their support for lifting the ban on Canadian beef despite the discovery of a second case of mad cow disease in Canada, expressing confidence that public health measures will protect American livestock and consumers. Canada's Food Inspection Agency said that an older dairy cow from the province of Alberta has tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease. The results confirmed preliminary tests released earlier in the week. Canada suspects the cow became infected through contaminated feed. The cow was born in 1996, before a 1997 ban on certain types of feed. Washington State ranchers however are concerned about the federal government's decision to open the border to Canadian cattle despite a second confirmed case in that country. "The U.S. beef industry has just started getting back on solid ground," said Ted Wishon, president of the Stevens County Cattlemen's Association. "Allowing Canadian cattle imports could throw prices back in turmoil." Lifting the ban on Canadian cattle could at least initially—cause prices to fall by roughly \$36 for a 1,200 pound steer that's ready for slaughter.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	JAN 05	DEC 04	JAN 04	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				DEC 04- JAN 05	JAN 04- JAN 05	DEC 04- JAN 05	JAN 04- JAN 05
STATE	10,737	12,586	9,507	(1,849)	1,230	-14.7%	12.9%
WESTERN	2,009	1,725	1,547	284	462	16.5%	29.9%
SOUTH CENTRAL	1,879	3,554	2,482	(1,675)	(603)	-47.1%	-24.3%
NORTH CENTRAL	3,191	3,051	2,570	140	621	4.6%	24.2%
COLUMBIA BASIN	1,548	1,785	1,193	(237)	355	-13.3%	29.8%
SOUTH EASTERN	2,037	2,386	1,670	(349)	367	-14.6%	22.0%
EASTERN	73	85	45	(12)	28	-14.1%	62.2%



## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment expanded by 12.9% from January 2004 to January 2005. Seasonal employment contracted by 14.7% statewide from December 2004 to January 2005. The crop activity increasing the most in employment from January 2004 to January 2005 was apple work (1,252). Grapes work shed the largest number of jobs (-409) for that same time period. Onion work displayed the largest over-the-month gain (470) from December 2004 to January 2005. Apple work showed the largest drop in employment (-958) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2005 was \$7.51 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE CROP	STATE			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	JAN 05	DEC 04	JAN 04	DEC 04- JAN 05	JAN 04- JAN 05	DEC 04- JAN 05	JAN 04- JAN 05
Apples	6,781	7,739	5,529	(958)	1,252	-12.4%	22.6%
Blueberry	27	109	73	(82)	(46)	-75.2%	-63.0%
Bulb	109	99	112	10	(3)	10.1%	-2.7%
Cherries	359	581	314	(222)	45	-38.2%	14.3%
Cucumbers	0	0	7	0	(7)	0.0%	-100.0%
Grapes	303	588	712	(285)	(409)	-48.5%	-57.4%
Misc Vegetables	90	159	39	(69)	51	-43.4%	130.8%
Nursery	671	591	656	80	15	13.5%	2.3%
Onion	552	82	377	470	175	573.2%	46.4%
Other Seasonal	142	730	212	(588)	(70)	-80.5%	-33.0%
Other Tree Fruit	42	141	234	(99)	(192)	-70.2%	-82.1%
Pears	328	448	472	(120)	(144)	-26.8%	-30.5%
Potato	221	318	171	(97)	50	-30.5%	29.2%
Raspberry	1,047	936	579	111	468	11.9%	80.8%
Wheat/Grain	68	59	20	9	48	15.3%	240.0%

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

**Western (Area 1)** seasonal employment expanded by 29.9% from January 2004 to January 2005. Seasonal employment also grew by 16.5% from December 2004 to January 2005. Raspberry work posted the largest over-the-year increase in employment (468) from January 2004 to January 2005. Other seasonal work lost the largest number of jobs (-50) for that same time period. Nursery work expanded by the greatest amount of employment (194) from December 2004 to January 2005. Blueberry work scaled back by the largest amount (-82) of employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2005 in Area 1 was \$7.48 per hour. (See pages 14 -15 for Area 1 detail)

<b>AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>WESTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>JAN 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>DEC 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>JAN 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>JAN 04- JAN 05</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Blueberry	27	109	73	(82)	(46)	-75.2%	-63.0%
Bulb	109	99	112	10	(3)	10.1%	-2.7%
Cucumbers	0	0	7	0	(7)	0.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	74	16	5	58	69	362.5%	1380.0%
Nursery	546	352	596	194	(50)	55.1%	-8.4%
Other Seasonal	16	33	51	(17)	(35)	-51.5%	-68.6%
Potato	179	172	102	7	77	4.1%	75.5%
Raspberry	1047	936	579	111	468	11.9%	80.8%
Rhubarb	10	0	22	0	(12)	0.0%	-54.5%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment lagged by 24.3% from January 2004 to January 2005. This was echoed by a sharper decline of 47.1% in employment from December 2004 to January 2005. No crop experienced a growth in employment, however other seasonal work (0) kept the same number of jobs from January 2004 to January 2005. Apple work lost the largest number of jobs (-193) for that same time period. Pear work gained a meager amount of employment (6) from December 2004 to January 2005. Apple work shrunk by the largest number of jobs (-1,377) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2005 in Area 2 was \$7.58 per hour. (See pages 16 and 17 for Area 2 detail)

<b>AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>JAN 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>DEC 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>JAN 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>JAN 04- JAN 05</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	1,447	2,824	1,640	(1,377)	(193)	-48.8%	-11.8%
Cherries	19	26	58	(7)	(39)	-26.9%	-67.2%
Grapes	217	324	357	(107)	(140)	-33.0%	-39.2%
Misc Vegetables	6	141	12	(135)	(6)	-95.7%	-50.0%
Other Seasonal	0	61	0	(61)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Other Tree Fruit	10	5	156	5	(146)	100.0%	-93.6%
Pears	181	175	259	6	(78)	3.4%	-30.1%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment posted a gain of 24.2% from January 2004 to January 2005. However, seasonal employment grew by a more modest 4.6% from December 2004 to January 2004. Apple work posted the largest increase (697) in employment from January 2004 to January 2005. Pear work had the largest decline (-60) in employment for that same time period. Apple work moved ahead with the largest gain in employment (315) from December 2004 to January 2005. Pear work displayed the largest decline (-112) in employment during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2005 in Area 3 was \$7.54 per hour. (See pages 18 and 19 for Area 3 detail)

<b>AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>				<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>		
	<b>JAN 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>DEC 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>JAN 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>JAN 04- JAN 05</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	2,956	2,641	2,259	315	697	11.9%	30.9%
Cherries	82	99	56	(17)	26	-17.2%	46.4%
Other Seasonal	71	102	67	(31)	4	-30.4%	6.0%
Other Tree Fruit	7	22	53	(15)	(46)	-68.2%	-86.8%
Pears	75	187	135	(112)	(60)	-59.9%	-44.4%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment charged ahead by 29.8% from January 2004 to January 2005. However this trend was reversed by a decrease of 13.3% in employment from December 2004 to January 2005. Apple work had the largest gain in seasonal employment (206) from January 2004 to January 2005. Potato work lost the most jobs (-31) during that same time period. Apple work grew by the largest (48) amount of employment from December 2004 to January 2005. Nursery work netted the largest decrease in employment (-112) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2005 in Area 4 was \$7.46 per hour. (See pages 20 - 21 for Area 4 detail)

<b>AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>				<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>		
	<b>JAN 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>DEC 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>JAN 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>JAN 04- JAN 05</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	1,080	1,032	874	48	206	4.7%	23.6%
Cherries	84	123	29	(39)	55	-31.7%	189.7%
Mint	0	14	0	(14)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	0	2	0	(2)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Nursery	125	237	54	(112)	71	-47.3%	131.5%
Onion	110	69	87	41	23	59.4%	26.4%
Other Seasonal	41	36	2	5	39	13.9%	1950.0%
Other Tree Fruit	0	46	0	(46)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Pears	72	86	78	(14)	(6)	-16.3%	-7.7%
Potato	38	139	69	(101)	(31)	-72.7%	-44.9%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment ramped up by 22.0% from January 2004 to January 2005. However January 2005 employment eased down by 14.6% from December 2004. Apple work employment expanded by the largest amount (542) from January 2004 to January 2005. Grapes work shed the most jobs (-269) during that same time period. Onion work grew by the greatest amount of employment (429) from December 2004 to January 2005. Other seasonal work declined by the largest amount of employment (-443) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for January 2005 in Area 5 was \$7.45 per hour. (See pages 22 and 23 for Area 5 detail)

<b>AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>JAN 05</b>	<b>DEC 04</b>	<b>JAN 04</b>	<b>DEC 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>JAN 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>DEC 04- JAN 05</b>	<b>JAN 04- JAN 05</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	1,298	1,242	756	56	542	4.5%	71.7%
Cherries	174	333	171	(159)	3	-47.7%	1.8%
Grapes	86	264	355	(178)	(269)	-67.4%	-75.8%
Nursery	0	2	0	(2)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Onion	442	13	290	429	152	3300.0%	52.4%
Other Seasonal	8	451	59	(443)	(51)	-98.2%	-86.4%
Other Tree Fruit	25	68	25	(43)	0	-63.2%	0.0%
Potatoes	4	7	0	(3)	4	-42.9%	0.0%
Wheat/Grain	0	6	14	(6)	(14)	-100.0%	-100.0%
**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 January.



## 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 JANUARY 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: 2,009 (1,769 local, 17 intrastate, 60 interstate, 9 foreign, 154 unknown origin)

Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	489	\$ 7.35/hr
Raspberry Worker .....	361	\$ 7.35/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	327	\$ 7.66/hr
Raspberry Pruner .....	194	Not Available

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,879 (1,111 local, 184 intrastate, 110 interstate, 434 foreign, 40 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	1,335	\$ 7.42/hr or \$ 0.40 - \$ 3.00 per tree
Grapes Pruner .....	213	\$ 7.87/hr
Pear Pruner .....	181	\$ 1.10 - \$ 5.75 per tree
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	98	\$ 7.71/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,191 (3,184 local, 0 intrastate, 7 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	2,544	\$ 7.46/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	368	\$ 7.46/hr
Cherry Pruner .....	78	\$ 8.36/hr
Pear Pruner .....	71	\$ 7.35/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 1,548 (1,300 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 101 foreign, 147 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	1,007	\$ 7.45/hr or \$ 0.35 - \$ 2.25 per tree
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	125	\$ 7.35/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	97	\$ 7.35/hr
Cherry Pruner .....	84	\$ 7.35/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,037 (1,617 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 413 foreign, 7 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner .....	1,290	\$ 7.43/hr or \$ 0.35 - \$ 2.25 per tree
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	282	\$ 7.40/hr
Cherry Pruner .....	174	\$ 7.53/hr
Misc Onion Loader .....	154	\$ 7.35/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 73 (73 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Wheat Worker .....	53	\$10.00/hr
Wheat Mechanic .....	15	\$10.00/hr
Contract Aerial Worker .....	3	\$14.00/hr
Beef Cattle Worker .....	3	\$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**  
**JANUARY 2005**

**TABLE 1**

**JANUARY 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	1,769	17	60	9	154	2,009
2. South Central	1,111	184	110	434	40	1,879
3. North Central	3,184	0	7	0	0	3,191
4. Columbia Basin	1,300	0	0	101	147	1,548
5. South Eastern	1,617	0	0	413	7	2,037
6. Eastern	73	0	0	0	0	73
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>9,055</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>10,737</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JANUARY 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 .....	2,009
a. Local .....	1,769
b. Intrastate migratory .....	17
c. Interstate migratory .....	60
d. Foreign .....	9
e. Unknown .....	154
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Yakima	
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 January 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,492.

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 raspberry warehouse work, raspberry pruning and nursery warehouse work.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in January averaged \$7.48 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for raspberry sorter/grader/packer, raspberry worker, potato sorter/grader/packer, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery planter, miscellaneous vegetables harvester, beets harvester and rhubarb weeder to \$12.00 for 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 88.1% local, 0.8% intrastate, 3.0% interstate, foreign 0.4% and 7.7% 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: JANUARY 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 2,009	* = piece rate
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	489	\$ 7.35
Raspberry Worker	361	\$ 7.35
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	327	\$ 7.66
Raspberry Pruner	194	Not Available
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	179	\$ 7.35
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	109	\$ 7.35
Nursery Worker	99	\$ 8.27
Nursery Harvester	94	\$ 7.37
Cabbage Sorter/Grader/Packer	46	\$ 7.42
Nursery Planter	26	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Harvester	17	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Pruner	17	Not Available
Beets Harvester	11	\$ 7.35
Rhubarb Weeder	10	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Chemical Applicator	10	\$ 7.90
Chicken Eggs Worker	9	\$ 8.00
Misc Field Crops Weeder	4	\$ 9.75
Misc Berries Mechanic	3	\$12.00
Raspberry Chemical Applicator	3	\$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 ..... \$ 7.48/hr (weighted average)

## DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JANUARY 2005

State: WASHINGTON

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

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### SECTION A. (see attachments)

### SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers . . . . .	1,879
a. Local . . . . .	1,111
b. Intrastate migratory . . . . .	184
c. Interstate migratory . . . . .	110
d. Foreign . . . . .	434
e. Unknown . . . . .	40
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Mesa, Moses Lake, Othello, Sunnyside, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The January 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 12,229.
  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, grapes and pear pruning and apple warehouse work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in January averaged \$7.58 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for miscellaneous vegetables sorter/grader/packer, nectarine pruner and peach pruner to \$9.00 for grapes trainer. Typical piece rates were: \$0.40 to \$3.00 per tree for apple pruning and \$1.10 to \$5.75 per tree for pear 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 59.2% local, 9.8% intrastate, 5.8% interstate, foreign 23.1% and unknown 2.1%.
    - 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: JANUARY 2005  
 State: WASHINGTON

**Area 2: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima 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 1,879	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,335	\$ 7.42 or * \$ 0.40 - \$ 3.00 per tree
Grapes Pruner	213	\$ 7.87
Pear Pruner	181	* \$ 1.10 - \$ 5.75 per tree
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	98	\$ 7.71
Cherry Pruner	19	\$ 8.00
Apple Worker	9	\$ 9.28
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	6	\$ 7.35
Nectarine Pruner	5	\$ 7.35
Peach Pruner	5	\$ 7.35
Apple Forklift Driver	5	\$ 7.52
Grapes Trainer	4	\$ 9.00

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

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT**

Period:     JANUARY 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 .....	3,191
a.	Local .....	3,184
b.	Intrastate migratory .....	0
c.	Interstate migratory .....	7
d.	Foreign .....	0
e.	Unknown .....	0
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 January 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,014.
  
  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, cherry and pear pruning and apple warehouse work.
  
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in January averaged \$7.54 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for pear pruner, potato sorter/grader/packer, nursery sorter/grader/packer and nursery pruner to \$19.67 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 99.8% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.2% interstate, 0.0% 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: JANUARY 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>	3,191
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	2,544	\$ 7.46
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	368	\$ 7.46
Cherry Pruner	78	\$ 8.36
Pear Pruner	71	\$ 7.35
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	34	\$ 7.35
Apple Manager	25	\$ 7.74
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	19	\$ 7.35
Apple Forklift Driver	15	\$ 9.00
Misc Field Crops Worker	9	\$19.67
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	7	Not Available
Feedlot Cattle Worker	6	\$ 9.00
Apple Loader	4	\$11.00
Cherry Manager	4	\$ 9.50
Pear Manager	4	\$ 7.75
Nursery Pruner	3	\$ 7.35

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
 PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 ..... \$ 7.54/hr (weighted average)

# DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JANUARY 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 .....	1,548
a. Local .....	1,300
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	0
d. Foreign .....	101
e. Unknown .....	147
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The January 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,337.
  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, nursery and miscellaneous onion warehouse work and cherry pruning.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in January averaged \$7.46 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.16 for miscellaneous vegetables worker to \$14.00 for general farm worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.35 to \$2.25 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 84.0% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate 6.5% foreign and 9.5% 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: JANUARY 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 1,548	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,007	\$ 7.45 or * \$ 0.35 - \$ 2.25 per tree
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	125	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	97	\$ 7.35
Cherry Pruner	84	\$ 7.35
Pear Pruner	72	\$ 7.39
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	61	\$ 7.35
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	26	\$10.00
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	22	\$ 7.25
Apple Manager	12	\$ 7.45
Potato Loader	10	\$ 7.43
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	9	\$ 8.50
Wheat Tractor Operator	6	\$10.00
Misc Onion Manager	4	\$ 9.00
Misc Vegetables Worker	3	\$ 7.16
General Farm Worker	3	\$14.00
General Farm Mechanic	3	\$11.00
Potato Forklift Driver	3	\$10.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	3	\$ 9.00

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: JANUARY 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 .....	2,037
a. Local .....	1,617
b. Intrastate migratory .....	0
c. Interstate migratory .....	0
d. Foreign .....	413
e. Unknown .....	7
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The January 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,151.
  2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
    - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:  
Weather conditions were warmer and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple and cherry pruning, miscellaneous onion loading and warehouse work.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in January averaged \$7.45 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for miscellaneous onion loader and pear pruner to \$12.00 for alfalfa vehicle operator, general farm worker and miscellaneous onion worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.35 to \$2.25 per tree for apple pruning and \$0.22 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 79.3% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 20.3% foreign and 0.4% 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: JANUARY 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 2,037	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,290	\$ 7.43 or * \$ 0.35 - \$ 2.25 per tree
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	282	\$ 7.40
Cherry Pruner	174	\$ 7.53
Misc Onion Loader	154	\$ 7.35
Grapes Pruner	86	\$ 7.41 or * \$ 0.22 - \$ 0.30 per plant
Pear Pruner	25	\$ 7.35
Apple Worker	8	\$ 9.13
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	4	\$12.00
General Farm Worker	4	\$12.00
Potato Worker	4	\$ 7.36
Misc Onion Worker	3	\$12.00
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	3	\$ 8.16

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