



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

OCTOBER 2005



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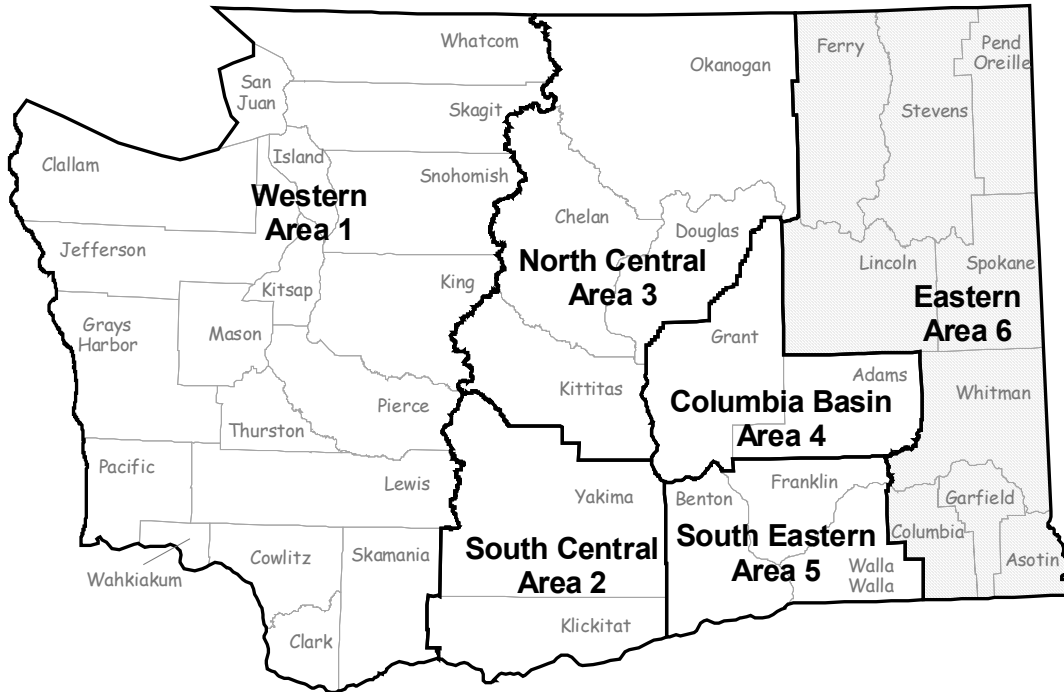
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

OCTOBER 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 4.1% from October 2004 to October 2005. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year declines were apple work (-1,808), raspberry work (-373), other seasonal work (-323), blueberry work (-192), onion work (-192), wheat/grain work (-177), grapes work (-156), asparagus work (-43), bulb work (-26) and strawberry work (-24). Activities displaying gains were potato work (375), pear work (371), nursery work (303), miscellaneous vegetables work (137), other tree fruit work (68), cucumber work (25), cherry work (7) and hops work (2). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment contracted by 3.0%, due to a decline in raspberry work (-373). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment fell by 8.9%, caused by a loss in apple work (-1,188). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment declined by 8.8%, courtesy of a decrease in apple work (-1,173). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment moved ahead by 3.3%, thanks to a growth in potato work (300). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment expanded by 6.0%, led by a gain in apple work (416). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment fell by 46.2%, caused by a drop in wheat/grain work (-133).

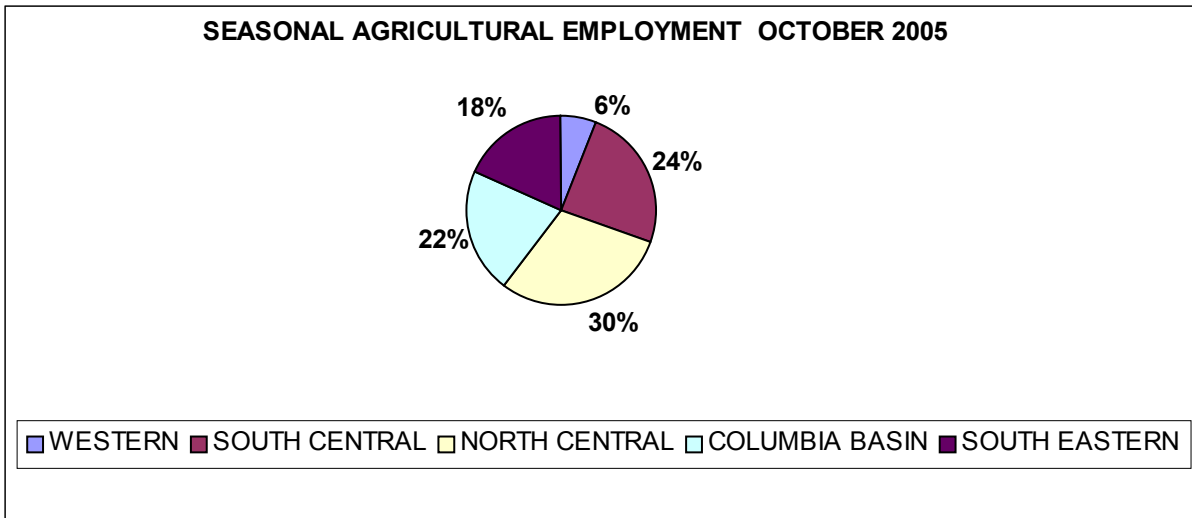
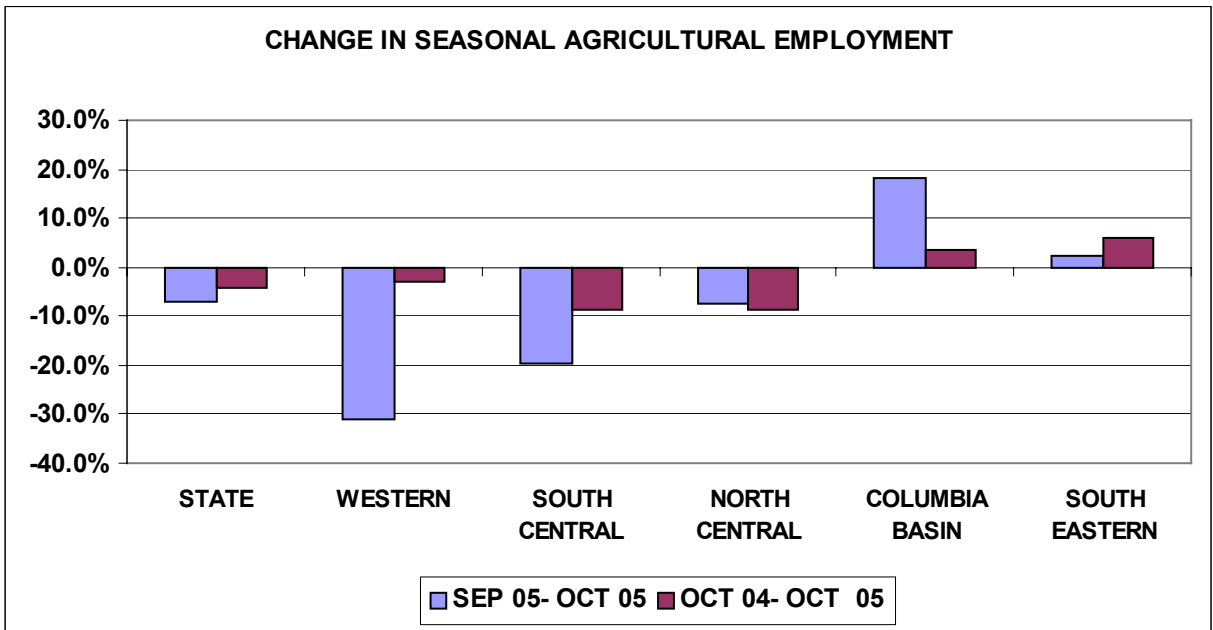
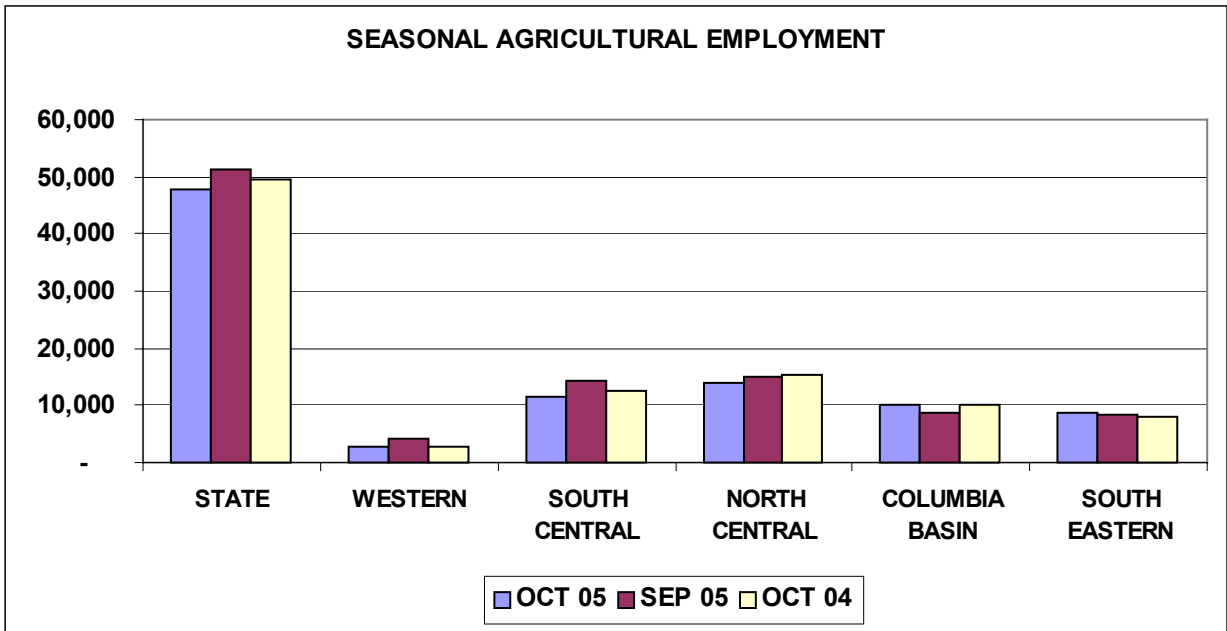
ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Governor Christine Gregoire urged swift congressional approval of the federal AgJobs immigration bill, saying that agriculture in the state will be on the brink of crisis without it. The formal name of the pending legislation is the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act. AgJobs is one of several immigration bills pending in Congress, but backers say it's the only one that solves the labor issue and enjoys significant bipartisan support. The measure gives workers a pathway to legal residency while continuing to work the country's harvests. To apply for a special visa under AgJobs, farm workers would have to document that they worked 100 days for specific agricultural employers in an 18-month period. They would also have to stay in agriculture for another 360 days over the next six years to be eligible for legal status. AgJobs would reform the existing guest-worker program, known as H-2A, to make it easier to use.

Mexico has once again imposed a tariff on Red and Golden Delicious apples from Northwest growers. In May, Mexico temporarily ended a 47 percent anti-dumping tariff on the apples, imposed since August 2002. But it continued to investigate allegations that Northwest shippers sold apples in Mexico for less than they were sold in the United States in 1996. As a result of that investigation, Mexico imposed a 45 percent tariff on many exporters in the region, effective this past September 29th. The only bright spot in all this is that several companies have been or will be assigned much lower tariff rates based on the companies' individual filings. Washington State produces about half of all U.S. apples. Apples are the state's most valuable agricultural commodity, worth about \$1.15 billion a year. Growers have estimated the 2005 harvest at just under 90 million boxes, down from the record 104 million boxes harvested in 2004.

Japan's restaurateurs are eagerly awaiting return of U.S. and Canadian beef. Since the beef ban, due to the discovery of mad cow disease in a U.S. cow in December of 2003, restaurant chains have reported closures of hundreds of outlets. The Japanese Food Service Association (JFSA) is happy to see its 800 members, representing 50,000 restaurants and other outlets, will be able to resume serving steak made with sirloin and tenderloin from the U.S. and Canada.

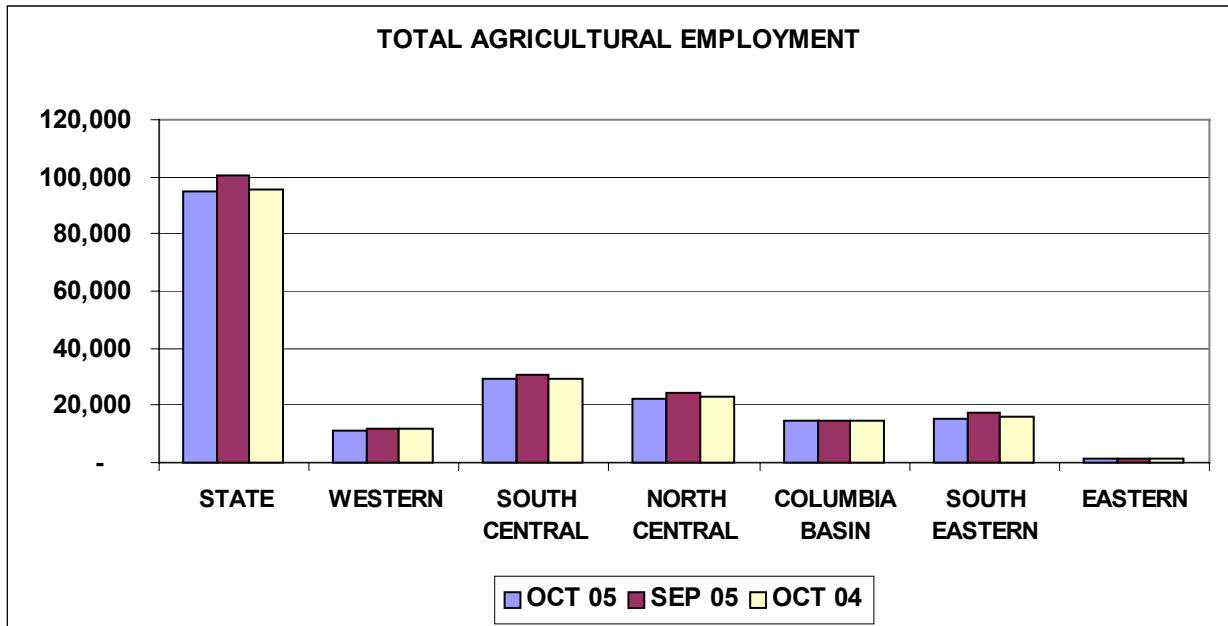
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>SEP 05</u>	<u>OCT 04</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>SEP 05- OCT 05</u>	<u>OCT 04- OCT 05</u>	<u>SEP 05- OCT 05</u>	<u>OCT 04- OCT 05</u>
STATE	47,624	51,135	49,650	(3,511)	(2,026)	-6.9%	-4.1%
WESTERN	2,842	4,118	2,930	(1,276)	(88)	-31.0%	-3.0%
SOUTH CENTRAL	11,588	14,411	12,714	(2,823)	(1,126)	-19.6%	-8.9%
NORTH CENTRAL	14,034	15,158	15,395	(1,124)	(1,361)	-7.4%	-8.8%
COLUMBIA BASIN	10,281	8,713	9,948	1,568	333	18.0%	3.3%
SOUTH EASTERN	8,675	8,463	8,187	212	488	2.5%	6.0%
EASTERN	204	272	379	(68)	(175)	-25.0%	-46.2%



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment fell by 1.2% in October 2005 over October 2004 due to a smaller apple harvest. Over-the-month total employment also decreased by 5.9% from September 2005 to October 2005. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment fell by 4.3%. South Central (Area 2) total employment slipped slightly by 0.4%. North Central (Area 3) total employment moved downward by 0.2%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment dipped by 0.9%. South Eastern (Area 5) shed 1.7% of its total employment. Eastern (Area 6) total employment showed a small over-the-year loss of 1.8%.

TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>SEP 05</u>	<u>OCT 04</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				SEP 05- OCT 05	OCT 04- OCT 05	SEP 05- OCT 05	OCT 04- OCT 05
STATE	94,676	100,607	95,787	(5,931)	(1,111)	-5.9%	-1.2%
WESTERN	11,284	11,906	11,794	(622)	(510)	-5.2%	-4.3%
SOUTH CENTRAL	29,147	30,422	29,277	(1,275)	(131)	-4.2%	-0.4%
NORTH CENTRAL	22,674	24,095	22,717	(1,421)	(44)	-5.9%	-0.2%
COLUMBIA BASIN	14,480	14,878	14,616	(398)	(136)	-2.7%	-0.9%
SOUTH EASTERN	15,491	17,668	15,753	(2,177)	(262)	-12.3%	-1.7%
EASTERN	1,601	1,638	1,630	(37)	(29)	-2.2%	-1.8%



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment decreased by 4.1% from October 2004 to October 2005. Similarly, seasonal employment also fell by 6.9% statewide from September 2005 to October 2005. The crop activity adding the most employment from October 2004 to October 2005 was potato work (375). Apple work lost the largest number of jobs (-1,808) for that same time period due to a smaller harvest. However, apple work gained the largest amount of employment (991) from September 2005 to October 2005. Pear work had the largest downturn in employment (-1,765) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2005 was \$7.77 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	OCT 05	SEP 05	OCT 04	SEP 05- OCT 05	OCT 04- OCT 05	SEP 05- OCT 05	OCT 04- OCT 05
Apples	37,540	36,549	39,348	991	(1,808)	2.7%	-4.6%
Asparagus	25	0	68	25	(43)	0.0%	-63.2%
Blueberry	91	428	283	(337)	(192)	-78.7%	-67.8%
Bulb	82	77	108	5	(26)	6.5%	-24.1%
Cherries	33	0	26	33	7	0.0%	26.9%
Cucumbers	25	354	0	(329)	25	-92.9%	0.0%
Grapes	978	632	1,134	346	(156)	54.7%	-13.8%
Hops	12	1,240	10	(1,228)	2	-99.0%	20.0%
Misc Vegetables	1,805	2,599	1,668	(794)	137	-30.6%	8.2%
Nursery	655	596	352	59	303	9.9%	86.1%
Onion	589	1,064	781	(475)	(192)	-44.6%	-24.6%
Other Seasonal	761	1,926	1,084	(1,165)	(323)	-60.5%	-29.8%
Other Tree Fruit	159	738	91	(579)	68	-78.5%	74.7%
Pears	1,229	2,994	858	(1,765)	371	-59.0%	43.2%
Potato	3,005	1,252	2,630	1,753	375	140.0%	14.3%
Raspberry	535	499	908	36	(373)	7.2%	-41.1%
Strawberries	0	44	24	(44)	(24)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Wheat/Grain	100	152	277	(52)	(177)	-34.2%	-63.9%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment contracted by 3.0% from October 2004 to October 2005. However this decline was overtaken by a 31.0% decrease in employment from September 2005 to October 2005. Nursery work grew by the largest employment (242) from October 2004 to October 2005. Raspberry work posted the largest over-the-year loss of jobs (-373) for that same time period. Potato work added the largest number of jobs (237) from September 2005 to October 2005. Other seasonal work displayed the greatest downturn in employment (-629) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2005 in Area 1 was \$7.69 per hour. (See pages 15 -17 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				SEP 05-	OCT 04-	SEP 05-	OCT 04-
	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>SEP 05</u>	<u>OCT 04</u>	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>OCT 05</u>
CROP							
Blueberry	91	428	283	(337)	(192)	-78.7%	-67.8%
Bulb	82	77	108	5	(26)	6.5%	-24.1%
Cucumbers	25	354	0	(329)	25	-92.9%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	761	1,127	598	(366)	163	-32.5%	27.3%
Nursery	529	406	287	123	242	30.3%	84.3%
Other Seasonal	110	739	154	(629)	(44)	-85.1%	-28.6%
Potato	707	470	568	237	139	50.4%	24.5%
Raspberry	535	499	908	36	(373)	7.2%	-41.1%
Rhubarb	0	5	0	(5)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Strawberries	0	13	24	(13)	(24)	-100.0%	-100.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment pulled back by 8.9% from October 2004 to October 2005. This was superseded by a greater loss of 19.6% in employment from September 2005 to October 2005. Pear work displayed the largest bump in employment (532) from October 2004 to October 2005. Apple work lost the largest number of jobs (-1,188) for that same time period. Grape work grew by the largest amount of employment (217) from September 2005 to October 2005. Apple work showed the greatest decline in employment (-1,181) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2005 in Area 2 was \$7.97 per hour. (See pages 18 -19 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				SEP 05-	OCT 04-	SEP 05-	OCT 04-
	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>SEP 05</u>	<u>OCT 04</u>	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>OCT 05</u>
CROP							
Apples	9,419	10,600	10,607	(1,181)	(1,188)	-11.1%	-11.2%
Asparagus	0	0	49	0	(49)	0.0%	-100.0%
Cherries	22	0	12	22	10	0.0%	83.3%
Grapes	561	344	747	217	(186)	63.1%	-24.9%
Hops	0	1,060	10	(1,060)	(10)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	210	287	316	(77)	(106)	-26.8%	-33.5%
Onions	21	295	167	(274)	(146)	-92.9%	-87.4%
Other Seasonal	318	512	285	(194)	33	-37.9%	11.6%
Other Tree Fruit	14	158	0	(144)	14	-91.1%	0.0%
Pears	1,026	1,148	494	(122)	532	-10.6%	107.7%
Potato	0	12	27	(12)	(27)	-100.0%	-100.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment pulled back by 8.8% from October 2004 to October 2005. This was echoed by a similar loss in employment of 7.4% from September 2005 to October 2005. Other tree fruit work moved forward by the largest jump in employment (43) from October 2004 to October 2005. Apple work lost the greatest number of jobs (-1,173) for that same time period. Apple work pulled ahead by the largest amount of employment (309) from September 2005 to October 2005. Pear work lost the largest number of jobs (-1,417) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2005 in Area 3 was \$7.82 per hour. (See pages 20 - 21 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	OCT 05	SEP 05	OCT 04	SEP 05- OCT 05	OCT 04- OCT 05	SEP 05- OCT 05	OCT 04- OCT 05
Apples	13,654	13,345	14,827	309	(1,173)	2.3%	-7.9%
Cherries	8	0	5	8	3	0.0%	60.0%
Other Seasonal	35	60	125	(25)	(90)	-41.7%	-72.0%
Other Tree Fruit	134	136	91	(2)	43	-1.5%	47.3%
Pears	203	1,620	347	(1,417)	(144)	-87.5%	-41.5%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment advanced by 3.3% from October 2004 to October 2005. This gain was overtaken by an increase of 18.0% in employment from September 2005 to October 2005. Potato work experienced the largest over-the-year gain in employment (300) from October 2004 to October 2005. Other seasonal work lost the largest number of jobs (-93) during that same time period. Potato work moved forward by the largest amount of employment (1,240) from September 2005 to October 2005. Pear work had the greatest decline in employment (-226) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2005 in Area 4 was \$7.68 per hour. (See pages 22 - 24 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	OCT 05	SEP 05	OCT 04	SEP 05- OCT 05	OCT 04- OCT 05	SEP 05- OCT 05	OCT 04- OCT 05
Apples	8,264	7,244	8,127	1,020	137	14.1%	1.7%
Asparagus	25	0	0	25	25	0.0%	0.0%
Cherries	0	0	9	0	(9)	0.0%	-100.0%
Mint	0	123	15	(123)	(15)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	76	134	26	(58)	50	-43.3%	192.3%
Nursery	17	68	16	(51)	1	-75.0%	6.3%
Onion	203	347	231	(144)	(28)	-41.5%	-12.1%
Other Seasonal	59	174	152	(115)	(93)	-66.1%	-61.2%
Other Tree Fruit	11	0	0	11	11	0.0%	0.0%
Pears	0	226	17	(226)	(17)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Potato	1,613	373	1,313	1,240	300	332.4%	22.8%
Wheat/Grain	13	27	42	(14)	(29)	-51.9%	-69.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment expanded by 6.0% from October 2004 to October 2005. Seasonal employment grew by a smaller 2.5% from September 2005 to October 2005. Apple work added the largest number of jobs (416) from October 2004 to October 2005. Potato work lost the most employment (-37) during that same time period. Apple work was the largest over-the-month gainer of jobs (843) from September 2005 to October 2005. Other tree fruit work experienced the largest loss in employment (-444) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2005 in Area 5 was \$7.75 per hour. (See pages 25 - 27 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	<u>OCT 05</u>	<u>SEP 05</u>	<u>OCT 04</u>	SEP 05- <u>OCT 05</u>	OCT 04- <u>OCT 05</u>	SEP 05- <u>OCT 05</u>	OCT 04- <u>OCT 05</u>
Apples	6,203	5,360	5,787	843	416	15.7%	7.2%
Asparagus	0	0	19	0	(19)	0.0%	-100.0%
Cherries	3	0	0	3	3	0.0%	0.0%
Grapes	417	288	387	129	30	44.8%	7.8%
Hops	12	180	0	(168)	12	-93.3%	0.0%
Misc Vegetables	758	1,046	728	(288)	30	-27.5%	4.1%
Nursery	9	6	1	3	8	50.0%	800.0%
Onion	365	422	383	(57)	(18)	-13.5%	-4.7%
Other Seasonal	204	274	227	(70)	(23)	-25.5%	-10.1%
Other Tree Fruit	0	444	0	(444)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Potatoes	685	397	722	288	(37)	72.5%	-5.1%
Strawberries	0	31	0	(31)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Wheat/Grain	18	13	33	5	(15)	38.5%	-45.5%

**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 October.

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 OCTOBER 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: 2,842 (1,884 local, 389 intrastate, 147 interstate, 152 foreign, 270 unknown origin)

Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	659	\$ 7.35/hr
Raspberry Pruner	388	\$ 7.35/hr
Cauliflower Harvester	248	\$ 7.35/hr
Pumpkin Sorter/Grader/Packer	220	\$ 7.35/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 11,588 (7,107 local, 573 intrastate, 643 interstate, 2,431 foreign, 834 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	8,167	\$ 7.82/hr or \$11.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,026	Not Available
Grapes Harvester	533	\$ 7.58/hr or \$20.00 - \$55.00 per bin
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	527	\$ 7.58/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 14,034 (6,230 local, 579 intrastate, 1,376 interstate, 788 foreign, 5,061 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	12,814	\$ 7.46/hr or \$11.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	178	\$ 7.75/hr
Apple Tractor Operator	172	\$ 9.00/hr
Apple Worker	153	\$ 8.68/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 10,281 (4,526 local, 39 intrastate, 1,138 interstate, 650 foreign, 3,928 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	7,857	\$ 7.42/hr or \$10.50 - \$27.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	705	\$ 7.70/hr
Potato Vehicle Operator	301	\$10.03/hr
Potato Worker	218	\$ 7.81/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,675 (7,540 local, 6 intrastate, 70 interstate, 391 foreign, 668 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	6,147	\$ 7.58/hr or \$10.50 - \$20.00 per bin
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	373	\$ 7.35/hr
Grapes Harvester	367	\$ 8.10/hr
Potato Harvester	317	\$ 7.35/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 204 (192 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 12 unknown origin)

Nursery Harvester	45	\$10.50/hr
Nursery Pruner	25	\$10.50/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	23	\$ 9.50/hr
Wheat Vehicle Operator	23	\$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
OCTOBER 2005

TABLE 1

OCTOBER 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	1,884	389	147	152	270	2,842
2. South Central	7,107	573	643	2,431	834	11,588
3. North Central	6,230	579	1,376	788	5,061	14,034
4. Columbia Basin	4,526	39	1,138	650	3,928	10,281
5. South Eastern	7,540	6	70	391	668	8,675
6. Eastern	192	0	0	0	12	204
State Totals	27,478	1,585	3,375	4,412	10,773	47,624
% State Total	57.7%	3.3%	7.1%	9.3%	22.6%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 2005

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **WESTERN** (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom)

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	2,842
a. Local	1,884
b. Intrastate migratory	389
c. Interstate migratory	147
d. Foreign	152
e. Unknown	270
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Gig Harbor, Mount Vernon, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The October 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,669.

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. Christmas tree growers were busy preparing harvest roads and servicing equipment for tree harvest. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported a brisk business. Primary agricultural activities were potato warehouse work, raspberry pruning, cauliflower harvesting.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.69 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for potato sorter/grader/packer, raspberry pruner, cauliflower harvester, pumpkin sorter/grader/packer, nursery sorter/grader/packer, nursery harvester, raspberry trainer, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, raspberry planter, cucumber harvester, nursery worker, cauliflower vehicle operator and chicken eggs worker to \$12.00 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 66.3% local, 13.7% intrastate, 5.2% interstate, foreign 5.3% and 9.5% 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: OCTOBER 2005
State: WASHINGTON

Area 1: WESTERN (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Lewis, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom Counties)

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 2,842	* = piece rate
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	659	\$ 7.35
Raspberry Pruner	388	\$ 7.35
Cauliflower Harvester	248	\$ 7.35
Pumpkin Sorter/Grader/Packer	220	\$ 7.35
Nursery Planter	186	\$ 7.45
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	181	\$ 7.35
Nursery Harvester	122	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	84	\$ 8.43
Raspberry Trainer	83	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	83	\$ 7.74
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	82	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Worker	64	\$ 9.16
Raspberry Planter	46	\$ 7.35
Potato Vehicle Operator	45	\$10.28
Misc Field Crops Harvester	36	\$ 8.75
Cucumber Harvester	25	\$ 7.35
Contract Misc Crop Worker	23	Not Available
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	21	\$10.68
Nursery Worker	20	\$ 7.35
Nursery Weeder	20	\$ 7.41
Summer fallow Worker	20	\$ 9.00
Cauliflower Manager	19	\$ 9.00
Cabbage Harvester	19	\$ 7.50
Lettuce Harvester	19	\$ 7.50
Raspberry Weeder	18	\$ 7.67
Misc Berries Worker	13	\$ 7.50
Pumpkin Manager	10	\$11.00
Pumpkin Forklift Driver	10	\$10.00
Misc Peppers Harvester	10	\$ 7.50
Cauliflower Vehicle Operator	10	\$ 7.35
Cauliflower Forklift Driver	10	\$ 9.00
Misc Vegetables Planter	9	\$ 8.65
Pumpkin Worker	8	\$ 8.09
Silage Vehicle Operator	8	\$10.00
Blueberry Pruner	4	\$ 8.00
Blueberry Mechanic	4	\$12.00

Area 1 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 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
Chicken Eggs Worker	4	\$ 7.35
Potato Worker	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	3	\$ 8.00
General Farm Worker	3	\$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.69/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 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	11,588
a. Local	7,107
b. Intrastate migratory	573
c. Interstate migratory	643
d. Foreign	2,431
e. Unknown	834
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Kennewick, Pasco, Sunnyside, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Idaho, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The October 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 16,978.

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. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported. Primary agricultural activities were apple, pear and grapes harvesting and apple warehouse work.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.97 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for miscellaneous field crops weeder, nectarine worker, mint irrigator, field corn irrigator and miscellaneous vegetables harvester to \$12.00 for alfalfa mechanized harvester. Typical piece rates were: \$11.00 to \$25.00 per bin for apple picking and \$20.00 to \$55.00 per bin for grapes picking. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated to be 61.4% local, 4.9% intrastate, 5.5% interstate, foreign 21.0% and unknown 7.2%.

d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 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	11,588
		* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	8,167	\$ 7.82 or * \$11.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,026	Not Available
Grapes Harvester	533	\$ 7.58 or * \$20.00 - \$55.00 per bin
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	527	\$ 7.58
Apple Tractor Operator	331	\$ 9.15
Apple Irrigator	195	\$ 8.25
Dairy Worker	161	\$10.50
Misc Peppers Harvester	133	\$ 7.50
Apple Worker	78	\$ 8.72
Misc Squash Harvester	59	\$ 7.58
Apple Pruner	56	\$ 7.62
Nursery Planter	29	\$ 9.75
Misc Field Crops Weeder	29	\$ 7.35
Silage Worker	24	\$ 9.00
Grapes Mechanized Harvester	22	\$11.17
Apple Vehicle Operator	22	\$11.00
Cherry Pruner	22	\$ 7.50
Apple Mechanic	22	\$19.87
Silage Vehicle Operator	20	\$ 7.50
Misc Squash Sorter/Grader/Packer	15	\$ 7.75
Field Corn Vehicle Operator	15	\$ 8.08
Nectarine Worker	14	\$ 7.35
Apple Manager	14	\$10.76
Green Onion Harvester	13	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	8	\$ 9.50
Apple Forklift Driver	7	\$ 7.36
Nursery Worker	5	\$ 9.00
Silage Mechanized Harvester	5	\$ 8.50
Wheat Preparation	5	\$ 8.30
Mint Irrigator	5	\$ 7.35
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	5	\$ 8.00
Field Corn Preparation	5	\$ 8.30
Field Corn Irrigator	5	\$ 7.35
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	5	\$12.00
Misc Vegetables Harvester	3	\$ 7.35
Grapes Weeder	3	\$ 8.00
Grapes Vehicle Operator	3	\$11.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.97/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 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	14,034
	a. Local	6,230
	b. Intrastate migratory	579
	c. Interstate migratory	1,376
	d. Foreign	788
	e. Unknown	5,061
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Benton City, Beverly, Brewster, Sunnyside, Wenatchee, Yakima	
	b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Oregon	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The October 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,865.

 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. Apple harvest was winding down. The crop was smaller than earlier estimates.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.82 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for miscellaneous fruit trees worker and apple irrigator to \$25.00 for horse and equines manager. Typical piece rates were: \$11.00 to \$30.00 per bin for apple picking. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 44.1% local, 4.1% intrastate, 9.8% interstate, 5.6% foreign and 36.1% 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: OCTOBER 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 14,034	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	12,814	\$ 7.46 or * \$11.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	178	\$ 7.75
Apple Tractor Operator	172	\$ 9.00
Apple Worker	153	\$ 8.68
Apple Manager	151	\$ 8.94
Apple Preparation	138	\$ 8.76
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	134	\$ 7.35
Pear Harvester	79	\$ 8.32
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	68	\$ 7.53
Apple Forklift Driver	37	\$ 9.38
Pear Trainer	22	\$ 7.50
Pear Forklift Driver	15	\$ 8.50
Pear Preparation	15	\$ 9.00
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	10	\$ 9.73
Wheat Tractor Operator	10	\$10.00
Horse and Equines Worker	10	\$14.00
Apple Irrigator	7	\$ 7.35
Horse and Equines Manager	5	\$25.00
Cherry Worker	4	\$ 8.00
Pear Manager	4	\$ 9.75
Cherry Irrigator	4	\$10.00
Apple Loader	2	\$12.00
Apple Vehicle Operator	2	\$15.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.82/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 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	10,281
a. Local	4,526
b. Intrastate migratory	39
c. Interstate migratory	1,138
d. Foreign	650
e. Unknown	3,928
 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Cheney, Grandview, Lamona, Pasco, Ritzville	
b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Florida, Oregon, Texas, Utah	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The October 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,032.

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

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were wetter and wetter than normal for the reporting period. About 70% of the fourth cutting of hay was completed. Winter wheat seeding was behind schedule. Potato harvest wrapped up, as did most apple picking. Primary agricultural activities were apple harvesting and potato harvesting, warehouse and miscellaneous work.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.68 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, carrot weeder, miscellaneous onion harvester, asparagus weeder, miscellaneous fruit trees worker and miscellaneous vegetables planter to \$13.57 for potato mechanized harvester. Typical piece rates were: \$10.50 to \$27.00 per bin for apple picking. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated to be 44.0% local, 0.4% intrastate, 11.1% interstate 6.3% foreign and 38.2% unknown.

d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 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 10,281	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	7,857	\$ 7.42 or * \$10.50 - \$27.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	705	\$ 7.70
Potato Vehicle Operator	301	\$10.03
Potato Worker	218	\$ 7.81
Potato Tractor Operator	160	\$ 8.31
Potato Loader	155	\$ 8.70
Apple Preparation	115	\$ 8.66
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	105	\$ 7.35
Apple Manager	93	\$ 9.48
Apple Tractor Operator	92	\$ 8.95
Apple Worker	84	\$ 8.89
Carrot Weeder	52	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Harvester	35	\$ 7.35
Potato Mechanized Harvester	34	\$13.57
Potato Harvester	25	\$ 7.50
Asparagus Weeder	25	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Vehicle Operator	22	\$ 9.50
Pumpkin Harvester	18	\$ 7.75
Field Corn Vehicle Operator	17	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	17	\$ 8.32
Potato Irrigator	15	\$ 8.68
Nursery Worker	15	\$ 7.38
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	13	\$ 8.50
Wheat Tractor Operator	13	\$10.67
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	11	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Worker	11	\$ 8.33
Apple Forklift Driver	11	\$ 9.65
Misc Onion Loader	10	\$10.00
Misc Onion Manager	7	\$ 8.75
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	7	\$ 8.25
Misc Hay Irrigator	6	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Planter	6	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Mechanized Harvester	6	\$ 7.75
Apple Trainer	4	\$ 8.00
Apple Irrigator	4	\$ 8.00
Apple Vehicle Operator	4	\$12.50

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 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	8,675
a. Local	7,540
b. Intrastate migratory	6
c. Interstate migratory	70
d. Foreign	391
e. Unknown	668
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Granger	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The October 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,702.
 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. Grape and apple harvests continued. Most fall crops were planted and emerged. Thirty to forty percent of the last cutting of alfalfa was damaged due to rain on harvested alfalfa.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.75 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for miscellaneous vegetables sorter/grader/packer, potato harvester, carrot harvester, miscellaneous vegetables harvester, apple sorter/grader/packer, hops trainer, nursery weeder, miscellaneous onion loader, wheat weeder, miscellaneous hay irrigator and miscellaneous hay worker to \$14.00 for miscellaneous field crops worker. Typical piece rates were: \$10.50 to \$25.00 per bin for apple picking. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 86.9% local, 0.1% intrastate, 0.8% interstate, 4.5% foreign and 7.7% 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: OCTOBER 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 8,675	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	6,147	\$ 7.58 or * \$10.50 - \$25.00 per bin
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	373	\$ 7.35
Grapes Harvester	367	\$ 8.10
Potato Harvester	317	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	282	\$ 7.37
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	205	\$ 7.62
Carrot Harvester	104	\$ 7.35
Potato Vehicle Operator	86	\$ 9.08
Sweet Corn Vehicle Operator	81	\$11.60
Misc Vegetables Harvester	79	\$ 7.35
General Farm Mechanic	76	\$ 8.35
Sweet Corn Mechanized Harvester	58	\$ 9.75
Grapes Mechanized Harvester	45	\$ 7.86
Potato Mechanized Harvester	45	\$ 8.19
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	38	\$ 8.25
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	34	\$ 9.50
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	33	\$ 7.35
Sweet Corn Forklift Driver	29	\$ 9.40
Carrot Vehicle Operator	28	\$12.00
Misc Onion Mechanized Harvester	28	\$ 8.00
Potato Loader	24	\$ 8.91
Walla Walla Sweets Preparation	23	\$ 8.50
Apple Worker	17	\$ 8.75
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	14	\$ 7.78
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	12	\$ 9.50
Hops Trainer	12	\$ 7.35
Walla Walla Sweets Worker	12	\$ 7.50
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Weeder	9	\$ 7.50
Nursery Weeder	9	\$ 7.35
General Farm Worker	9	\$12.00
Misc Onion Loader	8	\$ 7.35
Silage Vehicle Operator	8	\$ 9.00
Potato Tractor Operator	8	\$10.58
Wheat Worker	6	\$ 7.60
Wheat Irrigator	6	\$ 7.35
Wheat Tractor Operator	6	\$10.00

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 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
Alfalfa Irrigator	6	\$ 6.61
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.75
Misc Field Crops Worker	4	\$14.00
Misc Hay Irrigator	4	\$ 7.35
Grapes Hand Thinner	4	Not Available
Cherry Worker	3	\$ 9.50
Apple Irrigator	3	\$ 7.69
Apple Pruner	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Hay Worker	2	\$ 7.35
Sweet Corn Irrigator	1	\$ 8.50
Grapes Tractor Operator	1	\$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 7.75/hr (weighted average)