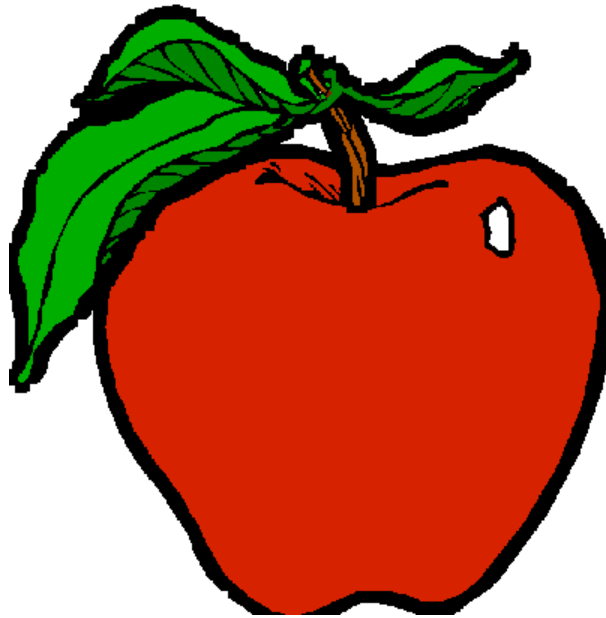




AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

SEPTEMBER 2005



Prepared by

John Wines, Economic Analyst
Judy Anderson, Data Compiler

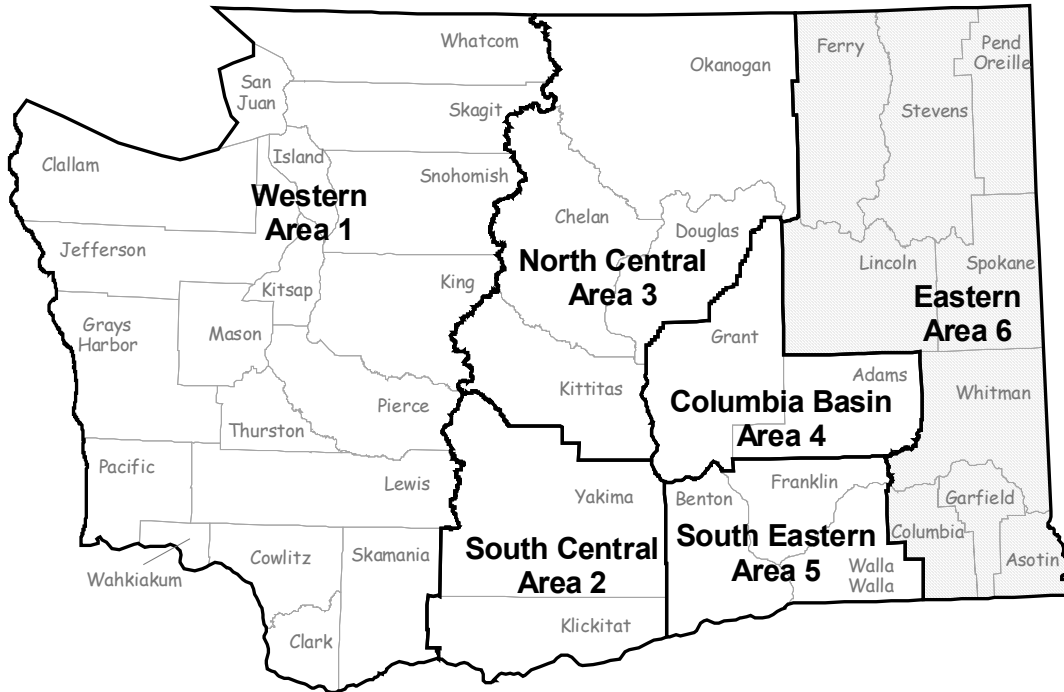
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch
Greg Weeks, Director
Washington State Employment Security Department

For More Information Contact: John Wines Telephone: (360) 438-4843
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Information Center toll free: 1-800-215-1617

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

SEPTEMBER 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 decreased by a small 1.2% from September 2004 to September 2005. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year declines were potato work (-1,044), grapes work (-609), hops work (-489), other tree fruit work (-362), nursery work (-258), onion work (-223), wheat/grain work (-167), cherry work (-131), blueberry work (-58), bulb work (-41) and asparagus work (-11). Activities displaying gains were apple work (1,589), other seasonal work (486), miscellaneous vegetables work (465), cucumber work (124), raspberry work (56), pear work (43) and strawberry work (14). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment increased by 12.5%, thanks to a bump in other seasonal work (422). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment fell by 5.7%, due to a drop in pear work (-828). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment eased back by 2.5%, caused by a decline in apple work (-979). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment expanded by 3.6% courtesy of gain in apple work (722). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment slipped by 0.1%, thanks to a fall in potato work (-344). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment contracted by 29.7%, due to a loss in wheat/grain work (-143).

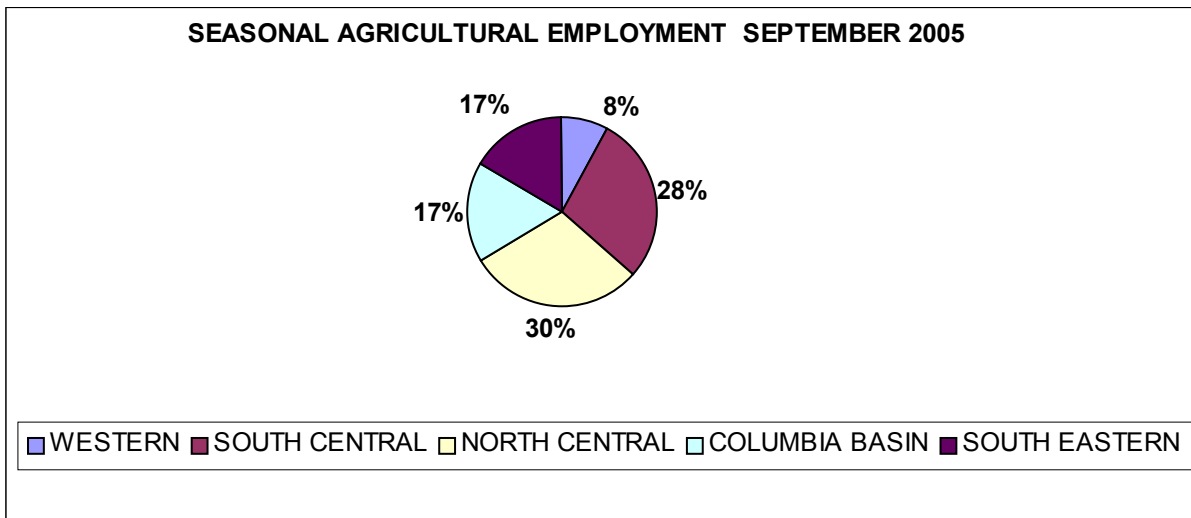
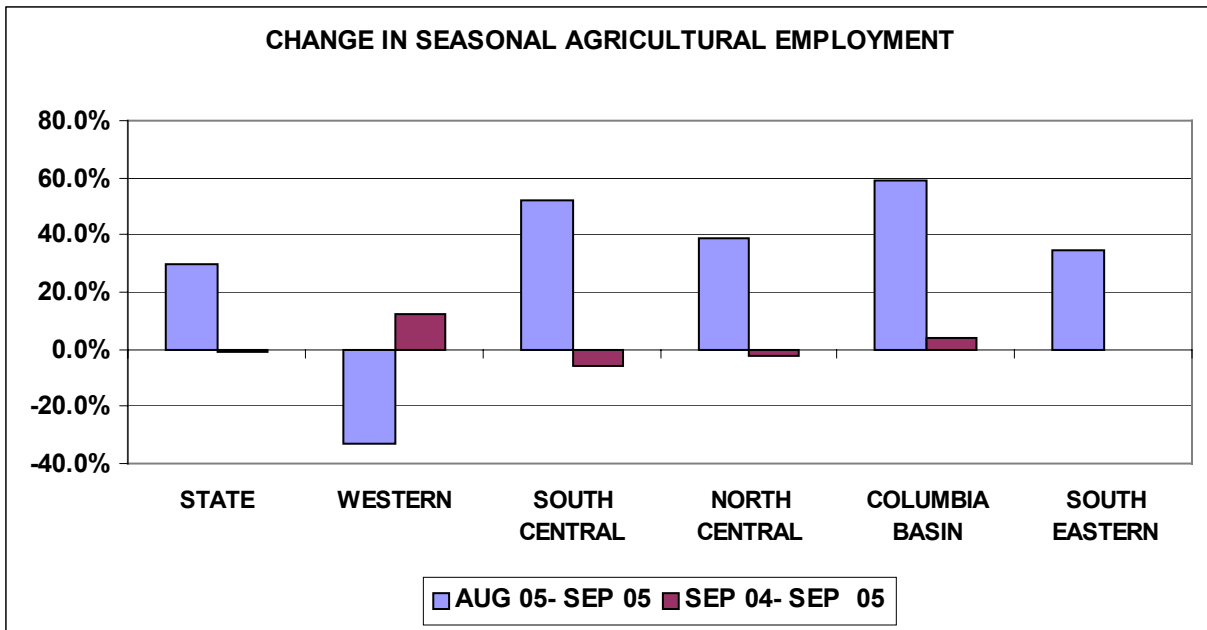
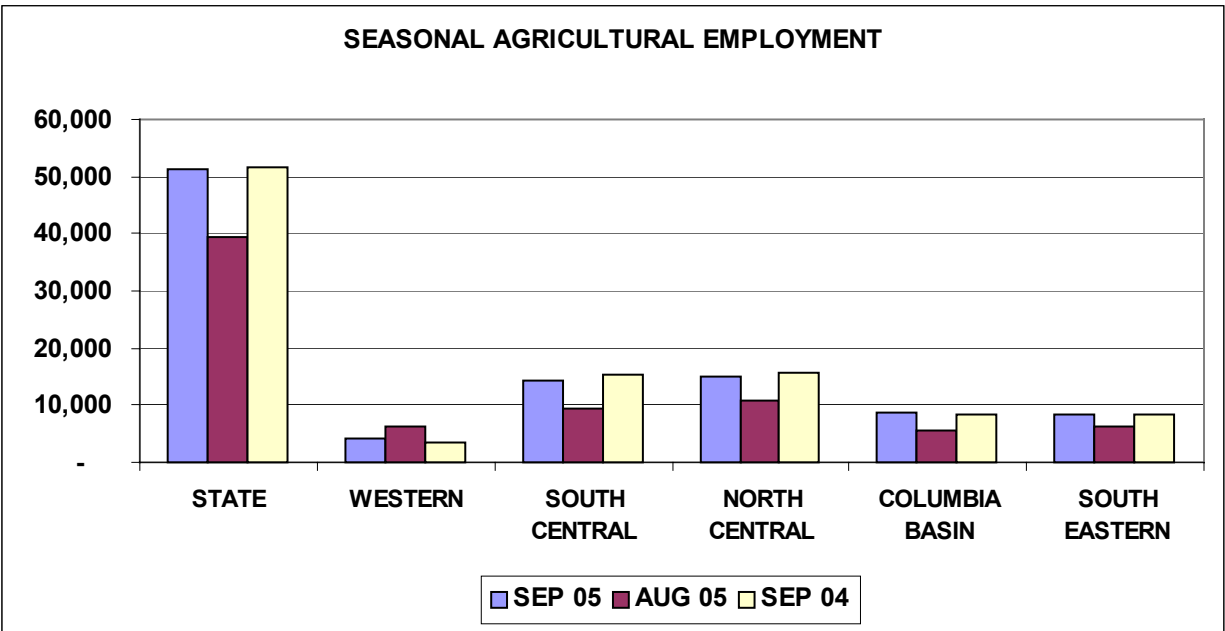
ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Washington's grape growers are expecting a near record crop this year. The state's harvest forecast is at about 250,000 tons. A heavy freeze the previous winter damaged vines and reduced the average crop size last year from between 8 tons and 10 tons per acre to just 3 tons for some growers. This year the yields have rebounded, with some growers expecting between 15 and 18 tons per acre. However, the first of the few processors have sent out notices to growers indicating the price they will be paid for Concord grapes will be \$100 per ton. That's down slightly from the \$105 per ton last year, and a sharp decline from the \$200-plus per ton farmers were getting for their Concord grapes several years ago. Red grapes from California and foreign products have replaced the demand for Concord grapes in recent years, suppressing prices.

The drought could pose a problem for some late-harvest crops. Farmers with late harvest apples and grapes would likely have the most problem with the drought. Some varieties hang on trees and vines through November. Even farmers with earlier crops need more water on the ground before winter comes. Some plants, like grapes, can be damaged if they are too dry when a hard freeze occurs. This year didn't turn out to be the worst drought on record as had been predicted earlier. A cool, wet spring helped a lot.

World hop markets are nearing a balance between supply and demand, and that's good news for Northwest hop farmers. However growers, faced with sharp rises in production costs, combined with lower yield projections, aren't optimistic that the 2005 crop will be a profitable one. Yields are expected to be down slightly this year in Washington, mostly due to the high temperatures during hop development. Hop acreage in the state is up slightly for 2005, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Washington has 20,807 acres strung for harvest this year, compared with 19,382 acres last year.

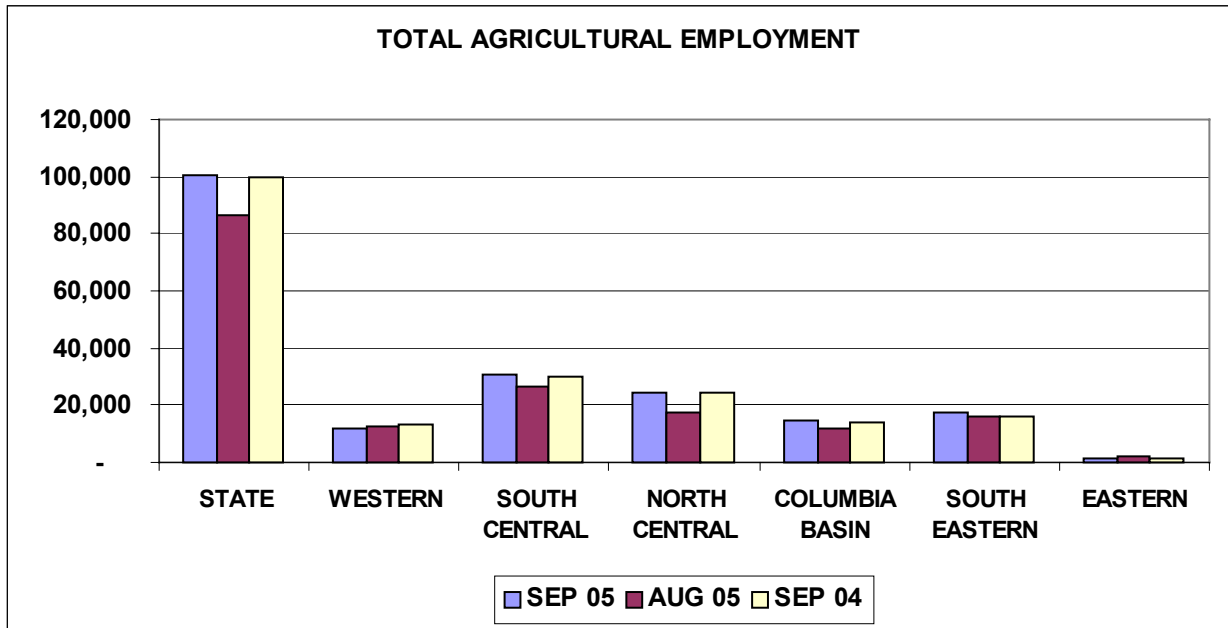
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	SEP 05	AUG 05	SEP 04	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				AUG 05- SEP 05	SEP 04- SEP 05	AUG 05- SEP 05	SEP 04- SEP 05
STATE	51,135	39,303	51,760	11,832	(625)	30.1%	-1.2%
WESTERN	4,118	6,167	3,661	(2,049)	457	-33.2%	12.5%
SOUTH CENTRAL	14,411	9,469	15,280	4,942	(869)	52.2%	-5.7%
NORTH CENTRAL	15,158	10,936	15,554	4,222	(396)	38.6%	-2.5%
COLUMBIA BASIN	8,713	5,473	8,407	3,240	306	59.2%	3.6%
SOUTH EASTERN	8,463	6,274	8,471	2,189	(8)	34.9%	-0.1%
EASTERN	272	984	387	(712)	(115)	-72.4%	-29.7%



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment rose by 1.1% in September 2005 over September 2004. Over-the-month total employment however grew by 16.5 % from August 2005 to September 2005 due to apple harvest and pear harvests. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment fell by 9.0%. South Central (Area 2) total employment was up slightly by 0.5%. North Central (Area 3) total employment slipped up by 2.6%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment moved ahead by 7.1%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment ramped up by 11.9%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment showed an over-the-year loss of 3.4%.

	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
	<u>SEP 05</u>	<u>AUG 05</u>	<u>SEP 04</u>	<u>AUG 05- SEP 05</u>	<u>SEP 04- SEP 05</u>	<u>AUG 05- SEP 05</u>	<u>SEP 04- SEP 05</u>	
STATE	100,607	86,381	99,482	14,226	1,125	16.5%	1.1%	
WESTERN	11,906	12,560	13,082	(654)	(1,176)	-5.2%	-9.0%	
SOUTH CENTRAL	30,422	26,180	30,279	4,242	143	16.2%	0.5%	
NORTH CENTRAL	24,095	17,730	24,749	6,365	(654)	35.9%	-2.6%	
COLUMBIA BASIN	14,878	11,766	13,893	3,112	985	26.4%	7.1%	
SOUTH EASTERN	17,668	16,185	15,784	1,483	1,884	9.2%	11.9%	
EASTERN	1,638	1,960	1,695	(322)	(57)	-16.4%	-3.4%	



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment declined by 1.2% from September 2004 to September 2005. However, seasonal employment ramped up by 30.1% statewide from August 2005 to September 2005. The crop activity gaining the largest number of jobs from September 2004 to September 2005 was apple work (1,589). Potato work shed the most employment (-1,044) for that same time period. Apple work moved ahead of all other crops in employment (17,432) from August 2005 to September 2005. Other tree fruit work showed the greatest decline in employment (-2,646) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2005 was \$7.79 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	SEP 05	AUG 05	SEP 04	AUG 05- SEP 05	SEP 04- SEP 05	AUG 05- SEP 05	SEP 04- SEP 05
Apples	36,549	19,117	34,960	17,432	1,589	91.2%	4.5%
Asparagus	0	57	11	(57)	(11)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Blueberry	428	1,651	486	(1,223)	(58)	-74.1%	-11.9%
Bulb	77	216	118	(139)	(41)	-64.4%	-34.7%
Cherries	0	622	131	(622)	(131)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Cucumbers	354	608	230	(254)	124	-41.8%	53.9%
Grapes	632	769	1,241	(137)	(609)	-17.8%	-49.1%
Hops	1,240	218	1,729	1,022	(489)	468.8%	-28.3%
Misc Vegetables	2,599	1,907	2,134	692	465	36.3%	21.8%
Nursery	596	1,369	854	(773)	(258)	-56.5%	-30.2%
Onion	1,064	1,554	1,287	(490)	(223)	-31.5%	-17.3%
Other Seasonal	1,926	2,542	1,440	(616)	486	-24.2%	33.8%
Other Tree Fruit	738	3,384	1,100	(2,646)	(362)	-78.2%	-32.9%
Pears	2,994	1,802	2,951	1,192	43	66.1%	1.5%
Potato	1,252	911	2,296	341	(1,044)	37.4%	-45.5%
Raspberry	499	964	443	(465)	56	-48.2%	12.6%
Strawberries	44	850	30	(806)	14	-94.8%	46.7%
Wheat/Grain	152	761	319	(609)	(167)	-80.0%	-52.4%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment grew by 12.5% from September 2004 to September 2005. However this increase was reversed by a 33.2% drop in employment from August 2005 to September 2005. Other seasonal expanded by the greatest amount of employment (422) from September 2004 to September 2005. Nursery work lost the largest number of jobs (-335) for that same time period. Potato work moved forward by the largest employment numbers (336) from August 2005 to September 2005. Blueberry work declined by the most employment (-1,223) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2005 in Area 1 was \$7.88 per hour. (See pages 15 -17 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN					CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>SEP 05</u>	<u>AUG 05</u>	<u>SEP 04</u>	<u>AUG 05- SEP 05</u>	<u>SEP 04- SEP 05</u>	<u>AUG 05- SEP 05</u>	<u>SEP 04- SEP 05</u>	
CROP								
Blueberry	428	1,651	486	(1,223)	(58)	-74.1%	-11.9%	
Bulb	77	216	118	(139)	(41)	-64.4%	-34.7%	
Cucumbers	354	608	230	(254)	124	-41.8%	53.9%	
Misc Vegetables	1,127	875	1,020	252	107	28.8%	10.5%	
Nursery	406	941	741	(535)	(335)	-56.9%	-45.2%	
Other Seasonal	739	637	317	102	422	16.0%	133.1%	
Potato	470	134	280	336	190	250.7%	67.9%	
Raspberry	499	964	443	(465)	56	-48.2%	12.6%	
Rhubarb	5	14	0	(9)	5	-64.3%	0.0%	
Strawberries	13	130	26	(117)	(13)	-90.0%	-50.0%	

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment slowed by 5.7% from September 2004 to September 2005. This was reversed by a large gain of 52.2% in employment from August 2005 to September 2005. Apple work led all other crops in employment (1,503) from September 2004 to September 2005. Pear work posted the greatest job loss (-828) for that same time period. Apple work expanded by the greatest amount of employment (6,959) from August 2005 to September 2005. Other tree fruit work exhibited the largest over-the-month drop in employment (-2,033) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2005 in Area 2 was \$7.76 per hour. (See pages 18 -20 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL					CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>SEP 05</u>	<u>AUG 05</u>	<u>SEP 04</u>	<u>AUG 05- SEP 05</u>	<u>SEP 04- SEP 05</u>	<u>AUG 05- SEP 05</u>	<u>SEP 04- SEP 05</u>	
CROP								
Apples	10,600	3,641	9,097	6,959	1,503	191.1%	16.5%	
Asparagus	0	33	11	(33)	(11)	-100.0%	-100.0%	
Cherries	0	79	6	(79)	(6)	-100.0%	-100.0%	
Grapes	344	490	891	(146)	(547)	-29.8%	-61.4%	
Hops	1,060	70	1,273	990	(213)	1414.3%	-16.7%	
Misc Vegetables	287	280	265	7	22	2.5%	8.3%	
Onions	295	359	341	(64)	(46)	0.0%	-13.5%	
Other Seasonal	512	492	486	20	26	4.1%	5.3%	
Other Tree Fruit	158	2,191	859	(2,033)	(701)	-92.8%	-81.6%	
Pears	1,148	1,576	1,976	(428)	(828)	-27.2%	-41.9%	
Potato	12	262	75	(250)	(63)	-95.4%	-84.0%	

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment slipped by 2.5% from September 2004 to September 2005. This was contrasted by a large gain of 38.6% from August 2005 to September 2005. Pear work displayed the greatest over-the-year increase in employment (731) from September 2004 to September 2005. Apple work registered the largest job loss (-979) for that same time period. Apple work was the biggest gainer in employment (3,320) from July 2005 to August 2005. Cherry work was the largest loser in employment (-402) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2005 in Area 3 was \$7.79 per hour. (See pages 21 - 22 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	SEP 05	AUG 05	SEP 04	AUG 05- SEP 05	SEP 04- SEP 05	AUG 05- SEP 05	SEP 04- SEP 05
Apples	13,345	10,025	14,324	3,320	(979)	33.1%	-6.8%
Cherries	0	402	125	(402)	(125)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Other Seasonal	60	133	133	(73)	(73)	-54.9%	-54.9%
Other Tree Fruit	136	202	83	(66)	53	-32.7%	63.9%
Pears	1,620	182	889	1,438	731	790.1%	82.2%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment moved forward by 3.6% from September 2004 to September 2005. This gain was superceded by a surge of 59.2% in employment from August 2005 to September 2005. Apple work moved ahead of all other crops in employment (722) from September 2004 to September 2005. Potato work pulled back by the largest amount of employment (-827) during that same time period. Apple work led the gainers in employment (3,685) from August 2005 to September 2005. Miscellaneous vegetables work displayed the largest loss in employment (-366) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2005 in Area 4 was \$7.74 per hour. (See pages 23 - 25 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	SEP 05	AUG 05	SEP 04	AUG 05- SEP 05	SEP 04- SEP 05	AUG 05- SEP 05	SEP 04- SEP 05
Apples	7,244	3,559	6,522	3,685	722	103.5%	11.1%
Asparagus	0	24	0	(24)	0	0.0%	0.0%
Cherries	0	12	0	(12)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Mint	123	87	16	36	107	41.4%	668.8%
Misc Vegetables	134	500	56	(366)	78	-73.2%	139.3%
Nursery	68	275	74	(207)	(6)	-75.3%	-8.1%
Onion	347	114	268	233	79	204.4%	29.5%
Other Seasonal	174	454	125	(280)	49	-61.7%	39.2%
Other Tree Fruit	0	152	12	(152)	(12)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Pears	226	44	86	182	140	413.6%	162.8%
Potato	373	141	1,200	232	(827)	164.5%	-68.9%
Wheat/Grain	27	101	48	(74)	(21)	-73.3%	-43.8%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment slipped by 0.1% from September 2004 to September 2005. However seasonal employment expanded by 34.9% from August 2005 to September 2005. Apple work moved forward by the largest employment (343) from September 2004 to September 2005. Potato work led the decliners (-344) during that same time period. Apple work surged ahead by the largest number of jobs (3,468) from August 2005 to September 2005. Strawberry work shed the most jobs (-689) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2005 in Area 5 was \$7.76 per hour. (See pages 26 - 28 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	SEP 05	AUG 05	SEP 04	AUG 05- SEP 05	SEP 04- SEP 05	AUG 05- SEP 05	SEP 04- SEP 05
CROP							
Apples	5,360	1,892	5,017	3,468	343	183.3%	6.8%
Cherries	0	129	0	(129)	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Grapes	288	279	350	9	(62)	3.2%	-17.7%
Hops	180	148	456	32	(276)	21.6%	-60.5%
Misc Vegetables	1,046	238	793	808	253	339.5%	31.9%
Nursery	6	4	0	2	6	50.0%	0.0%
Onion	422	1,081	678	(659)	(256)	-61.0%	-37.8%
Other Seasonal	274	478	270	(204)	4	-42.7%	1.5%
Other Tree Fruit	444	839	146	(395)	298	-47.1%	204.1%
Potatoes	397	374	741	23	(344)	6.1%	-46.4%
Strawberries	31	720	4	(689)	27	-95.7%	675.0%
Wheat/Grain	13	88	16	(75)	(3)	-85.2%	-18.8%

**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 September.

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 SEPTEMBER 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: 4,118 (2,105 local, 350 intrastate, 209 interstate, 384 foreign, 1,070 unknown origin)

Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	427	\$ 7.35/hr
Pumpkin Harvester	419	\$ 7.35/hr
Blackberry Harvester	401	\$ 7.35/hr
Blackberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	321	\$ 7.69/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 14,411 (6,996 local, 758 intrastate, 1,522 interstate, 2,411 foreign, 2,724 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	8,828	\$ 7.73/hr or \$12.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,148	\$ 7.35/hr or \$ 9.50 - \$23.00 per bin
Hops Harvester	579	\$ 7.80/hr
Apple Tractor Operator	485	\$ 8.46/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 15,158 (6,416 local, 509 intrastate, 763 interstate, 836 foreign, 6,634 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	12,409	\$ 7.66/hr or \$10.00 - \$26.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,429	\$13.00 - \$18.00 per bin
Apple Worker	290	\$ 7.50/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	278	\$ 7.72/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,713 (5,218 local, 26 intrastate, 1,050 interstate, 1,395 foreign, 1,024 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	6,242	\$ 7.57/hr or \$10.00 - \$35.00 per bin
Apple Pruner	244	\$ 7.43/hr
Apple Worker	235	\$ 8.73/hr
Pear Harvester	207	\$ 7.50/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,463 (8,029 local, 0 intrastate, 106 interstate, 300 foreign, 28 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	5,216	\$ 7.60/hr or \$10.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	472	\$ 7.35/hr
Grapes Harvester	224	\$ 8.14/hr
Misc Vegetables Harvester	169	Not Available

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 272 (264 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 8 unknown origin)

Nursery Harvester	63	\$10.50/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	49	\$ 9.50/hr
Wheat Worker	39	\$10.00/hr
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	24	\$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
SEPTEMBER 2005

TABLE 1
SEPTEMBER 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	2,105	350	209	384	1,070	4,118
2. South Central	6,996	758	1,522	2,411	2,724	14,411
3. North Central	6,416	509	763	836	6,634	15,158
4. Columbia Basin	5,218	26	1,050	1,395	1,024	8,713
5. South Eastern	8,029	0	106	300	28	8,463
6. Eastern	264	0	0	0	8	272
State Totals	29,029	1,642	3,650	5,326	11,488	51,135
% State Total	56.8%	3.2%	7.1%	10.4%	22.5%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	4,118
a. Local	2,105
b. Intrastate migratory	350
c. Interstate migratory	209
d. Foreign	384
e. Unknown	1,070
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 September 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,788.

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

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were a little drier and warmer than normal for the reporting period. Some areas experienced the first frost of the season on September 24th. Pumpkins, tomatoes and other garden crops were blackened. There were no reports of damage to the sweet corn crop which was being harvested. Potato harvest continued in Whatcom County.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.88 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for potato sorter/grader/packer, pumpkin harvester, blackberry harvester, cauliflower harvester, raspberry pruner, raspberry trainer, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, raspberry harvester, nursery irrigator, nursery harvester, beans harvester, nursery weeder, miscellaneous under cover crop worker, nursery sorter/grader/packer, raspberry worker, miscellaneous under cover crop harvester, cauliflower planter, cucumber vehicle operator, miscellaneous onion harvester, miscellaneous onion weeder, cauliflower vehicle operator, nursery chemical applicator, broccoli planter and cabbage planter to \$14.00 for cauliflower mechanic and cucumber 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 51.1% local, 8.5% intrastate, 5.1% interstate, foreign 9.3% and 26.0% unknown.

d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	4,118
		* = piece rate
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	427	\$ 7.35
Pumpkin Harvester	419	\$ 7.35
Blackberry Harvester	401	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	321	\$ 7.69
Nursery Worker	236	\$ 9.77
Cauliflower Harvester	227	\$ 7.35
Cucumber Harvester	211	\$ 7.36
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	160	\$ 8.82
Raspberry Pruner	142	\$ 7.35
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	134	\$ 7.78
Chicken Eggs Worker	126	\$ 7.40
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	106	\$ 7.91
Raspberry Trainer	104	\$ 7.35
Misc Berries Worker	96	\$ 7.50
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	77	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Planter	67	\$ 7.77
Blueberry Mechanized Harvester	63	\$ 8.00
Raspberry Harvester	58	\$ 7.35
Misc Vegetables Worker	53	\$ 9.85
Misc Field Crops Harvester	50	\$ 8.74
Raspberry Planter	46	\$ 7.35
Nursery Irrigator	40	\$ 7.35
Nursery Harvester	40	\$ 7.35
Nursery Planter	37	\$ 7.95
Beans Harvester	35	\$ 7.35
Nursery Weeder	33	\$ 7.35
Potato Vehicle Operator	33	\$ 9.21
Misc Squash Harvester	30	\$ 7.40
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	20	\$ 9.25
Blueberry Worker	19	\$ 9.03
Summer fallow Worker	17	\$ 9.00
Misc Under Cover Crop Worker	17	\$ 7.35
Pumpkin Manager	15	\$ 9.83
Pumpkin Forklift Driver	15	\$ 8.50
Blueberry Pruner	13	\$12.00
Strawberry Weeder	13	\$ 8.50

Area 1 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Cucumber Worker	12	Not Available
Lettuce Harvester	10	\$ 7.50
Cucumber Weeder	10	\$ 7.40
Cabbage Harvester	10	\$ 7.50
Cauliflower Manager	10	\$ 9.00
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	10	\$ 7.35
Sweet Corn Worker	8	\$ 7.50
Raspberry Worker	8	\$ 7.35
Blackberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	8	\$ 8.50
Nursery Vehicle Operator	7	\$12.00
Raspberry Weeder	7	\$ 8.50
General Farm Worker	7	\$ 9.28
Misc Under Cover Crop Harvester	7	\$ 7.35
Potato Tractor Operator	7	\$12.00
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	7	\$ 7.50
Cauliflower Planter	7	\$ 7.35
Blueberry Forklift Driver	6	\$10.00
Blueberry Vehicle Operator	6	\$12.00
Cucumber Vehicle Operator	5	\$ 7.35
Beets Harvester	5	\$ 7.35
Cauliflower Mechanic	5	\$14.00
Cauliflower Forklift Driver	5	\$ 9.00
Cucumber Mechanic	5	\$14.00
Cucumber Manager	5	\$ 9.00
Misc Onion Harvester	5	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Weeder	5	\$ 7.35
Pumpkin Vehicle Operator	5	\$10.50
Rhubarb Harvester	5	\$ 7.50
Cauliflower Vehicle Operator	5	\$ 7.35
Nursery Chemical Applicator	3	\$ 7.35
Potato Worker	3	\$ 8.00
Broccoli Planter	3	\$ 7.35
Wheat Worker	3	\$ 8.00
Cabbage Planter	3	\$ 7.35

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.88/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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 14,411
 - a. Local 6,996
 - b. Intrastate migratory 758
 - c. Interstate migratory 1,522
 - d. Foreign 2,411
 - e. Unknown 2,724

- 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
 - a. Intrastate: Kennewick, Othello, Pasco, Sunnyside, Wenatchee
 - b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas
 - c. Foreign: Mexico

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 16,411.

- 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. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported. Some livestock producers were already beginning to feed. Most wheat producers could not seed yet due to lack of moisture. Primary agricultural activities were apple, pear and hops harvesting.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.76 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for pear harvester, grapes hand thinner, apple pruner, apple hand thinner, hops worker, miscellaneous field crops weeder, grapes harvester, potato sorter/grader/packer, general farm worker, silage irrigator, mint mechanized harvester, field corn irrigator, grapes weeder, and miscellaneous vegetables mechanized harvester to 12.00 for miscellaneous fruit trees harvester and alfalfa mechanized harvester. Typical piece rates were: \$12.00 to \$30.00 per bin for apple picking and \$9.50 to \$23.00 per bin for pear 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 48.5% local, 5.3% intrastate, 10.6% interstate, foreign 16.7% and unknown 18.9%.

 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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 14,411	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	8,828	\$ 7.73 or * \$12.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,148	\$ 7.35 or * \$ 9.50 - \$23.00 per bin
Hops Harvester	579	\$ 7.80
Apple Tractor Operator	485	\$ 8.46
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	372	\$ 7.50
Apple Worker	363	\$ 9.08
Hops Mechanized Harvester	225	\$ 7.65
Misc Onion Harvester	203	\$ 7.43
Apple Irrigator	195	\$ 8.25
Grapes Hand Thinner	153	\$ 7.35
Grapes Trainer	148	\$ 7.36
Dairy Worker	143	\$10.50
Dairy Vehicle Operator	143	\$ 9.00
Apple Pruner	139	\$ 7.35
Apple Hand Thinner	122	\$ 7.35
Nectarine Harvester	115	Not Available
Hops Worker	104	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	92	\$ 7.50
Hops Vehicle Operator	85	\$ 7.52
Cucumber Harvester	71	\$ 7.50
Misc Peppers Harvester	71	\$ 7.50
Hops Tractor Operator	67	\$ 7.93
Apple Vehicle Operator	65	\$10.39
Silage Vehicle Operator	61	\$ 9.00
Misc Field Crops Weeder	55	\$ 7.35
Misc Squash Harvester	53	\$ 7.75
Nursery Planter	38	\$ 9.75
Misc Squash Sorter/Grader/Packer	37	\$ 7.75
Plum Harvester	36	Not Available
Misc Peppers Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.75
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.75
Apple Manager	23	\$ 7.88
Grapes Tractor Operator	17	\$12.00
Nursery Worker	15	\$ 8.50
Grapes Harvester	13	\$ 7.35
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	12	\$ 7.35

Area 2 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Nursery Vehicle Operator	8	\$ 9.00
General Farm Worker	8	\$ 7.35
Apple Chemical Applicator	8	\$ 7.75
Silage Irrigator	8	\$ 7.35
Mint Mechanized Harvester	8	\$ 7.35
Mint Vehicle Operator	8	\$ 8.50
Field Corn Irrigator	8	\$ 7.35
Misc Fruit Trees Harvester	7	\$12.00
Grapes Weeder	7	\$ 7.35
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	6	\$12.00
Grapes Irrigator	6	\$ 8.35
Alfalfa Irrigator	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Mechanized Harvester	3	\$ 7.35

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.76/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	15,158
a.	Local	6,416
b.	Intrastate migratory	509
c.	Interstate migratory	763
d.	Foreign	836
e.	Unknown	6,634
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a.	Intrastate: Benton City, Beverly, Mattawa, Pasco, Sunnyside, Tonasket, Wenatchee, Yakima	
b.	Interstate: Arizona, California, Oregon, Texas	
c.	Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 9,761.
 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. Winter pear harvest continued. Golden Delicious apple harvest was nearly complete. The apple harvest was expected to be smaller than original estimates. Winter wheat was behind normal maturity.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.79 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.35 for nursery worker to \$25.00 for horse and equines manager. Typical piece rates were: \$10.00 to \$25.00 per bin for apple picking and \$13.00 to \$18.00 per bin for pear 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 42.3% local, 3.4% intrastate, 5.0% interstate, 5.5% foreign and 43.8% 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: SEPTEMBER 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	15,158
		* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	12,409	\$ 7.66 or * \$10.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,429	N/A or * \$13.00 - \$18.00 per bin
Apple Worker	290	\$ 7.50
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	278	\$ 7.72
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	136	\$ 7.58
Apple Manager	84	\$ 9.44
Apple Preparation	84	\$ 8.71
Apple Pruner	69	\$ 7.38
Apple Tractor Operator	64	\$ 9.08
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	58	\$ 7.53
Apple Trainer	40	\$ 7.81
Pear Preparation	40	\$ 8.75
Pear Manager	30	\$ 9.50
Pear Trainer	25	\$ 8.00
Pear Worker	25	\$ 7.93
Nursery Worker	20	\$ 7.35
Apple Forklift Driver	18	\$ 8.68
Pear Forklift Driver	13	\$ 8.50
Wheat Planter	8	\$20.00
Horse and Equines Worker	8	\$13.00
Beef Cattle Worker	8	\$ 9.25
Apple Hand Thinner	5	\$ 8.00
Misc Hay Irrigator	4	\$ 8.63
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	4	\$10.20
Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester	4	\$ 8.63
Horse and Equines Manager	4	\$25.00
Apple Vehicle Operator	3	\$15.00
Apple Loader	1	\$12.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.79/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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 | 8,713 |
| a. Local | 5,218 |
| b. Intrastate migratory | 26 |
| c. Interstate migratory | 1,050 |
| d. Foreign | 1,395 |
| e. Unknown | 1,024 |
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
- a. Intrastate: Grandview, Yakima
 - b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Florida, Louisiana, Oregon, Texas, Utah
 - c. Foreign: Germany, Mexico

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,165.
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. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 60 percent complete. Potato harvest was underway. Apple harvest continued. Alfalfa and timothy hay harvests wound down. Sweet corn harvest was also coming to an end. Bean harvest was in full swing.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.74 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.25 for grapes hand thinner to \$13.50 for potato loader. Typical piece rates were: \$10.00 to \$35.00 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 60.0% local, 0.3% intrastate, 12.0% interstate 16.0% foreign and 11.7% 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: SEPTEMBER 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 8,713	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	6,242	\$ 7.57 or * \$10.00 - \$35.00 per bin
Apple Pruner	244	\$ 7.43
Apple Worker	235	\$ 8.73
Pear Harvester	207	\$ 7.50
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	164	\$ 7.35
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	154	\$ 7.59
Apple Preparation	146	\$ 8.69
Potato Vehicle Operator	130	\$ 9.98
Apple Trainer	113	\$ 7.47
Mint Weeder	96	\$ 7.35
Nursery Worker	62	\$ 7.36
Sweet Corn Weeder	62	\$ 7.35
Apple Propper	61	\$ 7.50
Apple Hand Thinner	56	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Vehicle Operator	54	\$ 9.37
Misc Onion Loader	46	\$ 9.00
Apple Manager	42	\$ 9.11
Apple Tractor Operator	38	\$ 8.02
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	34	\$10.60
Potato Harvester	33	\$ 7.45
Sweet Corn Harvester	31	\$ 7.75
Misc Onion Harvester	27	\$ 7.35
Apple Forklift Driver	27	\$ 9.65
Mint Vehicle Operator	27	\$ 8.50
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	27	\$ 8.50
General Farm Worker	24	\$ 7.73
Sweet Corn Worker	21	\$ 7.85
Misc Onion Worker	21	\$ 7.57
Misc Onion Manager	21	\$ 8.67
Potato Tractor Operator	19	\$11.00
Apple Weeder	19	\$ 8.25
Grapes Harvester	17	\$ 7.35
Field Corn Vehicle Operator	17	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	14	\$ 8.25
Potato Mechanic	13	\$11.50
Wheat Weeder	13	\$ 8.50

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Grapes Hand Thinner	10	\$ 7.25
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	10	\$ 9.00
Potato Loader	10	\$13.50
Apple Chemical Applicator	9	\$ 8.00
Pear Worker	9	\$12.00
Sweet Corn Loader	7	\$ 9.00
Sweet Corn Vehicle Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Apple Vehicle Operator	7	\$12.50
Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester	7	\$ 9.00
Misc Hay Irrigator	7	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Worker	7	\$ 8.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Combine Driver	7	\$10.50
Wheat Tractor Operator	7	\$10.50
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	7	\$12.00
Potato Worker	7	\$ 9.00
Potato Mechanized Harvester	7	\$10.00
Wheat Combine Driver	7	\$10.00
Misc Vegetables Planter	6	\$ 7.35
Pear Preparation	5	\$ 8.50
Pear Manager	5	\$ 9.00
Apple Irrigator	5	\$ 8.00
Nursery Harvester	3	\$ 7.67
Nursery Weeder	2	\$ 7.35
Nursery Grafter	1	\$ 7.35

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.74/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	8,463
a. Local	8,029
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	106
d. Foreign	300
e. Unknown	28
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2005 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 9,205.

 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. Grape, apple, potato, and summer vegetable harvests continued. The last cut for alfalfa continued. Pastures dried up, and many ranchers were already beginning to feed their cattle.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.76 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$6.80 for miscellaneous hay irrigator to \$35.00 for potato mechanic. Typical piece rates were: \$10.00 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 94.8% local, 0.0% intrastate, 1.3% interstate, 3.6% foreign and 0.3% 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: SEPTEMBER 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	8,463
		* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	5,216	\$ 7.60 or * \$10.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	472	\$ 7.35
Grapes Harvester	224	\$ 8.14
Misc Vegetables Harvester	169	Not Available
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	161	\$ 7.83
Misc Onion Worker	147	\$ 7.35
Peach Sorter/Grader/Packer	147	\$ 7.35
Nectarine Sorter/Grader/Packer	143	\$ 7.35
Sweet Corn Vehicle Operator	140	\$11.60
Potato Harvester	138	\$ 7.35
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	126	\$ 7.97
Hops Mechanized Harvester	108	\$ 7.45
Sweet Corn Mechanized Harvester	100	\$ 9.75
Chicken Eggs Worker	81	\$ 7.80
Hops Vehicle Operator	72	\$ 7.65
Peach Pruner	72	\$ 7.75
Apple Worker	69	\$ 8.39
Misc Onion Harvester	69	\$ 7.35
Potato Vehicle Operator	51	\$ 8.76
Sweet Corn Forklift Driver	50	\$ 9.40
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	43	\$ 9.39
Nectarine Harvester	41	\$ 7.35
Apple Pruner	39	\$ 7.35
Peach Harvester	38	\$ 7.35
Carrot Planter	38	\$ 7.35
Grapes Hand Thinner	36	\$ 7.41
Grass Seed Tractor Operator	32	\$ 9.00
Strawberry Tractor Operator	31	\$ 7.35
Carrot Harvester	31	\$ 7.35
General Farm Mechanic	31	\$ 8.35
Misc Hay Planter	25	\$ 8.25
Walla Walla Sweets Worker	20	\$ 7.50
Walla Walla Sweets Irrigator	20	\$ 8.50
Walla Walla Sweets Preparation	20	\$ 8.50
Potato Loader	19	\$ 8.55
Apple Preparation	19	\$ 7.35

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Carrot Vehicle Operator	19	\$12.00
Grapes Worker	18	\$ 7.43
Potato Mechanized Harvester	13	\$ 8.38
Wheat Worker	13	\$ 8.30
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Harvester	13	\$ 7.35
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	13	\$ 7.78
Misc Onion Loader	11	\$ 7.35
Carrot Weeder	10	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Worker	10	\$ 9.00
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	9	\$ 9.50
Misc Hay Irrigator	9	\$ 6.80
Silage Vehicle Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Potato Tractor Operator	6	\$ 9.95
Potato Mechanic	6	\$35.00
Misc Hay Preparation	6	\$13.00
Apple Tractor Operator	6	\$ 9.00
Apple Hand Thinner	6	\$ 7.35
General Farm Worker	6	\$12.00
Nursery Pruner	6	\$ 7.35
Grapes Trainer	6	\$ 7.35
Apple Cultivator	5	\$ 7.35
Contract Aerial Worker	4	Not Available
Grapes Mechanized Harvester	4	\$ 8.25
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.75
Misc Fruit Trees Mechanic	3	\$ 8.00
Sweet Corn Irrigator	3	\$ 8.50
Potato Preparation	3	\$ 7.35
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	2	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Irrigator	2	\$ 8.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 7.76/hr (weighted average)