



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

APRIL 2006



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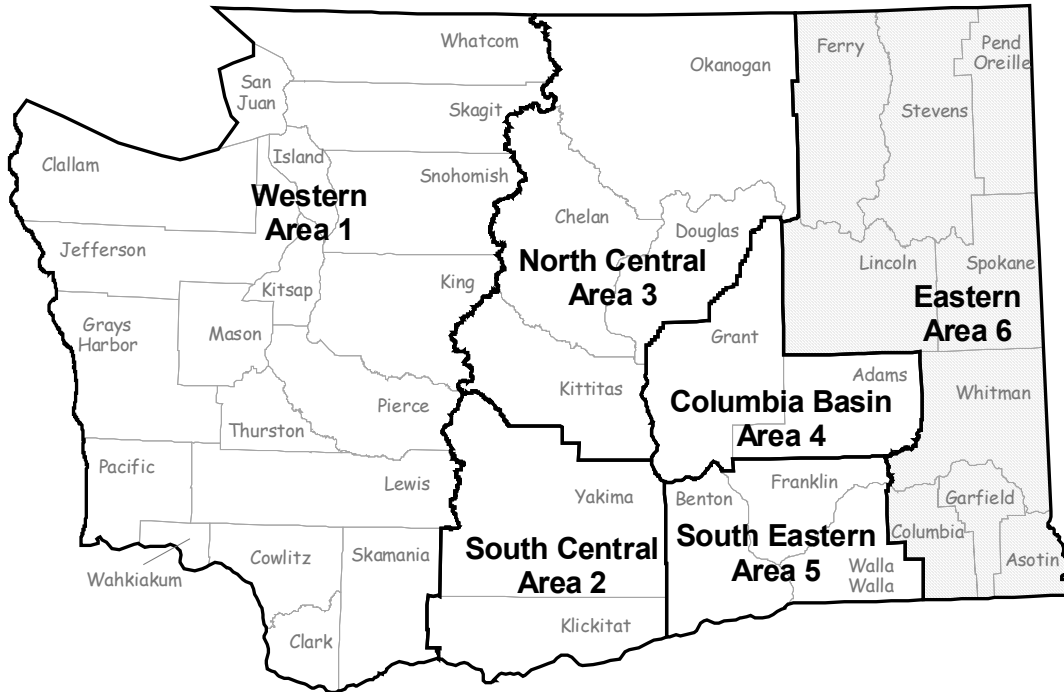
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

APRIL 2006

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

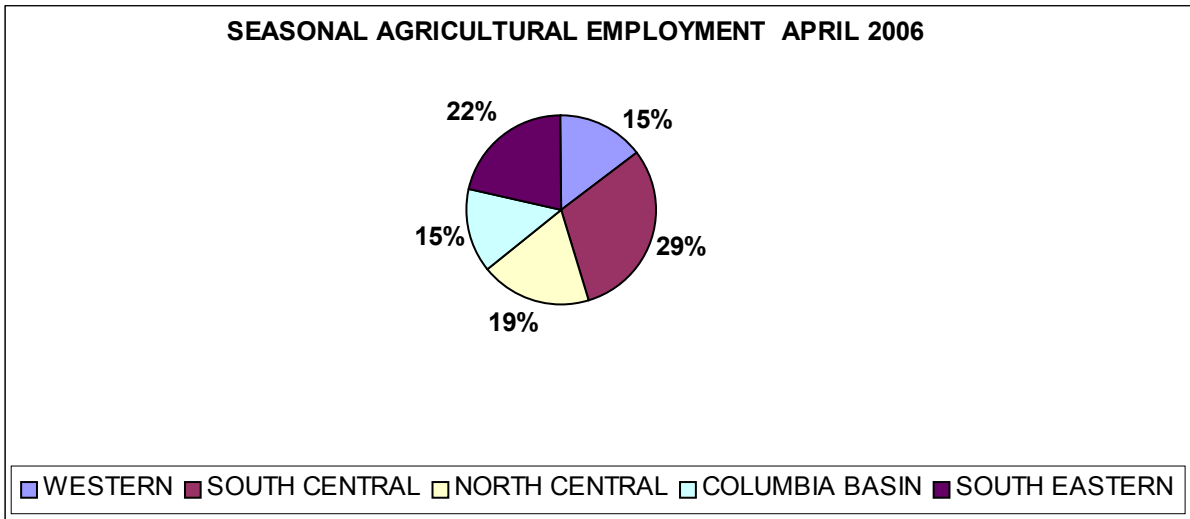
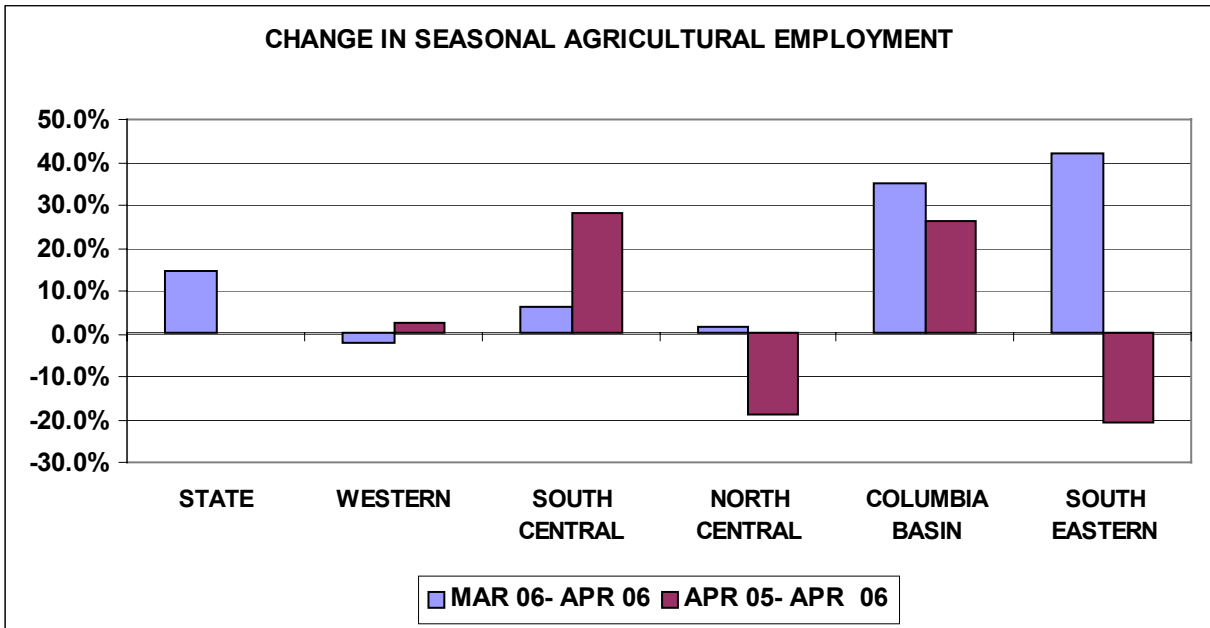
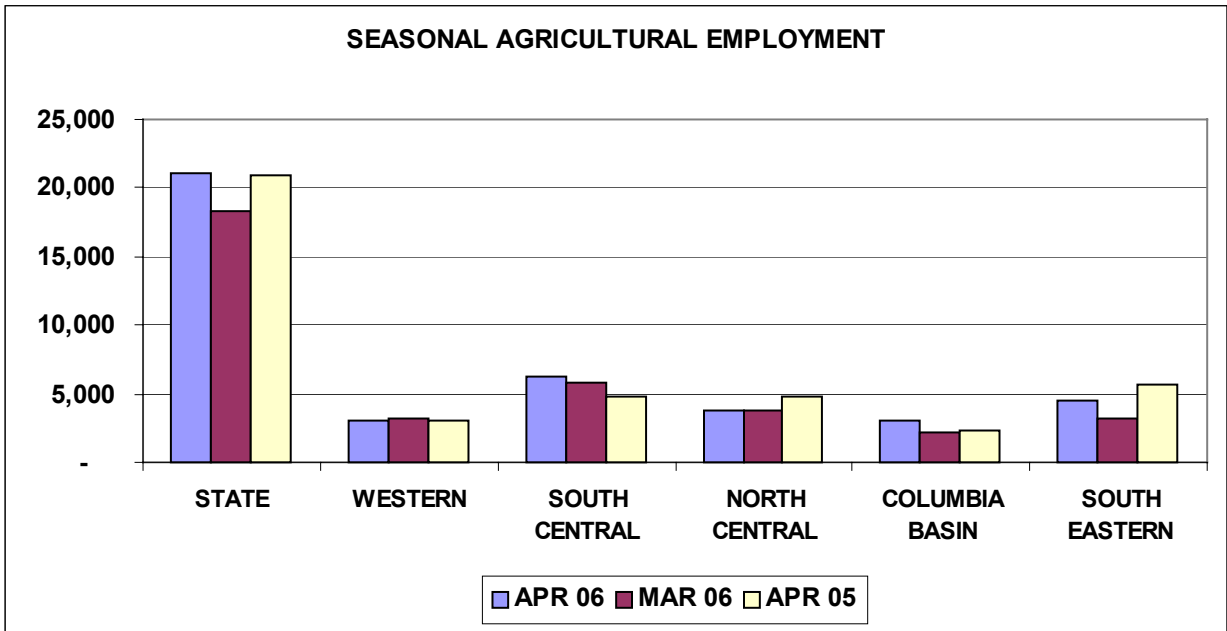
Statewide seasonal employment expanded by a slight 0.4% from April 2005 to April 2006. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year gains were other seasonal work (627), potato work (620), grapes work (530), hops work (477), miscellaneous vegetables work (428), other tree fruit work (363), bulb work (298), nursery work (216), cherry work (159), blueberry work (104), pear work (93), strawberry work (28), and raspberry work (27). Activities displaying losses were asparagus work (-1,262), onion work (-1,189), apple work (-332), cucumber work (-107), and wheat/grain work (-34). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment grew by 2.6%, due to an increase in miscellaneous vegetables work (323). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment expanded by 28.1%, courtesy of an increase in grapes work (944). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment declined by 18.7% due to a decline in apple work (-815). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment leaped ahead by 26.5%, thanks to a bump in potato work (465). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment fell back by 20.6% caused by a loss in onion work (-1,002). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment moved forward by 14.1%, because of an increase in nursery work (82).

ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

The asparagus industry in Washington State is counting on the Gourmet Trading Company fresh-pack plant in Pasco to keep the struggling industry alive. This will help blunt the closing of Seneca's Dayton plant last year. Gourmet Trading has invested about \$2 million to set up a fresh-pack facility in an existing potato storage shed in Pasco to buy the crop. Seneca last year moved all of its operations to Peru, where labor is cheaper and there are fewer environmental regulations. The move also left most of the region's growers without a market. About 60 percent of the former Seneca growers have signed on with Gourmet but many others plowed under their fields and are planting new crops. Washington grew about 31 million pounds of fresh asparagus and 21 million pounds for processing in 2005. This year the state will grow an estimated 41 million pounds of fresh asparagus and 2 million pounds for processing.

Bountiful snow in Washington's mountains is pushing stream runoff forecasts back into the "average" category—great news after years of slack snowpack and drought worries, said the U.S. Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The service's April stream forecast, which the agency says is its most accurate water-supply measure, predicts below-normal water flows in only a handful of stream and river basins. That's a major change from last year, when the highest flow forecast was 88 percent of average for a section of the Columbia River. The present flow predictions range from 89 percent of average on the Methow River in Okanogan County to 130 percent of average in Stemilt Creek near Wenatchee. Snowpack in Eastern Washington also has seen a striking change—112 percent of normal, compared with last year's measurement of 38 percent of normal.

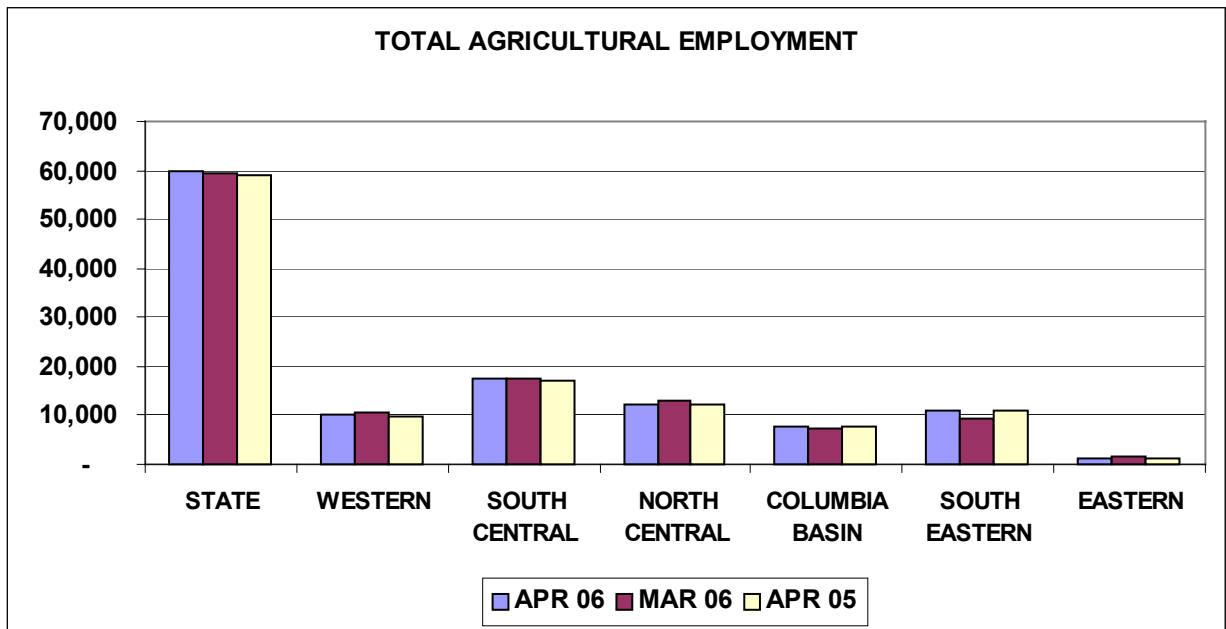
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>APR 05</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>MAR 06- APR 06</u>	<u>APR 05- APR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06- APR 06</u>	<u>APR 05- APR 06</u>
STATE	21,076	18,347	20,994	2,729	82	14.9%	0.4%
WESTERN	3,122	3,190	3,042	(68)	80	-2.1%	2.6%
SOUTH CENTRAL	6,203	5,837	4,842	366	1,361	6.3%	28.1%
NORTH CENTRAL	3,843	3,773	4,725	70	(882)	1.9%	-18.7%
COLUMBIA BASIN	3,006	2,225	2,377	781	629	35.1%	26.5%
SOUTH EASTERN	4,465	3,141	5,625	1,324	(1,160)	42.2%	-20.6%
EASTERN	437	181	383	256	54	141.4%	14.1%



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment grew by 1.3% from April 2005 to April 2006. Over-the-month total employment inched up by 0.4% from March 2006 to April 2006. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment increased by 1.4%. South Central (Area 2) total employment also moved ahead by 1.4%. North Central (Area 3) total employment expanded by 1.1%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment advanced by 1.3%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment moved forward by 1.4%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment also expanded by 1.4%.

	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT								
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE			
	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>APR 05</u>	<u>MAR 06- APR 06</u>	<u>APR 05- APR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06- APR 06</u>	<u>APR 05- APR 06</u>		
STATE	59,655	59,405	58,882	250	773	0.4%	1.3%		
WESTERN	10,027	10,607	9,889	(580)	137	-5.5%	1.4%		
SOUTH CENTRAL	17,462	17,530	17,223	(68)	239	-0.4%	1.4%		
NORTH CENTRAL	12,192	13,033	12,063	(841)	129	-6.5%	1.1%		
COLUMBIA BASIN	7,708	7,458	7,609	250	99	3.3%	1.3%		
SOUTH EASTERN	10,953	9,308	10,803	1,645	150	17.7%	1.4%		
EASTERN	1,313	1,469	1,295	(156)	18	-10.6%	1.4%		



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment inched forward by 0.4% from April 2005 to April 2006. However seasonal employment grew by 14.9% statewide from March 2006 to April 2006. The crop activity adding the most employment from April 2005 to April 2006 was other seasonal work (627). Asparagus work lost the greatest number of jobs (-1,262) for that same time period. Asparagus work gained the largest amount of employment (2,065) from March 2006 to April 2006. Onion work displayed the largest downturn in employment (-627) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2006 was \$7.88 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	APR 06	MAR 06	APR 05	MAR 06- APR 06	APR 05- APR 06	MAR 06- APR 06	APR 05- APR 06
CROP	APR 06	MAR 06	APR 05	APR 06	APR 06	APR 06	APR 06
Apples	8,068	8,186	8,400	(118)	(332)	-1.4%	-4.0%
Asparagus	2,100	35	3,362	2,065	(1,262)	5900.0%	-37.5%
Blueberry	152	96	48	56	104	58.3%	216.7%
Bulb	730	1,062	432	(332)	298	-31.3%	69.0%
Cherries	409	613	250	(204)	159	-33.3%	63.6%
Cucumber	0	0	107	0	(107)	NA	NA
Grapes	1,900	2,384	1,370	(484)	530	-20.3%	38.7%
Hops	782	680	305	102	477	15.0%	156.4%
Misc Vegetables	890	152	462	738	428	485.5%	92.6%
Nursery	2,153	2,113	1,937	40	216	1.9%	11.2%
Onion	306	933	1,495	(627)	(1,189)	-67.2%	-79.5%
Other Seasonal	2,025	598	1,398	1,427	627	238.6%	44.8%
Other Tree Fruit	695	1,080	332	(385)	363	-35.6%	109.3%
Pears	130	275	37	(145)	93	-52.7%	251.4%
Potato	1,129	286	509	843	620	294.8%	121.8%
Raspberry	420	574	393	(154)	27	-26.8%	6.9%
Strawberry	88	85	60	3	28	NA	46.7%
Wheat/Grain	63	83	97	(20)	(34)	-24.1%	-35.1%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment increased by 2.6% from April 2005 to April 2006. However, seasonal employment fell by 2.1% from March 2006 to April 2006. Miscellaneous vegetables work expanded by the greatest number of jobs (323) from April 2005 to April 2006. Cucumber work displayed the largest over-the-month loss in employment (-107) for that same time period. Miscellaneous vegetables added the most jobs (369) from March 2006 to April 2006. Bulb work showed the largest loss in employment (-332) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2006 in Area 1 was \$8.00 per hour. (See pages 15 -16 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>APR 05</u>	MAR 06-	APR 05-	MAR 06-	APR 05-
				<u>APR 06</u>	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>APR 06</u>
CROP							
Blueberry	152	96	48	56	104	58.3%	216.7%
Bulb	730	1,062	432	(332)	298	-31.3%	69.0%
Cucumber	0	0	107	0	(107)	NA	NA
Misc Vegetables	485	116	162	369	323	318.1%	199.4%
Nursery	1,828	1,856	1,560	(28)	268	-1.5%	17.2%
Other Seasonal	55	33	149	22	(94)	66.7%	-63.1%
Potato	228	135	105	93	123	68.9%	117.1%
Raspberry	420	574	393	(154)	27	-26.8%	6.9%
Rhubarb	110	14	54	96	56	685.7%	103.7%
Strawberry	85	81	32	4	53	4.9%	165.6%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal moved ahead by 28.1% from April 2005 to April 2006. Seasonal employment grew by a smaller 6.3% from March 2006 to April 2006. Grapes work posted the largest bump in employment gain (944) from April 2005 to April 2006. Asparagus work lost the largest number of jobs (-1,096) for that same time period. However asparagus work displayed the greatest employment gain (501) from March 2006 to April 2006. Apple work registered the largest over-the-month loss in employment (-392) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2006 in Area 2 was \$7.86 per hour. (See pages 17 -19 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>APR 05</u>	MAR 06-	APR 05-	MAR 06-	APR 05-
				<u>APR 06</u>	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>APR 06</u>
CROP							
Apples	2,248	2,640	1,642	(392)	606	-14.8%	36.9%
Asparagus	501	0	1,597	501	(1,096)	NA	-68.6%
Cherries	54	300	59	(246)	(5)	-82.0%	-8.5%
Grapes	1,500	1,441	556	59	944	4.1%	169.8%
Hops	492	506	199	(14)	293	-2.8%	147.2%
Misc Vegetables	221	0	132	0	89	NA	67.4%
Onion	42	58	77	(16)	(35)	-27.6%	-45.5%
Other Seasonal	525	66	424	459	101	695.5%	23.8%
Other Tree Fruit	510	591	156	(81)	354	-13.7%	226.9%
Pears	110	235	0	(125)	110	-53.2%	NA

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment fell by 18.7% from April 2005 to April 2006. However, the number of jobs grew from March 2006 to April 2006 by 1.9%. Cherry work advanced by the largest increase in employment (50) from April 2005 to April 2006. Apple work displayed the largest employment loss (-815) for that same time period. Apple work was the largest gainer in employment (260) from March 2006 to April 2006. Other tree fruit employment softened by the most jobs (-163) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2006 in Area 3 was \$7.89 per hour. (See pages 20 - 21 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	APR 06	MAR 06	APR 05	MAR 06- APR 06	APR 05- APR 06	MAR 06- APR 06	APR 05- APR 06
Apples	3,635	3,375	4,450	260	(815)	7.7%	-18.3%
Cherries	125	144	75	(19)	50	-13.2%	66.7%
Other Seasonal	20	14	139	6	(119)	42.9%	-85.6%
Other Tree Fruit	43	206	34	(163)	9	-79.1%	26.5%
Pears	20	31	27	(11)	(7)	-35.5%	-25.9%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment bounded ahead by 26.5% from April 2005 to April 2006. This increase was bested by a 35.1% bump in employment from March 2006 to April 2006. Potato work experienced the largest over-the-year gain in employment (465) from April 2005 to April 2006. Onion work shed the most jobs (-152) during that same time period. Potato work registered the largest job gain (428) from March 2006 to April 2006. Cherry work lost the largest number of jobs (-99) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2006 in Area 4 was \$7.84 per hour. (See pages 22 - 24 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	APR 06	MAR 06	APR 05	MAR 06- APR 06	APR 05- APR 06	MAR 06- APR 06	APR 05- APR 06
Apples	1,428	1,129	1,288	299	140	26.5%	10.9%
Asparagus	135	0	112	0	23	NA	20.5%
Cherries	167	266	32	(99)	135	-37.2%	421.9%
Mint	31	41	11	(10)	20	-24.4%	181.8%
Misc Vegetables	28	11	38	17	(10)	154.5%	-26.3%
Nursery	44	6	161	38	(117)	633.3%	-72.7%
Onion	54	141	206	(87)	(152)	-61.7%	-73.8%
Other Seasonal	284	157	181	127	103	80.9%	56.9%
Other Tree Fruit	97	90	66	7	31	7.8%	47.0%
Pears	0	76	10	(76)	(10)	NA	NA
Potato	734	306	269	428	465	139.9%	172.9%
Wheat	0	0	3	0	(3)	NA	NA

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment softened by 20.6% from April 2005 to April 2006. However, seasonal employment ramped up by a large 42.2% from March 2006 to April 2006. Other seasonal work expanded by the largest amount of employment (604) from April 2005 to April 2006. Onion work lost the most jobs (-1,002) during that same time period. Asparagus work moved forward by the largest amount of employment (1,464) from March 2006 to April 2006. Grapes work experienced the largest loss in jobs (-331) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for April 2006 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	
	APR 06	MAR 06	APR 05	MAR 06- APR 06	APR 05- APR 06	MAR 06- APR 06	APR 05- APR 06
CROP							
Apples	757	1,005	1,020	(248)	(263)	-24.7%	-25.8%
Asparagus	1,464	0	1,653	1,464	(189)	NA	-11.4%
Cherries	63	114	84	(51)	(21)	-44.7%	-25.0%
Grapes	400	731	814	(331)	(414)	-45.3%	-50.9%
Hops	290	532	106	(242)	184	-45.5%	173.6%
Misc Vegetables	46	23	76	23	(30)	100.0%	-39.5%
Nursery	2	1	19	1	(17)	100.0%	-89.5%
Onion	210	460	1,212	(250)	(1,002)	-54.3%	-82.7%
Other Seasonal	1,000	114	396	886	604	777.2%	152.5%
Other Tree Fruit	45	27	76	18	(31)	66.7%	-40.8%
Potatoes	167	121	135	46	32	38.0%	23.7%
Strawberry	3	0	28	3	(25)	NA	-89.3%
Wheat/Grain	15	14	6	1	9	7.1%	150.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

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

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 APRIL 2006

A mid-month survey of farm labor employment and wages is conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department. At least five percent of all growers are surveyed for employment data about seasonal workers, type of crop, work activity, wages and their residence. Based on that data, the Washington employment Security Department develops estimates on the size of the workforce, average wages for each crop activity, and whether workers commute, live within the state, or come in from outside of Washington State. These data are reported for each agricultural area identified as having similar farm labor characteristics and a significant supply/demand for seasonal hired workforce.

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,122 (1,746 local, 46 intrastate, 194 interstate, 34 foreign, 1,102 unknown origin)

Bulbs Harvester	555	\$ 7.63/hr
Misc Vegetables Planter	318	\$ 8.06/hr
Nursery Worker	297	\$ 8.42/hr
Raspberry Planter	274	\$ 7.77/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,203 (4,050 local, 187 intrastate, 120 interstate, 1,654 foreign, 192 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,506	\$ 7.65/hr or \$ 0.30 - \$ 3.50 per tree
Grapes Trainer	688	\$ 7.68/hr
Asparagus Harvester	494	\$ 7.65/hr or \$ 0.21 - \$ 0.24 per pound
Grapes Preparation	279	\$ 7.63/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,843 (3,738 local, 5 intrastate, 0 interstate, 95 foreign, 5 unknown origin)

Apple Trainer	1,918	\$ 7.74/hr
Apple Planter	1,148	\$ 7.75/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	139	\$ 7.77/hr
Apple Chemical Applicator	115	\$ 8.27/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,006 (2,413 local, 0 intrastate, 7 interstate, 47 foreign, 539 unknown origin)

Apple Trainer	516	\$ 7.64/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	363	\$ 7.65/hr
Apple Pruner	346	\$ 7.70/hr
Grass Seed Weeder	219	\$ 8.08/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 4,465 (2,225 local, 53 intrastate, 183 interstate, 204 foreign, 1,800 unknown origin)

Asparagus Harvester	1,458	\$ 7.63/hr or \$ 0.13 - \$ 0.21 per pound
Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Packer	658	\$ 7.63/hr
Apple Pruner	249	\$ 7.65/hr
Grapes Pruner	205	\$ 7.54/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 437 (425 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 12 unknown origin)

Nursery Harvester	128	\$ 8.76/hr
Nursery Planter	108	\$ 8.16/hr
Grass Seed Weeder	33	\$ 7.65/hr
Wheat Worker	32	\$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

APRIL 2006

TABLE 1

APRIL 2006

**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	1,746	46	194	34	1,102	3,122
2. South Central	4,050	187	120	1,654	192	6,203
3. North Central	3,738	5	0	95	5	3,843
4. Columbia Basin	2,413	0	7	47	539	3,006
5. South Eastern	2,225	53	183	204	1,800	4,465
6. Eastern	425	0	0	0	12	437
State Totals	14,599	290	504	2,034	3,649	21,076
% State Total	69.3%	1.4%	2.4%	9.7%	17.3%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2006
State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers 3,122
 - a. Local 1,746
 - b. Intrastate migratory 46
 - c. Interstate migratory 194
 - d. Foreign 34
 - e. Unknown 1,102

 - 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
 - a. Intrastate: Grandview, 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 April 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,910.

 - 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. Warmer weather enabled sweet corn growers to prepare fields for planting. Apple trees were in full bloom. Fruit trees and blueberries were in bloom. No reports of any crop damage due to a weather event have been received.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$8.00 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for bulbs harvester, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery harvester, nursery sorter/grader/packer, raspberry weeder, blueberry planter, nursery weeder, raspberry pruner, blueberry pruner, potato preparer, raspberry trainer, nursery irrigator, and nursery chemical applicator to \$12.80 for chicken eggs 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 at 55.9% local, 1.5% intrastate, 6.2% interstate, foreign 1.1% and 35.3% 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: APRIL 2006

State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 3,122	* = piece rate
Bulbs Harvester	555	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Planter	318	\$ 8.06
Nursery Worker	297	\$ 8.42
Raspberry Planter	274	\$ 7.77
Nursery Planter	199	\$ 7.76
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	175	\$ 7.64
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	175	\$ 7.63
Nursery Harvester	147	\$ 7.63
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	122	\$ 7.66
Raspberry Weeder	104	\$ 7.63
Rhubarb Harvester	96	\$ 7.64
Blueberry Planter	80	\$ 7.63
Strawberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	71	\$ 7.72
Beets Planter	68	\$ 8.50
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	48	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Worker	43	\$ 9.36
Misc Field Crops Harvester	40	\$ 9.28
Nursery Weeder	38	\$ 7.63
Potato Tractor Operator	32	\$10.10
Nursery Vehicle Operator	31	\$11.25
Raspberry Pruner	28	\$ 7.63
Blueberry Pruner	24	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	24	\$ 9.78
Potato Preparation	17	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	16	\$10.73
Strawberry Weeder	14	\$ 9.50
Raspberry Trainer	14	\$ 7.63
Rhubarb Sorter/Grader/Packer	14	\$ 8.00
Nursery Irrigator	14	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Preparation	12	\$ 9.33
Nursery Chemical Applicator	10	\$ 7.63
Misc Berries Worker	9	\$10.00
Potato Mechanized Harvester	4	\$ 9.00
Chicken Eggs Worker	4	\$12.80
Pumpkin Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$10.00
Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer	2	\$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 8.00/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2006

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	6,203
a. Local	4,050
b. Intrastate migratory	197
c. Interstate migratory	120
d. Foreign	1,654
e. Unknown	192
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Quincy, Sunnyside, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The April 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 11,781.

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. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, grapes training, asparagus harvesting and grapes preparation.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.86 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for grapes preparer, peach hand thinner, apple planter, hops twiner, apple sorter/grader/packer, nectarine hand thinner, nectarine pruner, grapes worker, hops planter, peach planter, grapes cultivator, hops trainer, silage irrigator, grapes weeder, apple weeder, asparagus weeder, mint planter and miscellaneous field crops chemical applicator to \$12.00 for contract miscellaneous crew manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.30 to \$3.50 per tree for apple pruning, \$0.21 to \$0.24 per pound for asparagus cutting and \$7.86 to \$8.35 per acre for hops twining. 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 65.3% local, 3.0% intrastate, 1.9% interstate, foreign 26.7% and unknown 3.1%.

d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2006
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 6,203	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,506	\$ 7.65 or * \$ 0.30 - \$ 3.50 per tree
Grapes Trainer	688	\$ 7.68
Asparagus Harvester	494	\$ 7.65 or * \$ 0.21 - \$ 0.24 per lb
Grapes Preparation	279	\$ 7.63
Peach Hand Thinner	278	\$ 7.63
Grapes Pruner	246	\$ 7.71
Apple Planter	215	\$ 7.63
Hops Twiner	208	\$ 7.95 or * \$ 7.86 - \$ 8.35 per acre
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	196	\$ 7.63
Contract Misc Crew Irrigator	180	\$ 9.59
Cucumber Planter	179	\$ 7.75
Nursery Planter	160	\$ 9.16
Hops Weeder	120	\$ 7.89
Apple Worker	105	\$ 8.49
Nectarine Hand Thinner	93	\$ 7.63
Apple Grafter	77	\$ 8.22
Misc Field Crops Cultivator	74	\$ 7.67
Nectarine Pruner	72	\$ 7.63
Pear Pruner	72	\$10.09
Grapes Worker	70	\$ 7.63
Hops Planter	69	\$ 7.63
Peach Pruner	67	\$ 7.63
Grapes Cultivator	65	\$ 7.63
Apple Irrigator	62	\$ 7.85
Apple Propper	55	\$ 7.79
Hops Trainer	53	\$ 7.63
Grapes Tractor Operator	49	\$10.15
Cherry Pruner	46	Not Available
Grapes Chemical Applicator	33	\$ 8.07
Grapes Irrigator	28	\$ 8.25
Grapes Mechanic	28	\$10.50
Contract Misc Crew Planter	27	\$ 9.59
Pear Planter	25	\$ 7.75
Misc Field Crops Mechanic	23	\$ 7.82
Hops Tractor Operator	21	\$ 7.80
Misc Squash Cultivator	21	\$ 8.00

Area 2 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2006
State: WASHINGTON

Area 2: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL	* = piece rate
Misc Onion Irrigator	21	\$ 9.25
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	21	\$ 9.00
Cucumber Tractor Operator	21	\$ 8.50
Nursery Worker	19	\$ 9.50
Apple Chemical Applicator	18	\$ 8.00
Silage Irrigator	15	\$ 7.63
Grapes Weeder	14	\$ 7.63
Apple Weeder	14	\$ 7.63
Hops Cultivator	14	\$ 8.50
Pear Chemical Applicator	13	\$10.00
Hops Irrigator	7	\$ 7.80
Asparagus Weeder	7	\$ 7.63
Field Corn Preparation	7	\$ 8.00
Contract Misc Crew Manager	5	\$12.00
Mint Vehicle Operator	5	\$10.00
Mint Planter	5	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Chemical Applicator	5	\$ 7.63
Cherry Tractor Operator	4	\$ 7.78
Cherry Worker	4	\$ 7.75

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.86/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2006
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	3,843
	a. Local	3,738
	b. Intrastate migratory	5
	c. Interstate migratory	0
	d. Foreign	95
	e. Unknown	5
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Wenatchee	
	b. Interstate: None	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The April 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 9,234.

 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. All tree fruit bloom occurred during good weather. There was very little frost to date. Apples were in or near full bloom in most of North Central Washington. Several wheat producers were making the decision to re-plant due to damage from snow mold. Asparagus harvest continued.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.89 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for cherry pruner to \$50.00 for contract aerial chemical applicator. 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 97.3% local, 0.1% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 2.5% foreign and 0.1% 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: APRIL 2006
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	3,843
		* = piece rate
Apple Trainer	1,918	\$ 7.74
Apple Planter	1,148	\$ 7.75
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	139	\$ 7.77
Apple Chemical Applicator	115	\$ 8.27
Apple Irrigator	81	\$ 7.67
Apple Pruner	77	\$ 7.74
Cherry Worker	67	\$ 9.23
Apple Preparation	62	\$ 7.86
Apple Manager	38	\$ 8.78
Cherry Trainer	29	\$ 8.00
Cherry Pruner	29	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer	25	\$ 8.04
Apple Weeder	19	\$ 7.82
Apple Forklift Driver	17	\$ 9.19
Apple Worker	11	\$ 8.88
Pear Irrigator	10	\$ 7.63
Pear Chemical Applicator	10	\$ 8.25
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	10	\$ 8.00
Apricot Pruner	10	Not Available
Misc Fruit Trees Vehicle Operator	8	\$10.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	8	\$10.00
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	8	\$ 9.25
Contract Aerial Mechanic	2	\$20.00
Contract Aerial Chemical Applicator	2	\$50.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.89/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2006
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	3,006
a. Local	2,413
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	7
d. Foreign	47
e. Unknown	539
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The April 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,063.

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. Warm windy days kept grain crops moving forward, but made spraying difficult. Potato planting continued. Dryland winter wheat acreage was in great shape as were pasture and range conditions. Primary agricultural activities were apple training, potato warehouse work, apple pruning and grass seed weeding.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.84 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for asparagus harvester, cherry planter, apple weeder, nursery planter, miscellaneous fruit trees planter, cherry worker, miscellantous fruit trees sorter/grader/packer, cherry weeder, sweet corn worker, miscellaneous fruit trees grafter, miscellaneous fruit trees pruner, mint planter, cherry pruner, nectarine weeder, mint irrigator, general farm preparer and miscellaneous fruit trees tractor operator to \$13.75 for potato manager. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated to be 80.3% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.2% interstate 1.6% foreign and 17.9% 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: APRIL 2006
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 3,006	* = piece rate
Apple Trainer	516	\$ 7.64
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	363	\$ 7.65
Apple Pruner	346	\$ 7.70
Grass Seed Weeder	219	\$ 8.08
Apple Planter	187	\$ 7.67
Potato Preparation	172	\$ 8.08
Asparagus Harvester	135	\$ 7.63
Apple Preparation	122	\$ 7.70
Cherry Planter	99	\$ 7.63
Apple Worker	73	\$ 7.95
Potato Tractor Operator	69	\$10.04
Apple Weeder	55	\$ 7.63
Apple Chemical Applicator	46	\$ 8.06
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	45	\$ 7.84
Nursery Planter	44	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Planter	42	\$ 7.63
Apple Irrigator	40	\$ 7.78
Apple Grafter	37	\$ 7.83
Potato Loader	34	\$ 8.49
Grapes Preparation	26	\$ 7.63
Cherry Hand Thinner	22	\$ 7.75
Cherry Worker	21	\$ 7.63
Potato Worker	17	\$ 8.45
Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer	16	\$ 7.63
Potato Mechanic	16	\$ 8.87
Potato Forklift Driver	16	\$ 8.50
Cherry Weeder	15	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	14	\$ 8.50
Mint Tractor Operator	14	\$ 9.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	14	\$10.25
Potato Planter	14	\$ 9.17
Potato Manager	13	\$13.75
Sweet Corn Worker	13	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Grafter	11	\$ 7.68
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	11	\$ 7.63
Mint Planter	11	\$ 7.63

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2006
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	* = piece rate
Cherry Pruner	10	\$ 7.63
Nectarine Weeder	9	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	9	\$10.00
Field Corn Planter	7	\$ 9.00
Mint Irrigator	6	\$ 7.63
Potato Mechanized Harvester	6	\$ 8.25
Misc Melon Planter	6	\$ 7.75
Misc Vegetables Worker	6	\$ 8.82
Sugar Beets Planter	5	\$ 8.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Tractor Operator	4	\$10.75
General Farm Preparation	3	\$ 7.63
General Farm Tractor Operator	3	\$10.00
General Farm Worker	3	\$ 8.00
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Chemical Applicator	3	\$13.00
Misc Fruit Trees Mechanic	3	\$10.00
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	3	\$ 8.00
Apple Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.25
Misc Fruit Trees Tractor Operator	2	\$ 7.63

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.84/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2006

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	4,465
a. Local	2,225
b. Intrastate migratory	53
c. Interstate migratory	183
d. Foreign	204
e. Unknown	1,800
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Wenatchee	
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 April 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,326.
 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. Most of the potato acreage had been planted. Asparagus harvest, apple and grapes pruning continued. Winter crops looked good overall, however, some areas did show damage from the February cold snap.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in April averaged \$7.75 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for asparagus harvester, asparagus sorter/grader/packer, hops trainer, miscellaneous onion planter, hops twiner, hops weeder, potato sorter/grader/packer, cherry weeder, apple cultivator, grapes cultivator, miscellaneous field crops irrigator, general farm irrigator, peach weeder, nectarine weeder, potato worker, pear weeder, grapes worker, strawberry worker, and cherry pruner to \$14.50 for grass seed worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.13 to \$0.21 per pound for asparagus cutting and \$7.43 to \$10.29 per acre for hops twining. 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 49.8% local, 1.2% intrastate, 4.1% interstate, 4.6% foreign and 40.3% 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: APRIL 2006
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 4,465	* = piece rate
Asparagus Harvester	1,458	\$ 7.63 or * \$ 0.13 - \$ 0.21 per lb
Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Packer	658	\$ 7.63
Apple Pruner	249	\$ 7.65
Grapes Pruner	205	\$ 7.54
Hops Trainer	191	\$ 7.63
Apple Trainer	186	\$ 7.65
Blueberry Planter	175	\$ 7.67
Grapes Trainer	145	\$ 7.78
Misc Onion Planter	112	\$ 7.63
Potato Preparation	105	\$ 8.63
Apple Planter	87	\$ 7.71
Walla Walla Sweets Preparation	73	\$ 8.50
Apple Worker	70	\$ 7.82
Apple Irrigator	63	\$ 7.72
Apple Weeder	56	\$ 7.66
Hops Twiner	53	\$ 7.63 or * \$ 7.43 - \$ 10.29 per acre
Hops Weeder	46	\$ 7.63
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	36	\$ 7.63
Cherry Weeder	29	\$ 7.63
Peach Pruner	27	Not Available
Misc Hay Irrigator	25	\$ 7.86
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	24	\$ 8.00
Grapes Planter	24	\$ 7.64
Apple Cultivator	23	\$ 7.63
Cherry Irrigator	22	\$ 7.66
Walla Walla Sweets Irrigator	21	\$ 8.50
Carrot Planter	20	\$ 8.40
Grapes Cultivator	20	\$ 7.63
General Farm Worker	18	\$ 8.48
Potato Planter	17	\$ 8.00
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	16	\$ 7.63
Peas Tractor Operator	14	\$ 8.50
General Farm Irrigator	14	\$ 7.63
Wheat Worker	12	\$ 9.00
Blueberry Irrigator	11	\$ 8.00
Grass Seed Weeder	10	\$ 7.75

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: APRIL 2006
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	* = piece rate
Apple Grafter	9	\$ 7.68
Blueberry Preparation	7	\$ 8.00
Peach Weeder	7	\$ 7.63
Nectarine Weeder	7	\$ 7.63
Potato Worker	7	\$ 7.63
Peas Weeder	7	\$ 9.00
Field Corn Planter	7	\$10.00
Alfalfa Mechanic	7	\$ 8.75
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Grass Seed Worker	7	\$14.50
Cherry Worker	6	\$ 7.84
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	5	\$ 8.00
Blueberry Weeder	5	\$ 8.00
Field Corn Tractor Operator	5	\$10.00
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	5	\$ 9.00
Apple Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.22
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$ 8.00
Walla Walla Sweets Weeder	4	\$ 8.50
Apple Preparation	4	\$ 7.75
Pear Weeder	4	\$ 7.63
Asparagus Loader	3	\$ 8.00
Asparagus Manager	3	Not Available
Grapes Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.50
Grapes Worker	3	\$ 7.63
Strawberry Worker	3	\$ 7.63
Wheat Irrigator	3	\$ 9.00
Cherry Planter	2	\$ 8.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	2	\$10.00
Cherry Tractor Operator	2	\$ 8.00
Cherry Pruner	2	\$ 7.63
Nursery Planter	2	\$ 8.00

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