



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

AUGUST 2006



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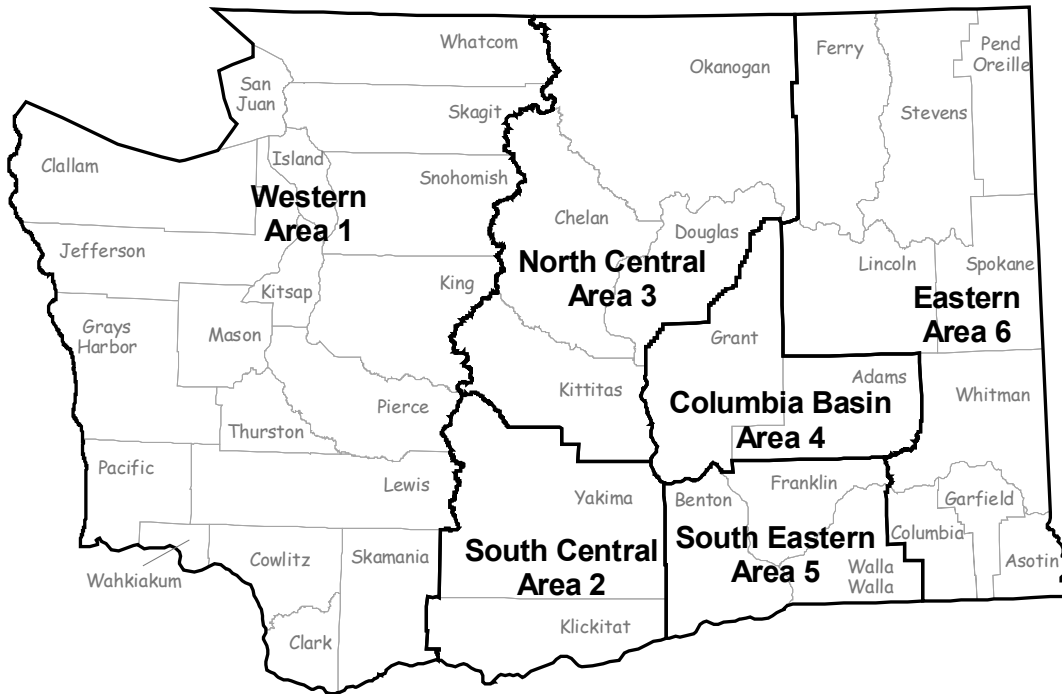
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

AUGUST 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

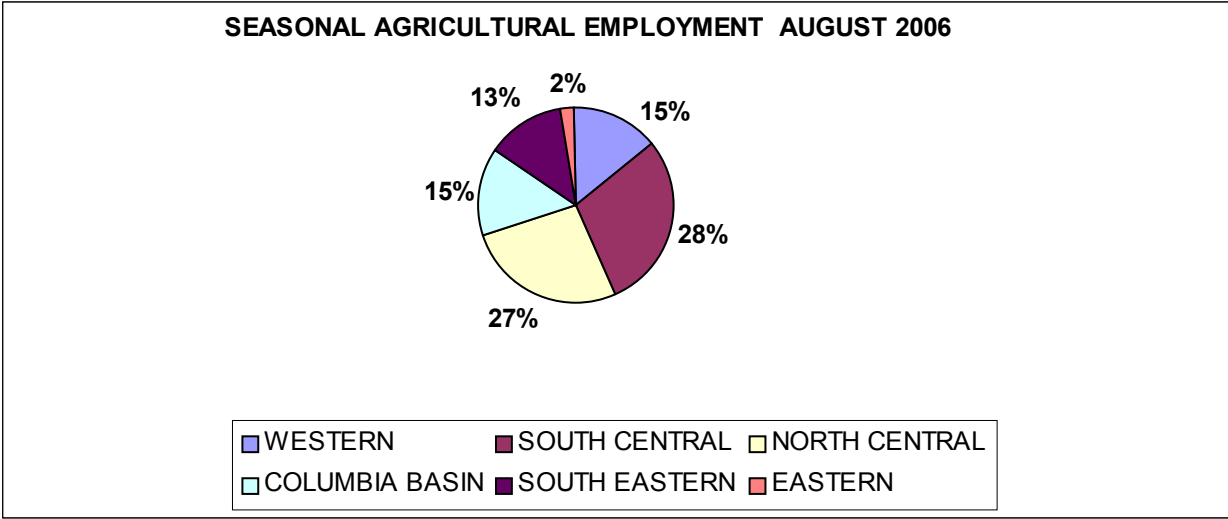
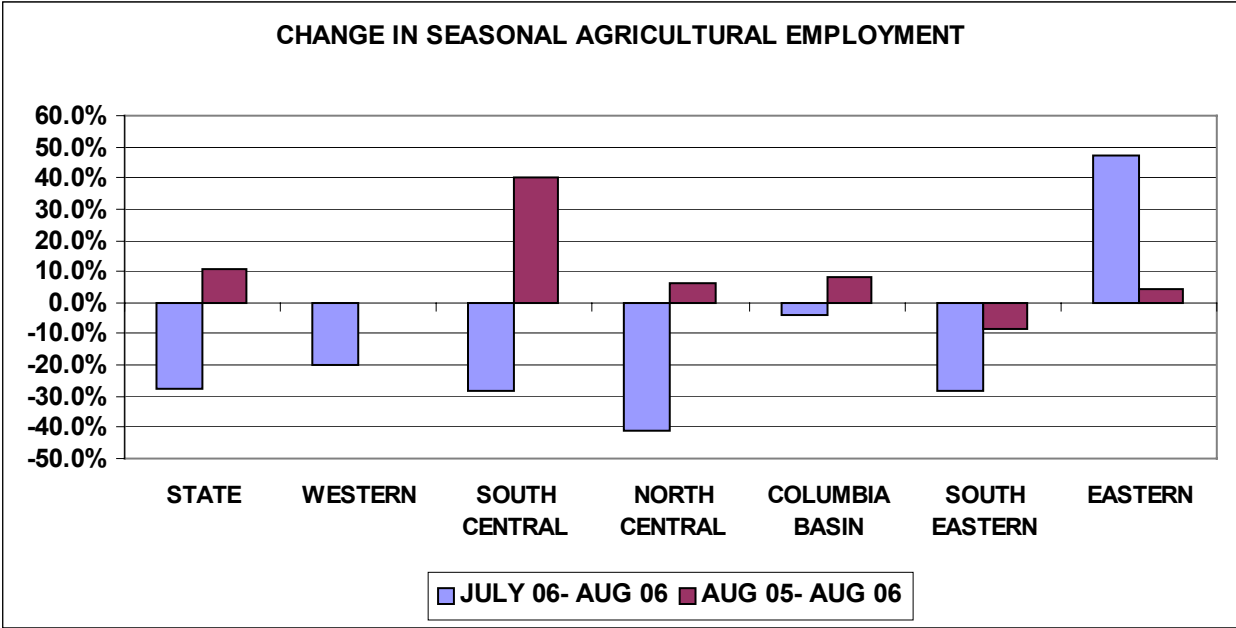
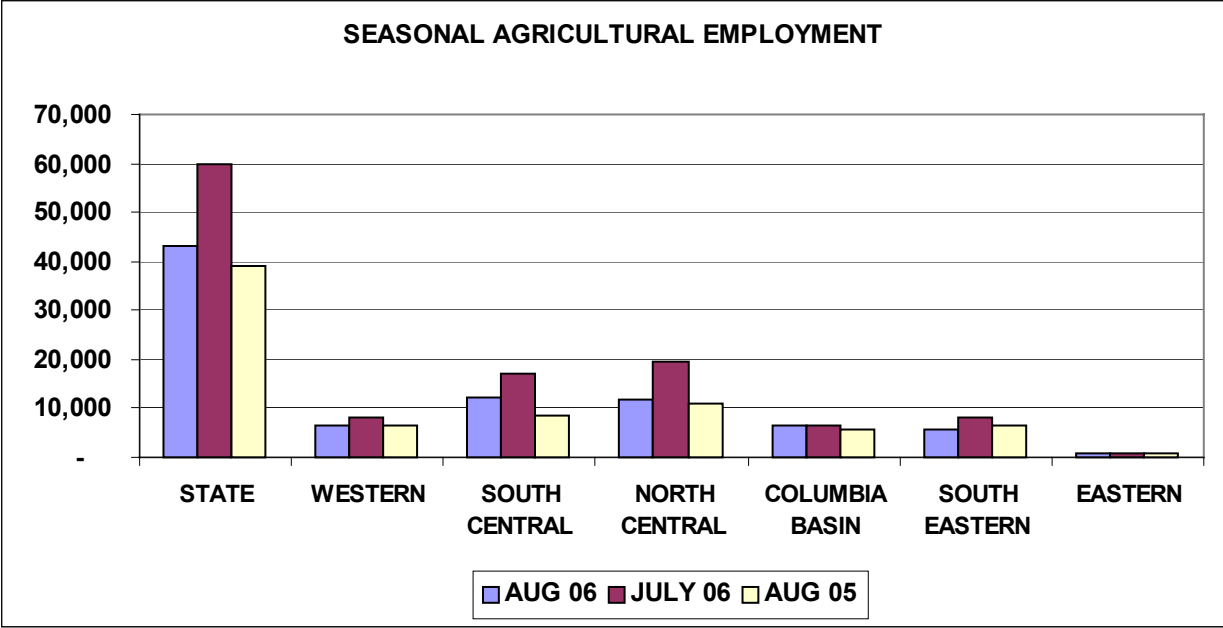
Statewide seasonal agricultural employment rose by 10.8% from August 2005 to August 2006. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year gains were pear work (5,460), cherry work (4,928), potato work (531), blueberry work (524), raspberry work (515), grapes work (254), and bulb work (112). Activities displaying losses were apple work (-4,744), onion work (-681), nursery work (-650), strawberry work (-629), cucumber work (-556), other tree fruit work (-327), miscellaneous vegetables work (-323), other seasonal work (-98), wheat/grain work (-63), and hops work (-49). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment inched up by 0.2%, due to a bump in blueberry work (524). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment jumped ahead by 40.5%, thanks to an increase in apple work (1,719). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment grew by 6.5%, driven by an upturn in pear work (4,431). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment expanded by 8.0%, courtesy of growth in onion work (343). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment declined by 8.7%, caused by a decline in onion work (-1,111). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment edged forward by 4.5%, due to a surge in wheat/grain work (47).

ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

New industry estimates indicate the Northwest's 2005 fresh pear crop could come in at slightly more than 16.4 million 44-pound box equivalents. The new projections, revised as of July 17, are about 8 percent lower than June estimates, and about 9 percent smaller than the 2005 crop of 18.1 million boxes. The five-year average is nearly 17.9 million boxes. The Mid-Columbia district is expected to produce more than 4.9 million boxes. The Wenatchee district's projection is for nearly 5 million boxes. The Yakima district's production is estimated at just under 1.8 million boxes.

The Pacific Northwest cherry crop will finish with a record 14 million 20-pound boxes. Rain storms in mid-June in the Yakima area and hail storms in early July in the Wenatchee area caused the crop to be lower than originally expected. Prices slid more than normal as the season progressed, according to Dan Kelly, assistant manager of the Washington Growers Clearing House Association in Wenatchee. Prices fell from \$38 and \$42 per 20-pound box to as low as \$15 a box by July 25. As more acreage has been put into cherries the last few years, an oversupply is now being created. Warehouses were taking cherries to markets without orders, a reflection of oversupply and creating a situation where buyers could set prices.

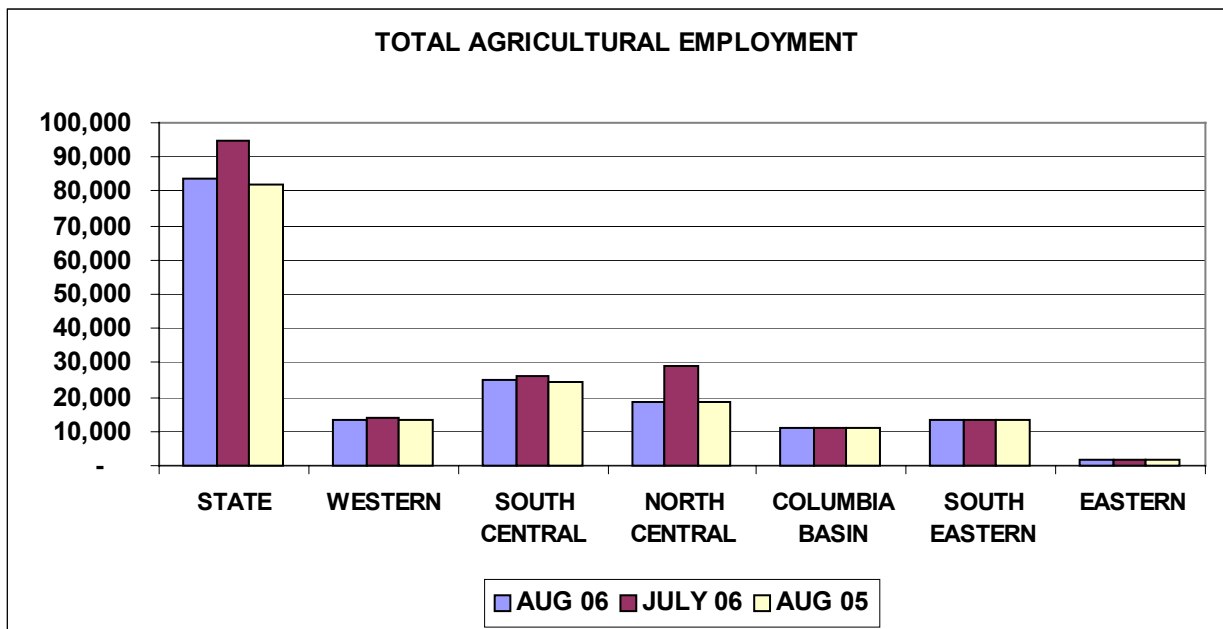
	SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
	<u>AUG 06</u>	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>AUG 05</u>	<u>JULY 06- AUG 06</u>	<u>AUG 05- AUG 06</u>	<u>JULY 06- AUG 06</u>	<u>AUG 05- AUG 06</u>	
STATE	43,341	60,028	39,133	(16,687)	4,208	-27.8%	10.8%	
WESTERN	6,439	8,029	6,427	(1,590)	12	-19.8%	0.2%	
SOUTH CENTRAL	12,224	17,091	8,702	(4,867)	3,522	-28.5%	40.5%	
NORTH CENTRAL	11,612	19,622	10,901	(8,010)	711	-40.8%	6.5%	
COLUMBIA BASIN	6,352	6,598	5,879	(246)	473	-3.7%	8.0%	
SOUTH EASTERN	5,759	8,038	6,310	(2,279)	(551)	-28.4%	-8.7%	
EASTERN	955	650	914	305	41	46.9%	4.5%	



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment increased by 2.5% from August 2005 to August 2006. Over-the-month total employment fell by 2.1%, from July 2006 to August 2006. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment expanded by 2.2%. South Central (Area 2) total employment grew by 2.4%. North Central (Area 3) total employment moved forward by 2.6%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment marched ahead by 2.7%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment accelerated by 2.5%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment advanced by 2.2%.

	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>AUG 06</u>	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>AUG 05</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
				<u>JULY 06- AUG 06</u>	<u>AUG 05- AUG 06</u>	<u>JULY 06- AUG 06</u>	<u>AUG 05- AUG 06</u>	
STATE	83,999	94,908	81,988	(10,909)	2,011	-11.5%	2.5%	
WESTERN	13,406	13,689	13,115	(283)	291	-2.1%	2.2%	
SOUTH CENTRAL	24,928	26,144	24,354	(1,215)	575	-4.6%	2.4%	
NORTH CENTRAL	18,861	28,934	18,387	(10,073)	474	-34.8%	2.6%	
COLUMBIA BASIN	11,167	11,035	10,870	133	297	1.2%	2.7%	
SOUTH EASTERN	13,628	13,594	13,296	34	332	0.2%	2.5%	
EASTERN	2,009	1,513	1,966	496	43	32.8%	2.2%	



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment expanded by 10.8% from August 2005 to August 2006. However, seasonal employment contracted by 27.8% statewide from July 2006 to August 2006, due to the finish of cherry harvest. The crop activity adding the most jobs from August 2005 to August 2006 was pear work (5,460). Apple work lost the largest number of jobs (-4,744) for that same time period. Pear work gained the greatest amount of employment (7,013) from July 2006 to August 2006. Cherry work displayed the largest downturn in employment (-22,716) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2006 was \$7.93 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE CROP	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	AUG 06	JULY 06	AUG 05	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06
Apples	13,991	15,983	18,735	(1,992)	(4,744)	-12.5%	-25.3%
Asparagus	37	336	45	(299)	(8)	-89.0%	-17.8%
Blueberry	2,188	895	1,664	1,293	524	144.5%	31.5%
Bulb	267	86	155	181	112	210.5%	72.3%
Cherries	5,426	28,142	498	(22,716)	4,928	-80.7%	989.6%
Cucumber	169	250	725	(81)	(556)	-32.4%	-76.7%
Grapes	1,009	1,310	755	(301)	254	-23.0%	33.6%
Hops	152	90	201	62	(49)	68.9%	-24.4%
Misc Vegetables	1,560	1,236	1,883	324	(323)	26.2%	-17.2%
Nursery	988	1,885	1,638	(897)	(650)	-47.6%	-39.7%
Onion	894	1,642	1,575	(748)	(681)	-45.6%	-43.2%
Other Seasonal	2,131	1,792	2,229	339	(98)	18.9%	-4.4%
Other Tree Fruit	2,974	656	3,301	2,318	(327)	353.4%	-9.9%
Pears	7,166	153	1,706	7,013	5,460	4583.7%	320.0%
Potato	2,223	944	1,692	1,279	531	135.5%	31.4%
Raspberry	1,392	4,072	877	(2,680)	515	-65.8%	58.7%
Strawberry	83	296	712	(213)	(629)	-72.0%	-88.3%
Wheat/Grain	679	218	742	461	(63)	211.5%	-8.5%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment moved ahead by a slim 0.2% from August 2005 to August 2006. However, seasonal employment slipped by 19.8% from July 2006 to August 2006. Blueberry work expanded by the largest number of jobs (524) from August 2005 to August 2006. Nursery work displayed the largest over-the-month loss in employment (-658) for that same time period. Blueberry work exhibited the greatest employment gain (1,293) from July 2006 to August 2006. Raspberry work displayed the largest loss in employment (-2,680) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2006 in Area 1 was \$7.99 per hour. (See pages 16 -18 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN					CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	AUG 06	JULY 06	AUG 05	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06	
CROP								
Blueberry	2,188	895	1,664	1,293	524	144.5%	31.5%	
Bulb	267	86	155	181	112	210.5%	72.3%	
Cucumber	169	250	725	(81)	(556)	-32.4%	-76.7%	
Misc Vegetables	995	803	815	192	180	23.9%	22.1%	
Nursery	621	1,372	1,279	(751)	(658)	-54.7%	-51.4%	
Other Seasonal	735	302	584	433	151	143.4%	25.9%	
Potato	53	208	196	(155)	(143)	-74.5%	-73.0%	
Raspberry	1,392	4,072	877	(2,680)	515	-65.8%	58.7%	
Rhubarb	18	24	13	(6)	5	-25.0%	38.5%	
Strawberry	0	6	119	(6)	(119)	-100.0%	-100.0%	

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment moved ahead by 40.5% from August 2005 to August 2006. Seasonal employment pulled back by 28.5% from July 2006 to August 2006. Apple work posted the largest gain in employment (1,719) from August 2005 to August 2006. Other seasonal work lost the most jobs (-319) for that same time period. Pear work registered the largest over-the-month gain in employment (2,373) from July 2006 to August 2006. Cherry work showed the largest job loss (-9,907) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2006 in Area 2 was \$7.89 per hour. (See pages 19 -21 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL					CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	AUG 06	JULY 06	AUG 05	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06	
CROP								
Apples	5,339	4,429	3,620	910	1,719	20.5%	47.5%	
Asparagus	37	283	25	(246)	12	-86.9%	48.0%	
Cherries	1,137	11,044	72	(9,907)	1,065	-89.7%	1479.2%	
Grapes	444	427	516	17	(72)	4.0%	-14.0%	
Hops	95	79	68	16	27	20.3%	39.7%	
Misc Vegetables	29	295	218	(266)	(189)	-90.2%	-86.7%	
Onion	359	64	272	295	87	460.9%	32.0%	
Other Seasonal	90	272	409	(182)	(319)	-66.9%	-78.0%	
Other Tree Fruit	1,963	0	1,885	0	78	NA	4.1%	
Pears	2,454	81	1,420	2,373	1,034	2929.6%	72.8%	
Potato	276	121	197	155	79	128.1%	40.1%	

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment increased by 6.5% from August 2005 to August 2006. However, seasonal employment declined by 40.8% from July 2006 to August 2006 due to the winding down of cherry harvest. Pear work advanced by the largest increase in employment (4,431) from August 2005 to August 2006. Apple work displayed the largest drop in employment (-7,526) for that same time period. Pear work added the most jobs (4,648) due to harvest from July 2006 to August 2006. Cherry work lost the greatest number of jobs (-10,582) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2006 in Area 3 was \$7.93 per hour. (See pages 22 - 23 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	AUG 06	JULY 06	AUG 05	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06
Apples	2,144	4,620	9,670	(2,476)	(7,526)	-53.6%	-77.8%
Cherries	3,988	14,570	291	(10,582)	3,697	-72.6%	1270.4%
Other Seasonal	94	109	136	(15)	(42)	-13.8%	-30.9%
Other Tree Fruit	708	294	557	414	151	140.8%	27.1%
Pears	4,678	30	247	4,648	4,431	15493.3%	1793.9%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment advanced by 8.0% from August 2005 to August 2006. However, seasonal employment stepped back by 3.7% from July 2006 to August 2006. Onion work displayed the greatest increase in employment (343) from August 2005 to August 2006. Miscellaneous vegetables work shed the largest number of jobs (-410) during that same time period. Potato work logged the greatest over-the-month gain in employment (499) from July 2006 to August 2006. Cherry work lost the most jobs (-673) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2006 in Area 4 was \$7.93 per hour. (See pages 24 - 26 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	AUG 06	JULY 06	AUG 05	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06
Apples	3,575	3,845	3,501	(270)	74	-7.0%	2.1%
Asparagus	0	0	20	0	0	NA	0.0%
Cherries	293	966	12	(673)	281	-69.7%	2341.7%
Mint	291	197	41	94	250	47.7%	609.8%
Misc Vegetables	28	54	438	(26)	(410)	-48.1%	-93.6%
Nursery	223	281	251	(58)	(28)	-20.6%	-11.2%
Onion	455	427	112	28	343	6.6%	306.3%
Other Seasonal	387	153	311	234	76	152.9%	24.4%
Other Tree Fruit	29	114	143	(85)	(114)	-74.6%	-79.7%
Pears	34	42	39	0	(5)	0.0%	-12.8%
Potato	998	499	911	499	87	100.0%	9.5%
Wheat	37	17	100	0	(63)	0.0%	-63.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment softened by 8.7% from August 2005 to August 2006. Seasonal employment contracted by a larger 28.4% from July 2006 to August 2006. Apple work moved forward with the largest employment gain (989) from August 2005 to August 2006. Onion work lost the largest number of jobs (-1,111) during that same time period. Potato work advanced by the greatest employment (780) from July 2006 to August 2006. Cherry work experienced the largest over-the-month job loss (-1,554) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2006 in Area 5 was \$7.82 per hour. (See pages 27 - 30 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	AUG 06	JULY 06	AUG 05	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06
Apples	2,933	3,089	1,944	(156)	989	-5.1%	50.9%
Asparagus	0	53	0	(53)	0	-100.0%	NA
Cherries	8	1,562	123	(1,554)	(115)	-99.5%	-93.5%
Grapes	565	883	239	(318)	326	-36.0%	136.4%
Hops	57	11	133	46	(76)	418.2%	-57.1%
Misc Vegetables	490	60	399	430	91	716.7%	22.8%
Nursery	2	1	3	1	(1)	100.0%	-33.3%
Onion	80	1,151	1,191	(1,071)	(1,111)	-93.0%	-93.3%
Other Seasonal	302	511	473	(209)	(171)	-40.9%	-36.2%
Other Tree Fruit	274	248	716	26	(442)	10.5%	-61.7%
Potatoes	896	116	388	780	508	672.4%	130.9%
Strawberry	83	290	593	0	(510)	0.0%	-86.0%
Wheat/Grain	61	37	108	24	(47)	64.9%	-43.5%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment moved ahead by 4.5% from August 2005 to August 2006. Seasonal employment bounded upward by 46.9% from July 2006 to August 2006. Wheat/grain expanded by the greatest amount of employment (47) from August 2005 to August 2006. Other seasonal work declined by the largest number of jobs (-43) for that same time period. Wheat/grain work grew by the most jobs (417) from July 2006 to August 2006. Nursery work slid by the highest amount of employment (-89) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for August 2006 in Area 6 was \$9.76 per hour. (See pages 31 - 32 for Area 6 detail)

AREA 6 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
EASTERN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	AUG 06	JULY 06	AUG 05	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06	JULY 06- AUG 06	AUG 05- AUG 06
Nursery	142	231	105	(89)	37	-38.53%	35.24%
Other Seasonal	232	248	275	(16)	(43)	-6.45%	-15.64%
Wheat/Grain	581	164	534	417	47	254.27%	8.80%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

LABOR SUPPLY

New survey questions were inserted into the August survey. The first question asked growers if they failed to complete some work due to lack of available seasonal labor. The response rates to this question are detailed below. These statistics are unweighted.

RESPONSE RATES TO LABOR SHORTAGE QUESTION INDICATING A POSITIVE RESPONSE

State	8.7%
Area 1	11.3%
Area 2	12.9%
Area 3	13.2%
Area 4	3.6%
Area 5	9.0%
Area 6	3.2%

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 AUGUST 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: 6,439 (3,987 local, 13 intrastate, 846 interstate, 271 foreign, 1,322 unknown origin)

Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	1,772	\$ 7.73/hr
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	561	\$ 7.73/hr
Blackberry Harvester	494	\$ 7.63/hr
Cauliflower Harvester	447	\$ 7.90/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 12,224 (8,324 local, 589 intrastate, 359 interstate, 846 foreign, 2,106 unknown origin)

Pear Harvester	2,331	\$ 7.75/hr or \$12.00 - \$17.00 per bin
Apple Harvester	1,853	\$ 7.63/hr or \$15.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Apple Hand Thinner	1,847	\$ 7.65/hr
Peach Harvester	1,705	\$ 8.42/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 11,612 (10,538 local, 437 intrastate, 355 interstate, 255 foreign, 27 unknown origin)

Pear Harvester	4,506	\$ 7.63/hr or \$15.00 - \$18.00 per bin
Cherry Harvester	3,102	\$ 8.00/hr
Apple Hand Thinner	657	\$ 7.63/hr
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer.....	646	\$ 7.63/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,352 (4,338 local, 4 intrastate, 85 interstate, 173 foreign, 1,752 unknown origin)

Apple Hand Thinner	2,141	\$ 7.86/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	715	\$ 7.67/hr
Apple Harvester	567	\$ 7.63/hr
Apple Pruner	333	\$ 7.74/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,759 (3,256 local, 5 intrastate, 104 interstate, 453 foreign, 1,941 unknown origin)

Apple Hand Thinner	2,173	\$ 7.63/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	737	\$ 8.02/hr
Apple Harvester	343	\$ 8.06/hr or \$14.00 - \$19.00 per bin
Grapes Hand Thinner	255	\$ 8.03/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 955 (929 local, 26 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Wheat Vehicle Operator	342	\$11.30/hr
Wheat Combine Driver	114	\$10.58/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	86	\$ 9.83/hr
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	50	\$ 9.00/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
AUGUST 2006

TABLE 1

AUGUST 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	3,987	13	846	271	1,322	6,439
2. South Central	8,324	589	359	846	2,106	12,224
3. North Central	10,538	437	355	255	27	11,612
4. Columbia Basin	4,338	4	85	173	1,752	6,352
5. South Eastern	3,256	5	104	453	1,941	5,759
6. Eastern	929	26	0	0	0	955
State Totals	31,369	1,074	1,749	1,999	7,149	43,341
% State Total	72.4%	2.5%	4.0%	4.6%	16.5%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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	6,439
a. Local	3,987
b. Intrastate migratory	13
c. Interstate migratory	846
d. Foreign	271
e. Unknown	1,322
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Gig Harbor	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The August 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,988.
 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. Sweet corn growers continued to be challenged to keep fields irrigated. Some crops were showing stress due to the long dry spell. Pumpkins and apples were beginning to ripen. Spinach, beet seed crops and some corn silage were begin harvested. Blueberry harvest was nearly completed.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged per \$7.99 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for blackberry harvester, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery harvester, nursery sorter/grader/packer, nursery irrigator, cauliflower sorter/grader/packer, nursery weeder, rhubarb harvester, lettuce harvester, cabbage harvester, nursery chemical applicator, potato weeder and potato worker to \$16.60 for general farm 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 61.9% local, 0.2% intrastate, 13.2% interstate, foreign 4.2% and 20.5% 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: AUGUST 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	6,439
		* = piece rate
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	1,772	\$ 7.73
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	561	\$ 7.73
Blackberry Harvester	494	\$ 7.63
Cauliflower Harvester	447	\$ 7.90
Raspberry Harvester	374	\$ 7.67
Blueberry Harvester	339	\$ 8.00
Raspberry Worker	304	\$ 7.74
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	267	\$ 7.63
Nursery Planter	173	\$ 7.72
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	155	\$ 8.40
Raspberry Weeder	135	\$ 7.84
Cauliflower Worker	127	\$ 7.88
Nursery Worker	112	\$ 8.33
Broccoli Harvester	104	\$ 8.00
Nursery Harvester	98	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Harvester	92	\$ 8.69
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	83	\$ 7.63
Nursery Irrigator	72	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Worker	71	\$10.25
Cauliflower Sorter/Grader/Packer	56	\$ 7.63
Nursery Weeder	51	\$ 7.63
Cauliflower Vehicle Operator	39	\$ 9.50
Cauliflower Tractor Operator	36	\$ 9.25
Pumpkin Sorter/Grader/Packer	36	\$10.00
Potato Tractor Operator	35	\$10.29
Blueberry Worker	35	\$ 9.50
Chicken Eggs Harvester	32	\$ 9.36
Blueberry Mechanized Harvester	28	\$ 8.50
Cauliflower Manager	25	\$ 9.00
General Farm Worker	21	\$16.60
Blackberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	21	\$ 8.50
Nursery Vehicle Operator	18	\$ 9.13
Misc Vegetables Mechanic	18	\$ 9.00
Rhubarb Harvester	18	\$ 7.63
Raspberry Vehicle Operator	18	\$ 8.00
Lettuce Harvester	18	\$ 7.63

Area 1 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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	
Cabbage Harvester	18	\$ 7.63
Chicken Eggs Worker	16	\$10.50
Nursery Chemical Applicator	14	\$ 7.63
Cucumber Worker	14	Not Available
Misc Berries Worker	14	\$ 9.50
Blackberry Worker	14	\$ 9.25
Potato Weeder	12	\$ 7.63
Blueberry Forklift Driver	7	\$10.25
Blueberry Vehicle Operator	7	\$12.50
Blackberry Vehicle Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Misc Berries Vehicle Operator	7	\$15.00
Potato Worker	6	\$ 7.63
Barley Harvester	6	\$14.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	6	\$ 9.75
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	5	\$ 9.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.99/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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 | 12,224 |
| a. Local | 8,324 |
| b. Intrastate migratory | 589 |
| c. Interstate migratory | 359 |
| d. Foreign | 846 |
| e. Unknown | 2,106 |
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
- a. Intrastate: Mesa, Othello, Royal City, 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 August 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 13,774.
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 new crop losses were reported due to weather conditions. Primary agricultural activities were pear harvesting, apple harvesting, apple thinning and peach harvesting.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$7.89 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for apple harvester, cherry sorter/grader/packer, apple pruner, apple weeder, nectarine harvester, hops preparer, grapes worker, miscellaneous field crops weeder and asparagus irrigator to \$12.00 for wheat combine driver. Typical piece rates were: \$12.00 to \$17.00 per bin for pear harvester and \$15.00 to \$30.00 per bin for apple harvester. 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 68.2% local, 4.8% intrastate, 2.9% interstate, foreign 6.9% and unknown 17.2%.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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 12,224	* = piece rate
Pear Harvester	2,331	\$ 7.75 or * \$12.00 - \$17.00 per bin
Apple Harvester	1,853	\$ 7.63 or * \$15.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Apple Hand Thinner	1,847	\$ 7.65
Peach Harvester	1,705	\$ 8.42
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	820	\$ 7.63
Apple Pruner	527	\$ 7.63
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	375	\$ 8.09
Grapes Hand Thinner	320	\$ 7.64
Apple Trainer	245	\$ 7.64
Cherry Pruner	233	\$ 8.50
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	224	\$ 7.68
Apple Weeder	196	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	156	\$ 7.75
Misc Onion Harvester	149	\$ 7.75
Apricot Harvester	135	\$ 9.00
Nectarine Harvester	123	\$ 7.63
Pear Hand Thinner	123	\$ 7.80
Hops Preparation	95	\$ 7.63
Apple Irrigator	88	\$10.04
Cherry Irrigator	84	\$ 8.07
Grapes Trainer	64	\$ 7.82
Apple Tractor Operator	61	\$ 8.50
Apple Manager	61	\$ 8.00
Grapes Worker	60	\$ 7.63
Apple Worker	49	\$ 7.70
Potato Mechanized Harvester	45	\$ 7.85
Apple Chemical Applicator	37	\$ 8.81
Misc Onion Irrigator	36	\$ 8.75
Asparagus Weeder	33	\$ 8.31
Misc Field Crops Weeder	30	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	18	\$ 9.50
Nursery Irrigator	17	\$ 8.66
Wheat Combine Driver	11	\$12.00
General Farm Worker	11	\$ 9.00
Misc Peppers Irrigator	11	\$ 9.25
Silage Irrigator	9	\$ 7.65

Area 2 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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 Vegetables Irrigator	7	\$ 8.13
Cucumber Irrigator	7	\$ 9.25
Potato Vehicle Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Field Corn Irrigator	6	\$ 7.67
Wheat Irrigator	6	\$ 7.67
Misc Squash Weeder	4	\$ 8.00
Asparagus Irrigator	4	\$ 7.63

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.89/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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	11,612
	a. Local	10,538
	b. Intrastate migratory	437
	c. Interstate migratory	355
	d. Foreign	255
	e. Unknown	27
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Prosser, Quincy, Wenatchee, Yakima	
	b. Interstate: California	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The August 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 7,685.
 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 wheat harvest continued with average yields. Many hay growers began the second cutting of timothy. Corn harvest began. Primary agricultural activities were pear harvesting, cherry harvesting, apple thinning and cherry warehouse work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$7.93 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for pear harvester, apple hand thinner, cherry sorter/grader/packer, apple trainer, apple harvester, pear sorter/grader/packer, apple weeder and pear weeder to \$25.00 for horse and equines manager. Typical piece rates were: \$15.00 to \$18.00 per bin for pear harvester. 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 90.7% local, 3.8% intrastate, 3.1% interstate, 2.2% foreign and 0.2% 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: AUGUST 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 11,612	* = piece rate
Pear Harvester	4,506	\$ 7.63 or * \$15.00 - \$18.00 per bin
Cherry Harvester	3,102	\$ 8.00
Apple Hand Thinner	657	\$ 7.63
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	646	\$ 7.63
Apricot Harvester	623	\$ 8.00
Apple Pruner	461	\$ 7.79
Apple Trainer	374	\$ 7.63
Apple Harvester	278	\$ 7.63
Cherry Worker	229	\$ 9.10
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	123	\$ 8.00
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	87	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	74	\$ 7.80
Apple Weeder	68	\$ 7.63
Pear Weeder	45	\$ 7.63
Apple Worker	34	\$ 9.75
Apple Chemical Applicator	34	\$ 8.00
Apple Preparation	34	\$ 7.75
Pear Manager	23	\$ 8.50
Apple Manager	23	\$11.75
Apple Tractor Operator	23	\$ 8.75
Apple Irrigator	23	\$ 8.25
Sweet Corn Irrigator	14	\$ 8.42
Wheat Vehicle Operator	14	Not Available
Misc Hay Irrigator	14	\$ 8.67
Apple Forklift Driver	12	\$ 9.75
Alfalfa Irrigator	11	\$ 9.25
Pear Irrigator	11	\$ 8.00
Cherry Irrigator	11	\$ 9.25
Apricot Irrigator	11	\$ 9.25
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator	7	\$ 8.17
Horse and Equines Manager	7	\$25.00
Horse and Equines Trainer	7	\$13.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	7	\$11.00
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	7	\$ 8.17
Pear Forklift Driver	6	\$ 9.00
Contract Aerial Worker	3	\$20.00
Contract Aerial Mechanic	3	\$20.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.93/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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	6,352
a. Local	4,338
b. Intrastate migratory	4
c. Interstate migratory	85
d. Foreign	173
e. Unknown	1,752
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Kelso	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The August 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,129.
 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 wheat seeding was about 30 percent complete. Excellent hay making conditions resulted in better supplies of export and feed store hay. Sweet corn harvest continued. The third cutting of alfalfa was winding down. Primary agricultural activities were apple thinning, potato warehouse work, apple harvesting and apple pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$7.93 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for apple harvester, nursery trainer, apple planter, miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, mint mechanized harvester, potato harvester, pear trainer, miscellaneous fruit trees trainer, radish weeder, mint worker, apple propper, potato loader and cherry worker 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 68.3% local, 0.1% intrastate, 1.3% interstate 2.7% foreign and 27.6% 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: AUGUST 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	6,352
		* = piece rate
Apple Hand Thinner	2,141	\$ 7.86
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	715	\$ 7.67
Apple Harvester	567	\$ 7.63
Apple Pruner	333	\$ 7.74
Cherry Trainer	249	\$ 8.00
Apple Worker	230	\$ 7.65
Misc Onion Harvester	217	Not Available
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	185	\$10.46
Misc Onion Weeder	173	\$ 7.79
Mint Weeder	168	\$ 7.75
Nursery Trainer	125	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Worker	102	\$10.00
Nursery Weeder	85	\$ 7.63
Apple Trainer	77	\$ 7.81
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	71	\$ 9.00
Mint Vehicle Operator	71	\$ 8.50
Potato Worker	69	\$ 8.68
Apple Planter	65	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	63	\$ 7.63
Apple Chemical Applicator	51	\$ 8.14
Mint Mechanized Harvester	43	\$ 7.63
Apple Preparation	42	\$ 7.80
Cherry Mechanized Harvester	42	\$ 9.75
Potato Harvester	41	\$ 7.63
Potato Forklift Driver	40	\$ 8.23
Pear Trainer	34	\$ 7.63
Potato Vehicle Operator	34	\$ 8.70
Potato Mechanic	31	\$ 9.63
Apple Weeder	31	\$ 8.13
Misc Fruit Trees Trainer	29	\$ 7.63
Potato Mechanized Harvester	27	\$10.75
Radish Weeder	24	\$ 7.63
Wheat Combine Driver	22	\$10.88
Apple Irrigator	18	\$ 7.94
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	16	\$ 8.00
Wheat Vehicle Operator	15	Not Available

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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
Potato Manager	14	\$13.75
Potato Tractor Operator	14	\$ 9.82
Nursery Worker	13	Not Available
Potato Irrigator	9	\$11.50
Mint Worker	9	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	9	\$ 9.00
Apple Forklift Driver	8	\$ 9.65
Apple Propper	8	\$ 7.63
Potato Loader	4	\$ 7.63
Apple Suckering Worker	4	\$ 8.00
Sweet Corn Worker	2	\$ 8.00
Field Corn Irrigator	2	\$ 9.00
Misc Onion Manager	2	\$10.70
Grapes Hand Thinner	2	\$ 8.00
Cherry Worker	2	\$ 7.63
Sweet Corn Combine Driver	2	\$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.93/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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	5,759
a. Local	3,256
b. Intrastate migratory	5
c. Interstate migratory	104
d. Foreign	453
e. Unknown	1,941
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Burlington, Prosser	
b. Interstate: California, Indiana, Ohio, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The August 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,588.
 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. Harvest began on early apple varieties along with nectarines and peaches. Potato harvest continued. Dry bean harvest began. Grain harvest was nearly finished. Fire danger was extremely high due to the long dry spell. Primary agricultural activities were apple hand thinning, potato warehouse work, apple harvesting and grapes thinning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$7.82 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for apple hand thinner, pear harvester, grapes cultivator, miscellaneous peppers sorter/grader/packer, grapes trainer, strawberry weeder, grapes harvester, miscellaneous vegetables weeder, strawberry worker, apple cultivator, miscellaneous field crops harvester, apple grafter, carrot irrigator, grapes preparer, strawberry irrigator, potato irrigator, miscellaneous hay worker, cherry pruner, grapes suckering worker, cherry worker, miscellaneous hay irrigator and miscellaneous hay weeder to \$15.00 for grass seed worker. Typical piece rates were: \$14.00 to \$19.00 per bin for apple harvester. 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 56.5% local, 0.1% intrastate, 1.8% interstate, 7.9% foreign and 33.7% 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: AUGUST 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 Hand Thinner	2,173	\$ 7.63
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	737	\$ 8.02
Apple Harvester	343	\$ 8.06 or * \$14.00 - \$19.00 per bin
Grapes Hand Thinner	255	\$ 8.03
Pear Harvester	229	\$ 7.63
Apple Worker	182	\$ 7.67
Misc Melon Sorter/Grader/Packer	130	\$ 7.75
Grapes Cultivator	126	\$ 7.63
Misc Peppers Sorter/Grader/Packer	117	\$ 7.63
Apple Trainer	114	\$ 7.73
Apple Pruner	73	\$ 7.82
Carrot Weeder	70	\$ 8.00
Grapes Trainer	69	\$ 7.63
Misc Peppers Harvester	66	\$ 7.63
Potato Mechanized Harvester	65	\$ 8.34
Strawberry Weeder	52	\$ 7.63
Potato Harvester	50	\$ 8.00
Walla Walla Sweets Irrigator	47	\$ 9.00
Grapes Pruner	45	\$ 7.66
Grapes Harvester	44	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	37	\$ 9.09
General Farm Worker	35	\$ 8.70
Carrot Harvester	33	\$ 8.40
Peach Harvester	30	\$ 8.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	28	\$ 9.10
Hops Preparation	26	\$ 7.63
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator	26	\$ 8.17
Wheat Tractor Operator	26	\$11.17
Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester	24	\$ 9.00
Misc Vegetables Weeder	22	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Harvester	22	\$ 8.50
Strawberry Worker	22	\$ 7.63
Blueberry Harvester	22	\$ 8.00
Apple Cultivator	20	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Harvester	20	\$ 7.63
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	19	\$ 8.21

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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
Blueberry Weeder	18	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	18	\$10.00
Wheat Combine Driver	17	\$ 9.13
Apple Grafter	16	\$ 7.63
Misc Melon Forklift Driver	13	\$10.00
Carrot Irrigator	13	\$ 7.63
Hops Vehicle Operator	13	\$ 7.98
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	13	\$ 9.00
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	13	\$ 8.25
Alfalfa Irrigator	11	\$ 8.50
Hops Worker	11	\$ 7.73
Potato Loader	9	\$ 8.00
Misc Melon Harvester	9	\$ 8.00
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	9	\$ 8.56
Grapes Tractor Operator	9	\$ 8.50
Grapes Preparation	9	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	9	\$ 7.81
Strawberry Irrigator	9	\$ 7.63
Potato Irrigator	9	\$ 7.63
Wheat Vehicle Operator	9	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Weeder	9	\$ 7.50
Wheat Worker	9	\$ 9.50
Walla Walla Sweets Harvester	9	Not Available
Pear Pruner	8	\$ 7.66
Apple Irrigator	8	\$ 7.98
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	7	\$11.67
Nectarine Harvester	7	\$ 8.00
Hops Loader	7	\$ 7.92
Field Corn Mechanic	5	\$10.00
Potato Mechanic	5	\$10.00
Misc Peppers Forklift Driver	4	\$10.00
Misc Hay Worker	4	\$ 7.63
Cherry Pruner	4	\$ 7.63
Grapes Grafter	4	\$ 7.69
Grapes Suckering Worker	4	\$ 7.63
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$ 8.00

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 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 Tractor Operator	4	\$10.00
Cherry Worker	4	\$ 7.63
Misc Melon Worker	2	\$ 8.00
Potato Chemical Applicator	2	\$10.00
Sweet Corn Irrigator	2	\$ 8.50
Grass Seed Worker	2	\$15.00
Misc Hay Irrigator	2	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Worker	2	Not Available
Misc Hay Weeder	2	\$ 7.63
Nursery Weeder	2	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Vehicle Operator	2	Not Available

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 7.82/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 2006

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **EASTERN** (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, PendOreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman)

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	955
a. Local	929
b. Intrastate migratory	26
c. Interstate migratory	0
d. Unknown	0
e. Foreign	0
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Pomeroy, St. John	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The August 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 971.
 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. Wheat harvest was wrapping up in most areas. Yields ranged from slightly above average to below average depending on the location. Primary agricultural activities were wheat vehicle, wheat combine and wheat tractor operating and nursery mechanized harvesting.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in August averaged \$9.76 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for alfalfa irrigator to \$12.50 for grass seed tractor operator. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited. Workers provided their own transportation.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 97.2% local, 2.8% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 0.0% foreign and 0.0% unknown.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: AUGUST 2006
State: WASHINGTON

Area 6: EASTERN (Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman 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	955
		* = piece rate
Wheat Vehicle Operator	342	\$11.30
Wheat Combine Driver	114	\$10.58
Wheat Tractor Operator	86	\$ 9.83
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	50	\$ 9.00
Barley Vehicle Operator	43	\$ 9.71
Wheat Worker	39	\$ 9.60
Nursery Harvester	30	\$ 7.75
Lentil Vehicle Operator	29	\$ 9.75
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Combine Driver	29	\$10.92
Nursery Pruner	27	\$ 9.50
Chicken Fryer Harvester	20	\$ 8.50
Barley Worker	14	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Irrigator	14	\$ 7.63
Grass Seed Mechanized Harvester	14	\$10.00
Grass Seed Tractor Operator	14	\$12.50
Grass Seed Combine Driver	14	\$10.00
Barley Combine Driver	14	\$ 8.50
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	14	\$ 8.00
Nursery Chemical Applicator	7	\$10.00
Nursery Manager	7	\$10.50
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	7	\$ 8.50
Nursery Loader	7	\$10.00
Nursery Irrigator	7	\$ 9.08
Misc Vegetables Harvester	7	\$ 8.50
Beef Cattle Worker	3	\$10.00
Contract Aerial Worker	3	\$12.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN EASTERN AREA 6 \$ 9.76/hr (weighted average)