



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

JULY 2006



Prepared by

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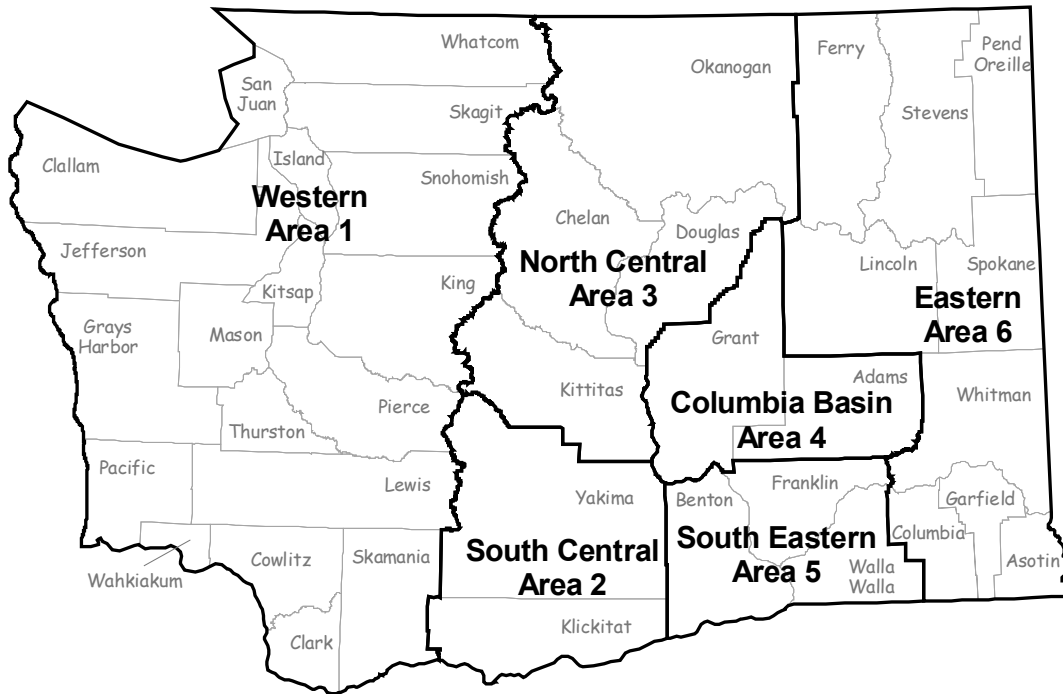
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

JULY 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 14.1% from July 2005 to July 2006. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year gains were cherry work (14,696), onion work (348), grapes work (336), potato work (194), raspberry work (149), bulb work (4), and nursery work (4). Activities displaying losses were apple work (-3,868), other tree fruit work (-2,810), pear work (-494), other seasonal work (-293), strawberry work (-234), miscellaneous vegetables work (-163), wheat/grain work (-162), blueberry work (-160), asparagus work (-140), hops work (-26), and cucumber work (-23). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment increased by 4.3%, due to a bump in miscellaneous vegetables work (412). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment leaped ahead by 54.4%, thanks to the cherry harvest (8,516). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment fell by a slight 0.6%, caused by decline in apple work (-4,125). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment moved forward by 3.6%, courtesy of a growth in apple work (491). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment expanded by 11.5% driven by an increase in cherry work (1,146). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment forged ahead by 17.8% brought about by an increase in nursery work (170).

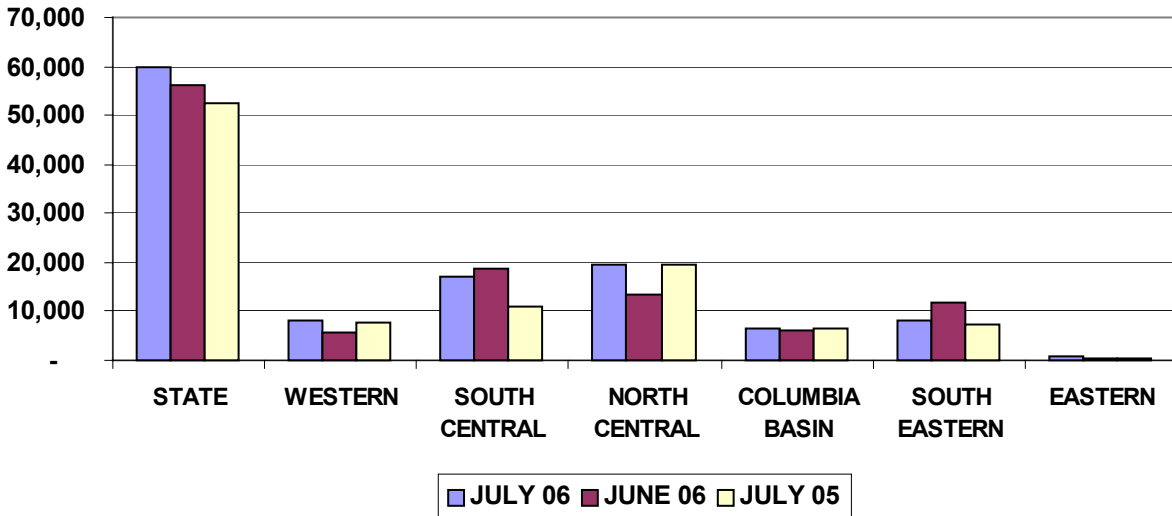
ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

The damage done to tree fruits was extensive in the early July hailstorm. Early estimates of losses range as high as \$90 million to cherry, pear and apple growers. \$40 million of this loss occurred in Chelan County and \$50 million in Okanogan County. County commissioners are asking Governor Chris Gregoire to seek federal disaster relief funds to help cover the losses.

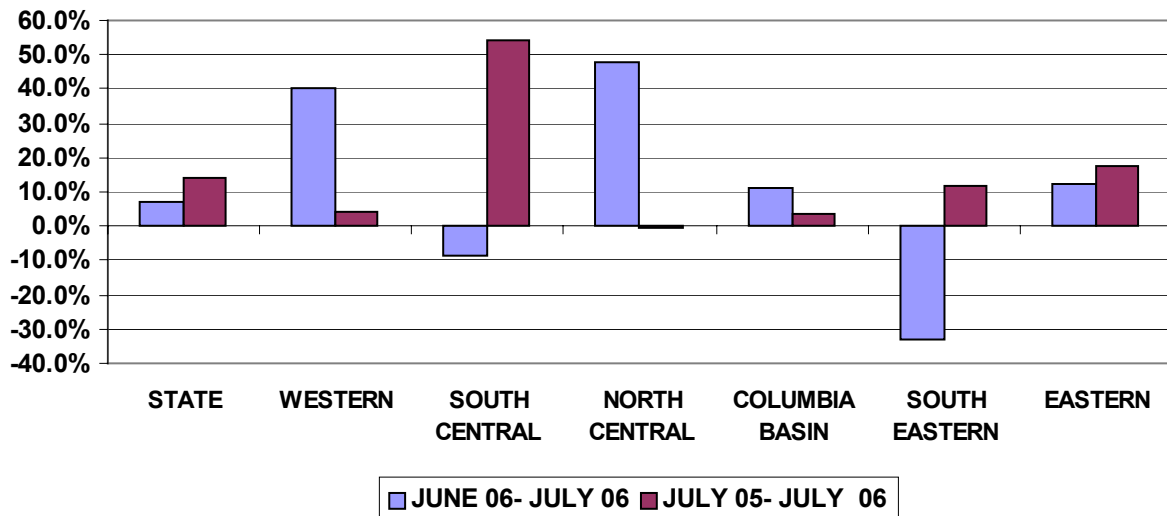
Apple industry experts are predicting an average-sized harvest. Apple growers in Washington State are forecasting a harvest of about 92 million boxes this year. This is substantially lower than last year's 100.1 million boxes of fresh apples. The record of 104.9 million boxes was posted during the 2004 harvest. Until the hailstorm of a few weeks ago, projections were for a record-breaking crop of 110 million boxes. However hail in many areas damaged large portions of the crop, reducing industry estimates. Apples made up 16 percent of the total value of Washington farm products in 2004. The state is the nation's top apple producer, growing about half of the U.S. crop. The United States has approximately 7,500 apple producers that grow nearly 100 varieties of apples in 36 states. Washington State alone has over 1,200 apple growers and another 1,300 employers that grow other tree fruit. In 1990, 69.5 percent of the crop consisted of Red Delicious apples. This year, Red Delicious apples are expected to comprise just 31 percent of the crop, about 31 million boxes. Other varieties expected to be packed this year are: 12.2 million boxes of Fuji, 12.6 million boxes of Granny Smith and 11 million boxes of Golden Delicious. These four varieties make up more than 50 percent of the crop.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>JUNE 06</u>	<u>JULY 05</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>JUNE 06- JULY 06</u>	<u>JULY 05- JULY 06</u>	<u>JUNE 06- JULY 06</u>	<u>JULY 05- JULY 06</u>
STATE	60,028	56,168	52,628	3,860	7,400	6.9%	14.1%
WESTERN	8,029	5,720	7,698	2,309	331	40.4%	4.3%
SOUTH CENTRAL	17,091	18,679	11,072	(1,588)	6,019	-8.5%	54.4%
NORTH CENTRAL	19,622	13,264	19,731	6,358	(109)	47.9%	-0.6%
COLUMBIA BASIN	6,598	5,941	6,369	657	229	11.1%	3.6%
SOUTH EASTERN	8,038	11,984	7,206	(3,946)	832	-32.9%	11.5%
EASTERN	650	580	552	70	98	12.1%	17.8%

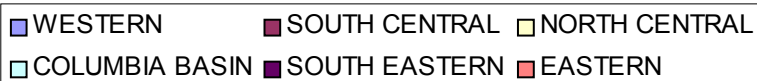
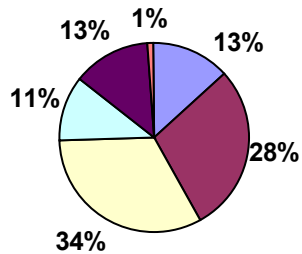
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



CHANGE IN SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



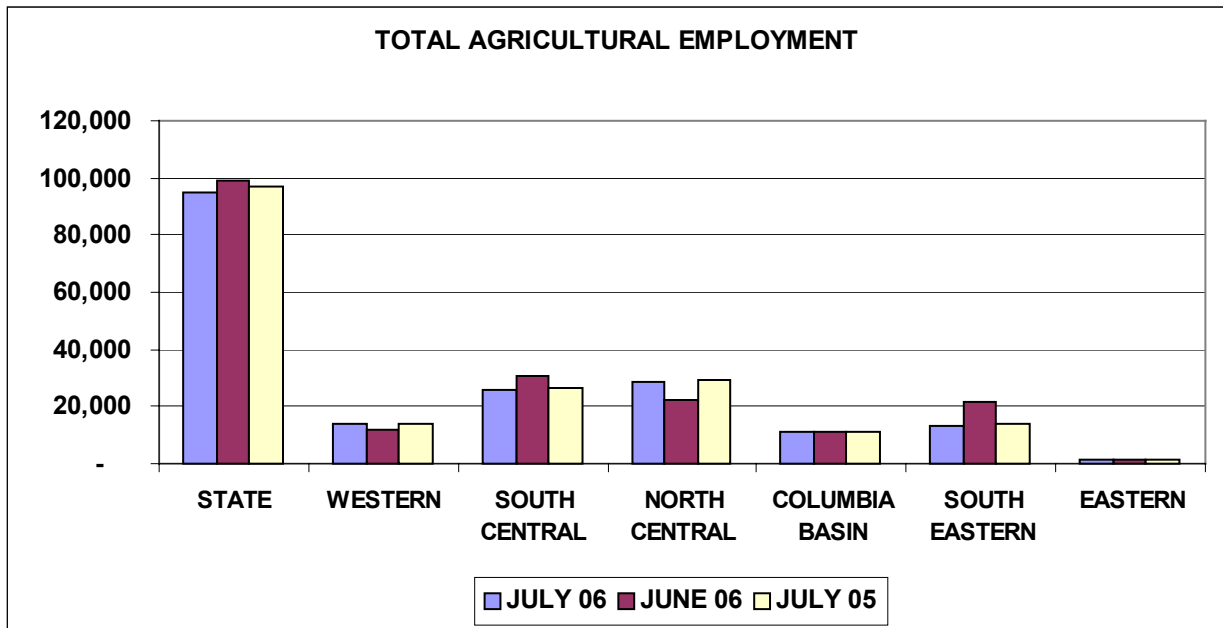
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT JULY 2006



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment declined by 2.1% from July 2005 to July 2006. Over-the-month total employment from June 2006 to July 2006 also fell by 4.5%. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment contracted by 2.6%. South Central (Area 2) total employment decreased by 1.8%. North Central (Area 3) total employment fell back by 2.2%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment pulled back by 1.8%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment slid by 2.5%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment moved forward by 1.6%.

	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT						
	JULY 06	JUNE 06	JULY 05	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06
STATE	94,908	99,373	96,911	(4,465)	(2,003)	-4.5%	-2.1%
WESTERN	13,689	11,821	14,060	1,868	(371)	15.8%	-2.6%
SOUTH CENTRAL	26,144	31,025	26,614	(4,881)	(470)	-15.7%	-1.8%
NORTH CENTRAL	28,934	22,000	29,571	6,934	(636)	31.5%	-2.2%
COLUMBIA BASIN	11,035	11,401	11,242	(366)	(208)	-3.2%	-1.8%
SOUTH EASTERN	13,594	21,853	13,935	(8,259)	(342)	-37.8%	-2.5%
EASTERN	1,513	1,273	1,489	239	24	18.8%	1.6%



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment increased by 14.1% from July 2005 to July 2006. Seasonal employment grew by 6.9% statewide from June 2006 to July 2006, due to the seasonal peak in cherry harvest. The crop activity displaying the largest employment growth from July 2005 to July 2006 was cherry work (14,696). Apple work displayed the greatest decrease in employment (-3,868) for that same time period. Cherry work moved ahead of all other seasonal employment (10,569) from June 2006 to July 2006. Apple work shed the largest number of jobs (-5,203) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for July 2006 was \$7.94 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE CROP				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	JULY 06	JUNE 06	JULY 05	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06
Apples	15,983	21,186	19,851	(5,203)	(3,868)	-24.6%	-19.5%
Asparagus	336	5,374	476	(5,038)	(140)	-93.7%	-29.4%
Blueberry	895	64	1,055	831	(160)	1298.4%	-15.2%
Bulb	86	53	82	33	4	62.3%	4.9%
Cherries	28,142	17,573	13,446	10,569	14,696	60.1%	109.3%
Cucumber	250	24	273	226	(23)	941.7%	-8.4%
Grapes	1,310	1,697	974	(387)	336	-22.8%	34.5%
Hops	90	242	116	(152)	(26)	-62.8%	-22.4%
Misc Vegetables	1,236	985	1,399	251	(163)	25.5%	-11.7%
Nursery	1,885	2,093	1,881	(208)	4	-9.9%	0.2%
Onion	1,642	663	1,294	979	348	147.7%	26.9%
Other Seasonal	1,792	1,264	2,085	528	(293)	41.8%	-14.1%
Other Tree Fruit	656	735	3,466	(79)	(2,810)	-10.7%	-81.1%
Pears	153	283	647	(130)	(494)	-45.9%	-76.4%
Potato	944	832	750	112	194	13.5%	25.9%
Raspberry	4,072	294	3,923	3,778	149	1285.0%	3.8%
Strawberry	296	2,555	530	(2,259)	(234)	-88.4%	-44.2%
Wheat/Grain	218	203	380	15	(162)	7.4%	-42.6%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment expanded by 4.3% from July 2005 to July 2006. However, seasonal employment moved forward by 40.4% from June 2006 to July 2006. Miscellaneous vegetables work grew by the greatest amount of employment (412) from July 2005 to July 2006. Blueberry work lost the most jobs (-160) for that same time period. Raspberry work displayed the greatest employment gain (3,778) from June 2006 to July 2006. Strawberry work lost the largest amount of employment (-2,549) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for July 2006 in Area 1 was \$7.94 per hour. (See pages 16 -18 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				JUNE 06-	JULY 05-	JUNE 06-	JULY 05-
	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>JUNE 06</u>	<u>JULY 05</u>	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>JULY 06</u>
CROP							
Blueberry	895	64	1,055	831	(160)	1298.4%	-15.2%
Bulb	86	53	82	33	4	62.3%	4.9%
Cucumber	250	24	273	226	(23)	941.7%	-8.4%
Misc Vegetables	803	541	391	262	412	48.4%	105.4%
Nursery	1,372	1,678	1,504	(306)	(132)	-18.2%	-8.8%
Other Seasonal	302	182	346	120	(44)	65.9%	-12.7%
Potato	208	303	101	(95)	107	-31.4%	105.9%
Raspberry	4,072	294	3,923	3,778	149	1285.0%	3.8%
Rhubarb	24	12	9	12	15	100.0%	166.7%
Strawberry	6	2,555	14	(2,549)	(8)	-99.8%	-57.1%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment grew by 54.4% from July 2005 to July 2006. Seasonal employment declined by 8.5% from June 2006 to July 2006. Cherry work led all other crops in employment gain (8,516) from July 2005 to July 2006. Other tree fruit work posted the largest over-the-month decline in jobs (-928) for that same time period. Cherry work moved forward with the largest employment gain (3,917) from June 2006 to July 2006. Apple work displayed the greatest employment loss (-3,623) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for July 2006 in Area 2 was \$7.80 per hour. (See pages 19 -21 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				JUNE 06-	JULY 05-	JUNE 06-	JULY 05-
	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>JUNE 06</u>	<u>JULY 05</u>	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>JULY 06</u>	<u>JULY 06</u>
CROP							
Apples	4,429	8,052	5,130	(3,623)	(701)	-45.0%	-13.7%
Asparagus	283	1,707	476	(1,424)	(193)	-83.4%	-40.5%
Cherries	11,044	7,127	2,528	3,917	8,516	55.0%	336.9%
Grapes	427	609	508	(182)	(81)	-29.9%	-15.9%
Hops	79	142	46	(63)	33	-44.4%	71.7%
Misc Vegetables	295	172	360	123	(65)	71.5%	-18.1%
Onion	64	193	10	(129)	54	-66.8%	540.0%
Other Seasonal	272	484	403	(212)	(131)	-43.8%	-32.5%
Other Tree Fruit	0	26	928	(26)	(928)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Pears	81	166	536	(85)	(455)	-51.2%	-84.9%
Potato	121	0	147	121	(26)	NA	-17.7%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment slipped by 0.6% from July 2005 to July 2006. However, seasonal employment leaped ahead by 47.9% from June 2006 to July 2006 due to cherry harvest. Cherry work displayed the largest over-the-year gain in employment (5,700) from July 2005 to July 2006. Apple work registered the largest employment loss (-4,125) for that same time period. Cherry work added the most jobs (7,419) due to harvest from June 2006 to July 2006. Apple displayed the largest decline in employment (-1,254) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for July 2006 in Area 3 was \$8.12 per hour. (See pages 22 - 23 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	JULY 06	JUNE 06	JULY 05	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06
Apples	4,620	5,874	8,745	(1,254)	(4,125)	-21.3%	-47.2%
Cherries	14,570	7,151	8,870	7,419	5,700	103.7%	64.3%
Other Seasonal	109	71	95	38	14	53.5%	14.7%
Other Tree Fruit	294	84	1,910	210	(1,616)	250.0%	-84.6%
Pears	30	87	111	(57)	(81)	-65.5%	-73.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment moved forward by 3.6% from July 2005 to July 2006. This increase was overtaken by a 11.1% jump in employment from June 2006 to July 2006. Apple work showed the largest employment growth (491) from July 2005 to July 2006. Cherry work saw the greatest decline in jobs (-666) during that same time period. Apple work posted the largest increase in employment (1,617) from June 2006 to July 2006. Cherry work experienced the largest over-the-month employment loss (-893) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for July 2006 in Area 4 was \$7.84 per hour. (See pages 24 - 26 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	JULY 06	JUNE 06	JULY 05	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06
Apples	3,845	2,228	3,354	1,617	491	72.6%	14.6%
Asparagus	0	543	0	(543)	0	-100.0%	NA
Cherries	966	1,859	1,632	(893)	(666)	-48.0%	-40.8%
Mint	197	29	30	168	167	579.3%	556.7%
Misc Vegetables	54	44	278	10	(224)	22.7%	-80.6%
Nursery	281	214	242	67	39	31.3%	16.1%
Onion	427	185	124	242	303	130.8%	244.4%
Other Seasonal	153	77	326	76	(173)	98.7%	-53.1%
Other Tree Fruit	114	220	91	(106)	23	-48.2%	25.3%
Pears	42	30	0	0	42	0.0%	NA
Potato	499	510	236	(11)	263	-2.2%	111.4%
Wheat	17	0	56	0	(39)	NA	-69.6%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment expanded by 11.5% from July 2005 to July 2006. However, seasonal employment contracted by 32.9% from June 2006 to July 2006. Cherry work led all other crop activity (1,146) from July 2005 to July 2006. Miscellaneous vegetables work led the decline (-301) during that same time period. Onion work was the largest over-the-month gainer (866) from June 2006 to July 2006. Asparagus work shed the most jobs (-3,071) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for July 2006 in Area 5 was \$7.80 per hour. (See pages 27 - 30 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	JULY 06	JUNE 06	JULY 05	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06
Apples	3,089	5,032	2,622	(1,943)	467	-38.6%	17.8%
Asparagus	53	3,124	0	(3,071)	53	-98.3%	NA
Cherries	1,562	1,436	416	126	1,146	8.8%	275.5%
Grapes	883	1,088	466	(205)	417	-18.8%	89.5%
Hops	11	100	70	(89)	(59)	-89.0%	-84.3%
Misc Vegetables	60	216	361	(156)	(301)	-72.2%	-83.4%
Nursery	1	25	74	(24)	(73)	-96.0%	-98.6%
Onion	1,151	285	1,160	866	(9)	303.9%	-0.8%
Other Seasonal	511	189	633	322	(122)	170.4%	-19.3%
Other Tree Fruit	248	405	537	(157)	(289)	-38.8%	-53.8%
Potatoes	116	19	266	97	(150)	510.5%	-56.4%
Strawberry	290	0	516	0	(226)	NA	-43.8%
Wheat/Grain	37	27	85	10	(48)	37.0%	-56.5%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment advanced by 17.8% from July 2005 to July 2006. Seasonal employment also grew by 12.1% from June 2006 to July 2006. Nursery work added the greatest number of jobs (170) from July 2005 to July 2006. Wheat/grain work lost the most employment (-75), for that same time period. Nursery work added the most employment (55) from June 2006 to July 2006. Wheat/grain contracted by the largest amount of employment (-12) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for July 2006 in Area 6 was \$9.69 per hour. (See pages 31 - 32 for Area 6 detail)

AREA 6 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
EASTERN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	JULY 06	JUNE 06	JULY 05	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06	JUNE 06- JULY 06	JULY 05- JULY 06
Nursery	231	176	61	55	170	31.25%	278.69%
Other Seasonal	248	232	252	16	(4)	6.90%	-1.59%
Wheat/Grain	164	176	239	(12)	(75)	-6.82%	-31.38%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

LABOR SUPPLY

Two new survey questions were inserted into the July survey. The first question asked growers if they failed to complete some work due to lack of available seasonal labor. The second question asked how many additional seasonal workers they would have hired if available. The response rates to the first question are detailed below. Next month's report will detail response rates to the second question. These statistics are unweighted.

RESPONSE RATES TO LABOR SHORTAGE QUESTION INDICATING A POSITIVE RESPONSE

State	12.5%
Area 1	8.6%
Area 2	20.9%
Area 3	23.1%
Area 4	10.5%
Area 5	10.2%
Area 6	3.1%

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 JULY 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: 8,029 (5,137 local, 14 intrastate, 623 interstate, 160 foreign, 2,095 unknown origin)

Raspberry Harvester	2,152	\$ 7.63/hr
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	1,014	\$ 7.72/hr
Blueberry Harvester	551	Not Available
Nursery Harvester	408	\$ 7.63/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 17,091 (14,208 local, 237 intrastate, 606 interstate, 1,858 foreign, 182 unknown origin)

Cherry Harvester	6,535	\$ 7.86/hr or \$45.00 - \$60.00 per bin
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	4,266	\$ 7.64/hr
Apple Hand Thinner	3,258	\$ 7.86/hr or \$ 0.40 - \$ 3.50 per tree
Apple Pruner	888	\$ 7.63/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 19,622 (12,049 local, 232 intrastate, 1,098 interstate, 1,076 foreign, 5,167 unknown origin)

Cherry Harvester	13,132	\$ 8.00/hr or \$ 2.00 - \$ 5.25 per lug
Apple Hand Thinner	4,289	\$ 8.16/hr or \$ 0.28 - \$ 6.00 per tree
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	1,140	\$ 8.32/hr
Cherry Worker	194	\$ 8.33/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,598 (5,013 local, 13 intrastate, 180 interstate, 301 foreign, 1,091 unknown origin)

Apple Hand Thinner	3,255	\$ 7.79/hr or \$ 0.20 - \$ 4.50 per tree
Cherry Harvester	813	\$ 7.63/hr or \$ 3.50 - \$ 5.50 per lug
Misc Onion Weeder	412	\$ 7.84/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	296	\$ 7.68/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,038 (4,683 local, 2 intrastate, 847 interstate, 262 foreign, 2,244 unknown origin)

Apple Hand Thinner	2,924	\$ 7.66/hr or \$ 0.28 - \$ 1.75 per tree
Cherry Harvester	1,498	\$ 7.63/hr or \$ 1.20 - \$ 6.50 per lug
Walla Walla Sweets Harvester	1,076	\$ 8.14/hr
Grapes Hand Thinner	546	\$ 7.74/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 650 (644 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 6 unknown origin)

Wheat Vehicle Operator	82	\$11.86/hr
Nursery Planter	52	\$ 7.75/hr
Grass Seed Weeder	45	\$ 7.65/hr
Nursery Pruner	41	\$10.50/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
JULY 2006

TABLE 1

JULY 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	5,137	14	623	160	2,095	8,029
2. South Central	14,207	237	606	1,858	182	17,091
3. North Central	12,049	232	1,098	1,076	5,167	19,622
4. Columbia Basin	5,012	13	180	301	1,091	6,598
5. South Eastern	4,683	2	847	262	2,244	8,038
6. Eastern	644	0	0	0	6	650
State Totals	41,732	498	3,354	3,659	10,785	60,028
% State Total	69.5%	0.8%	5.6%	6.1%	18.0%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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	8,029
a. Local	5,137
b. Intrastate migratory	14
c. Interstate migratory	623
d. Foreign	160
e. Unknown	2,095
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Gig Harbor, Granger	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The July 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,573.

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. Hay harvest was in full swing. Peas and tomatoes were being harvested. Blueberry harvest continued with excellent yields and fruit quality reported. Raspberry harvest was finished. Winter wheat was being harvested.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in July averaged \$7.94 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for raspberry harvester, nursery harvester, nursery sorter/grader/packer, potato sorter/grader/packer, blackberry harvester, cauliflower weeder, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery weeder, nursery irrigator, cauliflower planter, potato weeder, general farm harvester, potato worker, cabbage planter, cabbage weeder, spinach planter and spinach weeder to \$38.42 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 64.0% local, 0.2% intrastate, 7.8% interstate, foreign 2.0% and 26.0% unknown.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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	8,029
		* = piece rate
Raspberry Harvester	2,152	\$ 7.63
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	1,014	\$ 7.72
Blueberry Harvester	551	Not Available
Nursery Harvester	408	\$ 7.63
Raspberry Worker	380	\$ 7.69
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	337	\$ 7.63
Raspberry Mechanized Harvester	332	\$ 8.90
Misc Vegetables Planter	280	\$ 8.13
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	261	\$ 8.36
Nursery Planter	235	\$ 7.69
Nursery Worker	205	\$ 8.47
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	174	\$ 8.40
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	152	\$ 7.63
Blackberry Harvester	124	\$ 7.63
Cauliflower Weeder	109	\$ 7.63
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	86	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Worker	85	\$ 9.48
Broccoli Harvester	85	\$ 8.00
Nursery Weeder	76	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Harvester	75	\$ 8.69
Raspberry Weeder	69	\$ 7.88
Raspberry Vehicle Operator	65	\$ 9.18
Blueberry Worker	55	\$ 9.33
Nursery Irrigator	51	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	36	\$ 8.96
Cucumber Harvester	30	\$ 8.00
Misc Squash Harvester	30	\$ 8.00
Raspberry Forklift Driver	30	\$ 9.00
Potato Tractor Operator	29	\$10.25
Chicken Eggs Harvester	25	\$ 9.36
Nursery Preparation	25	\$ 7.70
Nursery Chemical Applicator	25	\$ 7.63
Misc Squash Weeder	24	\$ 8.00
Rhubarb Harvester	24	\$ 7.70
Pumpkin Weeder	24	\$ 7.70
Misc Onion Weeder	24	\$ 7.70

Area 1 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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	
	TOTAL	
Cucumber Weeder	24	\$ 7.70
Beets Weeder	24	\$ 7.70
Beets Harvester	24	\$ 7.70
Cucumber Manager	22	Not Available
Cauliflower Planter	18	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	18	\$11.03
Raspberry Pruner	18	\$ 8.00
Blackberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	18	\$ 8.50
General Farm Worker	17	\$ 9.15
Raspberry Manager	12	\$ 9.00
Blueberry Vehicle Operator	11	\$12.50
Blueberry Forklift Driver	11	\$10.00
Nursery Vehicle Operator	10	\$11.25
Potato Weeder	10	\$ 7.63
Chicken Eggs Worker	8	\$ 8.50
Potato Irrigator	7	\$ 8.00
General Farm Harvester	7	\$ 7.63
Pumpkin Irrigator	6	\$10.00
Cauliflower Manager	6	\$ 9.00
Blueberry Manager	6	\$10.00
Misc Berries Worker	6	\$ 8.00
Blackberry Pruner	6	\$ 8.00
Strawberry Tractor Operator	6	\$ 9.00
Potato Mechanized Harvester	5	\$ 9.00
Potato Worker	5	\$ 7.63
Dairy Worker	4	\$13.00
General Farm Mechanic	4	\$ 9.00
General Farm Worker	4	\$38.42
General Farm Manager	2	\$11.00
Cabbage Planter	2	\$ 7.63
Cabbage Weeder	2	\$ 7.63
Tomato Harvester	2	\$ 9.50
Spinach Planter	2	\$ 7.63
Spinach Weeder	2	\$ 7.63
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 \$ 7.94/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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	17,091
a. Local	14,208
b. Intrastate migratory	237
c. Interstate migratory	606
d. Foreign	1,858
e. Unknown	182
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 July 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 11,653.
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 due to weather conditions were reported. Primary agricultural activities were cherry harvest and warehouse work, apple thinning and apple pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in July averaged \$7.80 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.73 for apple pruner, potato sorter/grader/packer, pear hand thinner, miscellaneous onion weeder, hops weeder, miscellaneous field crops irrigator, mint weeder, nursery trainer, grapes suckering worker, grapes pruner, grapes irrigator, grapes cultivator, apple trainer, mint mechanized harvester, cherry pruner, potato vehicle operator, miscellaneous field crops weeder, asparagus weeder, nursery preparer, nursery worker, cherry mechanized harvester, alfalfa irrigator, nursery irrigator, miscellaneous field crops tractor operator and apple chemical operator to \$16.94 for grapes manager. Typical piece rates were: \$45.00 to \$60.00 per bin for cherry harvest and \$0.40 to \$3.50 per tree for apple thinning. 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 83.1% local, 1.4% intrastate, 3.5% interstate, foreign 10.9% and unknown 1.1%.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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 17,091	* = piece rate
Cherry Harvester	6,535	\$ 7.86 or * \$45.00 - \$60.00 per bin
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	4,266	\$ 7.64
Apple Hand Thinner	3,258	\$ 7.86 or * \$ 0.40 - \$ 3.50 per tree
Apple Pruner	888	\$ 7.63
Asparagus Harvester	262	\$ 8.00
Apple Irrigator	257	\$ 8.94
Cucumber Harvester	198	Not Available
Grapes Hand Thinner	167	\$ 7.70
Grapes Trainer	153	\$ 7.92
Cherry Worker	138	\$ 8.55
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	110	\$ 7.63
Pear Hand Thinner	75	\$ 7.63
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	73	\$ 7.75
Misc Onion Weeder	52	\$ 7.63
Hops Weeder	47	\$ 7.63
Cherry Tractor Operator	46	\$ 9.17
Cherry Manager	40	\$11.00
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	33	\$ 7.63
Mint Weeder	33	\$ 7.63
Nursery Trainer	29	\$ 7.63
Grapes Suckering Worker	28	\$ 7.63
Nursery Weeder	24	\$ 9.79
Grapes Pruner	24	\$ 7.63
Grapes Irrigator	24	\$ 7.65
Grapes Cultivator	19	\$ 7.63
Misc Squash Weeder	18	\$ 8.00
Apple Trainer	17	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Mechanic	17	\$ 7.72
Mint Mechanized Harvester	16	\$ 7.63
Cherry Pruner	14	\$ 7.63
Hops Irrigator	13	\$ 8.28
Wheat Irrigator	13	\$ 7.77
Asparagus Irrigator	12	\$ 7.91
Potato Vehicle Operator	11	\$ 7.63
Mint Sorter/Grader/Packer	11	\$ 7.67
Misc Field Crops Weeder	11	\$ 7.63

Area 2 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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
Hops Cultivator	11	\$ 8.07
Field Corn Irrigator	11	\$ 7.89
Silage Irrigator	10	\$ 7.65
General Farm Worker	10	\$ 9.00
Mint Vehicle Operator	10	\$12.00
Grapes Weeder	9	\$ 7.65
Mint Irrigator	8	\$ 7.82
Hops Chemical Applicator	8	\$ 8.25
Asparagus Weeder	6	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Irrigator	6	\$ 9.25
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	6	\$ 8.50
Pear Pruner	6	\$ 8.50
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	6	\$10.00
Nursery Preparation	5	\$ 7.63
Nursery Worker	5	\$ 7.63
Cherry Mechanized Harvester	5	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Irrigator	5	\$ 7.63
Silage Worker	5	\$ 8.00
Nursery Planter	5	\$ 9.79
Nursery Irrigator	5	\$ 7.63
Cucumber Irrigator	3	\$ 9.25
Misc Peppers Irrigator	3	\$ 9.25
Asparagus Manager	3	\$14.00
Grapes Manager	3	\$16.94
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	3	\$ 7.63
Apple Chemical Applicator	3	\$ 7.63
Silage Planter	3	\$ 7.70

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.80/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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 19,622
 - a. Local 12,049
 - b. Intrastate migratory 232
 - c. Interstate migratory 1,098
 - d. Foreign 1,076
 - e. Unknown 5,167

 - 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
 - a. Intrastate: Centralia, Kent, Okanogan, Pasco, Quincy, Richland, Seattle, Sunnyside, Twisp, Wenatchee
 - b. Interstate: Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon
 - c. Foreign: Mexico
-

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The July 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 11,863.

 - 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 began in some areas. Yields were average to above average. Reports continued to come in for fruit crop damage due to the July hail/rain storm. Many growers indicated that they will not pick a crop. Hand thinning of apples was proceeding slowly due to the extreme heat. Primary agricultural activities were cherry harvest, 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 July averaged \$8.12 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for peach harvester, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, apple worker, pear weeder and apple harvester to \$50.00 for contract aerial chemical operator. Typical piece rates were: \$ 2.00 to \$ 5.25 per lug for cherry harvest and \$ 0.28 to \$ 6.00 per tree for apple thinning. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 61.4% local, 1.2% intrastate, 5.6% interstate, 5.5% foreign and 26.3% 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: JULY 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 19,622	* = piece rate
Cherry Harvester	13,132	\$ 8.00 or * \$ 2.00 - \$ 5.25 per lug
Apple Hand Thinner	4,289	\$ 8.16 or * \$ 0.28 - \$ 6.00 per tree
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	1,140	\$ 8.32
Cherry Worker	194	\$ 8.33
Apricot Harvester	138	\$ 8.14
Apple Trainer	123	\$ 7.69
Peach Harvester	84	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	66	\$ 7.63
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	55	\$ 8.03
Apple Weeder	49	\$ 8.18
Cherry Tractor Operator	39	\$ 9.44
Apple Worker	39	\$ 7.63
Cherry Forklift Driver	30	\$ 8.90
Misc Hay Irrigator	30	\$ 8.55
Cherry Manager	30	\$ 9.17
Pear Weeder	20	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Worker	18	\$14.33
Apple Chemical Applicator	15	\$ 8.00
Apple Harvester	15	\$ 7.63
Apple Preparation	15	\$ 7.75
Wheat Tractor Operator	12	\$10.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator	12	\$ 8.50
Apple Pruner	10	\$ 9.00
Misc Fruit Trees Mechanic	6	\$ 8.00
Sweet Corn Irrigator	6	\$ 8.00
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	6	\$12.00
Horse and Equines Manager	6	\$25.00
Horse and Equines Worker	6	\$13.00
Horse and Equines Trainer	6	\$15.00
Apple Irrigator	5	\$ 8.00
Cherry Vehicle Operator	5	\$ 8.50
Pear Irrigator	5	\$ 8.00
Pear Pruner	5	\$ 8.00
Apple Forklift Driver	5	\$ 9.75
Contract Aerial Worker	5	\$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 \$ 8.12/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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	6,598
a. Local	5,013
b. Intrastate migratory	13
c. Interstate migratory	180
d. Foreign	301
e. Unknown	1,091
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Bingham, Grandview	
b. Interstate: California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The July 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,516.

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. Cherry harvest was completed and apricot harvest began. Yields have been above average and quality appeared good. The storm early in the month damaged sweet corn, beans and other row crops. Cherry growers also reported some crop damage due to the storm.

Wheat harvest was just beginning. The second cutting of alfalfa was being completed. Primary agricultural activities were apple thinning, cherry harvest, onion weeding and potato warehouse work.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in July averaged \$7.84 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for cherry harvester, nursery trainer, nursery weeder, mint weeder, miscellaneous fruit trees weeder, pear trainer, wheat weeder, mint mechanized harvester, apple irrigator, miscellaneous fruit trees trainer, mint loader sweet corn weeder, miscellaneous fruit trees planter, miscellaneous fruit trees irrigator and miscellaneous fruit trees tractor operator to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$ 0.20 to \$ 4.50 per tree for apple thinning and \$ 3.50 to \$ 5.50 per lug for cherry harvest. 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 76.0% local, 0.2% intrastate, 2.7% interstate 4.6% foreign and 16.5% 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: JULY 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 6,598	* = piece rate
Apple Hand Thinner	3,255	\$ 7.79 or * \$ 0.20 - \$ 4.50 per tree
Cherry Harvester	813	\$ 7.63 or * \$ 3.50 - \$ 5.50 per lug
Misc Onion Weeder	412	\$ 7.84
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	296	\$ 7.68
Apple Pruner	269	\$ 7.79
Nursery Trainer	154	\$ 7.63
Nursery Weeder	127	\$ 7.63
Mint Weeder	117	\$ 7.63
Cherry Hand Thinner	114	\$ 7.65
Misc Fruit Trees Weeder	76	\$ 7.63
Apple Trainer	73	\$ 8.08
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	61	\$10.36
Apple Weeder	53	\$ 7.96
Apple Preparation	53	\$ 7.76
Potato Mechanic	53	\$ 8.86
Potato Worker	51	\$ 9.69
Apple Worker	47	\$ 7.69
Pear Trainer	42	\$ 7.63
Apple Chemical Applicator	40	\$ 8.22
Apple Mechanic	38	\$ 8.50
Mint Vehicle Operator	33	\$ 8.50
Alfalfa Harvester	33	\$10.00
Misc Vegetables Worker	26	\$ 8.71
Potato Vehicle Operator	25	\$ 8.21
Grass Seed Harvester	25	\$ 8.00
Potato Irrigator	25	\$ 9.58
Cherry Mechanized Harvester	23	\$ 9.25
Peach Harvester	23	Not Available
Mint Irrigator	22	\$ 8.00
Grass Seed Combine Driver	20	\$12.00
Misc Melon Weeder	20	\$ 7.75
Potato Forklift Driver	17	\$ 8.12
Wheat Weeder	17	\$ 7.63
Potato Manager	17	\$13.75
Mint Mechanized Harvester	17	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Preparation	15	\$ 7.65

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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
Apple Forklift Driver	9	\$ 9.65
Potato Cultivator	8	\$ 9.50
Cherry Worker	8	\$ 8.50
Apple Irrigator	8	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	8	\$ 9.00
Potato Tractor Operator	7	\$11.00
Misc Fruit Trees Trainer	6	\$ 7.63
Cherry Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.25
Misc Fruit Trees Mechanic	4	\$12.50
Mint Worker	4	\$10.00
Mint Loader	4	\$ 7.63
Grapes Hand Thinner	4	\$ 8.00
Sweet Corn Weeder	4	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Planter	3	\$ 7.63
Cherry Vehicle Operator	3	\$ 8.25
Sweet Corn Worker	2	\$ 8.00
Field Corn Irrigator	2	\$10.00
Misc Vegetables Chemical Applicator	2	\$13.00
Misc Fruit Trees Irrigator	1	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Tractor Operator	1	\$ 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: JULY 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	8,038
a. Local	4,683
b. Intrastate migratory	2
c. Interstate migratory	847
d. Foreign	262
e. Unknown	2,244
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Burlington	
b. Interstate: California, Indiana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The July 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 9,989.
 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. Harvesting and cutting continued for alfalfa hay, early potatoes, timothy hay, barley and wheat. Winter wheat harvest yields were mostly average to slightly above average. Primary agricultural activities were apple thinning, cherry harvest, onion harvest and grapes thinning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in July averaged \$7.80 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for cherry harvester, miscellaneous field crops weeder, pear hand thinner, grapes pruner, grapes preparer, strawberry sorter/grader/packer, strawberry weeder, cherry mechanized harvester, carrot weeder, grapes irrigator, hops weeder, strawberry vehicle operator, grapes irrigator, strawberry tractor operator, potato irrigator, miscellaneous hay irrigator, strawberry worker and strawberry irrigator to \$15.00 for grass seed worker. Typical piece rates were: \$ 0.28 to \$ 1.75 per tree for apple thinning and \$ 1.20 to \$ 6.50 per lug for cherry harvest. 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 58.3% local, 0.0% intrastate, 10.5% interstate, 3.3% foreign and 27.9% 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: JULY 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	8,038
		* = piece rate
Apple Hand Thinner	2,924	\$ 7.66 or * \$ 0.28 - \$ 1.75 per tree
Cherry Harvester	1,498	\$ 7.63 or * \$ 1.20 - \$ 6.50 per lug
Walla Walla Sweets Harvester	1,076	\$ 8.14
Grapes Hand Thinner	546	\$ 7.74
Chicken Eggs Worker	220	\$ 8.00
Strawberry Harvester	193	Not Available
Misc Field Crops Weeder	125	\$ 7.63
Pear Hand Thinner	119	\$ 7.63
Grapes Pruner	113	\$ 7.63
Grapes Trainer	77	\$ 7.67
Walla Walla Sweets Tractor Operator	71	\$ 8.50
Grapes Preparation	67	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	67	\$ 9.05
Peach Hand Thinner	58	\$ 8.00
Apple Trainer	57	\$ 7.68
Apple Worker	54	\$ 7.88
Grapes Suckering Worker	54	\$ 7.96
Apricot Harvester	52	Not Available
Strawberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	51	\$ 7.63
Asparagus Harvester	51	Not Available
Cherry Worker	40	\$ 8.04
Apple Pruner	40	\$ 7.71
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.75
Strawberry Weeder	24	\$ 7.63
General Farm Worker	23	\$ 8.70
Potato Harvester	20	\$ 8.00
Peach Pruner	19	\$ 8.00
Wheat Vehicle Operator	19	\$ 9.67
Carrot Harvester	18	\$ 8.40
Potato Vehicle Operator	17	\$ 8.94
Cherry Mechanized Harvester	16	\$ 7.63
Carrot Weeder	15	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Irrigator	15	\$ 8.30
Potato Weeder	15	\$ 8.50
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	15	\$ 8.29
Grapes Tractor Operator	14	\$ 8.43

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	13	\$ 8.91
Wheat Mechanic	13	\$10.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator	13	\$ 8.25
Apple Irrigator	13	\$ 7.70
Hops Weeder	11	\$ 7.63
Potato Mechanized Harvester	11	\$ 9.00
Potato Mechanic	11	\$10.00
Strawberry Vehicle Operator	8	\$ 7.63
Grapes Irrigator	8	\$ 7.63
Carrot Irrigator	7	\$ 7.63
Wheat Mechanized Harvester	6	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Weeder	6	\$ 8.00
Wheat Worker	6	\$ 9.50
Wheat Tractor Operator	6	\$ 8.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	6	\$ 8.50
Wheat Combine Driver	6	\$ 8.25
Misc Hay Worker	6	\$ 8.25
Potato Loader	6	\$ 8.00
Cherry Manager	6	\$ 9.00
Strawberry Tractor Operator	6	\$ 7.63
Potato Irrigator	6	\$ 7.63
Misc Hay Irrigator	4	\$ 7.63
Sweet Corn Cultivator	4	\$ 8.25
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$ 8.38
Strawberry Worker	4	\$ 7.63
Strawberry Irrigator	4	\$ 7.63
Grapes Grafter	4	\$13.00
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	2	Not Available
Grass Seed Combine Driver	2	\$ 7.63
Grass Seed Worker	2	\$15.00
Field Corn Mechanic	2	\$10.00
Field Corn Tractor Operator	2	\$10.00
Potato Tractor Operator	2	\$10.00
Sweet Corn Irrigator	2	\$ 8.50
Potato Chemical Applicator	2	\$10.00
Cherry Tractor Operator	2	\$10.00

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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
Asparagus Manager	2	Not Available
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	1	\$10.00
Nursery Weeder	1	\$ 8.00
Carrot Vehicle Operator	1	Not Available
Apple Harvester	1	\$ 7.65

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 7.80/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JULY 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	650
a. Local	644
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	0
d. Unknown	0
e. Foreign	6
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: None	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The July 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 982.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were than warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Winter wheat harvest began. Hay producers were working on their second cutting. Hay prices have increased an average of \$20 per ton over lat year.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in July averaged \$9.69 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for miscellaneous grain & seed crops vehicle operator and miscellaneous under cover crop worker 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 99.1% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 0.0% foreign and 0.9% 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: JULY 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	650
		* = piece rate
Wheat Vehicle Operator	82	\$11.86
Nursery Planter	52	\$ 7.75
Grass Seed Weeder	45	\$ 7.65
Nursery Pruner	41	\$10.50
Wheat Worker	38	\$14.72
Wheat Chemical Applicator	37	\$ 7.90
Nursery Weeder	36	\$ 8.32
Chicken Fryer Sorter/Grader/Packer	31	\$ 8.50
Grass Seed Mechanized Harvester	30	\$11.00
Barley Vehicle Operator	30	\$12.00
Nursery Harvester	26	\$ 9.50
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	26	\$11.30
Nursery Irrigator	15	\$ 9.05
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	15	\$ 8.40
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Chemical Applicator	15	\$ 7.75
Nursery Tractor Operator	10	\$ 9.50
Raspberry Worker	10	\$ 8.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	7	\$ 7.63
Wheat Tractor Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Irrigator	7	\$ 7.63
Grass Seed Tractor Operator	7	\$12.50
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Mechanic	7	\$ 9.00
Misc Hay Vehicle Operator	7	\$ 7.50
Misc Hay Loader	7	\$ 7.50
Lentil Sorter/Grader/Packer	5	\$ 7.75
Nursery Worker	5	\$ 8.25
Nursery Chemical Applicator	5	\$10.00
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	5	\$ 9.50
Nursery Preparation	5	\$ 9.50
Misc Under Cover Crop Worker	5	\$ 7.63
Misc Under Cover Crop Planter	5	\$ 8.25
Beef Cattle Worker	5	\$10.00
Contract Aerial Chemical Applicator	5	Not Available
Contract Aerial Worker	5	\$10.00
Nursery Vehicle Operator	5	\$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN EASTERN AREA 6 \$ 9.69/hr (weighted average)