



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

JUNE 2006



Prepared by

John Wines, Economic Analyst
Judy Anderson, Data Compiler

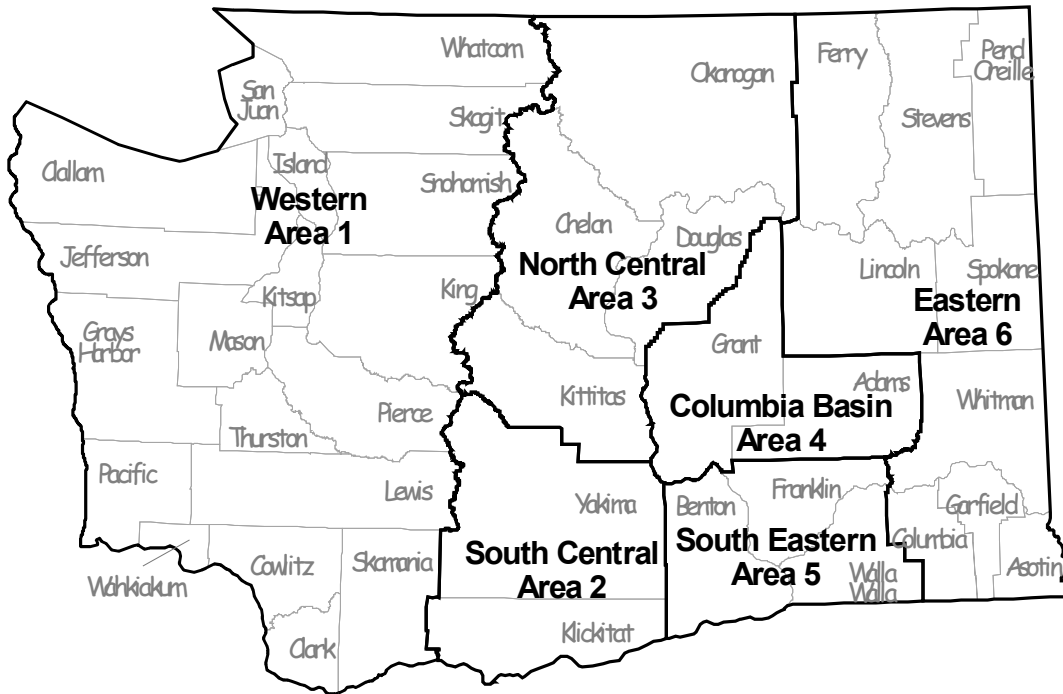
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch
Greg Weeks, Director
Washington State Employment Security Department

For More Information Contact: John Wines Telephone: (360) 438-4843
E-mail: jwines@esd.wa.gov or call the Labor Market
Information Center toll free: 1-800-215-1617

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

JUNE 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

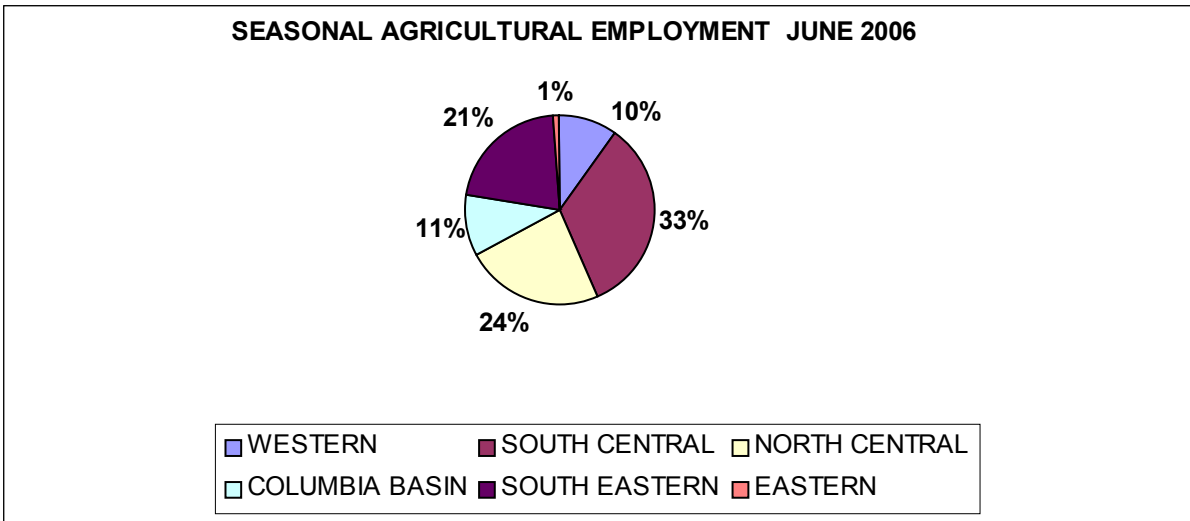
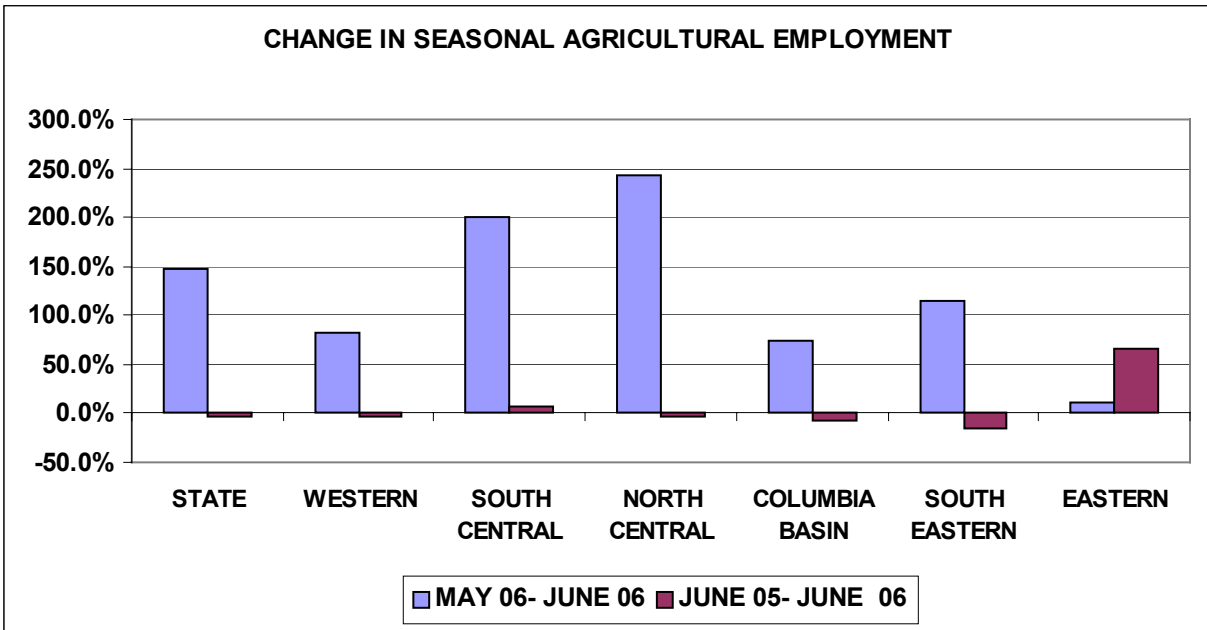
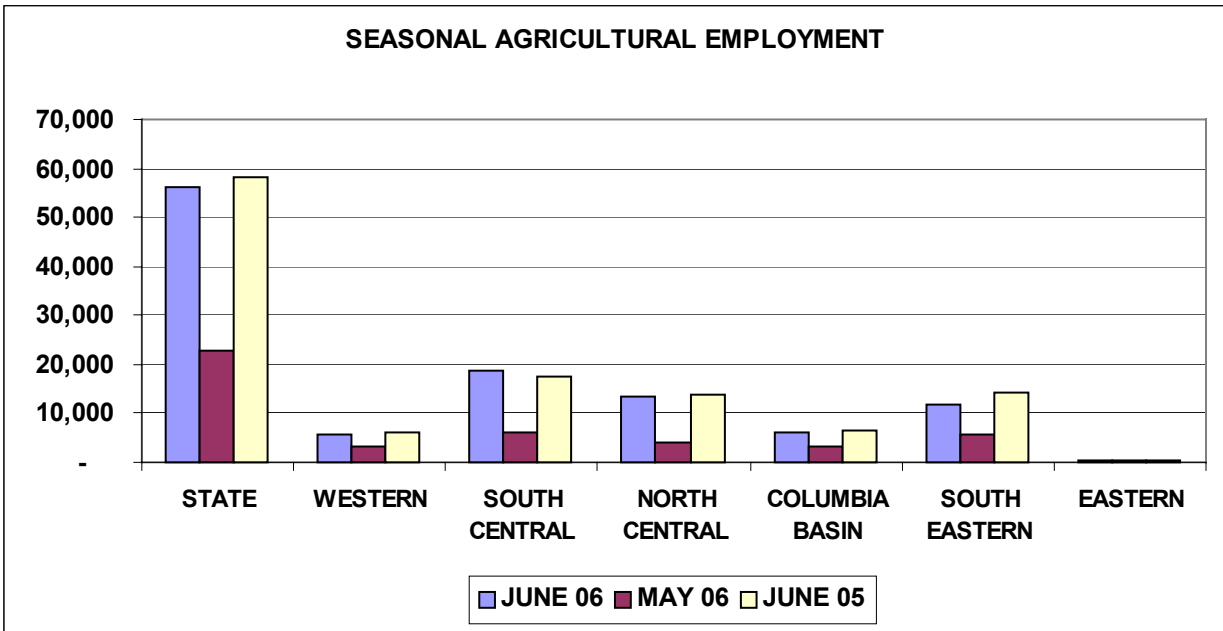
Statewide seasonal agricultural employment declined by 3.4% from June 2005 to June 2006. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year losses were cherry work (-5,090), other seasonal work (-958), strawberry work (-525), blueberry work (-175), pear work (-117), onion work (-105), nursery work (-99) and cucumber work (-74). Activities displaying gains were apple work (3,288), asparagus work (522), other tree fruit work (422), potato work (395), grapes work (193), miscellaneous vegetables work (96), wheat/grain work (67) raspberry work (64), hops work (56) and bulb work (23). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment decreased by 3.9% due to a decline in strawberry work (-343). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment grew by 6.3%, thanks to a bump in apple work (2,879). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment slipped by 3.5%, caused by a loss in cherry work (-1,395). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment contracted by 7.5% because of a slide in apple work (-1,697). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment fell back by 15.1%, courtesy of a decrease in cherry work (-2,948). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment ramped up by 66.7% driven by an increase in wheat/grain work (95).

ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

The Washington asparagus industry suffered through a difficult season. Extreme temperatures and more competition with a late California crop made this year's harvest one of the toughest in recent history, said Alan Schreiber, executive director of the Washington Asparagus Commission. Prices were high early in the season in late April at \$40 per 28-pound box. But cool weather slowed how much growers could harvest to meet demand. Then the weather turned unseasonably hot in May, which increased supply. "We went from having too little supply to meet demand to having too much," Schreiber said. At the same time, a large amount of California asparagus entered the market because of late weather conditions there. Additionally, Washington had to contend with more fresh asparagus after last year's closure of Seneca Foods' cannery plant in Dayton. About 90 percent of the state's crop were sold as fresh, compared with 60 percent a year earlier. The combination of problems caused prices to drop to as low as \$10 per 28-pound box.

The federal government plans to phase out a common pesticide that has been used on apples, pears and other crops since the late 1950s, acting amid complaints from environmental groups that the chemical poisons farmworkers. The Environmental Protection Agency announced that it would end the use of azinphosmethyl, also known as AZM and known by the trade name Guthion, beginning next year in nuts, nursery stocks and Brussels sprouts. The pesticide would be banned on apples, blueberries, cherries, pears and parsley in 2010. According to Erik Nicholson, of the United Farm Workers of America, "This pesticide has put thousands of workers at risk of serious illness every year." However, Kirk Mayer, manager of the Washington Growers Clearing House Association in Wenatchee, has said two years of state blood testing program largely showed applicators use pesticides properly and the state agency running the program, the Department of Labor and Industries, said no applicators were ill.

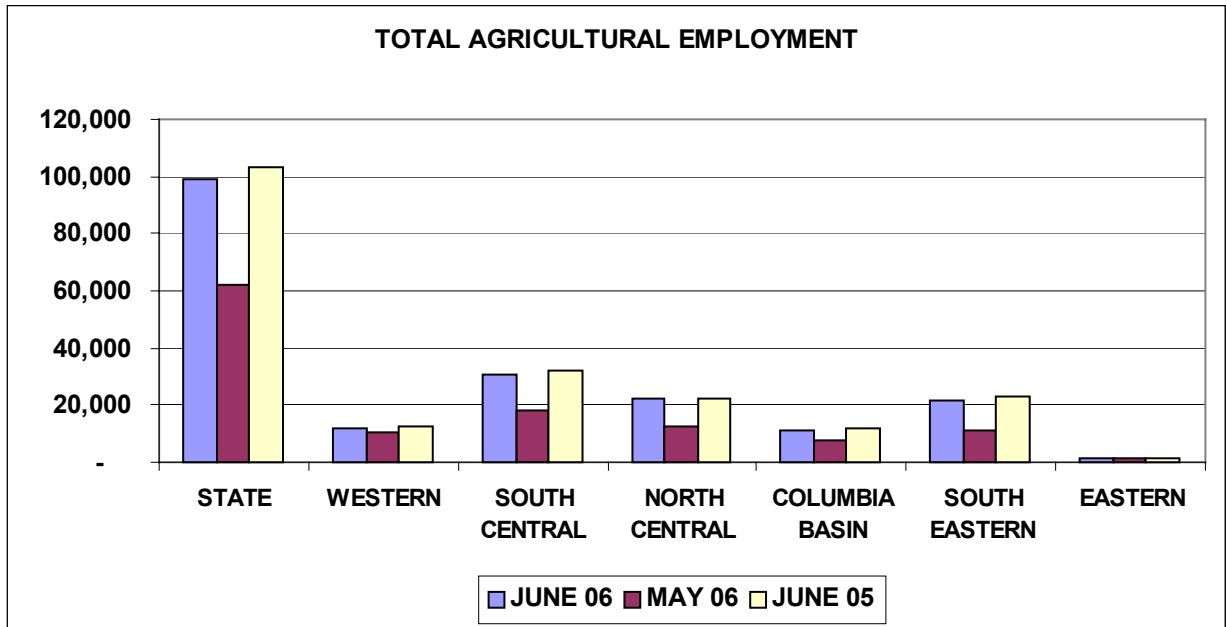
| SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | <u>JUNE 06</u> | <u>MAY 06</u> | <u>JUNE 05</u> | CHANGE | | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| | | | | <u>MAY 06- JUNE 06</u> | <u>JUNE 05- JUNE 06</u> | <u>MAY 06- JUNE 06</u> | <u>JUNE 05- JUNE 06</u> |
| STATE | 56,168 | 22,774 | 58,137 | 33,394 | (1,969) | 146.6% | -3.4% |
| WESTERN | 5,720 | 3,136 | 5,955 | 2,584 | (235) | 82.4% | -3.9% |
| SOUTH CENTRAL | 18,679 | 6,217 | 17,564 | 12,462 | 1,115 | 200.5% | 6.3% |
| NORTH CENTRAL | 13,264 | 3,872 | 13,739 | 9,392 | (475) | 242.6% | -3.5% |
| COLUMBIA BASIN | 5,941 | 3,429 | 6,422 | 2,512 | (481) | 73.3% | -7.5% |
| SOUTH EASTERN | 11,984 | 5,596 | 14,109 | 6,388 | (2,125) | 114.2% | -15.1% |
| EASTERN | 580 | 524 | 348 | 56 | 232 | 10.7% | 66.7% |



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment declined by 3.5% from June 2005 to June 2006. However over-the-month total employment from May 2006 to June 2006, ramped up by 60.6% due to the start of cherry harvest and the normal seasonal increase in apple thinning. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment fell by 6.1%. South Central (Area 2) total employment slipped by 2.5%. North Central (Area 3) total employment slid by 0.7%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment decreased by 6.0%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment fell by 4.8%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment softened by 3.5%.

| | TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | JUNE 06 | MAY 06 | JUNE 05 | CHANGE | | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| | | | | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 |
| STATE | 99,373 | 61,885 | 102,988 | 37,488 | (3,615) | 60.6% | -3.5% |
| WESTERN | 11,821 | 10,404 | 12,589 | 1,417 | (768) | 13.6% | -6.1% |
| SOUTH CENTRAL | 31,025 | 18,150 | 31,829 | 12,875 | (804) | 70.9% | -2.5% |
| NORTH CENTRAL | 22,000 | 12,640 | 22,165 | 9,360 | (165) | 74.1% | -0.7% |
| COLUMBIA BASIN | 11,401 | 8,001 | 12,127 | 3,400 | (726) | 42.5% | -6.0% |
| SOUTH EASTERN | 21,853 | 11,330 | 22,959 | 10,523 | (1,106) | 92.9% | -4.8% |
| EASTERN | 1,273 | 1,360 | 1,319 | (87) | (46) | -6.4% | -3.5% |



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment decreased by 3.4% from June 2005 to June 2006. However seasonal employment grew by 146.6% statewide from May 2006 to June 2006, due to the seasonal bump in apple thinning. The crop activity adding the most jobs from June 2005 to June 2006 was apple work (3,288). Cherry work lost the largest number of jobs (-5,090) for that same time period. Cherry work gained the largest amount of employment (16,915) from May 2006 to June 2006. Hops work displayed the largest downturn in employment (-738) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2006 was \$7.86 per hour.

| STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT** | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| STATE | CHANGE | | | PERCENT CHANGE | | | |
| | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 | MAY 06- JUNE 05 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 |
| CROP | JUNE 06 | MAY 06 | JUNE 05 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 |
| Apples | 21,186 | 8,563 | 17,898 | 12,623 | 3,288 | 147.4% | 18.4% |
| Asparagus | 5,374 | 4,513 | 4,852 | 861 | 522 | 19.1% | 10.8% |
| Blueberry | 64 | 55 | 239 | 9 | (175) | 16.4% | -73.2% |
| Bulb | 53 | 321 | 30 | (268) | 23 | -83.5% | 76.7% |
| Cherries | 17,573 | 658 | 22,663 | 16,915 | (5,090) | 2570.7% | -22.5% |
| Cucumber | 24 | 43 | 98 | (19) | (74) | -44.2% | -75.5% |
| Grapes | 1,697 | 1,590 | 1,504 | 107 | 193 | 6.7% | 12.8% |
| Hops | 242 | 980 | 186 | (738) | 56 | -75.3% | 30.1% |
| Misc Vegetables | 985 | 527 | 889 | 458 | 96 | 86.9% | 10.8% |
| Nursery | 2,093 | 2,150 | 2,192 | (57) | (99) | -2.7% | -4.5% |
| Onion | 663 | 346 | 768 | 317 | (105) | 91.6% | -13.7% |
| Other Seasonal | 1,264 | 1,257 | 2,222 | 7 | (958) | 0.6% | -43.1% |
| Other Tree Fruit | 735 | 335 | 313 | 400 | 422 | 119.4% | 134.8% |
| Pears | 283 | 180 | 400 | 103 | (117) | 57.2% | -29.3% |
| Potato | 832 | 896 | 437 | (64) | 395 | -7.1% | 90.4% |
| Raspberry | 294 | 437 | 230 | (143) | 64 | -32.7% | 27.8% |
| Strawberry | 2,555 | 0 | 3,080 | 2,555 | (525) | NA | -17.0% |
| Wheat/Grain | 203 | 69 | 136 | 134 | 67 | 194.2% | 49.3% |

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment declined by 3.9% from June 2005 to June 2006. However, seasonal employment grew by 82.4% from May 2006 to June 2006. Miscellaneous vegetables work expanded by the largest number of jobs (271) from June 2005 to June 2006. Strawberry work displayed the largest over-the-month loss in employment (-343) for that same time period. However strawberry work added the largest number of jobs (2,555) from May 2006 to June 2006. Bulb work displayed the largest loss in employment (-268) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2006 in Area 1 was \$7.94 per hour. (See pages 15 -17 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

| WESTERN | | | | CHANGE | | PERCENT CHANGE | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | | MAY 06- | JUNE 05- | MAY 06- | JUNE 05- |
| | <u>JUNE 06</u> | <u>MAY 06</u> | <u>JUNE 05</u> | <u>JUNE 06</u> | <u>JUNE 06</u> | <u>JUNE 06</u> | <u>JUNE 06</u> |
| CROP | | | | | | | |
| Blueberry | 64 | 55 | 239 | 9 | (175) | 16.4% | -73.2% |
| Bulb | 53 | 321 | 30 | (268) | 23 | -83.5% | 76.7% |
| Cucumber | 24 | 43 | 98 | (19) | (74) | -44.2% | -75.5% |
| Misc Vegetables | 541 | 128 | 270 | 413 | 271 | 322.7% | 100.4% |
| Nursery | 1678 | 1,833 | 1,728 | (155) | (50) | -8.5% | -2.9% |
| Other Seasonal | 182 | 82 | 292 | 100 | (110) | 122.0% | -37.7% |
| Potato | 303 | 268 | 106 | 35 | 197 | 13.1% | 185.8% |
| Raspberry | 294 | 437 | 230 | (143) | 64 | -32.7% | 27.8% |
| Rhubarb | 12 | 104 | 64 | (92) | (52) | -88.5% | -81.3% |
| Strawberry | 2555 | 0 | 2,898 | 2,555 | (343) | NA | -11.8% |

South Central (Area 2) seasonal moved forward by 6.3% from June 2005 to June 2006. Seasonal employment expanded by 200.5% from May 2006 to June 2006, due to the large influx of workers for cherry harvest. Apple work posted the largest gain in employment (2,879) from June 2005 to June 2006. Cherry work lost the greatest amount of employment (-1,274) for that same time period. However cherry work registered the largest over-the-month gain in employment (6,730) from May 2006 to June 2006. Hops work showed the greatest job loss (-304) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2006 in Area 2 was \$7.71 per hour. (See pages 18 -20 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

| SOUTH CENTRAL | | | | CHANGE | | PERCENT CHANGE | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | | MAY 06- | JUNE 05- | MAY 06- | JUNE 05- |
| | <u>JUNE 06</u> | <u>MAY 06</u> | <u>JUNE 05</u> | <u>JUNE 06</u> | <u>JUNE 06</u> | <u>JUNE 06</u> | <u>JUNE 06</u> |
| CROP | | | | | | | |
| Apples | 8,052 | 2,004 | 5,173 | 6,048 | 2,879 | 301.8% | 55.7% |
| Asparagus | 1,707 | 1,990 | 1,734 | (283) | (27) | -14.2% | -1.6% |
| Cherries | 7,127 | 397 | 8,401 | 6,730 | (1,274) | 1695.2% | -15.2% |
| Grapes | 609 | 859 | 907 | (250) | (298) | -29.1% | -32.9% |
| Hops | 142 | 446 | 112 | (304) | 30 | -68.2% | 26.8% |
| Misc Vegetables | 172 | 123 | 250 | 49 | (78) | 39.8% | -31.2% |
| Onion | 193 | 0 | 211 | 193 | (18) | NA | -8.5% |
| Other Seasonal | 484 | 383 | 472 | 101 | 12 | 26.4% | 2.5% |
| Other Tree Fruit | 26 | 0 | 94 | 26 | (68) | NA | -72.3% |
| Pears | 166 | 12 | 210 | 154 | (44) | 1283.3% | -21.0% |

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment fell by 3.5% from June 2005 to June 2006. However, seasonal employment expanded by 242.6% from May 2006 to June

2006 due to cherry harvest. Apple work advanced by the largest increase in employment (1,105) from June 2005 to June 2006. Cherry work displayed the greatest drop in employment (-1,395) for that same time period. However cherry work was the largest gainer in employment (7,022) due to harvest from May 2006 to June 2006. Pear work lost the largest number of jobs (-81) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2006 in Area 3 was \$8.00 per hour. (See pages 21 - 22 for Area 3 detail)

| AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NORTH CENTRAL | | | | CHANGE | | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| CROP | JUNE 06 | MAY 06 | JUNE 05 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 |
| Apples | 5,874 | 3,491 | 4,769 | 2,383 | 1,105 | 68.3% | 23.2% |
| Cherries | 7,151 | 129 | 8,546 | 7,022 | (1,395) | 5443.4% | -16.3% |
| Other Seasonal | 71 | 22 | 228 | 49 | (157) | 222.7% | -68.9% |
| Other Tree Fruit | 84 | 63 | 90 | 21 | (6) | 33.3% | -6.7% |
| Pears | 87 | 168 | 106 | (81) | (19) | -48.2% | -17.9% |

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment stepped back by 7.5% from June 2005 to June 2006. This decrease was superceded by a 73.3% bump in employment from May 2006 to June 2006, thanks to the start of cherry harvest. Cherry work displayed the largest increase in employment (527) from June 2005 to June 2006. Apple work shed the largest number of jobs (-1,697) during that same time period. Cherry work recorded the greatest over-the-month gain in employment (1,778) from May 2006 to June 2006. Other seasonal work lost the largest number of jobs (-154) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2006 in Area 4 was \$7.73 per hour. (See pages 23 - 25 for Area 4 detail)

| AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| COLUMBIA BASIN | | | | CHANGE | | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| CROP | JUNE 06 | MAY 06 | JUNE 05 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 |
| Apples | 2,228 | 1,646 | 3,925 | 582 | (1,697) | 35.4% | -43.2% |
| Asparagus | 543 | 569 | 207 | (26) | 336 | -4.6% | 162.3% |
| Cherries | 1,859 | 81 | 1,332 | 1,778 | 527 | 2195.1% | 39.6% |
| Mint | 29 | 25 | 0 | 4 | 29 | 16.0% | NA |
| Misc Vegetables | 44 | 16 | 51 | 28 | (7) | 175.0% | -13.7% |
| Nursery | 214 | 30 | 284 | 184 | (70) | 613.3% | -24.6% |
| Onion | 185 | 103 | 90 | 82 | 95 | 79.6% | 105.6% |
| Other Seasonal | 77 | 231 | 381 | (154) | (304) | -66.7% | -79.8% |
| Other Tree Fruit | 220 | 154 | 4 | 66 | 216 | 42.9% | 5400.0% |
| Pears | 30 | 0 | 84 | 0 | (54) | NA | -64.3% |
| Potato | 510 | 578 | 43 | (68) | 467 | -11.8% | 1086.0% |
| Wheat | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 | (21) | NA | -100.0% |

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment softened by 15.1% from June 2005 to June 2006. However, seasonal employment expanded by 114.2% due to the seasonal increase in apple thinning from May 2006 to June 2006. Apple work moved ahead by the greatest amount of employment (1,001) from June 2005 to June 2006. Cherry work lost the largest number of jobs (-2,948) during that same time period. Apple work was grew by the most employment (3,610) from May 2006 to June 2006. Hops work experienced the largest over-the-month job loss (-434) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2006 in Area 5 was \$7.76 per hour. (See pages 26 - 28 for Area 5 detail)

| AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SOUTH EASTERN | | | | CHANGE | | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| CROP | JUNE 06 | MAY 06 | JUNE 05 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 |
| Apples | 5,032 | 1,422 | 4,031 | 3,610 | 1,001 | 253.9% | 24.8% |
| Asparagus | 3,124 | 1,954 | 2,911 | 1,170 | 213 | 59.9% | 7.3% |
| Cherries | 1,436 | 51 | 4,384 | 1,385 | (2,948) | 2715.7% | -67.2% |
| Grapes | 1,088 | 731 | 597 | 357 | 491 | 48.8% | 82.2% |
| Hops | 100 | 534 | 74 | (434) | 26 | -81.3% | 35.1% |
| Misc Vegetables | 216 | 156 | 254 | 60 | (38) | 38.5% | -15.0% |
| Nursery | 25 | 19 | 73 | 6 | (48) | 31.6% | -65.8% |
| Onion | 285 | 243 | 467 | 42 | (182) | 17.3% | -39.0% |
| Other Seasonal | 189 | 297 | 689 | (108) | (500) | -36.4% | -72.6% |
| Other Tree Fruit | 405 | 118 | 125 | 287 | 280 | 243.2% | 224.0% |
| Potatoes | 19 | 50 | 288 | (31) | (269) | -62.0% | -93.4% |
| Strawberry | 0 | 0 | 182 | 0 | (182) | NA | -100.0% |
| Wheat/Grain | 27 | 22 | 34 | 5 | (7) | 22.7% | -20.6% |

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment moved forward by 66.7% from June 2005 to June 2006. Seasonal employment increased by 10.7% from May 2006 to June 2006. Wheat/grain work expanded by the greatest amount of employment (95) from June 2005 to June 2006. No seasonal crop work declined in employment, but nursery work experienced the smallest gain (69) for that same time period. Wheat/grain work added the most jobs (129) from May 2006 to June 2006. Nursery work declined by the largest amount of employment (-92) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for June 2006 in Area 6 was \$8.92 per hour. (See pages 29 and 30 for Area 6 detail)

| AREA 6 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| EASTERN | | | | CHANGE | | PERCENT CHANGE | |
| CROP | JUNE 06 | MAY 06 | JUNE 05 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 | MAY 06- JUNE 06 | JUNE 05- JUNE 06 |
| Nursery | 176 | 268 | 107 | (92) | 69 | -34.33% | 64.49% |
| Other Seasonal | 232 | 217 | 160 | 15 | 72 | 6.91% | 45.00% |
| Wheat/Grain | 176 | 47 | 81 | 129 | 95 | 274.47% | 117.28% |

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

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 JUNE 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: 5,720 (3,438 local, 250 intrastate, 851 interstate, 11 foreign, 1,170 unknown origin)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Strawberry Harvester | 2,109 | \$ 7.65/hr |
| Nursery Harvester | 514 | \$ 7.63/hr |
| Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer | 375 | \$ 7.63/hr |
| Misc Vegetables Planter | 297 | \$ 8.28/hr |

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 18,679 (9,773 local, 264 intrastate, 245 interstate, 3,104 foreign, 5,293 unknown origin)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Apple Hand Thinner | 5,548 | \$ 7.77/hr or \$ 0.20 - \$ 3.50 per tree |
| Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer | 4,002 | \$ 7.63/hr |
| Cherry Harvester | 3,010 | \$ 7.63/hr or \$52.00 - \$60.00 per bin |
| Apple Pruner | 1,722 | \$ 7.63/hr |

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 13,264 (7,038 local, 84 intrastate, 302 interstate, 839 foreign, 5,001 unknown origin)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Apple Hand Thinner | 5,585 | \$ 7.78/hr or \$ 0.15 - \$ 3.50 per tree |
| Cherry Harvester | 4,309 | \$ 8.01/hr or \$ 2.00 - \$ 5.00 per lug |
| Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer | 2,745 | \$ 8.20/hr |
| Apple Trainer | 154 | \$ 7.64/hr |

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,941 (3,769 local, 169 intrastate, 81 interstate, 519 foreign, 1,403 unknown origin)

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--|
| Apple Hand Thinner | 1,936 | \$ 7.69/hr or \$ 0.25 - \$ 2.45 per tree |
| Cherry Harvester | 1,812 | \$ 7.69/hr or \$ 4.50 - \$ 5.00 per lug |
| Asparagus Harvester | 532 | \$ 7.63/hr or \$ 0.20¼ - \$ 0.23 per pound |
| Potato Worker | 340 | \$ 8.08/hr |

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 11,984 (7,366 local, 64 intrastate, 748 interstate, 535 foreign, 3,271 unknown origin)

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---|
| Apple Hand Thinner | 4,817 | \$ 7.67/hr or \$ 0.30 - \$ 9.00 per tree |
| Asparagus Harvester | 1,945 | \$ 7.63/hr or \$ 0.14 - \$ 0.26 per pound |
| Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Packer | 1,137 | \$ 7.63/hr |
| Cherry Harvester | 1,124 | \$ 7.64/hr or \$ 3.50 - \$ 5.00 per lug |

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 580 (479 local, 28 intrastate, 0 interstate, 6 foreign, 67 unknown origin)

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|------------|
| Wheat Weeder | 104 | \$ 8.25/hr |
| Nursery Weeder | 79 | \$ 8.51/hr |
| Grass Seed Worker | 70 | \$ 7.65/hr |
| Contract Misc Crop Preparation | 35 | \$10.00/hr |

Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas Harvest Periods

Washington State crop harvest timetables are listed below by agricultural areas. The dates may vary considerably due to weather or other conditions.

Note that the five area groupings in the following five timeline charts do not directly match with the six agricultural area groupings that are used in the Seasonal Farm Labor Survey data used in this report.

| Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Major Crops | Okanogan and Wenatchee Crop Areas | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| Apples | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cherries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pears | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Golden Delicious | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Red Delicious | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Major Crops | Bellingham and Mount Vernon Crop Areas | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| Flowers | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cucumbers | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broccoli | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cauliflower | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spinach | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blueberries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Raspberries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strawberries | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Major Crops | Tri-Cities and Walla Walla Crop Areas | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| Asparagus | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apples | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cherries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apricots | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peaches | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pears | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onions | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strawberries | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Major Crops | Bingen, Sunnyside and Yakima Areas | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| Asparagus | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apples | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cherries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peaches | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pears | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grapes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hops | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vegetables | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Washington State Agricultural Crop Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Major Crops | Moses Lake Crop Area | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| Asparagus | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apples | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cherries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peaches | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potatoes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

AGRICULTURAL LABOR SURVEY

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DETAIL BY CROP ACTIVITY

JUNE 2006

TABLE 1

JUNE 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 | 3,438 | 250 | 851 | 11 | 1,170 | 5,720 |
| 2. South Central | 9,774 | 264 | 245 | 3,104 | 5,293 | 18,679 |
| 3. North Central | 7,038 | 84 | 302 | 839 | 5,001 | 13,264 |
| 4. Columbia Basin | 3,769 | 169 | 81 | 519 | 1,403 | 5,941 |
| 5. South Eastern | 7,366 | 64 | 748 | 535 | 3,271 | 11,984 |
| 6. Eastern | 480 | 28 | 0 | 6 | 67 | 580 |
| State Totals | 31,865 | 859 | 2,226 | 5,013 | 16,205 | 56,168 |
| % State Total | 56.7% | 1.5% | 4.0% | 8.9% | 28.9% | 100% |

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 | 5,720 |
| a. Local | 3,438 |
| b. Intrastate migratory | 250 |
| c. Interstate migratory | 851 |
| d. Foreign | 11 |
| e. Unknown | 1,170 |
| 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers | |
| a. Intrastate: Aberdeen, Burlington, Elma, Mount Vernon, Shelton | |
| b. Interstate: California, Texas | |
| c. Foreign: Mexico | |

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The June 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,837.
 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. Very high temperatures helped with the drying of the hay crop but also caused problems, as growers were having difficulty keeping up with the irrigation requirements. Home gardeners were harvesting cherries, strawberries, and early blueberries in addition to early vegetables. The heat wave brought a quick end to the commercial strawberry harvest. Nursery harvesting and packing and miscellaneous vegetable planting activities continued.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation: The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$7.94 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.60 for strawberry sorter/grader/packer 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 60.0% local, 4.4% intrastate, 14.9% interstate, foreign 0.2% 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: JUNE 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 | 5,720 |
| | | * = piece rate |
| Strawberry Harvester | 2,109 | \$ 7.65 |
| Nursery Harvester | 514 | \$ 7.63 |
| Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer | 375 | \$ 7.63 |
| Misc Vegetables Planter | 297 | \$ 8.28 |
| Nursery Worker | 291 | \$ 8.53 |
| Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer | 259 | \$ 7.63 |
| Nursery Weeder | 235 | \$ 7.68 |
| Strawberry Sorter/Grader/Packer | 170 | \$ 7.60 |
| Nursery Planter | 162 | \$ 7.72 |
| Strawberry Worker | 142 | \$ 8.20 |
| Raspberry Harvester | 121 | \$ 7.63 |
| Raspberry Weeder | 109 | \$ 7.63 |
| Strawberry Vehicle Operator | 77 | \$ 8.95 |
| Misc Field Crops Harvester | 67 | \$ 8.73 |
| Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer | 65 | \$ 9.71 |
| Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer | 64 | \$ 8.00 |
| Apple Worker | 53 | \$ 7.63 |
| Misc Vegetables Worker | 53 | \$10.00 |
| Bulbs Harvester | 53 | \$ 7.63 |
| Nursery Irrigator | 48 | \$ 7.63 |
| Raspberry Pruner | 40 | \$ 7.63 |
| Strawberry Weeder | 33 | \$ 8.00 |
| Potato Tractor Operator | 32 | \$10.49 |
| Chicken Eggs Harvester | 26 | \$ 9.36 |
| Raspberry Trainer | 24 | \$ 7.63 |
| Pumpkin Planter | 24 | \$ 7.70 |
| Misc Squash Planter | 24 | \$ 7.70 |
| Cucumber Planter | 24 | \$ 7.70 |
| Nursery Chemical Applicator | 23 | \$ 7.63 |
| Nursery Vehicle Operator | 20 | \$11.25 |
| Strawberry Manager | 20 | \$10.85 |
| Cauliflower Weeder | 18 | \$ 8.00 |
| Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator | 18 | \$11.03 |
| Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer | 15 | \$ 7.63 |
| Misc Berries Worker | 12 | \$10.00 |
| Cauliflower Planter | 12 | \$ 8.25 |

Area 1 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 | * = piece rate |
| Misc Onion Harvester | 12 | \$ 7.70 |
| Pumpkin Weeder | 12 | \$ 7.63 |
| Rhubarb Harvester | 12 | \$ 7.70 |
| Nursery Preparation | 10 | \$ 7.70 |
| Chicken Eggs Worker | 9 | \$ 8.50 |
| Potato Vehicle Operator | 6 | \$ 9.75 |
| Beets Weeder | 6 | \$12.00 |
| General Farm Mechanic | 4 | \$ 9.00 |
| General Farm Worker | 4 | \$38.42 |
| Potato Mechanized Harvester | 4 | \$ 9.00 |
| Strawberry Forklift Driver | 4 | \$10.00 |
| Misc Under Cover Crop Sorter/Grader/Packer | 2 | \$ 8.00 |
| Potato Worker | 2 | \$ 8.13 |

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: JUNE 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 | 18,679 |
| a. Local | 9,773 |
| b. Intrastate migratory | 264 |
| c. Interstate migratory | 245 |
| d. Foreign | 3,104 |
| e. Unknown | 5,293 |
| 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers | |
| a. Intrastate: Bremerton, Mesa, Othello, Shelton, 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 June 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 14,168.
 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. Several producers reported hail damage to fruit crops earlier in the month. The first cutting of hay was being completed. Primary agricultural activities were apple thinning, cherry warehouse work, cherry harvest and apple pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$7.71 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for cherry sorter/grader/packer, cherry harvester, apple pruner, asparagus harvester, pear hand thinner, apple trainer, grapes weeder, nursery trainer, miscellaneous field crops weeder, hops weeder, mint weeder, miscellaneous field crops cultivator, nursery weeder, cherry pruner, miscellaneous field crops mechanic, grapes hand thinner, cherry trainer, raspberry trainer, raspberry weeder, mint irrigator, hops mechanic and miscellaneous hay mechanized harvester to \$11.50 for miscellaneous onion irrigator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.22 to \$3.50 per tree for apple thinning, \$52.00 to \$50.00 per bin for cherry harvesting and \$0.20 to \$0.22 per pound for asparagus harvesting. 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 52.4% local, 1.4% intrastate, 1.3% interstate, foreign 16.6% and unknown 28.3%.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 18,679 | * = piece rate |
| Apple Hand Thinner | 5,548 | \$ 7.77 or * \$ 0.20 - \$ 3.50 per tree |
| Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer | 4,002 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cherry Harvester | 3,010 | \$ 7.63 or * \$52.00 - \$60.00 per bin |
| Apple Pruner | 1,722 | \$ 7.63 |
| Asparagus Harvester | 1,091 | \$ 7.63 or * \$ 0.20 - \$ 0.22 per lb |
| Apple Worker | 637 | \$ 7.67 |
| Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Packer | 616 | \$ 7.75 |
| Grapes Trainer | 454 | \$ 7.64 |
| Misc Onion Weeder | 167 | \$ 7.75 |
| Pear Hand Thinner | 166 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cucumber Weeder | 160 | \$ 7.75 |
| Apple Trainer | 145 | \$ 7.63 |
| Nursery Planter | 96 | \$ 9.77 |
| Grapes Weeder | 83 | \$ 7.63 |
| Nursery Trainer | 70 | \$ 7.63 |
| Misc Field Crops Weeder | 56 | \$ 7.63 |
| Hops Weeder | 51 | \$ 7.63 |
| Mint Weeder | 48 | \$ 7.63 |
| Grapes Suckering Worker | 44 | \$ 7.98 |
| Cherry Tractor Operator | 43 | \$ 9.08 |
| Hops Trainer | 39 | \$ 7.88 |
| Misc Field Crops Irrigator | 38 | \$ 7.63 |
| Hops Cultivator | 30 | \$ 8.07 |
| Cherry Worker | 29 | \$ 8.26 |
| Misc Fruit Trees Pruner | 26 | \$ 7.63 |
| Misc Field Crops Cultivator | 26 | \$ 8.02 |
| Nursery Weeder | 22 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cherry Pruner | 22 | \$ 7.63 |
| Alfalfa Irrigator | 22 | \$ 7.98 |
| Misc Field Crops Mechanic | 21 | \$ 7.63 |
| Grapes Hand Thinner | 16 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cherry Trainer | 14 | \$ 7.63 |
| Wheat Irrigator | 13 | \$ 7.65 |
| Misc Onion Tractor Operator | 13 | \$ 8.50 |
| Misc Onion Irrigator | 13 | \$11.50 |
| Field Corn Cultivator | 13 | \$ 7.68 |

Area 2 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 |
| Raspberry Trainer | 13 | \$ 7.63 |
| Raspberry Weeder | 13 | \$ 7.63 |
| Grapes Chemical Applicator | 12 | \$ 8.50 |
| Mint Irrigator | 9 | \$ 7.63 |
| Hops Irrigator | 9 | \$ 8.50 |
| Hops Mechanic | 9 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cherry Preparation | 7 | \$10.00 |
| Misc Peppers Irrigator | 6 | \$ 9.00 |
| Cucumber Irrigator | 6 | \$ 9.00 |
| Nursery Worker | 4 | \$10.00 |
| Silage Worker | 4 | \$ 8.00 |
| Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester | 4 | \$ 7.63 |
| Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester | 4 | \$ 8.00 |
| Field Corn Irrigator | 4 | \$ 7.69 |
| Hops Chemical Applicator | 4 | \$ 8.50 |
| Mint Chemical Applicator | 4 | \$ 7.70 |

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.71/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 | 13,264 |
| | a. Local | 7,038 |
| | b. Intrastate migratory | 84 |
| | c. Interstate migratory | 302 |
| | d. Foreign | 839 |
| | e. Unknown | 5,001 |
| 2. | Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers | |
| | a. Intrastate: Chelan, Kent, Manson, Seattle, Wenatchee | |
| | b. Interstate: California, Montana, Oregon | |
| | c. Foreign: Mexico | |

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The June 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 10,680.
 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 getting underway and will increase rapidly. The peak harvest will be around July 4 and will continue until early August. Rain and hail storms occurred along the Columbia River causing damage to tree fruit. Some cherry growers reported a significant loss because they were close to harvest. In addition to fruit losses, some trees were damaged. Primary agricultural activities were apple thinning, cherry harvest and cherry warehouse work.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$8.00 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for miscellaneous fruit trees sorter/grader/packer, apple pruner and pear weeder to \$50.00 for contract aerial chemical applicator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.15 to \$3.50 per tree for apple thinning and \$2.00 to \$5.00 per lug for cherry harvesting. 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 53.1% local, 0.6% intrastate, 2.3% interstate, 6.3% foreign and 37.7% 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: JUNE 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 13,264 | * = piece rate |
| Apple Hand Thinner | 5,585 | \$ 7.78 or * \$ 0.15 - \$ 3.50 per tree |
| Cherry Harvester | 4,309 | \$ 8.01 or * \$ 2.00 - \$ 5.00 per lug |
| Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer | 2,745 | \$ 8.20 |
| Apple Trainer | 154 | \$ 7.64 |
| Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer | 73 | \$ 7.63 |
| Pear Hand Thinner | 64 | \$ 7.73 |
| Cherry Pruner | 64 | \$ 8.02 |
| Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer | 42 | \$ 8.35 |
| Apple Weeder | 32 | \$ 7.65 |
| Apple Pruner | 23 | \$ 7.63 |
| Misc Field Crops Worker | 18 | \$14.33 |
| Misc Hay Tractor Operator | 18 | \$ 8.50 |
| Cherry Planter | 18 | \$10.00 |
| Pear Weeder | 18 | \$ 7.63 |
| Apple Chemical Applicator | 14 | \$ 8.00 |
| Apple Preparation | 14 | \$ 7.75 |
| Cherry Forklift Driver | 10 | \$ 8.35 |
| Horse and Equines Trainer | 6 | \$15.00 |
| Horse and Equines Manager | 6 | \$25.00 |
| Misc Fruit Trees Vehicle Operator | 6 | \$10.00 |
| Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator | 6 | \$12.00 |
| Wheat Tractor Operator | 6 | \$10.00 |
| Horse and Equines Worker | 6 | \$13.00 |
| Apple Irrigator | 5 | \$ 8.00 |
| Apricot Irrigator | 5 | \$10.00 |
| Apple Worker | 5 | \$ 8.00 |
| Cherry Irrigator | 5 | \$10.00 |
| Pear Irrigator | 5 | \$ 8.00 |
| Contract Aerial Chemical Applicator | 3 | \$50.00 |
| Contract Misc Crop Mechanic | 2 | \$20.00 |

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 8.00/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 | 5,941 |
| a. Local | 3,769 |
| b. Intrastate migratory | 169 |
| c. Interstate migratory | 81 |
| d. Foreign | 519 |
| e. Unknown | 1,403 |
| 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers | |
| a. Intrastate: Sunnyside, Yakima | |
| b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas | |
| c. Foreign: Mexico | |

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The June 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,890.

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

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Warmer weather allowed hay producers to finish up the first cutting of alfalfa and timothy hay. There were reports of damage to the cherry crop in the southern portion of Grant County due to rain storms. Most other crops were doing well. Primary agricultural activities were apple thinning, and cherry harvesting.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$7.73 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for asparagus harvester, nursery trainer, peach hand thinner, nursery weeder, miscellaneous fruit trees suckering worker, apple trainer, cherry worker, pear trainer, sweet corn weeder, asparagus loader, potato weeder, mint cultivator, miscellaneous fruit trees planter, potato vehicle operator, apple irrigator, miscellaneous fruit trees trainer and miscellaneous fruit trees tractor operator to \$11.00 for potato tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.25 to \$2.45 per tree for apple thinning, \$4.50 to \$5.00 per lug for cherry harvesting and \$0.20¼ to \$0.23 per pound for asparagus harvesting. 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 63.5% local, 2.8% intrastate, 1.4% interstate 8.7% foreign and 23.6% 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: JUNE 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 Hand Thinner | 1,936 | \$ 7.69 or * \$ 0.25 - \$ 2.45 per tree |
| Cherry Harvester | 1,812 | \$ 7.69 or * \$ 4.50 - \$ 5.00 per lug |
| Asparagus Harvester | 532 | \$ 7.63 or * \$ 0.20¼ - \$ 0.23 per lb |
| Potato Worker | 340 | \$ 8.08 |
| Misc Onion Weeder | 171 | \$ 7.92 |
| Nursery Trainer | 149 | \$ 7.63 |
| Peach Hand Thinner | 128 | \$ 7.63 |
| Potato Preparation | 88 | \$ 7.65 |
| Apple Pruner | 71 | \$ 7.75 |
| Nursery Weeder | 64 | \$ 7.63 |
| Apple Preparation | 60 | \$ 7.72 |
| Misc Fruit Trees Suckering Worker | 45 | \$ 7.63 |
| Apple Worker | 43 | \$ 7.81 |
| Apple Trainer | 36 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cherry Worker | 36 | \$ 7.63 |
| Alfalfa Tractor Operator | 35 | \$ 8.70 |
| Misc Fruit Trees Worker | 33 | \$ 7.63 |
| Pear Trainer | 30 | \$ 7.63 |
| Apple Weeder | 27 | \$ 8.25 |
| Potato Mechanic | 24 | \$ 8.83 |
| Misc Melon Weeder | 22 | \$ 7.75 |
| Sweet Corn Weeder | 22 | \$ 7.63 |
| Alfalfa Vehicle Operator | 21 | \$ 8.50 |
| Apple Chemical Applicator | 21 | \$ 8.15 |
| Apple Grafter | 18 | \$ 8.00 |
| Mint Irrigator | 18 | \$ 8.21 |
| Potato Forklift Driver | 16 | \$ 8.12 |
| Misc Onion Preparation | 14 | \$ 7.65 |
| Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester | 13 | \$10.50 |
| Asparagus Loader | 11 | \$ 7.63 |
| Potato Weeder | 11 | \$ 7.63 |
| Potato Manager | 11 | \$13.75 |
| Mint Cultivator | 11 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cherry Preparation | 8 | \$ 7.65 |
| Misc Fruit Trees Planter | 8 | \$ 7.63 |
| Apple Tractor Operator | 8 | \$ 8.25 |

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 |
| Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator | 8 | \$10.75 |
| Potato Tractor Operator | 7 | \$11.00 |
| Potato Vehicle Operator | 5 | \$ 7.63 |
| Potato Cultivator | 5 | \$ 9.50 |
| Apple Irrigator | 5 | \$ 7.63 |
| Misc Fruit Trees Trainer | 4 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cherry Tractor Operator | 3 | \$ 9.00 |
| Potato Irrigator | 3 | \$11.00 |
| Apple Manager | 3 | \$10.75 |
| Misc Fruit Trees Tractor Operator | 2 | \$ 7.63 |
| Nursery Mechanic | 1 | \$ 8.00 |

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.73/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 | 11,984 |
| a. Local | 7,366 |
| b. Intrastate migratory | 64 |
| c. Interstate migratory | 748 |
| d. Foreign | 535 |
| e. Unknown | 3,271 |
| 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers | |
| a. Intrastate: Shelton, Wenatchee | |
| b. Interstate: Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas | |
| c. Foreign: Mexico | |

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The June 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 11,287.

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

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. The second cutting of alfalfa was being completed. Cherry harvest continued with many calls from producers about crop damage on cherries. Some growers in Benton County reported a 25 to 75 percent loss which is the majority of the cherry crop in the county. The grass hay cutting harvest continued. Primary agricultural activities were apple thinning, asparagus harvest and warehouse work and cherry harvest.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$7.76 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for asparagus harvester, asparagus sorter/grader/packer, grapes pruner, pumpkin weeder, hops trainer, cherry suckering worker, pumpkin planter, cherry preparation, carrot weeder, apple trainer, blueberry sorter/grader/packer, apple pruner, blueberry weeder, wheat irrigator, carrot irrigator, hops weeder, potato irrigator, grapes worker and pear chemical applicator to \$14.50 for grass seed worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.30 to \$9.00 per tree for apple thinning, \$0.14 to \$0.26 per pound for asparagus harvesting and \$3.50 to \$5.00 per lug for cherry harvesting. 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 61.5% local, 0.5% intrastate, 6.2% interstate, 4.5% foreign and 27.3% 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: JUNE 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 11,984 | * = piece rate |
| Apple Hand Thinner | 4,817 | \$ 7.67 or * \$ 0.30 - \$ 9.00 per tree |
| Asparagus Harvester | 1,945 | \$ 7.63 or * \$ 0.14 - \$ 0.26 per lb |
| Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Packer | 1,137 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cherry Harvester | 1,124 | \$ 7.64 or * \$ 3.50 - \$ 5.00 per lug |
| Misc Fruit Trees Worker | 377 | \$ 9.00 |
| Grapes Trainer | 322 | \$ 7.81 |
| Grapes Suckering Worker | 284 | \$ 8.12 |
| Grapes Hand Thinner | 273 | \$ 7.80 |
| Grapes Pruner | 156 | \$ 7.63 |
| Apple Worker | 142 | \$ 8.03 |
| Cherry Hand Thinner | 138 | \$ 7.68 |
| Walla Walla Sweets Weeder | 131 | \$ 7.65 |
| Walla Walla Sweets Harvester | 95 | \$13.50 |
| Pumpkin Weeder | 89 | \$ 7.63 |
| Hops Trainer | 89 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cherry Worker | 60 | \$ 7.83 |
| Blueberry Harvester | 49 | Not Available |
| Cherry Suckering Worker | 49 | \$ 7.63 |
| General Farm Worker | 44 | \$ 8.70 |
| Walla Walla Sweets Irrigator | 44 | \$ 8.50 |
| Pumpkin Planter | 41 | \$ 7.63 |
| Potato Harvester | 39 | \$ 8.00 |
| Asparagus Loader | 37 | \$ 8.00 |
| Carrot Harvester | 36 | \$ 8.40 |
| Cherry Preparation | 33 | \$ 7.63 |
| Carrot Weeder | 30 | \$ 7.63 |
| Grapes Planter | 28 | \$ 8.13 |
| Apple Trainer | 28 | \$ 7.63 |
| Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer | 25 | \$ 7.63 |
| Cherry Tractor Operator | 25 | \$ 7.87 |
| Apple Pruner | 22 | \$ 7.63 |
| Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester | 21 | \$ 9.64 |
| Grapes Tractor Operator | 17 | \$ 8.50 |
| Nectarine Hand Thinner | 17 | Not Available |
| Apple Chemical Applicator | 16 | \$10.26 |
| Blueberry Weeder | 16 | \$ 7.63 |

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 |
| Wheat Irrigator | 15 | \$ 7.63 |
| Nursery Vehicle Operator | 15 | \$12.00 |
| Walla Walla Sweets Vehicle Operator | 15 | \$11.00 |
| Carrot Irrigator | 14 | \$ 7.63 |
| Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer | 12 | \$ 8.11 |
| Hops Weeder | 11 | \$ 7.63 |
| Potato Irrigator | 11 | \$ 7.63 |
| Wheat Worker | 9 | \$ 8.67 |
| Grapes Worker | 8 | \$ 7.63 |
| Nursery Mechanized Harvester | 7 | \$11.00 |
| Potato Preparation | 6 | \$10.00 |
| Peas Worker | 6 | \$ 9.00 |
| Alfalfa Irrigator | 6 | \$ 8.07 |
| Grass Seed Worker | 6 | \$14.50 |
| Field Corn Preparation | 4 | \$10.00 |
| Apple Tractor Operator | 4 | \$ 7.70 |
| Pear Chemical Applicator | 4 | \$ 7.63 |
| Misc Fruit Trees Tractor Operator | 4 | \$10.00 |
| Cherry Chemical Applicator | 4 | \$ 7.75 |
| Alfalfa Vehicle Operator | 3 | \$11.50 |
| Asparagus Manager | 3 | Not Available |
| Apple Manager | 3 | \$ 9.00 |
| Wheat Weeder | 3 | \$12.00 |
| Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator | 3 | \$ 8.25 |
| Cherry Trainer | 3 | \$ 8.00 |
| Misc Other Fruit Worker | 3 | \$ 8.25 |
| Nursery Pruner | 3 | \$ 8.00 |
| Potato Vehicle Operator | 2 | \$10.00 |
| Asparagus Worker | 2 | \$12.00 |

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: JUNE 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 | 580 |
| a. Local | 479 |
| b. Intrastate migratory | 28 |
| c. Interstate migratory | 0 |
| d. Unknown | 6 |
| e. Foreign | 67 |
| 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers | |
| a. Intrastate: Sunnyside | |
| b. Interstate: Oregon | |
| c. Foreign: Russia | |

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The June 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 956.
 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. Continued hot weather was deteriorating the winter wheat and spring crops. Hay cutting was in full swing, and grass hay was tall with adequate leaf. Primary agricultural activities were wheat weeding, nursery harvest and grass seed weeding.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in June averaged \$8.92 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.65 for apple hand thinner, nursery irrigator and nursery planter to \$12.50 for miscellaneous grain and seed crops 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 82.7% local, 4.8% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 1.0% foreign and 11.5% 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: JUNE 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 | 580 |
| | | * = piece rate |
| Wheat Weeder | 104 | \$ 8.25 |
| Nursery Harvester | 79 | \$ 8.51 |
| Grass Seed Weeder | 70 | \$ 7.65 |
| Contract Misc Crop Preparation | 35 | \$10.00 |
| Nursery Pruner | 23 | \$10.00 |
| Wheat Worker | 20 | \$ 9.81 |
| Apple Hand Thinner | 19 | \$ 7.65 |
| Chicken Fryer Harvester | 19 | \$ 8.00 |
| Nursery Loader | 19 | \$ 9.53 |
| Wheat Chemical Applicator | 17 | \$ 7.75 |
| Wheat Tractor Operator | 17 | \$12.00 |
| Misc Grain & Seed Crops Tractor Operator | 17 | \$12.50 |
| Nursery Mechanized Harvester | 15 | \$11.00 |
| Tomato Planter | 11 | \$ 8.00 |
| Wheat Vehicle Operator | 9 | \$10.00 |
| Wheat Preparation | 9 | \$12.00 |
| Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker | 9 | \$ 9.25 |
| Misc Grain & Seed Crops Chemical Applicator | 9 | \$ 7.50 |
| Barley Weeder | 9 | \$ 8.00 |
| Barley Chemical Applicator | 9 | \$ 8.00 |
| Misc Hay Loader | 9 | \$ 7.50 |
| Lentil Sorter/Grader/Packer | 8 | \$ 9.25 |
| Nursery Chemical Applicator | 8 | \$11.00 |
| Nursery Irrigator | 8 | \$ 7.65 |
| Nursery Manager | 8 | \$10.00 |
| Nursery Vehicle Operator | 4 | \$10.00 |
| Nursery Worker | 4 | \$ 8.25 |
| Beef Cattle Worker | 4 | \$10.00 |
| Nursery Planter | 4 | \$ 7.65 |
| Nursery Tractor Operator | 4 | \$ 9.50 |
| Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester | 4 | \$ 8.00 |

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN EASTERN AREA 6 \$ 8.92/hr (weighted average)