



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

MARCH 2006



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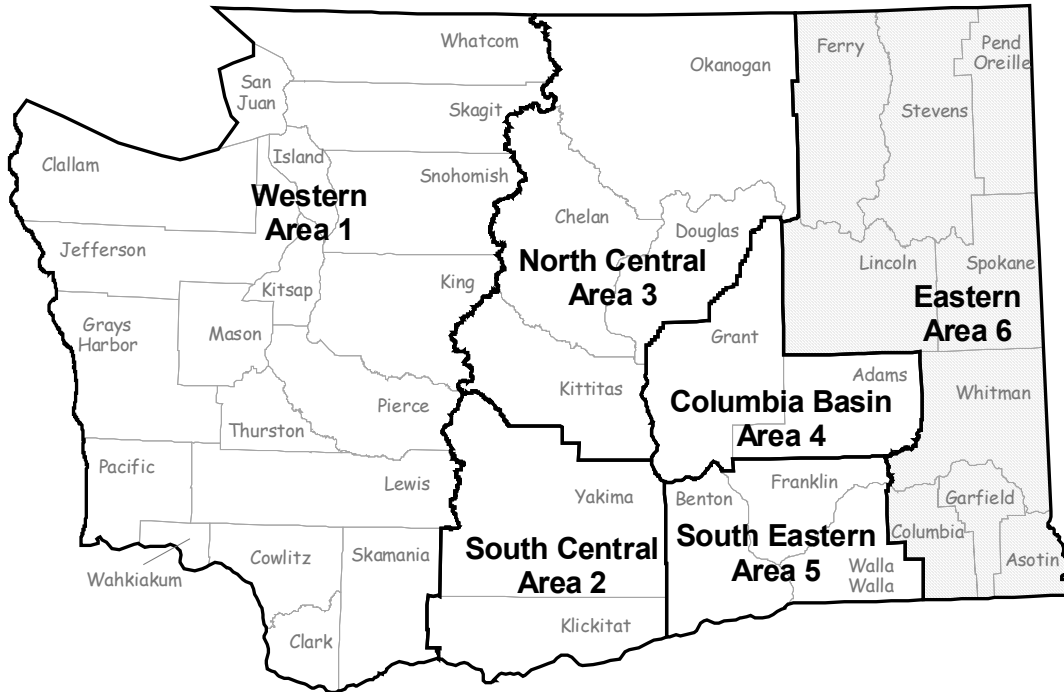
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

MARCH 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 grew by 3.7% from March 2005 to March 2006. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year gains were bulb work (585), other tree fruit work (299), cherry work (266), grapes work (252), apple work (248), hops work (129), nursery work (101), strawberry work (77), blueberry work (48), onion work (36), and potato work (11). Wheat/grain work was flat with no change in employment. Activities displaying losses were other seasonal work (-125), cucumber work (-111), pear work (-85), miscellaneous vegetables work (-77), raspberry work (-68), and asparagus work (-53). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment decreased by 4.2%, led to a decline in cucumber work (-111). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment expanded by 40.9%, thanks to an increase in apple work (1,031). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment contracted by 17.1%, caused by a loss in apple work (-767). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment nudged up by a small 0.1%, thanks to an increase in potato work (293). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment slipped by 0.3%, courtesy of a loss in onion work (-224). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment fell by 38.6%, because of a downturn in wheat/grain work (-73).

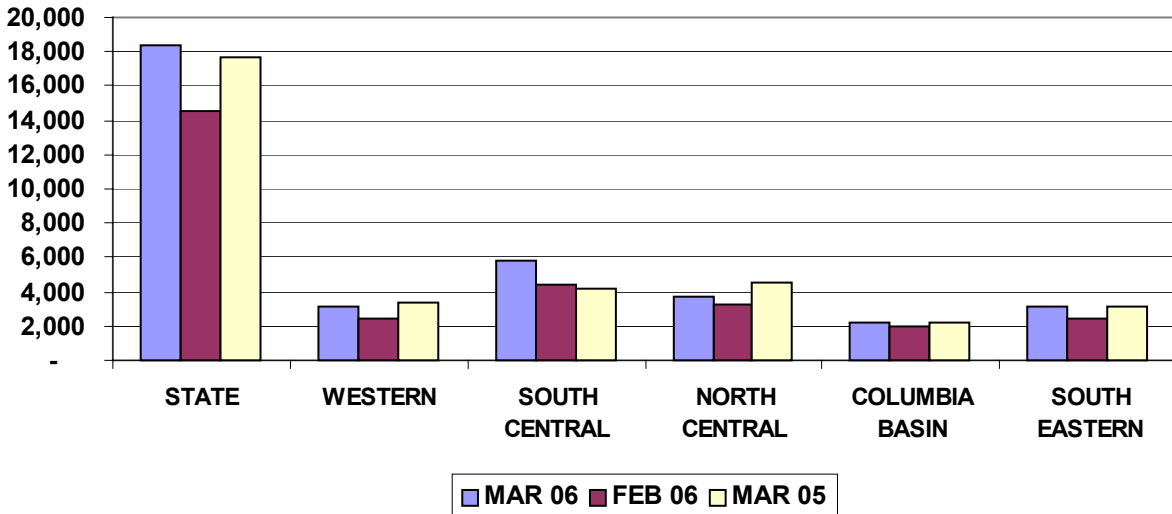
ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

President Bush repeated his call for a guest worker program that would “create a legal way to match willing foreign workers with willing American employers to fill jobs that Americans will not do.” At the same time, President Bush endorsed measures already under way to tighten security. He repeated his opposition to amnesty, which he said would “allow those who break the law to jump ahead of people who play by the rules. Huge rallies have been held recently to protest strict immigration curbs passed by the House in December. That bill calls for a 700-mile border and makes it a felony to immigrate illegally or help someone who has.

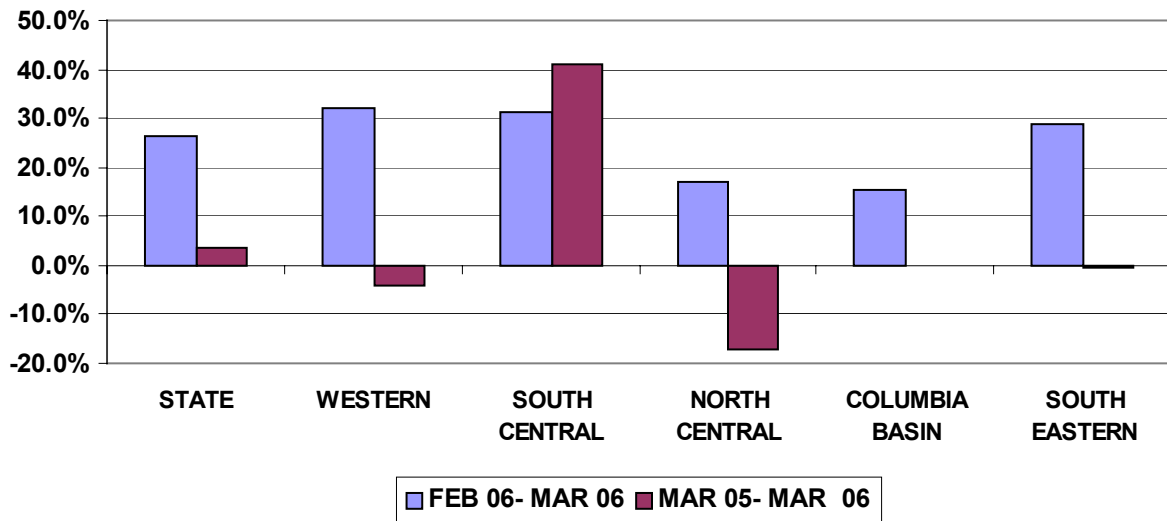
Washington state shippers attribute strong apple sales to several factors, including consumer awareness of the health benefits of fresh apples and steady increases in export sales. They also say the industry is more nimble in the orderly marketing of large crops. Industry veteran Mike Hambelton of Columbia Marketing International in Wenatchee said that, as in the past, when there has been a major crop increase, it takes a year or so for the industry to sort out how to market the crop. So far, shipments have been strong. In the week ending March 3, nearly 2.6 million boxes of apples were shipped from Washington, more than 200,000 boxes more than the previous week and more than 400,000 more than the same week a year ago. Apple pricing has remained relatively steady, said Dan Kelley, assistant manager of the Washington Growers Clearing House Association in Wenatchee. Season-to-date average weighted prices for all grades, all sizes, and all varieties were up over a year ago.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>FEB 06</u>	<u>MAR 05</u>	<u>FEB 06- MAR 06</u>	<u>MAR 05- MAR 06</u>	<u>FEB 06- MAR 06</u>	<u>MAR 05- MAR 06</u>
STATE	18,347	14,514	17,687	3,833	660	26.4%	3.7%
WESTERN	3,190	2,415	3,329	775	(139)	32.1%	-4.2%
SOUTH CENTRAL	5,837	4,442	4,142	1,395	1,695	31.4%	40.9%
NORTH CENTRAL	3,773	3,229	4,549	544	(776)	16.8%	-17.1%
COLUMBIA BASIN	2,225	1,927	2,222	298	3	15.5%	0.1%
SOUTH EASTERN	3,141	2,440	3,150	701	(9)	28.7%	-0.3%
EASTERN	181	61	295	120	(114)	196.7%	-38.6%

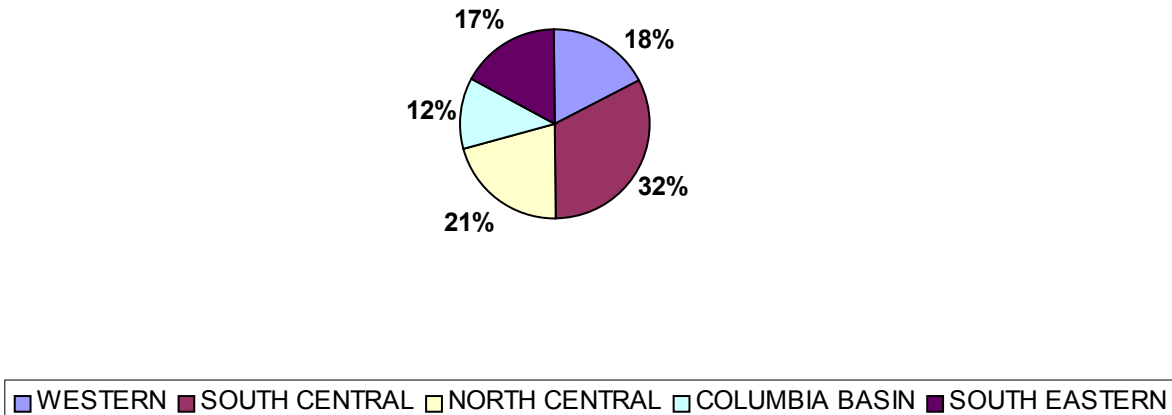
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



CHANGE IN SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



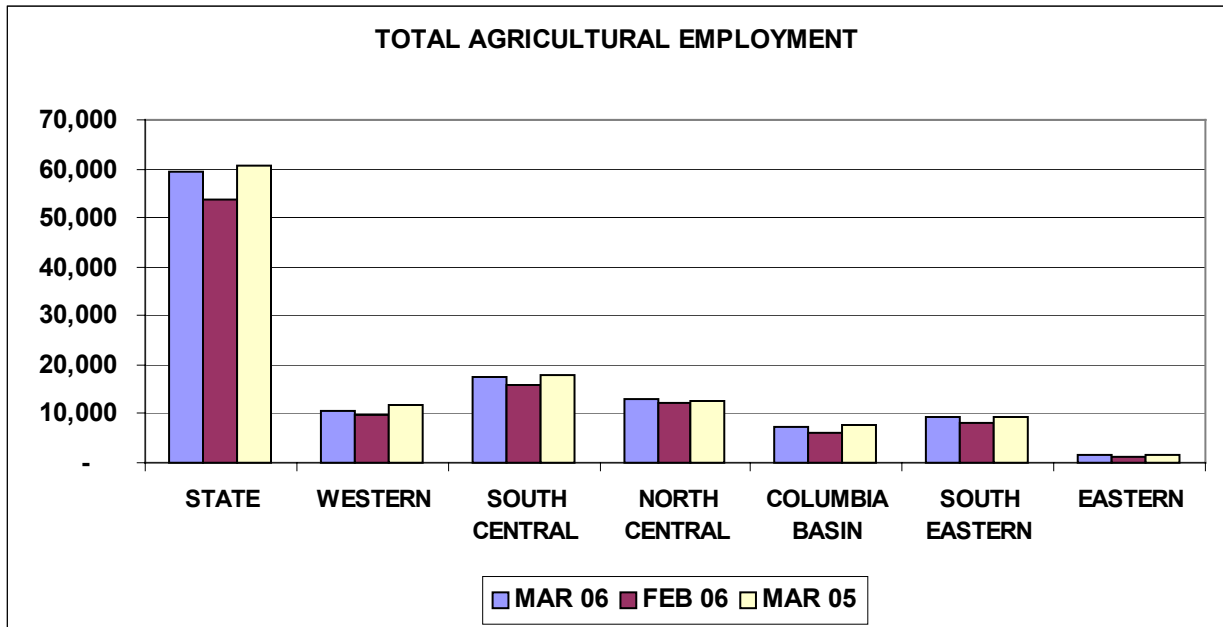
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT MARCH 2006



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment slid by 1.9% from March 2005 to March 2006. Over-the-month total employment increased by 10.4% from February 2006 to March 2006. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment decreased by 9.1%. South Central (Area 2) total employment softened by 1.2%. North Central (Area 3) total employment grew by 1.9%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment declined by 2.1%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment moved ahead by 0.4%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment slipped by 1.4%.

	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT								
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE			
	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>FEB 06</u>	<u>MAR 05</u>	<u>FEB 06- MAR 06</u>	<u>MAR 05- MAR 06</u>	<u>FEB 06- MAR 06</u>	<u>MAR 05- MAR 06</u>		
STATE	59,405	53,830	60,580	5,575	(1,175)	10.4%	-1.9%		
WESTERN	10,607	9,900	11,667	707	(1,060)	7.1%	-9.1%		
SOUTH CENTRAL	17,530	16,000	17,738	1,530	(208)	9.6%	-1.2%		
NORTH CENTRAL	13,033	12,100	12,791	933	242	7.7%	1.9%		
COLUMBIA BASIN	7,458	6,280	7,619	1,178	(161)	18.8%	-2.1%		
SOUTH EASTERN	9,308	8,290	9,275	1,018	33	12.3%	0.4%		
EASTERN	1,469	1,260	1,490	209	(21)	16.6%	-1.4%		



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment grew by 3.7% from March 2005 to March 2006. However seasonal employment expanded by 26.4% statewide from February 2006 to March 2006. The crop activity showing the largest increase in employment from March 2005 to March 2006 was bulb work (585). Other seasonal work had the largest decline in employment (-125) for that same time period. Apple work moved ahead of all other seasonal crop work (944) from February 2006 to March 2006. Potato and cherry work both shed the most jobs (-221) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2006 was \$7.84 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	MAR 06	FEB 06	MAR 05	FEB 06- MAR 06	MAR 05- MAR 06	FEB 06- MAR 06	MAR 05- MAR 06
Apples	8,186	7,242	7,938	944	248	13.0%	3.1%
Asparagus	35	0	88	35	(53)	NA	-60.2%
Blueberry	96	300	48	(204)	48	-68.0%	100.0%
Bulb	1,062	820	477	242	585	29.5%	122.6%
Cherries	613	834	347	(221)	266	-26.5%	76.7%
Cucumber	0	0	111	0	(111)	NA	NA
Grapes	2,384	1,902	2,132	482	252	25.3%	11.8%
Hops	680	325	551	355	129	109.2%	23.4%
Misc Vegetables	152	132	229	20	(77)	15.2%	-33.6%
Nursery	2,113	1,593	2,012	520	101	32.6%	5.0%
Onion	933	339	897	594	36	175.2%	4.0%
Other Seasonal	598	231	723	367	(125)	158.9%	-17.3%
Other Tree Fruit	1,080	478	781	602	299	125.9%	38.3%
Pears	275	387	360	(112)	(85)	-28.9%	-23.6%
Potato	286	507	260	(221)	26	-43.6%	10.0%
Raspberry	574	330	642	244	(68)	73.9%	-10.6%
Strawberry	85	0	8	0	77	NA	962.5%
Wheat/Grain	83	22	83	61	0	277.3%	NA

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment decreased by 4.2% from March 2005 to March 2006. Seasonal expanded by 32.1% from February 2006 to March 2006. Bulb work increased by the largest amount of employment (585) from March 2005 to March 2006. Cucumber work lost the most jobs (-111) for that same time period. Nursery work displayed the greatest employment gain (302) from February 2006 to March 2006. Blueberry work lost the largest amount of employment (-204) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2006 in Area 1 was \$7.76 per hour. (See pages 15 -16 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				FEB 06-	MAR 05-	FEB 06-	MAR 05-
	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>FEB 06</u>	<u>MAR 05</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>
CROP							
Blueberry	96	300	48	(204)	48	-68.0%	100.0%
Bulb	1,062	820	477	242	585	29.5%	122.6%
Cucumber	0	0	111	0	(111)	NA	NA
Misc Vegetables	116	51	66	65	50	127.5%	75.8%
Nursery	1,856	1,554	1,755	302	101	19.4%	5.8%
Other Seasonal	33	18	40	15	(7)	83.3%	-17.5%
Potato	135	272	98	(137)	37	-50.4%	37.8%
Raspberry	574	330	642	244	(68)	73.9%	-10.6%
Rhubarb	14	0	88	0	(74)	NA	-84.1%
Strawberry	81	0	4	0	77	NA	1925.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment grew by 40.9% from March 2005 to March 2006. Seasonal employment also expanded by 31.4% from February 2006 to March 2006. Apple work led all other crops in employment gain (1,031) from March 2005 to March 2006. Asparagus and miscellaneous vegetables work both posted the greatest over-the-year decline in jobs (-53) for that same time period. Apple work moved forward with the greatest employment gain (658) from February 2006 to March 2006. Pear work contracted by largest amount of employment (-108) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2006 in Area 2 was \$7.88 per hour. (See pages 17 -18 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				FEB 06-	MAR 05-	FEB 06-	MAR 05-
	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>FEB 06</u>	<u>MAR 05</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>	<u>MAR 06</u>
CROP							
Apples	2,640	1,982	1,609	658	1,031	33.2%	64.1%
Asparagus	0	0	53	0	(53)	NA	NA
Cherries	300	306	19	(6)	281	-2.0%	1478.9%
Grapes	1,441	1,323	1,199	118	242	8.9%	20.2%
Hops	506	173	377	333	129	192.5%	34.2%
Misc Vegetables	0	0	53	0	(53)	NA	NA
Onion	58	15	22	43	36	286.7%	163.6%
Other Seasonal	66	20	94	46	(28)	230.0%	-29.8%
Other Tree Fruit	591	280	467	311	124	111.1%	26.6%
Pears	235	343	238	(108)	(3)	-31.5%	-1.3%
Potato	0	0	11	0	(11)	NA	NA

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment declined by 17.1% from March 2005 to March 2006. However, seasonal employment increased from February 2006 to March 2006 by 16.8%. Other tree fruit work displayed the largest over-the-year gain in employment (175) from March 2005 to March 2006. Apple work registered the largest employment loss (-767) for that same time period. Apple work gained the largest amount of employment (316) from February 2006 to March 2006. No crops declined in employment but pear work registered the smallest increase (4) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2006 in Area 3 was \$7.87 per hour. (See pages 19 - 20 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	MAR 06	FEB 06	MAR 05	FEB 06- MAR 06	MAR 05- MAR 06	FEB 06- MAR 06	MAR 05- MAR 06
Apples	3,375	3,059	4,142	316	(767)	10.3%	-18.5%
Cherries	144	70	159	74	(15)	105.7%	-9.4%
Other Seasonal	14	9	104	5	(90)	55.6%	-86.5%
Other Tree Fruit	206	63	31	143	175	227.0%	564.5%
Pears	31	27	113	4	(82)	14.8%	-72.6%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment inched ahead by 0.1% from March 2005 to March 2006. This increase was superceded by a jump of 15.5% in employment from February 2006 to March 2006. Potato work displayed the largest increase in employment (293) from March 2005 to March 2006. Apple work showed the greatest decline in employment (-292) during that same time period. Other seasonal work displayed the largest increase in employment (134) from February 2006 to March 2006. Onion work showed the largest downturn in employment (-143) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2006 in Area 4 was \$7.82 per hour. (See pages 21 - 23 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	MAR 06	FEB 06	MAR 05	FEB 06- MAR 06	MAR 05- MAR 06	FEB 06- MAR 06	MAR 05- MAR 06
Apples	1,129	1,152	1,421	(23)	(292)	-2.0%	-20.5%
Asparagus	0	0	5	0	(5)	NA	NA
Cherries	266	161	77	105	189	65.2%	245.5%
Mint	41	17	0	24	41	141.2%	NA
Misc Vegetables	11	2	14	9	(3)	450.0%	-21.4%
Nursery	6	33	80	(27)	(74)	-81.8%	-92.5%
Onion	141	284	191	(143)	(50)	-50.4%	-26.2%
Other Seasonal	157	23	211	134	(54)	582.6%	-25.6%
Other Tree Fruit	90	49	196	41	(106)	83.7%	-54.1%
Pears	76	17	9	59	67	347.1%	744.4%
Potato	306	186	13	120	293	64.5%	2253.8%
Wheat	0	2	5	(2)	(5)	NA	NA
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment declined by 0.3% from March 2005 to March 2006. However, seasonal employment pushed forward by a large 28.7% from February 2006 to March 2006. Hops work moved forward with the greatest gain in employment (358) from March 2005 to March 2006. Onion work led the decliners (-224) during that same time period. However onion work was the largest over-the-month gainer in employment (420) from February 2006 to March 2006. Cherry work shed the most jobs (-183) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for March 2006 in Area 5 was \$7.80 per hour. (See pages 24 - 26 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT						
SOUTH EASTERN			CHANGE		PERCENT C	
CROP	MAR 06	FEB 06	MAR 05	FEB 06- MAR 06	MAR 05- MAR 06	FEB 06- MAR 06
Apples	1,005	1,049	766	(44)	239	-4.2%
Asparagus	0	0	30	0	(30)	NA
Cherries	114	297	92	(183)	22	-61.6%
Grapes	731	579	933	152	(202)	26.3%
Hops	532	152	174	380	358	250.0%
Misc Vegetables	23	79	8	(56)	15	-70.9%
Nursery	1	0	23	0	(22)	NA
Onion	460	40	684	420	(224)	1050.0%
Other Seasonal	114	103	195	11	(81)	10.7%
Other Tree Fruit	27	86	87	(59)	(60)	-68.6%
Potatoes	121	49	138	72	(17)	146.9%
Strawberry	0	0	4	0	(4)	NA
Wheat/Grain	14	6	16	8	(2)	133.3%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding						

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

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 MARCH 2006

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

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,190 (1,824 local, 36 intrastate, 147 interstate, 3 foreign, 1,180 unknown origin)

Bulbs Harvester	945	\$ 7.63/hr
Nursery Planter	443	\$ 7.68/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	326	\$ 7.63/hr
Raspberry Trainer	251	\$ 7.63/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,837 (4,135 local, 157 intrastate, 134 interstate, 1,375 foreign, 36 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	2,388	\$ 7.68/hr or \$ 0.25 - \$ 4.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	1,271	\$ 7.98/hr or \$ 0.06 - \$ 0.40 per plant
Hops Worker	335	\$ 7.63/hr
Peach Pruner	266	\$ 7.79/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,773 (3,489 local, 23 intrastate, 4 interstate, 226 foreign, 31 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	3,008	\$ 7.75/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	280	\$ 8.08/hr
Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer	129	\$ 7.65/hr
Cherry Pruner	114	\$ 8.88/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,225 (1,830 local, 0 intrastate, 7 interstate, 47 foreign, 341 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	799	\$ 7.69/hr or \$ 0.15 - \$ 1.50 per tree
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	186	\$ 7.66/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	135	\$ 7.67/hr
Apple Grafter	134	\$ 8.00/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,141 (2,246 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 803 foreign, 92 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	720	\$ 7.70/hr or \$ 0.25 - \$ 5.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	556	\$ 7.67/hr or \$ 0.06 - \$ 0.30 per plant
Walla Walla Sweets Planter	409	\$ 7.63/hr
Hops Worker	254	Not Available

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 181 (158 local, 6 intrastate, 6 interstate, 2 foreign, 9 unknown origin)

Nursery Mechanized Harvester	66	\$ 9.62/hr
Nursery Planter	50	\$ 7.97/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	13	\$10.00/hr
Nursery Worker	12	\$ 7.93/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

MARCH 2006

TABLE 1

MARCH 2006

Agricultural Farm Labor Report, Washington State
Estimated Number of Domestic Seasonal Hired Workers
by Place of Origin

Agricultural Reporting Area	Local	Intra-state	Inter-state	Foreign	Unknown	Area Total
1. Western	1,824	36	147	3	1,180	3,190
2. South Central	4,135	157	134	1,375	36	5,837
3. North Central	3,489	23	4	226	31	3,773
4. Columbia Basin	1,830	0	7	47	341	2,225
5. South Eastern	2,246	0	0	803	92	3,141
6. Eastern	158	6	6	2	9	181
State Totals	13,682	222	298	2,456	1,689	18,347
% State Total	74.6%	1.2%	1.6%	13.4%	9.2%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 2006
State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	3,190
a. Local	1,824
b. Intrastate migratory	36
c. Interstate migratory	147
d. Foreign	3
e. Unknown	1,180
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Grandview, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The March 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,727.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were wetter and colder than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were bulbs harvesting, nursery planting, nursery warehouse work and raspberry training.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.76 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for bulbs harvester, nursery planter, nursery sorter/grader/packer, raspberry trainer, raspberry pruner, nursery weeder, potato sorter/grader/packer, raspberry weeder, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery harvester, strawberry sorter/grader/packer, raspberry sorter/grader/packer, blueberry pruner, chicken eggs sorter/grader/packer and nursery chemical applicator to \$12.00 for potato mechanized harvester. 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 57.2% local, 1.1% intrastate, 4.6% interstate, foreign 0.1% and 37.0% 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: MARCH 2006

State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 3,190	* = piece rate
Bulbs Harvester	945	\$ 7.63
Nursery Planter	443	\$ 7.68
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	326	\$ 7.63
Raspberry Trainer	251	\$ 7.63
Raspberry Pruner	133	\$ 7.63
Nursery Weeder	127	\$ 7.63
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	127	\$ 7.63
Raspberry Weeder	123	\$ 7.63
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	117	\$ 7.63
Nursery Harvester	111	\$ 7.63
Strawberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	81	\$ 7.63
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	67	\$ 7.63
Blueberry Pruner	62	\$ 7.63
Nursery Worker	58	\$ 8.29
Misc Vegetables Planter	44	\$ 7.99
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	32	\$ 8.82
Misc Field Crops Harvester	29	\$ 9.58
Misc Vegetables Worker	28	\$ 9.68
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	24	\$ 8.00
Rhubarb Harvester	14	\$ 8.00
Nursery Vehicle Operator	11	\$11.25
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	8	\$11.65
Blueberry Worker	5	\$10.00
Blueberry Manager	5	\$11.50
Potato Mechanized Harvester	4	\$12.00
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$ 7.63
Pumpkin Worker	4	\$12.00
Nursery Chemical Applicator	3	\$ 7.63
Potato Vehicle Operator	2	\$11.00
Potato Mechanic	2	\$ 9.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG

PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.76/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	5,837
a. Local	4,135
b. Intrastate migratory	157
c. Interstate migratory	134
d. Foreign	1,375
e. Unknown	36
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Sunnyside, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Colorado, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The March 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 11,333.

 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were wetter and colder than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, grapes pruning, hops work and peach pruning.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.88 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for hops worker, hops planter, apple trainer, cherry proper, apple sorter/grader/packer, nectarine planter, apple weeder and grapes weeder to \$35.00 for apple mechanic. Typical piece rates were: \$.06 to \$.40 per plant for grapes pruning and \$0.26 to \$4.50 per tree for apple pruning. 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 70.8% local, 2.7% intrastate, 2.3% interstate, foreign 23.6% and unknown 0.6%.

 - 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: MARCH 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 5,837	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	2,388	\$ 7.68 or * \$ 0.25 - \$ 4.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	1,271	\$ 7.98 or * \$ 0.06 - \$ 0.40 per plant
Hops Worker	335	\$ 7.63
Peach Pruner	266	\$ 7.79
Cherry Pruner	244	\$ 8.61
Nectarine Pruner	244	\$ 7.77
Pear Pruner	235	\$10.00
Hops Planter	171	\$ 7.63
Apple Trainer	126	\$ 7.63
Grapes Trainer	100	\$ 7.76
Cherry Propper	48	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Irrigator	45	\$ 8.00
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	44	Not Available
Grapes Planter	42	\$ 7.83
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	40	\$ 7.63
Nursery Preparation	37	\$ 8.46
Apple Mechanized Harvester	28	\$15.00
Nectarine Planter	26	\$ 7.63
Nursery Planter	23	\$ 9.75
Apple Worker	22	\$ 8.51
Apple Weeder	14	\$ 7.63
Apple Irrigator	14	\$ 8.25
Grapes Irrigator	14	\$ 8.25
Grapes Weeder	14	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	13	\$10.00
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	7	\$ 7.75
Nursery Worker	6	\$ 9.00
Apple Mechanic	4	\$35.00
Apricot Pruner	4	\$10.00
Apple Chemical Applicator	4	\$ 7.64
Cherry Worker	4	\$ 7.75
Cherry Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.88/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 2006

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **NORTH CENTRAL** (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Okanogan)

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1.	Total domestic seasonal hired workers	3,773
a.	Local	3,489
b.	Intrastate migratory	23
c.	Interstate migratory	4
d.	Foreign	226
e.	Unknown	31
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a.	Intrastate: Wenatchee, Yakima	
b.	Interstate: California	
c.	Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The March 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 9,497.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were wetter and colder than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, apple warehouse work, miscellaneous fruit trees warehouse work and cherry pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.87 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.65 for miscellaneous fruit trees sort/grader/packer to \$20.00 for contract aerial mechanic. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 92.5% local, 0.6% intrastate, 0.1% interstate, 6.0% foreign and 0.8% 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: MARCH 2006
 State: WASHINGTON

Area 3: NORTH CENTRAL (Chelan, Kittitas, Douglas and Okanogan Counties)

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL	3,773
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	3,008	\$ 7.75
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	280	\$ 8.08
Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer	129	\$ 7.65
Cherry Pruner	114	\$ 8.88
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	43	\$ 8.87
Apple Planter	34	\$ 7.75
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	34	\$ 7.97
Apple Grafter	30	\$ 9.00
Pear Worker	23	\$ 8.00
Apple Worker	23	\$ 8.38
Cherry Hand Thinner	19	Not Available
Cherry Trainer	11	Not Available
Pear Tractor Operator	8	\$ 8.00
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	5	\$ 9.25
Contract Aerial Chemical Applicator	3	Not Available
Contract Aerial Worker	3	\$16.88
Contract Aerial Mechanic	3	\$20.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.87/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	2,225
a. Local	1,830
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	7
d. Foreign	47
e. Unknown	341
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The March 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,878.

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

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were wetter and colder than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, potato warehouse work, miscellaneous onion warehouse work and apple grafting.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.82 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for apple preparer, pear pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees planter, general farm preparer, general farm irrigator, miscellaneous fruit trees tractor operator, miscellaneous fruit trees pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees sorter/grader/packer and nursery sorter/grader/packer to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$.15 to \$1.50 per tree for apple pruning. 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 82.3% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.3% interstate 2.1% foreign and 15.3% 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: MARCH 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 2,225	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	799	\$ 7.69 or * \$ 0.15 - \$ 1.50 per tree
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	186	\$ 7.66
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	135	\$ 7.67
Apple Grafter	134	\$ 8.00
Cherry Pruner	133	\$ 7.69
Apple Preparation	110	\$ 7.63
Grass Seed Weeder	106	\$ 8.00
Cherry Planter	94	\$ 7.76
Pear Pruner	58	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	56	\$ 7.70
Potato Tractor Operator	29	\$ 9.58
Misc Fruit Trees Planter	29	\$ 7.63
Mint Planter	27	\$ 7.84
Cherry Worker	26	\$ 7.84
Potato Preparation	25	\$ 7.95
Apple Weeder	22	\$ 7.85
Apple Planter	22	\$ 7.98
Grapes Pruner	20	\$ 8.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	19	\$ 9.13
Pear Worker	18	\$ 8.00
Potato Loader	14	\$ 8.38
Mint Vehicle Operator	14	\$ 9.00
Apple Trainer	13	\$ 7.87
Apple Irrigator	13	\$ 7.75
Apple Mechanic	13	\$ 9.00
General Farm Irrigator	11	\$ 7.63
General Farm Preparation	11	\$ 7.63
Potato Manager	10	\$13.75
Potato Mechanic	9	\$ 8.83
Cherry Trainer	9	\$ 8.00
Potato Forklift Driver	6	\$ 8.00
Misc Onion Forklift Driver	6	\$ 8.50
General Farm Worker	6	\$10.25
Misc Vegetables Worker	5	\$ 8.82
Potato Planter	5	\$ 9.50
Nursery Planter	5	\$ 7.65

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 2006
 State: WASHINGTON

Area 4: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL	* = piece rate
Cherry Weeder	4	\$ 7.75
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	3	\$10.75
Potato Worker	3	\$ 8.50
Peas Planter	3	\$ 8.00
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Vegetables Chemical Applicator	3	\$13.00
Misc Fruit Trees Grafter	2	\$ 8.00
Misc Fruit Trees Tractor Operator	1	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Sorter/Grader/Packer	1	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	1	\$ 7.63
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	1	\$ 7.63

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 7.82/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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	3,141
a. Local	2,246
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	0
d. Foreign	803
e. Unknown	92
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The March 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,983.

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

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were wetter and colder than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, grapes pruning, onion planting and hops work.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in March averaged \$7.80 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for Walla Walla Sweets planter, hops planter, apple planter, hops irrigator, apple cultivator, potato sorter/grader/packer, apple preparer, grapes preparer, pear pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees irrigator, carrot irrigator, grapes irrigator, potato irrigator, miscellaneous field crops worker, miscellaneous field crops irrigator and sweet corn irrigator to \$14.50 for grass seed worker. Typical piece rates were: \$.06 to \$.30 per plant for grapes pruning and \$.25 to \$5.50 per tree for apple pruning. 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 71.5% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 25.6% foreign and 2.9% unknown.

d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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 3,141	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	720	\$ 7.70 or * \$ 0.25 - \$ 5.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	556	\$ 7.67 or * \$ 0.06 - \$ 0.30 per plant
Walla Walla Sweets Planter	409	\$ 7.63
Hops Worker	254	Not Available
Hops Planter	184	\$ 7.63
Apple Trainer	166	\$ 7.69
Grapes Trainer	156	\$ 7.76
Cherry Pruner	114	\$ 7.78
Potato Preparation	81	\$ 8.46
Apple Planter	72	\$ 7.63
Hops Trainer	65	\$ 7.71
Chicken Eggs Worker	38	\$ 8.00
Walla Walla Sweets Preparation	25	\$ 8.50
Hops Irrigator	23	\$ 7.63
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	23	\$ 8.00
Apple Cultivator	20	\$ 7.63
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	20	\$ 7.63
Apple Preparation	19	\$ 7.63
Carrot Preparation	15	\$ 8.40
Walla Walla Sweets Manager	15	\$ 8.50
General Farm Mechanic	14	\$ 8.48
Wheat Worker	14	\$ 8.75
Grapes Preparation	14	\$ 7.63
Apricot Pruner	13	Not Available
Walla Walla Sweets Weeder	10	\$ 8.07
Alfalfa Worker	9	\$ 8.77
Potato Tractor Operator	9	\$ 9.57
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	8	\$ 8.00
Peas Tractor Operator	8	\$ 8.50
Potato Planter	8	\$ 9.53
Pear Pruner	8	\$ 7.63
Apple Worker	8	\$ 8.50
Hops Twiner	6	Not Available
Misc Fruit Trees Irrigator	5	\$ 7.63
Field Corn Tractor Operator	4	\$10.00
Carrot Irrigator	3	\$ 7.63

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MARCH 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
Grapes Irrigator	3	\$ 7.63
Potato Irrigator	3	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Worker	3	\$ 7.63
Grass Seed Worker	3	\$14.50
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	3	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Worker	3	\$ 8.50
Sweet Corn Irrigator	2	\$ 7.63
Grapes Worker	2	\$ 8.00
Nursery Planter	1	\$ 8.75
Misc Other Fruit Worker	1	\$ 8.25
Misc Onion Preparation	1	\$ 8.00
General Farm Tractor Operator	1	\$ 9.00

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