



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

MAY 2006



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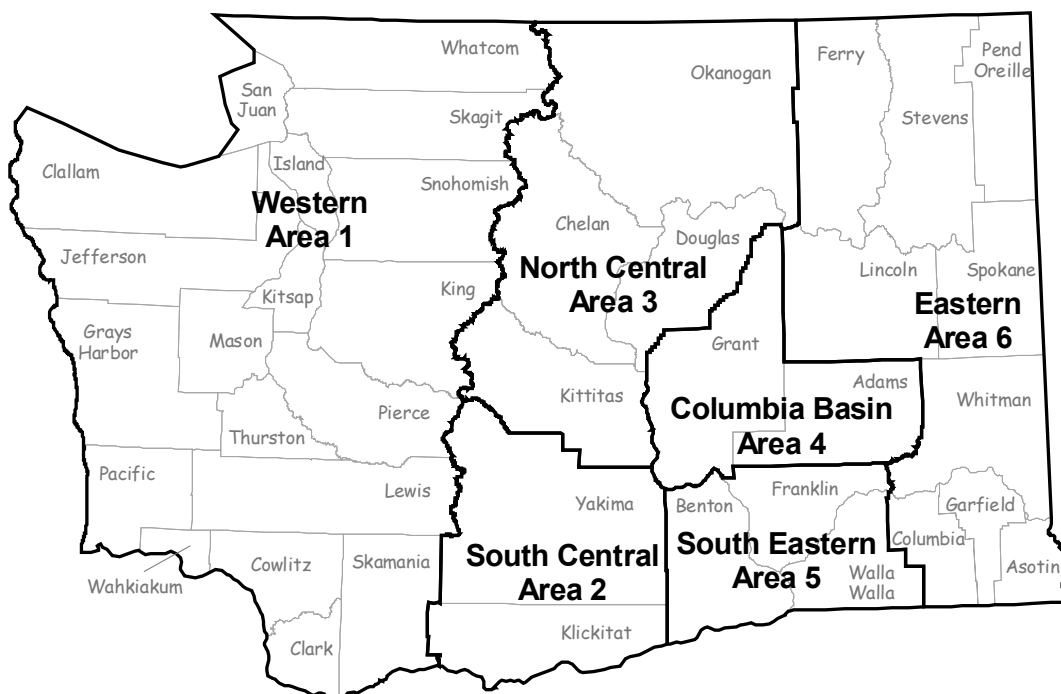
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

MAY 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

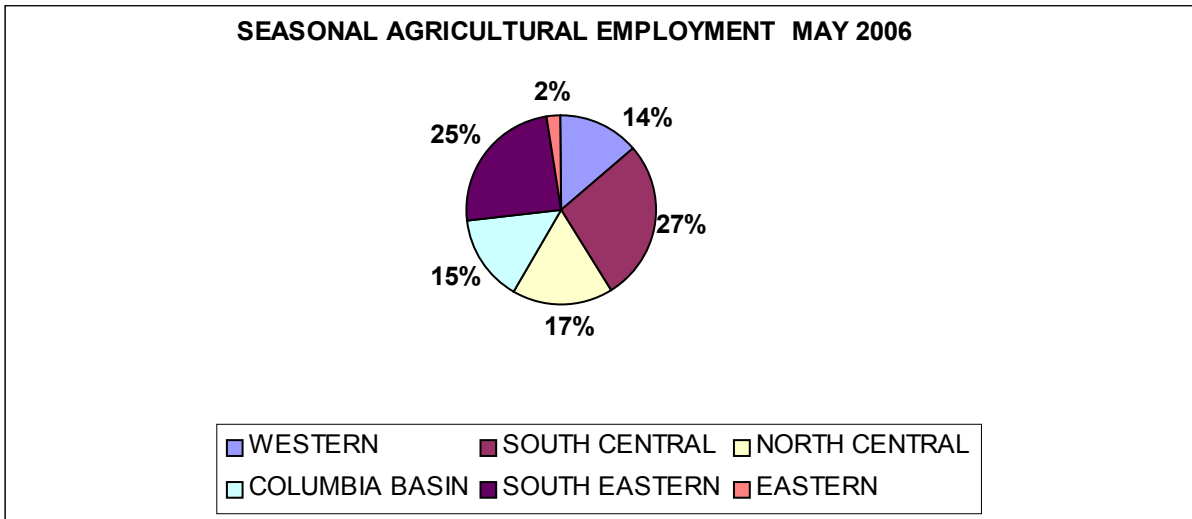
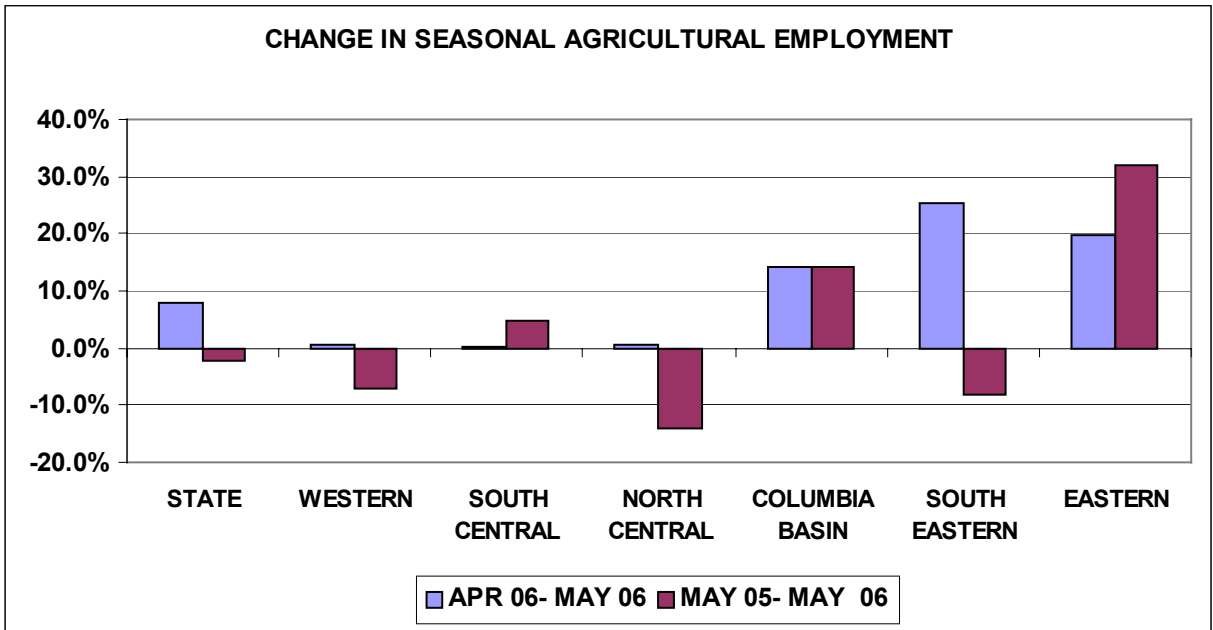
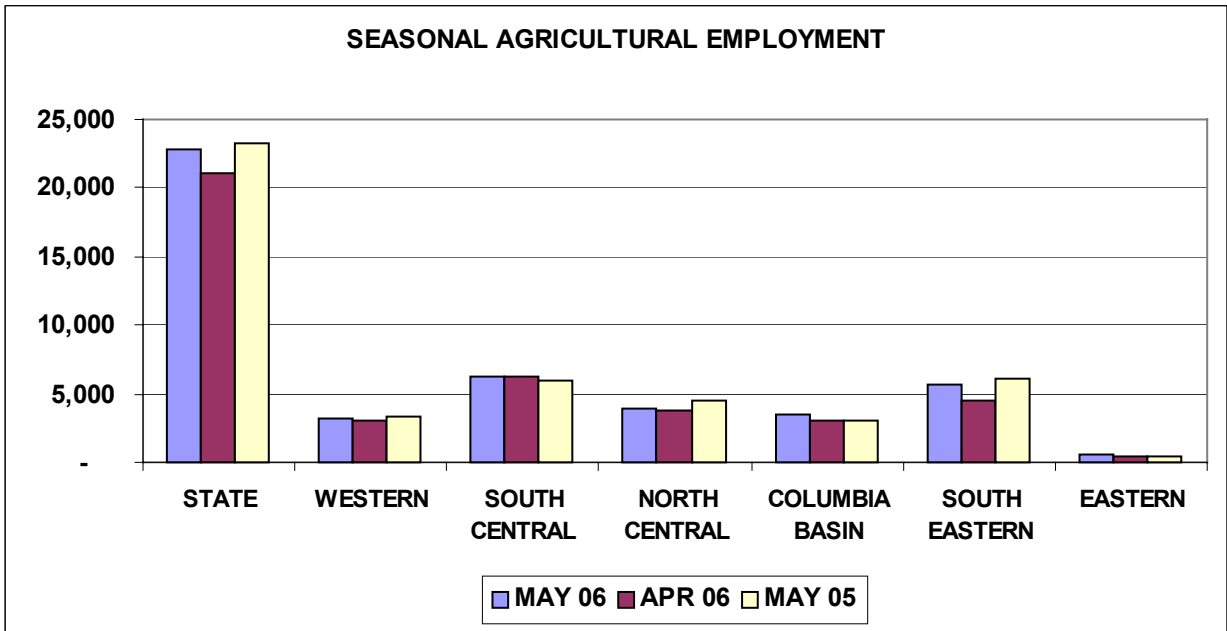
Statewide seasonal agricultural employment fell by 2.3% from May 2005 to May 2006. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year losses were other seasonal work (-652), other tree fruit work (-461), asparagus work (-403), nursery work (-205), blueberry work (-107), miscellaneous vegetables work (-79), cucumber work (-76), strawberry work (-72) and wheat/grain work (-43). Activities displaying gains were apple work (674), potato work (469), hops work (343), bulb work (294), raspberry work (134), grapes work (132), onion work (97), cherry work (77) and pear work (16). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment fell by 7.2%, due to a decline in other seasonal work (-237). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment grew by 4.8%, thanks to an increase in apple work (905). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment dropped by 14.2%, caused by a decrease in other tree fruit work (-299). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment moved forward by 14.2%, courtesy of a bump in potato work (438). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment contracted by 8.2%, because of a decline in asparagus work (-393). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment expanded by 32.0%, thanks to an increase in other seasonal work (118).

ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Pacific Northwest cherry growers are hopeful that this year's harvest could top last year's record harvest. The harvest is expected to include a number of new varieties that ripen later in the summer. This is good news after a year in which growers couldn't meet demand. "Last year we had a record crop, and we still couldn't provide all the cherries we needed," said B.J. Thurlby, president of Northwest Cherry Growers, a promotional group for growers and shippers. California and the Northwest produce the bulk of the nation's sweet cherries. Growers in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Utah harvested a record 117,000 tons of fresh cherries last year. The early estimate for the 2006 four-state fresh crop ranges between 110,000 and 130,000 tons, with much of the harvest in Washington. Washington state has an estimated 29,000 acres of cherry orchards, up from about 25,000 acres in 2004. That number continues to increase as growers tear out apple orchards and replace them with cherry trees and wine grape vineyards, which have been more profitable in recent years.

The early outlook for the 2006 apple crop is promising. Good bloom and pollination weather and few significant frost events set the stage for what could be a lot of apples. The first official industry crop projections won't be released until August 1, but growers are talking of a crop that could hit 110 to 120 million boxes. The 2005 crop was about 100 million boxes. Mountain snowpack is normal and irrigation water supplies aren't an issue this year. The variable is labor. An extended bloom also could mean a stretched-out harvest season, easing labor scheduling. The industry is in good position this year, with excellent movement of the 2005 crop and relatively stable pricing. Exports are running almost 10 percent ahead of last year, and about where they need to be to avoid large carryovers. Recent apple prices have been better than some expected. As of May 5, overall average weighted price for all sizes and all grades was \$15.45 per 40-pound box, compared with a \$13.64 price per box average last year at the same time.

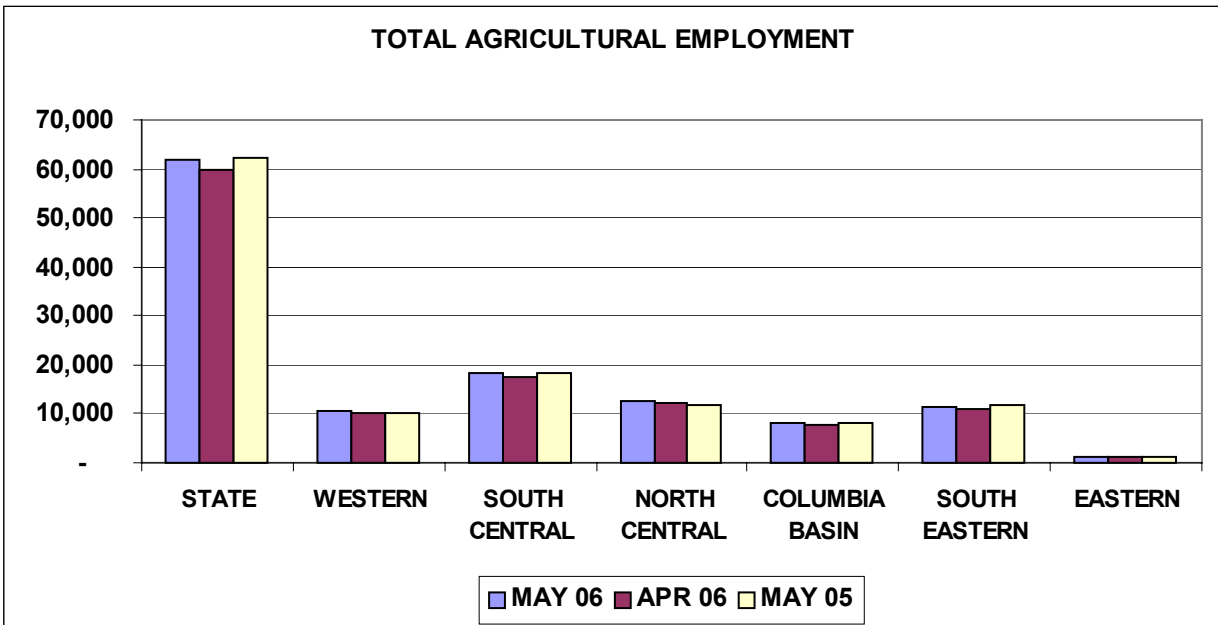
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>MAY 06</u>	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>MAY 05</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>APR 06- MAY 06</u>	<u>MAY 05- MAY 06</u>	<u>APR 06- MAY 06</u>	<u>MAY 05- MAY 06</u>
STATE	22,774	21,076	23,317	1,698	(543)	8.1%	-2.3%
WESTERN	3,136	3,122	3,379	14	(243)	0.4%	-7.2%
SOUTH CENTRAL	6,217	6,203	5,930	14	287	0.2%	4.8%
NORTH CENTRAL	3,872	3,843	4,514	29	(642)	0.8%	-14.2%
COLUMBIA BASIN	3,429	3,006	3,003	423	426	14.1%	14.2%
SOUTH EASTERN	5,596	4,465	6,094	1,131	(498)	25.3%	-8.2%
EASTERN	524	437	397	87	127	19.9%	32.0%



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment slipped by 0.1% from May 2005 to May 2006. Over-the-month total employment rose by 4.0% from April 2006 to May 2006. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment grew by 0.9%. South Central (Area 2) total employment fell by 0.6%. North Central (Area 3) total employment edged up by 0.1%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment declined by 0.3%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment decreased by 0.2%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment grew by 1.4%.

	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT						
	<u>MAY 06</u>	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>MAY 05</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>APR 06- MAY 06</u>	<u>MAY 05- MAY 06</u>	<u>APR 06- MAY 06</u>	<u>MAY 05- MAY 06</u>
STATE	61,885	59,655	62,082	2,230	(197)	3.7%	-0.3%
WESTERN	10,404	10,027	10,203	377	201	3.8%	2.0%
SOUTH CENTRAL	18,150	17,462	18,517	688	(367)	3.9%	-2.0%
NORTH CENTRAL	12,640	12,192	11,921	448	719	3.7%	6.0%
COLUMBIA BASIN	8,001	7,708	8,058	293	(57)	3.8%	-0.7%
SOUTH EASTERN	11,330	10,953	11,961	377	(631)	3.4%	-5.3%
EASTERN	1,360	1,313	1,423	47	(63)	3.5%	-4.4%



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment declined by 2.3% from May 2005 to May 2006. However seasonal employment increased by 8.1% statewide from April 2006 to May 2006. The crop activity displaying the largest growth from May 2005 to May 2006 was apple work (674). Other seasonal work showed the largest decrease in employment (-652) for that same time period. Asparagus work moved ahead of all seasonal employment (2,413) from April 2006 to May 2006. Other seasonal work shed the largest number of jobs (-768) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2006 was \$7.84 per hour.

STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	MAY 06	APR 06	MAY 05	APR 06- MAY 06	MAY 05- MAY 06		
Apples	8,563	8,068	7,889	495	674	6.1%	8.5%
Asparagus	4,513	2,100	4,916	2,413	(403)	114.9%	-8.2%
Blueberry	55	152	162	(97)	(107)	-63.8%	-66.0%
Bulb	321	730	27	(409)	294	-56.0%	1088.9%
Cherries	658	409	581	249	77	60.9%	13.3%
Cucumber	43	0	119	43	(76)	NA	-63.9%
Grapes	1,590	1,900	1,458	(310)	132	-16.3%	9.1%
Hops	980	782	637	198	343	25.3%	53.8%
Misc Vegetables	527	890	606	(363)	(79)	-40.8%	-13.0%
Nursery	2,150	2,153	2,355	(3)	(205)	-0.1%	-8.7%
Onion	346	306	249	40	97	13.1%	39.0%
Other Seasonal	1,257	2,025	1,909	(768)	(652)	-37.9%	-34.2%
Other Tree Fruit	335	695	796	(360)	(461)	-51.8%	-57.9%
Pears	180	130	164	50	16	38.5%	9.8%
Potato	896	1,129	427	(233)	469	-20.6%	109.8%
Raspberry	437	420	303	17	134	4.0%	44.2%
Strawberry	0	88	72	(88)	(72)	NA	NA
Wheat/Grain	69	63	112	6	(43)	9.5%	-38.4%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment fell back by 7.2% from May 2005 to May 2006. However, seasonal employment inched forward by 0.4% from April 2006 to May 2006. Bulb work increased by the greatest amount of employment (294) from May 2005 to May 2006. Other seasonal work lost the most jobs (-237) for that same time period. Potato work displayed the greatest employment gain (40) from April 2006 to May 2006. Bulb work lost the largest amount of employment (-409) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2006 in Area 1 was \$7.89 per hour. (See pages 15 -16 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				APR 06-	MAY 05-	APR 06-	MAY 05-
	<u>MAY 06</u>	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>MAY 05</u>	<u>MAY 06</u>	<u>MAY 06</u>	<u>MAY 06</u>	<u>MAY 06</u>
CROP							
Blueberry	55	152	162	(97)	(107)	-63.8%	-66.0%
Bulb	321	730	27	(409)	294	-56.0%	1088.9%
Cucumber	43	0	119	43	(76)	NA	-63.9%
Misc Vegetables	128	485	164	(357)	(36)	-73.6%	-22.0%
Nursery	1,833	1,828	1,988	5	(155)	0.3%	-7.8%
Other Seasonal	82	55	319	27	(237)	49.1%	-74.3%
Potato	268	228	103	40	165	17.5%	160.2%
Raspberry	437	420	303	17	134	4.0%	44.2%
Rhubarb	104	110	163	(6)	(59)	-5.5%	-36.2%
Strawberry	0	85	31	(85)	(31)	NA	NA

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal grew by 4.8% from May 2005 to May 2006. Seasonal employment grew also expanded by a small 0.2% from April 2006 to May 2006. Apple work led all other crops in employment gain (905) from May 2005 to May 2006. Other seasonal work posted the largest over-the-month decline in jobs (-395) for that same time period. Asparagus work moved ahead with the largest employment gain (1,489) from April 2006 to May 2006. Grapes lost the greatest amount of employment (-641) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2006 in Area 2 was \$7.75 per hour. (See pages 17 -19 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				APR 06-	MAY 05-	APR 06-	MAY 05-
	<u>MAY 06</u>	<u>APR 06</u>	<u>MAY 05</u>	<u>MAY 06</u>	<u>MAY 06</u>	<u>MAY 06</u>	<u>MAY 06</u>
CROP							
Apples	2,004	2,248	1,099	(244)	905	-10.9%	82.3%
Asparagus	1,990	501	2,334	1,489	(344)	297.2%	-14.7%
Cherries	397	54	244	343	153	635.2%	62.7%
Grapes	859	1,500	708	(641)	151	-42.7%	21.3%
Hops	446	492	341	(46)	105	-9.3%	30.8%
Misc Vegetables	123	221	88	(98)	35	-44.3%	39.8%
Onion	0	42	22	(42)	(22)	NA	NA
Other Seasonal	383	525	778	(142)	(395)	-27.0%	-50.8%
Other Tree Fruit	0	510	312	(510)	(312)	NA	NA
Pears	12	110	4	(98)	8	-89.1%	200.0%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment declined by 14.2% from May 2005 to May 2006. However, seasonal employment increased from April 2006 to May 2006 by 0.8%. Pear work advanced displayed the largest over-the-year in employment (24) from May 2005 to May 2006. Other tree fruit work registered the largest employment loss (-299) for that same time period. Pear work gained the largest amount of employment (148) from April 2006 to May 2006. Apple work employment registered the largest decrease (-144) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2006 in Area 3 was \$7.90 per hour. (See pages 20 - 21 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	MAY 06	APR 06	MAY 05	APR 06- MAY 06	MAY 05- MAY 06	APR 06- MAY 06	MAY 05- MAY 06
Apples	3,491	3,635	3,713	(144)	(222)	-4.0%	-6.0%
Cherries	129	125	182	4	(53)	3.2%	-29.1%
Other Seasonal	22	20	113	2	(91)	10.0%	-80.5%
Other Tree Fruit	63	43	362	20	(299)	46.5%	-82.6%
Pears	168	20	144	148	24	740.0%	16.7%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment leaped ahead by 14.2% from May 2005 to May 2006. This increase was almost equaled by a 14.1% jump in employment from April 2006 to May 2006. Potato work displayed the largest increase in employment (438) from May 2005 to May 2006. Apple work saw the greatest decline in employment (-211) during that same time period. Asparagus work displayed the largest increase in employment (434) from April 2006 to May 2006. Potato work showed the largest downturn in employment (-156) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2006 in Area 4 was \$7.84 per hour. (See pages 22 - 24 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	MAY 06	APR 06	MAY 05	APR 06- MAY 06	MAY 05- MAY 06	APR 06- MAY 06	MAY 05- MAY 06
Apples	1,646	1,428	1,857	218	(211)	15.3%	-11.4%
Asparagus	569	135	235	434	334	321.5%	142.1%
Cherries	81	167	61	(86)	20	-51.5%	32.8%
Mint	25	31	93	(6)	(68)	-19.4%	-73.1%
Misc Vegetables	16	28	90	(12)	(74)	-42.9%	-82.2%
Nursery	30	44	138	(14)	(108)	-31.8%	-78.3%
Onion	103	54	119	49	(16)	90.7%	-13.4%
Other Seasonal	231	284	232	(53)	(1)	-18.7%	-0.4%
Other Tree Fruit	154	97	17	57	137	58.8%	805.9%
Pears	0	0	16	0	(16)	NA	NA
Potato	578	734	140	(156)	438	-21.3%	312.9%
Wheat	0	0	5	0	(5)	NA	NA
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment decreased by 8.2% from May 2005 to May 2006. However, seasonal employment moved forward by 25.3% from April 2006 to May 2006. Hops work grew by the greatest amount of employment (238) from May 2005 to May 2006. Asparagus work led the decliners (-393) during that same time period. Apple work was the largest over-the-month gainer in employment (665) from April 2006 to May 2006. Other seasonal work experienced shed the most jobs (-703) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2006 in Area 5 was \$7.76 per hour. (See pages 25 - 28 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	MAY 06	APR 06	MAY 05	APR 06- MAY 06	MAY 05- MAY 06	APR 06- MAY 06	MAY 05- MAY 06
Apples	1,422	757	1,220	665	202	87.8%	16.6%
Asparagus	1,954	1,464	2,347	490	(393)	33.5%	-16.7%
Cherries	51	63	94	(12)	(43)	-19.0%	-45.7%
Grapes	731	400	750	331	(19)	82.8%	-2.5%
Hops	534	290	296	244	238	84.1%	80.4%
Misc Vegetables	156	46	101	110	55	239.1%	54.5%
Nursery	19	2	25	17	(6)	850.0%	-24.0%
Onion	243	210	108	33	135	15.7%	125.0%
Other Seasonal	297	1,000	275	(703)	22	-70.3%	8.0%
Other Tree Fruit	118	45	105	73	13	162.2%	12.4%
Potatoes	50	167	184	(117)	(134)	-70.1%	-72.8%
Strawberry	0	3	41	(3)	(41)	NA	NA
Wheat/Grain	22	15	13	7	9	46.7%	69.2%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment leaped ahead by 32.0% from May 2005 to May 2006. Seasonal employment also moved forward by 19.9% from April 2006 to May 2006. Other seasonal work added the largest number of jobs (118) from May 2005 to May 2006. Wheat/grain work lost the most employment (-47) for that same time period. Other seasonal work grew by the largest number of jobs (107) from April 2006 to May 2006. Nursery work lost the most jobs (-11) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers for May 2006 in Area 6 was \$8.88 per hour. (See pages 29 and 30 for Area 6 detail)

AREA 6 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
EASTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	MAY 06	APR 06	MAY 05	APR 06- MAY 06	MAY 05- MAY 06	APR 06- MAY 06	MAY 05- MAY 06
Nursery	268	279	204	(11)	64	-3.94%	31.37%
Other Seasonal	217	110	99	107	118	97.27%	119.19%
Wheat/Grain	47	48	94	(1)	(47)	-2.08%	-50.00%

**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 MAY 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: 3,136 (2,392 local, 0 intrastate, 31 interstate, 9 foreign, 704 unknown origin)

Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	475	\$ 7.64/hr
Nursery Harvester	377	\$ 7.63/hr
Raspberry Planter	286	\$ 7.63/hr
Nursery Weeder	281	\$ 7.63/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,217 (4,682 local, 81 intrastate, 20 interstate, 1,357 foreign, 77 unknown origin)

Asparagus Harvester	1,709	\$ 7.63/hr or \$ 0.20 - \$ 0.23 per pound
Apple Worker	1,173	\$ 7.67/hr
Grapes Pruner	457	\$ 7.63/hr
Hops Trainer	280	\$ 8.09/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,872 (3,665 local, 22 intrastate, 4 interstate, 181 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Hand Thinner	1,741	\$ 7.76/hr
Apple Trainer	796	\$ 7.73/hr
Apple Worker	466	\$ 7.81/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	193	\$ 8.07/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,429 (2,468 local, 252 intrastate, 10 interstate, 222 foreign, 477 unknown origin)

Apple Trainer	586	\$ 7.73/hr
Asparagus Harvester	565	\$ 7.63/hr or \$ 0.17¼ - \$ 0.23 per pound
Apple Hand Thinner	358	\$ 7.67/hr
Potato Preparation	216	\$ 8.02/hr

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 5,596 (2,950 local, 37 intrastate, 299 interstate, 1,536 foreign, 774 unknown origin)

Asparagus Harvester	1,925	\$ 7.76/hr or \$ 0.14¼ - \$ 0.26 per pound
Apple Hand Thinner	963	\$ 7.65/hr
Hops Trainer	358	Not Available
Walla Walla Sweets Weeder	211	\$ 7.65/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 524 (517 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 7 unknown origin)

Nursery Harvester	120	\$ 8.90/hr
Grass Seed Weeder	57	\$ 7.65/hr
Beef Cattle Worker	43	\$ 9.00/hr
Nursery Planter	36	\$ 8.07/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
MAY 2006

TABLE 1

MAY 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	2,392	0	31	9	704	3,136
2. South Central	4,682	81	20	1,357	77	6,217
3. North Central	3,665	22	4	181	0	3,872
4. Columbia Basin	2,468	252	10	222	477	3,429
5. South Eastern	2,950	37	299	1,536	774	5,596
6. Eastern	517	0	0	0	7	524
State Totals	16,674	392	364	3,305	2,039	22,774
% State Total	73.2%	1.7%	1.6%	14.5%	9.0%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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	3,136
a. Local	2,392
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	31
d. Foreign	9
e. Unknown	704
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The May 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 7,133.
 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. Retail garden stores and nurseries reported slower than normal sales of bedding and vegetable transplants due to the ongoing showers. Corn, green peas, potatoes, spinach and beet seed were all emerging. Blueberry and strawberry blossoms were almost done. Raspberries continued to blossom.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$7.89 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for nursery harvester, raspberry planter, nursery weeder, bulbs harvester, raspberry pruner, rhubarb harvester, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery irrigator and nursery chemical applicator to \$11.25 for nursery vehicle operator. 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 76.3% local, 0.0% intrastate, 1.0% interstate, foreign 0.3% and 22.4% 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: MAY 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	3,136
		* = piece rate
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	475	\$ 7.64
Nursery Harvester	377	\$ 7.63
Raspberry Planter	286	\$ 7.63
Nursery Weeder	281	\$ 7.63
Nursery Worker	266	\$ 8.49
Bulbs Harvester	231	\$ 7.63
Nursery Planter	226	\$ 7.69
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	191	\$ 7.68
Raspberry Pruner	108	\$ 7.63
Rhubarb Harvester	104	\$ 7.63
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	90	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Harvester	74	\$ 9.01
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	55	\$ 8.00
Raspberry Weeder	43	\$ 8.00
Pumpkin Planter	43	\$ 7.70
Misc Onion Harvester	43	\$ 7.70
Cucumber Planter	43	\$ 7.70
Potato Tractor Operator	34	\$10.46
Nursery Irrigator	33	\$ 7.63
Potato Preparation	31	\$ 8.12
Cauliflower Planter	28	\$ 8.15
Nursery Vehicle Operator	28	\$11.25
Pumpkin Sorter/Grader/Packer	14	\$10.00
Nursery Chemical Applicator	13	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	8	\$11.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	6	\$ 9.75
Potato Mechanized Harvester	6	\$ 9.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 7.89/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 2006
State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat, Yakima)

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

Table with 2 columns: Category and Count. Rows include: 1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers (6,217), a. Local (4,682), b. Intrastate migratory (81), c. Interstate migratory (20), d. Foreign (1,357), e. Unknown (77); 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers (a. Intrastate: Quincy, Sunnyside, Wenatchee; b. Interstate: California, Oregon; c. Foreign: Mexico)

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

- 1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers: The May 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 13,003.
2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
a. Crop, market, and weather conditions: Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Due to rain, several hay producers reported possible quality losses on hay that was in the process of being harvested. Primary agricultural activities were asparagus cutting, apple work, grapes pruning and hops training.
b. Wages, housing, and transportation: The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$7.75 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for asparagus harvester, grapes pruner, apple trainer, grapes trainer, apple planter, cherry hand thinner, hops weeder, apple hand thinner, cherry trainer, apple irrigator, cherry tractor operator, apple sorter/grader/packer, grapes suckering worker, nursery trainer, miscellaneous field crops cultivator, miscellaneous field crops irrigator, grapes cultivator, cherry sorter/grader/packer, miscellaneous field crops weeder, mint weeder, hops irrigator, apple suckering worker, wheat irrigator, silage irrigator, field corn planter, miscellaneous field crops combine driver, mint tractor operator and alfalfa irrigator to \$14.00 for asparagus manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.20 to \$0.23 per pound for asparagus harvest. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force: The labor force was estimated to be 75.3% local, 1.3% intrastate, 0.3% interstate, foreign 21.8% and unknown 1.3%.
d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 2006
State: WASHINGTON

Area 2: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 6,217	* = piece rate
Asparagus Harvester	1,709	\$ 7.63 or * \$ 0.20 - \$ 0.23 per lb
Apple Worker	1,173	\$ 7.67
Grapes Pruner	457	\$ 7.63
Hops Trainer	280	\$ 8.09
Asparagus Sorter/Grader/Packer	268	\$ 7.75
Apple Trainer	198	\$ 7.63
Grapes Trainer	167	\$ 7.63
Apple Planter	155	\$ 7.63
Cherry Hand Thinner	149	\$ 7.63
Hops Weeder	147	\$ 7.63
Apple Hand Thinner	130	\$ 7.63
Cherry Trainer	130	\$ 7.63
Misc Peppers Planter	123	\$ 7.75
Apple Irrigator	111	\$ 7.63
Nursery Planter	108	\$ 9.13
Apple Tractor Operator	87	\$ 7.85
Cherry Tractor Operator	75	\$ 7.63
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	69	\$ 7.63
Grapes Weeder	65	\$ 7.66
Grapes Suckering Worker	56	\$ 7.63
Nursery Trainer	54	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Cultivator	46	\$ 7.91
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	42	\$ 7.63
Grapes Cultivator	42	\$ 7.63
Grapes Irrigator	33	\$ 7.65
Cherry Sorter/Grader/Packer	31	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Weeder	29	\$ 7.63
Apple Grafter	25	\$ 7.63
Apple Chemical Applicator	25	\$ 8.61
Grapes Worker	21	\$ 8.64
Mint Weeder	21	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Mechanic	21	\$ 7.82
Hops Irrigator	19	\$ 7.63
Apple Suckering Worker	19	\$ 7.63
Nursery Worker	16	\$ 9.50
Cherry Irrigator	12	\$ 8.00

Area 2 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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
Apple Weeder	12	\$ 8.50
Pear Pruner	12	\$ 7.54
Mint Irrigator	9	\$ 7.75
Silage Irrigator	6	\$ 7.63
Wheat Irrigator	6	\$ 7.63
Grapes Twiner	6	\$ 9.00
Grapes Planter	6	\$ 7.65
Grapes Chemical Applicator	6	\$10.25
Asparagus Planter	5	\$ 9.00
Asparagus Irrigator	5	\$10.25
Field Corn Planter	4	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Cultivator	4	\$11.00
Mint Chemical Applicator	4	\$ 7.70
Misc Field Crops Combine Driver	4	\$ 7.63
Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester	3	\$ 8.00
Mint Tractor Operator	3	\$ 7.63
Asparagus Manager	3	\$14.00
Alfalfa Irrigator	3	\$ 7.63

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 7.75/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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	3,872
	a. Local	3,665
	b. Intrastate migratory	22
	c. Interstate migratory	4
	d. Foreign	181
	e. Unknown	0
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Chelan, Matson, Wenatchee	
	b. Interstate: Texas	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The May 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 9,314.

 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. The winter wheat crop was looking better. Corn planting was being completed. Some reports were being received regarding cherry and pear crop damage due to frost during bloom. Primary agricultural activities were apple hand thinning and apple training.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$7.90 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for pear pruner, pear trainer, pear weeder, peach pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees worker, apple propper, pear irrigator, pear preparation, cherry worker, and cherry suckering worker to \$50.00 for contract aerial chemical applicator. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 94.6% local, 0.6% intrastate, 0.1% interstate, 4.7% foreign and 0.0% unknown.

 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
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DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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 3,872	* = piece rate
Apple Hand Thinner	1,741	\$ 7.76
Apple Trainer	796	\$ 7.73
Apple Worker	466	\$ 7.81
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	193	\$ 8.07
Apple Weeder	76	\$ 7.70
Cherry Pruner	68	Not Available
Apple Chemical Applicator	57	\$ 8.54
Apple Preparation	53	\$ 7.68
Pear Pruner	46	\$ 7.63
Pear Trainer	42	\$ 7.63
Peach Pruner	38	\$ 7.63
Pear Weeder	38	\$ 7.63
Apple Grafter	38	\$ 8.00
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	25	\$ 7.63
Apple Pruner	19	\$ 7.80
Cherry Planter	19	\$ 9.00
Apple Propper	19	\$ 7.63
Apple Forklift Driver	17	\$ 9.19
Pear Chemical Applicator	15	\$ 8.44
Cherry Irrigator	11	\$ 9.33
Cherry Trainer	11	\$ 8.00
Pear Worker	11	\$ 7.75
Cherry Chemical Applicator	8	\$10.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	8	\$10.00
Misc Hay Irrigator	8	\$ 9.25
Apple Irrigator	8	\$ 7.82
Cherry Worker	8	\$ 7.63
Pear Preparation	8	\$ 7.63
Pear Irrigator	8	\$ 7.63
Apple Tractor Operator	4	\$ 9.00
Apple Manager	4	\$14.00
Cherry Suckering Worker	4	\$ 7.63
Contract Aerial Chemical Applicator	2	\$50.00
Contract Aerial Mechanic	2	\$20.00
Contract Aerial Worker	2	\$14.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 7.90/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 2006

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **COLUMBIA BASIN** (Adams and Grant)

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	3,429
a. Local	2,468
b. Intrastate migratory	252
c. Interstate migratory	10
d. Foreign	222
e. Unknown	477

2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers

- a. Intrastate: Sunnyside, Yakima
- b. Interstate: Indiana, Texas
- c. Foreign: Mexico

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The May 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 5,081.

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

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Rain caused damage to the first cutting of alfalfa. Bean, sweet corn, and onion planting continued. Sweet corn planting continued. Potato planting was completed. Primary agricultural activities were apple training, asparagus harvesting, and apple hand thinning.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$7.84 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for asparagus harvester, potato sorter/grader/packer, blueberry weeder, apple proper, cherry planter, miscellaneous fruit trees pruner, miscellaneous fruit trees weeder, miscellaneous fruit trees planter, nursery weeder, apple planter, mint planter, miscellaneous fruit trees trainer, nursery pruner, asparagus worker, miscellaneous fruit trees irrigator, and miscellaneous fruit trees tractor operator to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.17¼ to \$0.23 per pound for asparagus harvest. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated to be 72.0% local, 7.3% intrastate, 0.3% interstate 6.5% foreign and 13.9% 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: MAY 2006
State: WASHINGTON

Area 4: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 3,429	* = piece rate
Apple Trainer	586	\$ 7.73
Asparagus Harvester	565	\$ 7.63 or * \$ 0.17¼ - \$ 0.23 per lb
Apple Hand Thinner	358	\$ 7.67
Potato Preparation	216	\$ 8.02
Apple Weeder	172	\$ 7.70
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	137	\$ 7.63
Potato Worker	130	\$ 8.24
Apple Pruner	118	\$ 7.79
Apple Irrigator	88	\$ 7.84
Grass Seed Weeder	85	\$ 8.11
Misc Onion Weeder	77	\$ 7.93
Apple Worker	72	\$ 7.67
Blueberry Weeder	69	\$ 7.63
Apple Propper	69	\$ 7.63
Apple Preparation	65	\$ 7.88
Apple Chemical Applicator	57	\$ 8.04
Peach Hand Thinner	46	Not Available
Cherry Planter	38	\$ 7.63
Cherry Hand Thinner	35	\$ 7.65
Apple Grafter	34	\$ 7.68
Potato Mechanic	32	\$ 8.33
Misc Fruit Trees Pruner	31	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Weeder	30	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Planter	30	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.65
Potato Loader	23	\$ 8.72
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	20	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	20	\$ 8.50
Nursery Weeder	20	\$ 7.63
Apple Planter	19	\$ 7.63
Grapes Suckering Worker	17	\$ 8.00
Potato Tractor Operator	16	\$ 9.75
Mint Planter	15	\$ 7.63
Misc Melon Planter	12	\$ 7.75
Misc Fruit Trees Trainer	12	\$ 7.63
Potato Vehicle Operator	11	\$ 9.33

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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
Field Corn Tractor Operator	10	\$ 8.50
Mint Irrigator	10	\$ 8.50
Nursery Pruner	10	\$ 7.63
Potato Manager	9	\$13.75
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle Operator	5	\$10.75
Misc Field Crops Vehicle Operator	5	\$12.00
Asparagus Worker	4	\$ 7.63
Potato Cultivator	4	\$ 9.50
Cherry Fertilizer Applicator	4	\$ 8.75
Cherry Trainer	4	\$ 8.00
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	4	\$ 8.00
Apple Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.50
Misc Fruit Trees Irrigator	3	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Worker	3	\$10.21
Misc Fruit Trees Tractor Operator	2	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Chemical Applicator	1	\$13.00

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 2006
State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **SOUTHEASTERN** (Benton, Franklin, & Walla Walla)

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	5,596
a. Local	2,950
b. Intrastate migratory	37
c. Interstate migratory	299
d. Foreign	1,536
e. Unknown	774
 2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Shelton, Royal City, 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 May 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,391.

 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Rain and high winds caused damage to the first cutting of hay. A large amount of corn, bean and pea acreage was planted throughout the county. Primary agricultural activities were asparagus harvesting, apple hand thinning hops training and Walla Walla Sweets weeding.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$7.76 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 apple planter, apple pruner, grapes pruner, hops weeder, hops cultivator, miscellaneous field crops weeder, general farm irrigator, miscellaneous peppers planter, grapes preparer, blueberry weeder, miscellaneous hay irrigator, cherry suckering worker, cherry pruner, blueberry planter, pumpkin irrigator, miscellaneous peppers weeder, cherry worker, pear worker, and potato worker to \$14.00 for grass seed worker. Typical piece rates were: \$0.14¼ - \$0.26 per pound for asparagus harvest. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 52.7% local, 0.7% intrastate, 5.3% interstate, 27.5% foreign and 13.8% 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: MAY 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 5,596	* = piece rate
Asparagus Harvester	1,925	\$ 7.76 or * \$ 0.14¼ - \$ 0.26 per lb
Apple Hand Thinner	963	\$ 7.65
Hops Trainer	358	Not Available
Walla Walla Sweets Weeder	211	\$ 7.65
Grapes Trainer	207	\$ 7.66
Grapes Cultivator	162	\$ 7.64
Apple Planter	113	\$ 7.63
Apple Pruner	111	\$ 7.63
Apricot Hand Thinner	111	\$ 7.70
Grapes Pruner	105	\$ 7.63
Apple Trainer	101	\$ 7.69
Hops Weeder	100	\$ 7.63
Grapes Suckering Worker	89	\$ 7.74
Grapes Hand Thinner	86	Not Available
Hops Cultivator	76	\$ 7.63
Misc Melon Planter	66	\$ 7.69
General Farm Worker	62	\$ 8.70
Carrot Planter	50	\$ 8.40
Misc Field Crops Weeder	46	\$ 7.63
Apple Weeder	44	\$ 7.85
General Farm Irrigator	39	\$ 7.63
Potato Fertilizer Applicator	35	\$ 8.00
Apple Fertilizer Applicator	31	\$ 7.97
Grapes Planter	28	\$ 7.87
Apple Worker	25	\$ 7.93
Misc Peppers Planter	22	\$ 7.63
Asparagus Loader	19	\$ 8.29
Cherry Fertilizer Applicator	19	\$ 8.40
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	18	\$ 7.88
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	17	\$ 8.00
Grapes Preparation	17	\$ 7.63
Grass Seed Weeder	17	\$ 7.75
Grapes Weeder	17	\$ 7.70
Blueberry Weeder	16	\$ 7.63
Misc Hay Irrigator	15	\$ 7.63
Wheat Irrigator	15	\$ 8.28

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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 Worker	14	\$ 8.03
Cherry Suckering Worker	12	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Planter	12	\$ 9.33
Apple Tractor Operator	12	\$ 8.33
Cherry Pruner	12	\$ 7.63
Blueberry Planter	11	\$ 7.63
Nursery Vehicle Operator	10	\$12.00
Walla Walla Sweets Irrigator	10	\$ 8.50
Walla Walla Sweets Tractor Operator	10	\$ 8.50
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	10	\$ 9.50
Apple Cultivator	8	\$ 7.92
Apple Chemical Applicator	8	\$ 8.72
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	8	\$ 8.50
Pumpkin Irrigator	7	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Irrigator	7	\$ 8.21
Wheat Worker	7	\$ 8.13
Field Corn Tractor Operator	6	\$10.00
Potato Tractor Operator	6	\$10.00
Alfalfa Worker	6	\$ 8.00
Misc Melon Worker	6	\$ 8.00
Asparagus Vehicle Operator	5	\$ 8.38
Asparagus Manager	5	Not Available
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	5	\$11.00
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	5	\$10.25
Misc Peppers Weeder	5	\$ 7.63
Misc Other Fruit Worker	4	\$ 8.25
Nursery Planter	4	\$ 8.00
Apple Irrigator	4	\$ 8.25
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator	3	\$ 8.25
Grapes Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.50
Grapes Chemical Applicator	3	\$ 9.55
Cherry Worker	3	\$ 7.63
Pear Worker	3	\$ 7.63
Potato Vehicle Operator	3	\$10.00
Field Corn Irrigator	3	\$10.00
Potato Irrigator	3	\$10.00

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: MAY 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
Cherry Cultivator	3	\$ 8.50
Potato Worker	3	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Harvester	2	\$ 8.50
Grass Seed Worker	2	\$14.00
Misc Hay Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 9.00
Apple Manager	2	\$ 7.75
Blueberry Cultivator	2	\$ 8.50
Cherry Chemical Applicator	2	\$11.10

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: MAY 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	524
a. Local	517
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	0
d. Unknown	0
e. Foreign	7
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 May 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 743.

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

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

Weather conditions were than colder and wetter than normal for the reporting period. Winter wheat stands generally looked very good. Spring crops continued to emerge and develop with the late seeding but much needed rains helped bring things along.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in May averaged \$8.88 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.65 for grass seed weeder, apple pruner, and cherry pruner to \$12.00 for wheat vehicle operator and contract aerial worker. 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 98.6% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, 0.0% foreign and 1.4% 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: MAY 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	524
		* = piece rate
Nursery Harvester	120	\$ 8.90
Grass Seed Weeder	57	\$ 7.65
Beef Cattle Worker	43	\$ 9.00
Nursery Planter	36	\$ 8.07
Nursery Loader	33	\$ 8.26
Nursery Vehicle Operator	23	\$ 9.08
Wheat Vehicle Operator	19	\$12.00
Nursery Irrigator	18	\$ 8.61
Nursery Mechanized Harvester	13	\$10.70
Chicken Fryer Harvester	13	\$ 8.00
Contract Misc Crop Worker	10	\$12.00
Contract Misc Crop Planter	10	\$10.00
Contract Misc Crop Irrigator	10	\$10.00
Contract Misc Crop Preparation	10	\$10.00
Lentil Planter	10	\$ 9.00
Wheat Planter	10	\$ 9.00
Wheat Tractor Operator	10	Not Available
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Tractor Operator	10	\$12.50
Barley Planter	10	\$ 9.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	10	\$ 8.50
Wheat Worker	8	\$10.00
Nursery Pruner	8	\$ 9.00
Tomato Planter	8	\$ 8.50
Apple Pruner	5	\$ 7.65
Cherry Pruner	5	\$ 7.65
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	5	\$ 9.00
Nursery Worker	3	\$ 8.25
Apple Tractor Operator	3	\$ 8.25
Nursery Tractor Operator	3	\$ 9.50
Nursery Chemical Applicator	3	\$10.50
Nursery Fertilizer Applicator	3	\$10.50
Contract Aerial Worker	3	\$12.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN EASTERN AREA 6 \$ 8.88/hr (weighted average)