



## **AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS**

**OCTOBER 2006**



Prepared by

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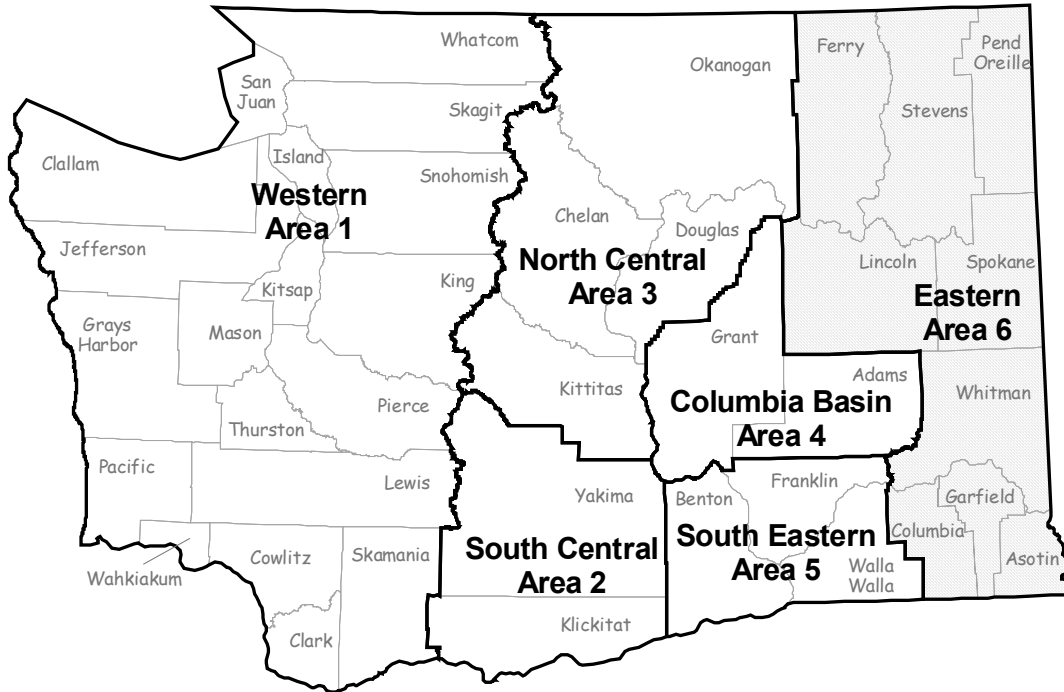
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OCTOBER 2006

## 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

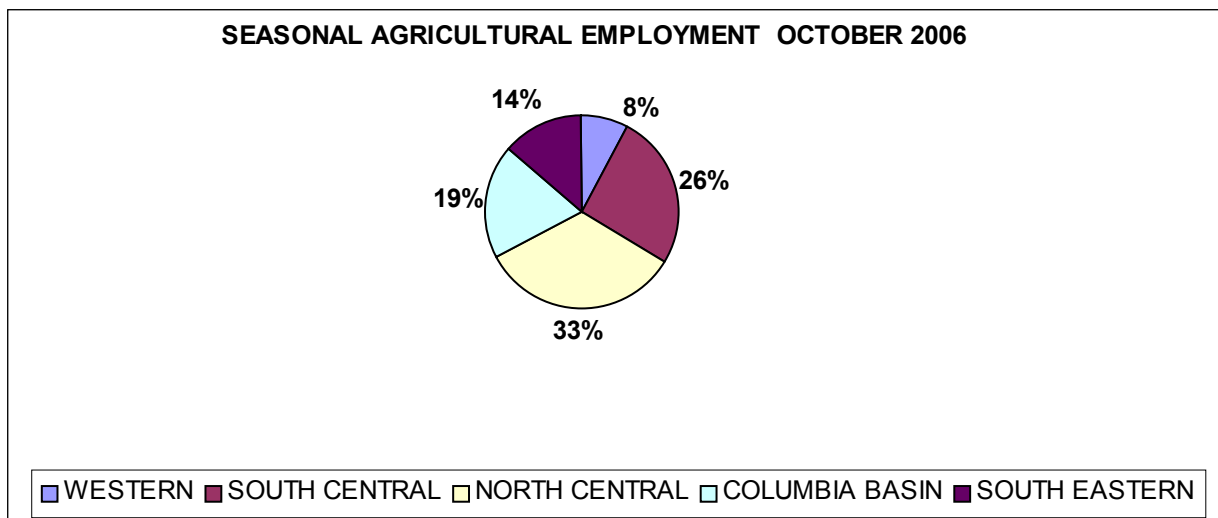
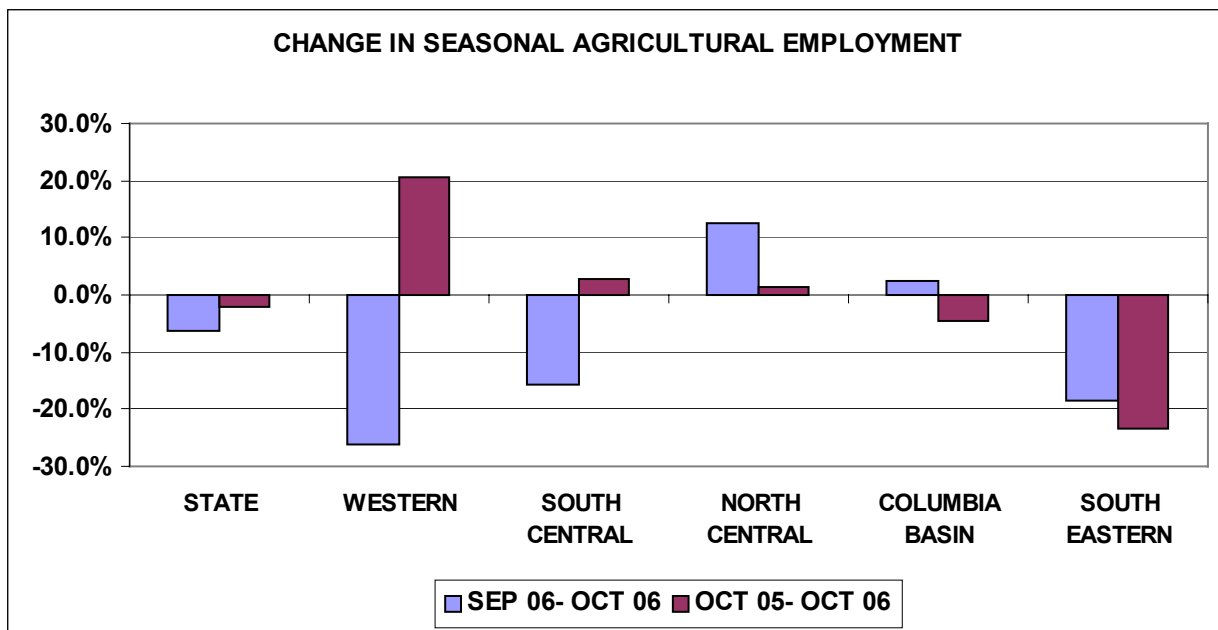
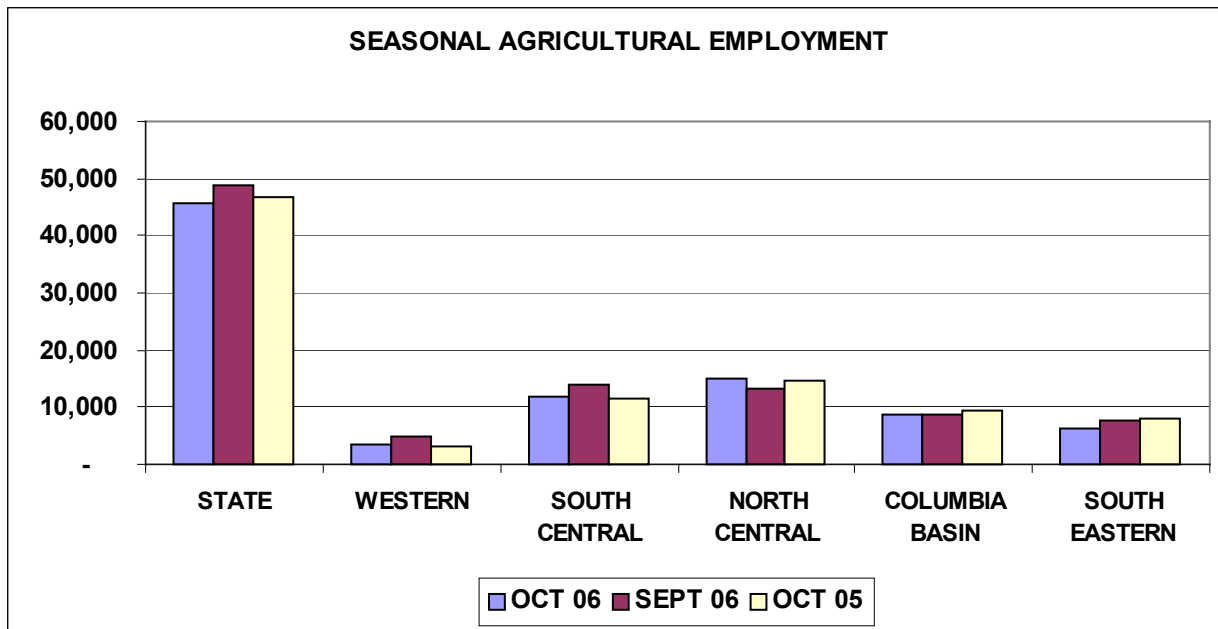
Statewide seasonal agricultural employment fell by 2.2% from October 2005 to October 2006. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year losses were apple work (-1,198), onion work (-580), miscellaneous vegetables work (-405), cucumber work (-345), blueberry work (-129), other seasonal work (-112), other tree fruit work (-65), grapes work (-62), raspberry work (-29) and wheat/grain work (-28). Activities displaying gains in seasonal employment were pear work (958), potato work (606), nursery work (333), asparagus work (27), hops work (16) and strawberry work (9). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment moved ahead by 20.7%, due to an increase in potato work (953). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment grew by 2.7%, thanks to an upturn in apple work (868). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment inched up by 1.4%, courtesy of a bump in pear employment (1,058). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment contracted by 4.7%, caused by a loss in apple work (-437). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment fell by 23.4%, again driven by a downturn in apple work (-864). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment boomed ahead by 86.7%, due to an increase in other seasonal work (97).

## ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

In spite of hailstorms and a tight labor market, state apple growers are banking on solid returns as the season winds down. So far, nearly 12 million boxes of Washington apples have been shipped, according to the figures from the Yakima Valley Growers-Shippers Association and the Wenatchee Valley Traffic Association. That's on pace with the past two years. About 12.3 million boxes had been shipped by this time last year and 11.1 million boxes had been shipped at this time two years ago. Earlier forecasts for crop size were for 92 million boxes. New forecasts will be available soon. Prices have remained high. A lack of competition from California's tree fruit along with a surging demand for last year's crop and a manageable crop size have kept prices high. Red Delicious apples have been selling for \$16 per box, compared with \$13 per box a year ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Northwest hops supplies are tight this year, a dramatic change from the over-supply that has hammered the Northwest hop industry over the past decade or so. The result has been growers abandoning hop fields worldwide. In the United States alone, acreage fell more than 30 percent, from 43,430 acres in 1995 to 28,928 acres in 2006. September 1 hop stocks held by U.S. growers, dealers and brewers totaled about 49 million pounds, the National Agricultural Statistics Service reported. That's the lowest September 1 inventory since 2000, when stocks were estimated at 48 million pounds. Growers are hoping the situation will help set the stage for next year, and that brewers will see the benefits of forward contracting, said Ann George, administrator of the Washington Hops Commission. This year, nearly 76 percent of the Northwest's hop crop was sold prior to harvest, NASS said.

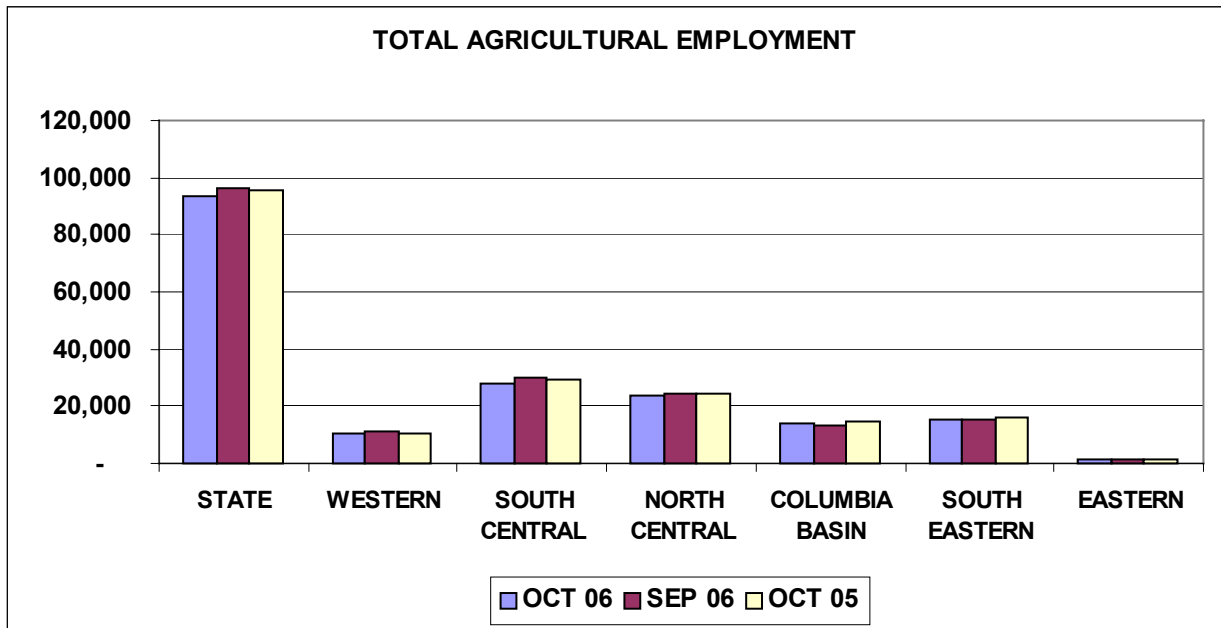
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	<u>OCT 06</u>	<u>SEPT 06</u>	<u>OCT 05</u>	SEP 06- <u>OCT 06</u>	OCT 05- <u>OCT 06</u>	SEP 06- <u>OCT 06</u>	OCT 05- <u>OCT 06</u>
STATE	45,786	48,795	46,806	(3,009)	(1,020)	-6.2%	-2.2%
WESTERN	3,627	4,913	3,005	(1,286)	622	-26.2%	20.7%
SOUTH CENTRAL	11,752	13,915	11,448	(2,163)	304	-15.5%	2.7%
NORTH CENTRAL	15,024	13,336	14,823	1,688	201	12.7%	1.4%
COLUMBIA BASIN	8,841	8,618	9,276	223	(435)	2.6%	-4.7%
SOUTH EASTERN	6,176	7,591	8,058	(1,415)	(1,882)	-18.6%	-23.4%
EASTERN	366	422	196	(56)	170	-13.3%	86.7%



## TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment fell by 2.7% from October 2005 to October 2006. Over-the-month total employment slid by 3.2% due to the winding down of apple harvest. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment decreased by 2.3%. South Central (Area 2) total employment slowed by 2.8%. North Central (Area 3) total employment contracted by 3.0%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment declined by 2.7%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment stepped back by 2.3%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment lagged by 2.1%.

	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT						
	<u>OCT 06</u>	<u>SEP 06</u>	<u>OCT 05</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				SEP 06- OCT 06	OCT 05- OCT 06	SEP 06- OCT 06	OCT 05- OCT 06
STATE	93,273	96,360	95,852	(3,087)	(2,579)	-3.2%	-2.7%
WESTERN	10,499	11,500	10,750	(1,001)	(251)	-8.7%	-2.3%
SOUTH CENTRAL	28,254	30,081	29,070	(1,827)	(816)	-6.1%	-2.8%
NORTH CENTRAL	23,667	24,600	24,400	(933)	(733)	-3.8%	-3.0%
COLUMBIA BASIN	13,987	13,262	14,373	725	(387)	5.5%	-2.7%
SOUTH EASTERN	15,398	15,500	15,759	(102)	(361)	-0.7%	-2.3%
EASTERN	1,469	1,417	1,500	52	(31)	3.6%	-2.1%

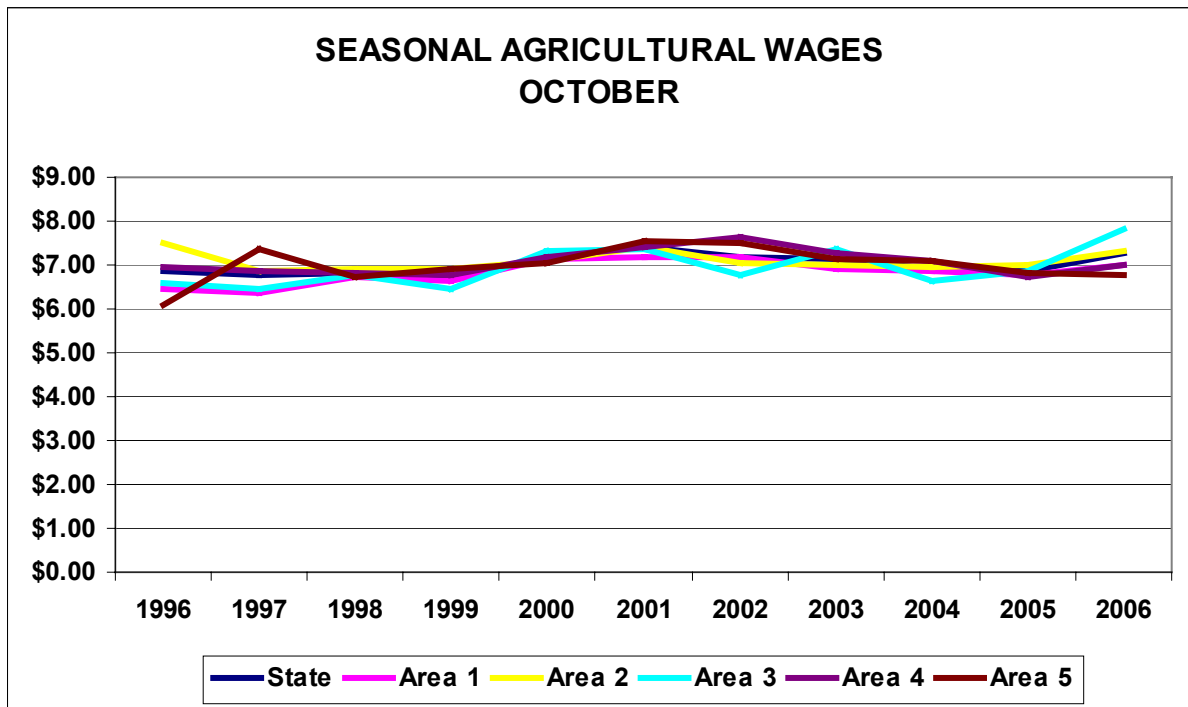


## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL WAGE TRENDS

Statewide real seasonal agricultural wages increased by 6.4% from October 1996 to October 2006. Washington State real minimum wages expanded by 21.5% during this same time period. Statewide real agricultural seasonal wages grew by 6.2% from October 2005 to October 2006. The state minimum wage expanded by 1.2% during this same time period. Western (Area 1) seasonal wages advanced 8.5% from October 1996 to October 2006. South Central (Area 2) seasonal wages declined by 2.3% for that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal wages grew by 18.6% for that same time period. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal wages inched ahead by 0.6% for that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal wages expanded by 11.4% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WAGES*											
OCTOBER											
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>State</b>	<b>\$6.85</b>	<b>\$6.77</b>	<b>\$6.82</b>	<b>\$6.74</b>	<b>\$7.16</b>	<b>\$7.39</b>	<b>\$7.18</b>	<b>\$7.16</b>	<b>\$6.92</b>	<b>\$6.86</b>	<b>\$7.28</b>
<b>Area 1</b>	\$6.44	\$6.37	\$6.72	\$6.65	\$7.12	\$7.16	\$7.19	\$6.93	\$6.88	\$6.76	\$6.99
<b>Area 2</b>	\$7.51	\$6.86	\$6.92	\$6.93	\$7.10	\$7.39	\$7.06	\$7.00	\$6.96	\$7.00	\$7.34
<b>Area 3</b>	\$6.60	\$6.44	\$6.79	\$6.45	\$7.30	\$7.35	\$6.77	\$7.36	\$6.66	\$6.87	\$7.82
<b>Area 4</b>	\$6.97	\$6.85	\$6.81	\$6.79	\$7.16	\$7.41	\$7.64	\$7.26	\$7.09	\$6.75	\$7.01
<b>Area 5</b>	\$6.09	\$7.38	\$6.73	\$6.89	\$7.06	\$7.53	\$7.48	\$7.14	\$7.10	\$6.81	\$6.79

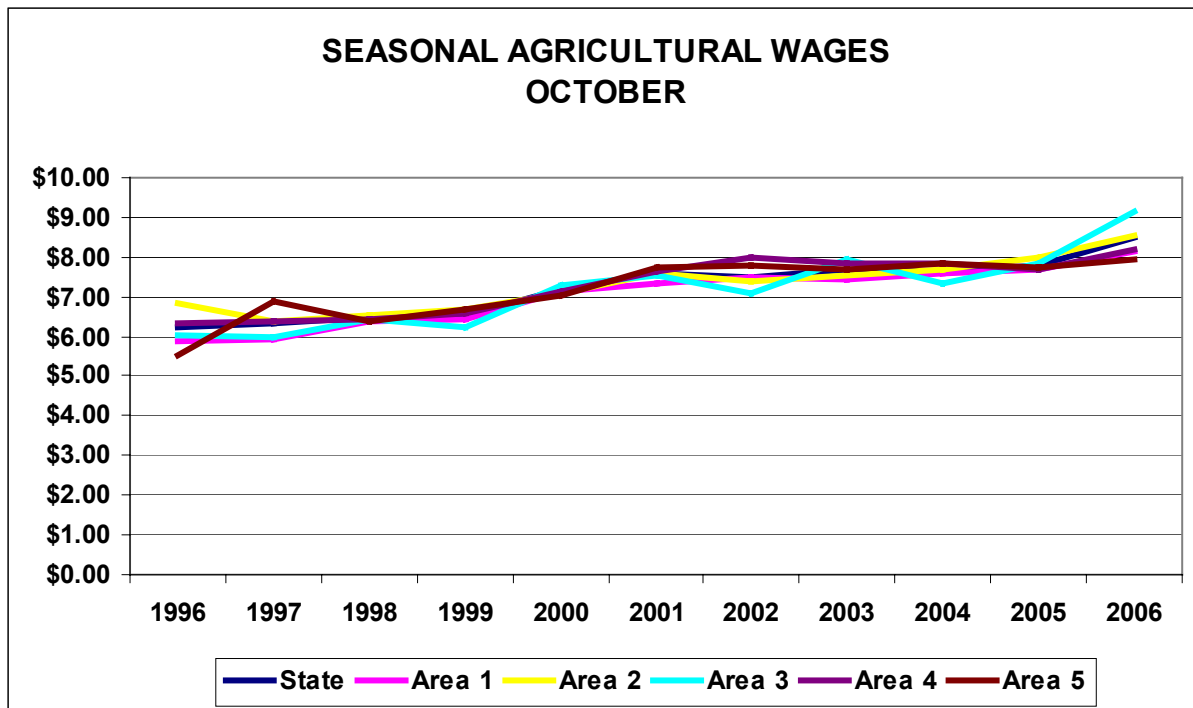
\*Real 2000 Adjusted Dollars



Statewide non-adjusted seasonal agricultural wages increased by 36.3% from October 1996 to October 2006. Washington State non-adjusted minimum wages expanded by 55.7% during this same time period. Statewide non-adjusted agricultural seasonal wages grew by 8.9% from October 2005 to October 2006. The state minimum wage expanded by 3.8% during this same time period. Western (Area 1) seasonal wages moved ahead by 39.0% from October 1996 to October 2006. South Central (Area 2) seasonal wages advanced by 25.1% for that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal wages grew by 51.9% for that same time period. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal wages expanded by 28.8% for that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal wages rose by 42.7% during that same time period.

<b>SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WAGES**</b>											
<b>OCTOBER</b>											
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>State</b>	\$6.24	\$6.31	\$6.46	\$6.52	\$7.16	\$7.60	\$7.49	\$7.71	\$7.64	\$7.81	<b>\$8.50</b>
<b>Area 1</b>	\$5.87	\$5.94	\$6.36	\$6.43	\$7.12	\$7.36	\$7.51	\$7.46	\$7.59	\$7.69	\$8.16
<b>Area 2</b>	\$6.84	\$6.39	\$6.55	\$6.70	\$7.10	\$7.60	\$7.37	\$7.54	\$7.68	\$7.97	\$8.56
<b>Area 3</b>	\$6.01	\$6.00	\$6.43	\$6.24	\$7.30	\$7.56	\$7.07	\$7.93	\$7.35	\$7.82	\$9.13
<b>Area 4</b>	\$6.35	\$6.38	\$6.45	\$6.57	\$7.16	\$7.62	\$7.98	\$7.82	\$7.83	\$7.68	\$8.18
<b>Area 5</b>	\$5.55	\$6.88	\$6.37	\$6.66	\$7.06	\$7.74	\$7.81	\$7.69	\$7.84	\$7.75	\$7.92

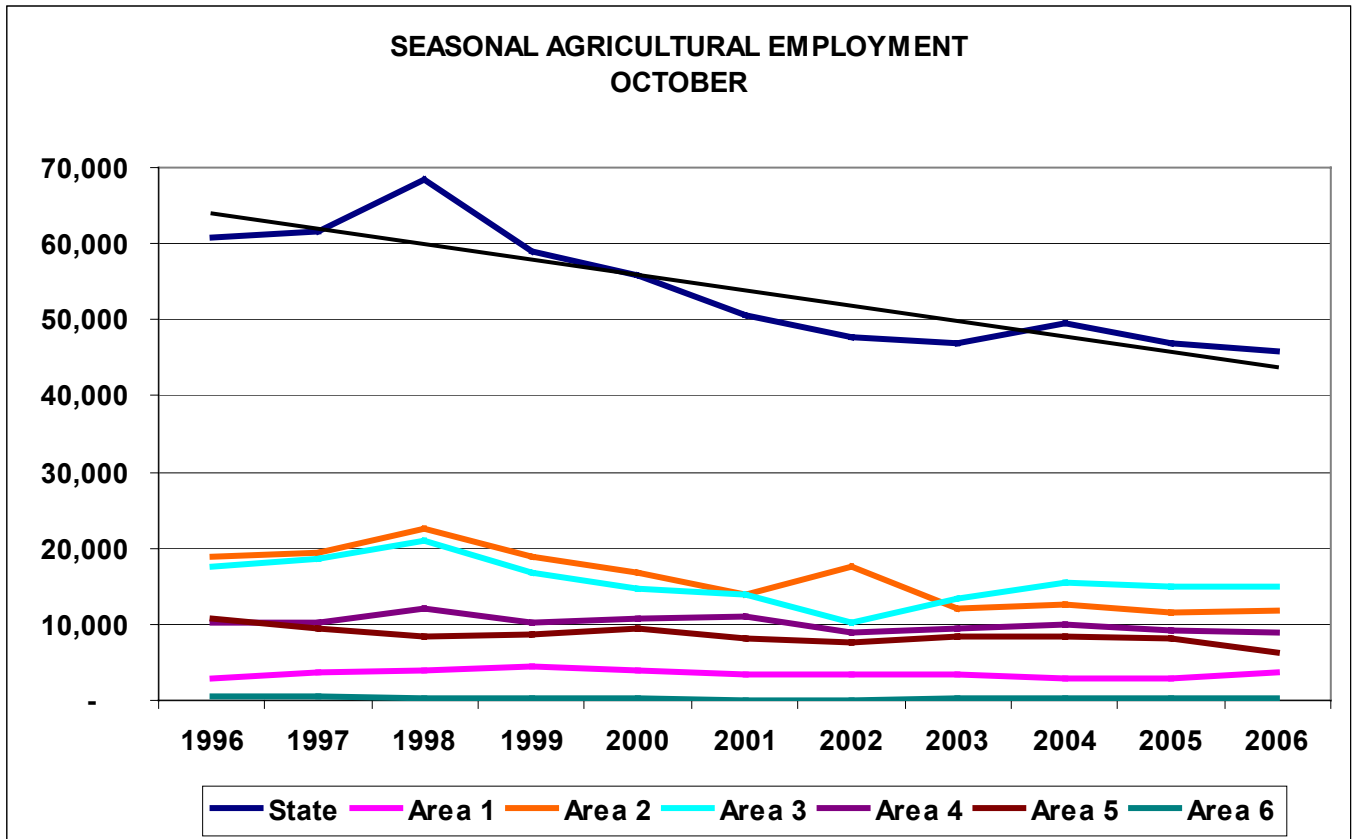
**\*\* Non-Adjusted Dollars**



## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Statewide seasonal agricultural employment fell by 24.7% from October 1996 to October 2006. Statewide seasonal agricultural employment declined by 2.2% from October 2005 to October 2006. Western (Area 1) seasonal employment increased 22.7% from October 1996 to October 2006. South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment slipped by 38.1% during that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment softened by 14.3% for that same time period. Columbia Basin seasonal employment fell back by 14.4% during that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment eased back by 41.9% over that same time period. Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment dipped by 7.1% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT OCTOBER											
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>State</b>	60,833	61,614	68,337	58,981	55,739	50,559	47,790	47,028	49,650	46,806	45,786
<b>Area 1</b>	2,956	3,655	3,850	4,393	3,986	3,388	3,344	3,479	2,930	3,005	3,627
<b>Area 2</b>	18,995	19,400	22,619	18,796	16,759	13,983	17,597	11,946	12,714	11,448	11,752
<b>Area 3</b>	17,541	18,489	21,035	16,761	14,637	13,959	10,176	13,469	15,395	14,823	15,024
<b>Area 4</b>	10,324	10,288	12,061	10,270	10,741	10,890	8,926	9,543	9,948	9,276	8,841
<b>Area 5</b>	10,623	9,365	8,480	8,539	9,386	8,230	7,644	8,431	8,287	8,058	6,176
<b>Area 6</b>	394	417	292	222	230	109	103	160	376	196	366





## STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

**Statewide** seasonal employment contracted by 2.2% from October 2005 to October 2006. Seasonal employment declined by 6.2% statewide from September 2006 to October 2006, due to a smaller apple harvest. The crop activity adding the most jobs from October 2005 to October 2006 was pear work (958). Apple work lost the largest amount of employment (-1,198) for that same time period. Apple work gained the most employment (3,536) from September 2006 to October 2006. Other seasonal work displayed the largest downturn in employment (-1,989) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2006 was \$8.50 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	OCT 06	SEPT 06	OCT 05	SEP 06- OCT 06	OCT 05- OCT 06	SEP 06- OCT 06	OCT 05- OCT 06
Apples	35,072	31,536	36,270	3,536	(1,198)	11.2%	-3.3%
Asparagus	49	0	22	49	27	NA	122.7%
Blueberry	8	191	137	(183)	(129)	-95.8%	-94.2%
Bulb	87	114	78	(27)	9	-23.7%	11.5%
Cherries	5	115	32	(110)	(27)	-95.7%	-84.4%
Cucumber	52	204	397	(152)	(345)	-74.5%	-86.9%
Grapes	988	1,038	1,050	(50)	(62)	-4.8%	-5.9%
Hops	26	1,829	10	(1,803)	16	-98.6%	160.0%
Misc Vegetables	1,298	1,729	1,703	(431)	(405)	-24.9%	-23.8%
Nursery	938	1,212	605	(274)	333	-22.6%	55.0%
Onion	221	778	801	(557)	(580)	-71.6%	-72.4%
Other Seasonal	618	2,607	730	(1,989)	(112)	-76.3%	-15.3%
Other Tree Fruit	92	740	157	(648)	(65)	-87.6%	-41.4%
Pears	2,194	3,682	1,236	(1,488)	958	-40.4%	77.5%
Potato	3,419	2,086	2,813	1,333	606	63.9%	21.5%
Raspberry	625	724	654	(99)	(29)	-13.7%	-4.4%
Strawberry	9	15	0	(6)	9	-40.0%	NA
Wheat/Grain	83	201	111	(118)	(28)	-58.7%	-25.2%

\*\*Crop detail may not add due to rounding

**Western (Area 1)** seasonal employment moved forward by 20.7% from October 2005 to October 2006. However, seasonal employment slid by 26.2% from September 2006 to October 2006. Potato work expanded by the greatest number of jobs (953) from October 2005 to October 2006. Cucumber work displayed the largest over-the-year loss in employment (-345) for that same time period. Potato work exhibited the greatest employment gain (544) from September 2006 to October 2006. Other seasonal displayed the largest loss in jobs (-580) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2006 in Area 1 was \$8.16 per hour. (See pages 19 -21 for Area 1 detail)

**AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

<b>WESTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>OCT 06</b>	<b>SEPT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05</b>	<b>SEP 06- OCT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05- OCT 06</b>	<b>SEP 06- OCT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05- OCT 06</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Blueberry	8	191	137	(183)	(129)	-95.8%	-94.2%
Bulb	87	114	78	(27)	9	-23.7%	11.5%
Cucumber	52	204	397	(152)	(345)	-74.5%	-86.9%
Misc Vegetables	702	1,273	785	(571)	(83)	-44.9%	-10.6%
Nursery	668	888	505	(220)	163	-24.8%	32.3%
Other Seasonal	183	763	102	(580)	81	-76.0%	79.4%
Potato	1,300	756	347	544	953	72.0%	274.6%
Raspberry	625	724	654	(99)	(29)	-13.7%	-4.4%
Strawberry	8	0	0	0	8	NA	NA

\*\*Crop detail may not add due to rounding

**South Central (Area 2)** seasonal employment moved ahead by a small 2.7% from October 2005 to October 2006. Seasonal employment pulled back by 15.5% from September 2006 to October 2006. Apple work posted the largest gain in employment (868) from October 2005 to October 2006. Grapes work lost the greatest number of jobs (-304) for that same time period. Apple work registered the largest over-the-month gain in employment (850) from September 2006 to October 2006. Hops work showed the largest job loss (-1,519) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2006 in Area 2 was \$8.56 per hour. (See pages 22 -23 for Area 2 detail)

**AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>OCT 06</b>	<b>SEPT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05</b>	<b>SEP 06- OCT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05- OCT 06</b>	<b>SEP 06- OCT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05- OCT 06</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	10,086	9,236	9,218	850	868	9.2%	9.4%
Asparagus	37	0	0	37	37	NA	NA
Cherries	0	110	22	(110)	(22)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Grapes	328	421	632	(93)	(304)	-22.1%	-48.1%
Hops	26	1,545	0	(1,519)	26	-98.3%	NA
Misc Vegetables	231	360	226	(129)	5	-35.8%	2.2%
Onion	6	113	22	(107)	(16)	-94.7%	-72.7%
Other Seasonal	99	129	282	(30)	(183)	-23.3%	-64.9%
Other Tree Fruit	7	125	15	(118)	(8)	-94.4%	-53.3%
Pears	931	1,826	1,031	(895)	(100)	-49.0%	-9.7%
Potato	0	49	0	(49)	0	-100.0%	NA

**North Central (Area 3)** seasonal employment advanced by 1.4% from October 2005 to October 2006. However, seasonal employment increased by 12.7% from September 2006 to October 2006 due to apple harvest. Pear work advanced by the largest amount of employment (1,058) from October 2005 to October 2006. Apple work displayed the greatest drop in employment (-765) for that same time period. Apple work added the most jobs (2,355) from September 2006 to October 2006. Other seasonal work lost the largest number of jobs (-440) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2006 in Area 3 was \$9.13 per hour. (See pages 24 - 25 for Area 3 detail)

<b>AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
<b>CROP</b>	<b>OCT 06</b>	<b>SEPT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05</b>	<b>SEP 06- OCT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05- OCT 06</b>	<b>SEP 06- OCT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05- OCT 06</b>
Apples	13,679	11,324	14,444	2,355	(765)	20.8%	-5.3%
Cherries	5	5	8	0	(3)	0.0%	-37.5%
Other Seasonal	34	474	35	(440)	(1)	-92.8%	-2.9%
Other Tree Fruit	42	43	131	(1)	(89)	-2.3%	-67.9%
Pears	1,263	1,491	205	(228)	1,058	-15.3%	516.1%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**Columbia Basin (Area 4)** seasonal employment contracted by 4.7% from October 2005 to October 2006. Seasonal employment expanded by a 2.6% from September 2006 to October 2006. Nursery work displayed the greatest increase in employment (102) from October 2005 to October 2006. Apple work shed the largest number of jobs (-437) during that same time period. Potato work logged the greatest over-the-month gain in employment (758) from September 2006 to October 2006. Onion work lost the largest number of jobs (-393) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2006 in Area 4 was \$8.18 per hour. (See pages 26 - 27 for Area 4 detail)

<b>AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>COLUMBIA BASIN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
<b>CROP</b>	<b>OCT 06</b>	<b>SEPT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05</b>	<b>SEP 06- OCT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05- OCT 06</b>	<b>SEP 06- OCT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05- OCT 06</b>
Apples	6,713	6,259	7,150	454	(437)	7.3%	-6.1%
Asparagus	12	0	22	12	(10)	NA	-45.5%
Mint	0	68	0	(68)	0	-100.0%	NA
Misc Vegetables	0	6	63	(6)	(63)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Nursery	118	161	16	(43)	102	-26.7%	637.5%
Onion	145	538	171	(393)	(26)	-73.0%	-15.2%
Other Seasonal	127	225	57	(98)	70	-43.6%	122.8%
Other Tree Fruit	1	29	11	0	(10)	0.0%	-90.9%
Pears	0	365	0	(365)	0	-100.0%	NA
Potato	1,727	969	1,773	758	(46)	78.2%	-2.6%
Wheat	0	0	13	0	(13)	NA	-100.0%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

**South Eastern (Area 5)** seasonal employment softened by 23.4% from October 2005 to October 2006. Seasonal employment also declined by 18.6% from September 2006 to October 2006. Grapes work advanced with the largest employment gain (242) from October 2005 to October 2006. Apple work lost the largest number of jobs (-864) during that same time period. Miscellaneous vegetables work added the most jobs (275) from September 2006 to October 2006. Other seasonal work experienced the largest over-the-month job loss (-809) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for October 2006 in Area 5 was \$7.92 per hour. (See pages 28 - 30 for Area 5 detail)

<b>AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT</b>							
<b>SOUTH EASTERN</b>				<b>CHANGE</b>		<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>OCT 06</b>	<b>SEPT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05</b>	<b>SEP 06- OCT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05- OCT 06</b>	<b>SEP 06- OCT 06</b>	<b>OCT 05- OCT 06</b>
<b>CROP</b>							
Apples	4,594	4,717	5,458	(123)	(864)	-2.6%	-15.8%
Cherries	0	0	2	0	0	NA	0.0%
Grapes	660	617	418	43	242	7.0%	57.9%
Hops	0	284	10	(284)	(10)	-100.0%	-100.0%
Misc Vegetables	365	90	629	275	(264)	305.6%	-42.0%
Nursery	1	2	10	0	(9)	0.0%	-90.0%
Onion	70	127	608	(57)	(538)	-44.9%	-88.5%
Other Seasonal	39	848	215	(809)	(176)	-95.4%	-81.9%
Other Tree Fruit	42	543	0	(501)	42	-92.3%	NA
Potatoes	392	312	693	80	(301)	25.6%	-43.4%
Strawberry	1	15	0	(14)	1	-93.3%	NA
Wheat/Grain	5	36	15	(31)	(10)	-86.1%	-66.7%
**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 October.

## **LABOR SUPPLY**

New survey questions were inserted into the October survey. The first question asked growers if they failed to complete some work due to lack of available seasonal labor. For October, 400 questionnaires were sent to the employers in the survey. Of these 400, 334 were returned. Of the 334 returned, 334 provided usable answers to the question of labor shortage. These 334 report their rate of labor shortage in the panel below. These statistics are unweighted.

### **RESPONSE RATES TO LABOR SHORTAGE QUESTION INDICATING A POSITIVE RESPONSE**

<b>REPORTED LABOR SHORTAGE</b>	
<b>State</b>	12.3%
<b>Area 1</b>	4.2%
<b>Area 2</b>	15.3%
<b>Area 3</b>	12.5%
<b>Area 4</b>	13.1%
<b>Area 5</b>	16.1%
<b>Area 6</b>	4.2%

## Methodology

The "Agricultural Workforce Report" uses data from the monthly Seasonal Farm Labor Survey. This is a survey of 600 agricultural growers in the state. They report monthly the number of total and seasonal workers by crop, activity, and wage. Both hourly and piece rates are used. "Seasonal" workers for the purpose of the survey are those working less than 150 days per year. The state is grouped into six areas based on agricultural economic similarity. The tables and charts presented compare the seasonal agricultural employment for the state and the six areas for the current month, previous month and year ago. Percentage increases as well as raw numbers are given. The weighted monthly wage for seasonal employment is given for the state and the six areas. Each crop activity having significant employment is noted as a percentage change for previous month and year ago. The crops having the highest gain and highest decline in employment are highlighted in the narrative. The Farm Labor Abstract is also included. This contains the top four crop activities by employment and wage for each of the six areas. Piece rates are given in addition to hourly wages when available and disclosable. Some variation in the reporting of the seasonal data can be attributed to the requirement that employment be reported in the pay period including the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 OCTOBER 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: 3,627 (2,752 local, 229 intrastate, 96 interstate, 53 foreign, 497 unknown origin)

Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	1,147	\$ 7.75/hr
Raspberry Pruner .....	549	Not Available
Pumpkin Worker .....	263	\$ 7.63/hr
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	215	\$ 7.63/hr

### **SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 11,752 (3,658 local, 1,074 intrastate, 569 interstate, 3,172 foreign, 3,279 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester .....	8,758	\$ 8.78/hr or \$13.00 - \$50.00 per bin
Pear Harvester .....	931	Not Available
Apple Irrigator .....	609	\$ 9.25/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	296	\$ 8.49/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 15,024 (10,235 local, 40 intrastate, 1,209 interstate, 1,486 foreign, 2,054 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester .....	13,159	\$ 9.29/hr or \$ 6.50 - \$26.00 per bin
Pear Harvester .....	1,053	\$ 9.63/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	314	\$ 7.56/hr
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	143	\$ 9.03/hr

### **COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,841 (4,940 local, 199 intrastate, 295 interstate, 397 foreign, 3,010 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester .....	6,282	\$ 7.82/hr or \$12.00 - \$40.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer .....	889	\$ 8.22/hr
Potato Vehicle Operator .....	356	\$10.27/hr
Potato Mechanized Harvester .....	222	\$ 8.68/hr

### **SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

Estimated seasonal workforce: 6,176 (2,722 local, 0 intrastate, 88 interstate, 627 foreign, 2,739 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester .....	4,486	\$ 7.76/hr or \$12.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Grapes Harvester .....	647	\$ 8.29/hr
Misc Vegetables Worker .....	208	Not Available
Potato Harvester .....	167	\$ 7.67/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 366 (366 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Beef Cattle Worker .....	82	\$ 9.57/hr
Nursery Mechanized Harvester .....	48	\$ 9.00/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator .....	26	\$10.00/hr
Wheat Mechanic .....	26	\$ 8.00/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**  
**OCTOBER 2006**

**TABLE 1**  
**OCTOBER 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	2,752	229	96	53	497	3,627
2. South Central	3,658	1,074	569	3,172	3,279	11,752
3. North Central	10,235	40	1,209	1,486	2,054	15,024
4. Columbia Basin	4,940	199	295	397	3,010	8,841
5. South Eastern	2,722	0	88	627	2,739	6,176
6. Eastern	366	0	0	0	0	366
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>24,674</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>5,735</b>	<b>11,585</b>	<b>45,786</b>
<b>% State Total</b>	<b>53.9%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 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)

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### SECTION A. (see attachments)

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### SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	3,627
a. Local	2,754
b. Intrastate migratory	229
c. Interstate migratory	96
d. Foreign	53
e. Unknown	497
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Gig Harbor, Pasco, Yakima	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The October 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,751.

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

- a. Crop, market, and weather conditions: Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. Sweet corn harvest was wrapping up. Potato harvest was still underway. Broccoli, corn and pumpkin harvests were finishing up for the year. Raspberry vines were being pruned.
  - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$8.16 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for pumpkin worker, nursery sorter/grader/packer, nursery planter, nursery harvester, nursery weeder, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, and nursery chemical applicator to \$16.00 for miscellaneous grain & seed crops tractor 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 76.0% local, 6.3% intrastate, 2.6% interstate, foreign 1.4% and 13.7% 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: OCTOBER 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)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>* = piece rate</b>
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	1,147	\$ 7.75
Raspberry Pruner	549	Not Available
Pumpkin Worker	263	\$ 7.63
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	215	\$ 7.63
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	187	\$ 9.80
Nursery Planter	164	\$ 7.63
Nursery Harvester	148	\$ 7.63
Nursery Weeder	119	\$ 7.63
Potato Loader	95	\$ 8.00
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	87	\$ 7.63
Pumpkin Harvester	81	\$ 7.65
Cauliflower Harvester	63	\$ 7.80
Misc Field Crops Harvester	59	\$ 8.67
Raspberry Trainer	41	Not Available
Cucumber Manager	38	Not Available
Chicken Eggs Harvester	37	\$ 9.35
Chicken Eggs Worker	32	\$13.89
Potato Tractor Operator	30	\$10.27
Misc Vegetables Worker	28	\$ 9.25
Potato Vehicle Operator	28	\$11.70
Raspberry Irrigator	25	\$ 8.50
Contract Misc Crop Worker	19	\$10.00
Sweet Corn Harvester	18	\$ 8.20
Misc Berries Worker	16	\$ 9.50
Cucumber Harvester	14	\$ 8.20
Misc Squash Harvester	14	\$ 8.20
Misc Onion Harvester	11	\$ 7.70
Beets Harvester	11	\$ 8.20
Dairy Sorter/Grader/Packer	11	\$11.44
Raspberry Worker	10	\$ 8.00
Nursery Irrigator	10	\$ 7.74
Blueberry Planter	8	\$10.00
Strawberry Tractor Operator	8	\$ 9.00
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	7	\$12.40
Misc Vegetables Planter	7	\$ 9.00
Nursery Chemical Applicator	6	\$ 7.63

Area 1 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT**

Period: OCTOBER 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)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
Nursery Worker	6	\$ 7.79
Cauliflower Manager	4	\$ 9.00
Cauliflower Vehicle Operator	4	\$ 8.00
Cauliflower Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.00
Misc Under Cover Crop Worker	3	\$ 7.75
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Tractor Operator	3	\$12.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Pruner	3	\$16.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 ..... \$ 8.16/hr (weighted average)

## DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: OCTOBER 2006

State: WASHINGTON

Area Name: **SOUTH CENTRAL** (Klickitat, Yakima)

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### SECTION A. (see attachments)

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### SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers . . . . .	11,752
a. Local . . . . .	3,658
b. Intrastate migratory . . . . .	1,074
c. Interstate migratory . . . . .	569
d. Foreign . . . . .	3,172
e. Unknown . . . . .	3,279
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Basin City, Mesa, Othello, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Wapato, Washougal, Wenatchee, Yakima	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

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### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The October 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 15,519.
  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. Apple harvest was winding down. No new crop losses were reported due to weather conditions.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$8.56 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for miscellaneous field crops worker, nectarine worker, raspberry tractor operator, and mint vehicle operator to \$12.00 for field corn worker. Typical piece rates were: \$13.00 to \$50.00 per bin for apple 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 31.2% local, 9.1% intrastate, 4.8% interstate, foreign 27.0% and unknown 27.9%.
    - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
    - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT**

Period: OCTOBER 2006  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 2: SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL 11,752</b>	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	8,758	\$ 8.78 or * \$13.00 - \$50.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	931	Not Available
Apple Irrigator	609	\$ 9.25
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	296	\$ 8.49
Grapes Harvester	280	\$ 7.72
Apple Tractor Operator	244	\$ 8.50
Apple Worker	166	\$ 7.83
Misc Peppers Harvester	114	\$ 7.75
Misc Squash Harvester	76	\$ 8.00
Asparagus Weeder	37	\$ 7.94
Misc Peppers Sorter/Grader/Packer	37	\$ 8.25
Hops Tractor Operator	26	\$ 8.50
Grapes Tractor Operator	21	\$ 8.00
Grapes Mechanic	16	\$ 7.67
Mint Irrigator	16	\$ 8.22
Field Corn Vehicle Operator	15	\$ 8.95
Apple Forklift Driver	13	\$10.00
Field Corn Irrigator	11	\$ 7.67
Misc Field Crops Worker	11	\$ 7.63
Grapes Vehicle Operator	11	\$10.00
Silage Vehicle Operator	9	\$ 8.57
Nursery Weeder	7	\$ 8.83
Nectarine Worker	7	\$ 7.63
Raspberry Mechanized Harvester	5	\$ 8.40
Mint Mechanized Harvester	5	\$ 7.70
Raspberry Tractor Operator	5	\$ 7.63
Mint Vehicle Operator	5	\$ 7.63
Misc Peppers Irrigator	4	\$ 9.25
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.50
General Farm Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.00
Field Corn Worker	4	\$12.00
Misc Onion Irrigator	2	\$ 9.25
Silage Irrigator	2	\$ 8.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 ..... \$ 8.56/hr (weighted average)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT**

Period: OCTOBER 2006  
State: WASHINGTON

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

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1.	Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	15,024
	a. Local .....	10,235
	b. Intrastate migratory .....	40
	c. Interstate migratory .....	1,209
	d. Foreign .....	1,486
	e. Unknown .....	2,054
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Benton City, Yakima	
	b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

---

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The October 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,665.
  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. Apple harvest neared completion. All other tree fruits were harvested. Winter wheat was larger in growth than normal for this time of year due to warm temperatures and good moisture.
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$9.13 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.56 for apple sorter/grader/packer to \$25.00 for horse and equines manager. Typical piece rates were: \$6.50 to \$26.00 per bin for apple 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 68.1% local, 0.3% intrastate, 8.0% interstate, 9.9% foreign and 13.7% 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: OCTOBER 2006  
State: WASHINGTON

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

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL      15,024	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	13,159	\$ 9.29 or * \$ 6.50 - \$26.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,053	\$ 9.63
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	314	\$ 7.56
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	143	\$ 9.03
Apple Preparation	114	\$ 7.74
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	37	\$ 7.63
Pear Preparation	37	\$ 7.75
Apple Forklift Driver	30	\$ 9.40
Apple Weeder	21	\$ 7.63
Pear Forklift Driver	20	\$ 9.25
Apple Vehicle Operator	19	\$11.82
Wheat Tractor Operator	11	\$10.00
Apple Tractor Operator	10	\$ 9.00
Pear Weeder	10	\$ 7.63
Apple Worker	7	\$10.00
Misc Fruit Trees Mechanic	5	\$10.00
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	5	\$ 9.25
Misc Hay Mechanized Harvester	5	\$15.00
Horse and Equines Manager	5	\$25.00
Horse and Equines Trainer	5	\$13.00
Apple Manager	5	\$14.00
Cherry Irrigator	5	\$10.00
Contract Aerial Worker	3	\$20.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 ..... \$ 9.13/hr (weighted average)

## DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period:     OCTOBER 2006  
State:       WASHINGTON

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

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### SECTION A. (see attachments)

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### SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

- |    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....   | 8,841 |
|    | a. Local .....  | 4,940 |
|    | b. Intrastate migratory .....   | 199   |
|    | c. Interstate migratory .....   | 295   |
|    | d. Foreign .....  | 397   |
|    | e. Unknown .....  | 3,010 |
|    |   |       |
| 2. | Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers                                    |       |
|    | a. Intrastate: Chelan, Clarkston, College Place, East Wenatchee, Monroe, Yakima, Yelm |       |
|    | b. Interstate: California, Oregon, Texas  |       |
|    | c. Foreign: Mexico  |       |
- 

### SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The October 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,576.
  
  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. Potato harvest was winding down. Processing carrot harvest continued. Dry corn harvest was also winding down. Apple harvest was finished.
  
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$8.18 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for nursery harvester, asparagus weeder, miscellaneous grain & seed crops worker and miscellaneous fruit trees worker to \$16.00 for apple vehicle operator. Typical piece rates were: \$12.00 to \$40.00 per bin for apple 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 56.0% local, 2.2% intrastate, 3.3% interstate 4.5% foreign and 34.0% 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: OCTOBER 2006  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 4: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,841</b>
		* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	6,282	\$ 7.82 or * \$12.00 - \$40.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	889	\$ 8.22
Potato Vehicle Operator	356	\$10.27
Potato Mechanized Harvester	222	\$ 8.68
Apple Worker	158	\$ 8.48
Nursery Harvester	118	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	109	\$ 7.65
Potato Tractor Operator	75	\$ 9.91
Potato Loader	68	\$10.28
Apple Preparation	62	\$ 7.65
Misc Field Crops Vehicle Operator	58	\$17.00
Potato Worker	57	\$ 9.16
Apple Tractor Operator	53	\$ 8.79
Apple Trainer	44	\$ 7.89
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	33	\$ 8.25
Apple Forklift Driver	33	\$ 9.71
Apple Weeder	31	\$ 7.93
Misc Onion Harvester	28	\$ 7.75
Potato Mechanic	24	\$10.88
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	20	\$ 7.88
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	14	\$ 9.50
Alfalfa Harvester	14	\$12.50
Potato Forklift Driver	13	\$ 9.12
Potato Irrigator	13	\$ 9.33
Asparagus Weeder	12	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	11	\$ 9.00
Potato Manager	10	\$13.75
Apple Chemical Applicator	8	\$ 8.42
Misc Onion Loader	8	\$10.25
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	7	\$ 7.63
Apple Vehicle Operator	6	\$16.00
Apple Irrigator	3	\$ 8.00
General Farm Tractor Operator	3	\$10.00
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	1	\$ 7.63

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 ..... \$ 8.18/hr (weighted average)

## DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period:     OCTOBER 2006  
State:       WASHINGTON

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

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SECTION A. (see attachments)

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SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1.	Total domestic seasonal hired workers .....	6,176
a.	Local .....	2,722
b.	Intrastate migratory .....	0
c.	Interstate migratory .....	88
d.	Foreign .....	627
e.	Unknown .....	2,739
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a.	Intrastate: None	
b.	Interstate: California, Florida, Oregon	
c.	Foreign: Mexico	

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SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:  
The October 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,325.
  
  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. Corn was a little further along in harvest and potato harvest was wrapping up. Apples were still being harvested as well as field corn. Grapes harvest continued. Winter wheat was mostly emerged in the dryland and irrigated country looked good.
  
    - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:  
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in October averaged \$7.92 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for miscellaneous onion sorter/grader/packer, apple sorter/grader/packer, carrot irrigator, potato irrigator, and strawberry irrigator to \$12.00 for general farm worker. Typical piece rates were: \$12.00 to \$25.00 per bin for apple 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 44.1% local, 0.0% intrastate, 1.4% interstate, 10.2% foreign and 44.3% 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: OCTOBER 2006  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 5: SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b> 6,176	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	4,486	\$ 7.76 or * \$12.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Grapes Harvester	647	\$ 8.29
Misc Vegetables Worker	208	Not Available
Potato Harvester	167	\$ 7.67
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	114	\$ 7.89
Misc Vegetables Harvester	68	Not Available
Potato Vehicle Operator	58	\$ 9.15
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	56	\$ 7.63
Apple Worker	48	\$ 8.24
Apple Pruner	31	\$ 8.07
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	23	\$ 7.63
Peach Sorter/Grader/Packer	21	\$ 9.50
Nectarine Sorter/Grader/Packer	21	\$ 9.50
Misc Vegetables Forklift Driver	20	\$10.00
Potato Loader	18	\$ 8.40
Potato Mechanized Harvester	16	\$ 8.83
Carrot Harvester	16	\$ 8.40
Spinach Irrigator	14	\$ 9.50
Walla Walla Sweets Irrigator	14	\$ 9.50
Misc Vegetables Tractor Operator	12	\$ 8.50
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	10	\$10.36
Grapes Mechanized Harvester	9	\$ 8.00
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	9	\$10.00
Potato Tractor Operator	9	\$ 8.80
Carrot Mechanic	8	\$ 8.48
Potato Mechanic	7	\$ 8.48
Field Corn Combine Driver	7	\$10.00
Carrot Irrigator	6	\$ 7.63
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	6	\$ 8.13
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	5	\$ 8.75
Wheat Tractor Operator	5	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Harvester	5	\$ 8.50
Misc Melon Worker	4	\$ 8.00
Sweet Corn Irrigator	4	\$ 8.50
Grapes Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$ 9.25
Potato Irrigator	3	\$ 7.63

Area 5 (continued)

**DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT**

Period: OCTOBER 2006  
State: WASHINGTON

**Area 5: SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)**

<b>SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS</b>		
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>CROP ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS</b>	<b>HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS</b>
Apple Manager	3	\$ 8.75
Apple Vehicle Operator	3	\$ 9.25
Misc Hay Irrigator	3	\$ 8.32
Silage Vehicle Operator	2	\$ 9.00
Silage Tractor Operator	2	\$ 9.00
Silage Mechanized Harvester	2	\$ 9.00
General Farm Vehicle Operator	1	\$ 8.00
Alfalfa Irrigator	1	\$ 9.00
Nursery Planter	1	\$ 8.50
General Farm Worker	1	\$12.00
Strawberry Irrigator	1	\$ 7.63

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS  
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG  
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 ..... \$ 7.92/hr (weighted average)