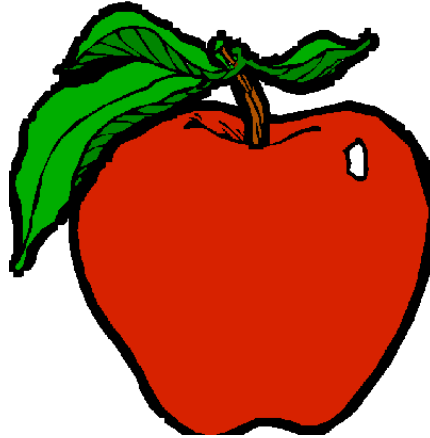




AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

SEPTEMBER 2006



Prepared by

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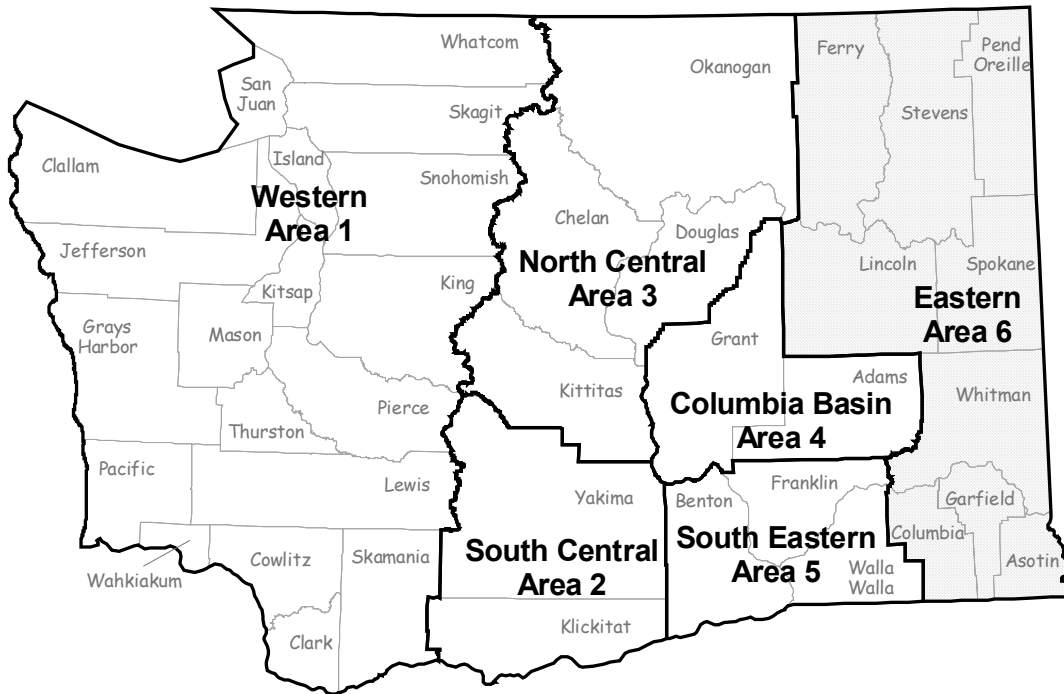
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

SEPTEMBER 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

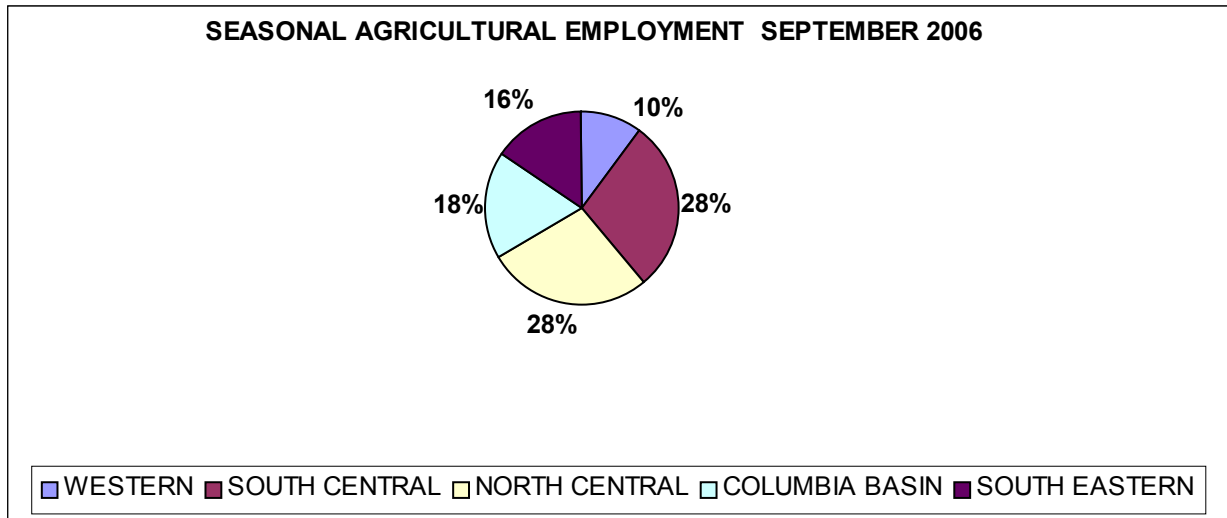
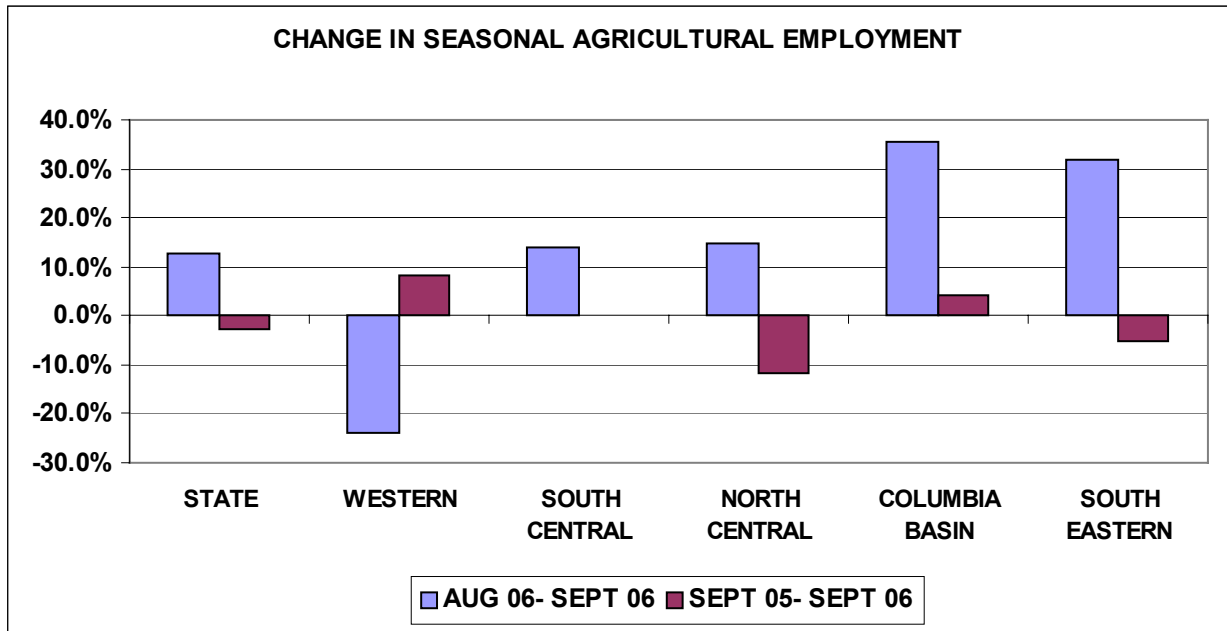
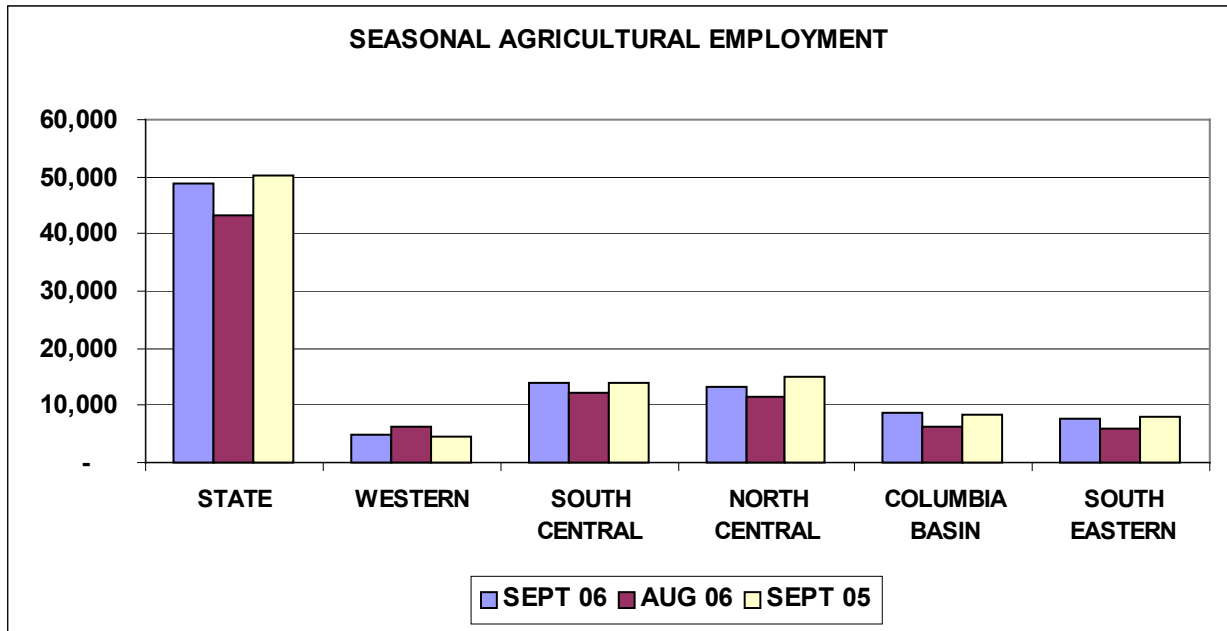
Statewide seasonal agricultural employment fell by 2.5% from September 2005 to September 2006. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year losses were apple work (-2,906), miscellaneous vegetables work (601), onion work (-511), cucumber work (-336), blueberry work (-133), and strawberry work (-28). Activities displaying gains were pear work (690), hops work (648), other seasonal work (582), potato work (386), grapes work (282), nursery work (255), cherry work (115), wheat/grain work (93), other tree fruit work (90), bulb work (58) and raspberry work (54). Regionally, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment moved forward by 8.4%, courtesy of a bump in potato work (465). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment inched up by 0.1%, due to an increase in pear work (728). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment contracted by 11.9%, due to a decline in apple work (1,827). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment grew by 4.2%, thanks to an expansion in onion work (300). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment softened by 5.2%, driven by a decrease in miscellaneous vegetables work (783).

ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Statewide, the annual harvest of red and white wine grapes is under way. Grapes are headed to hundreds of wineries to be sorted and crushed in what some winemakers say could be a vintage year. The hotter weather brings out the sugars and flavors of the grape. Warmer weather has also sped the ripening process, putting the harvest a week to 10 days ahead of normal, said Vicky Scharlau, executive director of the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers. The association estimates this year's wine grape crop at 123,500 tons, slightly above last year's record 116,760 tons. The warm weather also helps produce smaller clusters, which hold more concentrated flavor. Smaller grapes and quicker ripening are signs of high-quality grapes that will, in turn, produce high-quality wines.

The growth of the U.S. wine industry has been phenomenal over the last 30 years. The typical winery is a family farm where the producer both grows grapes and adds value to his grape crop by making and selling wine. Because of the value added, usually 7 to 10 times the farm gate value of grapes, a combination winery and vineyard is economically feasible for operations with 20 or more acres of vineyards. As bottled wine, each acre of grapes produces between \$15,000 and \$75,000 gross sales value. In 1975 the total number of wineries in California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington numbered 264. In 2006 the total was 2,557, a 602% increase. In 2006 Washington State with 394 wineries, was second only to California with 1,867. Oregon and Idaho lagged with 266 and 39 wineries respectively. However looking only at industry growth from 1975 to 2006, Washington led the other three states in number of wineries with a percentage increase of 2,363%, followed by Idaho with 1,400%, Oregon with 1,563% and California with 465.8% growth.

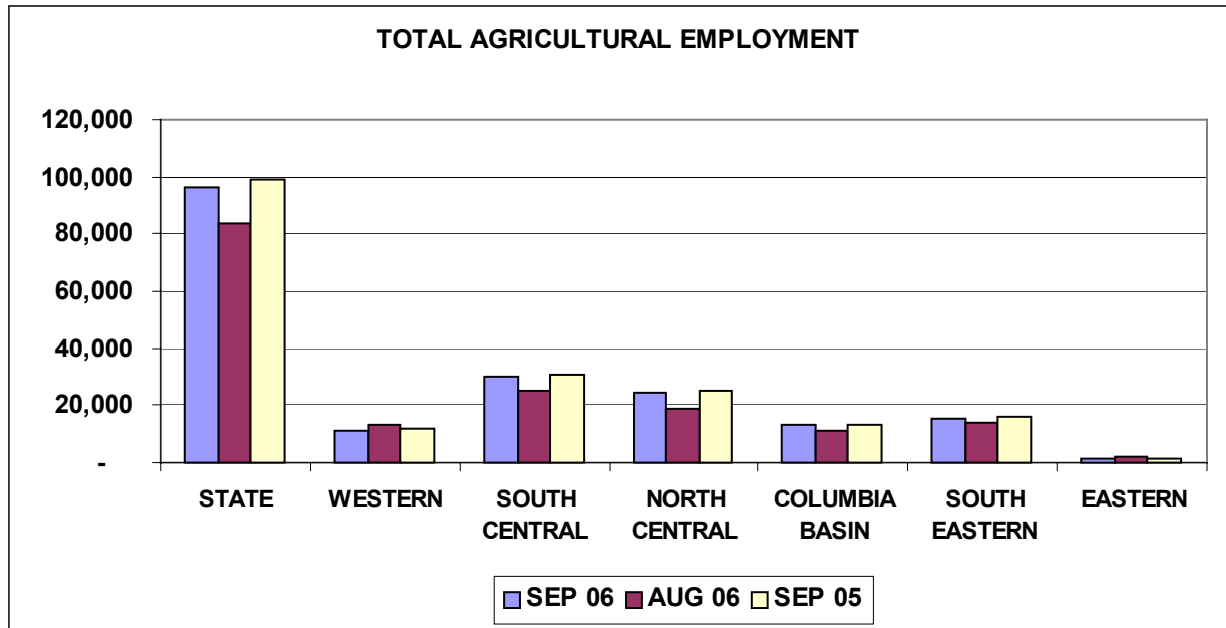
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>SEPT 06</u>	<u>AUG 06</u>	<u>SEPT 05</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>AUG 06- SEPT 06</u>	<u>SEPT 05- SEPT 06</u>	<u>AUG 06- SEPT 06</u>	<u>SEPT 05- SEPT 06</u>
STATE	48,795	43,341	50,063	5,454	(1,268)	12.6%	-2.5%
WESTERN	4,913	6,439	4,533	(1,526)	380	-23.7%	8.4%
SOUTH CENTRAL	13,915	12,224	13,900	1,691	15	13.8%	0.1%
NORTH CENTRAL	13,336	11,612	15,134	1,724	(1,798)	14.8%	-11.9%
COLUMBIA BASIN	8,618	6,352	8,274	2,266	344	35.7%	4.2%
SOUTH EASTERN	7,591	5,759	8,010	1,832	(419)	31.8%	-5.2%
EASTERN	422	955	212	(533)	210	-55.8%	99.1%



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment declined by 2.6% from September 2005 to September 2006. Over-the-month total employment grew by 14.7% due to apple harvest from August 2006 to September 2006. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment contracted by 2.9%. South Central (Area 2) total employment fell by 2.5%. North Central (Area 3) total employment softened by 2.7%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment decreased by 2.5%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment dipped by 2.8%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment slowed by 1.3%.

	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT								
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE			
	<u>SEP 06</u>	<u>AUG 06</u>	<u>SEP 05</u>	<u>AUG 06- SEP 06</u>	<u>SEP 05- SEP 06</u>	<u>AUG 06- SEP 06</u>	<u>SEP 05- SEP 06</u>		
STATE	96,360	83,999	98,962	12,361	(2,602)	14.7%	-2.6%		
WESTERN	11,500	13,406	11,839	(1,906)	(339)	-14.2%	-2.9%		
SOUTH CENTRAL	30,081	24,928	30,865	5,153	(784)	20.7%	-2.5%		
NORTH CENTRAL	24,600	18,861	25,286	5,739	(686)	30.4%	-2.7%		
COLUMBIA BASIN	13,262	11,167	13,598	2,095	(336)	18.8%	-2.5%		
SOUTH EASTERN	15,500	13,628	15,939	1,872	(439)	13.7%	-2.8%		
EASTERN	1,417	2,009	1,435	(592)	(18)	-29.5%	-1.3%		

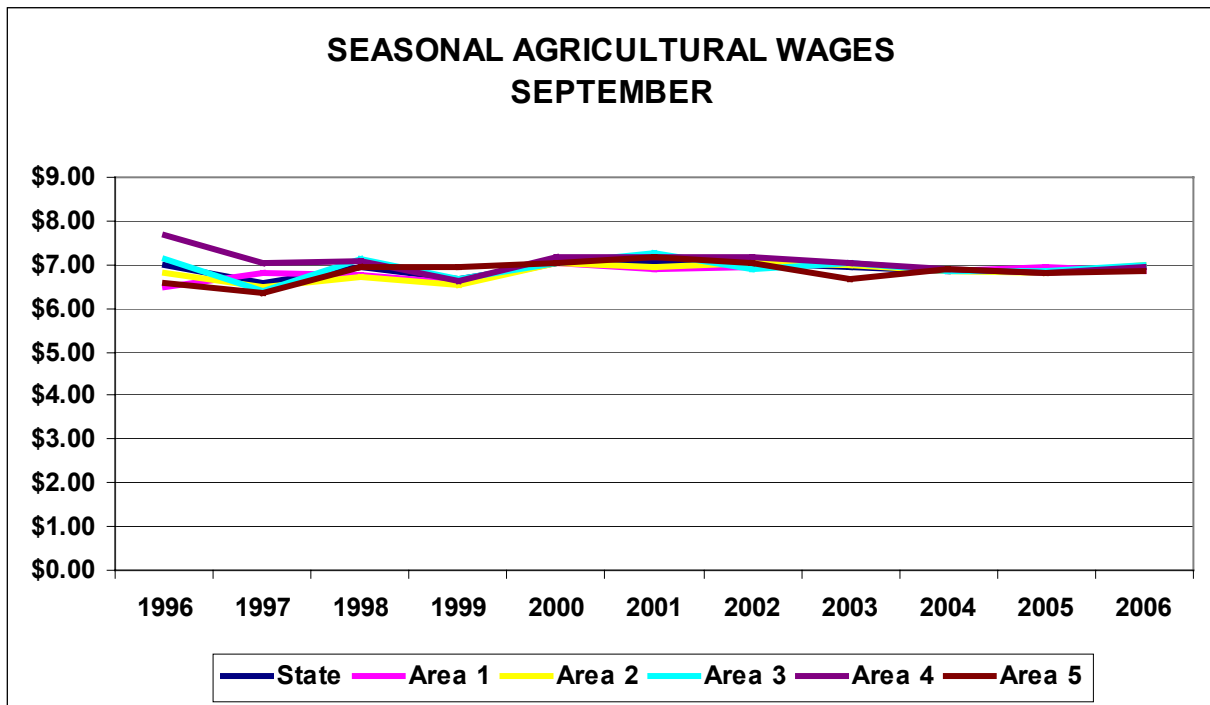


STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL WAGE TRENDS

Statewide real seasonal agricultural wages decreased by 0.7% from September 1996 to September 2006. Washington State minimum wages expanded by 21.5% during this same time period. Statewide real agricultural seasonal wages grew by 1.9% from September 2005 to September 2006. The state minimum wage expanded by 1.2% during this same time period. Western (Area 1) seasonal wages advanced 5.9% from September 1996 to September 2006. South Central (Area 2) seasonal wages increased by 2.3% for that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal wages declined 1.5% for that same time period. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal wages slid by 9.5% for that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal wages expanded by 4.1% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WAGES*											
SEPTEMBER											
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
State	\$7.01	\$6.56	\$6.93	\$6.65	\$7.05	\$7.10	\$7.01	\$6.97	\$6.88	\$6.83	\$6.96
Area 1	\$6.49	\$6.79	\$6.75	\$6.58	\$7.05	\$6.91	\$6.93	\$7.02	\$6.85	\$6.92	\$6.87
Area 2	\$6.83	\$6.48	\$6.72	\$6.53	\$7.03	\$6.96	\$7.05	\$7.00	\$6.87	\$6.82	\$6.98
Area 3	\$7.11	\$6.39	\$7.13	\$6.65	\$7.02	\$7.28	\$6.90	\$7.04	\$6.85	\$6.85	\$7.01
Area 4	\$7.66	\$7.03	\$7.07	\$6.61	\$7.15	\$7.18	\$7.17	\$7.04	\$6.91	\$6.80	\$6.93
Area 5	\$6.59	\$6.36	\$6.95	\$6.93	\$7.04	\$7.18	\$7.03	\$6.69	\$6.92	\$6.82	\$6.86

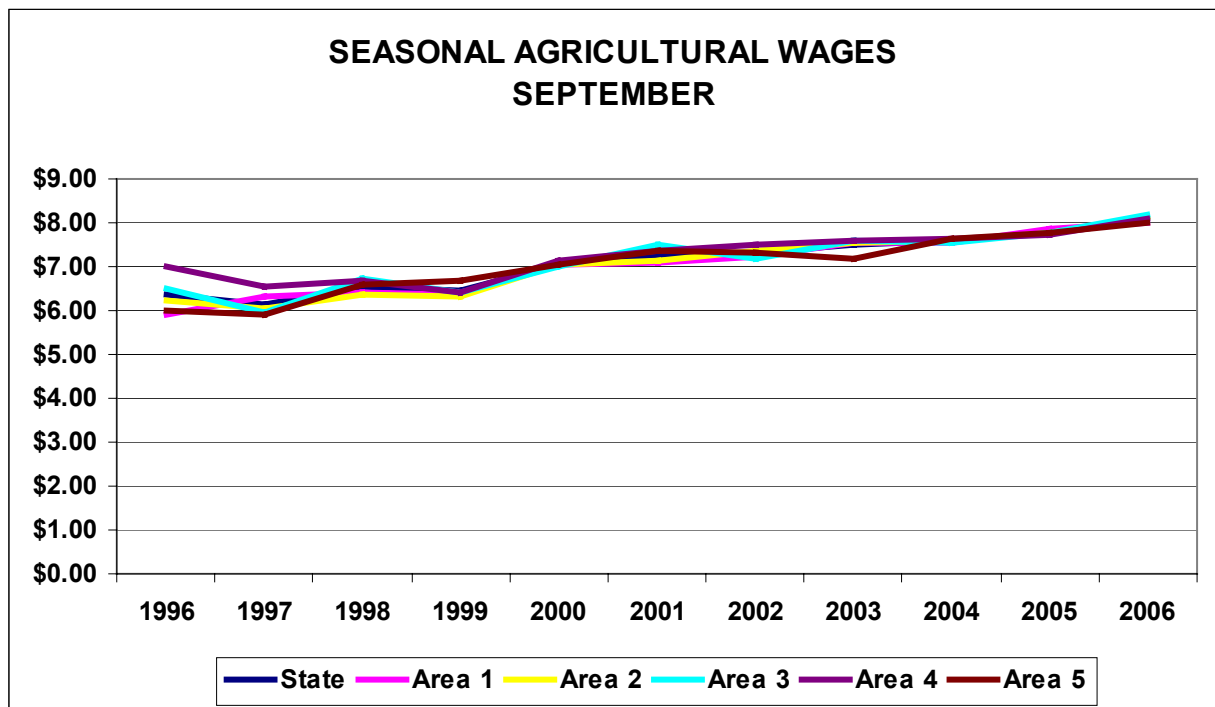
*Real 2000 Adjusted Dollars



Statewide non-adjusted seasonal agricultural wages increased by 27.2% from September 1996 to September 2006. Washington State non-adjusted minimum wages expanded by 55.7% during this same time period. Statewide non-adjusted agricultural seasonal wages grew by 4.4% from September 2005 to September 2006. The state minimum wage expanded by 3.8% during this same time period. Western (Area 1) seasonal wages advanced 35.7% from September 1996 to September 2006. South Central (Area 2) seasonal wages increased by 31.0% for that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal wages moved ahead by 26.2% for that same time period. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal wages grew by 15.9% for that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal wages expanded by 33.3% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WAGES**											
SEPTEMBER											
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
State	\$6.39	\$6.12	\$6.56	\$6.43	\$7.05	\$7.29	\$7.32	\$7.50	\$7.59	\$7.78	\$8.12
Area 1	\$5.91	\$6.33	\$6.39	\$6.36	\$7.05	\$7.10	\$7.23	\$7.56	\$7.56	\$7.88	\$8.02
Area 2	\$6.22	\$6.04	\$6.36	\$6.31	\$7.03	\$7.15	\$7.36	\$7.54	\$7.58	\$7.76	\$8.15
Area 3	\$6.48	\$5.96	\$6.75	\$6.43	\$7.02	\$7.48	\$7.20	\$7.58	\$7.56	\$7.79	\$8.18
Area 4	\$6.98	\$6.55	\$6.70	\$6.39	\$7.15	\$7.38	\$7.49	\$7.58	\$7.63	\$7.74	\$8.09
Area 5	\$6.00	\$5.93	\$6.58	\$6.70	\$7.04	\$7.38	\$7.34	\$7.20	\$7.64	\$7.76	\$8.00

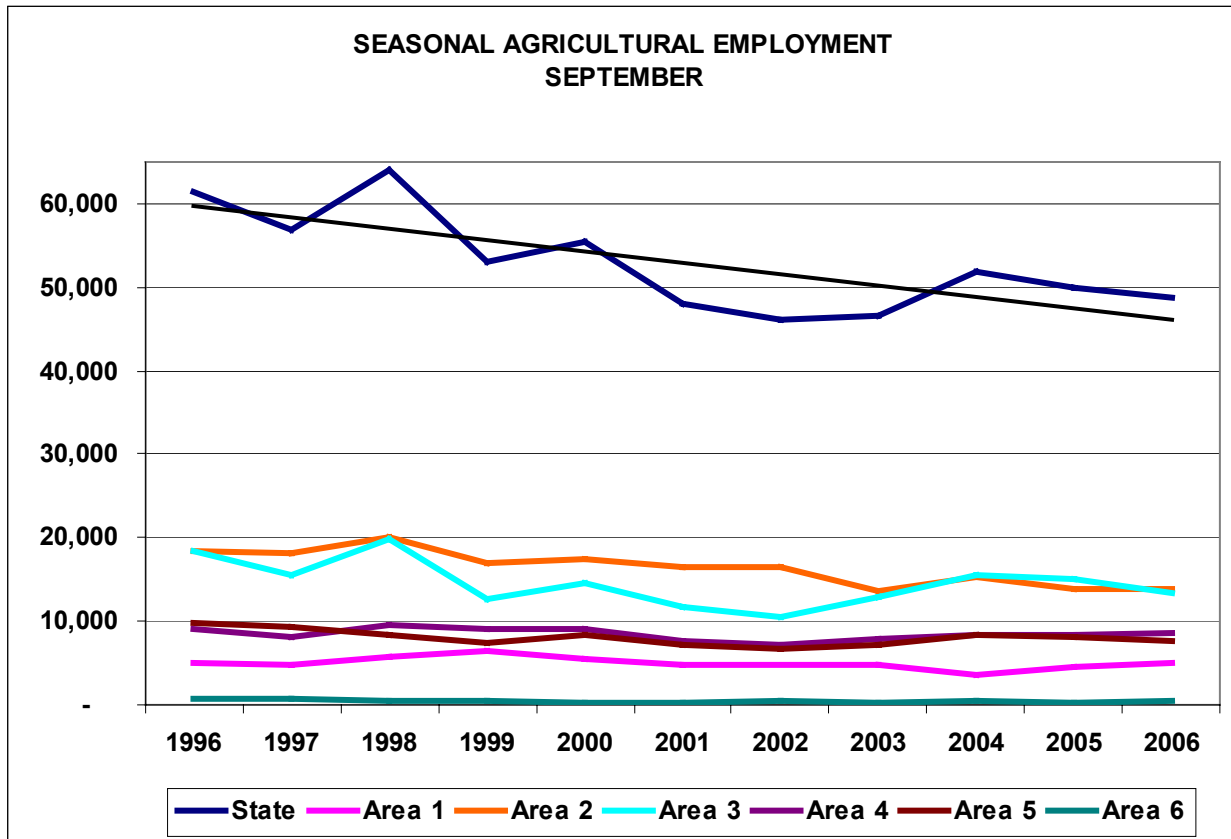
**** Non-Adjusted Dollars**



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Statewide seasonal agricultural employment declined by 20.6% from September 1996 to September 2006. Statewide seasonal agricultural employment only slipped by 2.5% from September 2005 to September 2006. Western (Area 1) seasonal employment fell 3.8% from September 1996 to September 2006. South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment declined by 23.9% during that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment decreased by 27.6% for that same time period. Columbia Basin seasonal employment slid by only 5.8% during that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment lagged by 22.6% over that same time period. Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment contracted by 35.7% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SEPTEMBER											
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
State	61,428	56,886	63,974	53,127	55,398	48,078	46,060	46,630	51,760	50,063	48,795
Area 1	5,106	4,846	5,823	6,390	5,445	4,883	4,698	4,691	3,661	4,533	4,913
Area 2	18,286	18,219	20,057	16,931	17,564	16,381	16,377	13,728	15,280	13,900	13,915
Area 3	18,417	15,513	19,937	12,770	14,499	11,759	10,615	12,798	15,554	15,134	13,336
Area 4	9,152	8,222	9,442	9,017	9,182	7,661	7,221	7,863	8,407	8,274	8,618
Area 5	9,811	9,365	8,324	7,460	8,409	7,119	6,720	7,192	8,471	8,010	7,591
Area 6	656	721	391	552	299	275	429	358	387	212	422



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment decreased by 2.5% from September 2005 to September 2006. Seasonal employment expanded by 12.6% statewide from August 2006 to September 2006, due to the peaking of apple harvest. The crop activity showing the largest employment growth from September 2005 to September 2006 was pear work (690). Apple work displayed the greatest decline in employment (-2,906) for that same time period. Apple work moved ahead of all other seasonal employment (17,545) from August 2006 to September 2006. Cherry work shed the greatest number of jobs (-5,311) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2006 was \$8.11 per hour.

STATEWIDE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**							
STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	SEPT 06	AUG 06	SEPT 05	AUG 06- SEPT 06	SEPT 05- SEPT 06	AUG 06- SEPT 06	SEPT 05- SEPT 06
Apples	31,536	13,991	34,442	17,545	(2,906)	125.4%	-8.4%
Asparagus	0	37	0	(37)	0	-100.0%	NA
Blueberry	191	2,188	324	(1,997)	(133)	-91.3%	-41.0%
Bulb	114	267	56	(153)	58	-57.3%	103.6%
Cherries	115	5,426	0	(5,311)	115	-97.9%	NA
Cucumber	204	169	540	35	(336)	20.7%	-62.2%
Grapes	1,038	1,009	756	29	282	2.9%	37.3%
Hops	1,829	152	1,181	1,677	648	1103.3%	54.9%
Misc Vegetables	1,729	1,560	2,330	169	(601)	10.8%	-25.8%
Nursery	1,212	988	957	224	255	22.7%	26.6%
Onion	778	894	1,289	(116)	(511)	-13.0%	-39.6%
Other Seasonal	2,607	2,131	2,025	476	582	22.3%	28.7%
Other Tree Fruit	740	2,974	650	(2,234)	90	-75.1%	13.8%
Pears	3,682	7,166	2,992	(3,484)	690	-48.6%	23.1%
Potato	2,086	2,223	1,700	(137)	386	-6.2%	22.7%
Raspberry	724	1,392	670	(668)	54	-48.0%	8.1%
Strawberry	15	83	43	(68)	(28)	-81.9%	-65.1%
Wheat/Grain	201	679	108	(478)	93	-70.4%	86.1%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment expanded by 8.4% from September 2005 to September 2006. However, seasonal employment fell back by 23.7% from August 2006 to September 2006. Potato work grew by the largest amount of employment (465) from September 2005 to September 2006. Cucumber work lost the most jobs (-336) for that same time period. Potato work displayed the greatest employment gain (703) from August 2006 to September 2006. Blueberry work lost the largest number of jobs (-1,997) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2006 in Area 1 was \$8.02 per hour. (See pages 18 -20 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				AUG 06-	SEPT 05-	AUG 06-	SEPT 05-
	<u>SEPT 06</u>	<u>AUG 06</u>	<u>SEPT 05</u>	<u>SEPT 06</u>	<u>SEPT 06</u>	<u>SEPT 06</u>	<u>SEPT 06</u>
CROP							
Blueberry	191	2,188	324	(1,997)	(133)	-91.3%	-41.0%
Bulb	114	267	56	(153)	58	-57.3%	103.6%
Cucumber	204	169	540	35	(336)	20.7%	-62.2%
Misc Vegetables	1,273	995	1,099	278	174	27.9%	15.8%
Nursery	888	621	798	267	90	43.0%	11.3%
Other Seasonal	763	735	737	28	26	3.8%	3.5%
Potato	756	53	291	703	465	1326.4%	159.8%
Raspberry	724	1,392	670	(668)	54	-48.0%	8.1%
Rhubarb	0	18	5	(18)	(5)	-100.0%	NA
Strawberry	0	0	13	0	(13)	NA	NA

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment inched ahead by a small 0.1% from September 2005 to September 2006. Seasonal employment moved forward by 13.8% from August 2006 to September 2006. Pear work led all other crops in employment gain (728) from September 2005 to September 2006. Apple work posted the largest over-the-month decline in employment (-795) for that same time period. Apple moved ahead with the largest employment gain (3,897) from August 2006 to September 2006. Other tree fruit work displayed the greatest job loss (-1,838) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2006 in Area 2 was \$8.15 per hour. (See pages 21 -23 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				AUG 06-	SEPT 05-	AUG 06-	SEPT 05-
	<u>SEPT 06</u>	<u>AUG 06</u>	<u>SEPT 05</u>	<u>SEPT 06</u>	<u>SEPT 06</u>	<u>SEPT 06</u>	<u>SEPT 06</u>
CROP							
Apples	9,236	5,339	10,031	3,897	(795)	73.0%	-7.9%
Asparagus	0	37	0	(37)	0	-100.0%	NA
Cherries	110	1,137	0	(1,027)	110	-90.3%	NA
Grapes	421	444	507	(23)	(86)	-5.2%	-17.0%
Hops	1,545	95	1,024	1,450	521	1526.3%	50.9%
Misc Vegetables	360	29	242	331	118	1141.4%	48.8%
Onion	113	359	251	(246)	(138)	-68.5%	-55.0%
Other Seasonal	129	90	582	39	(453)	43.3%	-77.8%
Other Tree Fruit	125	1,963	153	(1,838)	(28)	-93.6%	-18.3%
Pears	1,826	2,454	1,098	(628)	728	-25.6%	66.3%
Potato	49	276	12	(227)	37	-82.2%	308.3%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment decreased by 11.9% from September 2005 to September 2006. However, seasonal employment increased by 14.8% from August 2006 to September 2006 due to the peaking of apple harvest. Other seasonal work displayed the largest over-the-year gain in employment (399) from September 2005 to September 2006. Apple work registered the largest employment loss (-1,827) for that same time period. However apple work employment expanded by the greatest (9,180) number of jobs due to harvest from August 2006 to September 2006. Cherry work displayed the largest decline in employment(-3,983) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2006 in Area 3 was \$8.18 per hour. (See pages 24 - 25 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	SEPT 06	AUG 06	SEPT 05	AUG 06- SEPT 06	SEPT 05- SEPT 06	AUG 06- SEPT 06	SEPT 05- SEPT 06
Apples	11,324	2,144	13,151	9,180	(1,827)	428.2%	-13.9%
Cherries	5	3,988	0	(3,983)	5	-99.9%	NA
Other Seasonal	474	94	75	380	399	404.3%	532.0%
Other Tree Fruit	43	708	171	(665)	(128)	-93.9%	-74.9%
Pears	1,491	4,678	1,737	(3,187)	(246)	-68.1%	-14.2%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment expanded by 4.2% from September 2005 to September 2006. This increase was trumped by a 35.7% bump in employment from August 2006 to September 2006. Onion work showed the largest employment growth (300) from September 2005 to September 2006. Apple work saw the greatest decline in jobs (-181) during that same time period. Apple work posted the largest increase in employment (2,684) from August 2006 to September 2006. Cherry work experienced the greatest over-the-month loss in employment (-293) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2006 in Area 4 was \$8.09 per hour. (See pages 26 - 28 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
CROP	SEPT 06	AUG 06	SEPT 05	AUG 06- SEPT 06	SEPT 05- SEPT 06	AUG 06- SEPT 06	SEPT 05- SEPT 06
Apples	6,259	3,575	6,440	2,684	(181)	75.1%	-2.8%
Cherries	0	293	0	(293)	0	-100.0%	NA
Mint	68	291	112	(223)	(44)	-76.6%	-39.3%
Misc Vegetables	6	28	111	(22)	(105)	-78.6%	-94.6%
Nursery	161	223	64	(62)	97	-27.8%	151.6%
Onion	538	455	238	83	300	18.2%	126.1%
Other Seasonal	225	387	181	(162)	44	-41.9%	24.3%
Other Tree Fruit	29	29	0	0	29	0.0%	NA
Pears	365	34	157	331	208	973.5%	132.5%
Potato	969	998	945	(29)	24	-2.9%	2.5%
Wheat	0	37	26	(37)	(26)	-100.0%	-100.0%

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment contracted by 5.2% from September 2005 to September 2006. Seasonal employment expanded by a large 31.8% from August 2006 to September 2006. Other seasonal work led all other crop activities (562) from September 2005 to September 2006. Miscellaneous vegetables work led the decliners (-789) during that same time period. Apple work was the largest over-the-month gainer (1,784) from August 2006 to September 2006. Potato shed the most jobs (-584) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for September 2006 in Area 5 was \$8.00 per hour. (See pages 29 - 31 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN			CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE		
CROP	SEPT 06	AUG 06	SEPT 05	AUG 06- SEPT 06	SEPT 05- SEPT 06	AUG 06- SEPT 06	SEPT 05- SEPT 06
Apples	4,717	2,933	4,820	1,784	(103)	60.8%	-2.1%
Cherries	0	8	0	(8)	0	-100.0%	NA
Grapes	617	565	249	52	368	9.2%	147.8%
Hops	284	57	157	227	127	398.2%	80.9%
Misc Vegetables	90	490	873	(400)	(783)	-81.6%	-89.7%
Nursery	2	2	6	0	(4)	0.0%	-66.7%
Onion	127	80	800	47	(673)	58.8%	-84.1%
Other Seasonal	848	302	286	546	562	180.8%	196.5%
Other Tree Fruit	543	274	326	269	217	98.2%	66.6%
Potatoes	312	896	452	(584)	(140)	-65.2%	-31.0%
Strawberry	15	83	30	(68)	(15)	-81.9%	-50.0%
Wheat/Grain	36	61	11	(25)	25	-41.0%	227.3%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

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

LABOR SUPPLY

New survey questions were inserted into the September survey. The first question asked growers if they failed to complete some work due to lack of available seasonal labor. For September, 400 questionnaires were sent to the employers in the survey. Of these 400, 346 were returned. Of the 346 returned, 346 provided usable answers to the question of labor shortage. These 346 report their rate of labor shortage in the panel below. These statistics are unweighted.

RESPONSE RATES TO LABOR SHORTAGE QUESTION INDICATING A POSITIVE RESPONSE

REPORTED LABOR SHORTAGE	
State	10.4%
Area 1	2.2%
Area 2	15.0%
Area 3	11.8%
Area 4	11.4%
Area 5	13.8%
Area 6	0.0%

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 SEPTEMBER 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: 4,913 (4,169 local, 11 intrastate, 196 interstate, 84 foreign, 453 unknown origin)

Cauliflower Harvester	1,035	\$ 7.80/hr
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	716	\$ 7.64/hr
Raspberry Pruner	534	\$ 8.50/hr
Blackberry Harvester	450	\$ 7.63/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 13,915 (9,446 local, 874 intrastate, 574 interstate, 2,990 foreign, 31 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	8,400	\$ 8.25/hr or \$13.00 - \$40.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,826	\$ 7.67/hr or \$11.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Hops Harvester	941	\$ 7.96/hr
Apple Irrigator	314	\$ 8.50/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 13,336 (9,261 local, 30 intrastate, 158 interstate, 1,990 foreign, 1,897 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	10,523	\$ 7.99/hr or \$ 9.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,018	* \$15.00 - \$17.00 per bin
Grapes Harvester	418	\$ 9.01/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	343	\$ 7.78/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 8,618 (5,990 local, 134 intrastate, 675 interstate, 675 foreign, 1,144 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	5,524	\$ 7.88/hr or \$ 5.00 - \$35.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	451	\$ 7.78/hr
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	412	\$ 7.90/hr
Pear Harvester	359	\$ 7.96/hr or \$16.00 - \$17.50 per bin

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 7,591 (4,189 local, 0 intrastate, 104 interstate, 669 foreign, 2,629 unknown origin)

Apple Harvester	4,048	\$ 7.74/hr or \$11.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Grapes Harvester	545	\$ 8.55/hr
Apple Pruner	414	\$ 7.64/hr
Misc Field Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	332	\$ 7.63/hr

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 422 (416 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 6 unknown origin)

Nursery Mechanized Harvester	57	\$ 9.00/hr
Wheat Mechanic	56	\$ 8.00/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	56	\$ 9.75/hr
Nursery Planter	34	\$ 8.25/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
SEPTEMBER 2006

TABLE 1

SEPTEMBER 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	4,169	11	196	84	453	4,913
2. South Central	9,446	874	574	2,990	31	13,915
3. North Central	9,261	30	158	1,990	1,897	13,336
4. Columbia Basin	5,990	134	675	675	1,144	8,618
5. South Eastern	4,189	0	104	669	2,629	7,591
6. Eastern	416	0	0	0	6	422
State Totals	33,471	1,049	1,707	6,409	6,160	48,795
% State Total	68.6%	2.1%	3.5%	13.1%	12.6%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	4,913
a. Local	4,169
b. Intrastate migratory	11
c. Interstate migratory	196
d. Foreign	84
e. Unknown	453
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Gig Harbor	
b. Interstate: California, Texas	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The September 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,314.

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. Some rain finally occurred toward the end of the month, helping to alleviate drought conditions. Sweet corn growers continued topping corn to prevent lodging. Potato, broccoli, corn and pumpkin harvest was still underway. Cucumber harvest was complete.

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$9.02 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for blackberry harvester, nursery sorter/grader/packer, raspberry harvester, nursery harvester, bulbs sorter/grader/packer, nursery irrigator, bulbs harvester and nursery chemical applicator to \$38.42 for general farm worker. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated at 84.9% local, 0.2% intrastate, 4.0% interstate, foreign 1.7% and 9.2% 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: SEPTEMBER 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	4,913
		* = piece rate
Cauliflower Harvester	1,035	\$ 7.80
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	716	\$ 7.64
Raspberry Pruner	534	\$ 8.50
Blackberry Harvester	450	\$ 7.63
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	294	\$ 7.63
Nursery Planter	221	\$ 7.68
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	185	\$ 8.40
Blueberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	152	\$ 8.37
Raspberry Harvester	150	\$ 7.63
Nursery Weeder	149	\$ 7.64
Nursery Harvester	149	\$ 7.63
Broccoli Harvester	94	\$ 8.00
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	88	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Harvester	70	\$ 8.64
Dairy Worker	65	\$11.17
Chicken Eggs Harvester	43	\$ 9.36
Cauliflower Tractor Operator	36	\$ 9.00
Cauliflower Vehicle Operator	36	\$ 8.00
Cauliflower Worker	36	\$ 8.50
Cauliflower Manager	36	\$ 9.00
Nursery Worker	33	\$ 8.45
Nursery Irrigator	31	\$ 7.63
Bulbs Harvester	26	\$ 7.63
Potato Tractor Operator	24	\$ 9.89
Blackberry Worker	24	\$ 9.67
Raspberry Irrigator	24	\$ 8.50
Misc Field Crops Worker	22	\$ 9.00
Chicken Eggs Worker	22	\$11.40
Cucumber Manager	19	Not Available
Blueberry Worker	19	\$10.00
Potato Vehicle Operator	16	\$10.66
Blackberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	16	\$ 8.50
Raspberry Sorter/Grader/Packer	16	\$ 8.50
Blackberry Vehicle Operator	16	\$12.00
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	11	\$ 9.00
Dairy Sorter/Grader/Packer	11	\$11.44

Area 1 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Blueberry Vehicle Operator	10	\$12.50
Blueberry Forklift Driver	10	\$10.25
Nursery Chemical Applicator	8	\$ 7.63
Chicken Eggs Sorter/Grader/Packer	5	\$ 8.13
General Farm Worker	5	\$38.42
Barley Combine Driver	5	\$14.00
Nursery Vehicle Operator	3	\$11.25

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 8.02/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 2006

State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers | 13,915 |
| a. Local | 9,446 |
| b. Intrastate migratory | 874 |
| c. Interstate migratory | 574 |
| d. Foreign | 2,990 |
| e. Unknown | 31 |
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers
- a. Intrastate: Mesa, Othello, Royal City, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Wapato, Wenatchee, Yakima
 - b. Interstate: California, Oregon
 - c. Foreign: Mexico

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 16,805.
2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
- a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported. Late variety peaches continued to be harvested. Primary agricultural activities were apple harvest, pear harvest, hops harvest and apple irrigation.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$7.89 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for grapes hand thinner, apple pruner, grapes harvester, potato sorter/grader/packer, apple trainer and mint irrigator to \$12.50 for grapes tractor operator and grapes vehicle operator. Typical piece rates were: \$13.00 to \$40 per bin for apple harvest and \$11.00 to \$25.00 per bin for pear 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 67.9% local, 6.3% intrastate, 4.1% interstate, foreign 21.5% and unknown 0.2%.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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 13,915	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	8,400	\$ 8.25 or * \$13.00 - \$40.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,826	\$ 7.67 or * \$11.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Hops Harvester	941	\$ 7.96
Apple Irrigator	314	\$ 8.50
Hops Mechanized Harvester	273	\$ 8.19
Grapes Hand Thinner	195	\$ 7.63
Apple Pruner	171	\$ 7.63
Grapes Harvester	157	\$ 7.63
Apple Tractor Operator	125	\$ 8.50
Apple Manager	124	\$ 8.77
Misc Squash Harvester	122	\$ 8.00
Hops Vehicle Operator	110	\$ 7.82
Cherry Pruner	110	\$ 8.50
Hops Worker	100	\$ 7.75
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	94	\$ 8.00
Nectarine Harvester	88	Not Available
Cucumber Harvester	85	\$ 7.75
Misc Peppers Harvester	85	\$ 7.75
Hops Tractor Operator	74	\$ 8.32
Apple Worker	66	\$ 9.11
Grapes Trainer	38	\$ 7.89
Peach Harvester	37	Not Available
Misc Peppers Sorter/Grader/Packer	31	\$ 8.00
Cucumber Sorter/Grader/Packer	31	\$ 8.00
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.63
Hops Mechanic	26	\$ 7.75
Potato Mechanized Harvester	23	\$ 7.85
Apple Trainer	22	\$ 7.63
Hops Irrigator	21	\$ 7.93
Field Corn Vehicle Operator	19	\$ 9.00
Misc Onion Harvester	19	\$ 9.00
Mint Sorter/Grader/Packer	16	\$ 8.33
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	16	\$ 7.75
Mint Vehicle Operator	14	\$ 8.25
Silage Vehicle Operator	13	\$ 9.00
Grapes Tractor Operator	11	\$12.50

Area 2 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Grapes Vehicle Operator	11	\$12.50
Field Corn Worker	8	\$10.00
Nursery Weeder	8	\$ 8.83
Apple Vehicle Operator	7	\$10.04
Apple Forklift Driver	7	\$10.17
Silage Irrigator	7	\$ 8.09
Misc Peppers Irrigator	6	\$ 9.75
Mint Harvester	5	\$10.00
Mint Irrigator	5	\$ 7.63
Grapes Mechanized Harvester	5	\$10.00
Raspberry Tractor Operator	5	\$ 7.75
Raspberry Harvester	5	\$ 8.40
Grapes Weeder	4	\$ 8.00
Wheat Irrigator	4	\$ 7.67
Field Corn Irrigator	4	\$ 7.67

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 8.15/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 2006

State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1.	Total domestic seasonal hired workers	13,336
	a. Local	9,261
	b. Intrastate migratory	30
	c. Interstate migratory	158
	d. Foreign	1,990
	e. Unknown	1,897
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: Manson, Wenatchee	
	b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 11,801.
 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. Some much needed rain slowed the harvest of apples and pears. Pear harvest was nearly complete, and apple harvest was at its peak. Some winter wheat had not emerged yet and therefore will be need to be replanted because the ground crusted. The third cutting of hay had been swathed.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$8.18 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for miscellaneous fruit trees worker, apple weeder and pear weeder to \$50.00 for contract aerial chemical applicator. Typical piece rates were: \$9.00 to \$30.00 per bin for apple harvest and \$15.00 to \$17.00 per bin for pear 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 69.5% local, 0.2% intrastate, 1.2% interstate, 14.9% foreign and 14.2% 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: SEPTEMBER 2006
State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL	13,336
		* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	10,523	\$ 7.99 or * \$ 9.00 - \$30.00 per bin
Pear Harvester	1,018	* \$15.00 - \$17.00 per bin
Grapes Harvester	418	\$ 9.01
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	343	\$ 7.78
Pear Sorter/Grader/Packer	312	\$ 9.93
Apple Preparation	165	\$ 7.72
Pear Preparation	108	\$ 7.75
Apple Pruner	99	Not Available
Apple Worker	66	\$ 9.27
Apple Forklift Driver	51	\$ 9.31
Misc Fruit Trees Worker	43	\$ 7.63
Pear Forklift Driver	43	\$ 9.25
Apple Weeder	31	\$ 7.63
Apple Vehicle Operator	16	\$11.03
Apple Manager	16	\$10.67
Misc Hay Irrigator	11	\$ 8.85
Wheat Tractor Operator	11	\$12.00
Pear Weeder	10	\$ 7.63
Apple Tractor Operator	10	\$ 9.25
Contract Aerial Worker	6	\$20.00
Wheat Worker	5	\$ 8.75
Horse and Equines Manager	5	\$25.00
Horse and Equines Trainer	5	\$13.00
Wheat Planter	5	\$10.00
Wheat Combine Driver	5	\$11.00
Cherry Irrigator	5	\$10.00
Contract Aerial Chemical Applicator	3	\$50.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 8.18/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	8,618
a. Local	5,990
b. Intrastate migratory	134
c. Interstate migratory	675
d. Foreign	675
e. Unknown	1,144
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Granger	
b. Interstate: California, Florida, Oregon, Texas	
c. Foreign: El Salvador, Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,994.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 40% complete. Apple harvest was continuing. Potato harvest had begun. Silage corn harvest continued. Dry bean harvest continued. Winter wheat seeding was complete and was mostly emerged and in good condition.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged per \$8.09 hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for nursery trainer, potato harvester, nursery trainer, potato weeder, grapes trainer, miscellaneous fruit trees weeder, miscellaneous fruit trees suckering worker, miscellaneous fruit trees tractor operator and miscellaneous fruit trees worker to \$13.75 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were \$5.00 to \$35.00 per bin for apple harvest and \$16.00 to \$17.50 per bin for pear 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 69.5% local, 1.6% intrastate, 7.8% interstate 7.8% foreign and 13.3% unknown.
 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.
 - e. Explanation of differences in employment from same period last year: None.
-

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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 8,618	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	5,524	\$ 7.88 or * \$ 5.00 - \$35.00 per bin
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	451	\$ 7.78
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	412	\$ 7.90
Pear Harvester	359	\$ 7.96 or * \$16.00 - \$17.50 per bin
Apple Hand Thinner	221	\$ 7.66
Apple Worker	161	\$ 8.99
Potato Vehicle Operator	137	\$10.15
Apple Pruner	125	\$ 9.06
Apple Trainer	122	\$ 7.79
Misc Onion Harvester	99	\$ 8.90
Potato Tractor Operator	83	\$ 9.23
Potato Worker	81	\$ 8.74
Nursery Trainer	79	\$ 7.63
Potato Harvester	78	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Tractor Operator	75	\$10.09
Nursery Weeder	70	\$ 7.63
Potato Weeder	48	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Irrigator	41	\$ 9.00
Mint Mechanized Harvester	41	\$ 9.20
Potato Loader	33	\$ 9.50
Apple Tractor Operator	32	\$ 8.25
Apple Forklift Driver	29	\$ 9.71
Mint Vehicle Operator	27	\$ 9.50
Grapes Hand Thinner	24	\$ 8.00
Grapes Trainer	24	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	22	\$ 9.17
Apple Preparation	19	\$ 7.94
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Worker	18	\$ 7.88
Potato Mechanic	18	\$ 9.50
Nectarine Harvester	16	\$ 8.63
Potato Mechanized Harvester	16	\$10.33
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	14	\$ 9.00
Alfalfa Harvester	14	\$12.50
Apple Weeder	13	\$ 8.25
Potato Manager	12	\$13.75
Potato Forklift Driver	12	\$ 9.12

Area 4 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
Nursery Worker	12	Not Available
Apple Chemical Applicator	10	\$ 8.17
Misc Field Crops Worker	9	\$10.00
Pear Worker	6	\$ 9.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	6	\$ 7.63
Misc Onion Loader	5	\$12.50
Misc Fruit Trees Weeder	4	\$ 7.63
Sweet Corn Combine Driver	3	\$10.00
Sweet Corn Forklift Driver	3	\$11.00
Apple Irrigator	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Fruit Trees Mechanic	3	\$ 8.00
Misc Fruit Trees Suckering Worker	3	\$ 7.63
Misc Fruit Trees Tractor Operator	2	\$ 7.63
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 \$ 8.09/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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	7,591
a. Local	4,189
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	104
d. Foreign	669
e. Unknown	2,629
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The September 2006 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,534.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were warmer and drier than normal for the reporting period. The last of the sweet corn was being harvested while field corn seed was in the middle of harvest. Earlier variety apple harvest was continuing. Bean harvest was nearing the end while bean seed harvest was complete. Potato and carrot harvest continued.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in September averaged \$8.00 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.63 for miscellaneous field crops sorter/grader/packer, pear harvester, miscellaneous field crops planter, grapes hand thinner, apple irrigator, grapes trainer, miscellaneous field crops irrigator, potato irrigator, carrot irrigator, grapes pruner, miscellaneous hay irrigator, plum mechanized harvester and grapes irrigator to \$12.50 for alfalfa harvester. Typical piece rates were: \$11.00 to \$25.00 per bin for apple 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 55.2% local, 0.0% intrastate, 1.4% interstate, 8.8% foreign and 34.6% 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: SEPTEMBER 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 7,591	* = piece rate
Apple Harvester	4,048	\$ 7.74 or * \$11.00 - \$25.00 per bin
Grapes Harvester	545	\$ 8.55
Apple Pruner	414	\$ 7.64
Misc Field Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	332	\$ 7.63
Chicken Eggs Worker	220	\$ 8.00
Hops Mechanized Harvester	183	\$ 8.03
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	161	\$ 7.88
Peach Harvester	148	\$ 7.96
Apple Hand Thinner	118	Not Available
Nectarine Sorter/Grader/Packer	117	\$ 9.50
Peach Sorter/Grader/Packer	117	\$ 9.50
Nectarine Harvester	109	\$ 8.17
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	91	Not Available
Misc Field Crops Harvester	81	Not Available
Apple Worker	75	\$ 8.22
Hops Vehicle Operator	65	\$ 8.02
Potato Vehicle Operator	52	\$ 9.02
Pear Harvester	50	\$ 7.63
Potato Harvester	43	\$ 8.00
Walla Walla Sweets Irrigator	36	\$ 9.50
Spinach Irrigator	36	\$ 9.50
Potato Mechanized Harvester	31	\$ 8.88
General Farm Worker	30	\$ 8.70
Carrot Harvester	28	\$ 8.40
Hops Combine Driver	28	\$ 8.00
Blueberry Planter	26	\$ 8.00
Misc Field Crops Forklift Driver	25	\$ 9.50
Apple Preparation	24	\$ 8.00
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	23	\$ 9.54
Grapes Worker	19	\$ 8.04
Misc Field Crops Planter	17	\$ 7.63
Misc Field Crops Tractor Operator	17	\$ 8.50
Blueberry Weeder	17	\$ 8.00
Grapes Mechanized Harvester	15	\$ 8.07
Grapes Hand Thinner	14	\$ 7.63
Apple Irrigator	13	\$ 7.63

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
		* = piece rate
Strawberry Weeder	13	\$ 7.65
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Irrigator	12	\$ 8.13
Wheat Irrigator	12	\$ 9.00
Apple Tractor Operator	12	\$ 9.66
Potato Loader	12	\$ 8.00
Grapes Trainer	11	\$ 7.63
Alfalfa Mechanized Harvester	10	\$10.00
Apple Trainer	9	\$ 7.70
Hops Mechanic	8	\$11.00
Grapes Weeder	8	\$ 8.00
Potato Tractor Operator	7	\$ 8.67
Sweet Corn Tractor Operator	7	\$ 8.75
Wheat Combine Driver	6	\$ 9.50
Wheat Weeder	6	\$ 8.25
Wheat Planter	6	\$11.50
Wheat Vehicle Operator	6	\$ 9.00
General Farm Irrigator	6	\$ 9.00
Misc Field Crops Irrigator	6	\$ 7.63
Potato Irrigator	6	\$ 7.63
Carrot Irrigator	6	\$ 7.63
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter/Grader/Packer	5	\$ 8.20
Alfalfa Irrigator	5	\$ 8.00
Silage Vehicle Operator	5	\$ 9.00
Grapes Pruner	5	\$ 7.63
Sweet Corn Irrigator	5	\$ 8.50
Carrot Vehicle Operator	4	\$12.00
Misc Hay Irrigator	3	\$ 7.63
Plum Mechanized Harvester	2	\$ 7.63
Apple Propper	2	\$ 8.00
Apple Manager	2	\$10.00
Alfalfa Worker	2	\$ 8.00
Misc Melon Worker	2	\$ 8.00
Strawberry Irrigator	2	\$ 7.65
Carrot Mechanized Harvester	2	\$10.00
Grapes Irrigator	2	\$ 7.63
General Farm Tractor Operator	2	\$ 8.00

Area 5 (continued)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: SEPTEMBER 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
		* = piece rate
Nursery Pruner	2	\$ 8.00
General Farm Vehicle Operator	2	\$12.00
Alfalfa Harvester	2	\$12.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 8.00/hr (weighted average)