



AGRICULTURAL LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE TRENDS

FEBRUARY 2007



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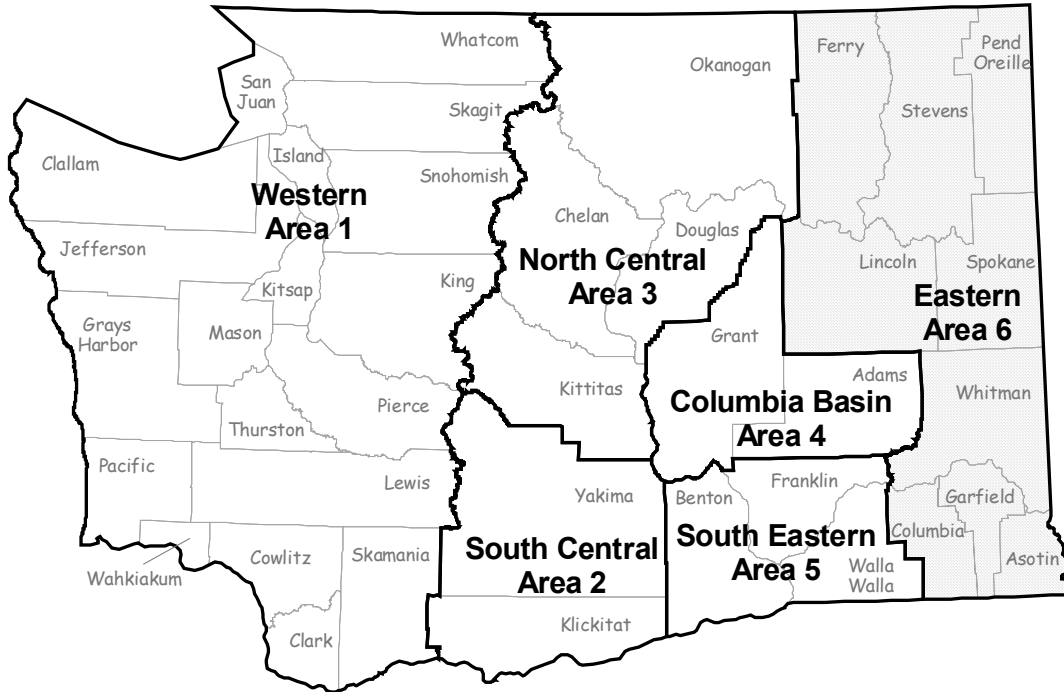
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Report available online at Workforce Explorer-Industry
<http://www.workforceexplorer.com>

FEBRUARY 2007

Agricultural Reporting Areas in Washington State



Counties Within Agricultural Reporting Areas

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

Area 2 = Klickitat and Yakima

Area 3 = Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas and Okanogan

Area 4 = Adams and Grant

Area 5 = Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla

Area 6 = Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Statewide seasonal agricultural employment declined by 16.1% from February 2006 to February 2007. Agricultural activities displaying over-the-year losses were grapes work (-1,306), apple work (-1,038), bulb work (-475), onion work (-430), nursery work (-412), hops work (-334), raspberry work (-177), other tree fruit work (-54) and wheat/grain work (-35). Activities displaying gains were cherry work (741), potato work (372), pear work (249), other seasonal work (204), miscellaneous vegetables work (92), blueberry work (56), and asparagus work (4). Across the state, Western (Area 1) seasonal employment fell 17.2%, due to a decline in bulb work (-475). South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment declined 29.9%, caused by a slowdown in grapes work (-1,015). North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment slipped by 1.8%, courtesy of a downturn in apple work (-751). Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment contracted by 6.3%, forced down by a decline in onion work (-366). South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment slid by 16.7%, due to a slump in grapes work (-291). Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment slowed by 27.1%, caused by a decrease in wheat/grain work (-29).

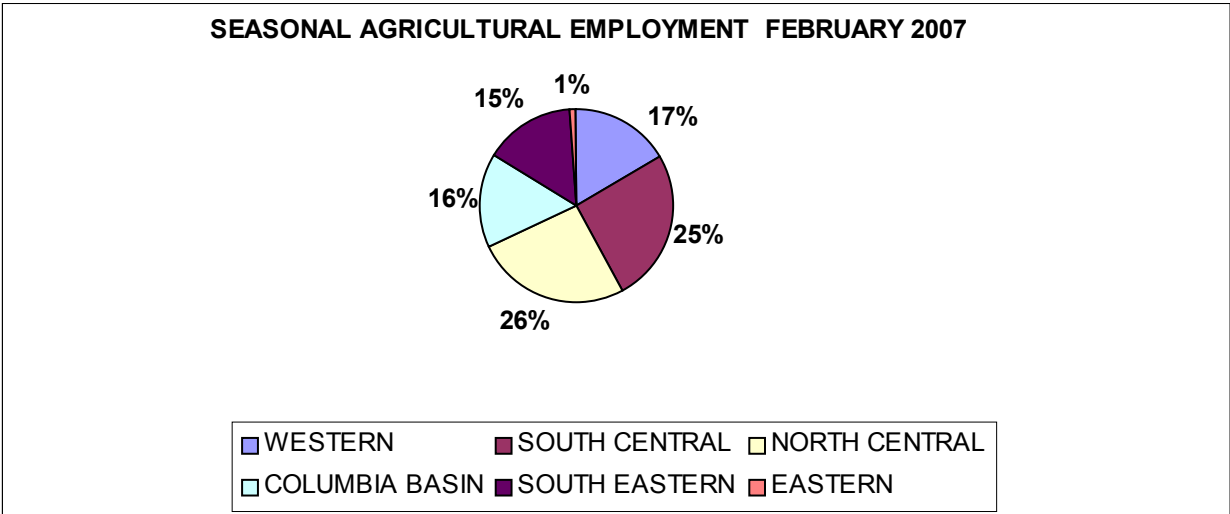
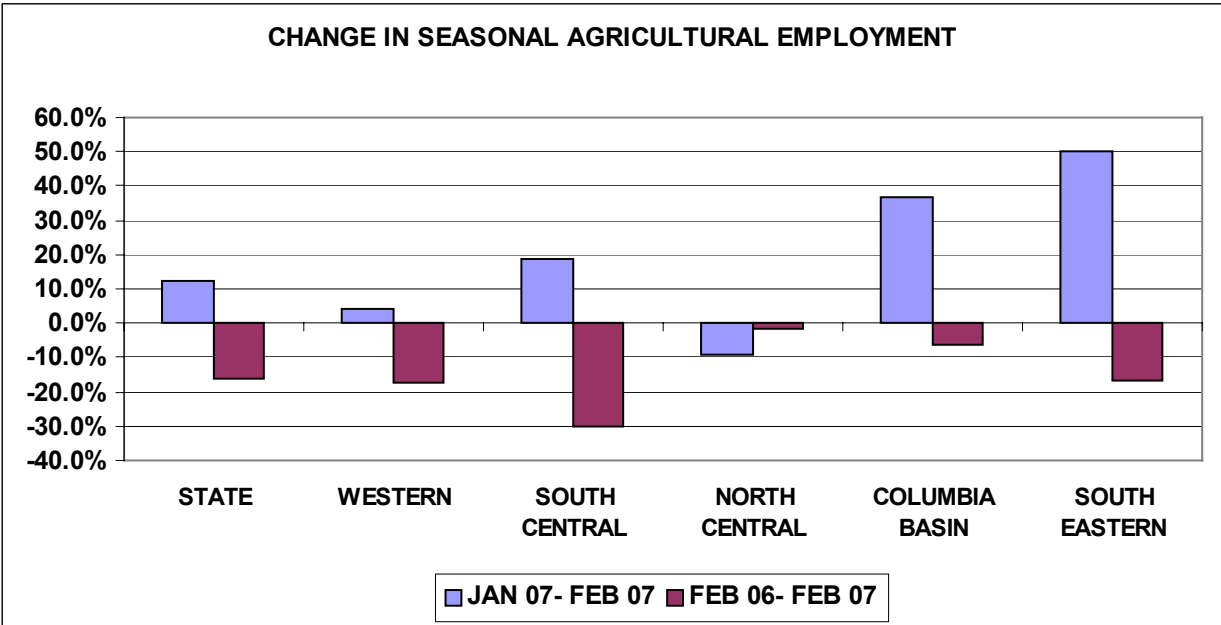
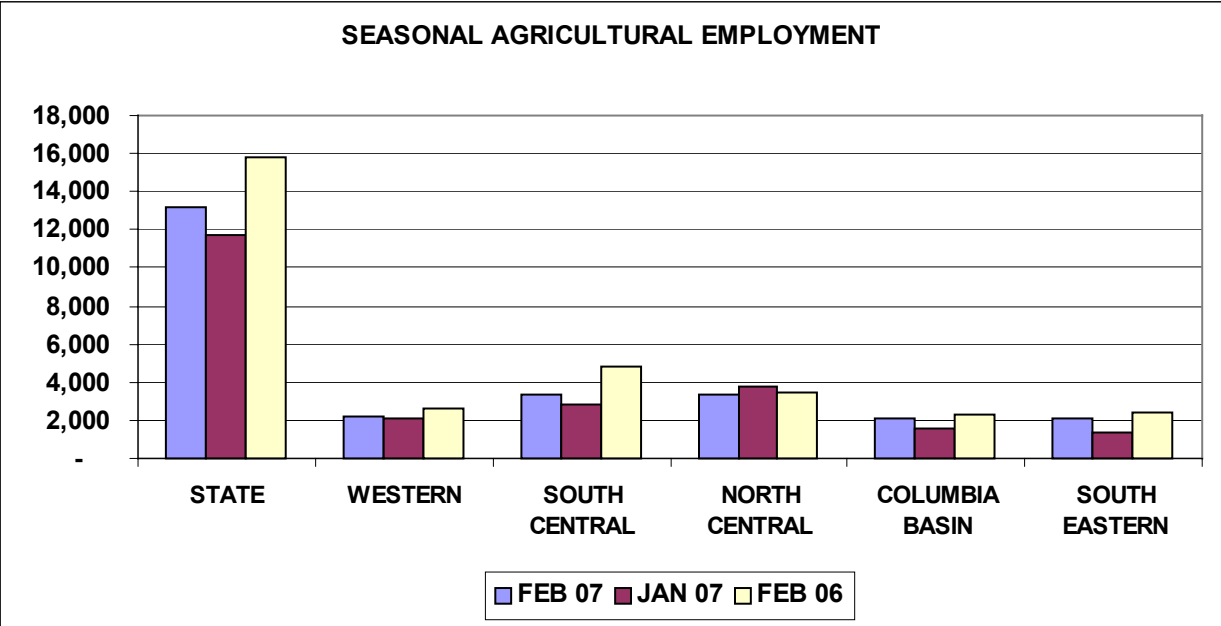
ECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING AGRICULTURE

Wheat growers in the Palouse region of Washington and Idaho are trying to take advantage of the best prices in a decade for their crops. After hovering around the \$3.50 per bushel mark from 2003 to 2005, the type of soft white winter wheat grown in the region broke the \$5 mark in October. Hoping to cash in on the higher prices, many farmers are taking the unprecedented step of contracting their crops two years in advance. Farmers want to take advantage of current market prices for as long as they can. However, this is a gamble, considering the price could go even higher than the present \$5.26 a bushel. The market hasn't held prices above \$5 since 1996.

After three years of steady growth, U.S. potato exports reached an all-time high in 2006. This upward trend is expected to continue. More than 1 million metric tons of potatoes, valued at \$883 million, were exported in the 2005-2006 marketing year, according to the U.S. Potato Board. Between late 2005 and May 2006, frozen potato exports shot up 222 percent and the U.S. regained its dominant position in the Chinese fry market.

Making biofuels history in Washington state, Natural Selection Farms in Sunnyside, Washington, will supply Seattle-based Imperium Renewables, one of the nation's largest biodiesel plants, with enough canola oil to make up to 1 million gallons of biodiesel. The deal marks the largest purchase agreement for canola oil grown in Washington state. Natural Selection Farms owner, Ted Durfey estimates that the canola oil he'll be selling to Imperium will produce enough meal to feed 6,000 to 8,000 cows. Another benefit of growing canola is that it can be used as a rotational crop with wheat. Studies have shown that wheat yields actually increase when wheat follows a canola planting.

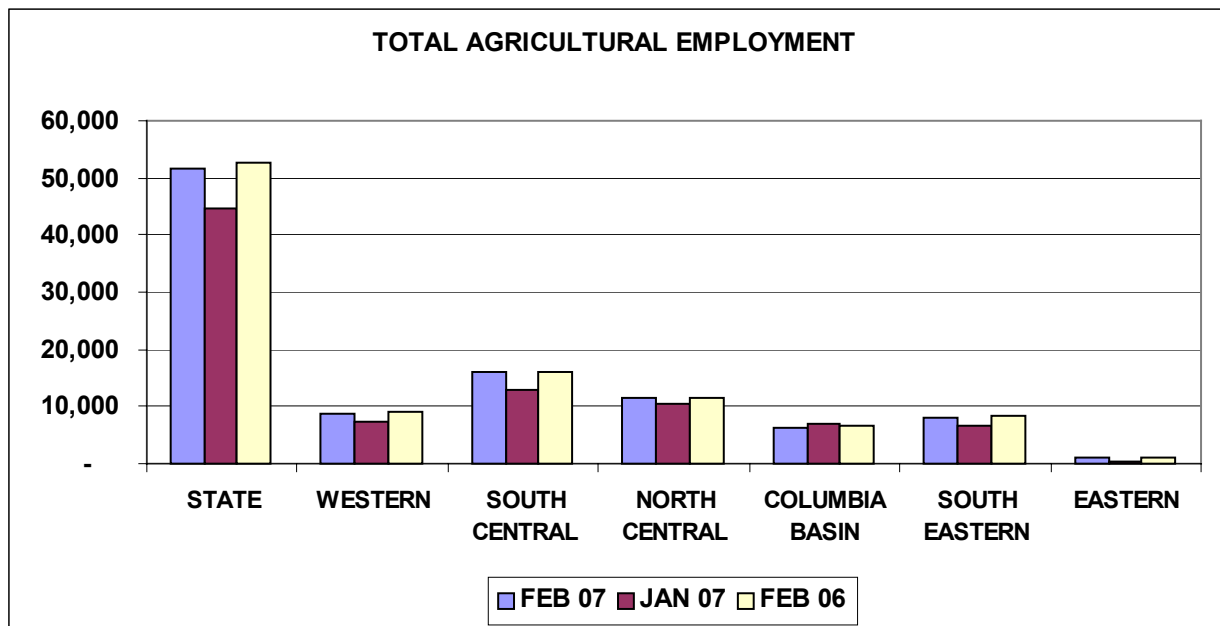
SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
	<u>FEB 07</u>	<u>JAN 07</u>	<u>FEB 06</u>	CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
				<u>JAN 07- FEB 07</u>	<u>FEB 06- FEB 07</u>	<u>JAN 07- FEB 07</u>	<u>FEB 06- FEB 07</u>
STATE	13,215	11,748	15,756	1,467	(2,541)	12.5%	-16.1%
WESTERN	2,206	2,122	2,665	84	(459)	4.0%	-17.2%
SOUTH CENTRAL	3,355	2,827	4,789	528	(1,434)	18.7%	-29.9%
NORTH CENTRAL	3,389	3,743	3,451	(354)	(62)	-9.5%	-1.8%
COLUMBIA BASIN	2,127	1,558	2,269	569	(142)	36.5%	-6.3%
SOUTH EASTERN	2,041	1,361	2,449	680	(408)	50.0%	-16.7%
EASTERN	97	136	133	(39)	(36)	-28.7%	-27.1%



TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

Statewide total agricultural employment fell by 1.8% from February 2006 to February 2007. Over-the-month total employment contracted by 15.7%. Over-the-year regionally, Western (Area 1) total employment declined by 1.9%. South Central (Area 2) total employment stepped back by 1.7%. North Central (Area 3) total employment slid by 1.9%. Columbia Basin (Area 4) total employment decreased by 1.6%. South Eastern (Area 5) total employment slipped by 2.0%. Eastern (Area 6) total employment also dipped by 0.5%.

	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT								
				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE			
	<u>FEB 07</u>	<u>JAN 07</u>	<u>FEB 06</u>	<u>JAN 07- FEB 07</u>	<u>FEB 06- FEB 07</u>	<u>JAN 07- FEB 07</u>	<u>FEB 06- FEB 07</u>		
STATE	51,755	44,731	52,704	7,024	(949)	15.7%	-1.8%		
WESTERN	8,800	7,434	8,972	1,366	(172)	18.4%	-1.9%		
SOUTH CENTRAL	15,911	12,888	16,191	3,023	(280)	23.5%	-1.7%		
NORTH CENTRAL	11,400	10,622	11,621	778	(221)	7.3%	-1.9%		
COLUMBIA BASIN	6,415	6,985	6,520	(570)	(105)	-8.2%	-1.6%		
SOUTH EASTERN	8,126	6,528	8,291	1,598	(165)	24.5%	-2.0%		
EASTERN	1,103	274	1,108	829	(5)	302.9%	-0.5%		

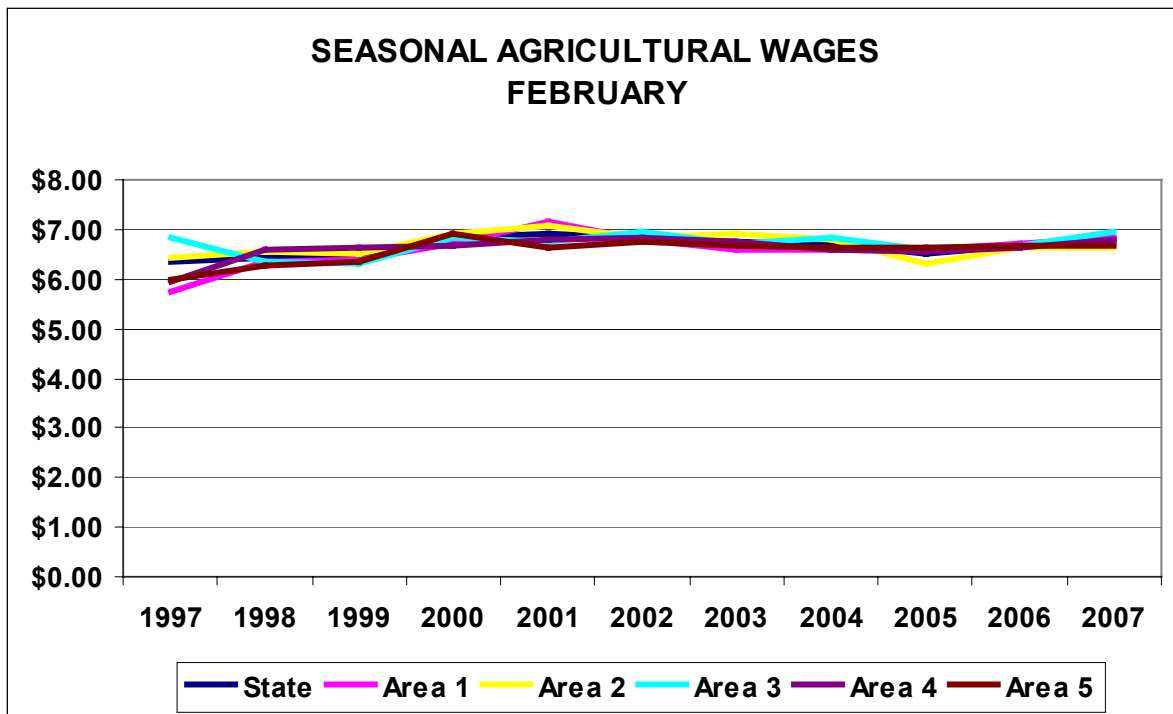


STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL WAGE TRENDS

Statewide real seasonal agricultural wages increased by 6.9% from February 1997 to February 2007. Washington State real minimum wages advanced by 22.4% during this same time period. Statewide real agricultural seasonal wages rose by 1.5% from February 2006 to February 2007. The state minimum wage increased by 3.9% during this same time period. Western (Area 1) seasonal wages grew by 2.0% from February 2006 to February 2007. South Central (Area 2) seasonal wages slid by 0.1% for that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal wages moved ahead by 4.1% for that same time period. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal wages expanded by 2.3% for that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal wages slipped by 0.2% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WAGES*											
FEBRUARY											
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
State	\$6.34	\$6.44	\$6.47	\$6.85	\$6.91	\$6.84	\$6.76	\$6.72	\$6.52	\$6.67	\$6.78
Area 1	\$5.76	\$6.37	\$6.41	\$6.73	\$7.14	\$6.78	\$6.59	\$6.59	\$6.58	\$6.72	\$6.85
Area 2	\$6.43	\$6.56	\$6.53	\$6.92	\$7.09	\$6.85	\$6.92	\$6.80	\$6.32	\$6.65	\$6.64
Area 3	\$6.83	\$6.35	\$6.33	\$6.85	\$6.75	\$6.93	\$6.70	\$6.84	\$6.57	\$6.69	\$6.97
Area 4	\$5.97	\$6.59	\$6.64	\$6.68	\$6.80	\$6.83	\$6.76	\$6.61	\$6.56	\$6.65	\$6.80
Area 5	\$6.01	\$6.25	\$6.37	\$6.93	\$6.64	\$6.75	\$6.66	\$6.62	\$6.63	\$6.68	\$6.66

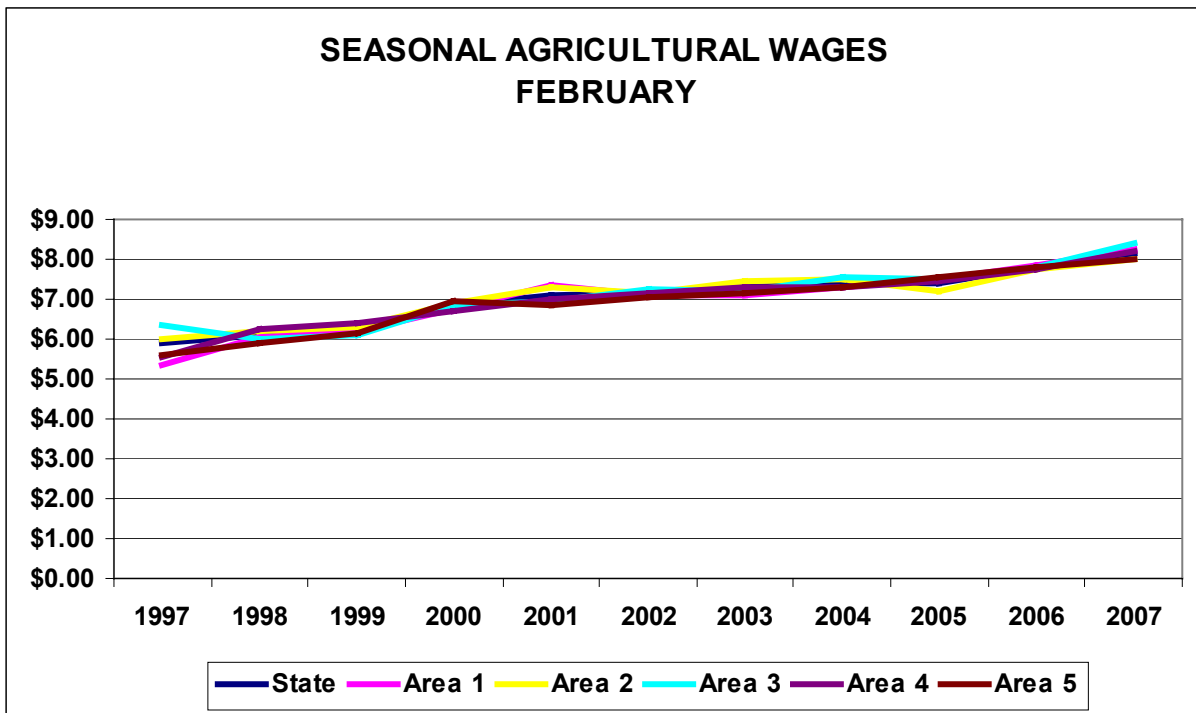
*Real 2000 Adjusted Dollars



Statewide non-adjusted seasonal agricultural wages grew by 38.2% from February 1997 to February 2007. Washington State non-adjusted minimum wages expanded by 61.8% during this same time period. Statewide non-adjusted agricultural seasonal wages grew by 4.8% from February 2006 to February 2007. The state minimum wage expanded by 3.9% during this same time period. Western (Area 1) seasonal wages advanced by 5.2% from February 2006 to February 2007. South Central (Area 2) seasonal wages increased by 3.1% for that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal wages expanded by 7.4% for that same time period. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal wages ramped up by 5.5% for that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal wages rose by 3.0% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WAGES**											
FEBRUARY											
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
State	\$5.91	\$6.10	\$6.25	\$6.85	\$7.10	\$7.14	\$7.28	\$7.42	\$7.42	\$7.79	\$8.16
Area 1	\$5.37	\$6.03	\$6.20	\$6.73	\$7.34	\$7.08	\$7.10	\$7.28	\$7.49	\$7.84	\$8.25
Area 2	\$5.99	\$6.21	\$6.31	\$6.92	\$7.29	\$7.15	\$7.45	\$7.51	\$7.19	\$7.76	\$8.00
Area 3	\$6.37	\$6.01	\$6.12	\$6.85	\$6.94	\$7.24	\$7.22	\$7.55	\$7.48	\$7.81	\$8.39
Area 4	\$5.56	\$6.24	\$6.42	\$6.68	\$6.99	\$7.13	\$7.28	\$7.30	\$7.46	\$7.76	\$8.19
Area 5	\$5.60	\$5.92	\$6.16	\$6.93	\$6.83	\$7.05	\$7.17	\$7.31	\$7.55	\$7.79	\$8.02

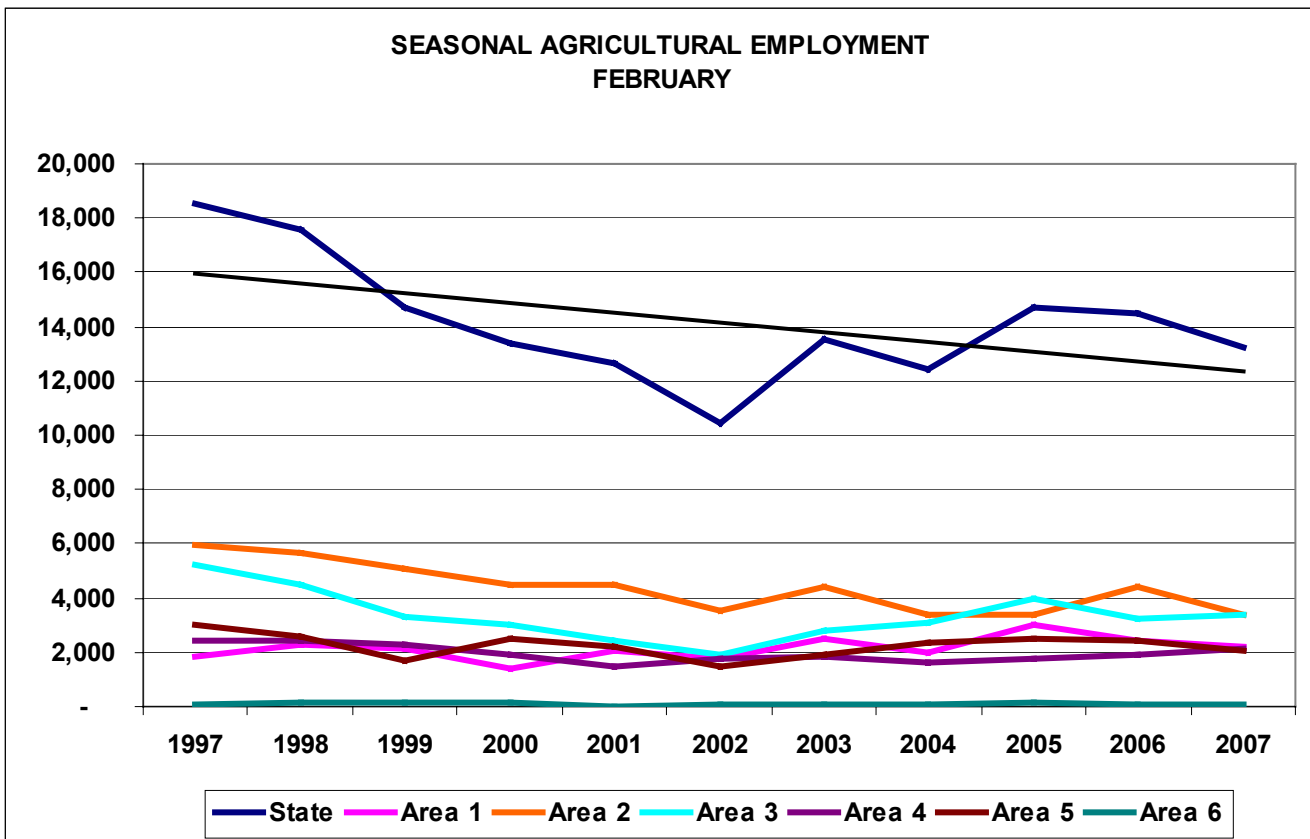
****Non-Adjusted Dollars**



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Statewide seasonal agricultural employment declined by 28.8% from February 1997 to February 2007. Statewide seasonal agricultural employment also contracted by 8.9% from February 2006 to February 2007. Western (Area 1) seasonal employment stepped back by 8.6% from February 2006 to February 2007. South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment softened by 24.5% during that same time period. North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment increased by 5.0% for that same time period. Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment expanded by 10.4% during that same time period. South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment fell by 16.4% over that same time period. Eastern (Area 6) seasonal employment moved ahead by 59.0% during that same time period.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT											
FEBRUARY											
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
State	18,563	17,607	14,711	13,413	12,622	10,441	13,531	12,460	14,672	14,511	13,215
Area 1	1,860	2,252	2,145	1,379	2,043	1,732	2,535	1,988	3,004	2,414	2,206
Area 2	5,970	5,655	5,088	4,509	4,487	3,515	4,436	3,359	3,399	4,442	3,355
Area 3	5,206	4,508	3,323	2,982	2,447	1,884	2,779	3,073	3,940	3,228	3,389
Area 4	2,440	2,428	2,310	1,897	1,440	1,775	1,802	1,618	1,733	1,926	2,127
Area 5	3,043	2,587	1,665	2,504	2,171	1,439	1,908	2,337	2,484	2,440	2,041
Area 6	44	177	180	142	34	96	71	85	112	61	97



STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL TRENDS

Statewide seasonal employment declined by 16.1% from February 2006 to February 2007. Seasonal employment increased by 12.5% statewide from January 2007 to February 2007. The crop displaying the largest employment growth from February 2006 to February 2007 was cherry work (741). Grapes work displayed the largest decline in employment (-1,306) for that same time period. Grapes work showed the largest gain over all crop activities (457) from January 2007 to February 2007. Raspberry work contracted by the largest amount of employment (-265) during that same time period. The statewide weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2007 was \$8.16 per hour.

STATE	CHANGE			PERCENT CHANGE			
	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07		
CROP	FEB 07	JAN 07	FEB 06				
Apples	6,579	6,193	7,617	386	(1,038)	6.2%	-13.6%
Asparagus	4	0	0	4	4	NA	NA
Blueberry	279	155	223	124	56	80.0%	25.1%
Bulb	372	313	847	59	(475)	18.8%	-56.1%
Cherries	1,700	1,258	959	442	741	35.1%	77.3%
Grapes	816	359	2,122	457	(1,306)	127.3%	-61.5%
Hops	50	50	384	0	(334)	0.0%	-87.0%
Misc Vegetables	197	153	105	44	92	28.8%	87.6%
Nursery	301	31	713	270	(412)	871.0%	-57.8%
Onion	30	71	460	(41)	(430)	-57.7%	-93.5%
Other Seasonal	525	543	321	(18)	204	-3.3%	63.6%
Other Tree Fruit	391	22	445	369	(54)	1677.3%	-12.1%
Pears	658	744	409	(86)	249	-11.6%	60.9%
Potato	902	1,115	530	(213)	372	-19.1%	70.2%
Raspberry	388	653	565	(265)	(177)	-40.6%	-31.3%
Wheat/Grain	21	92	56	(71)	(35)	-77.2%	-62.5%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

Western (Area 1) seasonal employment contracted by 17.2% from February 2006 to February 2007. Seasonal employment grew by 4.0% from January 2007 to February 2007. Potato work expanded by the largest amount of employment (302) from February 2006 to February 2007. Bulb work displayed the greatest over-the-year loss in jobs (-475) for that same time period. Nursery work exhibited the greatest employment gain (231) from January 2007 to February 2007. Potato and raspberry tied for the largest loss in jobs (-265) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2007 in Area 1 was \$8.25 per hour. (See pages 19 -20 for Area 1 detail)

AREA 1 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

WESTERN				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	FEB 07	JAN 07	FEB 06	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07
CROP							
Blueberry	279	155	223	124	56	80.0%	25.1%
Bulb	372	313	847	59	(475)	18.8%	-56.1%
Misc Vegetables	91	93	60	(2)	31	-2.2%	51.7%
Nursery	240	9	642	231	(402)	2566.7%	-62.6%
Other Seasonal	151	18	31	133	120	738.9%	387.1%
Potato	599	864	297	(265)	302	-30.7%	101.7%
Raspberry	388	653	565	(265)	(177)	-40.6%	-31.3%
Rhubarb	85	17	0	68	85	400.0%	NA

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

South Central (Area 2) seasonal employment declined by 29.9% from February 2006 to February 2007. Seasonal employment moved ahead by 18.7% from January 2007 to February 2007. Other seasonal displayed the largest increase in jobs (209) from February 2006 to February 2007. Grapes work registered the largest over-the-year decline in employment (-1,015) for that same time period. Other tree fruit work advanced by the greatest gain in jobs (291) from January 2007 to February 2007. Apple work lost the most jobs (-172) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2007 in Area 2 was \$8.00 per hour. (See pages 21 -22 for Area 2 detail)

AREA 2 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SOUTH CENTRAL				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	FEB 07	JAN 07	FEB 06	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07
CROP							
Apples	1,704	1,876	2,068	(172)	(364)	-9.2%	-17.6%
Asparagus	4	0	0	4	4	NA	NA
Cherries	128	158	293	(30)	(165)	-19.0%	-56.3%
Grapes	471	280	1,486	191	(1,015)	68.2%	-68.3%
Hops	51	50	256	1	(205)	2.0%	-80.1%
Misc Vegetables	12	41	0	(29)	12	-70.7%	NA
Onions	4	0	13	4	(9)	NA	-69.2%
Other Seasonal	238	101	29	137	209	135.6%	720.7%
Other Tree Fruit	291	0	280	291	11	NA	3.9%
Pears	452	321	364	131	88	40.8%	24.2%

**Crop detail may not add due to rounding

North Central (Area 3) seasonal employment fell by 1.8% from February 2006 to February 2007. However, seasonal employment declined by 9.5% from January 2007 to February 2007. Cherry work expanded by the greatest amount of employment (681) from February 2006 to February 2007. Apple work displayed the largest loss in jobs (-751) for that same time period. Cherry work expanded by the greatest amount of employment (19) from January 2007 to February 2007. Pear exhibited the largest over-the-month decline in employment (-194) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2007 in Area 3 was \$8.39 per hour. (See pages 23 - 24 for Area 3 detail)

AREA 3 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
NORTH CENTRAL							
CROP				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	FEB 07	JAN 07	FEB 06	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07
Apples	2,372	2,555	3,123	(183)	(751)	-7.2%	-24.0%
Cherries	848	829	167	19	681	2.3%	407.8%
Other Seasonal	13	9	81	4	(68)	44.4%	-84.0%
Other Tree Fruit	0	0	52	0	0	NA	0.0%
Pears	156	350	28	(194)	128	-55.4%	457.1%
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

Columbia Basin (Area 4) seasonal employment contracted by 6.3% from February 2006 to February 2007. Seasonal employment expanded by 36.5% from January 2007 to February 2007. Apple work displayed the greatest gain in employment (180) from February 2006 to February 2007. Onion work saw the greatest decline in jobs (-366) during that same time period. Apple work registered the greatest gain in employment (626) from January 2007 to February 2007. Onion work lost the largest number of jobs (-45) during that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2007 in Area 4 was \$8.19 per hour. (See pages 25 - 26 for Area 4 detail)

AREA 4 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
COLUMBIA BASIN							
CROP				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	FEB 07	JAN 07	FEB 06	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07
Apples	1,528	902	1,348	626	180	69.4%	13.4%
Cherries	113	119	170	(6)	(57)	-5.0%	-33.5%
Mint	0	0	20	0	(20)	NA	NA
Misc Vegetables	2	2	2	0	0	NA	NA
Nursery	0	0	29	0	(29)	NA	NA
Onion	26	71	392	(45)	(366)	-63.4%	-93.4%
Other Seasonal	97	133	25	(36)	72	-27.1%	288.0%
Other Tree Fruit	30	8	57	22	(27)	275.0%	-47.4%
Pears	50	73	17	(23)	33	-31.5%	194.1%
Potato	280	251	206	29	74	11.6%	35.9%
Wheat	0	0	3	0	(3)	NA	NA
**Crop detail may not add due to rounding							

South Eastern (Area 5) seasonal employment softened by 16.7% from February 2006 to February 2007. However seasonal employment ramped up by 50.0% from January 2007 to February 2007. Cherry work advanced with the largest employment gain (282) from February 2006 to February 2007. Grapes work lost the greatest number of jobs (-291) during that same time period. Cherry work added the most jobs (459) from January 2007 to February 2007. Other seasonal work experienced the greatest monthly job loss (-241) for that same time period. The weighted seasonal average wage for hourly paid farm workers for February 2007 in Area 5 was \$8.02 per hour. (See pages 27 - 28 for Area 5 detail)

AREA 5 SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT							
SOUTH EASTERN							
CROP				CHANGE		PERCENT CHANGE	
	FEB 07	JAN 07	FEB 06	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07	JAN 07- FEB 07	FEB 06- FEB 07
Apples	975	860	1,078	115	(103)	13.4%	-9.6%
Cherries	611	152	329	459	282	302.0%	85.7%
Grapes	345	79	636	266	(291)	336.7%	-45.8%
Hops	0	0	128	0	(128)	NA	NA
Misc Vegetables	7	0	43	7	(36)	NA	-83.7%
Onion	0	0	55	0	(55)	NA	NA
Other Seasonal	8	249	91	(241)	(83)	-96.8%	-91.2%
Other Tree Fruit	70	14	56	56	14	400.0%	25.0%
Potatoes	23	0	27	23	(4)	NA	-14.8%
Wheat/Grain	3	9	6	(6)	(3)	-66.7%	-50.0%
**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 February.

LABOR SUPPLY

New survey questions were inserted into the February survey. The first question asked growers if they failed to complete some work due to lack of available seasonal labor. For February, 400 questionnaires were sent to the employers in the survey. Of these 400, 323 were returned. Of the 323 returned, 323 provided usable answers to the question of labor shortage. These 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	3.1%
Area 1	4.2%
Area 2	3.3%
Area 3	2.9%
Area 4	2.3%
Area 5	2.8%
Area 6	4.3%

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 FEBRUARY 2007

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: 2,206 (1,392 local, 136 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 678 unknown origin)

Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	593	\$ 8.14/hr
Raspberry Pruner	384	\$ 8.19/hr
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	323	\$ 7.95/hr
Blueberry Pruner	279	\$ 7.93/hr

SOUTH CENTRAL (Klickitat and Yakima Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,355 (2,239 local, 171 intrastate, 99 interstate, 846 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,519	\$ 7.86/hr	or \$ 1.30 - \$ 3.50 per tree
Pear Pruner	452	\$ 7.99/hr	or \$ 1.00 - \$ 5.70 per tree
Grapes Pruner	382	\$ 8.11/hr	or \$ 0.12 - \$ 0.40 per plant
Peach Pruner	233	\$ 7.68/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 3,389 (3,000 local, 0 intrastate, 9 interstate, 362 foreign, 18 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,760	\$ 8.11/hr
Cherry Pruner	848	\$ 9.05/hr
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	452	\$ 8.06/hr
Pear Pruner	156	\$ 8.50/hr

COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,127 (1,934 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 193 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	1,473	\$ 8.12/hr	or \$ 0.20 - \$ 8.00 per tree
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	189	\$ 7.96/hr	
Cherry Pruner	103	\$ 8.09/hr	
Pear Pruner	50	\$ 7.93/hr	

SOUTH EASTERN (Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties)

Estimated seasonal workforce: 2,041 (1,103 local, 0 intrastate, 7 interstate, 730 foreign, 201 unknown origin)

Apple Pruner	896	\$ 7.97/hr	or \$ 0.40 - \$ 0.80 per tree
Cherry Pruner	607	\$ 7.95/hr	or \$ 0.50 - \$ 3.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	269	\$ 8.07/hr	
Grapes Trainer	76	\$ 8.04/hr	

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

Estimated seasonal workforce: 97 (97 local, 0 intrastate, 0 interstate, 0 foreign, 0 unknown origin)

Nursery Planter	61	\$ 8.25/hr
Wheat Tractor Operator	18	\$ 9.50/hr
Contract Aerial Worker	9	\$13.50/hr
Bulbs Planter	9	\$ 9.00/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
FEBRUARY 2007

TABLE 1
FEBRUARY 2007
Agricultural Farm Labor Report, Washington State
Estimated Number of Domestic Seasonal Hired Workers
by Place of Origin

Agricultural Reporting Area	Local	Intra-state	Inter-state	Foreign	Unknown	Area Total
1. Western	1,392	136	0	0	678	2,206
2. South Central	2,239	171	99	846	0	3,355
3. North Central	3,000	0	9	362	18	3,389
4. Columbia Basin	1,934	0	0	0	193	2,127
5. South Eastern	1,103	0	7	730	201	2,041
6. Eastern	97	0	0	0	0	97
State Totals	9,764	307	115	1,939	1,091	13,215
% State Total	73.9%	2.3%	0.9%	14.7%	8.3%	100%

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 2007

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	2,206
a. Local	1,392
b. Intrastate migratory	136
c. Interstate migratory	0
d. Foreign	0
e. Unknown	678
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Mount Vernon, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: None	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
 The February 2007 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural area was 6,698.

 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions: Weather conditions were wetter and colder than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were potato warehouse work, raspberry pruning, bulbs warehouse work and blueberry pruning.

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
 The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$8.25 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.93 for blueberry pruner, nursery sorter/grade/packer, nursery harvester, bulbs harvester, nursery planter, bulbs weeder, apple sorter/grader/packer and nursery irrigator to \$15.00 for beef cattle 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 63.1% local, 6.1% intrastate, 0.0% interstate, foreign 0.0% and 30.8% unknown.

 - d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

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

Period: FEBRUARY 2007

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	2,206
		* = piece rate
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	593	\$ 8.14
Raspberry Pruner	384	\$ 8.19
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	323	\$ 7.95
Blueberry Pruner	279	\$ 7.93
General Farm Harvester	105	\$ 9.58
Nursery Sorter/Grader/Packer	88	\$ 7.93
Rhubarb Harvester	85	\$ 7.97
Nursery Harvester	79	\$ 7.93
Misc Vegetables Sorter/Grader/Packer	52	\$10.13
Nursery Worker	52	\$ 8.70
Bulbs Harvester	34	\$ 7.93
Misc Vegetables Worker	26	\$10.34
Beef Cattle Worker	15	\$15.00
Dairy Worker	15	Not Available
Nursery Planter	12	\$ 7.93
Bulbs Weeder	9	\$ 7.93
Misc Onion Worker	9	\$ 8.20
Misc Berries Manager	6	\$11.00
Misc Berries Mechanic	6	\$11.00
Bulbs Worker	6	\$ 8.33
Nursery Vehicle Operator	6	\$11.35
Potato Mechanized Harvester	6	\$10.00
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	4	\$ 7.93
Beets Worker	4	\$ 8.20
Raspberry Trainer	4	\$10.00
Nursery Irrigator	3	\$ 7.93

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
 EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
 PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AREA 1 \$ 8.25/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 2007

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	3,355
a. Local	2,239
b. Intrastate migratory	171
c. Interstate migratory	99
d. Foreign	846
e. Unknown	0
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: Othello, Sunnyside, Wenatchee	
b. Interstate: California, Oregon	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The February 2007 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 14,248.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were wetter and colder than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, pear pruning, grapes pruning and peach pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$8.00 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.93 for nectarine pruner and wheat worker to \$12.50 for asparagus tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$1.30 to \$3.50 per tree for apple pruning, \$1.00 to \$5.70 per tree for pear pruning and \$0.12 to \$0.40 per plant for grapes pruning. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 66.7% local, 5.1% intrastate, 3.0% interstate, foreign 25.2% and unknown 0.0%.
 - 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: FEBRUARY 2007
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 3,355	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,519	\$ 7.86 or * \$ 1.30 - \$ 3.50 per tree
Pear Pruner	452	\$ 7.99 or * \$ 1.00 - \$ 5.70 per tree
Grapes Pruner	382	\$ 8.11 or * \$ 0.12 - \$ 0.40 per plant
Peach Pruner	233	\$ 7.68
Cherry Pruner	128	\$ 8.38
Bulbs Harvester	91	\$ 8.12
Grapes Trainer	83	\$ 7.97
Apple Trainer	73	\$ 8.00
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	68	\$ 8.12
Nectarine Pruner	58	\$ 7.93
Apple Tractor Operator	58	\$ 8.80
Bulbs Planter	57	Not Available
Apple Irrigator	49	\$ 8.80
Hops Fertilizer Applicator	45	\$ 9.00
Misc Vegetables Mechanic	12	\$11.50
Wheat Worker	11	\$ 7.93
Silage Fertilizer Applicator	11	\$ 8.00
Grapes Mechanic	6	\$ 8.40
Hops Mechanic	6	\$10.25
Apple Vehicle Operator	5	\$10.04
Misc Onion Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.50
Asparagus Tractor Operator	4	\$12.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2 \$ 8.00/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 2007
State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1.	Total domestic seasonal hired workers	3,389
	a. Local	3,000
	b. Intrastate migratory	0
	c. Interstate migratory	9
	d. Foreign	362
	e. Unknown	18
2.	Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
	a. Intrastate: None	
	b. Interstate: California	
	c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The February 2007 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 8,207.

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

 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$8.39 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.93 for apple preparation to \$25.00 for horse and equines manager. No piece rates were reported. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 88.5% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.3% interstate, 10.7% foreign and 0.5% 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: FEBRUARY 2007
State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL	3,389
		* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,760	\$ 8.11
Cherry Pruner	848	\$ 9.05
Apple Sorter/Grader/Packer	452	\$ 8.06
Pear Pruner	156	\$ 8.50
Apple Preparation	98	\$ 7.93
Apple Forklift Driver	38	\$ 9.25
Apple Worker	15	\$12.10
Horse and Equines Manager	13	\$25.00
Apple Vehicle Operator	6	\$15.00
Apple Loader	3	\$ 9.50

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA 3 \$ 8.39/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 2007

State: WASHINGTON

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

SECTION A. (see attachments)

SECTION B. DOMESTIC SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Total domestic seasonal hired workers	2,127
a. Local	1,934
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	0
d. Foreign	0
e. Unknown	193
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: None	
c. Foreign: None	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:
The February 2007 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 4,441.
 2. Factors affecting the farm labor supply and demand situation:
 - a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:
Weather conditions were wetter and colder than normal for the reporting period. Primary agricultural activities were apple pruning, potato warehouse work, cherry pruning and pear pruning.
 - b. Wages, housing, and transportation:
The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$8.19 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.93 for pear pruner, bulbs harvester and bulbs sorter/grader/packer to \$13.00 for potato manager. Typical piece rates were: \$0.20 to \$8.00 per tree for apple pruning. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.
 - c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:
The labor force was estimated to be 90.9% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.0% interstate 0.0% foreign and 9.1% 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: FEBRUARY 2007
State: WASHINGTON

Area 4: COLUMBIA BASIN (Adams and Grant Counties)

SECTION A. ALL SEASONAL HIRED FARM WORKERS		
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY CROP ACTIVITY		
CROP ACTIVITY	ALL SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS	HOURLY WAGES and/or PIECE RATES FOR DOMESTIC SEASONAL WORKERS
	TOTAL 2,127	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	1,473	\$ 8.12 or * \$ 0.20 - \$ 8.00 per tree
Potato Sorter/Grader/Packer	189	\$ 7.96
Cherry Pruner	103	\$ 8.09
Pear Pruner	50	\$ 7.93
Bulbs Harvester	44	\$ 7.93
Bulbs Sorter/Grader/Packer	36	\$ 7.93
Apple Preparation	30	\$ 8.59
Misc Onion Sorter/Grader/Packer	26	\$ 7.95
Potato Vehicle Operator	26	\$ 8.83
Potato Worker	20	\$ 9.88
Apricot Pruner	20	\$ 8.35
Potato Mechanic	13	\$ 9.50
Misc Hay Tractor Operator	11	\$ 8.00
Apple Hand Thinner	11	\$ 8.88
Potato Manager	11	\$13.00
Apple Manager	10	\$10.00
Apricot Weeder	10	\$ 8.00
Cherry Weeder	10	\$ 8.00
Potato Forklift Driver	9	\$ 9.12
Potato Preparation	7	\$12.00
Potato Loader	5	\$ 8.00
Apple Forklift Driver	4	\$ 9.95
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Vehicle	4	\$10.25
Misc Vegetables Weeder	2	\$ 8.00
General Farm Worker	2	\$10.00

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN COLUMBIA BASIN AREA 4 \$ 8.19/hr (weighted average)

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 2007
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	2,041
a. Local	1,103
b. Intrastate migratory	0
c. Interstate migratory	7
d. Foreign	730
e. Unknown	201
2. Origin of nonlocal domestic seasonal hired workers	
a. Intrastate: None	
b. Interstate: California	
c. Foreign: Mexico	

SECTION C. REGULAR HIRED FARM WORKERS

1. Supply and demand for regular hired farm workers:

The February 2007 estimate for regular hired farm workers in this agricultural reporting area was 6,298.

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

a. Crop, market, and weather conditions:

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

b. Wages, housing, and transportation:

The weighted seasonal wage for hourly paid farm workers during the pay period in February averaged \$8.02 per hour. Hourly wages ranged from \$7.93 for apple trainer, peach pruner, nectarine pruner and apple preparation to \$11.00 for wheat tractor operator. Typical piece rates were: \$0.40 to \$0.80 per tree for apple pruning and \$0.50 to \$3.50 per tree for cherry pruning. Housing was limited. Transportation was provided by the workers.

c. Recruitment and composition of seasonal hired work force:

The labor force was estimated to be 54.0% local, 0.0% intrastate, 0.3% interstate, 35.8% foreign and 9.9% unknown.

d. Changes in production practices: None reported.

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

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL LABOR REPORT

Period: FEBRUARY 2007
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 2,041	* = piece rate
Apple Pruner	896	\$ 7.97 or * \$ 0.40 - \$ 0.80 per tree
Cherry Pruner	607	\$ 7.95 or * \$ 0.50 - \$ 3.50 per tree
Grapes Pruner	269	\$ 8.07
Grapes Trainer	76	\$ 8.04
Apple Trainer	48	\$ 7.93
Peach Pruner	32	\$ 7.93
Nectarine Pruner	28	\$ 7.93
Apple Worker	17	\$ 8.22
Potato Tractor Operator	16	\$ 9.00
Apple Preparation	14	\$ 7.93
Pear Pruner	8	Not Available
Potato Preparation	7	\$ 8.63
Peas Tractor Operator	7	\$ 9.00
Misc Grain & Seed Crops Sorter	6	\$ 8.45
Cherry Tractor Operator	4	\$ 8.63
Wheat Tractor Operator	3	\$11.00
Misc Other Fruit Worker	2	\$10.00
Alfalfa Vehicle Operator	2	Not Available

AVERAGE WAGE RATE FOR SEASONAL WORKERS
EARNING HOURLY WAGES AS REPORTED BY AG
PRODUCERS IN SOUTH EASTERN AREA 5 \$ 8.02/hr (weighted average)